F rank LaMere, whose decades-long quest to close the liquor stores in Whiteclay, Neb., became reality last year, will be the featured speaker at the Noon Education Forum on Jan. 18.

“The Whiteclay Closure Prophecy” will recount the story of the northwest Nebraska village, known as the “Skid Row of the Plains,” that sold millions of cans of beer each year to residents of the nearby, officially dry Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

The beer sales have been blamed for numerous problems on the reservation, including rampant alcoholism, crimes and high levels of fetal alcohol syndrome that are estimated to affect one in four children.

LaMere is a social and political activist from South Sioux City, Nebraska, who has long been involved with civil and human rights issues and advocacy for American Indians regionally and nationally. He is a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

LaMere was named the 2016 member of the year by the Native American Indian Child Welfare Association. He currently serves as associate chairman of the Nebraska Democratic Party.

Cost for the luncheon is $17, with service beginning at 11:30 a.m. and the program starting at noon. Non-OPC members are welcome. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com. Reservations must be accompanied by an OPC number or credit card.

Validated lunchtime parking is available at the Central City Garage on the rooftop and at the DoubleTree Garage. Bring your Central City parking ticket to the club for validation.

**Frost, college basketball highlight Shatel Lunch**

*Three World-Herald sportswriters entertain large turnout*

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

Sports fans were treated to a buffet of sports talk on Dec. 5, as the Shatel Lunch Series featured three of the Omaha World-Herald’s top sportswriters – Tom Shatel, Lee Barfknecht and Jon Nyatawa.

A large turnout was on hand, and the timing was perfect just two days after Scott Frost was announced as the new head football coach at Nebraska.

Shatel, host of the lunch series, called Frost’s hiring “the story of the year.”

He said, “It was more surreal than I thought. It was history. I really liked and respected the way Nebraska went about this. It was so smooth . . . done very well.”

Frost’s predecessor – Mike Riley – “wasn’t the right fit,” Shatel said. “He knows football – the Xs and the Os – but motivation and communication with players weren’t there. He was like a CEO – he didn’t coach a lot at practice. “The last coaching staff
The views, the socializing with friends and family – and of course, the food.

Favorite vacation spot: Las Vegas — unless you ask the family, then it’s Chicago. When anyone is going to Vegas and Michael hears about it, he is the first to tell them where to go, what to see and how to get around. Funny thing: Michael does not gamble; he enjoys the company of up to 20 friends as they explore Vegas. Hotels are the forte of Michael. Ask him where to stay, what to watch out for (the bill for bottled water) and the best deals. Vegas highlights: Michael loves people-watching, the good company of his besties and getting away from the Omaha routine. Michael comes back from Vegas every time with a big smile and a handful of pamphlets for the next Vegas visitor.

(During the interview with Christine, Michael emphasized that the OPC family does a wonderful job of taking care of him. Christine added that Michael goes above and beyond “the call of duty” effortlessly. We, the Omaha Press Club, truly appreciate Michael.)
SHATEL LUNCH, continued from Page 1

was pretty relaxed. There hasn’t been a lot of accountability in the program. The weightlifting practices (under Frost) are going to be a shock to these guys.”

With a killer schedule next year, Shatel said the Huskers’ transformation under Frost “won’t happen overnight . . . they still need to learn how to block and tackle.”

Barfknecht and Nyatawa focused most of their attention on college basketball. Barfknecht is the beat writer for Nebraska basketball, while Nyatawa covers Creighton.

If the Huskers don’t have a good season, Barfknecht predicted that this could be Coach Tim Miles’ last year at the helm.

Fortunately, he said, “The Big 10 is not showing much strength beyond Michigan State, Purdue and Minnesota.”

Barfknecht, who grew up in Superior, Neb., where his mother still works at the newspaper, expressed optimism for this year’s Nebraska squad. He said the Huskers “have played some brilliant halves,” but haven’t been able to put together a complete game.

He noted that Miles was 0-13 in games against Creighton Coach Greg McDermott prior to last month’s contest and that he’s never beaten Michigan, a team that plays a fast-paced style like Creighton does.

The lunch was held four days before the Huskers and Bluejays squared off in Omaha (Creighton won the game, 75-65).

Nyatawa, who grew up in Indiana – the mecca for basketball -- said, “Creighton is exceeding my expectations to this point... and has the look of an NCAA (Tournament) team.”

He talked about the team’s top scorer, Marcus Foster, and how the coaching staff has been working with him to stop taking bad shots. Foster only shot 35 percent last year on 3-point field goals.

In losses to Baylor and Gonzaga this season, some of the Bluejays’ shortcomings – rebounding, lack of a rim protector, and making bad decisions with the ball – have been exposed, Nyatawa said.

Still, he noted, the future looks bright as two freshmen – Mitch Ballock and Ty-Shon Alexander – appear to have strong futures and will likely be “four-year players” with the Jays.

Nyatawa said this will be a busy year for Creighton Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen, who is chair of the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee.

“He’ll be the guy being interviewed by CBS when the pairings come out,” Nyatawa said.

The next Shatel Lunch Series will likely happen in April, Shatel said.

He hopes to go “Moos hunting,” he said, in a subtle way of indicating that he might try to bring in the new Nebraska athletic director – Bob Moos.

---

**OPC MEMBER PROXY BALLOT**

Members not attending the annual meeting on Jan. 11, may vote by returning the proxy ballot below to reach the Omaha Press Club by 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 10. See instructions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICERS</th>
<th>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President D.C. Woody Bradford</td>
<td>Jocelyn Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President Jeremy Maskel</td>
<td>Gary Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer J.J. Bartlett</td>
<td>Roger Humphries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary Bridget Brooks</td>
<td>Allen Beermann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President Marcia Cady</td>
<td>Tom Shatel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Officers and Board Members assume office on Feb. 1, 2018

Fax this completed ballot to 402-345-0114 or mail to the Omaha Press Club, 1620 Dodge St., 22nd Floor, Omaha, NE 68102-1561. Absentee ballots MUST be received by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

**NOTE:** If you plan to attend the annual meeting, do not return this proxy ballot.
New Omaha Press Club Parking Policy

Editor’s Note: Some OPC members may have missed the announcement in the September OPC news of a new parking policy. Here again are the details.

The Omaha Press Club has a new parking policy — and it has become the new default for validated parking in the evenings for OPC members, effective Sept. 1.

A new agreement with the Central City Parking Garage, located at 122 N. 17 St., replaces the previous arrangement with the garage attached to the DoubleTree Hotel. The Central City Parking Garage is located west of the original First National Bank building.

OPC members receive up to two hours of free parking in the Central City Parking Garage during the workday and free parking in the evenings from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. with validation. Members will be able to park in any open space on the rooftop level of the garage at lunchtime, and in any space from #142 on up after 5 p.m.

Important: Bring your parking ticket with you to the club for validation.

Santa makes an early stop at OPC

Santa and Mrs. Claus were the stars of the Omaha Press Club’s annual Santa Brunch on Dec. 10. Making the acquaintance of the visitors from the North Pole is Cole Randolph, son of Nate and Katie Randolph.

Executive Director Steve Villamonte has also negotiated a special rate for non-members in the Central City garage — ask for details! (This rate is also available for event hosts wishing to offer parking to their guests.)

When parking in the Central City garage, take the elevators inside the garage to the basement level (marked B on the elevator). Follow the signs east and proceed through the tunnel into the First National Bank building and take the main elevators up to the Press Club.

OPC members can still receive up to two hours of validated parking in the DoubleTree garage from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No validated parking will be available in the DoubleTree Hotel garage after 5 p.m. However, you may still park in that garage in the evenings if you wish to self-pay.

PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS

Quarterly Winemaker’s Dinner
Friday, Feb. 9 • 6 p.m.
Price: Members $50 • Non-Members $60

Hors d’œuvres
Wisconsin Cheese Curds
Horseradish Honey Mustard, Spicy Remoulade, Reuben Dressing or Buffalo Ranch

Appetizer
Lobster Bisque with Pernod

Sorbet
Passion Fruit

Salad
Thunderbird with Parmesan Crust

Entrée
Surf & Turf

Dessert
Chocolate Soufflé

Valentine’s Day Dinner
Wednesday, Feb. 14 -- Serving 6 p.m.–9 p.m.
$120 per couple includes tax & service charge

Appetizer Choices
Lobster Bisque – or – Prime Rib Carpaccio with a Garlic Remoulade

Salad
OPC Famous Thunderbird Salad Served in a Parmesan Crisp

Entrée Choices
Prime Rib of Beef with Chantilly and au Jus
Pan-Roasted Rack of Lamb with a Cabernet Jus
Omaha Steak Filet Mignon Finished with Maître d’Hôtel Butter and Bordelaise Sauce
Sun-Dried Cranberry and Bacon-Encrusted Fresh Atlantic Salmon Served with a Beurre Blanc and Cranberry Gastrique
Chicken Villa en Croute Mushrooms, Onions, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Fresh Herbs, Mozzarella
Wrapped in a Puff Pastry and Sauce au Poivre

Desserts
A Signature Petit Fours Presentation at the Fireplace

St. Patrick’s Day Buffet
Saturday, March 17

All-you-can-eat
Fresh Corned Beef
Boiled Cabbage
Irish New Potatoes
Dark Rye Bread & Butter

Dessert
Frosted Brownie

Photo by Connie Zarek
I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as president of the Omaha Press Club during the last year. It has been a wonderful experience.

It is so rewarding to see how much the club is appreciated and involved in the community. I took a look back over the months and several highlights jumped out at me.

Last year, the OPC began its partnership with WOWT to organize and broadcast political debates at the club. Because the public is realizing the value of the truth.

We continued to improve our customer experience by instituting a new parking policy and venue — the Central City Garage — that has simplified the comings and goings of our members. It is a marked improvement from the long lines of vehicles trying to check out after a club event.

This year will be even better, as longtime club and board member D.C. “Woody” Bradford takes over as president and Jeremy Maskel becomes vice president. We will also have some new faces on the board and some old who’ve signed up again.

To me, that says something about the club — we keep on delivering. Enough so that past presidents, longtime members and young fresh faces want to be a part of it and move us forward. My hat is off to them all!

- Marcia Cady, OPC president

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

A trend at the club for some years now is to wait until after the holidays to relax and enjoy a post-holiday social, luncheon or dinner with less fuss and craziness. I highly recommend a January, or even later, event if your co-workers, family or friends were not able to fit holiday dates into their crowded schedules. The OPC holiday décor is still up as we have parties scheduled until the third week in January. The tree will be down, but the sparkles are still around — and a few dates are still available.

A fter the New Year has started, reflecting is not usually what I do, although 2017 was amazing as it flew by. Maybe juggling kids, work, sports and activities does this to a person. Either way I enjoy it all; no complaints here.

I begin 2018 with words of wisdom either from past experience or just as an event planner organizing for future events. A trend at the club for some years now is to wait until after the holidays to relax and enjoy a post-holiday social, luncheon or dinner with less fuss and craziness. I highly recommend a January, or even later, event if your co-workers, family or friends were not able to fit holiday dates into their crowded schedules. The OPC holiday décor is still up as we have parties scheduled until the third week in January. The tree will be down, but the sparkles are still around — and a few dates are still available.

Other events on the early 2018 schedule: The next Winemaker’s Dinner is Feb. 9, the Friday before Valentine’s Day. We have a great menu paired with five wines for each course (minus the sorbet palette cleanser), with wonderful pricing to make for an exclusive and enjoyable night with a loved one.

Valentine’s Day falls on a Wednesday this year (gentleman, the date is Feb. 14!), which also is Ash Wednesday. We have a menu which will ideally work for all, with a choice of entrees.

As Lent season starts early, the chefs will have specials every Friday until Easter on April 1. The staff can guide you through multiple courses from soup specials to Thunderbird salad without bacon to fresh fish delivered daily. My favorite is the salmon. I have had members sample the fish at reciprocal clubs on the coasts and say our salmon cannot be beat.

I will not beat a dead horse, but let me remind you again about parking at the Central City Garage west of the club. The best entrance is 18th Street between Dodge and Capitol -- easy in, easy out and best of all, minimal traffic. Be sure to bring your parking ticket to the club for validation.

Once again, we’re excited to be around in 2018 and looking forward to seeing you at your club this winter.

- Christine Jones Villamonte, B.S. Nutrition, restaurant manager/events coordinator
WE’re ONLINE! Read your OPC newsletter at omahapressclub.com

2017-2018 Officers

Marcia Cady
President
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

D.C. “Woody” Bradford
President-Elect
Houghton Bradford Whitted PC, LLO.

J.J. Bartlett
Treasurer
First National Bank

Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Secretary
Image Building Communication

Sean McGuire
Past President
E.D. Bellis Healthcare Consultants

Board of Directors

(2016-2017)
Jeremy Maskel
Allen Beermann
Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Gary Sadlemeyer
Tom Shatel
Beth Weiss

(2016-2018)
Kathleen Al-Marhoon
Tom Becka
D.C. “Woody” Bradford
Liz Hruska
Todd Murphy
Marcia Cady
Cindy Workman

Ralston Public Schools
Nebraska Press Association
Image Building Communications
KFAB Radio
Omaha World-Herald
Omaha Steaks

Bailey Lauerman
Fox 42
Houghton Bradford Whitted
Nebraska Legislative Fiscal Office
Universal Information Services
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska
Creighton University

Communications Committee

Susan Eustice • Henry Cordes • Cindy Workman
Howard K. Marcus • Don Summerside
Gary Willis • Chris Allen • Jocelyn Houston
Tom O’Connor • Sandra Tursi

Committee Chairs

Communications
Jennifer Bull, Jocelyn Houston

Education
Gary Kerr

Executive Committee
Marcia Cady, D.C. “Woody” Bradford,
Bridget (Weide) Brooks & Sean McGuire

“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Tom O’Connor

Hall of Fame
Todd Murphy

Marketing / Membership
Bridget (Weide) Brooks

OPC Foundation

TRUSTEES
Howard K. Marcus
President

Elaine Allen
Vice President

Wendy Townley
2nd Vice President

Larry Weber
Treasurer

Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Secretary

Bridget (Weide) Brooks • 402-345-8008

Executive Director
Steve Villamonte
Executive Director

Restaurant and Events Manager
Christine Villamonte

Office
402-345-8587

Restaurant
402-345-8008

Website
omahapressclub.com

Are you looking for a perfect party setting? A lunch surrounded by brilliance? A dinner your guests will always remember? Keep the OPC in mind.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All reservations must be cancelled 48 hours in advance.

OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

Executive Director
Steve Villamonte

Restaurant and Events Manager
Christine Villamonte

Administrative Manager
Jeannie Campbell

Office
402-345-8587

Restaurant
402-345-8008

Website
omahapressclub.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Sandra Tursi: Graphics Editor
Tom O’Connor: Proofreader
Don Summerside: Copy Editor

Submissions for the February issue are due on or before January 20.