Noon Forum to feature speaker of Legislature

Faced with a budget shortfall and filled with filibusters, this year’s Nebraska legislative session had its share of challenges.

Proposals to ease the property tax burden in the state failed to win approval. A budget bill that got caught up in a controversy over Planned Parenthood and abortion nearly didn’t make it. Even so, there were many successes, including legislation to limit opioid prescriptions and to increase some highway speed limits.

Riding herd on all of it was Speaker of the Legislature Jim Scheer, who worked with fellow lawmakers to overcome differences and promote compromise.

Get Scheer’s take on the 2018 session and what the future holds at the Noon Education Forum May 17. Sen. Scheer, a businessman from Norfolk,

Continue On Page 2

Hall of Fame to induct six at June 2 dinner

June 2 promises to be a festive and memorable evening at the Omaha Press Club when six outstanding media professionals are inducted into the OPC Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame.

John Prescott, a past Hall of Fame honoree, will emcee the 10th annual ceremonies. The club is again grateful to Firespring, the event’s presenting sponsor.

The festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, followed by dinner and the induction ceremonies.

Rodgers will emcee Hughes 'Face' event

Riding herd on all of it was Speaker of the Legislature Jim Scheer, who worked with fellow lawmakers to overcome differences and promote compromise.

Get Scheer’s take on the 2018 session and what the future holds at the Noon Education Forum May 17. Sen. Scheer, a businessman from Norfolk,

Continue On Page 2

Rodgers will emcee Hughes 'Face' event

You will be asked for a membership number or credit card number when you make your reservation.

The list of roasters is headed by Johnny Rodgers, the former Nebraska Cornhusker wingback who won the 1972 Heisman Trophy. Rodgers, who is founder/CEO of Johnny Rodgers Youth Foundation, was the 102nd “Face” when he was recognized in July 2005.

He will serve as emcee. Other roasters will include:

· Theresa Glass Union, AT&T, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (retired);
· Elmer J. Crumbley, educational consultant, Minnesota Humanities Center; principal, Skinner Magnet School (retired);
· Dr. Blandina Rose Willis, educator/counseling psychologist, president, Humanistic Solutions, LLC; and
· Al Goodwin, economic development consultant.

Reservations can still be made for the “Face on the Barroom Floor” event on May 18 honoring Cathy Hughes, an Omaha native who has become a legendary figure in the media world.

Call 402-345-8008 to make a reservation. The event is open to the public. Cost, which includes dinner, is $50 for members and $60 for non-members.

Continue on Page 3
Forum recorder Bob Coate Signs off at KIOS -FM

By Gary Willis
Communications Committee

Bob Coate, KIOS-FM program director, could be spotted on the third Thursday of each month at the Omaha Press Club – wearing headphones while doing sound checks prior to the Noon Education Forum.

Bob then recorded the forums for replay on KIOS radio.

After 44 1/2 years at KIOS-FM, Bob Coate decided that the time was right for him to retire. He told his listeners, "It is with mixed feelings that I am announcing my retirement, effective Friday, March 30”.

Bob added: “It is unusual to have a career that you absolutely love, but that is certainly the case with me. Radio is something I wanted to do ever since I was a small child -- even playing ‘DJ’ in my bedroom with a portable phonograph and a bunch of 45s.”

Someone asked him to mention a high point in his long radio career. He said that “Having the privilege and honor of recording and hosting the Omaha Symphony Orchestra for 29 years would be right up there on top. Like the fantastic people I have worked with, there are just too many high points to list them all.”

A retirement party was held for Bob and his wife, Linda, at the Career Center Teachers Administration Center, where he was presented with a golden KIOS microphone.

We all wish Bob a very happy retirement.

Congressional candidates face off

The Omaha Press Club hosted the first debate of the primary campaign between congressional candidates Brad Ashford and Kara Eastman. The two are vying for the Democratic nomination in Nebraska’s 2nd District, which includes Douglas County and western Sarpy County. The winner in the May 15 primary will face Republican Rep. Don Bacon in the November general election.

The debate was co-sponsored by the OPC and the League of Women Voters. WOWT’s Brian Mastre moderated the April 19 debate, which was recorded for rebroadcast on Channel 6.

Another primary debate at the OPC was scheduled for May 2 between the Democratic candidates competing to challenge Republican Sen. Deb Fischer.

Parking Reminder

OPC members receive up to two hours of free parking in the Central City Garage, directly west of the club at 122 N. 17th St., during the workday and free parking in the evenings from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. with validation.

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

In the Central City Garage, members may park free in any space on the rooftop level at lunchtime, and in any space from #142 on up after 5 p.m. To reach the OPC, take the garage elevator to the basement level (marked B on the elevator). Follow the signs east and proceed through the tunnel into the First National Bank and just a few steps more to the elevators.

Important: Bring your parking ticket to the club for validation.
Husker AD Moos entertains huge crowd at Shatel Lunch

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

It was a lunch to remember at the Omaha Press Club.

Bill Moos, the new athletic director at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was in the house, and he didn’t disappoint.

Speaking before more than 220 people at the Shatel Lunch Series, Moos shared his journey to Nebraska and how he was able to land Scott Frost as the new Husker football coach.

In introducing Moos, Tom Shatel, Omaha World-Herald sports columnist and host of the lunch series, said, “He really fits in. He’s kind of like your next-door neighbor – if your neighbor offered Scott Frost $5 million a year. He’s one of us – a fellow Nebraskan.”

Laughs were plentiful as Moos told of stepping down in 2007 after 12 years as athletic director at the University of Oregon to become a cattle rancher.

“I’d rather step in it than put up with it,” he said.

After three years of ranching, Moos was wooed back to his alma mater, Washington State University, to become athletic director for the university where he was an offensive lineman from 1969 to 1972.

“That pilot light never goes out,” Moos said. “I missed that (being AD). I missed the kids – that’s why I got back into it.”

Moos’s wife, Kendra, traveled to Lincoln when their youngest of five children, Ben, was attending a football camp. Moos said she absolutely loved Lincoln.

Not too long after that, an athletic talent recruiter, Gene DeFilippo, ran into Moos and made him aware of some athletic director openings.

Moos said Nebraska would be at the top of his list of openings. DeFilippo quickly set up an interview with Moos and NU President Hank Bounds and Nebraska Chancellor Ronnie Green.

Moos was impressed with both men and their strong agricultural backgrounds. Being around them, Moos said made him “feel like I’m back in the bunkhouse.”

He got the job offer from Nebraska while eating breakfast in Oakland, Calif., prior to the Washington State-California game.

The Cougars came into the game with a 6-0 record but got throttled by a 37-3 margin.

Since he was now the new athletic director at Nebraska, Moos joked that the loss “didn’t happen on my watch” and that the Cougars had an “undefeated season” while he was AD in 2017.

Once the Husker football season ended with a 4-8 record, Moos terminated Mike Riley as football coach and began the search for a new coach.

He sought counsel from Tom Osborne, the legendary Husker football coach and AD. Moos asked Osborne about Frost and learned that Matt Davison, former Husker wide receiver turned announcer, was Frost’s best friend and that the two talked almost every day.

Moos turned to his administrative assistant and said, “I want Matt Davison in my office in 15 minutes.”

Moos laughingly added, “You know Matt hired Scott. Just listen to him.”

With Frost now onboard, hopes are sky high at Nebraska. One question Moos received at the Press Club was who would be on Moos’ list to take Frost’s place should the Huskers lose a game.

Commenting on the sellout crowd at the spring game on April 21, Moos said, “I was awestruck.”

Watching Frost lead his University of Central Florida team to victory over Auburn in the Peach Bowl while accepting the job offer from Nebraska is indicative of Frost’s leadership and organizational skills, Moos said.

“He can recruit to Nebraska,” he said. “Our brand is not tarnished. It’s a little dusty. People know who we are.”

With the new coaching staff in place, Moos said one thing he looks to happen is “for the Blackshirts to be Blackshirts again.”

In the Q-and-A portion, Moos gave Nebraska’s baseball coach, Darin Erstad, a strong vote of confidence saying, “He’s solid, and he’s staying right where he is.”

He also touched on the restructured Nebraska athletic department and how the key sports – football, men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball – will report directly to Moos.

Moos was accompanied to the lunch by Bob Burton, deputy AD/chief of staff, and Chris Anderson, associate athletic director, community relations.

Her career as a dynamic media pioneer demonstrates the power of one – one woman, one vision, one company – Radio One. She spawned a multimedia conglomerate that generated original content across radio, television and digital media.

Her humble beginnings in Omaha were not a deterrent to her success but rather part of the catalyst that fueled her ambition to empower African-Americans with information and to tell stories from their perspective.

One of Hughes’ greatest honors came in 2016 when the Howard University School of Communications celebrated its 45th anniversary by naming the school the “Cathy Hughes School of Communications.” The school is the third largest of the university’s 13 academic schools and colleges.
As we enter into the heart of spring (if spring ever really gets here), we have many exciting events to mention. As always, our menus in this newsletter give you the details.

For starters, there is the Winemaker’s Dinner on Friday, May 11. Nothing ends a work week like an Omaha Press Club signature event for the right price, including a five-course menu paired with five wines. This event allows our chef to be creative with each course. And you have the option of switching to your favorite red or white wine if you choose not to go with the designated variety.

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 13, with a buffet-worth bragging about. Escape the dinner preparations and cleanup while enjoying a $25-per-person feast with more than 30 items to choose from. This two-hour brunch offers two seatings: 10 a.m.-noon or 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., with live jazz for your listening enjoyment. All moms will receive a flower. The brunch time is perfect: long enough to enjoy the family and short enough to accommodate other plans for the day (or just go home and take a nap).

Graduation reservations are filling up, but we still have room, so call to reserve space. May and June are the party months for graduations from high school and college. We’ll help you make memories with minimal headache and sleepless nights. Let us do the hard work while you relax.

Our noon events in April were big successes. Both the Brad Ashford-Kara Eastman congressional debate and the Shatel Lunch starring Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Moos were sold-out events.

Keep your eyes open for more events to come, including the Noon Education Forum on May 17 featuring Jim Scheer, speaker of the Nebraska Legislature. Then on May 18, Urban One media founder Cathy Hughes will become the next “Face on the Barroom Floor.”

Want to try something new? Attend the Beard and Mustache Competition sponsored by the Omaha Facial Hair Society on May 19. Proceeds from the event will go to Moving Vets Forward. For more information, go to www.omahafacialhairsociety.com/events/beardcomp.

June will take us into the college baseball championship, with the OPC offering the best dining view of the series. We again will have the fried chicken, barbecue ribs, kosher hot dogs and fireworks.

Also in June is our annual Hall of Fame dinner and induction, one of the top events of the year. Six Journalists of Excellence will be saluted on the evening of June 2.

And let me close with this teaser: The club is introducing a delivery service with an exclusive menu for both our building, the First National Bank, and the First National Tower. Follow the website and OPC News for details.

Just think—the work load seems like it will never get under control, food service will be just a click away. We will keep you posted!

-Christine Jones Villamonte, B.S. Nutrition Restaurant Manager/Events Coordinator

**PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS**

### Winemaker’s Dinner
Friday, May 11

$50
6 p.m.

**Quaff**
Villamonte’s Ceviche Shooters
Peruvian Smoked Salmon Roll

**Appetizer**
Brie and Portabella Mushroom Bisque

**Salad**
Villamonte’s Thunderbird in Parmesan Crust

**Sorbet**
Pomegranate

**Entrée**
Folie Deux Son Merlot Braised Lamb Shank
Rosemary Whipped Potatoes
Roasted Parsnips and Spring Carrots

**Dessert**
Chocolate Raspberry Delice
Chef de Cuisine: Steve Villamonte BA, CEC
(Certified Executive Chef)

### Mother’s Day Brunch
Sunday, May 13

Two seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Adults $25 • Children under 10 $14

**Carving Station**
Steamship Round of Beef with Horseradish
Chantilly & Red Wine Au Jus
Old School Pineapple-Glazed Ham

**Entrées**
Chicken Crepes Supreme
Baked Tilapia Buerre Blanc
Eggs Benedict
Risotto • Lyonnais Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables

**A La Carte**
Build-Your-Own Omelet
Multi-Topping Pancake Bar

**Salad**
Omaha Press Club Thunderbird Salad

**Desserts**
New York-style Cheesecake with Strawberries
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries
Warm Peach Cobbler with French Vanilla Ice Cream

### Cathy Hughes
157th Face on the Barroom Floor

Members $50, Non-Members $60
Friday, May 18
5:30 p.m. No-Host Cocktails
6:30 p.m. Dinner

**Passed Hors d’oeuvres**
Potato-Leek Smoked Salmon with Goat Cheese & Bacon
Parmesan Onion Canapé

**Salad**
Omaha Press Club Thunderbird Salad

**Entrée**
OPC Tenderloin Filet Maytag
Blue and Béarnaise
Gouda & Roasted Twice-Baked Potato
Bacon-Wrapped Asparagus

**OPC Signature Dessert**
Bavarian Chocolate Mousse Gateau Riche
The event is open to the public, and reservations are required. Tables fill early, so call 402-345-8088 or email jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com.

The 2018 inductees:

**Harold Dow** (posthumous) -- Dow became the first African-American television reporter in Omaha, serving as co-anchor and talk-show host for KETV. From there he moved on to a distinguished career at CBS News that lasted from 1972 to 2010, when he died of an apparent asthma attack. Over the course of his career, Dow received five Emmy Awards plus a Peabody Award for his "48 Hours" report on runaways and a Robert F. Kennedy Award for a report on public housing. Before joining CBS, he worked in Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Paterson, N.J. A native of Hackensack, N.J., Dow attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**James D. “Jim” Fogarty** – The lifelong Nebraskan is co-owner of Legacy Preservation Books, a national publisher of family, business and institutional histories. Fogarty previously spent 11 years as a staff writer for the Omaha World-Herald and 20 years in corporate communications, before co-founding Legacy. For seven years he was a panelist on KETV’s Sunday news analysis program, “Kaleidoscope.” He’s a past president of the Omaha Press Club and past trustee of the Omaha Public Library.

**Cate Folsom** – Editorial page editor is the latest position in Folsom’s 39-year career at the Omaha World-Herald. Her reporting beats included a stint in the Washington Bureau, but she has served as an editor for the bulk of her career. As an assignment editor, she has led a number of award-winning reporting efforts, including coverage of the safe-haven law, issues stemming from the Von Maur mass shooting, and state prison sentencing miscalculations. She and her reporters received the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s Andy Award for “At War/At Home,” a series on Nebraska and Iowa soldiers in Afghanistan. Folsom is an Omaha native and a UNO graduate.

**Ron Hull** – Since 1954, Hull has led a storied career with Nebraska Educational Television and with the national Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In 1955 he became program manager at NETV and played a central role in making it one of the nation’s most successful ETV enterprises. Hull helped lead NETV through 2003, and thereafter has served as a senior adviser to the organization. Hull has also served with the U.S. Foreign Service in Vietnam, and in his work with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, helped to create the programs "Anyone for Tennyson," "The American Experience," and "Reading Rainbow."

**R.W. “Jeff” Jordan** (posthumous) – The Baltimore native was a familiar face on Omaha TV, newspaper pages and Omaha Press Club shows during the 1970s and ’80s. After radio and TV jobs in several cities, Jordan landed in Omaha, where he anchored KMTV newscasts from 1970 to 1978. From 1979 to 1983, Jordan was a feature columnist for the Omaha World-Herald. He also served as emcee of the annual OPC gridiron show for 14 years. A lifelong railroad buff, Jordan joined Union Pacific in 1985. He finished his career at Overnite Trucking, then a subsidiary of Union Pacific, retiring in 1998. Jordan was diagnosed with brain cancer in 1997 and died in 1999.

**Robert Alexander “Bob” Runnels Sr.** – Runnels was a 20-year Navy journalist before arriving at KMTV in Omaha. At Channel 3, he was a reporter-photographer from 1971 to 1983. He also hosted a weekly community affairs show entitled “Expressions.” While in Omaha, he was a board member of the Greater Omaha Girl Scout Council. Runnels moved to Washington State in 1984 and taught journalism for 10 years at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. He returned to his Illinois roots in 2002 and currently is a three-term alderman in North Chicago.

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**Hall of Fame Dinner**

**Saturday, June 2**

Members $45, Non-Members $55

**Hors d’oeuvres**
Smoked Salmon Croustades  
Assorted Bacon Wraps  
Crab-Stuffed Profiteroles

**Salad**
Omaha Press Club Thunderbird Salad

**Entrée**
Chicken Piccata  
Risotto Pilaf  
Sautéed Artichoke & Asparagus

**Tips**

**Dessert**
Hazelnut Chocolate Mousse Cup  
Blackberry Coulis
2017-2018 Officers

**D.C. “Woody” Bradford**  
President  
Houghton Bradford Whitted

**Jeremy Maskel**  
President-Elect  
Ralston Public Schools

**J.F. Bartlett**  
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**Bridget (Weide) Brooks**  
Secretary  
Image Building Communication

**Marcia Cady**  
Past President  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska

**Board of Directors**

(2018-2020)

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Todd Murphy</td>
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<td>Marketing/Student</td>
<td>Mary Macchietto Bernier</td>
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<td>Peggy Rupprecht</td>
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<td>Kent Mullen</td>
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**Committee Chairs**

**Communications**  
Jennifer Bull, Jocelyn Houston

**Education**  
Gary Kerr

**Executive Committee**  
D.C. “Woody” Bradford,
Jeremy Maskel, Bridget (Weide) Brooks & Marcia Cady

**“Face on the Barroom Floor”**  
Tom O’Connor

**Hall of Fame**  
Todd Murphy

**Marketing/Membership**  
Bridge (Weide) Brooks, Kathleen Al-Marhoon

**OPC Foundation**

TRUSTEES

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<tr>
<td>Howard K. Marcus</td>
<td>402-397-6155</td>
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<td>Elaine Allen</td>
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<td>Willie Garrett</td>
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<td>Nicolle Lindquist</td>
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** EVENTS**

**Tuesday, May 2**
Democratic Primary  
U.S. Senate Debate  
Noon-1 p.m.  
$17 per person Includes lunch

**Friday, May 11**
Winemaker’s Dinner  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Sunday, May 13**
Mother’s Day Brunch  
Seatings at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 17**
Noon Education Forum  
Speaker of the Legislature Jim Scheer  
Noon to 1 p.m.  
Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.

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

**Board of Directors**

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<tr>
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**Communications Committee**

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

**Board of Directors**

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<td>Universal Information Services</td>
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<td>Creighton University</td>
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**Hours of Operation**

**LUNCH**
Monday - Friday  
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**BAR**
Tuesday - Saturday  
4:30 p.m. to close

**DINNER**
Thursday - Saturday  
5:30 p.m. to close

**OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF**

Executive Director  
Steve Villamonte  
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Restaurant and Events Manager  
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opcchristine@gmail.com

Administrative Manager  
Jeanie Campbell  
jeaniec@opcmhcoxin.com

Office  
402-345-8587  
Restaurant  
402-345-8008

Website  
onomahapressclub.com

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Sandra Tursi  
Graphics Editor

Tom O’Connor  
Proofreader

Don Summerside  
Copy Editor

Submissions for the June issue are due on or before May 20.