159th ‘Face on the Barroom Floor’

Omaha’s first female mayor, Jean Stothert, will be honored Nov. 9

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

The first woman to be elected mayor of Omaha – Jean Stothert – will be honored as the Omaha Press Club’s next “Face on the Barroom Floor” on Friday, Nov. 9.

Now in her second term as mayor, Stothert was first elected in 2013 and re-elected in 2017. She is the 51st Omaha mayor and will be the 159th lawmaker to be honored as an OPC “Face.”

The event is open to the public. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the roast starting around 8 p.m. Cost for the event will be $55 for members and $65 for non-members. Reservations can be made by calling 402-345-8008 and providing your credit card information or your Press Club account.

People also can make reservations online by going to the front page of the OPC website and clicking on the promotion box for the Stothert Face event.

Stothert grew up in the St. Louis area and worked as a critical care nurse and later as head nurse and department head of cardiovascular surgery at St. Louis University, where she met her husband, Joe Stothert, M.D.

In 1993, the Stothert family moved to Omaha from Galveston, Texas, when Dr. Stothert accepted a new position at Creighton University.

When the Stotherts’ two children, Elizabeth and Andrew, were old enough to go to school, Mayor Stothert became involved in their schools as a volunteer. Later, she was appointed and then elected to the Millard Board of Education and served 11 years, including three as president.

In 2009, she was elected to the Omaha City Council, representing District 5 in southwest Omaha.

The Stotherts have been married 37 years.

Dr. Stothert currently works as a trauma surgeon at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and its clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine.

Noon Forum Oct. 11 to discuss vote on Medicaid expansion

By Gary Willis
Communications Committee

A proposal to expand Medicaid to about 90,000 low-income Nebraskans will be debated Oct. 11 at an Omaha Press Club Noon Education Forum.

The Medicaid measure will appear on the Nov. 6 general election ballot as Initiative 427. The Nebraska secretary of state certified about 105,000 initiative signatures collected this summer, and the Nebraska Supreme Court on Sept. 12 dismissed a lawsuit that attempted to keep the proposal off the ballot.

At the OPC forum, Molly McCleery, Nebraska Appleseed’s deputy director of health care access programs, will argue for Medicaid expansion. Jessica Shelburn, Nebraska state director for Americans for Prosperity, will argue against expansion.

State Sen. Lydia Brasch and former Sen. Mark Christensen had filed the lawsuit against the initiative. They argued that the measure directs the Department of Health and Human Services, which is part of the executive branch, to exercise power reserved for the legislative branch. They also said there are multiple subjects in the petition in violation of the single subject clause of the Nebraska Constitution.

The initiative seeks to expand Medicaid coverage and direct HHS to maximize federal funding to pay for it, which Brasch and Christensen argued is not necessary to expand medical assistance.

The Noon Forum lunch, at $17 per person, will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. The forum will begin promptly at noon and conclude at 1 p.m.

Bacon, Eastman set for Oct. 18 OPC debate

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

Second District Republican Congressman Don Bacon and Democratic nominee Kara Eastman will debate the issues Oct. 18 at the Press Club. Eastman defeated former Congressman Brad Ashford in the May 15 primary.

Bacon retired in 2015 from the U.S. Air Force as a brigadier general and is seeking his second term in the House of Representatives. He serves on the Agriculture Committee, the Committee on Homeland Security and the Armed Services Committee. During his nearly 30 years in the Air Force, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, two Legion of Merits and two Bronze Stars.

Kara Eastman came to Omaha in 2006 and started the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance, a nonprofit organization that aims to protect
November Forum will travel to Metro College campus

Omaha Press Club members are invited to a “mobile forum” on Nov. 15 at Metro Community College’s Fort Omaha campus. The Noon Education Forum will educate participants on new building trades facilities that will provide businesses with badly needed skilled workers.

The program will begin with lunch at 11:30 a.m. in Building 24, the new Center for Advanced and Emerging Technology, and a short program by the Campus Planning and Sustainability Department.

From noon to 12:30 p.m., forum guests will tour the new Education Center. The center will be an actual work site, where students will clock in, follow workplace rules and apply lean-management practices.

From 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., the tour will return to the technology center. This will be a learning center that attracts, spawns and grows Omaha businesses, training students through state-of-the-art technologies and bringing learning to life through real-world research and development.

Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email jeaniec@opc.ohmcoxcmail.com.

Forum with OPS superintendent reset for Nov. 8

An unforeseen situation forced Dr. Cheryl Logan, Omaha Public Schools superintendent, to cancel her Noon Forum appearance on Oct. 20. OPS was part of the community response at an apartment complex where conditions forced the City of Omaha to relocate hundreds of families.

The good news is that Dr. Logan has rescheduled her OPC visit for Nov. 8 from noon to 1 p.m. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email jeaniec@opc.ohmcoxcmail.com.

Beermann to be inducted into Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame

A longtime Omaha Press Club supporter and board member – Allen Beermann – will be inducted into the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame at an Oct. 19 dinner in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott, 333 S. 13th St.

Beermann has served as executive director of the Nebraska Press Association/Nebraska Press Advertising Service (NPA/NPAS) since 1995. Prior to that, he served 24 years as Nebraska’s secretary of state.

In 2009, he was honored by the Omaha Press Club as the 121st “Face on the Barroom Floor.” He has served on the OPC board of directors for several terms.

Two other journalists will be inducted at the event, which is sponsored by the NPA and the College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The other inductees are John Gottschalk, former CEO and publisher of the Omaha World-Herald; and Stuart Bohacek, the late owner, editor and columnist of the Wilber (Neb.) Republican newspaper who went on to work for the U.S. Information Agency and its radio arm, Voice of America.

In 2005, Gottschalk was honored as the Press Club’s 100th “Face on the Barroom Floor.”

The Hall of Fame dinner is open to the public. A cash bar will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is $48 per person. The entrée choice includes pork chop or stuffed chicken breast. If you have questions, contact Susan Watson at NPA/NPAS, 402-476-2851, nebpress@nebpress.com. Oct. 8 is the reservation deadline. Make checks payable to NPAS.

FOR PEOPLE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE DEBATE, OUR TELEVISION DEBATE PARTNER, WOWT CHANNEL 6, WILL RECORD AND AIR IT ON SEVERAL PLATFORMS IT HAS AVAILABLE. CHECK WOWT.COM FOR INFORMATION ON WHERE AND WHAT TIME THE DEBATE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED VIEWERS.

CALL 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS OR EMAIL JEANIE@OPC.OHMCOXMAIL.COM. RESERVATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OPC MEMBER NUMBER OR CREDIT CARD. FREE PARKING FOR MEMBERS IS AVAILABLE ON THE ROOF TOP OF THE CENTRAL CITY GARAGE. BRING YOUR PARKING TICKET TO THE CLUB FOR VALIDATION.
Pavelka ‘Face’ still smiling after friendly fire

By Don Summerside
Communications Committee

“Got it”

Kent Pavelka's signature exclamation for a successful Cornhusker basketball shot took on new meaning on Sept. 13 when the longtime broadcaster “got it” from an all-star trio of roasters.

Of course, Pavelka had to know what he was in for when he selected Matt Davison, Tim Miles and Larry the Cable Guy to roast and toast him as the Omaha Press Club’s 158th “Face on the Barroom Floor.”

So it was a sign of his fun-loving nature that he invited the barrage of barbs from longtime broadcasting partner Davison, Nebraska basketball coach Miles and comedian-actor Dan Whitney, aka the Cable Guy.

All three, along with emcee Gary Sadlemyer, were on their game. And as might be expected, it was the professional funny man in the sold-out room who delivered the sharpest zingers.

A couple of the Cable Guy’s best shots: “With his signature bow tie, the older Kent gets, the more he is starting to look less like an announcer and more like a peeping tom. Kent actually is starting to look like the guy on an Easter egg hunt, hiding in the bushes naked.”

“I’m not saying Kent’s getting older, but at his last prostate check they found an arrowhead.”

Highlights from the other roasters:

Davison, associate athletic director for Nebraska athletics: “Franz got it!”

Miles vs. McDermott, 0-14; for the comedian: “I lost 50 pounds, got ‘r done.” For the coach: “I lost 50 pounds, got ‘r done,” , Pavelka offered some remarks “from the heart.”

“In life, we too often don’t say how much we mean to each other. That’s what this is tonight – a public expression of our relationship. I really thank you for honoring me tonight.”

Discussion of Frost book draws big crowd

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

Scott Frost Fever was rampant at the Omaha Press Club on Aug. 29, as more than 70 people attended the Tom Shatel Luncheon Series to hear about the new book on the new Husker football coach written by the Omaha World-Herald sports staff.

Three of the book’s six authors – Shatel, Lee Barfknecht and Dirk Chatelain – spoke at the luncheon, which was held just three days before the Huskers’ scheduled opener with Akron (which was postponed due to stormy weather). The book is titled “Frost: A Husker’s Journey Home.”

“It feels like Nebraska football again,” Shatel said. “Nebraska fans want to jump up and down again – that’s the way they are.

“The record is not the story this year. It won’t be perfect. I do expect that we’ll see more blocking, tackling, effort and passion (than we’ve seen in recent years).”

Given the intense public interest in Frost, it “became very clear” that the book on Frost needed to be written, said Chatelain, who hails from Columbus, Neb.

The book recounts the small-town roots and outstanding athleticism of Scott’s parents, Larry and Carol Frost. It traces Frost’s career as a high school quarterback in Wood River, Neb., and his college path through Stanford and Nebraska.

Barfknecht, who retired at the end of August after a 39-year career at the World-Herald, said the Frost family is probably the second most athletic family in Nebraska history behind the Fischer family (Ken, Pat, Rex and Cletus – all four played at Nebraska).

Before taking the head coaching job at Central Florida, Frost turned down job offers from Syracuse and Maryland.

“Scott is a smart man, but he has a little red ass in him,” Barfknecht said. “He’s not afraid to tell you. This program (Nebraska) needs that.”

“It’s going to be hard for people to be patient,” Chatelain said. “He’s got everything you want (in a coach). His offense will allow him to recruit the kind of playmakers he’s going to need. This thing is finally going back in the right direction.”

Following the lunch presentation, all three writers went to the Press Club entry and signed copies of the book, which sell for $30 and are available through the World-Herald.
October tends to be one of our busiest months. We have a wonderful beer/wine-maker’s six-course pairing on Oct. 12 featuring five wines/beers (the sorbet palate-cleanser course is exempt). If you have never attended, the chefs showcase their choices with the help of alcohol representatives who discuss the featured adult beverages.

The event attracts both club regulars and newcomers, with groups large and small. So please, do not be shy as this is a fun event. We keep you around for coffee and socialization.

We also will have two Noon Education Forums this month. On Oct. 11, the topic is “Should Nebraska allow Medicaid Expansion?” The proposal is on the November ballot, and pro and con speakers will discuss the issue.

An Oct. 18 forum will offer a 2nd District congressional debate between Republican incumbent Don Bacon and Democratic challenger Kara Eastman. Both of these forums will have lunch included.

A longtime OPC member and current board member, Allen Beermann, will be inducted in the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame on Oct. 19 in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott. If you would like to attend, there is an Omaha Press Club table already established. We are very excited for Allen, as he is truly deserving.

On Nov. 9, look for our next “Face on the Barroom Floor,” Mayor Jean Stothert. The roasters have not been announced, but they are always full of secret stories about the most embarrassing things. A perfect night for a good laugh.

And finally, the holiday season is just around the corner, so we have started taking reservations for the Santa Brunch and New Year’s Eve as well as holiday parties. Send me an email at opcchristine@gmail.com or call me at the club to inquire.

-Christine Jones Villamonte
Restaurant Manager/Events Coordinator

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**Oktoberfest**

Friday, Oct. 12, 6 p.m.
Members $50, Non-Members $60

Each course will be paired with a beer or wine choice

**Hors d’oeuvres**
Baked Camembert with Red Currant Sauce Mini Onion Tarts

**Appetizers**
Liver Dumplings

**Salad**
Thunderbird Salad with Bavarian Blue Cheese

**Sorbet**
Triple Berry

**Entrée**
Wiener Schnitzel & Stoysich Bratwurst Spaetzle, Bohemian Cafe Sweet & Sour Cabbage

**Dessert**
German Poppy Seed Cake

**Past Presidents Dinner**

Thursday, Nov. 8
6 p.m. Cocktails
6:30 p.m. Dinner
$30

**Soup**
Lobster Bisque

**Salad**
OPC Thunderbird Salad With Parmesan Crisp

**Sorbet**
Raspberry Rosé

**Entrée**
Surf & Turf
Loaded Twice-Baked Potato
Asparagus

**Dessert**
Chocolate Soufflé

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**Santa Brunch**

Sunday, Dec. 9
Two Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Adults $24 • Children 10 and under $12
Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Salvation Army

**Buffet**
Steamship Round of Beef
Baked Ham with Maple Whiskey Sauce
Chicken Crepes Supreme
Baked Tilapia in Lemon Butter
Garlic Whipped Potatoes & Gravy
Seasonal Vegetables
Build-Your-Own Omelet
Multi-Topping Pancake Bar
Salad Display, including Thunderbird Salad
Salmon Chaud Froid & Fresh Fruit
Fresh-Baked Pastries, Tortes & Cheesecakes
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries
Deep Dish Apple Strudel
with Brandyed French Vanilla Ice Cream
Spiked French Vanilla Eggnog

All children 10 and under receive a special holiday gift with reservation
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French Onion
Peruvian Clam Chowder
Spicy Chili
Soup du Jour

FROM THE GRILLE
Includes Kettle Chips
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Served on toasted pumpernickel with OPC’s famous Thousand Island dressing, Swiss cheese, and caramelized onions

TURKEY OR CORNED BEEF REUBEN
A Press Club favorite: toasted pumpernickel with Swiss cheese, Villamonte’s Reuben dressing, and sauerkraut

THUNDERBURGER
Choice ground sirloin topped with blue cheese, bacon, chives, and mozzarella on a kaiser bun topped with our famous Thunderbird dressing (Optional: substitute chicken for sirloin)

SALADS

OPC’S FAMOUS THUNDERBIRD SALAD
Mixed greens tossed in our famous Thunderbird dressing, bacon, blue cheese, shredded mozzarella and chives, Roma tomatoes, and homemade croutons

OPC’S REPORTER’S BURGER
Grilled sirloin, bacon, and cheddar cheese on a toasted Kaiser bun

COMPLEMENT YOUR THUNDERBIRD SALAD
Add grilled or thai-glazed salmon, grilled chicken breast, or sautéed garlic shrimp to your Thunderbird Salad

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Bacon, lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise on sourdough, wheat, or pumpernickel

BLACKENED GROUPER SANDWICH
Served with provolone on a homemade brioche bun

ADD A SIDE SALAD TO ANY ENTRÉE
Thunderbird, Caesar, or Garden

OPEN-FACED TUNA MELT
Seared and served open-faced on a seasoned, toasted baguette, topped with tomatoes and provolone

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