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What to do? Join us at the Omaha Press Club on Monday, Feb. 25 for a Noon Forum conversation about America’s perilous fiscal and political situation.

Paul Stebbins, a founding member of the Fix US initiative with the Campaign to Fix the Debt, will explain how our debt and federal budget have come to symbolize the brokenness of the U.S. political system.

The Omaha World-Herald has a newsroom roughly half the size of what it was a decade ago. That fact has resulted in newspaper operators trying to find increasingly novel ways to produce content and sell subscriptions with fewer resources available.

“Times are uncertain for us, but it’s a joy to walk into the newsroom and see us produce a newspaper,” said Matczak, World-Herald executive editor.

Will national debt bury us? Noon Forum dives into red ink

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Other highlights from Annual Meeting

Jeremy Maskel, the incoming OPC president, provided a perfect description of what makes the club special.

“At our Noon Forums last year, we heard Mayor (Jean) Stothert’s vision for Omaha, Legislative Speaker (Jim) Scheer’s reaction to a tough legislative session, and we were one of the first public events on OPS Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Logan’s calendar after she arrived,” he said. “Earlier today, we heard how the Omaha World-Herald is moving beyond a century of print to become a more agile, engaging, and intentional news organization.

“The Omaha Press Club has a rich and vibrant legacy of bringing together key people in our community – journalists who tell truth, who work each day to make our city stronger, and better, by getting the story. Elected officials, business leaders, engaged citizens are all at the table. At one of our ‘Face on the Barroom Floor’ events last year, we welcomed a pioneer in media back to her hometown, celebrating Cathy Hughes. Where else does that happen?”

Some of the highlights from the committee reports included:

Marketing & Membership – Was instrumental in developing materials for the express delivery/takeout menu for First National Bank employees.

Communications – In addition to producing a monthly newsletter, the committee is striving to better integrate social media and the website to deliver a more cohesive message.

Face on the Barroom Floor – Had a sellout event for Kent Pavelka, Husker broadcast legend, with Larry the Cable Guy among a cast of star-studded roasters. One honoree is set for 2019 – on Sept. 27, Nebraska native Jeff Zeleny, chief White House correspondent for CNN, will be recognized.

Education – Held eight Noon Forums including two political debates featuring candidates running for Nebraska’s Second District of the House of Representatives.

OPC Foundation – Awarded 20 scholarships/awards totaling more than $37,000 to journalism students at UNL, UNO and Creighton University. This year’s Scholarship Dinner will be held on April 26 and will be highlighted by the presentation of the first Judy Horan Public Relations Scholarship. More than $16,200 was raised for this scholarship last year with donations coming from 57 donors.
The OPC remembers:

**Farewell to Bob Hoig, a friend and mentor**

By Daisy Hutzell-Rodman
Omaha Magazine Managing Editor

The Omaha publishing community lost one of its leaders on Jan. 7 when Robert “Bob” Hoig died at age 86. The founder and longtime publisher of the Midlands Business Journal left an impact on many, both personally and professionally.

“I have admired and respected Bob’s work here in Omaha over the last 43 years,” said Omaha Publications Publisher Todd Lemke. “It’s a sad loss for Omaha.”

Lemke echoed the thoughts of many in Omaha’s media community. The Omaha Press Club honored Hoig and his daughter Andrea, also a publisher, with its first father-daughter “Face on the Barroom Floor” in 2012. In 2014, Bob Hoig was inducted into the OPC Hall of Fame.

Hoig also was named Entrepreneur of the Year in 2004 by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce and was inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame in 2012.

Hoig started the Midlands Business Journal in 1975 with the idea of ‘telling the stories of area businesses in a fair and interesting way,’ according to the publication’s website. He was previously a newspaper reporter, working on investigative reports for publications such as the New York Daily News, Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal and United Press International.

Hoig was a friend and mentor to many in the news business, often taking young, talented journalists and helping them start a career. “This was my first job out of college, and Bob definitely taught me a lot about the business. I’m very grateful for that,” said Tiffany Brazda, current editor of the Midlands Business Journal.

“I think I just wandered in there one day,” said Howard K. Marcus, a freelancer who previously had a 31-year career with the Omaha World-Herald. “I truly don’t think he even knew it was going to be a temporary thing for me. He called it a ‘port in a storm.’ When I got the job at the Omaha World-Herald, he was actually happy for me.”

Working at the Midlands Business Journal was Linda Persigehl’s first job in the Omaha media market. She worked for the publication as a business writer, advertising sales rep and freelance writer/editor from 1996 to 2005. Persigehl later became managing editor (2011-2013) at Omaha Magazine, where she continues to contribute freelance writing.

“There was no greater fan of Omaha than Bob,” Persigehl said. “He loved being able to promote the business community here and felt that we had as much to offer as any big city. He loved to tout the success of the mom and pop businesses as much as he did the Ameritrades and ConAgras. He was an opinionated guy, and he shared those thoughts openly in his weekly editorials in MBJ.”

Hoig added the Lincoln Business Journal to his publications in 1996. In 2002, the company started its 40 Under 40 awards, which have highlighted hundreds of young leaders in the Omaha business community.

Former employees fondly recalled Hoig’s many kindnesses. “He was always a gentleman,” Marcus said. “He was always helpful to me, and I am truly grateful to have known him.”

“He was a proud family man and spent most days working alongside his wife, Martha, his son, Noel, and his sister, Cindy, at MBJ,” Persigehl said. “Andrea, publisher of metroMAGAZINE, was no doubt influenced greatly by her father’s publishing history.”

Andrea (“Andee”) had this to say about her father:

“He had an amazing life as an award-winning journalist, successful entrepreneur, champion of small business, world traveler, multisport athlete, small aircraft pilot, and beloved husband and father. It was a privilege and an honor to be his daughter.”

**Del Weber, longtime UNO leader**

Del Weber, the longest-serving chancellor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, died Jan. 11 at age 86.

Weber led the university from 1977 to 1997 as it evolved from a commuter campus into a major institution.

University of Texas Chancellor J.B. Milliken, a vice chancellor in the NU system during part of Weber’s tenure at UNO, told Rick Ruggles of the Omaha World-Herald that Weber was “perhaps more than anyone responsible for the future, modern and indispensable UNO.”

Under Weber, Ruggles reported, UNO won Board of Regents approval to build its first residence halls. The university also created its first free-standing doctoral program on Weber’s watch.

His retirement year at UNO coincided with his selection as the Omaha Press Club’s 98th “Face on the Barroom Floor.” Weber was honored by the OPC on March 1, 1997, and officially retired as chancellor at the end of the ’97 spring semester.

Born and raised in Columbus, Nebraska, Weber was the son of a laborer with a sixth-grade education. He credited his mother with pushing her youngest child to go to college. He attended Midland College in Fremont, served in the military and then taught and was principal at Creston, Nebraska before earning graduate degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Weber joined the faculty of Arizona State University, moved on to then-new Cleveland State as assistant to the president, then returned to Arizona State where he became dean of education. An alert from his mother of a chancellor vacancy at UNO brought him back to his home state.

Weber is survived by his wife of 64 years, Lou Ann, son Bill, daughters Beth Bratches and Kelly Maddalena and 11 grandchildren.
Stebbins is a founder, former CEO and chairman emeritus of World Fuel Services, a Fortune 100 company.

U.S. economic growth will slow this year to 2.3 percent from 3.1 percent in 2018, as the stimulative effects of President Trump’s tax cuts wane and the federal budget deficit climbs to nearly $900 billion, congressional researchers said last month.

CBO said persistently large deficits will push federal debt held by the public to 93 percent of the economy in 2029, its highest level since just after World War II, and to about 150 percent of the economy by 2049.

The Noon Education Forum begins promptly at noon and continues until 1 p.m. The $17-per-person charge includes lunch, with food service beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Non-Press Club members are welcome. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com.

Stebbins, continued from Page 1

Parking Reminder

PC 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.

PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS

**Quarterly Winemakers Dinner**

Friday, Feb. 8, 6 p.m.

$55 members, $65 non-members

**Quaff**
Creamy Shrimp Scampi Dip with Fresh Dill Tortilla Chip Gorgonzola & Paneer

**Appetizer**
Villamonte’s Clam Chowder with a Brie Rusk

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

**Sorbet**
Key Lime

**Entrée**
Pan-Seared Filet with a Garlic & Herb Butter Risotto Pilaf Candied Carrots

**Dessert**
Flourless Tart & OPC Truffle

**Quarterly Beermakers Dinner**

March 8, 6 p.m.

$55 members, $65 non-members

**Appetizer**
Cape Cod Crab Croustades OPC Artichoke Dip Croustade

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

**Sorbet**
Cranberry Mango

**Entrée**
Traditional Chicken Kiev Rosemary Whip Potatoes Roasted Parsnip & Spring Carrot

**Signature Dessert**
Banana Bread Pudding with a Crown Royal Whiskey Cream Caramel

Chef de Cuisine: Steve Villamonte BA, CEC (Certified Executive Chef)

**Valentine’s Day Dinner**

Thursday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

$120 per Couple Includes Tax & Service Charge

**Appetizer Choice**
Lobster Bisque with Sherry & Crème Fraiche

- or -
Crab-Stuffed Shrimp with Garlic Cream Lemon Butter

**Salad**
OPC Famous Thunderbird Salad Served in a Parmesan Crisp

**Entrée Choices**
Prime Rib of Beef with Chantilly, au Jus & Yorkshire Pudding Pan Roasted Rack of Lamb with a Cabernet Jus Omaha Steak Filet Mignon with Maître d’hôtel Butter & Bordelaise Sauce Pan-Seared Fresh Atlantic Salmon with a Lemon Dill Bearnaise & Sturgeon Caviar Chicken Villa Encroute Mushrooms, Onions, Sundried Tomatoes, Fresh Herbs, Mozzarella Wrapped in a Puff Pastry & Sauce au Poivre

**Desserts**
A Signature Petit Fours Display at the Fireplace

Stebbins, continued from Page 1
I’ll begin my message here as I did my remarks at the OPC Annual Meeting on Jan. 17, with a sincere "thank you."

It’s an honor to serve the Omaha Press Club with such a wonderful group of people. My gratitude to Past President Woody Bradford, who did a wonderful job leading our board in 2018, giving me much to live up to in the year to come.

Thanks to Tom O’Connor for capturing the Annual Meeting so well in his article for this newsletter. As you read there, I am very excited about the opportunities before us.

A first focus will be to streamline committee work by increasing collaboration. We have a phenomenal group of volunteers who lead our marketing, communications, educational and recognition efforts. I know we’ll be highlighting that work even more effectively for you, making it easier to join our series of fun, insightful and engaging events throughout the year.

Please don’t hesitate to let me or a committee chair know if you’d like to join. There’s so much to enjoy at the Omaha Press Club.

-Jeremy Maskel
OPC President

Each year I sit down and ponder my thoughts while I prepare my notes for the Annual OPC Meeting. Once again I am reminded of all the time and talent that our many volunteers give to the club. Without this effort, a private city club would flounder and eventually cease to exist.

Woody Bradford has been the club attorney for many years and now he has served as president. I have worked with Woody on many issues over the years and have learned that he is a calm, cool head under all circumstances. I have truly enjoyed having him as the board president and know he will be a valuable resource for the club for years to come.

I am now looking forward with Christine to managing the club in 2019 with many goals in sight and the opportunity to work with the board members and a new president.

Take advantage of your club, review our Events schedule on Page 6 and mark an event and a date to enjoy your club. If you’re looking for lively entertainment, a quiet dinner, a special menu or event, just call Christine and she’ll help you plan your visit to the club.

-P.S. Do you know a soon-to-be bride or groom? If so, send them to our new bridal link on our website. http://omahapressclub.com/wedding-receptions/
2019 - 2020 Officers

Jeremy Maskel  
President  
Ralston Public Schools

Tom Shatel  
President-Elect  
Omaha World-Herald

Dale Ervin  
Treasurer  
First National Bank

Bridget (Weide) Brooks  
Secretary  
Image Building Communications

D.C. "Woody" Bradford  
Immediate Past President  
Houghton Bradford Whitted

Board of Directors

(2018-2020)
Allen Beermann  
Nebraska Press Association
Roger Humphries  
Roger Humphries Photography
Gary Willis  
NP Dodge Real Estate
Cindy Workman  
Creighton

(2019-2021)
Chris Allen  
UNO
Kristyna Engdahl  
MECA
Melissa Hoeman  
Nebraska Medicine
Erie Johnson  
First National Bank
Mike McKnight  
WOWT

Committee Chairs

Communications  
Gary Willis, Cindy Workman
Education  
Gary Kerr
Executive Committee  
Jeremy Maskel, Tom Shatel, Dale Ervin, D.C. "Woody" Bradford & Bridget (Weide) Brooks
"Face on the Barroom Floor"  
Tom O’Connor
Hall of Fame  
Todd Murphy
Marketing / Membership  
Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Kathleen Al-Marhoum

OPC Foundation

TRUSTEES  
Elaine Allen  
President
Wendy Townley  
Vice President
Bridget (Weide) Brooks  
2nd Vice President
Steve Jordan  
Treasurer
Josh Bucy  
Secretary

Events

Friday, Feb. 8  
Winemakers Dinner  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner  
$55 OPC members, $65 non-members

Thursday, Feb. 14  
Valentine’s Day  
5:30 p.m. start  
$120 per couple OPC members

Monday, Feb. 18  
Club closed for Presidents’ Day

Monday, Feb. 25  
Noon Forum  
Paul Stebbins discusses  "The National Debt"  
Noon to 1 p.m.  
Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.  
Open to the public -- cost $17

Are you looking for a perfect party setting? Keep the OPC in mind  
For updates on club happenings, check our Facebook site.

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

Ash Wednesday, March 6  
Lenten fish specials begin

Friday, March 8  
Craft Beer Dinner  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner  
$55 OPC members, $65 non-members

Saturday, March 16  
St. Patrick’s Day Buffet  
11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
$15

Thursday, March 21  
Noon Forum  
Noon to 1 p.m.  
Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.  
Open to the public -- cost $17

Friday, April 26  
Scholarship and Awards Dinner  
5:30 p.m. non-host social  
6 p.m. dinner and awards  
$35 OPC members, $45 non-members

Saturday, June 1  
Hall of Fame Awards Dinner  
5:30 p.m. non-host social  
6 p.m. dinner and awards  
$50 OPC members, $60 non-members

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

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Tom O’Connor ………………….. Proofreader
Don Summerside ……………… Copy Editor

Submissions for the March issue are due on or before Feb. 20.