was so cool. I made a goal to myself that I’d love to be on the wall sometime. “This is the realization of a dream for me. I couldn’t be more excited and honored.”

His all-star slate of roasters promises to make for an historic night at the Press Club. Heading the list are two Husker football coaches – current coach Scott Frost, who is beginning his second year, and legendary coach Tom Osborne, who was at the helm from 1973 to 1997 and led the Huskers to three national titles. Osborne was Face No. 16 when he was recognized in 1979 by the Press Club.

Joining the two coaches will be three other prominent Nebraska sports figures:

· Emcee – Andy Kendeigh has been sports director for KETV (Ch. 7) since 2010;
· Lee Barfknecht, who just retired last year after a 39-year career as a sportswriter/columnist for the World-Herald; and
· Damon Benning, a running back for the Cornhuskers from 1992 to 1996 who now is co-host of the popular radio program “Sharp and Benning in the Morning” on KOZN-AM, 1620 The Zone, as well as a sports analyst for the Big Ten Network, NET Television and Cox Communications.

A native of Tulsa, Okla., Shatel earned a 39-year career as a sportswriter/columnist for the World-Herald; and
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Mark your calendar:
OPC's Hall of Fame to induct 6 on June 1

Since 2008 the Omaha Press Club has been honoring the most notable area journalists from both the past and the present. Each year our Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame dinner proves to be an outstanding event.

This year our inductees will undoubtedly create an evening of both honor and reverence, but most assuredly generate much laughter and love for their industry friends and family. Those to be honored on June 1: Joni Baillon - KMTV Ben Gray - KETV

Walt Kavanaugh - KFAB Mike McKnight - WOWT Carrie Murphy - KMTV Kent Warneke - Norfolk Daily News, Omaha World-Herald

Please call or email the Omaha Press Club to reserve your seat at this year’s dinner. We will start with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and our induction ceremony. This is always a fun, fast-paced evening with some stories you’ll hear nowhere else and some you may have enjoyed a hundred times!

Whether you’ve been in journalism for 50 years or only five months, the Hall of Fame event is not to be missed. We encourage you to invite your family, friends, and current or past colleagues. The price is $60 ($50 per person for OPC members). Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email opcchristine@opc.com or go to omahapressclub.com and click the RSVP button.

Please share this contact information with others who may wish to attend. This evening is open to non-members and members alike. We look forward to seeing you in June.

Face on the Floor, continued from Page 1

his journalism degree in 1980 from the University of Missouri. He landed his first sports reporting job at the Kansas City Star (1980-1989), where he covered the Big Eight Conference, which then included the Huskers.

From there, he took a chance and moved to a brand-new newspaper, the St. Louis Sun. Seven months later, the newspaper folded. He then landed a position at the Dallas Morning News, covering the Dallas Cowboys and professional golf.

When he learned from a friend that the World-Herald had an opening for a sports columnist, Shatel had immediate interest – he knew all about the love affair fans have with the Huskers.

“I was only planning to be in Omaha for two or three years,” he said. “You just never know.”

Life as a sports columnist has been good. Shatel has been named the Nebraska Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sports Media Association on four occasions, including this year. He is also a former president of the Football Writers Association of America and the United States Basketball Writers Association.

In addition to writing thousands of sports columns for the newspaper, Shatel has also authored two books – “The Greatest Wins in Nebraska History” in 1998 and “Shatel: Tom’s Take on 20 Unforgettable Years of Sports” in 2011.

He has served on the board of directors of the Omaha Press Club for several years and is slated to become club president in 2020. In addition, for the past seven years, he has hosted the popular Shatel Lunch Series, which frequently brought in notable sports figures to speak, including Husker Volleyball Coach John Cook and Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Moos. The lunch for Moos last April brought a sellout crowd of 220 people to the Press Club.

But, beyond all the bylines and accolades, Omaha has become his home. In 1993, he met his future wife, Jennifer Phillip, then a news producer at KETV, and Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Moos. The lunch for Moos last April brought a sellout crowd of 220 people to the Press Club.

But, beyond all the bylines and accolades, Omaha has become his home. In 1993, he met his future wife, Jennifer Phillip, then a news producer at KETV, at one of his favorite places – Pauli’s Bar at 40th and Leavenworth streets. They married in 1998 and now have three daughters – Sarah, 17, Kate, 13, and Anna, 11 – and live in Elkhorn along with their dog, Charley.

TOM SHATEL ‘FACE’ EVENT

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 16;
RECEPTION -- 5:30 P.M.;
DINNER -- 6:30 P.M.;
ROAST -- 8 P.M.
COST: $60 FOR OMAHA PRESS CLUB MEMBERS; $70 FOR NON-MEMBERS
RSVP: CALL THE OMAHA PRESS CLUB AT 402-345-8008. MEMBERS CAN CHARGE TO THEIR OPC ACCOUNT. NON-MEMBERS NEED TO PROVIDE CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.

Unforgettable Years of Sports” in 2011.

Evnen plans to introduce a voter ID plan in the 2020 legislative session. He plans to look at other state ID laws prior to introducing a Nebraska proposal. Prior to being elected last November, Evnen was a labor attorney practicing law in Lincoln for more than 40 years. He also is a former member of the State Board of Education.

Cartier is skilled in journalism, legal writing and government relations with experience in the public policy industry. Currently he serves on the LPS Superintendent’s Facility Advisory Committee.

Please join us for this highly informative discussion from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 11. Lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. Non-Press Club members are welcome. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email opcchristine@gmail.com. You may also go to OmahaPressClub.com and click RSVP at the top right corner.
Buried in the National Debt?

By Gary Willis
Education Committee

How do you pay down the national debt without hurting the most vulnerable people in our society? Can the national debt even be paid down?

At a recent OPC Noon Education forum, Paul Stebbins, a founding member of the FixUS initiative with the Campaign to Fix the Debt, discussed the perils of being deep into debt. We have a trillion-dollar annual budget deficit facing this country, home mortgages as well as student and consumer loans.

About a year ago, President Trump pledged to eliminate the national debt "over a period of eight years." But for the first time in history, the national debt recently surpassed $21 trillion, according to the U.S. Treasury.

Can we grow the economy out of this debt? Stebbins’ answer was no. He predicts the U.S. economic growth will slow this year to 2.3 percent from 3.1 percent in 2018. The incoming budget added 55 percent of the deficit through legislation this year alone. Paying the interest on this debt and health care spending is outpacing the growth of the economy.

Stebbins stated that our youth are not engaged in the conversation about the national debt. They would rather support projects like Save the Whales instead of discussing the debt. When you ask them about reducing the deficit, Stebbins said, Civics and history have been phased out due to budget cuts and need to be reintroduced to the education platform, he said.

Social Security comes into this picture, too. It is predicted to be insolvent in 2033. Stebbins stated that our politicians are not innocent in this debate. Dysfunction at the congressional level is a key problem. Each side wants the other side to take the heat for this problem, he said, because the opposition is waiting to send 15 million postcards to every nursing home in Florida. The other side is saying, “don’t touch our Social Security,” but Stebbins said neither party wants to come up with a solution.

In all likelihood, experts say, Washington will wait to make substantial changes to Social Security until the crisis is much closer to actually happening. That procrastination comes with a high price.

In particular, if lawmakers did nothing until 2034, analysts say, they’d have to boost payroll taxes from the current 12.4 percent, split in 6.2 percent parts between employees and employers, to a total of 16.27 percent, split in 8.135 percent parts.

Alternatively, all benefits would need to be cut by 23 percent. Neither of those solutions is attractive or perhaps even feasible for current and future retirees.

But experts say some combination of them will be inevitable if Washington refuses to act before then.

May Forum will discuss state learning standards

Learning standards, particularly American history and civics standards, have been a hot topic in the Nebraska Legislature.

On March 21, the Legislature passed a bill revamping the state’s Americanism law and requirements for civics education.

Under the new bill, schools could choose one of three options for students. The options include taking a civics test, going to a government meeting followed by doing a paper or project, or doing a project or paper and class presentation about a person or event commemorated by one of the holidays named in the bill.

LB 399 also would replace the term “Americanism” with the more neutral “American civics” and would repeal a provision under which teachers and administrators could be charged with a misdemeanor for failing to carry out the law.

The Nebraska State Board of Education, under the leadership of Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt, systematically reviews the learning standards for Nebraska public school students in each of the required curricular areas.

At the OPC Noon Education Forum on May 16, Dr. Blomstedt and Board of Education members will explain the standards process, which differs from the controversial Common Core Standards that many people assume are used in Nebraska.

Our speakers will also comment on teacher certification and recruitment at a time when the importance of having teachers who look like the students they teach becomes more and more pertinent. As classrooms across the state become more racially and culturally diverse, the need for greater diversity of schools’ faculties is a growing challenge.

In addition to Dr. Blomstedt, those scheduled to speak at the OPC Forum include John Witzel, president of the State Board of Education, and board members Lisa Fricke and Deborah Neary.

The program will run from noon to 1 p.m., with lunch service beginning at 11:30 a.m. The price is $17, and non-OPC members are welcome. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations.
The OPC Foundation invites all members to attend the annual Scholarship Banquet on Friday, April 26 at the Omaha Press Club.

This year, OPC Past President Steve Jordon will receive the 2019 Career Achievement Award. Jordon retired from the Omaha World-Herald in September 2018 after 50 years with the newspaper.

The Journalism Educator Award recipient is John R. Bender, a professor in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The highlight of the evening is the presentation of 14 scholarships to students from Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and UNL. This will include the first presentation of the Judy Horan Scholarship, in memory of the longtime OPC board member who died in March 2017.

A cocktail reception will start off the evening at 5:30 p.m., with dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m. Tickets to the dinner are $35; reservations are required. Call 402-345-8008 to RSVP or reserve your spot online at http://bit.ly/opc2019.

**Scholarship Awards Dinner**

**Friday, April 26**

5:30 p.m.

$35

**Salad**

OPC Famous Thunderbird Salad with Sautéed Toppings

**Entrée**

Chicken Veronique

Creamy Risotto

Sautéed Vegetable Medley

**Signature Dessert**

French Chocolate Mousse in a Chocolate Cup Framboise Raspberry Sauce

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**Easter Buffet**

Sunday, April 21

Seatings at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Adults $22 • Children $12

**Carving Station**

Steamship Round of Beef

Whiskey Pepper-Glazed Ham

**Entrées**

Chicken Bourguignon

Lemon Pepper Butter-Baked Tilapia

Eggs Benedict

Lyonnaise New Potato

Biscuits & Sausage Gravy

Italian Sausage Cheesy Casserole

Build-Your-Own Omelet

Multi-Topping Buttermilk Pancakes

**Salad Display**

Thunderbird Salad, Chef Salad, Broccoli

Salad, Creamy Dill Cucumber Salad, Potato

Salad, Deviled Eggs, Smoked Salmon

Chaud-Froid, Continental Fruit Display, Continental Cheese Display

**Signature Dessert**

Fresh-Baked Cream Puff Profiteroles, Raisin

Bread Pudding, Fresh-Made Danish, Sticky

Buns, Chocolate-Dipped Driscoll

Strawberries & Homemade Coffee Cake

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**Mother’s Day Brunch**

Sunday, May 12

Seatings at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Adults $22 • Children 3-10 $12

**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 • Lyonnaise Potatoes • Seasonal Vegetables

**A La Carte**

Build-Your-Own Omelet • Multi-Topping Pancake Bar

**Salad Display**

Thunderbird Salad, Imported Cheese & Antipasto, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs, Smoked Salmon Chaud Froid, Fresh Fruit Display

Fresh Baked Pastries • Breakfast Breads • Pecan Rolls

**Dessert**

New York-style Cheesecake with Strawberries, Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries

Warm Peach Cobbler with French Vanilla Ice Cream, Strawberries & Homemade Coffee Cake
As this newsletter reaches your mailbox, temperatures are (finally) rising, and we hope and pray that floodwaters are finally history. What an unimaginable end to winter and start to spring. Months of cleanup now begin for homeowners, farmers and ranchers changed forever by this disaster.

As awful as it was to see water overtake entire towns, watching caravans of volunteers arrive in the aftermath inspires hope that touches us just as deeply. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to the first responders who risk their own lives to protect others, rushing in as fast as the flood. We also cannot adequately celebrate the volunteers who give their time, donations, and resources to help -- or the meteorologists who worked around the clock to provide life-saving warnings.

But I also want to lift up the work of our local media: the reporters, photographers, producers and editors who thoughtfully and compassionately shared these stories as they unfolded. From print to broadcast to digital, coverage inspired us to help.

I think of the Bellwood man, photographed holding his dog in shock, fleeing his home in a rescue boat. As moving as the viral photo is on its own, the context from a larger story revealed that water rose six feet in just one hour outside his home. All the more impactful thanks to a journalist’s work to track him down.

National outlets picked up the work of local journalists, too. Did you see the photo used by the New York Times to illustrate flooding in western Douglas County? Jeff Bundy, the Omaha World-Herald director of photography, captured it.

Though it in no way compares to the pain of losing people or property, reporting on such tragedy is emotional and difficult. I know from experience the weight of meeting someone on the worst day of their life, the responsibility from their trust to share their story accurately, and ending your day just praying that report makes a difference.

I hope all of our local journalists know that the donations, volunteers, and support are proof their efforts truly do make a meaningful difference when it matters most. Thank you.

-Jeremy Maskel, OPC president
WE’re ONLINE! READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER AT omahapressclub.com

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

Sunday, May 12
Mother’s Day Brunch
Two seatings at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
Adults $22 and children $12 (age 3-10)

Thursday, May 16
Noon Education Forum
“Nebraska Education Standards”
$17

Thursday, May 16
“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Tom Shatel
5:30 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner
$60 OPC members, $70 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

Friday, June 21
KFAB Gourmet Dinner
Scott Voorhees host

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

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.