



SEE PAGE 3



SEE PAGE 4

Jeff Zeleny will be next "Face on Barroom Floor" on Sept. 27

CNN's Washington reporter is one of most prominent journalists to hail from Nebraska

By Tom O'Connor
Communications Committee

Jeff Zeleny is one of the most accomplished journalists to come from Nebraska. For nearly two decades, Zeleny has traveled across the country and around the world covering the Bush, Obama and Trump presidencies.

His resume includes four of the most prestigious places in the news business – CNN, ABC News, The New York Times and the Chicago Tribune. And, oh yeah, he also won a Pulitzer Prize.

Zeleny, who currently serves as CNN's senior Washington correspondent, will add another notch to his resume on Sept. 27 when he comes to

the Omaha Press Club to become the 162nd "Face on the Barroom Floor."

"I'm truly honored to receive this recognition from the Press Club," Zeleny said. "I've always been a news junkie, so I'm quite aware of the significance of being a 'Face on the Barroom Floor.' I'm working on lining up my roasters right now, and I'm really excited about coming to Omaha. I have no doubt it's going to be an entertaining evening."



Jeff Zeleny

A native of Exeter, Neb. (population 544), Zeleny grew up on the family farm about 60 miles west of Lincoln. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he studied journalism and political science. While

Continue On Page 3

Tri-Faith leaders will address July 18 Forum

Omaha's Tri-Faith Initiative is a unique and ambitious project in the field of interfaith relations. It brings together into permanent residency a synagogue, church, mosque and interfaith center on a 38-acre campus in the middle of America's heartland.

The initiative is made up of three Abrahamic faith groups who have chosen to be in a relationship together as neighbors on one campus, committed to practicing respect, acceptance and trust. The three members are of the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic faiths: Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church (UCC), and The American Muslim Institute.

On Thursday, July 18, the OPC Noon Education Forum will hear from four leaders of the Tri-Faith Initiative. They are:

- Wendy Goldberg, interim executive director and co-founder of the initiative.
- Cantor Joanna Alexander from Temple Israel.
- The Rev. Dr. Christine Alexander, associate minister at Countryside Community Church.
- Imam Mohamad Jamal Daoudi, with the American Muslim Institute.

The program begins at noon and continues until 1 p.m. Lunch, at \$17 per person, is served beginning at 11:30 a.m. Call 402-345-8008 for reservations. Non-Press Club members are welcome.

OPC Hall of Fame inducts 2019 honorees

Photo by Gary Willis

Six Journalists of Excellence were honored on June 1 as 2019 inductees in the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame. From left are Ben Gray, Carrie Murphy, Mike McKnight, Joni Baillon, Kent Warneke and Kristin Slyhuis, who accepted for her late grandfather, Walt Kavanagh. For

additional photos of the honorees with their presenters, turn to Page 2.



OPC Hall of Fame inducts six outstanding journalists

Photos by Gary Willis



JOAN (JONI) BAILLON

Joni Baillon received her award from her brother, Jeff Baillon. Joni graduated from the Brown Institute of Broadcasting in Minneapolis and began her career in radio in South Dakota and Iowa, then moved to television and KMTV in Omaha, hosting a daily, half-hour live interview program, "Conversations." Baillon followed her distinguished career in journalism with an equally notable career in marketing Omaha city events. She is a past president of the Omaha Press Club.



BEN GRAY

Ben Gray received his award from Greg Rhodes. Ben spent his entire broadcasting career at KETV. He produced and hosted the longest-running public affairs show in the history of Omaha television, "Kaleidoscope," which was on the air for 30 years. He won numerous local, regional and national awards as a reporter and photographer. Gray was elected to the Omaha City Council in 2009 and re-elected in 2013 and 2017.



WALT KAVANAGH

With Gary Sadlemyer presenting, Kristin Slyhuis received the award for her late grandfather, Walt Kavanagh. Walt, an OPC "Face on the Barroom Floor," was the voice of radio news at KFAB in Omaha for 42 years. His first broadcasting job was in Marshalltown, Iowa. He moved to KOWH in Omaha and then to KFAB, where he eventually became news director. Kavanagh retired in 1992 after an award-filled career and died in 1998.



MIKE MCKNIGHT

Mike McKnight received his award from Brian Mastre. Mike, known as the original "one-man band," graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and started work at WOWT in Omaha months later. He's been there ever since. Mike ran the station's state bureau in Lincoln for 10 years and since the '90s has been the station's investigative reporter. Mike is currently a member of the Omaha Press Club board of directors.



CARRIE MURPHY

Carrie Murphy received her award from Travis Justice and Mayor Jean Stothert. Murphy's college internship at KMTV turned into a 34-year career in reporting, producing and management. Carrie credits her college advisor, the late Joe McCartney, and the late KMTV news director, Mark Gautier, for giving her the opportunity to work in her hometown. Carrie currently serves as Stothert's deputy chief of staff/communications.



KENT WARNEKE

Kent Warneke received his award from Allen Beermann. Kent started his newspaper career at the Omaha World-Herald in 1982 as a reporter, copy editor and editorial writer. He joined the Norfolk Daily News in 1987 and serves as editor and vice president. He plans to retire this summer. Kent was inducted into the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame in 2012 and received the Nebraska Press Association's Master Editor-Publisher Award earlier this year.

Mother Nature still rules the Missouri Basin

Kevin Grode of the Army Corps of Engineers: "None of our decisions could give the relief that was needed."

By Anne Walsh
Communications Committee

They're dammed if they do and dammed if they don't. Under public and political scrutiny following the recent Missouri River Basin flooding, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers faces long odds in successfully balancing flood protection with several other congressionally mandated water requirements.

"The Corps is 'Army strong,' but Mother Nature is formidable and undefeated," said Kevin Grode, reservoir regulation team lead for the Corps' Northwestern Division, who described the complexities of managing the nation's longest river to Noon Education Forum attendees on June 20.

The Corps of Engineers maintains six dams in Montana and the Dakotas and a downstream levee system to regulate winter-spring runoffs, while also supporting navigation, hydropower, irrigation, recreation, water supply and quality, and fish and wildlife.

But many of the basin's upper tributaries are uncontrolled, including the Big Sioux, James and Nishnabotna rivers, as well as most of the Platte River. And that's where, from March 13-22, a combination of heavy rain over snow-covered, still-frozen ground turned Nebraska into a flooded

parking lot. The misery continued with precipitation levels in Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and the Dakotas far above average through the spring, with Kansas recording its largest-ever monthly rainfall in May.

"We do not enjoy breaking records, but we did with peak stream flows in March, April and May," said Grode. "None of our decisions could give the relief that was needed." The result was billions of dollars of damage in property and farmland.

Preventing a repeat is challenging. Without being able to forecast the weather, Grode said historical records dating back to the late 1800s indicate a wetter climate over the last several decades. With the reservoirs' capacity peaking, the Corps is being forced to

release water through still-saturated areas. "If it rains 10 inches in Montana, it's going to affect you in Missouri," he said.

Other than fixing what already exists, Grode said other controls are being studied – but dams and reservoirs displace water, so which communities could be affected and who would bear the expense? He added that the Corps of Engineers is working to ensure the most current and relevant information is available to federal partners, congressional representatives, the media and public, so people can make the best decisions possible during weather events.



Photo by Gary Willis

Goodbye to Jeanie Campbell

Friends and family gathered at the Press Club on June 18 for Jeanie Campbell's retirement reception. Campbell served as the club's accountant for 22 years, handling the monthly billing statements that go to members. Family members pictured from left are daughter Christina Lethcoe, Jeanie, husband Floyd, granddaughter Danielle Cosier and daughter Faith Cosier.



Photo by Gary Willis

FACE ON THE FLOOR, continued from Page 1

at UNL, he was editor of the Daily Nebraskan and played trumpet in the Cornhusker Marching Band.

He interned at several newspapers during college, including the Wall Street Journal. After graduating in 1996, Zeleny took a position with The Des Moines Register, where he covered state politics and the Iowa caucuses.

He joined the Chicago Tribune in 2000 as a metro reporter and was a member of the reporting team that won a Pulitzer Prize for documenting gridlock in the nation's air traffic system. He then served as national political correspondent for the newspaper, covering the 2004 presidential campaign and the George W. Bush administration.

In 2006, Zeleny was hired as national political correspondent for The New York Times. He covered Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign and his first years in the White House. He also covered Congress and Obama's re-election in 2012.

Zeleny's next post was for ABC News, where he was senior Washington correspondent from 2013-2015

For the past four years, Zeleny has worked for CNN. He covered the 2016 campaign, his fifth presidential election, then served as the network's senior White House correspondent with a focus on President Trump's pivotal role in the 2018 midterm elections.

As CNN's senior Washington correspondent, he is currently covering the 2020 presidential campaign.

JEFF ZELENY – "FACE ON BARROOM FLOOR"

WHEN: FRIDAY, SEPT. 27

(RECEPTION – 5:30 P.M.,

DINNER – 6:30 P.M., ROAST – 8 P.M.)

COST: \$55 – OPC MEMBERS;

\$65 – 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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER



Christine Villamonte

Our annual break is coming. From July 21 to Aug. 12, the club will be closed, with a re-opening on Tuesday, Aug. 13, for regular business hours.

Annual closings are part of a private club's normal schedule. As we are a city club (social membership only—food and beverage) with no pool, golf course or tennis court, we close in the summer while country clubs close in the winter after the holidays (January and February).

If you would like to look into booking space at the club, please reach out to me by email at opcchristine@gmail.com or phone, as our space will not be available for events during our break. A reminder: For an Omaha Press Club member, there is no rental fee, a potential savings of up to \$1,500 for most memberships. If you have booked, expect an email or phone call as a reminder to get your planning submitted before we reopen. We already have many rooms booked for the fall.

Reciprocal Clubs – If you have never used your OPC membership at a reciprocal club, keep in mind what a benefit it is. Whether close to home or farther away, dining at private clubs is a perk in our membership.

Call the individual club (see the list on Page 5), indicate you are an Omaha Press Club member and make a reservation with date, time and number of guests. Double check their dress code, as some clubs are more formal than others. If you have lost your OPC card, call our office for a replacement before you travel. We can also provide an introductory letter.

Unlike at the OPC, where you can just sign your ticket after the meal, reciprocal clubs require immediate payment with cash or credit card. Keep in mind: our membership only reciprocates for dining and social visits, so no pool, golf course or tennis.

My family and I enjoy reciprocal clubs when traveling (pack some business casual clothes) for a meal and experience. And I hear much feedback from members on their experiences. For example, one of our members visits Des Moines multiple times a year (business outings) and loves the short trip for a quick getaway.

Remodeling – This year the updates and improvements will again be in the OPC kitchen. The director will give more details when we return.

-Christine Jones Villamonte
Restaurant and events manager

From Wendy to Barley to Roger



Photo by Cindy Workman

Wendy Townley presents a copy of her new book – “Letters to Barley: Personal Stories My Dog Should Know” – to Roger Humphries. Townley hosted a book-signing event at the Press Club on May 21. “Letters to Barley” follows Townley’s debut book, “Nerdy Thirty,” and is a collection of anecdotes addressed to her West Highland White Terrier.

A wine time was had by all

A sellout crowd at the KFAB Gourmet Club and OPC Wine Dinner hosted by KFAB’s Scott Voorhees was treated to a fabulous meal complemented by an excellent variety of wines. Pictured from left are Voorhees, OPC Restaurant and Events Manager Christine Villamonte, and wine representative Ryan Thompson.



Photo by Gary Willis

Shatel Lunch Series returns on Aug. 29

He’s back. . .

No, it’s not Freddy Krueger. It’s our own favorite sports columnist Tom Shatel.

The popular Shatel Lunch Series will return on Thursday, Aug. 29 with Shatel providing a sneak preview for the upcoming college football season and how things are looking for the Nebraska

Cornhuskers.

“Expectations are pretty high for Scott Frost’s second year as head coach,” said Shatel, who was honored as the Omaha Press Club’s 161st “Face on the Barroom Floor” on May 16. “It will be a perfect time to discuss the upcoming season. I look forward to seeing a good turnout, and I encourage people to spread the word. These lunches are al-

ways a lot of fun. I’d like nothing better than to fill the Press Club.”

Lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. with the program starting around noon. Lunch will include hamburger steak, mashed potatoes and gravy and a dessert. Cost is \$17. The event is open to the public. Call 402-345-8008 to make your reservation.

Omaha Press Club Reciprocal List 2019

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Press Club
4773 Hollywood Blvd
Hollywood, CA 90028
Ph: 323-669-8081
www.info@lapressclub.org

San Diego Press Club
2454 Heritage Park Row
San Diego CA 92138
Ph: 619-231-4340
www.sdpressclub.com

The Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610-5096
Ph: 510-451-1000
www.bellevueclub.org

The Los Angeles Athletic Club
431 West 7th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90014
Ph: 213-625-2211
www.laac@laac.net

Quail Lodge Resort & Golf Club
8000 Valley Greens Dr.
Carmel, CA 93923
Ph: 866-675-1101
www.quaillodge.com

The Tower Club
300 Esplanade Dr. Ste. 1455
Oxnard, CA 93036
Ph: 805-983-7777
www.topatowerclub.com

University Club
1332 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Ph: 805-966-0853
www.uclubsb.org

University Club of San Francisco
800 Powell St.
San Francisco, CA 94108
Ph: 415-781-0900
www.uclubsf.org

COLORADO

Denver Press Club
1330 Glenarm Place
Denver, CO 80204
Ph: 303-571-5260
Fax: 303-571-2005
www.denverpressclub.org

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

National Press Club
529 14th St. NW 13th Floor
Washington, DC 20045
Ph: 202-662-7500
press.org
www.members@press.org

GEORGIA

Atlanta Press Club
191 Peachtree St., NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
Ph: 404-577-7377
www.atlantapressclub.org

The Georgian Club
100 Galleria Parkway,
Ste. 1700
Atlanta, GA 30339
Ph: 770-952-6000
www.georgianclub.com

HAWAII

The Plaza Club
900 Fort St. Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: 808-512-8905
www.theplazaclub.com

IOWA

Des Moines Embassy Club
666 Grand Ave. #3300
Des Moines, IA 50309
Ph: 515-244-2177
Fax: 515-245-3750
www.dmclub.com

Des Moines Embassy Club West
520 Market St.
W. Des Moines, IA 50266
Ph: 515-244-9378

Council Bluffs Country Club
4500 Piute St.
Council Bluffs, IA 51501
Ph: 712-366-0525

ILLINOIS

The Decatur Club
158 W. Prairie
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-429-4200
Fax: 217-429-4216
www.thedecaturclub.com

KANSAS

The Petroleum Club of Wichita
Nations Bank Building
100 N. Broadway, Ste. 900
Wichita, KS 67202
Ph: 316-262-6471
Fax: 316-262-8151

Top of the Tower
534 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603
Ph: 785-354-7746
Fax: 785-354-8781

KENTUCKY

Metropolitan Club
50 E. Rivercenter Blvd.
Covington, KY 41011
Ph: 859-491-2400
Fax: 859-491-5423

LOUISIANA

World Trade Center of New Orleans
365 Canal St., Ste. 1120
One Canal Place
New Orleans, LA 70130
Ph: 504-529-1601
www.wtcno.org

MASSACHUSETTS

Harvard Club of Boston
Main Clubhouse
374 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA 02215
Ph: 617-536-1260
www.harvardclub.com

MICHIGAN

Beacon Club
5830 Portage Rd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49002
Ph: 269-343-9000

University Club of Grand Rapids
111 Lyon NW, Ste. 1025
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Ph: 616-456-8623
Fax: 616-456-8639
Email: mail@UClubGR.com

Club of Michigan
State University
3435 Forest Rd.
Lansing, MI 48910
Ph: 517-353-5111
Fax: 517-353-1991
www.universityclubofmsu.com

MINNESOTA

University Club of St. Paul
Summit Clubhouse
420 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Ph: 651-222-1751

University Club of St. Paul
Downtown Clubhouse
340 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Ph: 651-222-1751

MISSOURI

The University Club of MU
University of Missouri
107 Reynolds Alumni Center
Columbia, MO 65211
Ph: 573-882-2586
Fax: 573-884-7831
www.uclib-mu.org

MISSISSIPPI

The Great Southern Club
2510 14th St.
Gulfport, MS 39501
Ph: 228-865-0200
www.greatsouthernclub.com

NEBRASKA

Fremont Golf Club
2710 N. Somers Ave.
Box 647
Fremont, NE 68026
Ph: 402-721-6641
Fax: 402-721-6657
www.fremontgolfclub.org

Lochland Country Club
601 W. Lochland Rd.
Hastings, NE 68901
Ph: 402-462-4151
Fax: 402-462-2684
www.lochlandcc.com

The Nebraska Club
233 S. 13 St., 20th Floor
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-476-3228
thenebraskacub@windstream.net

Oak Hills Country Club
12325 Golfing Green Drive
Omaha, NE 68137
402-895-0652
www.oakhillscountryclub.org/

NEW JERSEY

Park Avenue Club
184 Park Ave.
Florham Park, NJ 07932
Ph: 973-301-8233
www.ParkAvenueClub.com

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Press Club
PO Box 644
201 Highland Park Circle SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Ph: 505-243-8476
www.abqpressclub.com

NEW YORK

Overseas Press Club of America
40 W. 45 St.
New York, NY 10036
Ph: 212-626-9220
www.opcofamerica.org

NORTH CAROLINA

City Club of Raleigh
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite
#2800
Raleigh, NC 27601
Ph: 919-834-8829
www.clubcorp.com

Raintree Country Club
8600 Raintree Lane
Charlotte, NC 28277
Ph: 704-542-8150
www.raintreecountryclub.com

The Charlotte City Club
121 W. Trade St., Ste. 3200
Charlotte, NC 28202
Ph: 704-334-3200
www.charlottccityclub.com

The University Club
3100 Tower Blvd., Ste. 1700
Durham, NC 27707
Ph: 919-493-8099
www.universityclubnc.com

OHIO

Press Club of Cleveland
28022 Osborn Rd.

Cleveland, OH 44140
Ph: 440-899-1222
Fax: 440-899-1010

Press Club of Toledo
2103 Eastgate Rd.
Toledo, OH 43215
Ph: 419-578-2441

OKLAHOMA

The Beacon Club
210 Park Ave., Ste. 2940
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Ph: 405-239-2461
Fax: 405-239-2463
www.BeaconClub@coxinet.net

The Summit
15 W. 6 St.
Tulsa, OK 74119
Ph: 918-582-5243
Fax: 918-583-7739
www.Summittulsa.com

Tulsa Press Club
415 S. Boston Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74103
Ph: 918-583-7737
Fax: 918-583-7739
www.TulsaPC@swbell.net

PENNSYLVANIA

Press Club of Western
Pennsylvania
Engineers Building
337 Fourth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Ph: 412-281-7778
www.westernpapressclub.org

TEXAS

Press Club of Dallas
400 N. Olive St.
Dallas, TX 75201
Ph: 214-750-5157
www.pressclubdallas.com

WISCONSIN

Madison Club
5 E. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53703
Ph: 608-255-4861
Fax: 608-255-9401

CANADA

Ranchmen's Club
710 13 Ave. S. W.
Calgary, AB
T2R 0K9
Canada
Ph: + 403-228-3885
www.ranchmensclub.com

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 University
Liz Hruska	Nebraska Legislative Fiscal Office

(2019-2021)

Chris Allen	UNO
Kristyna Engdahl	MECA
Melissa Hoeman	Nebraska Medicine
Mike McKnight	WOWT
Erin Johnson	

Communications Committee

Cindy Workman • Don Summerside
Gary Willis • Todd Andrews • Jennifer Bull
Karen Way • Tom O'Connor • Anne Walsh
Sandra Tursi • Hunter Samuels

Committee Chairs

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

OPC Foundation

Elaine Allen <i>President</i>	TRUSTEES
Wendy Townley <i>Vice President</i>	Mary Bernier
Bridget (Weide) Brooks <i>2nd Vice President</i>	Chris Christen
Steve Jordan <i>Treasurer</i>	Henry Cordes
Josh Bucy <i>Secretary</i>	Scott Darling
	Howard K. Marcus
	Brian Norton
	Hugh Reilly
	Peggy Rupprecht
	Joseph Weber

WE'RE ONLINE! READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER AT OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM



Thursday, July 4
Closed for Independence Day

Thursday, July 17
Noon Education Forum
"The Tri-Faith Initiative"
Four speakers are scheduled:
Wendy Goldberg, Tri-Faith co-founder and interim director;
Cantor Joanna Alexander, Temple Israel;
the Rev. Dr. Christina Alexander, Countryside Community Church;
Imam Mohamad Jamal Daoudi, American Muslim Institute
Noon to 1 p.m.
Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.
Open to the public -- \$17

Sunday, July 21 – Monday, Aug. 12
Annual club closing

Tuesday, Aug. 13
Club reopens

Thursday, Aug. 29
Shatel Lunch Series
Cost \$17
Noon to 1 p.m.

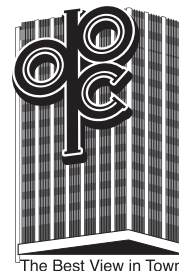
Friday, Sept. 27
"Face on the Barroom Floor"
Jeff Zeleny, CNN's senior White House correspondent, a native of Exeter, Neb., and University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate 5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 p.m. dinner and 8 p.m. roast
\$55 for OPC members
\$65 for non-members

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 opcdirector@gmail.com

Restaurant and Events Manager
Christine Villamonte opcchristine@gmail.com

Administrative Manager
Jeanie Campbell jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com

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 September issue are due on or before August 20.

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.