Three past roasters will serve as June 8 roasters

Deeb hopes Face on Barroom Floor event will bring people to ‘their happy place’

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

For Van Deeb, the Omaha Press Club’s next Face on the Barroom Floor on June 8, it’s vital that people “find their happy place.”

An iconic figure in Omaha’s residential real estate field, Deeb now has added motivational speaking to his skillset, and the word is out – this guy is good. Several times a month, he crisscrosses the country inspiring and motivating sales and customer service people to be the best they can be.

One of the motivational stories he likes to tell is personal.

“I became a dog owner for the first time in 2019 at age 59, and it completely changed my life,” Deeb said. “Now, I have someone to practice my speeches on.”

A 10-pound Havanese, the dog was given to Deeb as a gift. He is named Baxter after Will Farrell’s half-human dog in the movie “Anchorman.”

Baxter has become Deeb’s sounding board for his speeches. “He gives me a bark if he likes it. Two barks means I need to rework it and edit it. Three barks means he thinks I should trash it.”

For Deeb, Baxter takes him to a happy place.

“He’s brought me so much joy these past four years that I even wrote a book about it – ‘My First Dog at 59’ – and I’ve included a link to it on my website.”

On June 8, Deeb hopes his Face on the Barroom Floor event, KFAB Wine Dinner, Noon Forum, College Baseball Fireworks Buffet, and Father’s Day Grill. Check out the two-for-one Prime Rib Night held every Thursday evening for some of the best prime rib in town.

If you have not become involved, joining a committee is a great way to network, develop relationships, and learn more about the club. Whether you enjoy writing, marketing or education, take a moment to learn how to get involved and make a difference. For more information, email omahapressclub@gmail.com or contact a board member or committee chair listed at the end of this newsletter.

Take advantage of all the club has to offer. Attend a special event, enjoy a meal, or join a committee. You can meet new people, develop relationships, and celebrate special moments of your own.

See you at the club!

Media future is June Forum topic

By Gary Willis
Communications Committee

The June 15 Noon Educational Forum will feature Matt Wynn, Flatwater Free Press, and Cate Folsom, Nebraska Examiner.

It’s a turbulent time in the world of journalism, but also an exciting time. Professional journalism continues to play a vital role in the health of our democracy. But how news is produced and disseminated is evolving.

Matt Wynn is the executive director of the Nebraska Journalism Trust, which operates the Flatwater Free Press and Silicon Prairie News. Most recently he was an editor on the investigative desk at USA Today, where his investigation into the proliferation of model bills in statehouses was awarded the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting. Prior to that, he was the director of investigative and enterprise at MedPage Today. He also spent time as a reporter at the Omaha World-Herald and other newspapers.

Cate Folsom is editor-in-chief of the

OPC QUARTERLY MINIMUM PERIOD ENDS JUNE 30

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When John Beasley was honored by the Omaha Press Club in 2005 as the 101st Face on the Barroom Floor, perhaps emcee Dave Webber summarized Beasley best when he said, “He’s true to his family. True to his friends. True to his craft. A perfect gentleman. A perfect celebrity. He’s exactly as you see him.”

An Omaha native, Beasley died May 30 at the age of 79.

Beasley didn’t pursue his acting career until he was in his mid-40s. Although he spent more than three decades traveling to movie/TV sets and theaters, Beasley always called Omaha his home.

In addition to Webber, the longtime sports director for WOWT-TV and the 123rd Face on the Barroom Floor, Beasley’s other roasters included:
- Actor Treat Williams (who provided a video roast), co-star with Beasley on the TV show, “Everwood;”
- Steve Hogan, an Omaha golf pro; and
- Bob Gibson, a member of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame and the 96th Face on the Barroom Floor when he was honored by the OPC in 2004.

After attending the University of Nebraska Omaha, Deeb moved to Dallas, where he sold real estate for 10 years. He moved back to Omaha in 1993 to open DEEB Realty.

He started his company with just himself working out of his basement. In 15 years, Deeb grew to one of the largest real estate firms in the Midwest with more than 350 agents.

In 2009, Deeb sold DEEB Realty (now Nebraska Realty) and began his motivational speaking niche. He also started another real estate company – Big Omaha Realty.

Barroom Floor event will bring lots of joy to all those in attendance.

Judging from his impressive list of roasters, which now includes three past Faces on the Barroom Floor, it’s highly likely that people will be leaving with ear-to-toe smiles on their faces.

Gary Sadlemyer, the longtime morning show host on NewsRadio 1110 KFAB, has now been added to Deeb’s roster slate. Sadlemyer, who was honored by the Omaha Press Club in 2008 as Face No. 115, is one of the best in Omaha at getting people to laugh.

Other roasters for the event will include:
- Emcee – Gil Cohen, executive vice president, sales and marketing, Omaha Publications;
- Julie Cornell, longtime news anchor for KETV NewsWatch 7 (Face No. 155 in 2017);
- Andee Hoig, publisher and CEO, Midlands Business Journal (Face No. 134 in 2012); and
- Kristi Andersen, vice president, CBRE, who has had a distinguished career in the media, public relations, communications and now real estate.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Summer, yes!!!

As the song proclaims, “June is bustin’ out all over” with a wide array of events this month at the Omaha Press Club: the Van Deeb Face on the Barroom Floor June 8, a Noon Forum on the future of journalism and the College Baseball Fireworks Buffet on the 15th, a KFAB Wine Dinner on the 16th and the Father’s Day Steak Grill on Saturday the 17th.

The Steak Grill offers mouth-watering choices. I personally am a big fan of the club steak with maitre’d butter. My kids usually go big or go home with the New York strip, and my husband always enjoys the prime rib, marbled and slow cooked (au jus on the side).

June’s Noon Forum has special meaning for the education mission of the Press Club. The media’s future and its growing online emphasis will be discussed by Matt Wynn from the Flatwater Free Press and Cate Folsom from the Nebraska Examiner. Forum doors open for lunch at 11:30 a.m., and the program runs from noon to 1 p.m.

June and July are busy times of year for pools, tennis/pickleball, hiking and grilling. When you want to take a break from the outdoor activity and just enjoy the downtown sights from a quiet corner on the top floor, we will be waiting for you.

Come see us at the club!

- Christine Villamonte
Restaurant and Events Manager

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PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS

Fireworks Buffet

In conjunction with college baseball championship opening ceremonies

Thursday, June 15, 2023
7 to 9 p.m.
$25

Buffet Menu
Tossed Salad, Deviled Eggs
Coleslaw, Baked Beans
Buttered Corn, Potato Salad
Whipped Potatoes & Gravy
Southern Fried Chicken
BBQ Baby Back Ribs
Vienna Hot Dogs

Desserts
Brownie a la Mode

KFAB Wine Dinner

Hosted by Scott Voorhees

June 16, 2023 • 6 p.m.
$85

Wine Pairing
Charcuterie
Wine Pairing

Amuse
Brie & Caponata
Wine Pairing

Salad
Classic Thunderbird
Parmesan Croustade
Wine Pairing

Sorbet
Passion Fruit Sorbet
Wine Pairing

Dual Entrée
OPC Filet of Beef Rosemary Maitre D
Chicken Wellington au Poivre
Bacon & Chive Risotto, Grilled Asparagus
Wine Pairing

Dessert
Chocolate Mousse Ramekin Gateau Riche
Wine Pairing

Father's Day Steak Grill

Saturday, June 17, 2023
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Adults $35 • Children 12U $18

From the Kitchen A la Carte Choice:
Club Steak • Filet • New York Strip
Prime Rib of Beef

On The Buffet
Vienna Hot Dogs • Fried Chicken
Baked Potatoes • Baked Beans
Corn-on-the-Cob
Potato Salad • Pasta Salad
House Salad
Coleslaw • Deviled Eggs

Desserts
Brownies • Strawberry Shortcake

Media Future story; continued from Page 1

Nebraska Examiner. She has spent more than 40 years in daily journalism, the bulk of that time at the Omaha World-Herald. She retired from the World-Herald at the end of 2019 but came out of retirement to launch the online Nebraska Examiner in January 2022. Cate has led numerous award-winning reporting efforts during her career, including investigations that triggered resignations of state officials and reforms in state laws.

Our speakers will talk about what the evolution of journalism looks like in Nebraska and why we still need strong journalism schools and bright, curious students. They will also discuss their own online, nonprofit news organizations and how their efforts fit into Nebraska’s journalism landscape.

Reservations for the Noon Forum can be phoned to 402-345-8008 or emailed to Christine at opcchristine@gmail.com. Non-club members are welcome, too. Lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. for $19 per person. The program starts at noon and concludes at 1 p.m.
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.