

# NPW NEWS<sub>e</sub>LETTER

## Make your plans for conference!

The registration information is available on the NFPW website ([www.nfpw.org/conference.cfm](http://www.nfpw.org/conference.cfm)) for the 2011 Plains Speaking Communications Conference to be held Sept. 8–10 at Harrah's Casino and Hotel in Council Bluffs. Also available online is information about the Nebraska pre-tour, the Wednesday day tour, Thursday morning's various tour possibilities and the Iowa post-tour.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1-800-427-7247 (1-800-HARRAHS). The group code to use to ensure you get the group rate of \$99 per night plus 12% tax for a deluxe guestroom is S09NFPW. The room block is available from Saturday, Sept. 3, for those arriving for the pre-tour, through Sunday, Sept. 11, after the conference. If you are going on the pre-tour, be sure to book a room for Saturday, Sept. 3 to Sunday, Sept. 4 and then re-book for Tuesday, Sept. 6, when the pre-tour returns to Harrah's through Saturday, Sept. 10, checking out on Sunday, Sept. 11. The block also has rooms on hold to use when returning from the post-tour, so be sure to book for Tuesday, Sept. 13, checking out Sept. 14 if you are planning on staying Tuesday evening after the post-tour. The hotel will store any luggage you want to check-in while you're on tours, this way you do not have to keep a room while



traveling throughout Nebraska or Iowa. The reservation cut-off date is Aug. 14.

Getting to the conference is easy. Fly into Eppley Airfield and you have your choice of United, Southwest, Continental, American, Frontier, US Airways and Delta airlines. Transportation between Eppley and Harrah's is free when using the hotel shuttle. Information on the shuttle will be available in July's e-letter. If you're coming by train, Amtrak's California Zephyr has a stop less than 10 minutes from the hotel. And the hotel is near the juncture of Interstate 80 and Interstate 29, for a driver's convenience from all four directions.

Harrah's has plenty of parking should you choose to drive to the conference. There is ample parking

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## Awards luncheon to replace NPW fall convention

Nebraska Press Women will hold an Anniversary Awards Luncheon on Thursday, September 8, in place of the NPW fall convention. The luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 A.M. at the Riverside Grille, near Harrah's in Council Bluffs, and will mark the 65th anniversary of Nebraska Press Women.

The 2011 NPW Communicator of Achievement will be announced then, and the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame will launch with five women to be inducted at that time.

Hall of Fame benefactors Harold and Marian Andersen have

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## NPW members can save on conference fee

State-only Nebraska Press Women members planning to attend the 2011 NFPW Conference in Council Bluffs-Omaha can save a little or a lot by becoming national members prior to sending in their conference registration.

The difference between NFPW member and non-member registrations is \$100, whether for the

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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## Save the Date: September 8

Circle August 14 on your calendar as the deadline to register for the NFPW Annual Conference. We are also making it the deadline to register for NPW's Anniversary Awards Luncheon that will be held on Thursday, September 8, from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Riverside Grille in Council Bluffs. *Save that date* and plan to attend!

September 8 will go down in Nebraska Press Women history as a day to remember. We will celebrate our 65th anniversary by launching our new Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame, by co-hosting the NFPW convention (that starts after lunch), and by casting our ballots for Lori Potter for president of NFPW. In addition we will name the NPW 2011 COA!

You just *have* to be a part of that day. We're looking at a \$25 fee for the luncheon but will firm up the details in July.

The rest of September 8 will be equally exciting with NFPW's gala reception honoring all the states' COAs and introducing conference attendees to Nebraska at the Durham Museum in Omaha.

With the September 8-10 national conference being so close, you absolutely must attend. Also, please volunteer to help by returning the forms that were emailed on May 26 or by emailing sherry-thompson@cox.net. Sherry, Stephanie Geery-Zink and Lori Potter have been carrying much of the load for NPW, but now there are opportunities for others to participate.

Speaking of participating, we had excellent participation at our spring convention. Sandy Benson and Lyn Messersmith coordinated the event at the State 4-H Camp



Ruth Brown

near Halsey. (See photos on our NPW Facebook page.)

We learned a lot about the area, digital storytelling, community news, and also about the talents and abilities of our own members. I'm still chuckling at Tim Nolting's cowboy poetry, still hearing the clear notes of Deb Carpenter-Nolting's original songs, and remembering the beautifully written words of Judy Nelson and Mary Pierce. Yes, and I still see Joan Burney telling her story and leading the Kazoo Khorale!

Miranda Wiczorek, a student at Grand Island Senior High, came to Halsey to receive her first place certificate for feature photo as well as an honorable mention in the NPW's high school journalism contest.

Lots of Press Women, including UNK's Erik Dodge, received awards from Andrea Cranford and Barb Micek for their entries in the Professional Communication Contest. We all had fun, and it was a great time of the year to be in the Sandhills!

### NPW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### Scholarship

Barb Batie

[www.nebraskapresswomen.org](http://www.nebraskapresswomen.org)

# Potter to run for NFPW president

Lori Potter, a 32-year member of both Nebraska Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women, will



run for president of NFPW this year. Voting will take place at the delegates' meeting in Council Bluffs the afternoon of Thursday, September 8.

NPW endorsed Potter's candidacy through a letter written by President Ruth Brown and co-signed by Vice President Bette Pore.

The letter referenced Potter's dedication to the organizations, noting that she has held nearly every office in NPW, served in several NFPW offices, and mentored many new state and national members.

The letter noted Lori's reputation as a respected agricultural and natural resources reporter for the *Kearney Hub*, her many awards for writing and photography including the NFPW Sweepstakes Award, and her selection to the Nebraska LEAD program in 2000.

It concludes, "The Nebraska Press Women organization recognizes how much value Lori Potter can bring to NFPW with her long-term experience in and commitment to the organization, her award-winning journalism skills, and her carefully-honed leadership abilities. We enthusiastically endorse the nomination of Lori Potter for president of the National Federation of Press Women."

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# Deadline approaches for COA award nominations

Nominations are due July 1 for the 2011 Communicator of Achievement Award, the highest honor that Nebraska Press Woman bestows on its members. The award is given based on contributions to the profession, to the community and to NPW/National Federation of Press Women.

Any NPW member may submit nominations. Just write down who you believe should be considered and why. Send the nomination, along with your contact information, to: Martha Stoddard, 2846 Sedalia Drive,

Lincoln, NE, 68516, meliza-beth@inebraska.com.

The winner will be announced during this fall at the convention in Council Bluffs. That person will then be entered in the national COA competition.

Two people are ineligible for nomination: Ruth Brown, current NPW president, and Joan Burney, 1993 NFPW COA winner.

Past COAs are: Norma Carpenter, Velma Price, Helen Green, Lilas Thomas, Lilly Frels, Marianne Beel, Wilma Crumley, Lois Lambley, Judy Nelson, Marj Marlette, Judy Johnson, Vicki Miller, Jill Claflin, Mary Ann Blackledge, Karyn Stansbery, Evelyn Aufdenkamp, Lori Potter, Gwen Lindberg, Sue Fitzgerald, Andrea Cranford, Mary Crawford, Mary Pat Finn-Hoag, Barb Batie, Dorothy Fryer, Glennis Nagel, Cheryl Alberts Irwin, Ruth Brown, Barb Micek, Martha Stoddard and Terri Hahn.

## Seacrests Donate to Beel Scholarship

The Marianne Beel Scholarship Fund recently increased significantly, thanks to a \$1,000 donation from Jim and Rhonda Seacrest.

Jim and Rhonda lived in North Platte from 1966 to 2000 when Jim was president of Western Publishing Co., which included the North Platte Telegraph, Scottsbluff Star-Herald, Lexington Clipper-Herald, and the Sidney Telegraph.

The Seacrests took great pride in helping raise funds for the area and also helping found the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation, which Rhonda presided over from 1997-99. When Western Publishing Co. sold its assets to the Omaha World-Herald in 2000, Jim and Rhonda retired and moved to Lincoln.

Although they are still active in many fundraising efforts, now they are also generous philanthropists.

## Conference plans

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outside the hotel tower as well as a convenient parking garage located to the south of the tower. Gas prices in Council Bluffs currently range from \$3.49/gal. to \$3.89/gal. for premium grade.

We're sure many of you have heard about the flooding along the Missouri River. This is expected to continue throughout the summer as the dams upstream continue to let loose excess water. This is relatively routine to us around here, so don't let it be a cause for concern. The hotel and casino are well equipped to handle this, and it should not impact the conference in any way.

# Nebraska Press Women announce contest winners

**HALSEY, Neb., April 30, 2011** - A reporter for the *Keith County News* took top honors in the 2010 Nebraska Press Women Communications Contest. Awards were presented April 30 during NPW's spring convention at the 4-H Camp in Halsey.

Mary Pierce of Ogallala won first place in the Marianne Beel Sweepstakes Awards. Second place went to Barb Micek of the *Nance County Journal* in Fullerton. Lori Potter of the *Kearney Hub* placed third.

Pierce's awards included nine first places in special articles/business, special articles/arts & entertainment, special articles/health & fitness, special articles/religion, special articles/social issues, special articles/hobby-craft, special articles/technology, single page regularly edited/non-daily/lifestyle, and section edited infrequent/non-daily.

Micek's awards included five first places in feature/non-daily newspaper, special articles/government-politics, single page edited/non-daily/other than lifestyle, page layout/non-daily newspaper and photography/non-daily/feature.

Potter received seven first-place awards in series, feature/daily newspaper, feature/other, special articles/rotating subject, personal columns/humorous, columns/specialized, and videos for website/special interest.

A total of 66 first-place entries in the state competition have advanced to the National Federation of Press Women Contest, with those awards to be presented in September in Council Bluffs.

Following are the NPW contest award winners:

**Barb Batie, Lexington** - First in news reporting/non-daily newspaper, editorial-opinion/non-daily



Left to right: Lori Potter of the *Kearney Hub*, third place; Mary Pierce the *Keith County News* in Ogallala, first place; and Barb Micek of the *Nance County Journal* in Fullerton, second place.

newspaper, columns/informational; second in feature/non-daily, columns/specialized; honorable mention in personal columns/humorous.

**Lois Brunnert, Wayne** - First in videos for website/not-for-profit, audiovisuals/video productions; second in photographer-writer; honorable mention in photography-publication other than newspaper/feature.

**Carla Chance, Cedar Creek** - First in personality profile/more than 500 words, original graphics, website edited, color ad/retail, color ad/institutional, print media advertising/retail, manuals/print; second in special articles/arts & entertainment, special articles/advertorial, special articles/technology, single page edited/general publication - other than lifestyle, single-sheet original poster,

original poster campaign; honorable mention in feature/other, special articles/business, publications regularly edited/newsletter, page layout/publication-general, community or institutional, brochure/four-color.

**Jennifer Chick, Kearney** - First in special articles/history, special articles/sports, photographer-writer, newsletter/four-color, brochure/four-color; second in feature/other, personality profile/less than 500 words, special articles/health & fitness, special articles/hobby-craft, writing for the web/feature articles; third in news reporting/daily newspaper, writing for the web/not-for-profit; honorable mention in feature/daily newspaper, personality profile/less than 500 words, special articles/business, special articles/arts &

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## ***NPW contest winners***

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entertainment, special articles/  
travel.

**Lori Clinch, North Platte** -

Second in personal columns/  
humorous.

**Trina Creighton, Lincoln** -

First in special programming/  
television.

**Erik Dodge, UNK** - First in col-  
lege/feature writing; second in  
college/news writing; third in  
college/editorial.

**Mary Pat Finn-Hoag, Norfolk** -

First in special articles in ag-  
agribusiness; third in photogra-  
pher-writer; honorable mention in  
feature/daily newspaper, person-  
ality profile/more than 500 words,  
special articles/business, special  
articles/health & fitness.

**Betsy Friedrich, Kearney** -

First in investigative reporting;  
second in continuing coverage.

**Stephanie Gallaway, Kearney** -

First in videos for website/corpo-  
rate, videos for website/special  
interest; second in videos for web-  
site/not-for-profit.

**Sara Giboney, Kearney** - First  
in special articles/education, spe-  
cial articles/food, blogs/website  
for special interest; second in fea-  
ture/daily newspaper; third in  
personality profile/more than 500  
words; honorable mention in spe-  
cial articles/social issues.

**Terri Hahn, Grand Island** -

First in single page regularly edit-  
ed/daily/lifestyle, single page edit-  
ed/daily/other than lifestyle,  
headline writing; second in page  
layout/daily/newspaper.

**Tara Heil, Kearney** - Second in  
brochure/four-color.

**Kerry Hoffschneider, York** -

Third in columns/specialized.

**Sharron Hollen, North Platte** -

First in editorial/opinion - daily  
newspaper; second in special arti-  
cles/business; third in special arti-  
cles/health & fitness; honorable

mention in feature/daily newspa-  
per, special articles/social issues,  
special articles/sports.

**Cheryl Alberts Irwin, Lincoln** -

First in publications regularly  
edited; second in newsletter/  
four-color.

**Heather Johnson, North Platte** -

First in news reporting/daily news-  
paper; second in enterprise report-  
ing; third in continuing coverage,  
feature/daily newspaper.

**Amber Medina, Hastings** -

First in magapaper-tabloid/four-  
color, catalog/educational; second  
in magazine/four-color.

**Delores Meister, West Point** -

First in personality profile/less  
than 500 words; second in news  
reporting/daily newspaper.

**Barb Micek, Fullerton** - First

in feature/non-daily newspaper,  
special articles/government-poli-  
tics, single page edited/non-daily/  
other than lifestyle, page layout/  
non-daily newspaper, photogra-  
phy/non-daily/feature; second in  
news reporting/non-daily newspa-  
per, personality profile/more than  
500 words, special articles/food,  
special articles/history, special  
articles/sports, special articles/  
travel, single page regularly edit-  
ed/non-daily/lifestyle; third in  
special articles/ag-agribusiness,  
special articles/education, special  
articles/hobby-craft, headline  
writing; honorable mention in  
personality profile/less than 500  
words, photography/non-daily/  
photo essay, photographer-writer.

**Glennis Nagel, Kearney** - First  
in magazine/four-color; third in  
feature/other.

**Judy Nelson, Lincoln** - First in

publications regularly edited; sec-  
ond in newsletter/four-color.

**M. Timothy Nolting, Gering** -

First in personal columns/general.

**Mary Pierce, Ogallala** - First in

special articles/business, special  
articles/arts & entertainment,  
special articles/health & fitness,  
special articles/religion, special

articles/social issues, special arti-  
cles/hobby-craft, special articles/  
technology, single page regularly  
edited/non-daily/lifestyle, section  
edited infrequent/non-daily; second  
in special articles/education, page  
layout/non-daily newspaper, pho-  
tography/non-daily/feature; third  
in news reporting/non-daily news-  
paper, feature/non-daily newspa-  
per, special articles/sports, personal  
columns/humorous, personal  
columns/general; honorable men-  
tion in continuing coverage, special  
articles/travel, photography/non-  
daily/news, photography/non-  
daily/sports, photography/non-  
daily/photo essay, photography/  
daily/news, photographer-writer.

**Bette Pore, Grand Island** -

First in section edited frequent/  
daily, publications regularly edit-  
ed/daily, page layout/daily news-  
paper; second in single page edit-  
ed/daily/other than lifestyle,  
headline writing.

**Lori Potter, Kearney** - First in

series, feature/daily newspaper,  
feature/other, special articles/  
rotating subject, personal  
columns/humorous, columns/spe-  
cialized, videos for website/special  
interest; second in special arti-  
cles/ag-agribusiness, special arti-  
cles/science, personal columns/  
general; third in special articles/  
business, special articles/govern-  
ment-politics, special articles/his-  
tory, special articles/travel; hon-  
orable mention in photography/  
daily/news, photography/daily/  
feature, photography daily/photo  
essay, photography/web/single  
photo, photography/web/photo  
gallery, photographer-writer.

**Sherry Thompson, Omaha** -

First in news reporting/publica-  
tion-general, special articles/sci-  
ence, web content edited/not-for-  
profit, single release/news release;  
second in special articles/social  
issues; honorable mention in social  
media/web content/not-for-profit.

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## 12 Nominated for Hall of Fame

Twelve women have been nominated for the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame.

The hall of fame was created by Nebraska Press Women to recognize women journalists who made a difference for their profession and their communities.

Nominations were accepted from the general public. Nominees must have a Nebraska background by birth or work experience, having spent a significant amount of their professional careers in the state.

Five nominees will be selected by the NPW Board of Directors to be the first women inducted into the new hall of fame.

They will be honored on Thursday, Sept. 8, at the 11:30 A.M. NPW Anniversary Awards Luncheon, which will take the place of NPW's fall convention. The luncheon will be held at the Riverside Grille in Council Bluffs.

Framed photos and short bios of inductees will be placed in the actual hall of fame on second floor of the College of Journalism and Mass Communication's Andersen Hall on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

In the future, annual hall of fame induction ceremonies will be held during NPW's spring convention.

### **NPW contest winners** *continued from page 5*

**Diane Wetzel, North Platte** - First in continuing coverage, enterprise reporting; second in special articles/government-politics; third in special articles/arts & entertainment, special articles/social issues; honorable mention in feature/daily newspaper, special articles/business, special articles/health & fitness, special articles/history.

## **Booras named Marianne Beel Memorial Scholarship Winner**

A 2011 graduate of Norfolk High School has been awarded the second Marianne Beel Memorial Scholarship. Allison Booras was selected from a field of six applicants for the \$500 scholarship, which was bolstered this year with a \$250 donation from the *North Platte Telegraph*.

A three-sport athlete at Norfolk, Booras challenged herself academically and demonstrated discipline, work ethic and organizational skills in maintaining a 95 percent grade point average, noted her counselor, Virginia Hilkemann.

Among her favorite pastimes is photography. Noted Booras in her scholarship essay, "There is no greater fulfillment than capturing the beauty of Nebraska. The meadows go on without end, with rolling hills and sunrays beaming down on the fields. Straight lines of corn tower over the farmer as he waves with delight. The cattle crowd the feedlot and messily stuff their mouths. Tractors hum in the distance as they turn the soil....My home is in Nebraska and its beauty makes me proud to live here."

She was a winner in the 2010-2011 *Norfolk Daily News* photo contest and her photography and way with words earned praise from judge Carole Lomicky, professor of journalism and associate dean for graduate studies and research at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. "The photos and essay bound together so well in a general theme: Appreciation for rural Nebraska's unique beauty. I might add that her essay demonstrated exemplary writing that *showed instead of told* with active verbs, precise nouns, and colorful description," wrote Lomicky.



Booras also submitted two YouTube videos for consideration, which Lomicky appreciated as showing her adaptability to new media.

Booras will attend Wayne State College this fall where she plans to major in advertising. "I am honored to be the recipient of your scholarship. It will go to great use at Wayne State this fall," she said.

## **PERSONAL UPDATES**

New member Kerry Hoffschneider (and husband Ryan) had a baby girl, Caroline Ruth, born at 2:36 A.M. on April 20, weighing 7 pounds and 1.2 ounces. Email congrats to Kerry@epworthvil-lage.org or send a card to 2302 Road U-650, Waco, NE 68460.

Diane Wetzel underwent heart surgery at the Nebraska Heart Hospital in Lincoln on May 2. She said, "Everything went well, and I am now (as of today, June 1) back at work and participating in cardiac rehab. I am feeling stronger every day and working on those pesky *lifestyle* changes." Email your support to Diane.Wetzel@nptele-graph.com or send a card to 2216 W. First St., North Platte, NE 69101.

# Omaha Westside dominates high school contest

**HALSEY** - The work of students attending Nebraska high schools was showcased during the 2011 Nebraska Press Women High School Communications Competition. Results were announced April 30, 2011, during the Nebraska Press Women's spring convention at the state 4-H camp in Halsey.

Students from 12 schools entered work completed during 2010 in the contest, which included 17 different categories, from writing to photography to video entries.

Omaha Westside students captured first place in seven of the 17 categories, with each of those entries advancing to the National Federation of Press Women's High School Communications Contest.

National winners will be announced in September during the national convention in Omaha and Council Bluffs. Other schools with first place submissions that will advance to nationals are Fremont, Grand Island Senior High, Omaha Marian, Papillion LaVista South and Rock County High School.

The competition drew nearly 170 entries from 12 schools. Schools were divided into two divisions, Division 1 for Class A schools, and Division 2 for all other class schools. Judges determined between first-place winners in each division which entry should advance to the national contest.

Division 1 schools that participated were Fremont High School, Grand Island Senior High, Papillion-La Vista South, Omaha Marian, Omaha Central and Omaha Westside. Division 2 schools were Crete, Broken Bow, Rock County, Superior, Elkhorn and Wood River.

While every school had at least one entry that placed in the top  
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Miranda Wieczorek (left) of Grand Island Senior High receives first place for her feature photo in the NPW high school communications contest. Bette Pore (right) presented the award on April 30 at the NPW spring conference at Halsey.

four spots, Omaha Westside had 15 entries that placed in the top four, seven of those first-place awards. Elkhorn students earned 14 awards, of which three were first place, while five of 10 awards for Omaha Marian were first place.

Nebraska Press Women is an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women. Both organizations provide professional growth opportunities for women and men in the communications field. Programs include conventions, workshops, contests, awards, and scholarships.

\*indicates the entry advanced to nationals

## **Division 1 Results**

### **Fremont High School**

Kaylee Everly, \*first, sports photo; second, feature photo  
Brian Ellis, \*first, cartooning  
Samantha McMahon, second, reviews  
Annette Bilava, second, double-truck layout

### **Grand Island Senior High**

Miranda Wieczorek, \*first, feature photo; honorable mention, news  
Lance Kush, second, columns  
Linden Tell, third, columns  
Kipp Hewitt, third, feature photo  
Stephanie Sander, third, single-page layout

### **Omaha Central**

Matthew Vondrasek, second, editorial  
Mekenzie Kerr, honorable mention, environment

### **Omaha Marian High School**

Erin O'Brien, \*first, opinion  
Molly Misek, second, opinion  
Lexi Walz, first, feature story  
Liz Berigan, \*first, sports story  
Brooke Urzendowski, second, sports story  
Anna Woods, \*first, columns  
Allison Dethlefs, third, cartooning  
Annie Dovali, second, graphics/photo illustration  
Carla Gibbs, second, single-page layout  
Kathleen Gerber, \*first, double-truck layout

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# NPW Scholarship Winners

Two University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) journalism majors have been named recipients of the 2011 Nebraska Press Women scholarships.

Emily Nohr, a senior news editorial and broadcasting major from Crofton, will receive the \$500 NPW Memorial Scholarship, while Bethany Trueblood, a senior news editorial major from Omaha, will receive the \$300 Excellence in Media Scholarship.

Both young women were active in their respective high schools. While Nohr's school did not offer communications courses, she took advantage of her school's speech program, competing on the speech team for four years and earning two medals in state competition. She gained further experience as a four-year member of the yearbook staff, serving as editor-in-chief her senior year.

Trueblood tested the journalistic waters in high school by writing some articles for the school paper. She was active in band, choir and German Club and served on the student council.

Nohr has had a variety of journalism experiences including doing freelance work for the *Norfolk Daily News* and *Grand Island Independent*, interning at the *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan* and the USDA Rural Development State Office, as well



Emily Nohr



Bethany Trueblood

as writing for J News alumni magazine and the *Daily Nebraskan*. She was part of the first Nebraska News Service launched by the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications (CoJMC), which was coordinated by NPW member Mary Kay Quinlan. The news service provides stories and photographs to participating state news organizations free of charge.

She was an *Omaha World-Herald* Fellow last fall and covered government and general news for their Lincoln Bureau. This summer she will continue her association with the *World-Herald* as an intern.

Nohr is vice president of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, secretary for the CoJMC Student Advisory Board and a mentor for the TeamMates program, as well as the collegiate chapter of Nebraska Press Women and the UNL Alumni Association's Cather Circle. Nohr hopes to work at a big newspaper in the Midwest following graduation.

Trueblood is active in the UNL Navigators, UNL Reformed University Fellowship and served as a resident assistant at Schramm Hall. Her most recent work has been for the *Lincoln Journal-Star* L Magazine.

She hopes to take advantage of some of UNL's study abroad experiences and will join in a photo-journalism trip to the Texas Panhandle to meet migrant farm workers and write their stories and then journey to India to explore social issues there.

"Our world is becoming increasingly globalized," notes Trueblood. "It's important for journalists to be involved in their world."

Her future interests lie in feature writing and photojournalism and she hopes to combine these two loves by working for a magazine.

## High school contest

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### Omaha Westside

Samantha Juster, \*first, editorial; \*first, single-page layout  
Ali Tomek, \*first, news; second, feature story;  
Hannah Gill, honorable mention, news; honorable mention, single-page layout  
Joe Hack, third, feature story  
Jessie Pflug, second, sports photo  
Julius Frederick, second, cartooning  
Daniel Kemp, \*first, reviews  
Anne Sundell, \*first, video news  
Bridget Vacha and Daniel Kemp, honorable mention, video news  
Jane Rock, \*first, video feature  
Jesse Milliken, second, video feature  
Madison Mapes, \*first, video sports  
**Papillion-La Vista South**  
Ryan Daly, \*first, graphics/photo illustration; second, video news; third, opinion; honorable mention, single-page layout  
Abbey Ashby, \*first, graphics/photo illustration  
Rebecca Conrad, second, video news  
Katie Bober, second, news  
Cady Pacholski, second, news  
Gretchen Pille, third, news  
Emily Kuklinski, third, sports story

### Division II Results

#### Broken Bow High School

Patrick Wright, first, editorial; third, sports story  
Emily Smallcomb, third, columns

#### Crete High School

Dulce Castaneda, first, news  
Jessalyn Holdcraft, first, sports story; second, news; second, graphics/photo illustration; honorable mention, feature story  
Carmen Castaneda and Jake White, second, single-page layout

#### Elkhorn High School

Adam Fangman, third, reviews; honorable mention, editorial  
Lori Turner, first, opinion; third, graphics/photo illustration  
Gabby Grutsch, second, feature story  
Hillary Naumann, first, columns; second, sports story  
Katherine Turner, second, feature photo; third, double-truck layout

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# What is your stretch of road?

by Bette Pore

That was the question Nebraska Press Women member Deb Carpenter-Nolting posed to NPW members at a digital storytelling workshop during the spring convention April 30 at the State 4-H Camp near Halsey.

Carpenter-Nolting had everyone take five minutes to write a paragraph that could be titled “My Stretch of Road.” Some then shared what they wrote about, talking about their emotional ties to the road they described.

Carpenter-Nolting said such a piece of writing—250 words is a good length—can be the start of a digital storytelling project, or a photo can be the start, with the storyteller writing the script about the picture.

The digital story will ultimately include photos, script and music.

“Music adds so much to it because music is another emotional tug,” Carpenter-Nolting said.

As an explanation of what digital stories are, Carpenter-Nolting shared a handout written by Dr. Anthony Curtis, a professor of mass communication at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

“This contemporary form of mediated communication combines traditional techniques from television, video production, radio, newspapers and magazines with contemporary multimedia tools to deliver informative and entertaining short productions with text, still and motion images, sound, music and voice,” Curtis writes. “They are script-driven and all about the articulation of a coherent verbal expression—the voice—of the narrator.”

Curtis says the narrative in a digital story helps people make sense of things.

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Deb Carpenter-Nolting presents a digital storytelling workshop at the 2011 NPW spring convention at Halsey.

“We learn from stories and remember their meanings because they are personally understandable,” he says. “Stories penetrate human understanding and engage feelings. Someone has said, the deeper the emotion, the deeper the learning.”

Carpenter-Nolting said she uses the software iMovie to put everything together. Other products that could be used include Photo Story 3 and SlideShare. PowerPoint can also be used to produce a digital story.

She noted that more and more, digital storytelling is used in advertising. A digital story can be linked to an ad on a newspaper’s website.

The downside of digital storytelling, Carpenter-Nolting said, is that it can be very time-consuming.

“I can spend hours and hours and hours. I love it,” she said. “But if you’re under time constraints, that’s an issue.”

## NPW members save

*continued from page 1*

full conference or a single day. The added membership fee for national is \$74. So by paying the national fee now, you can save \$26 overall with the smaller conference fee. Go to the website at [www.nfpw.org](http://www.nfpw.org) and click on “join us” for a form and other details.

National membership also entitles you to other NFPW benefits, including publications, the ability to buy liability insurance and having contest entries that place first in the state contest advance to national.

State-only members wanting to add national membership should send \$74 to NFPW, P.O. Box 34798, Alexandria, VA 22334-0798, along with an application form from the [www.nfpw.org](http://www.nfpw.org) website and a note that Nebraska state dues already were paid to the state treasurer.

Additionally, first-time attendees who are NFPW members can apply for a grant from the NFPW Education Fund that will pay some or all of the \$350 registration for the full conference.

## High school contest

*continued from page 8*

William Clifford Koll, third, sports photo

Linnea Hardin, first, single-page layout

Nick Royer, second, video sports; third, video news; third, video feature

### Rock County High School

Emily Sybrant, \*first, feature story; first, graphics/photo illustration; second, columns;

### Superior High School

Montana Hayes, second, editorial  
Victoria Simonsen, third, editorial

### Wood River High School

Kristen Harders, third, feature story  
Brianna Turek, first, feature photo

# District Ranger talks about job at Halsey National Forest

by Cheryl Alberts Irwin

Promoting Smokey Bear is a fun part of the job for Terry Baker, district ranger for Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey.

"Kids are often excited to see Smokey," Baker said recently of the 67-year-old mascot who teaches wildfire prevention.

Smokey's popularity is preceded only by Santa Claus and Mickey Mouse, added Baker, who initially spoke during the luncheon during the April 29-30 Nebraska Press Women convention at the 4-H camp near Halsey.

Baker is the district ranger and liaison to media, and to state and local governments.

"A big part of what you do has to do with what I do," Baker said. It's a bit different from the management career of trees, animals and flowers he said he thought he was getting into earlier in his career.

Baker, who has degrees related to forestry from the University of Florida and Yale University, has been in his current position since January 2010.

The 90,444-acre Bessey unit near Halsey has uses including recreation, camping, wildlife habitat and range grazing. The 4-H camp located there is on a special use permit, he said.

The Scott Fire Lookout Tower, currently closed for renovation, and hiking and ATV trails also are popular attractions, as are thousands of scenic Sandhill acres for birdwatching, sightseeing and other activities.

The last wildfire at the forest was in 2006, Baker said, and mutual aid agreements with local fire departments help fight fires.

An average day for Baker is answering emails and phone calls,



Terry Baker talks about his job as a district ranger at the Nebraska National Forest during a luncheon at the NPW spring conference.

although once he helped corral some loose cows. Another time he was asked if the forest could provide a home for about two dozen *problem turkeys* that were acting aggressively in an urban area of Nebraska.

The Bessey Ranger District near Halsey and the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest near Nenzel are part of the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands, and the largest human-planted forest in the U.S. Charles E. Bessey's botanical surveys into the Sandhills in the late 1800s convinced him the area had been previously forested and could be again, to ensure an ample timber supply.

The 109-year-old Bessey Tree Nursery produces more than 3 million seedlings annually of over 40 species trees and shrubs that are packed, stored and distributed for entities including Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts.

## Awards luncheon

*continued from page 1*

been invited to attend the luncheon. NFPW President Cynthia Price of Virginia, First Vice President Lori Potter of Nebraska and Second Vice President Teri Ehresman of Idaho will attend.

"This will be a big day for Nebraska Press Women," said Ruth Brown, president, who noted that the NPW Anniversary Awards Luncheon will actually kick off activities for the NFPW annual conference, which will begin after lunch with a delegates' meeting at which time new officers will be elected.

NPW board member Lori Potter is a candidate for president of the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW). If elected, she will be the second Nebraskan to hold that office; Velma Price of Newman Grove was the first in 1955.

Brown explained that because so much time and effort is going into co-hosting the NFPW annual conference September 8-10, it was decided to forego the traditional NPW fall convention and instead add more reasons for NPW members to attend the national conference.

August 14 is the deadline for NFPW registrations, so that is the proposed deadline to register for the NPW Anniversary Awards Luncheon. Tentative cost is \$25. Final details will be announced in July.



Sandy Benson leads a tour during the NPW spring conference through the Bessey Tree Nursery.

# What makes rural news different from mainstream?

by Laura Vroman

Mike Burge, Laura Vroman and Gerri Peterson were invited to share—panel discussion style—about what makes rural news different from mainstream at the Nebraska Press Women's Convention held at Halsey.

Mike Burge is the news director for KVSH Radio in Valentine. He graduated from Valentine High School in 1978 and worked part time for KVSH while he was still in school for a year and a half. He attended Kearney State College taking classes in mass communications and history. After graduating, he worked for KWAT in Watertown, SD, and KWYR in Winner, SD, before coming back to KVSH in 1982. In addition to being the news director, he also does sports (enthusiastically), farm and ranch, and also serves as programming director and chief engineer.

Mike hosts a weekly Comment Program where people can call in and share ideas or ask questions about topics that are *in the news*. He also does interviews with people about upcoming events that are more in-depth and will play clips of the story throughout the day, or week, leading up to the event.

Laura Vroman is the editor of the *Valentine Midland News* and has only taken a few college courses and said it was a God thing that led her to becoming editor, not only once, but twice. "How can that not be God?," she said. Her main experience in writing was as a procedure analyst at an insurance company and writing for their company news letters.

Gerri Peterson is living the American Dream in her hometown of Mullen. She began writing for her local newspaper while in the eighth grade. After graduating



Panelists (left to right) Gerri Peterson of Mullen, Laura Vroman of Valentine, and Mike Burge of Valentine discuss what makes rural news different from mainstream at the 2011 NPW spring conference held April 29-30 at Halsey.

from Mullen High School in 2004, she attended Concordia University in Seward where she graduated in 2007 with a degree in communications with an emphasis in public relations and journalism. She wrote for the *Tribune* throughout high school and while in college. Gerri went back to work for the *Tribune* in January 2008 and became the proud owner, publisher and editor July 1, 2008.

One of the biggest differences in rural news vs. mainstream news is that there is less crime. Burge said that the crime stories would be reported however, they wouldn't necessarily be the lead story or be run every hour on the hour. On the other hand, when disaster strikes—and it does—KVSH is the first one to begin having a telethon to raise money or gather needed equipment and necessary items.

As for who is eating dinner at someone's house other than their

own...that can be found in rural papers. Try taking that away from the locals and you're bound to have some very upset families. Crime is also reported, but not always on the front page.

Even the little town of Mullen isn't immune to crime! All facets of news are covered especially youth. Peterson recounted how her journalism teacher said that reporters can't report on activities they're involved with. But she's not adhering to that saying that Girl Scout activities will still be in her paper.

What struck the audience members and fellow journalists the most was how well the rural media worked together. One member mentioned the bigger cities were beginning to consider the idea.

Way out in the boonies—er, rural areas—there's only each other to count on and that's what the real news is!

# Having fun at the 2011 NPW spring conference



Mary Pat Finn-Hoag



Andrea Cranford



Terri Hahn



Erik Dodge and Barb Micek



Sherry Thompson and Cheryl Alberts Irwin



Ruth Brown



Carole Meyer and Deb Nolting-Carpenter



Judy Nelson and Lyn Messersmith



Amy Schweitzer

# Entertainment at the spring conference at Halsey



Clockwise from top:

Tim Nolting recites his cowboy poetry.

Deb Nolting-Carpenter plays and sings her original compositions.

Trina Creighton and Anthony join Joan Burney in the Kazoo Khorale.

Mary Pierce shares experiences through her writing.

Judy Nelson recalls women's suffrage through her original *voices*.

**Summer 2011**

# State's scenic byways bring tourists, revenue

by Ruth Brown

Nebraska's nine scenic byways are encouraging travelers to get off the beaten path and are helping the state gain tourism



Twyla Witt

revenue, according to Twyla Witt, Nebraska byways coordinator.

Tourism is the state's third largest revenue source after agriculture and manufacturing. It provides 45,300 people with jobs, she said, adding that \$3.8 billion was spent in 2009 by travelers in Nebraska.

The state's nine designated byways are part of the National Scenic Byways Program to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roadways. The byways are designated based on architectural, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities.

## Nine Byways

Nebraska's byways are as follows:

- **Bridges to Buttes Byway**, U.S. Highway 20 from east of Valentine to the Wyoming border
- **Gold Rush Byway**, U.S. 385 from the Colorado border to the South Dakota border
- **Heritage Highway**, U.S. Highway 136 from the Missouri River through Cather Country to south central Nebraska
- **Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway**, U.S. Highway 75 along the Missouri River from Omaha to South Sioux City
- **Lincoln Highway Scenic and Historic Byway**, U.S. Highway 30 which stretches across the state, running parallel to much of I-80

• **Loup Rivers Scenic Byway**, from Wood River through Dannebrog, Ord and Burwell to Dunning.

• **Outlaw Trail**, Nebraska Highway 12 from South Sioux City to Valentine

• **Sandhills Journey**, Nebraska Highway 2 from Grand Island through Broken Bow, Halsey and Hyannis to Alliance

• **Western Trails Scenic and Historic Byway**, U.S. Highway 26 from Ogallala through Bridgeport, and Scottsbluff to the Wyoming border

## Sandhills Byway

Tom Witt, president of the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway, said that the byway brings travelers to a unique area of the world: 90,000 acres with trees on 20,000, an area that includes fresh water lakes and alkaline lakes, loess hills, sandhills, and native grass.

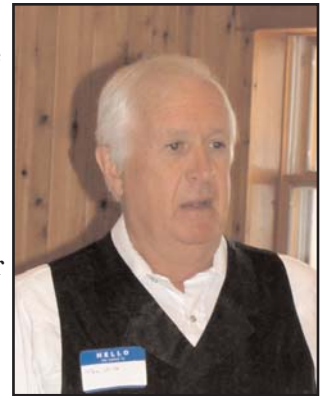
"People come to see the cranes and stay to see the chickens dance"—

prairie chickens, that is, and short-tailed grouse, he said.

"It's one of the darkest areas in the U.S.; you can pluck the stars right out of the sky, he said, noting that it's a great place for star gazing.

In early March, the area has a Polar Bear Tank Race on the Middle Loup River outside Mullen that is becoming increasingly popular with people from out of state. In the fall, the Junk Jaunt brings people from across the nation.

"Last year we counted 43 different states' license plates in Berwyn (population 125) during the Junk Jaunt," he said, adding, "they have fantastic food: kolaches and more."



Tom Witt



The Nebraska Press Women Newsletter is published and sent electronically four times a year. Send e-mail address updates and member news to 2011-12 editor Carole Meyer, [cmartist@inebraska.com](mailto:cmartist@inebraska.com). Please use NPW as the Subject.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Aug. 14:** Deadline to register for NFPW Conference

Deadline to register for NPW Anniversary Awards Luncheon

**Sept. 8:** NPW Anniversary Awards Luncheon, 11:30-1:30, Riverside Grille, Council Bluffs

**Sept. 8-10:** NFPW Annual Conference, Harrah's, Council Bluffs