



NEBRASKA PRESS WOMEN

Burney, Keever inducted into NPW Hall of Fame

By Cheryl Alberts Irwin

Joan Rossiter Burney and Dr. Beverly Deepe Keever were inducted into the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame during Nebraska Press Women's spring convention luncheon.

Keever, a Carleton-area native, now of Honolulu, Hawaii, was the longest-serving Western correspondent during the Vietnam War. Burney, a Hartington native, now of Lincoln, has touched countless lives with her columns, books and speeches.

Burney's talents began unfolding in print when at age 39 she began writing for her local *Cedar County News*. At age 40, with six children in school, she herself began taking one class at a time, graduating Cum Laude from Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D. Never missing a defining moment in her children's lives, the Hartington native



JOAN ROSSITER BURNEY

took care of her farm family while sharing her sense of humor. A self-syndicated columnist, feature writer, book author and motivational speaker, Burney's stories and faith touched countless lives throughout Nebraska, neighboring states and the U.S. Writing for more than a dozen publications garnered her more than 250 awards and honors.

Burney was named the National Mother of the Year by American Mothers, Inc., in 1991, National Communicator of Achievement by the National Federation of Press Women in 1993, and Woman of Distinction by the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women in 1995. A woman of many talents, as well as a 45-year Nebraska Press Women member, Burney has taught music, directed plays, was a guidance counselor, a trained hospice volunteer and helped families through the 1980s farm crisis. Burney once said, "I think humor is one of the most serious things we're supposed to do in this life." One of Nebraska's greatest citizens and a tireless worker, Burney is an outstanding community and state service volunteer – truly an ambassador for and from Nebraska.

Burney's nomination included comments that she



BEVERLY DEEPE KEEVER

shares all she knows with others; and that her columns are said to have changed people's lives.

"I will love you forever," Burney said to NPW members and several friends and relatives as she accepted her plaque April 25. "You ARE my people."

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Potter claims top Marianne Beel Sweepstakes Award

By Glennis Nagel

Lexington - Winners in the Nebraska Press Women 2015 Communications Contest were announced April 25 at the close of the NPW spring convention in Lexington.

The Marianne Beel Sweepstakes Awards were presented to the top three award winners. Taking first place was Lori Potter of Kearney, the agriculture/natural resources reporter for the *Kearney Hub*.

Placing second was Carla Chance of Cedar Creek, marketing communications director for Video King/VKGS in Omaha, and placing third, LuAnn Schindler of Clearwater, managing editor for the *Clearwater Record/Ewing News*.

In all, there were 114 entries in a wide variety of categories from features and photography to social media and specialty articles.

Entries that took first place in their re-

spective categories are eligible to compete at the national level, if the entrant is also a national member. A total of 41 entries from Nebraska that placed first will compete in the national contest. Results from national competition will be announced in September.

State award recipients are listed below, alphabetically by community:

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President's Column

Why did you join Nebraska Press Women? That was one of the questions members reflected upon as part of a planning process that is helping map NPW's future.

For me, I saw joining an organization of communications professionals as an opportunity to develop contacts in the industry and to grow in my profession. The networking, educational opportunities and contests certainly provided all of this, but membership in three National Federation of Press Women affiliates has offered so much more.

While working as a reporter and editor at a family-owned newspaper outside of New Orleans, I joined Louisiana Press Women. The opportunities membership provided went beyond meeting new people and winning awards in the National Federation of Press Women contest. As high school contest director, I learned the ropes for that position and judged other contests. After a move and a career change to freelance writing, I transferred my membership to Nebraska Press Women. I have to admit that I wasn't very active in the organization at that time, as I lived in Omaha and most of the conferences were several hours away. Still, I entered the contests and broadened my knowledge by reading articles in the national and state publications.

A few years later, my family moved to the Chicago suburbs, where I became involved with the Illinois Women's Press Association. With meetings in the city, it was easier to participate, and serving as newsletter editor provided an opportunity to put into practice new skills I was learning through a desktop publishing class.

After three years in Illinois, we returned to Omaha, and I was once again a NPW member. With two active children and busy weekends, I wasn't very engaged at first. I gradually became more involved as family responsibilities lessened and I was able to attend conferences around the state. In recent years, it's been an honor to serve as treasurer, a co-chair of the National Federation of Press Women 2011 conference hosted by Iowa and Nebraska, vice president and now president. Each of these positions has provided opportunities to take on new challenges. I've learned a lot along the way and developed skills that have been beneficial in other areas of my life. It's been fun to visit new areas of the state, and I've become friends with amazing women who continue to inspire and motivate me.

Wherever you are on your professional journey, there's a place for you in Nebraska Press Women. Sometimes that might mean stepping back as you focus on your career and family, but staying connected as best you can. When the time is right and if you choose to do so, NPW provides great opportunities to develop and enhance your leadership and team skills through committees and board positions, working with supportive and creative people across Nebraska.

As we plan for NPW's future, it's imperative that we look at where we've been and why NPW is important to our members, as told through the survey and planning exercises. We also need to look forward and make sure we are keeping up with the times and providing for the needs of members across various gen-



SHERRY THOMPSON

erations and careers.

I invite you to attend the July 11 planning meeting in Grand Island, where we'll continue the conversation we've started. We'll build on the visioning process and work toward identifying goals and action steps to move Nebraska Press Women forward. This is your organization, and your input is important as we look for ways to build on our rich history, while ensuring NPW evolves to meet the changing needs of today's communicators.

For more information on how you can become more involved with Nebraska Press Women, email me at sherrythompson@cox.net or call 402.891.5789.

Are you part of NPW's Facebook group?

Networking is one of the biggest benefits of being a Nebraska Press Women member. It's always great to connect with other communicators at conferences and exchange ideas. Now, those connections can continue throughout the year.

The Nebraska Press Women Facebook group is a members-only forum where participants can pose questions to their peers, post job openings, share interesting articles, join in conversations and more. The group also makes it easier to keep up with NPW news posts.

If you are on Facebook and aren't yet part of the group, search for "Nebraska Press Women" closed group and request to join it. While you are at it, be sure to "like" the Nebraska Press Women public page if you have not already done so. Once you are part of the group, please use it and keep the networking going.



2015 NPW Board

President: Sherry Thompson
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Parliamentarian: Beverly Wieler
Scholarship: Jill Claflin
Past President: Bette Pore

Potter claims top Marianne Beel Sweepstakes Award...

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Clearwater - LuAnn Schindler, managing editor for the Clearwater Record/Ewing News: first, graphics; first, specialty articles - hobby or craft; first, specialty articles - sports; first, personality profile - 500 words or fewer; second, headlines; second, photo essay; second, specialty articles - business; second, specialty articles - education; second, specialty articles - religion; third, specialty articles - history; and third, page design - newspaper.

Fullerton - Barbara Ann Dush Micek, author and editor of the Nance County Journal, and Nancy Hansen, author: first, books and creative writing - nonfiction books for adult readers - biography or autobiography.

Fullerton - Tracy Lynn Blessen Belitz, author: honorable mention, collection of short stories written and published together in a book.

Grand Island - Terri Hahn of Osceola, features editor for the Grand Island Independent: first, headlines; first, sections or supplements infrequently edited by entrant - newspaper; first, publications regularly edited by entrant - newspaper; second, single page/section/supplement regularly edited by entrant - newspaper; second, page design - newspaper.

Grand Island - Bette Pore, copy editor for the Grand Island Independent: first, editing and page design, print publications - single page/section/supplement regularly edited by entrant - newspaper; first, editing and page design, print publications - page design - newspaper; and second, headlines.

Kearney - Amanda Brandt, digital reporter for the Kearney Hub, and Ashley White, online editor/city hall reporter for the Kearney Hub: first, continuing coverage or unfolding news, and Brandt and Tyler Jacobs, Kearney Hub video editor: first, videos for website - corporate or for-profit. Brandt also placed first in feature story - print-based newspaper and second, social media campaign - corporate or for-profit.

Kearney - Jessica Kokesh, Kearney Hub regional editor: third, feature story - print-based newspaper; third, personality profile - more than 500 words; and honorable mention, news story - print-based newspaper.

Kearney - Leslie Means, Kearney Hub columnist and program director for Her View From Home: second, columns - general; second, Web and social media - blogs - corporate or for-profit; and third, columns - humorous.

Kearney - Lori Potter, agriculture/natural resources reporter for the Kearney Hub: first, enterprise reporting; first, photo essay; first, photographer-writer; first, specialty articles - agriculture/agribusiness/aquaculture; first, specialty articles - education; first, specialty articles - green/environmental; first, specialty articles - science or technology; first, col-



(Photo by Mary Pat Hoag)

Lori Potter (right) and LuAnn Schindler placed first and third, respectively, in the Marianne Beel Sweepstakes award contest. Carla Chance placed second.

umns - general; first, columns - personal opinion (bylined, not editorial); first, single photograph - general photo (open competition) - no subcategories as to type of publication; first, personality profile - more than 500 words; second, specialty articles - government or politics; second, specialty articles - history; second, single photograph - sports photo; second, news story - print-based newspaper; second, feature story - print-based newspaper; third, specialty articles - business; and third, single photograph - news or feature photo.

Kearney - Kim Schmidt, Kearney Hub public safety reporter: first, blogs - corporate or for-profit.

Kearney - Mary Jane Skala, business/lifestyles reporter for the Kearney Hub: first, specialty articles - arts and entertainment; first, specialty articles - business; first, specialty articles - physical health/fitness/mental health/self-help; first, specialty articles - religion; and third, columns - personal opinion (bylined, not editorial).

Kearney - Ashley White and Amanda Brandt, both with the Kearney Hub: first, investigative reporting, and first, website edited or managed by entrant - corporate or for-profit. White also earned first in specialty articles - government or politics; first, news story - print-based newspaper; and honorable mention, feature story - print-based newspaper.

Lincoln - Cheryl Alberts Irwin, freelance writer, and Judy Nelson, freelance writer and author: first, public relations materials - newsletters - nonprofit, government or educational.

Lincoln - Ruth Thone, freelance writer: second, columns - humorous; second, columns - personal opinion (bylined, not editori-

al); honorable mention, columns - informational (how-to, Q&A, advice); and honorable mention, personality profile - more than 500 words.

Norfolk - Mary Pat Finn-Hoag, agriculture/youth editor for the Norfolk Daily News: second, specialty articles - agriculture/agribusiness/aquaculture.

North Platte - Heather Johnson, formerly a reporter for the North Platte Telegraph: first, special series; first, specialty articles - history; second, specialty articles - green/environmental; second, specialty articles - physical health/fitness/mental health/self-help; second, specialty articles - social issues; second, personality profile of more than 500 words; and third, news story - print-based newspaper.

North Platte - Lori Clinch, columnist for the North Platte Telegraph and freelance writer: first, columns - humorous.

Omaha - Carla Chance of Cedar Creek, marketing communications director for Video King/VKGS in Omaha: first, single advertisement for print or electronic publication; first, advertising campaigns built around one subject (print, online, or combination of the two); first, advertising posters, billboards, and banners; first, communications programs and campaigns - audiovisuals; first, publications regularly edited by entrant - magazine, newsletter or other non-newspaper publication; first, page design - magazine, newsletter or other non-newspaper publication; first, social media campaign - corporate or for-profit; second, photographer-writer; second, website edited or managed by entrant - corporate or for-profit; second, videos for website - corporate or for-profit; third, headlines; third, photo essay; honorable mention, specialty articles - business; and honorable mention, feature story - magazine, newsletter or other non-newspaper print publication.

Omaha - Sherry Thompson, freelance writer: first, writing for the Web; first, specialty articles - social issues; first, videos for website - nonprofit, government or educational; second, blogs - nonprofit, government or educational; second, public relations materials - newsletters - nonprofit, government or educational.

West Point - Delores Meister, freelance writer: second, enterprise reporting; third, specialty articles - agriculture/agribusiness/aquaculture; third, specialty articles - education; third, specialty articles - government or politics; third, specialty articles - physical health/fitness/mental health/self-help.



Westside of Omaha wins 22, claims inaugural high school sweepstakes award

By Bette Pore

A total of 55 Nebraska journalism students received awards in the 2015 Nebraska Press Women High School Journalism contest.

The awards were presented Saturday, April 25, during the NPW Spring Convention Awards Luncheon in the Lexington Public Library.

This year's contest added a Sweepstakes Award for the school with the most awards. The inaugural award went to Westside High School in Omaha. Westside students won 22 awards, including 10 first places.

Two first-place award winners from Grand Island Senior High, Walter Gonzalez and Bri Cleveland, attended the awards presentation.

NPW President Sherry Thompson later visited Westside High School to present the Sweepstakes Award.

The annual contest includes categories for school newspapers, yearbooks, television and radio reporting, as well as online video reports. Those students who received first-place awards have advanced to the National Federation of Press Women High School Journalism Contest, with awards in that contest to be presented in September during the NFPW convention in Anchorage, Alaska.

Following are the NPW contest results:

Editorial – First, Bria Menagh, Grand Island Senior High.

Opinion – First, Thomas Huerter, Omaha Westside High School; second, Aren Rendell, Omaha Westside; third, Timothy Graves, Omaha Westside; honorable mention, Rae Rangel, Bellevue West High School, and Grace Wolfe, Omaha Westside.

News story – First, Katharine Lefebvre, Omaha Westside; second, Jace Wieseler, Omaha Westside; third, Jason Jerrell, Bellevue West; honorable mention, Grant Harrison, Bellevue West.

Feature story – First, Brooklyn Westenburg, Johnson-Brock High School; second, Grace Fogland, Omaha Westside; third, Codi Pierce, Bellevue West; honorable mention, Tucker Vahle, Grand Island.

Sports story – First, Aren Rendell, Omaha Westside; second, Corby Cerny, Fremont High School; third, Corby Cerny, Fremont; honorable mention, Celena



(Photo by Sherry Thompson)

Westside High School in Omaha is the recipient of the inaugural sweepstakes award in Nebraska Press Women's High School Communications Competition. Seventeen Westside students won 22 awards, including 10 first places. First-place entries advance to the National Federation of Press Women competition; winners will be announced at the group's national conference in Alaska in September. Congratulations to these outstanding young communicators!

Shepherd, Omaha Westside, and Katie Allen, Bellevue West.

Columns or blogs – First, Grace Friesen, Grand Island; second, Josh Andersen, Johnson-Brock High School; third, Em Brandon, Bellevue West; honorable mention, Grant Harrison, Bellevue West.

Feature photo – First, Clairissa Selby, Omaha Westside; second, Sarah Lemke, Omaha Westside; honorable mention, Monica Siegel, Omaha Westside.

Sports photo – First, Sarah Lemke, Omaha Westside; second, Katharine Lefebvre, Omaha Westside; third, Monica Siegel, Omaha Westside.

Cartooning – First, Haille Cox, Bellevue West; second, Sarah Lemke, Omaha Westside; third, Walter Gonzalez, Grand Island; honorable mention, Haille Cox, Bellevue West, and Marco Garcia, Grand Island.

Review – First, Aren Rendell, Omaha Westside; second, Maria Ramirez, Grand Island; third, Jenny Davis, Fremont; honorable mention, Emily Brandon, Bellevue West.

Graphics/photo illustration – First, Walter Gonzalez, Grand Island; second, Michael Navratil, Bellevue West; third, Jacob Kunes, Bellevue West; honorable mention, Marco Garcia, Grand Island.

Single-page layout – First, Rae Rangel, Bellevue West; second, Walter Gonzalez, Grand Island; third, Marco Garcia, Grand Island.

Double-truck layout – First, Jenna Hynek, Omaha Westside.

Radio/TV interview – First, Samuel Frankel and Jack Cohen, Omaha Westside.

Video news story – First, Elias Ginsberg, Omaha Westside; second, Aimee Hunter, Lexy Burroughs, Morgan Keith and Emily Brandon, Bellevue West.

Video feature story – First, Jon Bass, Omaha Westside; second, Elias Ginsberg, Omaha Westside; third, Erick Kincaide and Lexy Burroughs, Bellevue West; honorable mention, Lexy Burroughs and Samantha Bradbury, Bellevue West, and

(Continued on page 5)

NPW scholarship recipients announced

By Jill Claflin

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln journalism student and a spring graduate of Arthur County High School have been named as 2015 recipients of Nebraska Press Women scholarships.

UNL student Mara Klecker is the NPW Memorial Scholarship recipient, while Morgan Peterson of Arthur received the Marianne Beel Memorial Scholarship.

NPW Memorial Scholarship

Klecker is a junior journalism major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition to compiling a strong academic record, she has worked at the *Daily Nebraskan* and served for the past year as a city desk intern at the *Lincoln Journal Star*. She is scheduled to intern this summer at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

On campus, Klecker is a member of the Nebraska Women's Leadership Network and Students Together Against Cancer. She also is a J Ambassador for UNL's College of Journalism and Mass



MARA KLECKER

Communications. She has been named to managing editor of the *Daily Nebraskan* during the upcoming fall semester.

As a reporter at the *Daily Nebraskan* and an intern at the *Lincoln Journal Star*, she has covered a variety of breaking news and features. Class and work projects have ranged from a photo essay about grave diggers to an account of an El Salvadoran girl's journey to Nebraska. She also was one of six students chosen for a three-week

Global Eyewitness Program trip to Ecuador to produce multimedia stories about poverty and culture.

Klecker expects to graduate from UNL in 2016 and then wants to explore career opportunities in newspapers, magazines or social documentary work.

The NPW's collegiate scholarship annually awards \$750 to an upper-class or graduate student pursuing a degree in some field of communications.

Marianne Beel Memorial Scholarship

Morgan Peterson, a 2015 Arthur County High School graduate, worked on her school's yearbook; taking sports, candid and class photos, and editing them for publication. She is active in 4-H, Future Farmers of America and the Arthur Rodeo Club, and has done a variety of volunteer work in the community.

In addition to working on her family's ranch, she has worked on area ranches and trained horses. Her winning



MORGAN PETERSON

essay in the scholarship competition focused on the value of agriculture in Nebraska and her submitted work samples included photos of a horse and a dog and a horse pastel.

She plans to attend Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne and acquire a degree in equine business management.

The \$500 scholarship, awarded annually to a high school senior, honors the work and memory of longtime NPW member Marianne Beel of Valentine.

Westside of Omaha wins 22...

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Samantha Herall and Alli DeJohn, Bellevue West, and Jenna Hammond and Kayle Byrd, Bellevue West.

Video sports story — First, Morgan Keith and Christian Hittbrunner, Bellevue West.

Yearbook layout — First, Hailey Morgan, Grand Island; second, Emma Larson, Bellevue West; third, Caroline Radosta, Bellevue West; honorable mention, Bri Cleveland, Grand Island; and Sophie Cosimano, Omaha Westside.

Yearbook photo — First, Bri Cleveland, Grand Island; second, Stephanie Purcell, Bellevue West; third, Luz Rodriguez, Grand Island; and honorable mention, Moises Zumaya, Grand Island.

Yearbook copywriting — First, Carlyssa Warner and Murrin McCausland, Bellevue West; second, Bri Cleveland, Grand Island; and third, Jayden Jensen and Murrin McCausland, Bellevue West.



(Photo by Lori Potter)

Grand Island High School students Bri Cleveland (left) and Walter Gonzalez were presented certificates from NPW High School Contest Director Bette Pore during the conference.

Inaugural Burney 'Outstanding Communicator' award presented

By Mary Pat Finn-Hoag

The first two recipients of new awards established by the *Cedar County News* in Hartington have been announced. Elizabeth Rembert of Bow Valley, a graduating senior from Cedar Catholic High School, was named recipient of the Joan Rossiter Burney Outstanding Communicator Award.

The Gov. Charles Thone Leadership Award was earned by Ria Pedersen of Hartington, a 2015 Hartington-Newcastle High School graduate.

Burney and Thone, past Cedar County residents, now live in Lincoln. During the years, each made significant contributions to the Hartington area, as well as on the local, state and national fronts.

The Burney award will be given each year to a graduating student at Cedar Catholic High who is a leader through the communication arts: writing, speaking and acting (the loves of Burney's career and life).

The Thone award will be presented annually to a Hartington-Newcastle High graduating senior in honor of Thone's "intelligent and thoughtful leadership

style."

"The awards (were) established to make sure the many accomplishments of these two great individuals will be remembered by future generations of Hartington-Newcastle and Cedar Catholic High School students," according to an editorial in the *Cedar County News*. The editorial also noted: "It's only fitting the top students at our schools be associated with some of the best to walk the halls here. This award is a perfect way to honor some of the best and brightest Hartington area students and acknowledge the contributions of Thone and Burney to this community."

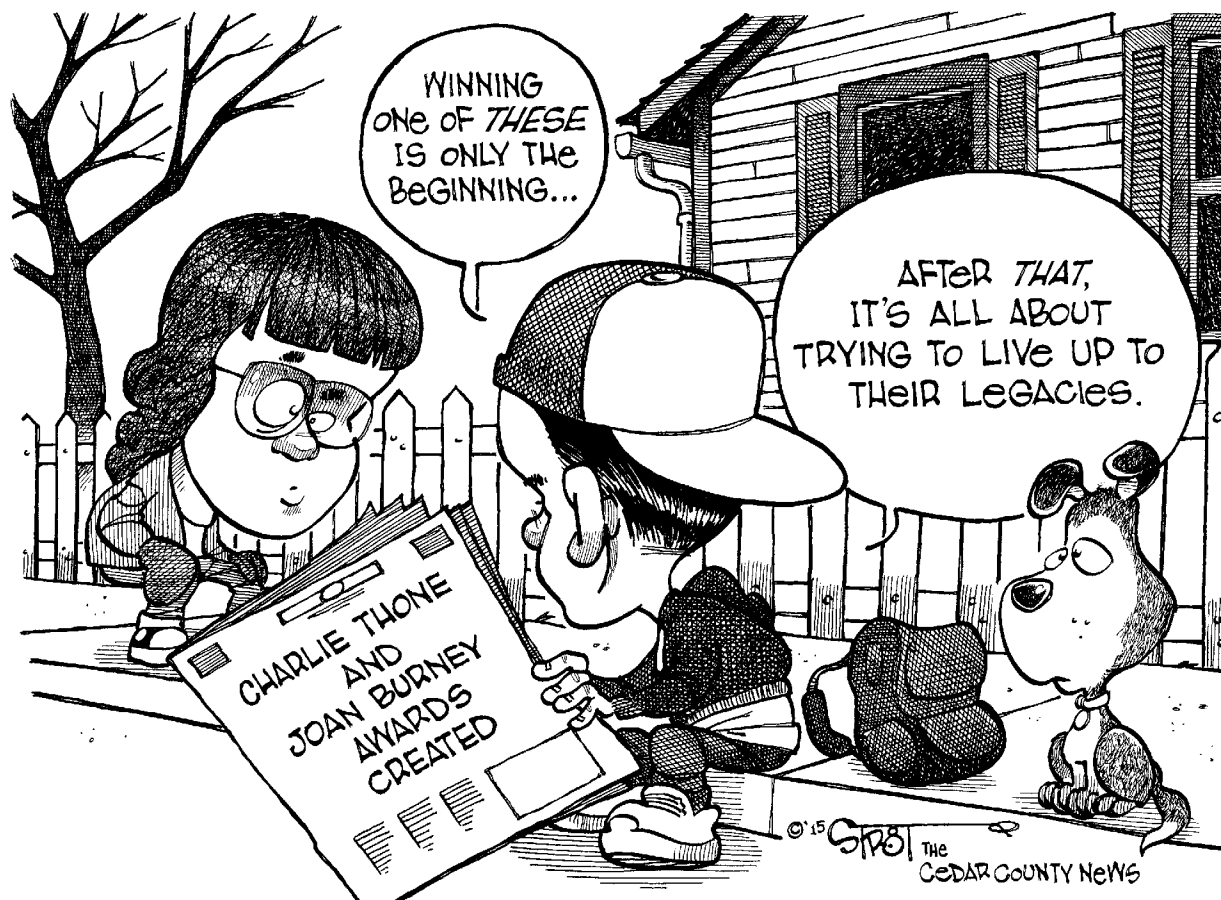
Burney wrote a column for the *Cedar County News* for about 40 years.

Rembert has written columns for the *Cedar County News* and the *Norfolk Daily News* and plans to enroll at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism in August (sounds to me like a future Nebraska Press Women member). She also was a stand-out on the Cedar Speech Team, helping lead the squad this school year to its first district championship in 20 years.



(Photo by Mary Pat Finn-Hoag)

BURNEY RECOGNIZED — Joan Burney (left) visits with Rob Dump and his wife, Peggy Year, co-publishers of the *Cedar County News* following the former's induction into the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame. Year nominated Burney for the honor.



Courtesy of artist Wayne Stroot & Cedar County News

Burney, Keever inducted...

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Later, she advised young women journalists to “listen and enjoy.”

In addition to being the longest serving Western correspondent continuously covering the Vietnam War, Keever is known for advancing First Amendment issues in her 29 years of teaching at the University of Hawaii. Her seven years of living and reporting in Vietnam include dispatches and detailed articles for the *New York Herald Tribune*, *Newsweek* and others. The war’s first female correspondent, Keever held her own, “asking no favors,” traveling by elephant, speedboat, helicopter and on foot, in trying to make sense of the bloody, bitter war. Early on, Keever’s exclusive interviews predicted the accurate outcome that the United States would “lose Southeast Asia.”

A five-part series described the vital role Vietnamese women played on both sides of the man-made havoc. Her work for the *Christian Science Monitor*, reporting from the embattled Khe Sanh Outpost, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Keever’s international passions were nurtured by a love of learning about peoples far from her Carleton, Neb., farm home; the rewards of taking well-calculated risks; and her degrees from the University of Nebraska and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. In 2001, hers was among the works showcasing 148 years of war reporting lauded at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Keever’s books include *Death Zones and Darling Spies* and *News Zero: The New York Times and the Bomb*. Keever was presented her plaque on March 9 at Hebron when she was in Nebraska visiting family. The recognition was, she said, a “very unexpected, tremendous honor.” She credits her career in part to growing up on a farm, to her mother who encouraged reading and to the one-room schoolhouse she attended.

Boxes of her documents from covering the Vietnam War are being provided to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Love Library for research. Keever said she’d like more opportunities for Native American women, who have a wonderful oral culture and beautiful songs and dances.

With these latest additions, the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame, located on the second floor of UNL’s Andersen Hall, now has 16 members. The Hall of Fame section of the Nebraska Press Women website also is updated. Members are Joan Rossiter Burney, Beverly Deepe Keever, Leta Powell Drake, Gwen Lindberg, Elia Wilkinson Peattie, Maxine Moul, Clara Bewick Colby, Mary McGrath, Mildred Brown, Harriet Dakin MacMurphy, Bess Furman Armstrong, Marj Marlette, Wilma Crumley, Beverly Pollack, Lynne Grasz and Deanna Sands.

About the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame

Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame honorees must have a Nebraska background by birth or work experience, having spent a significant

amount of their professional career in Nebraska; and must have attained a position of prominence in their fields.

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Letters of love and gratitude

Dear NPW Members,

I thank you now, and always will thank you, for the great honor of being inducted into the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame. To have my work recognized by you all in this way is a joy in my life.

I have gained so much from NPW members in the 45 years I’ve been part of NPW/NFPW. We’ve laughed together and learned together, in workshops and one-on-one conversations. We’ve supported each other. When I talk about NPW – which I do a lot – I always say, “These are my people.”

I thank Peggy Year for nominating me, Judy Nelson for her remarks introducing me, and the extraordinary Kazoo Chorale, led by Gwen Lindberg, for so brightening my day. It was Gwen who invited me to my first NPW meeting so many years ago.

You ARE my people!

Thank you.

Joan Burney

Dear NPW members,

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” I’m struck by Frederick Douglas’s words imprinted on the Nebraska Press Women’s shirt given to me. I’ve elevated those words to: “Once you learn to write, you’ll be forever driven.” At least that is the way I felt as I spent seven years covering the Vietnam War. Those seven years of eerie eyewitnessing led me to write my memoirs, “Death Zones and Darling Spies,” in which I describe the rise and nosedive in U.S. power and prestige and diagnose some reasons for the nation’s first major failure. The shadow of Vietnam flashes still in today’s news.

That my endeavors, energies, dedication and drive have been recognized by the Nebraska Press Women has humbled and honored me greatly. The induction into the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame is especially meaningful to me in 2015 because, after 40 years in which Americans mostly forgot about the Vietnam War, it was again thrust into public consciousness with the 40th anniversary of the fall to communist forces of the



government and war effort that the United States had supported for two decades by both Republican and Democratic administrations. That Vietnam’s 40th anniversary on April 30th came just days after the spring convention in Lexington demonstrates to me the NPW’s foresight and fateful planning.

I’m most indebted to the NPW for inducting me, and also to Marian Andersen for her sponsorship of the Hall of Fame. That handsome Hall of Fame plaque bearing her name and the NPW logo now rests front and center on my wall-size bookcase in my living room in Honolulu. There I am daily reminded of the contributions of Nebraska’s press women and their long tradition established by the likes of the suffragist-fighting Clara Bewick Colby and civil-rights-champion Mildred Brown. These press women and many others over the past century I came to admire after reading Eileen Wirth’s masterful “From Society Page to Front Page.”

I regret I was unable to be with you at your spring convention this year. But I am most grateful for the NPW delegation that traveled to Hebron to surprise me by announcing there my induction into the Hall of Fame and presenting that elegant plaque to me so that my 100-year-old Mother, family, friends and others could share in my honor.

As I note in my memoirs, I credit my Mother’s steering me into journalism early on by giving me a little book for my first Christmas when I was only six months old. Dad then exclaimed “That kid can’t read.” But Mom insisted I needed a book and she gave me many more over the years. Reading served as my prerequisite for writing — and my launching pad into journalism and communications. May today’s youth be endowed with similar blessings that launch them into such a noble profession.

Beverly Deepe Keever

Keynote speaker: 'Leadership starts with you'

By Sherry Thompson

According to Dr. Bill Podraza's definition of leadership, everyone in Nebraska Press Women has the potential to be a leader.

"You don't have to be elected," he said. "You just have to care and decide to do something and enlist others to assist you."

Podraza, who operates Unique Technique Inc. in Columbus, was the keynote speaker for NPW's spring conference April 25 in Lexington.

Podraza provided attendees with practical leadership advice that can be applied on the job, in your community, or within NPW and other organizations. To lead, you need to have a cause, followers (he noted that people want to be led and not managed) and skills.

"Leadership starts with you," he said. As a leader, you need to know that there are people who will try to bring you down because they are "not OK." People who are not OK tend to blame others and use words like "always" and "never." Leaders, he said, need to be OK when others are not. "When you are trying to promote something, you have to be impeccable."

Leaders can set the tempo

through their mood. Podraza used words like gratitude, generosity, appreciation, patience, satisfaction, kindness, interest and creativity as attributes of a good mood, while noting that impatience, frustration, boredom and dissatisfaction set the stage for a bad mood. While mood can bring others up or down, he noted that it's important for leaders to give people permission to ask, "Are you OK today?"

Podraza went on to describe four basic leadership styles and when it's appropriate to use each, depending on where other people are based on their competence and commitment:

Directing: Leaders provide specific instructions and closely supervise others.

Coaching: Leaders direct and closely supervise others' task accomplishments, while they also explain decisions, solicit suggestions and support progress.

Supporting: Leaders facilitate and support a subordinate's efforts toward task accomplishments and share responsibility for decision making.

Delegating: Leaders turn over responsibility for decision making and problem solving to subordinates. A leader, however, cannot get



(Photo by Lori Potter)

According to Dr. Bill Podraza's definition of leadership, everyone in Nebraska Press Women has the potential to be a leader. "You don't have to be elected," he said. "You just have to care and decide to do something and enlist others to assist you." Podraza was the keynote speaker for NPW's spring conference April 25 in Lexington.

rid of responsibility by delegating.

It's important to provide subordinates with resources and coaching, he said, and to meet people where they are on the development spectrum. New people, for instance, typically have low competence and high commitment, and they benefit from the directing style of leadership that involves structure, control and supervision. For a person with a high level of competency

but variable commitment, a supporting style of leadership that involves listening, facilitating and offering praise works best, along with breaking projects into smaller parts with deadlines.

Leadership, he said, is looking into the mirror and saying, "It's up to me." And, it's having a vision, goals, and a willingness to make hard decisions and take risks.

Are you ready to step up and become a leader?

Podraza advices on NPW growth plan

By Bette Pore

For "Growing NPW's Future," a workshop specifically tailored to help Nebraska Press Women work toward developing a strategic plan for the organization's growth, Dr. Bill Podraza said what NPW needs is a clear vision.

"You need to have a vision to have leadership," Podraza told the NPW members gathered for the afternoon workshop April 25 at the spring

convention at the Lexington Public Library.

Podraza had the group break into small groups to work on descriptions for a vision statement.

He said they should consider why they joined and why other people should join. The answers from each group were gathered to be used again when the group meets July 11 in Grand Island to continue with strategic planning.

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do."

If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."

Steve Jobs



Nagel wins artwork

By Cheryl Alberts Irwin

Glennis Nagel of Kearney was the lucky recipient of a framed and matted work horse photograph, which was raffled during the spring NPW convention held April 25 at Lexington.

The raffle netted \$135 and was the final of four pieces donated to NPW by Gary Stone, extension educator at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center at Scottsbluff. Stone enjoys sharing his wild-life and rural scenes.

With the new amount, the total raised from the four raffled pieces is \$500. The first raffle for the first two pieces went to support the high school contest; the last two raffles will support NPW's 70th anniversary celebration in 2016.

In addition to Nagel, previous art raffle winners are Jill Claflin, Terri Hahn and Mary Pat Finn Hoag.



(Lori Potter)
Glennis Nagel (left) give Cheryl Alberts Irwin a big squeeze after Nagel won the artwork during a raffle.



(Photos by Lori Potter)

Photo above (From left) Mary Ann Blackledge, Judy Nelson, Barb Batie, Mary Crawford, Joan Von Kampen and Jill Claflin shared memories of working at the *North Platte Telegraph*.



CONVERSATION AND GOOD FOOD AT DINNER



WINE TASTING AT MAC'S CREEK WINERY AT LEXINGTON

Classified advertisement

Hansen searching for book series

Nebraska Press Women member Nancy Hansen is looking to purchase a copy of the Morton's Illustrated History of Nebraska (all volumes).

Hansen said after she and Barb Micek spoke at the conference last year, someone approached her and said they may have a set for sale. Hansen said, however, since everyone was new to her, she forgot who made the comment.

Anyone with copies for sale can contact Hansen via e-mail at hansennancy@gmail.com.



Are you searching for an item?
Are you selling an item?
Let's help each other out!
Email marypierce97@yahoo.com to place a classified advertisement in our newsletter.

NPW planning session slated for July 11

By Judy Nelson

Saturday, July 11, Nebraska Press Women members are meeting in Grand Island to talk, to laugh, to plan and to dream.

When you're part of an organization of dynamic, creative individuals, just being together is rejuvenating.

When those individuals are talking about a future to benefit us all – and other communicators we've yet to meet – through ways to improve our skills, build our resumes, win awards, exchange ideas, talk with those who understand what we do and why we do it, plus much more, it gets downright exciting.

Be part of it from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Prairie Winds Art Center, 112 W. Third Street, Grand Island.

Details and a registration form for the day will arrive via email closer to the date. Please mark your calendar now, and plan to attend.

Every member has something to offer in the planning process now underway for NPW. That planning process focuses on

being the best organization we can be for Nebraska's professional communicators, offering learning and growth opportunities in a supportive statewide community built on the basics of communicating with integrity, and backed by the First Amendment.

This planning process started with a membership survey in which nearly two-thirds of NPW members participated. Thank you to all who did. Information participants provided is vital to planning for the future, and you can expect to see what members said reflected in topics for next year's spring and fall conferences and beyond, as well as in the activities that will mark NPW's 70th anniversary in 2016.

At the NPW winter board meeting, board members took part in a SWOT exercise, identifying NPW strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to our organization. All NPW members at the spring conference in Lexington had the opportunity to add to that list.

All NPW members at Lexington also

took part in a strategic planning exercise on members' vision of and for NPW, providing great ideas and information.

All ideas and information gathered so far will funnel into the July 11 meeting to inform discussions that day on several topics, including NPW goals, and action steps to reach those goals in the next several years.

The initial plan that comes from this work will provide NPW a roadmap toward where we want to go, and will get us on our way. It will be based on what we've discussed to this point and at the July 11 session. It will be flexible, able to be adjusted and honed as ongoing discussions identify changes in needs, issues, circumstances and thinking.

Come July 11 to help build NPW's future for yourself and others, to see your friends, make new ones, and eat lunch ordered from a place called The Chocolate Bar.

Seriously. Who would want to miss that???

See you there.

Incentives offered for attaining new members

By Kerry Hoffschneider

During the recent spring conference in Lexington, a new membership recruitment incentive, "Be a Gem for Membership!" kicked off.

Nebraska Press Women is an organization that has so much to offer. We all know people in the realm of communications who are seeking friendship, support, professional development, freelance opportunities and a host of other benefits this amazing organization offers its invaluable family of members.

Below is how it works:

In 2015: The first person who recruits three new members gets their choice of a beautiful necklace or bracelet (shown top right) donated by a generous anonymous donor who is passionate about growing the mission of Nebraska Press Women. If we have more than one recruiter at the

same time, all the names will be put in a drawing. These honors will be awarded at the 2015 fall meeting.

2016 – Go for the Gold

We are encouraging people to "go for the gold" and to also be in the running to win a Black Hills Gold necklace at the end of the upcoming two-year membership recruitment incentive term. If individuals recruit six or more new members by the 2016 fall meeting, they will be entered to win the stunning necklace (shown below, right). The drawing will take place at the 2016 fall conference.

*Members need to tell Judy Nelson or Kerry Hoffschneider who they recruited and who actually joined amongst their recruits. (Email Kerry at wordeed@outlook.com or call (402) 363-8963. Email Judy at nebwriter@gmail.com or call (402) 464-7830)



"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

John Lubbock

Communicator of Achievement award nominees sought

By Barb Bierman Batie

It's only been a month since Nebraska Press Women's packet for 2014 Communicator of Achievement Ruth Thone hit the mail for national competition. But it is already time to solicit nominees for the next NPW Communicator of Achievement Award.

The Nebraska Communicator of Achievement (COA) is part of a national program to recognize communicators who not only display exceptional achievement in the communication field, but also serve the organization and the community.

The state COA is announced annually at the fall convention and she/he serves as NPW's nominee for the national honor. A previous state COA can be nominated again provided she/he has not been the national COA winner. Only two Nebraska Press Women are ineligible: Joan Rossiter Burney and Lois Lambley.

In addition, NPW does not allow a current state president or a member who serves as National COA Director to be nominated for the state honor. All nominees must be living members in good standing for at least two years in NPW and in NFPW. COA scoring is based on professional achievements (60 percent), community service (20 percent) and service to NPW/NFPW (20 percent).

With those criteria in mind we are asking for nominees for the 2015 NPW Communicator of Achievement.

Please submit nominations **no later than July 1** to NPW COA Chair Barb Bierman Batie at 43590 Rd. 761, Lexington, NE 68850 or email: barb.batie@gmail.com.

In addition to the nominee's name, a brief note on why you think she/he is deserving of the honor is helpful. If you are unsure whether an individual is both an NPW and NFPW member for eligibility, please call Barb at 308-325-2247 and she can confirm their state and national membership.



Mary Pat Finn-Hoag of Norfolk took the "scenic route" home from the Lexington convention to see longtime NPW member Evelyn Aufdenkamp in O'Neill and hand-deliver a "thinking of you" card that all signed at the convention. Lori Potter of Kearney added a bouquet of lilacs from her backyard, as well as a photo she shot. Mary Pat scrolled through the dozens of convention photos on her camera, bringing the convention to Evelyn, complete with commentary. Evelyn has settled in at the Golden Living Center and remains her upbeat self (and her hugs are still the best ever). Evelyn misses her NPW "sisters" and regrets that she is unable to attend the conventions ... but she loves hearing from NPW members and would enjoy any mail sent her way.

About the Marian Andersen Nebraska...

(Continued from page 7)

Candidates are judged on a) contributions to the profession, b) achievements within the profession, c) service to their communities: local as well as state and/or regional/national. "Communities" refers to the community in which they live and work as well as to professional communities.

Nomination information will be available later this year for January 2016 nominations.

The Hall of Fame was established in 2011 by NPW, with funding support by Harold and Marian Andersen, to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the organization as an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women.

These women journalists are recognized for their talent, initiative, intelligence and stamina, and for making a difference for the profession, their communities and those who follow in their footsteps.

Nominees are sought from the general public and honorees are chosen by the NPW board of directors.

A nonprofit professional organization of those in communication, NPW provides opportunities for professional development for Nebraska's communicators.



(Photo by Lori Potter)

LUNCH BUFFET AT THE SPRING CONVENTION

NPW Fall Conference: Touring the Past to Promote the Future

By Barb Micek

Reserve Oct. 3 on your calendar for a historic and exciting NPW Fall Conference at the U.S. Indian Industrial School in Genoa.

The theme of the conference is "Touring the Past to Promote the Future." Designated as a State and National historic site, the Industrial School's shop building and interpretive center attracts nearly 3,000 visitors per year from all over the world, including 46 states and 22 foreign countries. Genoa prides itself in having the only U.S. Industrial Indian School in the state of Nebraska.

The school was opened in 1884 and encompassed more than 30 buildings on 640 acres, serving Native American children from 10 states and more than 20 tribes. It became one of the largest of Federal Board Schools. The government closed the school in 1934 during the Great Depression. Only the Industrial School, dairy barns, blacksmith shop and stile remain. The Industrial School was only a boys' building, no girls were allowed because the boys were learning trades: blacksmithing, carpentry, harness making, and tailoring.

The two floors in the Industrial School

display awards won by its students from 1914 to 1924. Indian student farmers proved adept at raising livestock and won numerous awards at county fairs. Student artists at the school painted signs that showed the different kinds of tackle for horses and carriages that other students made for sale, and these original paintings are displayed in the building. The upper floor includes a classroom set up to look much as it did when students studied there.

As attendees arrive at the conference, fresh muffins and rolls made by Fill My Cup coffee house in Genoa will be available. After the membership meeting, Mark Miller, Nebraska Public Power District communications specialist and writing teacher at Central Community College-Platte Campus, will speak on "The Evolution of the Infographics in social and traditional media: Survival in the digital age."

The 2015 Communicator of Achievement will be announced following the noon luncheon, which will be a "fill your own croissant" luncheon along with salads and desserts, also catered by Fill My Cup. Afterward, archeologist Nancy Carlson will speak on the latest finds of Native American history in Nebraska, followed by a tour of the Indian School, and a visit to the gift shop.

More information and details will appear in the next newsletter.



A photo captures a glimpse of a classroom in the U.S. Indian Industrial School during its years of operation.



The U.S. Genoa Indian Industrial School will be the site of the NPW fall conference.

(Courtesy photo)

Valentine MIDLAND NEWS 75¢

Vol. 41 No 24 • 10 Pages - 1 Section

Valentine, Nebraska 69201 • January 7, 2015



Sandhills Area Foundation receives donation from Kime family

During this season of giving the Sandhills Area Foundation was blessed to receive a Christmas donation from Duane and Donita Kime with the sale of Isosceles the calf.

The donation will be used for community projects which the Foundation supports.

"I'm impressed with their generosity and moved by this gift of giving back to their community," said Steve Brown, president of the Sandhills Area Foundation.

On one of the hottest days in July, Duane and Donita Kime allowed Brown, Jon Davenport and his granddaughter Harper, the opportunity to choose the calf that would ultimately go to auction.

Calf #210, with a perfect isosceles triangle on its nose, was selected, and is showcased in the ring at the Valentine Livestock Sale Barn, pictured above.



"Valentine has big hearted people and this is another example," Brown said. He is pictured at right with Duane Kime at the left.



Kendra Burgess presents a certificate to Gerry Beel, with other Sandhills Chapter DAR of Hyannis women, pictured in the back row, L to R: Roberta Sherman and Darlene Hall.

Gerry Beel receives certificate for Marianne's accomplishments from Sandhills Chapter DAR

The purpose of the American History Committee of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is to promote American history throughout the year by honoring significant historical people, places, dates, and events.

Sandhills Chapter DAR of Hyannis and Thetford chose to acknowledge the contributions of Marianne Beel to her community and state.

The application for the Women in American History award required a summary of some of her many achievements in 100 words. They were written as follows:

1969; self-taught photographer; hired by Nebraska High School Rodeo, National Little Britches, National High School Rodeo and Associated Press 1970-1980 for high data stories; Press Office manager National High School Rodeo Finals, Douglas, WY, 1981; daily column, Sand in my Shoes printed 38 years North Platte Telegraph; Column pictures depicting Sandhills people seen many state/national press awards; column with Joan Burney Beel and Bull Nebraska Cattleman Magazine, Norfolk Daily News and others; editor A Sandhill Century, A History of the People in Cherry

County, 1985; indeed Sandhill Horizons, 1987; first woman inductee Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame, 2009.

Anyone who knew Marianne Beel knows these few words don't come close to expressing the wealth of her talents and contributions. Her passing in 2007, at age 78, left a void not only in the hearts of her family, but the hearts of all she lives she touched.

The Ladies of Sandhills Chapter DAR know that she is worthy of the recognition as a Woman of American History.

A look back on the first four months of 2014!

by Laura Vroman

It's a brand new year...can you believe how quickly time flies! And the older we get the quicker it seems to go right by. One day it's July 4th, the next we're just celebrating Christmas and New Year. The old year went out white and cold. Did someone really say global warming with temperatures at -16 degrees overnight December 30? Either way, 2014 was an interesting year. Let's get a look back at the first four months.

January
The Mid-Cherry County Rural Fire District received a grant from Sandhills Area Foundation for the purpose of assisting in equipping two rural fire trucks they purchased.

Modern Woodmen's Stan Libek and Deb Woodworth of the St. John's Food Pantry shopped to stock the shelves.

The Lady Badgers won the Chadron Holiday Basketball Tournament, the boys team were runners-up.

Cherry County Hospital received the Overall Excellence award by IVantage Health Analytical.

Cody Kilgore PFA students held an ice cream float sale in order to raise money for PFA members in South Dakota who lost cattle in the devastating October blizzard. They sent more than \$300 to this cause.

The Niobrara River flooded the town of Jean, January 7. According to the National Weather Service, the stage was 7.4 feet. It was evident the Niobrara left its banks at Fritz Island Campground and flooded the parking area. Large ice chunks were visible at Rocky Ford and flooding was evident around Sharps Outfitters.

Quinn Conner signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Duane College.

VMS Badger Effort award recipients for the second quarter included: Jon Keller, Kaymen Hustrulid, Lauren Ferguson, Caleb Long, Chad McPeak, Anna Perrett, Lizzy Harvey, Jacob Hanchew, and Keifer Klabeles.

Nebraska School Activities Association announced student recipients of the Fall 2013 Nebraska Chiropractic Physicians Association Academic All-State Awards: Brianna Bussinger, Sydney Dunn, Braxton Coleman, Turyn Adams, Natalie Lutz, Madison Kelber, Sophie Leges.

The first baby of the New Year was Harper Joseph Mulligan, who was born January 14, 2014. He was born to Brianna Mulligan and her husband Chanoy Mulligan at 4:24 a.m. and weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces.

The champion of the Cherry County Oral Spelling Bee was Leeli Schneider, an eighth grader from Cody-Kilgore. Eliana Springer was the runner-up and is a fifth grader from VES.

Way to go Badger Wrestler!! They placed third at state and set a State Pin Record! Triston Eklund placed third; Cameron Perrett placed fourth; Jacob Hand and Kaden Holloper each placed fifth; Bryan Siger and Nate OKief each placed sixth. Other teammates included: Jake Fulton, Trevor Bukaske, Lance Hockenberry, Hailson Pauman, and Nick Ormesher. Congratulations Badgers!

March
Cody-Kilgore's eighth grade reading class created a fun blog that reflects their personal thoughts and dreams. You'll be amazed at their thoughts. Stories were shared throughout the rest of the year from some of the students who did a fabulous job. Students included: Dali O'Neill, Kenley Schneider,

Society were King Dick Hand and Queen Twyla Kelley, Prince Chuck Lake and Princess Hazel Brown, Duke Craig Thornton and Duchess Mary Jane West.

It was a sweet Valentine's Day weekend for the Valentine Bulldogs as they'll end 11 grapplers to NSAA State Championships!

North Star Services crowns Trish Kamler and Michael Billings as King and Queen during their 40th anniversary.

The City Council approved the engineering plan on a \$5.4 million Storm Sewer project.

The Valentine Berean Bible Church welcomed Pastor Scott McCall and his wife, Keri.

Jordan Kruger participated in the Special Olympics basketball games in Minden and won first in his division.

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Tyee Stoner, Erin Cheney, Shaylyn Henry, Kaitlin Keating, Sydney Adamson, and True Ford.

Ag land values up five percent statewide in 2013. Overall, the average statewide farmland value rose by about five percent, as of February 1, 2014, to \$3,196 per acre.

Farmland values in recent years have increased sharply with an overall increase in 2013 of 25 percent, which followed increases of 22 and 32 percent in the two previous years, leaving the 2013 all-land value more than double the value in early 2010.

Record high livestock prices translated into strong increases seen throughout the state for pasture and rangeland.

Earning Winter Academic All-State honors were Shaniya DeNeyer, Brianna Bussinger, Josh Arment, Trevor Bukaske, Sydney Dunn and Braxton Coleman.

Earning Southwest Conference honors were Brooke Coleman, Quinn Conner, Brittney O'Kief, and Emily Perrett.

Sandhills Leadership completed its 18th year as a youth leadership program with the first ever Sandhills Leadership Entrepreneurial Fair in Valentine on March 12. The mission was to develop awareness of rural revitalization issues, and develop personal leadership, community action, and entrepreneurial skills in Sandhills area youth.

Third quarter Badger Effort award winners included: Allison Hirschbeck, Devon Omes, Ethan Gehlsen, Reganne Schruink, Aleah Jacobs, Jordan Kelber, Stephanie Stone and Trinity Shipley.

The Niobrara Valley Preserve has controlled burns to reduce fuel loads which will result in reduced risk and severity of mega fires; healthier grasses in the spring which will keep our cattle/wildlife

healthier in the long run; to save money; to reduce the encroachment of invasive plants and eastern red cedar, and finally, to teach a new generation about controlled fire.

April
DeMoine Adams, a former UNL Husker stopped by VMS. No ordinary visit, DeMoine wanted to motivate the students. He's been involved in the TeamMates program that Tom Osborne helped to establish. Adams has a reputation for turning ordinary people into extraordinary leaders by emphasizing the values of building positive relationships, creating an environment of principles, and embracing the role of a leader.

Governor Heineman started the Ag Day tour in Valentine with the VHS FFA students.

Let your voice be heard!! It's election time!!

Cody-Kilgore takes first place in Division II at NPEC's Inter-High/TECH Skills Competitions. Participating were Cody Trump, Ivan Ruffell, Austin Wolg, Wyatt Galloway, Walker Wolff, Soltyson Yi, and Sabine van Haaren.

Cody-Kilgore National Honor Society held a career fair with numerous professionals and colleges who visited the high school to speak with students on future career options.

Heart City Bull Bash Goes Red for Women donates \$10,000 to Cherry County Hospital Foundation. Cherry County Hospital Administrator Brent Peterson said, "Our intent is to use this donation for cardiac-related equipment, it allows us to stay current and up grade."

Mixing Easter eggs! Another Good Friday surprises spring up around Valentine. A tree located at 117 Eighth Street was covered in colorful Easter eggs! Another colorful surprise had the residents

behind the Seventh Day Adventist Church marveling! The abundant yucca flowers from the previous year had been painted brightly; reds, blues, yellow and orange. They weren't painted willy-nilly - each seed head was colored a different color. A miracle? Artistic families or neighbors?

Happy Easter!! April 20th! Thank you Jesus for paying the price for our sins so that we may live with you for eternity!

Cody experiences a birth with Circle C Market! Then is invited to Washington, D.C., to share their story to the White House Rural Council forum.

Taking first place at State PFA is the Agriscience Fair Team of Owen Hanson and Clint Miller. They placed first in the Power, Structural and Technical Systems - Division IV and qualified for national competition at the National PFA Convention in October. Brittney O'Kief, Shayenne Long and Bailey Dexter earned their State PFA Degrees.

Boys and Girls State confidantes from Valentine and Cody-Kilgore included: Sarah Barnes, Wyatt Galloway, Gillian Cheney, Wyatt Schneider, Sydney Dunn and Kyle Johnson. Congratulations!

No change proposed for city sales tax initiative to include three parts: 75 percent to go toward reducing property tax; 25 percent to go toward economic development; and the third portion, 50 percent to be used for proposed projects including expanding Mid Plains Community College and creating a municipal golf course on city owned land.

With fluctuating weather, snow, balminess, and all that brings spring we'll get into May next week. That means graduation. Mother's Day, and all that's good!

Healthy Choices!

VMS learns about consequences

-see pg. 7

Looking forward to...

New bills in the Legislature!

-see pg. 10

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