

# 93rd Sons and Daughters Banquet held

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

On the eve of the 150th birthday of the State of Kansas, the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas honored two great Kansans, Deanell Reece Tacha and Sheila Bair, during their 93rd Annual Banquet on Friday, January 28 in the Sunflower Ballroom, Maner Conference Center, 17th and Western, Topeka.

A large and enthusiastic crowd of 560 people was present for the event, which focused on the presentation of the "Kansan of the Year" honor to United States Federal Judge Tacha and the presentation of the "Distinguished Kansan of the Year" award to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Bair.

Both presentations were by Kansas' 46th Governor Sam Brownback.

Presiding over the banquet and ceremonies were the honorable K. Gary Sebelius, Topeka and a native of Norton, who was this year's Native Sons President, and Carol Nazar, Andover, this year's Native Daughters President.

John Pinegar, Topeka, Executive Director, was instrumental in this year's production.

Born in Goodland and raised in Scandia, Tacha was appointed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals by President Ronald Reagan in 1985. She was Chief Judge for seven years.

Judge Tacha received the American Judicature Society's Devitt Award, the highest honor given to a federal judge for distinguished lifetime service.

A graduate of the University of Kansas, Tacha is a recipient of the KU Alumni Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion for extraordinary service to the university and has also received its most prestigious award, the Distinguished Service Citation.

She taught at the Kansas University School of Law, starting in 1974.

Tacha's parents are former Kansas Republican national committeewoman Marynell Dyatt Reece and the late Bill Reece of Scandia. Her husband is John, a native of Jennings. Marynell, John and other relatives were present at the banquet.

Marynell was named Kansan of the Year in 1991.

Tacha said she accepted the Kansan of the Year honor on behalf of all Kansans "before us who have bequeathed us a legacy.

"It's a great legacy that we have inherited," she said.

"I'm so humble to be honored and awed by the past honorees, which include my mother.

"I'm also so touched that Sheila Bair, one of my former students,

is being honored."

She gave credit for her success to her parents when she said, "My mother and father dared us to reach our dreams."

Bair, a native of Independence, was named one of Time Magazine's most influential women in 2009. She oversees the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Washington, D.C. The agency is charged with maintaining the stability of the nation's banking system. Bair has an extensive background in banking and finance in a career that has taken her to the highest levels of government. Since becoming the FDIC chairman, she topped the Wall Street Journal's annual 50 Women to Watch List in 2008 and Forbes Magazine named her the second most powerful woman in the world after German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Bair recently established a new nationwide hotline to help small businesses struggling to access credit.

Bair has received considerable praise for the job she has done helping manage the 2008 mortgage crisis.

"I can't tell you how pleased and honored I am to be with you tonight," Bair told the large crowd. "I am honored to stand alongside my former law professor and early role model, Judge Deanell Reece Tacha.

"She was an unbelievably effective and dynamic teacher but also an early and courageous model of work-life balance. It is not easy to 'have it all' - a career and family - neither emotionally nor physically. But Deanell showed me early on that it could be done with grace and style. Deanell made a lasting impression on me, so much so that as a counsel to Senator Dole, I was among those who proposed and pushed for her candidacy to the Circuit Court of Appeals.

"I have spent most of my life in public service. I chose that career path because I share Senator Dole's view that, 'When it's all over, it's not who you were. It's whether you made a difference'.

"I have an old-fashioned view of government. I believe that you work in government because you want to help people; you want to make a difference. I like to think I have helped people in their daily lives. That is one of the reasons I have found my tenure at the FDIC so rewarding, notwithstanding the severe pressure, long hours and high stakes.

"As the financial system came unglued, people on Main Street knew that the FDIC was there for them, keeping their insured deposits safe. We gave them peace-of-mind and assurance, just as we



Native Sons President Gary Sebelius, a Norton native, welcomed the large crowd that attended the 93rd Annual Banquet of the Native Sons and Daughters in Topeka on Friday, January 28.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Polly Bales, formerly of Logan and now of Lawrence, "tickles the ivories" for the enjoyment of the 560 people who attended the 93rd Annual Banquet of the Native Sons and Daughters in Topeka on Friday, January 28, the eve of the 150th birthday of the State of Kansas. It was the 41st year that Polly has played the piano for this special Kansas occasion!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

have for more than 77 years. By providing that stability, people kept their money in the banks and we avoided the massive bank runs and failures that occurred during the Great Depression. Indeed, less than four percent of insured depository institutions have gone into receivership. And, when they have failed, the FDIC has worked hard to make sure that insured depositors have had virtually seam-

less access to their money."

Bair gave several examples of "government-encouraged risk taking" that led to the financial crisis and said that she would like to see these government policies fixed.

"I fear that if they are not fixed or tempered in some way, they will ultimately again encourage the kind of short-sighted, risky behavior that led us into the financial

crisis, independent of the people involved," she said.

"If government is providing the wrong economic incentives in the first place, regulation is doomed to fail. Only by tackling these problems at their core can we truly correct what went wrong with our financial infrastructure.

"Pointing fingers and assigning blame might make us feel better but it won't solve anything. We need to work together to support government policies that reward behavior which contributes to our long-term economic prosperity. Such policies will reward the virtuous and help prevent the weak or unscrupulous from taking excessive risks at the expense of others. And, in the process, hopefully make better citizens of us all."

#### Letter from Senator Dole

Former Kansas Senator Bob Dole had planned to be present to help honor his two good friends but was unable to do so and sent a letter which was read to the audience by Judge Sebelius.

"I am with you in spirit tonight, celebrating 150 years of Kansas and everything that is distinctly Kansan and honoring, very appropriately, two outstanding individuals who embody all that is good and all that is great about our state.

"My entire life has been inspired by and enriched by the presence of strong women. I am the product of Russell and my mother was another strong woman who believed that 'Can't never could do anything'. There is probably no expression more Kansan than that phrase by which my mother lived and taught her children.

Much of President Eisenhower's pride in America came from Kansas and was learned from primarily his mother, another strong Kansas woman. It is the same spirit that has propelled our two honorees tonight.

"Both women have made us proud and both women have served Americans admirably and with distinction. They have both confirmed our faith in honesty, integrity and hard work, which are attributes of accomplished Kansans, regardless of their political or religious beliefs.

"Judge Tacha has been a friend of mine from the moment I had the opportunity to know her. She is a symbol of strength and decency, a trailblazer for women and the epitome of a just and wise human being. The stature of her legal prowess is surpassed only by her Kansas homegrown values.

"Sheila is my good friend and shining star in her field, one of only a few people, including the president, who was at the helm when our nation needed to be

guided through one of the worst financial crises of the past century. Her poise, knowledge and determination has been praised by the top financial men and women and institutions in America.

"Deanell and Sheila could jointly write a book about our responsibilities to our families, friends, neighbors, our state and our nation. In fact, if they'll write it, I'll write the foreword. I could go on and on about these two wonderful young women."

#### Her piano music a tradition

Polly Bales, formerly of Logan and now of Lawrence, played beautiful piano music prior to the banquet for the 41st year.

Polly received a Citation for Distinguished Service from the Native Sons and Daughters in 2006.

#### Contest winners honored

Winners of the annual Kansas Factual Story Contest and Kansas! Say It Above A Whisper Contest, both essay contests, and the Kansas Youth Art Contest were announced and honored with their prizes.

The Kansas! Say It Above A Whisper Contest is only open to students grades 8-12. The contest title, which deals with pride in the state of Kansas, was coined by early-day Kansas newspaper-woman Mamie Boyd of Mankato and Phillipsburg and her family provides the cash awards.

An honorable mention winner this year was Dakota Wilkison, Phillipsburg.

#### Long history of honoring Kansas

The Native Sons and Daughters were formed to preserve Kansas history, show loyalty to Kansas traditions and honor outstanding citizens of the state. All native-born Kansans are eligible for the \$10 lifetime membership but, if you were not born in Kansas, you may become an associate member for the same price.

You may become a lifetime member by sending \$10 for membership to: Native Sons and Daughters, Box 546, Topeka, KS 66601-0546.

The Native Sons of Kansas was organized May 8, 1901 and the Native Daughters of Kansas was formed on June 28, 1915. The combined groups have met annually since 1918 when the first joint session was scheduled to celebrate Kansas' birthday on January 29.

The organization has recognized Sunflower State Natives as Kansans of the Year since 1955. The Distinguished Kansan of the Year honor has been extended to people not born in the state although the award can be won by natives as it was this year.



Some of the local people who attended the 93rd Annual Banquet of the Native Sons and Daughters on Saturday, January 28 in Topeka enjoyed visiting following the banquet. Caught by the Telegram camera were, from left: Norma Archibald, John Miller, Curt Archibald, all of Norton; Bill Muir, formerly of Norton and now of Manhattan and former President of the Native Sons; Gary Sebelius formerly of Norton and now Topeka, President of the Native Sons; Janene Schneider, Logan, former President of the Native Daughters; Lewjane Schneider, formerly from Logan and now from Maize; Dick Boyd, Norton, former President of the Native Sons, Mary Beth Boyd, Norton.

- Telegram photo by Larry Boyd

## High school art exhibit to start in Logan

The "34th annual High School Art Exhibit" will be at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum from Feb. 11 to March 13. A preview will be on Sunday, Feb. 13, from 1-5 p.m. The preview is open to the public with awards and refreshments.

This year's exhibition will consist of a variety of art forms. There will be displays of wa-

tercolor and tempera, ink and scratch board, oil and acrylic, sculptural and 3-D, pencil and drawing, graphic design, jewelry, ceramics, colored pencil, printmaking, pastel, crayon, charcoal and mixed media. Each school is limited to 50 items including free standing and wall art.

Students strive to create a

piece of art that represents him or her as an artist, whether by personality, creativity, excellence of quality, or even their mood. Some pieces may be a whimsical creation from the artist's own imagination, while others are reproductions of a given lesson.

This annual exhibition speaks highly for our area high school

students and the instructors who sharpen the skills and expand the minds of our youth. School invited to participate in this year's exhibit are Norton, Palco, Stockton, Smith Center, Logan, Phillipsburg, Hill City, Grainfield, Ellis, Osborne, Plainville and Wakeeney.

## Taking pride in the history of Kansas!

### •PUBLIC NOTICE•

Pursuant to 1.101, ch. 279,2

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, February 11, 2011.

#### PURSUANT TO 1.101, ch. 279,2

Results of the market study analysis for Norton County for assessment year 2011.

A study of the residential real estate market indicated that there is an overall inflationary trend of approximately 2-4% per year.

A study of the commercial and vacant lot real estate market indicated that the market is stable with no definitive trend.

Values on specific properties may not follow the general trend because of changes in the property, correction of descriptive information or adjustment of values based on sales of similar properties. In accordance with the provisions in K.S.A. 79-1476, the Division of Property Valuation is required to annually furnish each county the results of its study relating to changes, if any, of the use value of agricultural land. Changes can and do occur as a result of several factors including cropping practices, commodity prices and production costs.

### •PUBLIC NOTICE•

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING  
ALMENA IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO. 5

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, February 11, 2011

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The State of Kansas and the Almena Irrigation District No. 5 to all holders of title or evidence of title as defined in Section 42-701 K.S.A. for and located within the boundaries of the Almena Irrigation District No. 5 who are residents of the State of Kansas, and are otherwise qualified electors, and to all other persons concerned. You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Almena Irrigation District No. 5 will be held in the Irrigation Office in Almena, Norton County, Kansas on the 1st day of March, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. At that meeting one director will be elected and other general business pertaining to the District will be conducted. The polls will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This notice is given pursuant to Section 42-706 (e) K.S.A.

Norman L. Nelson, President  
Almena Irrigation District No. 5

ATTEST:

Craig Ingram, Secretary