



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce the Nebraska performers who have qualified to advance to the 2011 Nebraska State Fair Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals on Saturday, September 3rd, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Contestants will compete on the Bristol Windows Stage at Fonner Park in Grand Island in Three Age Divisions, Comets, Shooting Stars and Novas. The Finals and the Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 4th, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Over \$5,000.00 in cash, prizes, trophies and recording sessions will be awarded.

Thirty Six Contestants Representing Thirty-Two Cities in Nebraska Will Be Competing at the Nebraska State Fair Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals! Two opportunities were presented for contestants to qualify and advance to the 2011 Nebraska State Fair Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals: 1) Enter the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Mail-In Video Contest – Video Entries judged to be the Highest Scoring video performances in Three Age Divisions qualified to register and advance to the Semi-Finals. 2) Enter a Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Partner Nebraska Local Talent Show – Winners became eligible to register and advance to compete in their Age Division at the Semi-Finals.

Highest Scoring Video Winners Advancing to the Nebraska State Fair Semi-Finals: COMETS (12 & Under): Joshua Fernau, *Chadron*; McKenzie Steiner, *Lincoln*; Jessica Vogt, *Omaha*; Madison Kramer, *Hyannis*; Morayah Cupp, *Champion*; Kathleen Juhl, *Shelton*; Logan Becher & Quintessence Indra (Dance), *Leigh*. **SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):** Craig Meier, *Deshler*; Carlie Bauer, *Minden*; Ashton Dugan, *Cozad*; Karly Nitsch, *Boelus*; Kate Lynne Duncan, *Morrill*; Katie Marie Goesch, *Grand Island*; Natalie Plata, *Papillion*; Bailey Bond, *Clarkson*; Jennelle Worick, *North Platte*; Halle Stephens, *Arapahoe*; TAPS Honors Dance Team (Tori Ronspies, Dani Stappert, Jaycee Bradley, Sam Emory, Joell Heng, Jonah Heng, Abby Hupp, Melissa Svitak, Kim Svitak, Andrea Steffen, *Norfolk*; Jed Shermer, Ryan Johnson, *Tilden*). **NOVAS (19 & Over):** Kaylie Wilson, *Omaha*; Justin Hanshew, *Scottsbluff*; Risa Mann, *Burwell*; Ron Grimes, *Central City*; Keith Long, *Oxford*; DaNae Kramer, *Hyannis*; Molly Hutchinson, *Grant*; Alex Fegley & Justin Slafter (Duet), *Grand Island*; Three to Thee (Angela Gill, *Juniata*; Jennifer Bronson, *Hastings*; Ann Auten, *Blue Hill*).

Partner Nebraska Local Talent Show Winners Advancing: STARS AND STRIPES TALENT SEARCH, Hebron Chamber of Commerce: **Nova:** April De Los Santos, *Hebron*; Cheyenna Teitjen, *Hebron*; **Comet:** Cassandra Bruguera, *Lincoln*. SALINE COUNTY COMPETITION, The Crete Lions Club Talent Show: **Shooting Star:** Evan Bartels, *Tobias*. CLARKSON CZECH FESTIVAL TALENT SEARCH: **Shooting Star:** Sydney Zelazny, *Genoa*. THE COUNTRY SHOWDOWN – McCOOK, Hometown Family Radio - KIOD Coyote Country 105.3 FM: **Shooting Star:** Joseph McCarty, *McCook*; **Nova:** Johnny Ray Scott, *McCook*; **Comet:** Lindi Johnston, *McCook*. SEWARD COUNTY AMATEUR TALENT SHOW: **Shooting Stars:** Kayleah Moravec, *Seward*; Shelby Todd, *Staplehurst*; Alyssa Hoeft, *Garland*. COLUMBUS DAYS TALENT SEARCH, Presented by Three Eagles Communications: Competition August 20th; Winner will be announced at a later date.

SONGWRITING CONTEST: The **Top Three Original Songs** of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in no ranking order: “Pray Me Home”, Scott Swagger, *Malcolm*, & Robyn Rae Johnston, *Maywood*; “Today”, Bailey Bond, *Clarkson*; “Ride Cowboy Ride”, Tom Mooberry, *Johnson Lake*. Songwriters will showcase their songs during the Finals Competition on Sunday, September 4th.

Visit www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com, the official website of Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search for more information. The 2011 Nebraska State Fair opens August 27th and will run through Labor Day, September 5th. Visit www.statefair.org for more information about the State Fair.