



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. presented the 13th Annual Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search two day competition at Fonner Park, the Semi-Finals on Saturday, September 2nd and the Finals on Sunday, September 3rd. Since its beginning in 1993, the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search has grown to be the biggest talent search in Nebraska, featuring singers, dancers, instrumentalists, variety acts and songwriters. Twenty-eight acts including forty-one contestants from twenty-six towns across Nebraska competed on the Bristol Windows Stage in the Semi-Finals. All Semi-Finalist Contestants received a Galaxy of Stars® Medal. Songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs showcased their songs during the Finals. Fifteen of the Highest Scoring performances in the Talent Search advanced to the Finals with contestants competing for over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash, trophies & a Nashville Recording Package.

FINALISTS - Fifteen acts, listed in random order, advanced to the Finals:

COMETS (12 & Under) - **Bailey Rogers**, Vocal, *Minden*; **Trinity McMillan**, *Crete*, & **Adysen Zeimann**, *Pleasant Dale*, Group Dance; **Cooper Hogan**, Vocal, *Cortland*.

SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18) - **Taylor Smith**, Vocal, *Kearney*; **Ana Zinnecker**, Vocal, *Martell*; **Morayah Cupp**, Vocal, *Champion*; **Jocelyn Kennicutt**, Vocal, *Gothenburg*; **TAPS Honors Dance Team**: **Isaac Weander**, **Marlee Weidner**, **Kiran Walker**, **Kali Hyde**, *Norfolk*; **Elise Anderson**, Vocal, *Lincoln*; **Liam Barcel & Reagan Gausman**, Group Vocal, *Columbus*.

NOVAS (19 & Over) - **The Ehrkes**, Group Vocal: **Jared Ehrke**, *Lexington*; **Jenna Meyers**, *Eagle*; **Andrea Ehrke**, *Lincoln*; **David Ehrke**, *Alma*; **Carly Cremers**, Variety, *Columbus*; **Andrea Ehrke**, Vocal, *Lincoln*; **Tazalea Scott**, Vocal, *Westerville*; **Johnna Jane**, Vocal, *Gothenburg*.

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR AWARDS AND WINNERS

Cash Awards were presented by Vision Productions, Inc. and the Nebraska State Fair. Trophies and Medals were presented by Awards Plus, Kelly Kava & Michelle Mariani, Grand Island, and Vision Productions, Inc. Nashville Recording Session Packages for Overall Vocalist and 1st Place Songwriter were presented by Mark Allen, Benchmark Productions, Nashville, and Vision Productions, Inc. 2nd Place Songwriter was awarded a Skype Consultation and Song Critique presented by Kirsti Manna, #1 Billboard Hit Writer, Nashville.