



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce the winners of the 2015 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Video Mail-In Contest and winners of local Participating Partner Talent Searches who have qualified to advance to the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, September 5th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Contestants compete live on the Bristol Windows Stage at Fonner Park in Grand Island in Three Age Divisions, Comets, Shooting Stars and Novas. The Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals & Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 6th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Over \$9,000.00, prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions will be presented at the Awards Ceremony following the Finals competition.

2015 GALAXY OF STARS® Talent Search Contestants Qualified to Advance to the Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair:

Highest Scoring Video Contestants Advancing to Semi-Finals:

COMETS (12 & Under): **Chloe Blumanthal**, Vocal, *Alliance*; **Morayah Cupp**, Vocal, *Champion*; **Joshua Fernau**, Vocal, *Chadron*; **Raegan Gellatly**, Vocal, *Doniphan*; **Tayce Bleich**, Vocal, *Battle Creek*; **Chole Weller**, Vocal, *Kearney*.

SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18): **Payton Cherry**, Vocal, *Monroe*; **Anastasia Zinnecker**, Vocal, *Martell*; **Shelby Stevens**, Vocal, *McCook*; **Sarah Koca**, Vocal, *Hallam*; **Taylor Smith**, Vocal, *Kearney*.

NOVAS (19 & Over): **Ryan Martinez**, Vocal, *Grand Island*; **Carlie Bauer**, Vocal, *Minden*; **Helen Waring Johnson**, Vocal, *Geneva*; **Melissa McBride**, Variety/Baton, *Omaha*; **Arielle Kerkman**, Vocal, *Hastings*.

Participating Partner Talent Search Winners Advancing to Semi-Finals:

Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search: **Alyssa Gurnsey**, Comet, Variety/Gymnastics, *Clarkson*; **Hunter Nathan**, Shooting Star, Vocal/Guitar, *Howells*; **Zombies**, Shooting Stars, Group Dance, *Norfolk*; **Saline County Fair Talent Search - Crete:** **Chelsea Arnold**, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Crete*; **Cyle Loupin**, Nova, Vocal/Guitar, *York*; **Adam Crocker**, Nova, Vocal, *Omaha*; **Mary Stine**, Nova, Variety/Original Poem, *Lincoln*. **105.3 Coyote Country Music Showdown - McCook:** **Laine Overton**, Comet, Vocal, *McCook*; **Taylor Dack**, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Paxton*; **Christopher “Dozer” Lewis**, Nova, Vocal, *McCook*. There is still an opportunity to qualify for the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals: Area talent can enter these upcoming Partner Talent Searches: **High Plains Radio Talent Search - Imperial August 13th, and the Columbus Days Talent Search August 15th**. Visit the Galaxy of Stars® website for details.

SONGWRITING CONTEST: Top Three Original Songs of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in no ranking order: “Do You Know When,” **Audrey Lausterer**, *Papillion*; “Another Year Older,” **Robert DeBusk**, *Eagle*; “An Old Flame,” **Mark Lehl**, *Lincoln*. **Songwriters of the Fourth to Tenth Highest Scoring Original Songs, in no ranking order:** “Darlin’,” **Justin Brandl**, *Humphrey*; “Take A Chance And Pray,” **Danielle Clark**, *Papillion*; “Take Me Back,” **Audrey Lausterer**, *Papillion*; “Fifty Per Cent Off Of Heartbreak,” **Karen Jardine**, *Lincoln*; “Eye To Eye,” **Jacob Sharrer**, *Lincoln*; “Prince Is Coming,” **Riley Rambali**, *McCook*; “Rain,” **Audrey Lausterer**, *Papillion*, and **Skylar Witt-nauer**, *Bellevue*.

Songwriters of the Top Three Highest Scoring Original Songs will have an opportunity to showcase their songs on Sunday, September 6th at the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on the Bristol Windows Stage from 6:00 - 9:00 PM at Fonner Park in Grand Island. Songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs will be presented with prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions. Medals will be presented to songwriters of the Top Ten Original Songs.

The 2015 Nebraska State Fair opens August 28th and will run through Labor Day, September 7th.

Visit www.statefair.org and www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com for more information.

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