

Recommended Services Are Advised For A Reason

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
I own a 2008 Honda Civic with 33,000 miles. I have regularly changed the oil and rotated its tires. I also have replaced the air filter on one occasion. Is there any reason for me to succumb to the pressures of the Honda dealer that services my vehicle and have the 30,000-mile service, or am I just better off continuing to change the oil and rotate the tires? Thanks.



CLICK & CLACK

— Seth
RAY: I've never heard the word "succumb" used to describe getting your car serviced, but I can see that you're skeptical about the dealer's intentions, Seth.

TOM: You're right that the oil and filter change account for most of the actual mechanical work done on this car during the 30,000-mile service. But Honda does call for a number of inspections. And you'd be wise to have those done.

RAY: Honda says that on a 2008 Civic, at 30,000 miles you should inspect the brakes, brake lines, suspension components, steering components and drive boots.

TOM: And while nothing is likely to be wrong with the major components of the car, you might need brake pads, for instance. And it would be good to know that before you gouge the disc rotors and "succumb" to a complete \$600 brake job.

RAY: Similarly, your rubber drive boots (we call them constant velocity, or CV, boots) should be fine. But if you happened to have run over a sharp object and torn one of them open, you'd want to get the boot replaced for 75 bucks before all the grease leaked out and you "succumbed" to a seized CV joint for several hundred dollars.

TOM: But if you have reason not to trust your dealership, you don't have to succumb to it. You can succumb to any mechanic you choose, dealer or independent. Simply take your Honda owner's manual with you, and open it to the section in the back where it lists the items that Honda recommends at each service.

RAY: Then ask your mechanic to do all of the things on the 30,000-mile list, including the inspections. And ask him to stamp and sign the book. That way, if you ever have a warranty claim or want to sell the car, you'll have proof that you kept up with the regular services.

TOM: Just keep in mind that the real value of the regular service to the dealership, and to other shops, is that it gives them the opportunity to sell you other things that you might not need at 30,000 miles, like new transmission fluid, new spark plugs or — oh yeah — that air filter someone talked you into.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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YMS Students Hit Hard By Cuts

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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While the adult community of Yankton was buzzing with the news that many Yankton School District teachers were informed that their contracts would not be renewed for next year, a forgotten segment was also being heard from — the students.

At approximately 4 p.m. Thursday, many parents in Yankton received frantic phone calls from their children telling them that their teachers were being cut. The phone calls and talking did not end with their parents: It continued into the night between students at Science Olympiad meetings, at sporting practices, on the phone and across the Internet — "Did you hear that so and so was cut?"

"It was so sad," Alexis Sejnoha, a Yankton Middle School student said Friday. "The teachers were in the hallway crying. The students were crying. It isn't fair and we don't like it. But we don't know what we can do either."

It was announced Friday that 22 teachers — three at the high school, six at the middle school, four at Lincoln Elementary, four at Beadle Elementary, three at Stewart Elementary and two at Webster Elementary — had received notices that they would not be offered contracts for next school year. In addition, four positions will not be filled that are being vacated by teachers leaving the district.

Sejnoha, Kierra Schaffer and Talitha Greaver each received permission from their parents to talk with the *Press and Dakotan* about what the students at YMS are talking about.

"They are telling teachers that they are not going to get their jobs back for next year, and that really angered us," Schaffer said.

Sejnoha added, "They are cutting funding for our sports and stuff, too. So not only are they taking away some of our favorite teachers, but they are taking away our activities, as well."

"This affects our education," Greaver said. "The classes are going to get bigger. There will be less one-on-one time, which will make it harder on us."

When asked how the staff at the middle school handled being informed during the school day about the cuts, the middle schoolers were very upset.

"I don't think it is fair that they told the teachers during the day," Schaffer said. "It didn't even give them time to respond. I would have told them after school today, so they would have had the weekend to get used to the idea. Not, come in, pull them out of class and tell them that way. You just can't do that."

Beyond their frustration at how the teachers were informed, they felt that the staff of the school was doing a good job of telling them what was going on.

"A lot of the teachers are saying that they really don't feel



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D
Yankton Middle School students Talitha Greaver, Kayti Marlette, Kierra Schaeffer and Alexis Sejnoha shared their thoughts of how the proposed cuts to the Yankton School District will affect them on Friday.

comfortable saying much," Greaver said. "They told us that there are teachers that will be cut. They are telling us to use the terms 'cut' or 'laid off.' — that the teachers are not being fired, that they didn't do anything wrong."

"In Mrs. (Cheryl) Schaeffer's class today, she said she would not specifically talk about what was going on, but that she would answer any questions we asked," Sejnoha said. "I asked what exactly is going on and she said, 'There is a teacher from every subject area being cut, like a language arts teacher, a science teacher, a resource teacher.'"

Just as with many adults in the community, the students wanted to know what they could do and where they could find out answers about what is going on.

"We wanted everyone to know that we really are upset and really care for the teachers," Sejnoha said. "We started a petition that I think everyone has signed, just saying we support our teachers. We are not sure what we are going to do with it, maybe give it to the principal or take it to the school board."

Beyond the petition, the middle school students say they are planning a car wash and a bake sale.

"We know that there is no way we could raise enough money to get the teachers their jobs back," Schaffer said. "But we can give it to the teachers who lost their jobs. We can help."

While each of the students said they had heard rumors that the cuts and opt-out the district is facing were possible, they didn't really pay attention to the information.

"We heard about it, but it was not real," Sejnoha said. "Now it is real. This affects us. This affects our lives. We are paying attention now."

AAA Debunks Gas-Saving Urban Legends

SIoux FALLS — Gasoline prices have remained steady over the last ten days across South Dakota, according to AAAFuelGaugeReport.com. The South Dakota average for self-serve regular is \$3.549 per gallon and \$3.551 a gallon across the country.

There is no guarantee this trend will continue, so many drivers are changing their habits and seeking ways to save money at the pump.

However, cash-strapped and stressed-out motorists should be leery of some fuel conservation and money saving tips that are being offered. AAA South Dakota is debunking the latest myths, urban legends, fables, and old wives' tales about saving fuel and money at the pump.

• MYTH NO. 1: Boycotting filling stations one day a week will cause the oil companies to lower fuel prices.

False: This one makes the rounds via email chains and is a favorite of Facebook users every time pump prices soar. Unless you stop driving your car altogether, you are merely postponing the inevitable. "The United States consumed about 137.93 billion gallons (or 3.28 billion barrels) of gasoline in 2009," according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

That works out to a daily average of about 388 million gallons or 8.99 million barrels, the EIA notes. Unless we curb our addiction to gas, it's a matter of "pay me now or pay me later" at the filling station. At today's price level, we are spending about 1.4 billion dollars a day nationwide on fuel purchases.

• MYTH NO. 2: Additives and products improve fuel efficiency

False: AAA has found that these products do not work. Avoid speeding, rapid acceleration and



braking to lower gas mileage. This can translate to a savings of 15 cents to \$1 per gallon, according to the Department of Energy.

• MYTH NO. 3: Driving the most fuel-efficient car in your driveway will save you an extra \$4,240 in fuel costs over five years.

True: Assuming one car gets 20 MPG and the other gets 30 MPG, and you drive 15,000 miles a year. With a fuel cost of \$3.55, you will save that much over the five-year period. The average cost of owning and operating a sedan rose 4.8 percent to 56.6 cents per mile during 2009, according to the 2010 edition of AAA's annual "Your Driving Costs" study. That's \$8,487 per year, based on 15,000 miles of annual driving.

The cost of owning and operating a small sedan, again based on driving 15,000 miles per year, was \$6,496. Annually, it was \$10,530 for a large sedan, \$9,301 for a minivan, and \$11,085 for a 4WD SUV, the study showed. But that was based on an annual cost of regular unleaded at \$2.603. It's much higher now.

• MYTH NO. 4: Trading your gas-guzzling SUV or large sedan for a more fuel-efficient compact or hybrid vehicle makes more money or economic sense.

False: It is "cheaper to keep her," as the old saying goes. Unless your car note is already paid off, you are simply accumu-

lating more consumer debt. "About 82 percent of new car loans today have terms of 60 to 77.9 months," according to a study by J.D. Power and Associates.

Therefore, most Americans are "upside down" or "underwater" in their car loans, meaning, as borrowers, they still owe more money on the car loan than the vehicle is really worth. The average owed at trade-in is \$4,221 more than the vehicle is worth, one study shows. If you trade-in your vehicle, the dealer will simply roll the old loan into the new loan, increasing your debt load. Plus, when fuel is high, the trade-in value for a gas-guzzler falls.

• MYTH NO. 5: Premium-grade gasoline is better than regular gasoline.

It depends. Depending upon where you fill-up, premium is 18 cents to 25 cents higher than regular blend. It's tempting to switch to save a fistful of dollars. But your owner's manual is your Bible. Follow it to see what blend your car really needs. Back in 1988, 15 percent of passenger cars sold in the US required premium. Today, premium gas accounts for about nine percent of the gas sold in America today.

Here's the catch. Some vehicles, but not all, operate just fine burning regular-grade gas. There's

a world of difference between "recommended" and "required." That's often not the case with many sports and luxury models. The fact is, engines with higher compression ratios need more octane. Ask yourself, is the \$4 you save per fill-up worth the engine knocking?

• MYTH NO. 6: Set the fuel nozzle on the lowest setting to get more fuel and less air/vapor in your tank

True: Station nozzles are designed so that little air/vapor takes the place of the gas you're pumping. If you wish to have a fuller tank, pump more slowly. However, you'll still have to pay for it.

• MYTH NO. 7: Over-inflating tires will improve fuel efficiency. False: Over-inflating tires does not improve fuel efficiency, tire makers and highway safety experts, including AAA, say. It merely results in tires wearing more quickly and having less traction on the road. Improve fuel economy by maintaining the recommended pressure.

• MYTH NO. 8: A vehicle uses more fuel to shut down/restart than to leave idle.

False: When a vehicle is running but not moving, it is achieving negative miles per gallon. In addition, a warm engine uses minimal fuel to shut down and restart. If you're stopping for longer than a minute, it's a good idea to shut down your vehicle.

SHRINER'S CLINIC SHINES



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Jean Merz, RN, who is director of education at the Shriners Burn Hospital in Cincinnati, is shown the latest advancements in burn care during the annual Shriners' burn clinic workshop, held this week at JoDeans in Yankton. Approximately 210 student nurses, emergency technicians and nurses attended the event. The event was hosted by the Lewis and Clark Shrine Club and was sponsored by Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital, the Yankton Medical Clinic and Hy-Vee.



Stephanie Ann Stech and Robert Thomas Hunhoff announce their engagement.

Parents of the couple are Marvin and Mary Beth Stech of Osmond, NE, and Thomas and Lois Hunhoff of Yankton, SD.

The bride graduated in 2007 from Osmond High School. She is currently an Elementary Education major at Mount Marty College. She will graduate in May 2011.

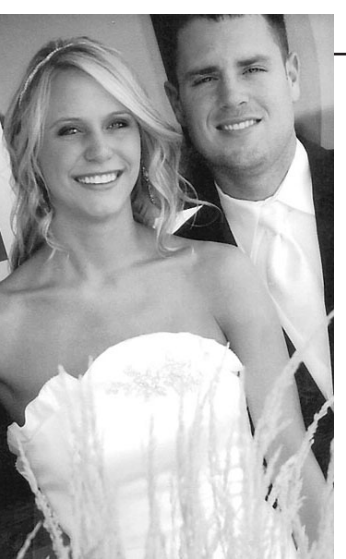
The groom is a 2005 graduate of Yankton High School. He graduated from the University of Montana at Billings in 2007. He is currently employed at Northtown Automotive as a Sales Professional.

The couple is planning a July 2, 2011, wedding in Osmond, NE.



Lola Harens
Candidate for
City Commission
City & School Election
April 12th

Paid for by Lola Harens



Cameron-Goeken

Abby Cameron and Adam Goeken were married August 14, 2010, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, with Pastor Tim Thies and Father Chuck

Cimpl officiating. Honor attendants were Angela Cameron and Luke Kathol. Attendants were Lanie Severson, Nathan Goeken, Erica Limoges, Aaron Goeken, Angela Hill, Shane Hamilton, Shannon Lee, Eric Pollard, Jessica Goeken, and Riley Laber. Flower girls were Lily and Maisy Tadlock; ring bearers were Peyton Brust and Anthony Erickson.

The couple lives in Yankton. The bride is the Sleep Disorders Lab Coordinator at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital. The groom is an Agricultural Loan Officer at First Dakota National Bank.

Parents of the couple are Jon and Mary Cameron of Sioux Falls, and John and Susan Goeken of Utica, SD

PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN GILT DEVELOPER

The Maschhoffs, a leader in the pork industry, is looking for a full-time **Breed-to-Wean Production Technician** to work in our farm near Pierre, SD.

Responsibilities:

- Daily animal care and feeding, and monitoring of the barn environment.
- Assist in the movement of animals and sorting according to body condition.
- Administer medications and vaccines, and perform building/equip maintenance.

Requirements:

- High school diploma / GED equivalent with 1 year livestock experience preferred.
- Excellent animal husbandry skills and able to lift, push or pull at least 50 pounds.
- Ability to handle exposure to dust, noise, odors and temperature extremes.
- Available to work every other weekend.

The Maschhoffs offers competitive wages and exceptional benefits.
Apply online at www.TheMaschhoffsJobs.com
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**Happy 40th
Wedding
Anniversary**

**Charles
& Victoria
Barron**

April 9, 2011

*Together they have found a friendship,
raised a family, and built a beautiful marriage.*



**Mr. and Mrs.
Joseph Sedlacek**

The children and grandchildren of Joseph W. and Jane T. (Hamilton) Sedlacek joyously announce their parents' 40th Wedding Anniversary. After being introduced by family members a year earlier, Joe asked Jane to marry him on May 28, 1969 prior to shipping out to Vietnam...and she said "Yes." They were married nearly two years later on April 16, 1971, at St. Michaels Catholic Church in Tyndall following Joe's service to his country. A reception and dance hosted by their parents,

Louis and Clara Sedlacek and Larry and Marcielle Hamilton followed at Groveland Park in Tyndall. The couple have been blessed with four children, Joni (Jason Weber) of Shawnee KS, Joe Jr. (Jennifer Diede) Scotland SD, Jason (Carrie Pohlen) Yankton SD, Jeni (Philip Richmond) Tehachapi CA and 12 precocious grandchildren; Samantha, Tristan, Christopher, Sydney, Olivia, McKensie, Tanner, Chloe, Max, Madeline, Presley, and Natalie. In 1977, Joe and Jane's young family made their home on the Sedlacek family farm located at Vodnany, where they still reside today. Joe retired from Wilson Trailer in 2010 and Jane retired from Alcoa in 2006. Still young and not really ready to retire, both have taken on new endeavors. Joe is currently working for his son, Joe Jr., at the Scotland Redi-Mix, and Jane is the Memorial Planning Consultant at Tyndall Memorial.

Joe and Jane's children and grandchildren invite you to join them in celebrating and honoring their parent's remarkable milestone. On Saturday, April 16, 2011, they will be hosting a Social Hour and Dance at 7 pm in the Scotland VFW. This celebration is open to the public.