

Life In Poetry

Poet Writes About Magic Of Sandhill Cranes

BY TED KOOSER
 U.S. Poet Laureate

This column originates in Nebraska, and our office is about two hours' drive from that stretch of the Platte River where thousands of sandhill cranes stop for a few weeks each year. Linda Hogan, one of our most respected Native writers and Writer in Residence for The Chickasaw Nation, perfectly captures their magic and mystery in this fine poem.

THE SANDHILLS

The language of cranes we once were told is the wind. The wind is their method, their current, the translated story of life they write across the sky. Millions of years they have blown here on ancestral longing, their wings of wide arrival, necks long, legs stretched out above strands of earth where they arrive with the shine of water, stories, interminable language of exchanges descended from the sky and then they stand, earth made only of crane from bank to bank of the river as far as you can see the ancient story made new.

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Locals

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"I was talking with some other runners, and we all said, 'That doesn't sound good,' but we didn't know what it was. We were just perplexed as to what it could be," Holahan said. "Then when someone said there was an explosion at the finish line, I think, with all of us, the first thought was terrorism."

She said her first concern was getting to her husband and son, who were supposed to be at the family meeting area.

"At first, it was just weird. That's the only way I can describe it," Holahan said. "I wasn't really scared at that point, because I didn't allow myself to go there."

Before she made it to the family area, she received a phone call from her son.

"He was so happy to hear my voice," she said. "They were really traumatized because they didn't know where I was."

Holahan eventually reached her family and went to a nearby coffee shop to regroup. Since cell phone calls had been shut down for the area to prevent remote detonations of explosives, the family texted their loved ones to let them know they were unharmed.

One of the first people Holahan texted was her mother, Dorothy Saylor, who lives in Yankton.

"I was terrified when I first heard about it," Saylor said. "But then I calmed down. I really think it was God talking to me. Almost instantly I felt calm, and I knew they were OK."

Those feelings were then confirmed when she received the message from Holahan.

"I'm so thankful they're OK," Saylor said. "We live in a scary world, and my prayers go out to those other people that were killed and had devastating injuries."

Matt Dewald, a 2001 graduate of Yankton High School, placed 20th in the marathon with a time of 2:19.35 (net).

However, Dewald said the joy he felt after his first time participating in the marathon was quickly dampened by news of the tragedy.

"It's sickening," he stated. Dewald, who now lives in Denver, said he had finished the race and was about a mile away from the explosion.

"The city has an eerie feeling

"I was terrified when I first heard about it. But then I calmed down. I really think it was God talking to me. Almost instantly I felt calm, and I knew they were OK."

DOROTHY SAYLER

right now," he said from his hotel room. "All traffic is heading away from the marathon. The only traffic going toward it is emergency response vehicles."

Since news of the explosions broke, Dewald said he had remained in his hotel room communicating with loved ones. He didn't know if it would be possible to fly out of Boston today (Tuesday) as planned.

"Pray for all the victims," he stated. "This shouldn't happen at an event like this."

Holahan referred to the day as "strange," noting that she got to see two extremely different sides of people in such a short amount of time.

"The people of Boston are amazing. They love this event and really opened their arms to the runners. I felt so much love and encouragement from all the people cheering," she said. "And then when this happened, it was all twisted. I got to see that really good side of humanity, and then the really bad side."

Holahan said that while it is important to remember and honor the people who were hurt in Monday's explosions, she hopes people remember the bright side of the day, as well.

"It's a shame that the amazing work of thousands of people is overshadowed by the terrible acts of a few," she said.

Mount Marty cross country coach Randy Fischer, who ran the Boston Marathon in 1980 and is a large fan of the event, agreed.

"It's such a shame that people got hurt at an event like that. It's supposed to be about competition and fun," he said. "It's something that should never happen."

Parking Brake Can Wear Out

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

I'm looking to resolve a brake discussion between me and my dad. Do you think you two can help? My car is a 1996 Honda Accord, four-cylinder, five-speed. I understand that the emergency brake is designed for emergency situations, such as when the usual braking power is not enough to stop the vehicle or the braking has failed completely ... hence the name "emergency brake." However, is the emergency brake able to be used slowly to help stop the vehicle daily? Does pulling back on the brake handle one click at a time to help slow the vehicle harm the braking system or present any danger? Many thanks. —Todd

RAY: We're guessing that you're the "brake puller" in this family, Todd. You're probably doing this because you think it's an easy way to prolong the life of your regular brakes. But you may be surprised to know that the hand brake is actually designed for parking, not stopping. Hence its real name, the "parking brake."

TOM: It used to be called the "emergency brake," but after several car companies got sued because it didn't stop the car in an emergency, car company lawyers forced them to change the name to the more accurate "parking brake."

RAY: It's really not designed to stop a moving car; it's designed to keep the car stopped once it's parked, so that it doesn't roll away if



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

the transmission or clutch fails.

TOM: There are two primary types of parking brakes. One type uses the same brake pads that your brake pedal actuates, although the parking brake uses only the brakes on the two rear wheels, rather than all four wheels.

RAY: So, in that situation, you're not saving your brakes at all — you're just applying them differently. In fact, if you have a pull-up parking brake like your Accord has, you'll stretch and, eventually, break the parking brake cables if you use them that way every day.

TOM: The other type of parking brake employs its own, separately housed drum brakes on the rear wheels. Using those brakes will provide some additional braking. However, these parking brakes are not very robust, can be hard to access and can be very expensive

to replace. So you may save \$3 worth of brake pads in a year and cost yourself a \$300 parking-brake job.

RAY: Either way, it's not a good idea to use the parking brake for day-to-day stopping. Now, in an emergency, if your regular brakes aren't working, you absolutely should try the parking brake. I mean, why not? You've got nothing to lose. And if it's in good working condition, it might actually help you avoid a collision.

TOM: But it's not designed to stop a car that's traveling at speed. So you can't count on it for that. And using it for that purpose every day will mean it's less able to do its real job: keeping your car from rolling into some mobster's Cadillac when you forget to park it in gear. And if you think brake pads are expensive, try new knees.

Stop the madness! You can stop driving like a knucklehead, and you'll help your car in the process. Learn how your driving habits can harm your car in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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Benefit

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urday in the Father Cronin Center at St. Leo's Catholic Church, Tyndall. In addition, many local businesses have donated items for the 5:30 p.m. live auction. Donations can also be made at any Wells Fargo Bank in the Trase Malatare dedicated account.

Jennifer Malatare also sees the fundraiser as a chance to educate the public about her son's disease.

NF is a genetic disorder, not cancer, and spreads aggressively. Neither Fabian nor Jennifer knows of NF in their family, which adds to the mystery surrounding the disease.

There is no known cure, but treatments can make Trase's life better. He currently has tumors on both optic nerves and a tumor near the hormone center of the brain. He needs the treatment to slow or stop the growth of the tumors and to keep his remaining eyesight. In addition, Trase has shown signs of brittle bones.

Jennifer, a former nurse, has soaked up as much information as possible on the disease.

Fabian, who doesn't have the medical background, said he allows his wife to take the lead on asking questions about their son and his condition.

"I'm more overwhelmed by half the stuff going on," Fabian said. "They gave us all a thick folder to read. They need to dumb it down for a country boy like me."

He may not know all of the medical terminology, but Fabian knows the pain of watching his son slowly die. Each family member — the Malatares also have two sons and

a daughter, all teenagers — deals with Trase's condition in different ways.

"I have just accepted it," Fabian said, acknowledging moments of anger and some depression.

The family agrees on one thing, Fabian said. "We want to make Trase's life, what he has, as enjoyable as possible," he said.

Trase's enjoyment includes his love for music. He showed off his ability on the ukulele, and he also plays drum, keyboard, guitar, harmonica and maracas.

The boy enjoys all types of music, ranging from classic rock and roll to country and gospel, Fabian said. "He even likes 'Simple Man' by Lynyrd Skynyrd," the father said.

Trase's laughter and romp through the house brings moments of joy. However, the family knows tough moments remain.

The next trip to the Mayo Clinic will include a number of tests and brain mapping. Scheduled procedures will come close to the optic nerve regulating his sight and the hormone center that regulates testosterone and triggers puberty.

Trase may also undergo chemotherapy, used on 80 percent of NF1 patients, Jennifer said.

"They attempt to slow or stop the tumor growth for up to five years, but it doesn't prevent the growth of new tumors," she said.

The family has chosen to allow one round of chemotherapy for Trase. If the process doesn't slow down the tumors, they plan to stop the procedure rather than make the boy endure more rounds.

"It wouldn't be any way for a 4-year-old child to live," Fabian said.

The Malatares' daughter, 16-year-old Alexi, accompanies Jen-

"We aren't harboring false hopes. If we did, it would kill me. We choose to look at the reality of the situation."

JENNIFER MALATARE

nifer on the trips to Rochester. Alexi, a junior at Bon Homme High School in Tyndall, has arranged to complete her class assignments ahead of time or take courses online while away from home.

Alexi has remained an "A" student and active in extracurricular activities even with the extended absences, Jennifer said. Because of her experiences with Trase, Alexi wants to become an attorney and affect change for children.

"I talked to Alexi about not going with me (to the Mayo Clinic), but she won't miss the trips," Jennifer said. "By the time we reach the last day of a treatment, my daughter and I are emotionally and physically wiped out. She keeps most things together. She's my rock, and she's only 16."

With the help of Trase's case study, researchers are seeking to find answers to NF1, Jennifer said. However, time is running out, as NF1 patients generally don't live beyond puberty, she said.

"We aren't harboring false

hopes. If we did, it would kill me," she said. "We choose to look at the reality of the situation."

Jennifer said she didn't anticipate having Trase at age 42. "But God had different plans, and (Trase) has been a blessing," she said.

Even if his own life becomes short, Trase will touch countless others, Jennifer said.

"Trase is on some kind of journey, whether it's to educate people (about NF1) or to help other kids with this disease," she said. "I'm not sure where it will take us, but we're all on this journey."

For more information about the fundraiser, visit Facebook for Trase George Malatare's Benefit Page. For more information on NF1, visit The Children's Tumor Foundation online at ctf.org.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

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 7:40 am Sacred Heart School Gala (Tim McCaffrey)
 8:20 am Price Foundation (Mary Walkes)
 8:45 am Dakota Museum (Crystal Nelson)

Wednesday, April 17
 7:40 am Optimist Club (Lisa Berry, Anna Cook)
 8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

What If?

The first step to being prepared for severe weather is knowing when it's about to hit.

If you have a weather radio in your home you'll have advance warning when severe weather is heading toward you.

The Press & Dakotan and both locations of Kopetsky's Ace Hardware will be giving away a weather radio (\$34.99 value) to two lucky readers.

Just fill out the entry form and drop it at either of the two Kopetsky's Ace Hardware locations: 2404 Broadway or 103 W. 3rd St. by Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

A winner will be drawn from each location and announced on the Severe Weather Awareness page running in the April 22 Press & Dakotan in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Dakota.

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