

Life In Poetry

Poet Examines Afterlife And Immortality

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

There are people who believe that the afterlife exists in how we are remembered by the living, that we are rewarded or punished in the memories of people who knew us. Writing is a means of keeping memories fresh and vivid, and in this poem Judson Mitcham, a Georgia poet, gives his father a nudge toward immortality.

WRITING

But prayer was not enough, after all, for my father. His last two brothers died five weeks apart. He couldn't get to sleep, had no appetite, sat staring. Though he prayed, he could find no peace until he tried to write about his brothers, tell a story for each one: Perry's long travail with the steamfitters' union, which he worked for; and Harvey—here the handwriting changes, he bears down—Harvey loved his children.

I discovered those few sheets of paper as I looked through my father's old Bible on the morning of his funeral. The others in the family had seen them long ago; they had all known the story, and they told me I had not, most probably, because I am a writer, and my father was embarrassed by his effort. Yet who has seen him as I can: risen

in the middle of the night, bending over the paper, working close to the heart of all greatness, he is so lost.

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Rummage Sale Planned In Vermillion

VERMILLION — The Main Street Center in Vermillion will host a rummage sale Aug. 30-31 at 320 W. Main St. Hours are 1:30-5:30 p.m. Aug. 30, and 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Aug. 31.

For more information, contact Barb Baisden at 605-624-8072 or 320center@vyn.midco.net.

No School At YSD On Labor Day

There will be no school at Yankton School District 63-3 on Monday, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day.

Classes will resume Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Scheduled

The City of Yankton Parks Advisory Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4, at the Regional Technical Education Center, 1200 West 21st St., Yankton. This meeting is open to the public.

Photography Club Meeting Planned In Yankton

An organizational meeting for the Yankton Area Photography Club will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5, at the Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut Street. Anyone in the area interested in photography is welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Luana at 260-6643 or yapc2012@gmail.com.

Dakota Territorial Museum To Honor YC Woman

Pictures, artifacts and historic memorabilia related to the life of Alice Reynolds Kingsbury, first woman graduate from Yankton College, will be featured at noon on Friday, Sept. 7, at the Dakota Territorial Museum's Brown Bag Lunch.

Located at 610 Summit Street in Yankton, the museum, which has just completed a week-long conservation and collections care consortium for area preservationists, typically celebrates the First Friday of each month with an hour-long presentation which is of particular interest to local residents.

Water

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reservoir system, held hearings on the proposal last week in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri, all states downstream of the reservoirs. Hearings were scheduled for Tuesday in Bismarck, N.D., and Wednesday in Glasgow, Mont.

South Dakota officials have said they believe that at least seven existing cities and water districts would have to begin paying for water under the corps' plan. They are the Randall Community Water District, the Aurora Brule Rural Water System, the B-Y Water District, and the cities of Springfield, Chamberlain, Oacoma and Mobridge.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said the corps plan would violate federal laws that recognize states' rights to control water uses. He has said South Dakota will challenge the proposal in court if the corps goes ahead with the plan.

"While it is neither just nor legal for the corps to demand that we receive permission to use water that naturally flows through our state, it borders on insult to demand that we pay for it," Jackley said in a letter he read at the hearing.

However, Larry Janis, the corps official in charge of the project, said two federal laws require the corps to make contracts with those who use water for municipal and industrial and impose a fee for using the water. The corps is looking at a rule that would apply nationally, he said.

Tips For Hiding Valuables

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

After some locker break-ins at the gym, I started leaving my wallet and phone in the glove box of my Volvo S60. The other day, there was a discussion about this in the sauna. Several people claimed that glove boxes are not safe at all, and can easily be opened by a crowbar. So I ended up getting a little Master Lock 5900D box. It's not very secure and could be broken into. It does have a metal rope chain that I looped through the metal framing in the trunk, so it hangs down. I figure if someone were to break into the car and then discover this in the trunk, they would have to stand in the parking lot, trunk open, with wire cutters. That's too much work for your average thief. Plus, I thought the lock box might be good for travel — especially overseas. Any comments or advice? —Sol

RAY: Well, your sweaty, naked sauna friends are correct that the glove box provides almost no security. Even when locked, most 50-cent glove-box latches can be pulled open with bare fingers — crowbar or no crowbar.

TOM: It's also the first place most thieves look for valuables once they break into a car, because it gives the illusion of security.

RAY: So the trunk is a better bet. It's considerably harder to break into, unless you have a — wait for it — remote trunk release in the passenger compartment! Then, if a thief doesn't



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

find what he wants in the glove box, he can pop the trunk and have a look in there.

TOM: And that's where he'll see your dangling lock box. In general, you're right that by increasing the difficulty of a theft, you make the theft less likely — because thieves are often in what? A hurry!

RAY: But the danger of chaining a lock box so visibly is that you're basically putting a big neon sign on it that says: "Hey! There's Something Really Valuable In Here!!!"

TOM: And then you take the risk that the thief not only will leave with the box (which he can open later, at his leisure, with a diamond-

bladed radial arm saw), but that he'll damage your car in his determination to remove it quickly, and leave you with (a) a broken trunk hinge and (b) no wallet with which to buy a new one.

RAY: So if I were really worried about theft, I'd put my valuables in the trunk, as you do. But I'd just hide them somewhere out of sight. There may be room in the spare-tire compartment, in a toolbox or in a corner behind some less-valuable trunk junk. What you want is for the thief to look quickly, conclude that there's nothing valuable there and leave.

TOM: Or you can clip your phone to your own spare tire and wear it into the sauna, Sol. It's up to you.

Why do unmitigated cheapskates like Tom continue to buy nothing but old clunkers? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's guide "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, 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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Fire

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private residences and permanent fire pits or fire grates located on supervised developed picnic grounds and campgrounds.

Scherschlight added that because of the continuing dry conditions, the county revised the burn ban resolution last week, with some restrictions dependent on the NWS Grassland Fire Danger Index.

"We had it modified because we were afraid things could go south very quickly," he said.

According to the revised resolution, "no person shall set any open fire in Yankton County, outside the boundaries of any municipality, when the National Weather Service has declared the Grassland Fire Danger Index to be in the very high or extreme category in Yankton County."

An open fire is defined as any outdoor fire, including a campfire, that is not contained within a fully enclosed fire box or structure from which the products of combustion are emitted directly to the open atmosphere without passing through a stack, duct or chimney with spark arresters. Open fires do not include charcoal grills, liquid fuel grills, outdoor fireplaces and burn barrels.

While burn barrels are not included in open fires, the burn ban prohibits igniting a fire in a burn barrel when the fire danger index is in the very high or extreme category. Burn barrels are allowed when the index falls below the very high category.

The NWS Grassland Fire Danger Index can be viewed at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lstd/products/rfdisd.php>.

Hanko said wind gusts should decrease enough following Thursday to lower the fire danger, but the forecast continues to call for above average temperatures and dry conditions into September.

"At this point, we are forecasting it to stay in a pretty steady state here," she said. "It's still that hot, dry pattern we've been seeing."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos

City

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rates. Hikes for those services have become a yearly consideration as the city grapples with keeping utility costs affordable for consumers and balancing that desire with the cost of keeping the utility funds out of the red as capital improvements are needed.

A 3 percent increase is being suggested for water and solid waste. For wastewater, the figure is 7 percent.

Viereck said the 7 percent increase for wastewater is for the debt service needed for upgrades to the system.

Last year, the commission approved 3 percent rate hikes for all three utility services.

Although the rates are included

in the annual budget, the City Commission will vote on each utility rate increase at a meeting subsequent to when the budget is approved.

The new rates, if they receive the commission's approval, will take effect in November.

According to Viereck's budget introduction, sales tax revenue is budgeted to increase approximately 5 percent from 2011's projected budget levels and 3 percent from 2012's estimates. Viereck estimates the city will receive approximately \$4,671,212 from sales and use tax in 2013.

Property tax revenue is also projected to increase slightly in accordance with the state-mandated formula. Viereck projects the city will receive approximately \$2,350,023 in property taxes.

In other business Monday, the commission:

- denied a proposal by Ross VanDerhule to construct a single-

family home on an unimproved lot located on the east side of West City Limits Road below the old river bluff. VanDerhule was willing to sign a waiver of protest should the area ever be developed. Under those circumstances, he would have to pay his share for a paved street; curb and gutter (stormwater improvements); sanitary sewer; sidewalks; and other potential improvements.

City ordinance does not allow the development as proposed.

The Planning Commission recommended the proposal be denied, and after a lengthy discussion the City Commission agreed with them via a 5-4 vote; and

- issued a proclamation for United Way Week, which will be Sept. 4-7.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

Prison

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The day shifts use about 60 staff members, including 27 corrections officers, he said. The staffing drops to about 15 at night, when inmates are kept in their rooms, he said.

As part of the process for compiling reforms, the Pew Center for the States has worked with the work group and state officials on compiling statistics on South Dakota's corrections system. The Pew Center will present its data at Thursday's work group meeting, followed by discussion on possible action.

Tieszen anticipates a number of area will be addressed, including South Dakota's treatment of drug offenses, non-violent offenders and the high number of repeat offenders who return to prison shortly after their release. The work group is also looking at the imprisonment rate for women and Native Americans, he said.

"The research is important so we don't just operate off our gut feelings," he said.

State Rep. Larry Lucas (D-Mission), the Corrections Commission vice chairman, said he wants to see methods for preventing imprisonment in the first place and for providing inmates with the skills and services needed to remain out of prison.

State Sen. Jim Bradford (D-Pine Ridge) expressed concern about the high number of Native Americans in the state's prison system.

"The reservation life we live is so much different. You can't fathom it, unless you're in our situation," he said. "If (Native Americans) are moving from a rural area into Rapid City or Sioux Falls, they are moving into a totally different atmosphere."

"I'm not here to seek sympathy for them. I'm here to seek help," he added.

Circuit Judge John Brown, a Corrections Commission member, explained his circuit's program with high intensity supervision for those with drunk-driving convictions,

tions that has helped reduce prison numbers.

At the close of Monday's meeting, Tieszen told Dooley that the work group isn't meant to criticize prison officials.

"We hope the (Department of Corrections) doesn't see this as a threatening move. It's not the tenor of the work group," the legislator said.

Dooley said he welcomed the work group's findings. He added that he enjoyed that afternoon's opportunity to give Corrections Commission members a tour of the prison and its programs, which drew praise from the committee members during Monday's meeting.

"We are open to suggestions," the warden said. "We are always looking for ways to do things better."

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



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