

American Life In Poetry

Race To The New Year

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

Here's a New Year's poem by Judy Ray, who lives and writes in Tucson. I like the way that common phrase, "the turning of a year," has suggested to her the turns in a race track. Her most recent book is *To Fly Without Wings*, (Helicon Nine Editions, 2009).

TURNING OF THE YEAR

We never know if the turn is into the home stretch. We call it that—a stretch of place and time—with vision of straining, racing. We acknowledge each turn with cheers though we don't know how many laps remain. But we can hope the course leads on far and clear while the horses have strength and balance on their lean legs, fine-tuned muscles, desire for the length of the run. Some may find the year smooth, others stumble at obstacles along the way. We never know if the finish line will be reached after faltering, slowing, or in mid-stride, leaping forward.

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Car Talk

What Is Making His Car Go 'Bump'?

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2000 Nissan Maxima, and when I go over a speed bump it makes a "thump" sound when it lands back on the road. The sound comes from the rear, as if something heavy is loose in the back and that makes the sound when it lands after the vehicle comes down from a bump. I have checked the trunk, and everything in the trunk is strapped down. I have taken the car to a few shops, but they have not been able to identify the problem. Can you help me identify the issue and suggest what I can tell a shop to look for?

—Vinnie

Well, it sounds like you've already checked for bowling balls and mothers-in-law rolling around in the trunk, so I'm all out of ideas, Vinnie.

Actually, this is a hard problem to solve without having the car in front of me. But based on your description, my first guess would be that your exhaust system is banging against the underside of the car.

Since your car's been around for more than a decade, I'm guessing that at some point, you replaced the exhaust system. And if you got an aftermarket exhaust, it might not fit as precisely as the original did.



Ray
MAGLIOZZI

That doesn't mean it's not doing its job; it's just that exhaust systems are supposed to bend and curve and rise and fall to fit the exact contours of the underside of each car. And if one of the bends isn't exactly right, that can bring the pipes too close to the bottom of the car, and allow

it to bang against the undercarriage when the suspension fully extends or compresses — which is what happens when you go over a speed bump. Another possibility is that one of the exhaust hangers — the hanging, rubber doughnuts that hold the entire exhaust system in place — has fallen off. That sometimes happens. And that can allow any portion of the exhaust pipe to clank against the bottom of the car, too.

There are other things it could be: A worn-out or broken McPherson strut mount comes to mind first. But it also could be something like a loose sway bar or a bad sway bar mount. Those things tend to make rattling noises more frequently, on bumps of all sizes, not just speed bumps. But I wouldn't

rule them out.

So next time you take your car in for an oil change, ask the mechanic to look at your rear suspension. Maybe he'll see something obvious that's worn out. And have him look at your exhaust system, too. He may see evidence that a pipe's been hitting the underside of the car somewhere. Sometimes you can see where it's been scraping.

But if there's not an obvious fix, like a missing hanger, at least consider leaving it alone. Every time we try to adjust a poorly fitting exhaust system for a customer, we always seem to make it worse. So you've been warned, Vinnie. Good luck.

To buy or not to buy — options, that is. Are options worth what you pay for them, or are you better off just going with the basics? Order Click and Clack's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" to find out. Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Car Talk/Next Car, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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SCHOLASTICS

FIONA DAHLBERG

BATON ROUGE, La. — Fiona Dahlberg of Yankton was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Dahlberg is pursuing a degree in Biology at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Dahlberg is among approximately 32,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine and headquartered in Baton Rouge, La., Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline honor society. The Society has chapters on more than 300 college and university campuses in North America and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

LINCOLN, Neb. — More than 1,400 degrees were awarded during commencement exercises Dec. 18 and 19 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Tammy Beck, associate dean of graduate programs and external engagement,

and associate professor of management in the College of Business Administration, delivered the address at the Dec. 18 graduate and professional degrees ceremonies. M. Ishaq Nadiri, Jay Gould Professor of Economics at New York University, delivered the address at the undergraduate commencement Dec. 19. He also received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree. Deryl Hamann, of counsel at Omaha law firm Baird Holm and chairman and director of Spectrum Financial Services, addressed the law graduates Dec. 18.

The graduates are from 33 states plus the District of Columbia and 20 countries.

The following is a list of area graduates by state, country and hometown. The first section is for graduates from Nebraska, the second is for graduates from elsewhere in the United States and the third is for international students. Some international students are listed under their adopted hometowns in the United States.

NEBRASKA

- Hartington — Mark Anthony Arens, College of Engineering, bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.
- Niobrara — Dillon James Barta, College of Engineering, bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.
- Randolph — Cassidy Kay Bargstadt, College of Education and Human Sciences, bachelor of science in education and human sciences.
- Wausa — Ryan Joseph Schumacher, College of Arts and Sciences, bachelor of arts.

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Yankton — Aaron Jeffery Larson, College of Engineering, bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota will use a \$500,000 federal grant from the U.S. Agriculture Department to strengthen health care services in 24 rural South Dakota communities while giving medical school and nursing students firsthand experience in telemedicine.

Telemedicine allows health care professionals to treat patients through the exchange of medical information over two-way video, email, smartphones, wireless tools and other forms of electronic communications.

USD's project, called "A Bridge to the Frontier: Preparing South Dakota's Future Doctors and Nurses for Rural Practice," creates new telemedicine connections that link health education hubs at the USD campuses in Vermillion, Pierre, Rapid City and Sioux Falls with 24 rural hospitals and clinics throughout South Dakota.

The immediate benefit for those rural areas will be opportunities for existing health care professionals to stay current on the latest best practices over the telemedicine network through simulation centers at USD campuses in Vermillion and Sioux Falls. The three-year program will

Your News!
The P&D

SD Ag In The Classroom Looking For Vegetable Seed Donations

PIERRE — If you have vegetable seed packets laying around that you won't use, South Dakota's Ag in the Classroom program would like to have them. The seed packets can be opened or new. Any kind of vegetable — peas, corn, radish, carrot, squash, pumpkin, tomatoes, etc. — are needed.

AITC will use the seeds in Ag Week kits with the book "Who Grew My Soup" by Tom Darbyshire. Seed donations can be mailed to: SD Ag in the Classroom, PO Box 402, Miller, SD 57362. Seeds are needed by Jan. 15, 2016.

For donations received before end of year, the value of the seeds can be used as a tax deduction.

For more information about South Dakota Ag in the Classroom go to www.agclassroom.org/sd or call executive director Ann Price at 605-853-6040.

I know his illness is not his fault, but I did not expect our future to be like this. I don't know how to handle this. He did everything. I need help.



I think I will call CAREgivers and speak to the Caregiver Case Manager. 800-360-6161

It is a free and confidential service.

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USDA Grant Helps USD Rural Health Service And Education



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Health care professionals at USD's Parry Center for Clinical Skills & Simulation in Sioux Falls will teach students in rural areas over a telemedicine network as part of a \$500,000 federal grant.

also help about 675 medical school and nursing students become more comfortable working in a rural environment, which increases the likelihood they return to those areas to fill the need for rural health care.

"This telehealth initiative is critically important to advancing our curriculum for medical students and nursing students. We feel strongly that physicians and nurses of the future must be able to leverage technology to its fullest in order to maximize the health of our rural populations," said Dr. Mary Nettleman, vice president for Health Affairs

at USD and dean of the USD Sanford School of Medicine.

USD's award was the second-largest of 75 grants in 31 states from a total of \$23.4 million provided by the USDA as part of the agency's Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine program.

The following South Dakota hospitals and clinics will be recipients or end users of the telemedicine connections, also shown in Google Maps:

- Avera Medical Group, Milbank
- Spearfish Regional Hospital
- Avera Dells Area Hospital
- Mobridge Regional

Hospitals and Clinics

- Winner Regional Healthcare Center and Winner Regional Clinic
- Coteau Des Prairie Hospital and Clinic, Sisseton
- Sanford Chamberlain Medical Center
- Community Memorial Hospital, Redfield
- Avera Medical Group Flandreau
- Custer Regional Medical Clinic
- Sanford Webster Medical Center
- Avera St. Benedict Health Center, Parkston
- Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital, Miller
- Avera Gregory Hospital
- Freeman Regional Health Services
- Platte Health Center Avera
- St. Michaels' Hospital Avera, Tyndall
- Avera Wescota Memorial Hospital, Wessington Springs
- Landmann-Jungman Clinic, Scotland
- Viborg Medical Clinic (Pioneer Health Services)
- Philip Health Services
- Faulkton Area Medical Center
- Douglas County Memorial Hospital, Armour
- Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Viborg



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