

Life In Poetry

Celebrating Leaving The Hospital Alive

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

If you've been in a hospital, and got out alive, you're really alive. In this poem, Anya Silver, who lives in Georgia, celebrates just such an escape.

LEAVING THE HOSPITAL

As the doors glide shut behind me,
 the world flares back into being—
 I exist again, recover myself,
 sunlight undimmed by dark panes,
 the heat on my arms the earth's breath.
 The wind tongues me to my feet
 like a doe licking clean her newborn fawn.
 At my back, days measured by vital signs,
 my mouth opened and arm extended,
 the nighttime cries of a man withered
 child-size by cancer, and the bells
 of emptied IVs tolling through hallways.
 Before me, life—mysterious, ordinary—
 holding off pain with its muscular wings.
 As I step to the curb, an orange moth
 dives into the basket of roses
 that lately stood on my sickroom table,
 and the petals yield to its persistent
 nudge, opening manifold and golden.

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'Making It Count' Conference Scheduled For Wagner High School

WAGNER — Area high schools have been invited to bring their juniors and seniors to the Wagner School to participate in the upcoming "Making It Count Conference" on March 20, running from 12:30-3 p.m.

The programming involves representatives from Monster.com, the University of South Dakota, the States Attorney's Office and Vermillion Police Department and a wide variety of technical schools, the military, colleges and universities.

The conference involves two different kinds of programming, one for juniors and the other for seniors.

The junior portion of the program is entitled "Making Your College Search Count." The program involves information on how to conduct an effective college search, how to make the most out of a college visit, filling out applications and understanding the financial aid process. The students will also learn about the importance of starting early in their college search, how to break down the college search process into manageable steps, how to evaluate potential schools and how colleges select students for attendance. Following this program the students will attend a "Spring College Fair" and have the opportunity to visit with more than 60 different post-high institutions and the military. This is a good time for them to ask important questions and begin the process of applying to school as graduation for them is only a year away.

While the juniors are attending their programming, the seniors will be attending a separate presentation entitled "How To Help Ensure Success While Away At College." This program-

ing is designed to give seniors a dose of reality about the mistakes they should avoid while living away from home. The presentation will include a presentation about the reality of prosecution if poor choices are made while in a college town and away from home. In addition, students will also hear what needs to be done academically if they hope to last more than a semester and how to better manage their time at college so they will find success rather than failure. With about 50 percent of students not finishing what they start this should help give them the tools to be more successful. Following this portion of the conference the seniors will then attend a second session entitled "Making College and Career Count." This programming will provide seniors with information on how to successfully navigate the transition from high school to college, career, technical school or the military. Seniors will also have a few minutes of available time to speak to a college recruiter before the day ends if they still have questions.

Parents interested in the programming are welcome to attend this event as well. Schools accepting the invitation to attend have been contacting Dana Sanderson, counselor at the Wagner School. The program is free to all who attend, but advance notice is appreciated so the appropriate amount of materials will be available for those who attend and space is limited so planning ahead is important. Schools may bring their students to the entire afternoon conference or just for the Spring College Fair.

For more information, contact Dana Sanderson at 384-5426.

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

www.cartalk.com

Dear Tom and Ray:

I'm 35, and I would like to purchase a diesel SUV that will last the rest of my life ... ideally, into my 90s. My idea is that diesel engines last longer and that my family and I could rack up 500,000-600,000 miles on whatever we buy during my lifetime. I was thinking of buying a BMW, Volkswagen, Audi or Mercedes. All of them are around the same price. However, I cannot purchase a car that costs the same as my house. So, I'd probably purchase it used from a dealer or individual. At least, that is what I'm thinking. Am I crazy, or is this doable? I don't like spending that much up front, but if we can realistically keep the vehicle for the next 60 years, it would be worth it.

P.S.: I do not have a garage, so something that doesn't rust out quickly is preferable.

— Mike

TOM: Are you crazy, or is this doable? I vote crazy.

RAY: I just can't get over what a depressing thought that would be: Buying your last-ever car at age 35. You might as well buy a coffin now, too, Mike.

TOM: Why? His family's going to bury him in the car after 15 or 20 years of having to ride in it!

RAY: Yeah, this is a bad idea, Mike.

TOM: Think about what it would be like to have a 60-year-old car today. It would be



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

something like a 1952 Chevy Bel Air.

RAY: It would have anemic horsepower and a two-speed automatic transmission that got you to a maximum speed of 80 miles an hour, while getting about 16 miles to the gallon.

TOM: It would have no seat belts, no air bags, no anti-lock brakes — not even disc brakes — no stability control, an unpadded steering wheel and a metal dashboard to crack your head on in an accident.

RAY: It would have "knee action" front suspension, no power steering, no power brakes, it would be a horrible rust bucket by now, it'd be hard to get parts for, and it would spew 100 times the pollution of anything else on the road.

Medicare Part B Deadline Approaching

BY JENNIFER H.

Social Security Claims Representative in Yankton

If you didn't sign up for Medicare Part B medical insurance when you first became eligible for Medicare, you now have an opportunity to apply — but time is running out. The deadline for applying during the general enrollment period is March 31. If you miss the deadline, you may have to wait until 2013 to apply.

Medicare Part B covers some medical expenses not covered by Medicare Part A (hospital insurance), such as doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits, and other medical supplies and services.

When you first become eligible for hospital insurance (Part A), you have a seven-month period in which to sign up for medical insurance (Part B). After that, you may have to pay a higher premium — unless you were covered through your current employer's group health plan or a group health plan based on a spouse's current employment. You are given another opportunity to enroll in Part B during the general enrollment period, from January 1 to March 31 of each year. But each 12-month period that you are eligible for Medicare Part B and do not sign up, the amount of your monthly premium increases by 10 percent.

There are special situations in which you can apply for Medicare Part B outside the general enrollment period. For example, you should contact Social Security about applying for Medicare if:

- you are a disabled widow or widower between age 50 and age 65, but have not applied for disability benefits because you are already getting another kind of Social Security benefit;
- you worked long enough in a govern-

ment job where Medicare taxes were paid and you meet the requirements of the Social Security disability program and became disabled before age 65;

- you, your spouse, or your dependent child has permanent kidney failure;
- you had Medicare medical insurance (Part B) in the past but dropped the coverage; or
- you turned down Medicare medical insurance (Part B) when you became entitled to hospital insurance (Part A).

You can learn more about Medicare by reading our electronic booklet, Medicare at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html. Or visit the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov. You may also call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

BE IN THE KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

We're in the dead of winter. In many areas of the country, that means that we could be in for some rough weather. When severe weather strikes, parents of young children are well aware that they need to check for school closings as they prepare for the day. But sometimes inclement weather can be severe enough to close down government buildings and offices as well — including Social Security.

If the weather outside is frightful, you should check our website before making a trip to a Social Security office. The place to go to find out about emergency office closings is www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency.

Social Security's office closings and emergency page provides information on specific offices that are closed due to weather and emergencies, as well as reminders about up-

coming Federal holidays during which government offices are closed.

The website also offers a link to a comprehensive list of Federal holidays throughout the year.

To the right side of the page, you'll find helpful resources from other government agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Weather Service. They can help you to prepare for weather emergencies before they happen.

We also provide information about alternatives to visiting an office, helpful even when offices are open. For example, many of our most popular services are available online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Find out what types of benefits you may be eligible for by using our benefits eligibility screening tool and then apply online. If you are already getting benefits, you can use our website to sign up for direct deposit so that your payments won't be interrupted during weather emergencies. You can learn about these and other services available on our secure website by visiting our Online Services page at www.socialsecurity.gov/online-services.

If you'd like to be alerted to office closings, that's easy to do. Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency and subscribe to the page by selecting the "Get email updates" link next to the red envelope. Then you'll get an email alert any time there is a change, such as an office closing.

Is the weather outside frightful? Never fear, Social Security service is always so delightful at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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Ziegler-Weidler

Stephanie Ziegler and Brent Weidler were married July 16, 2011, at the Hilltop United Methodist Church, Sioux Falls, with Rev. Brook McBride officiating.

Parents of the couple are Bill and Tina Ziegler of Yankton and Gary and Glenda Weidler, Sioux Falls.

Maid of Honor was Katie Nelson. Bridesmaids were Jennifer Ackerman, Amanda Kneip and Jessica Oster. Junior Bridesmaids

were Jenna Frink, Hailey Luken, Erin Luken and Allie Frink. Flower girl was Hannah Remacle. The bride's personal attendants were Michelle Kathol, Jessica Arends and Kim Richmond.

Best man was Cole Zdenek. Groomsmen were Jeff Schmuck, Travis Kneip, and Mark Ziegler. Ushers were Jon Radermacher, Ian Geise, Pat Brown and Brad Miles.

Flower attendant was Deb Hansen. Program attendants were Taylor Stotz and Abby Montoya.

The reception was held at Callaway's in Sioux Falls.

The bride is a graduate of USD with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She is employed at the Sioux Falls Department of Veteran Affairs.

The groom is a graduate of USD with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and psychology. He is a human resources specialist at the Sioux Falls Department of Veteran Affairs.

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PREGNANCY: FAQ ANSWERED

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

6-7 P.M.

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Professional Office PavilionPreganancy: Frequently Asked Questions Answered
presented by**Jill F. Sternquist, MD**

Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C.



Dr. Sternquist will offer advice on getting pregnant, having a healthy, happy pregnancy and more. If you are considering having a baby in the near future, you will want to attend this seminar. Bring along any questions you would like answered on pregnancy.

A light meal will be served.

Please make reservations by calling **(605) 668-8080**.

Avera 
 Sacred Heart Hospital

www.AveraSacredHeart.org

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