

American Life In Poetry

# Distinguishing Bottled Waters

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

My parents didn't live long enough to be confronted with the notion of paying for a bottle of water. They'd be horrified. Pay for water? Who ever heard of such a thing? Well . . . Here's a good poem by Kim Dower, who lives in Los Angeles, about what we go through to quench our thirst today.

**BOTTLED WATER**

I go to the corner liquor store for a bottle of water, middle of a hectic day, must get out of the office, stop making decisions, quit obsessing does my blue skirt clash with my hot pink flats; should I get my mother a caregiver or just put her in a home, and I pull open the glass refrigerator door, am confronted by brands—Arrowhead, Glitter Geysler, Deer Park, spring, summer, winter water, and clearly the bosses of bottled water: Real Water and Smart Water—how different will they taste? If I drink Smart Water will I raise my IQ but be less authentic? If I choose Real Water will I no longer deny the truth, but will I attract confused, needy people who'll take advantage of my realness by dumping their problems on me, and will I be too stupid to help them sort through their murky dilemmas? I take no chances, buy them both, sparkling smart, purified real, drain both bottles, look around to see is anyone watching? I'm now brilliantly hydrated.

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# What Causes Hot Floorboards?

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.



**CAR TALK**

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

**Dear Tom and Ray:**  
My 2002 Honda Odyssey (96,000 miles) has been a great car, other than having to replace the transmission at 60,000. When we take a road trip, we notice that after about two hours on the highway, the floor of the car just behind the front passenger seat gets hot — really hot! So hot that it is uncomfortable to keep shod feet on the carpet for more than a few minutes! The underside of the right, middle-row seat gets uncomfortably hot to the touch, too. We took the car in to our regular mechanic, who generally does a good job. He said that everything is fine as long as nothing is glowing under the car when it gets that hot. It's hard to believe that this is not a fire risk! I'm not confident I would be able to see something glow in broad daylight. Do I listen to my mechanic, or do I cave to my safety-freak maternal instincts and take this in to the dealer for what is likely to be an overpriced repair bill, whether or not they fix the problem? What do you think is causing this? Many thanks. — Beth

**TOM:** It sounds like the heat is coming from a catalytic converter, Beth. There's one right in the spot you describe.

**RAY:** It may be something minor, like a missing heat shield. Or it could be something more significant. But it was lame of your mechanic to send you on your way without bothering to figure out what's wrong.

**TOM:** So you have two problems: A

heat problem, and a mechanic problem. If you don't feel that your mechanic is willing to put in the time to figure this out, then find someone else (check the Mechanics Files at cartalk.com for a free list of highly recommended mechanics by ZIP code). Because, of course excessive heat can be a fire hazard.

**RAY:** There are three possibilities that come to mind. The simplest is that a heat shield has corroded and fallen off. Parts that get very hot, like catalytic converters, are surrounded by shielding material to prevent the heat from igniting something nearby. Like your buttocks.

**TOM:** But heat shields are made of cheap metal, and eventually they fall off, or start making so much rattling noise that people remove them. So first you want to see if your heat shield is intact.

**RAY:** The second possibility is that something's wrong with the engine

that's causing your converter to run hot. If your fuel-air mixture is too rich — due to a cylinder misfire, for instance — gasoline will get combusted in the converter instead of in the engine. And that can produce a lot of heat — which you will feel, whether the heat shield is intact or not.

**TOM:** The final possibility is that your converter is plugged up. That's what happens when converters get old. Typically, you'll notice a drop in power because exhaust is unable to leave the engine freely, but you might not notice it. A plugged converter will run hot, and eventually glow.

**RAY:** Whatever it is, though, get it figured out and address it. Or your next letter to us might start out: "My 2002 Honda Odyssey has been a great car, other than having to replace the transmission at 60,000 and the four-alarm car fire at 97,000!" Good luck, Beth.

Do you really need that truck if you only make one trip to the lumberyard per year? Find out what kind of car NOT to get in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next 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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# 2014 Lamb Bonanza Set For SDSU Jan. 18

**BROOKINGS** — The 22nd annual South Dakota State University Lamb Bonanza starts at 3 p.m. Jan. 18, at Frost Arena on the Brookings campus of SDSU.

This event showcases SDSU's support of lamb and wool production in South Dakota. More than 2,000 South Dakota farm and ranch families are engaged in the sheep industry. Nationally, South Dakota ranks fifth for lamb and wool production.

Members of the South Dakota Sheep

Growers' Association will serve leg of lamb sandwiches and crackers with lamb spread from 3-4 p.m. on the north side of the track in Frost Arena. SDSU men's basketball team faces Omaha, with the game tipoff at 4 p.m.

During the halftime, six lamb pelts will be auctioned. Four pelts are decorated with "SDSU" and two of the pelts feature the "Jackrabbit" emblem. The pelts will be displayed prior to the auction on the north side of the track. Pro-

ceeds from the auction will provide scholarships to undergraduates in the SDSU Department of Animal Science and the SDSU Athletic Department.

These promotional activities are sponsored by the South Dakota Sheep Grower's Association, Strauss Brands Inc., and the SDSU Department of Animal Science and the SDSU Athletic Department.

# Session

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and fund an economic development account early. That would free up money on an ongoing basis to support education and other priorities next year.

**2. SCHOOL AID**

While school districts and education groups are grateful that Dugaard proposed a 3 percent boost in state aid to schools, they plan to seek a slightly higher increase. They will support a legislative study panel's recommendation that aid be increased by 3.8 percent to put spending per student back where it was before budget cuts were imposed in 2011 when a sluggish economy limited state tax collections.

The governor also is proposing a 3 percent increase in state spending on South Dakota's four technical institutes and a freeze on tuition for resident students at the state's six public universities.

**3. MEDICAID EXPANSION**

Dugaard has recommended that South Dakota not expand the state's Medicaid program, at least for now, to cover the medical costs of 48,000 additional poor people. The governor doubts the federal government can afford to meet its pledge to pay most of the cost of the expansion, but some lawmakers and health care groups plan to continue their push for expansion.

No decision will be made until the state budget is passed late in the session, and a Medicaid expansion is unlikely without the governor's support. But backers of the move will try to keep the debate alive with the hope the state will eventually provide the government health care to people who cannot afford buy their own insurance.

South Dakota's Medicaid program now covers about 116,000 children, adults and disabled people. An expansion, available as a state option under the federal health care overhaul, would add an estimated 48,000 people, mostly adults without children.

**4. DEATH PENALTY**

Rep. Steve Hickey, a Sioux Falls Republican who also is a pastor, has said he will ask the Legislature to repeal the death penalty. Hickey previously supported capital punishment but says he changed his mind after re-reading the Bible and deciding that the death penalty does not deter people from committing horrible crimes, save money or improve public safety.

Hickey has said his bill would apply only to future cases.

However, Hickey will face long odds in a Legislature that has consistently supported the death penalty. South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley will oppose repeal, arguing that the death penalty is appropriate for vile crimes and is used sparingly in the state.

Hickey believes life in a cramped cell is a more severe punishment than executing murderers by putting them to sleep with drugs, but Jackley counters that a death sentence protects prison staff, other inmates and medical personnel from convicted murderers housed in prison.

**5. ELECTION-YEAR POLITICS**

The upcoming legislative session may feature more than the usual political posturing. Two state lawmakers are seeking the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate, and a few are looking at running for other statewide offices. All 105 legislative seats are up for election this fall, and Dugaard is expected to seek a second term as governor.

Sen. Larry Rhoden of Union Center and Rep. Steve Nelson of Fulton are running for the GOP Senate nomination against former Gov. Mike Rounds and two other candidates. And Sen. Shantel Krebs, R-Renner, has said she is seeking the Republican nomination to run for secretary of state.

Lawmakers frequently use speeches in committees and floor debates to stake out their positions, but legislative leaders wonder whether some of those speeches may be even more political in this election year.

# School

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to the district to serve as substitutes, but won't do so if they have to renew their teacher certificate.

"I think this would be an added way to add to our substitute pool, and quite honestly, I think it's a nice compliment to our retired teachers," he said. "I think it would complement them and welcome them back into the building."

Following the meeting, Williams told the Press & Dakotan that his decision to not seek re-election is related to his increased involvement with the Yankton County Democrats. Williams is currently chairman of organization.

"I want to devote my efforts to politically see some things change in the community and the state," he said.

Williams, who is finishing his first term, said he has enjoyed his time on the school board, but has had "more disappointments than not."

"I'm not real pleased with how our teacher negotiations went to an impasse and went all the way to a hearing with the state," he said. "I'm disappointed with the state funding of the school, and I'm disappointed that we didn't pass any opt-outs."

Williams' post is the only school board seat up for re-election this year.

Also at the meeting, the board:

- approved a motion, following discussion in executive session, to increase the number of early retirements

allowed each year from four to eight. The proposed change will now be offered to the Yankton Education Association for approval;

- heard a report from Stewart Elementary Principal Jerome Klimisch, Yankton Area Arts Executive Director Jackie Quinn and retired principal Kathleen West on upcoming art education opportunities for district students;

- heard a presentation from Robin Wiebers, the director of the Professional Development Center (PDC), about its program, which is available through the University of South Dakota. Under the PDC program, school and university educators engage jointly in research and re-thinking of practices. The masters program supports the learning of both experienced and beginning teachers through a collaborative apprenticeship focused on shared experiences and best practices;

- heard a brief report from Williams on the upcoming legislative session and bills pertaining to education. Williams said proposed legislation will include resuming school funding at the level it was five years ago before cuts, making the minimum funding increase each year 2 percent instead of the inflation rate, and requiring the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance in schools.

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d\_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

# Santee

From Page 1

port division in Lincoln, Neb., was summoned to assist. During an hour-long rescue, the NSP helicopter landed on a sandbar and airlifted the hunters from the boats two at a time by mid-afternoon. There were four hunters in each boat.

The 18-foot flat-bottom boats were left in the river following the rescue.

Several items were reported stolen when the boat owners attempted to recover the boats and their contents at a later date.

In his weekly sheriff's report released Monday, Henery outlined the events leading to last weekend's recovery of the boats' items.

On Sunday, deputies from the Knox County Sheriff's Office interviewed two potential suspects about the theft from the two boats.

During the investigation and interview of one of the suspects, some of the stolen items were discovered hidden in a van on property adjacent to the suspect's property, east of the Santee boat basin. That individual was cleared of any involvement in the theft.

With assistance from the

Santee Sioux Nation Tribal Police Department, the stolen items were recovered from the van.

Deputies continued the investigation by interviewing the second suspect in the case, and the second suspect admitted to taking the items from the two boats. The suspect then took a deputy to a second location east of the Santee boat basin where he was hiding a Honda generator that he took from one of the boats.

Felony theft charges are pending in this case, Henery said in his report. He did not release the name of the suspect.

Knox County Attorney John Thomas could not be reached for comment Monday. The Knox County Court clerk's office in Center, Neb., said no charges had been filed in the case as of Monday afternoon.

"The Knox County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Santee Sioux Nation Tribal Police Department and the anonymous tipster that led to the two potential suspects," Henery wrote in his report.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

# USD

From Page 1

teria area. "It looks fantastic," said Clay Hoffman, Student Government Association vice president at USD. "I was talking with some of my friends, and we were just amazed at the big-screen TV in there."

The original MUC building opened in February 2009. Designed by Charles Rose Architects of Somerville, Mass., the building was originally constructed at a cost of \$19.6 million with 70,000 square feet. Plans to expand the building were first announced in Abbott's State of the University address in 2011.

The project's general contractor was Sioux Falls Construction, with design handled by RS Architects, also of Sioux Falls.

The expansion began in the fall of 2012 with exterior work. Through the next spring

and summer steel beams were placed, floors were poured and the exterior enclosure was started.

For a time, the "link" between the original MUC building and the I.D. Weeks Library was closed to accommodate the work being done.

Students appear to be glad the facility is finally open, with lines queuing out from the new restaurant franchises and into the hall formerly occupied by the link Monday morning.

"I'm really enjoying the fact that we don't have to hear any

more of the construction, the plywood's gone, so it looks aesthetically great now," Hoffman said. "It's good to have it done. There are so many study spots. I really like the study area out there with the glass where the sun comes in. It gives you great natural light when you study."

"It's going to be multi-purpose. It's the university's living room. You can go out and have fun with your friends here and chat, but it's also a good study spot," he said.

The building is home to student and community social

events with a large, second floor ballroom that seats up to 500. There are also second floor meeting rooms, the University of South Dakota Official Bookstore, University Brew store and multiple commons and lounge spaces for students who need a study break.

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**MORNING COFFEE**  
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

**Tuesday, January 14**  
7:40 am The Center (Christy Hauer)  
8:20 am SD Kayak Challenge (Jarret Bies)

**Wednesday, January 15**  
7:40 am YC Observer (Kathy Church, Kristy Wyland)  
8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

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