

## Youthful Memories Bring Smiles, Laughter

BY TOBIN BARNES

My world of work began as a seven-year-old at the motel my parents leased in my hometown. Eventually I graduated into my perfect kid-type job suggested, offhand-like but clairvoyantly, by Rocky the car dealer.

Among my first jobs at the motel, other than sheepishly placing leaflets advertising the motel under car windshield wipers at the World's Only Corn Palace (would there ever be a reason for another corn palace?), I was the motel's first switchboard operator.

This wasn't exactly at the dawn of electronic communication, but, yeah, the motel had a switchboard, whereby guests who wanted to talk to the outside world had to first call down to the office to obtain a old-fashioned "line."

And I'm not promoting myself as a mechanical wonderkind, but I, as a seven-year-old, was the first in the family to learn to operate the beast. Then, some short time later, under my patient tutelage, came my mother, and after that, my brothers, who were supremely unmotivated to be clerks, especially since their much younger brother was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed about the whole thing.

Bringing up the rear — days, if not weeks, later — was my old man. Necessity being the mother of education, he eventually conceded that I might require a life away from the switchboard and finally grew accustomed to the finer points of inserting this plug into this hole and that plug into that hole.

Being the seven-year-old disembodied voice of the motel early on and much of the time thereafter, I can only imagine what kind of rinky-dink or child-labor exploiting joint the guests thought they'd checked into.

But then, if they had rented the room through my old man, dressed in striped, bibbed overalls with or without a t-shirt underneath, they might have already thought they were spending a night at the Bates Motel and had prudently blocked their doors with furniture. I'm thinking many a nervous shower was taken in our rooms.

Speaking of advertising... well... maybe not just now but at the beginning when I mentioned those leaflets, my old



Barnes

man got another publicity brain-storm. He thought it would be great to put a billboard on the back of the family car informing the motoring public that our motel was three

blocks north of the World's Only Corn Palace.

And no big deal there... many businesses still do the same thing. But my old man had a way of taking the ordinary and spinning it into something bizarrely absurd.

Anyway, one or the other of my older brothers was ordered to take the car, sporting the billboard, for a spin around town, particularly where tourists thinking about lodging were likely to be and at the time they were likely to be there theoretically thinking these thoughts. Yeah, late afternoon or early evening.

Developing this hypothesis one step further, my old man evidently imagined Joe, the average tourist, making this or some-such statement to his wife: "Hey, Marge. See that advertisement up on the car ahead. I'm getting tired and I have no idea where we're going to spend the night. How about going to that motel three blocks north of the World's Only Corn Palace."

"Yeah, Joe, maybe we should just follow them there."

Yeah, uh huh, I agree. Well, it gets even freakier. Since I was usually riding along, my old man figured we might be accomplishing another task while we were out trolling for lunkers. He thought I should be checking other motels we drove past to see how many customers they had so he could eat his guts out about how few we had in relation.

It got down to where I was keeping a detailed tab on the number of cars in each motel parking lot so I could more accurately report the status of our current upsurge or decline in relation to the competition. Statistically speaking, that is.

Now you can see why I was so glad to eventually get the perfect kid-job that I'll tell you about next time. Maybe.

**Tobin Barnes, a high school English teacher, gets his skewed viewpoints of life from starting too much at Crow Peak, which looms above his home a few miles outside Spearfish.**

## Not Much Hope For This Problem

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

**Dear Tom and Ray:**  
The transaxle differential bearing on my '98 Toyota Sienna van is growing like a cat in the vet's office. This has been going on for about 5,000 miles now. Lately it has become more intense — just like the cat does when the vet starts messing with his private parts. So far, we've dealt with it by turning up the volume on the radio. When it finally breaks, what will happen? Are we looking at a crash and burn — or will I be able to drive it home? Any predictor of how long I have? Money is tight — the longer I can prolong the repair or replacement, the better. — Mark

**TOM:** Just before it breaks, it'll make even more noise. Mark — so much noise that it'll sound like the cat is messing with the VET'S private parts.

**RAY:** At that point, most people become too terrified to drive the vehicle. But based on your letter, Mark, I'm not convinced you have that normal, healthy self-preservation instinct. So we'll tell you what happens if you actually drive it until it breaks.

**TOM:** What will happen, most likely, is that



CLICK & CLACK

the differential housing will break and all of the fluid, and some of the gears, will pour out. And that housing is shared with the transmission. So the transmission and differential will fail catastrophically and simultaneously.

**RAY:** So the answer is no, you will not be able to drive home. Or anywhere else.

**TOM:** At that point, you'll need a rebuilt transaxle, which costs about \$2,000. And since the subframe needs to be removed in order to get at it, labor will run you another grand or so.

**RAY:** But it'll cost just as much to fix it now as it will then. So if you can stand the noise, and can live with the risk of being stranded, you can just turn up the radio and keep driving it for a while until either your financial situation improves or your differential situation deteriorates.

**TOM:** I suppose you might consider flushing out the transmission fluid. That won't repair the damage that's already been done, but it might remove any metal filings that are now floating around in there and threatening to damage other pieces.

**RAY:** Yeah, I'd recommend that. It might buy you a few more weeks, Mark. Good luck.

**Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.**

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## AHA Searches For Healthy Hearts And Lifestyles

**SIOUX FALLS** — The American Heart Association and DAKOTA-CARE are looking for healthy hearts. The organizations are sponsoring the Lifestyle Change Awards at the three Start! Heart Walks across the state.

"We want to recognize South Dakotans who have made heart healthy changes for their overall well-being," says Dr. Paul Amundson, a volunteer for the American Heart Association and Medical Director at DAKOTA-CARE. "Heart disease is our number one killer, so we need to do what we can to decrease those risk factors. The Lifestyle Change Awards are one way to draw attention to the importance of a healthy lifestyle."

The Lifestyle Change Award recognizes individuals who have

made positive changes to improve their quality of life and health over the past year such as losing weight, becoming active, eating healthier and/or managing chronic diseases such as diabetes.

Awardees are chosen based on criteria evaluating the significance of the change that was achieved; any obstacles that were surpassed in achieving the goal; and the power that positive lifestyle change had not only on the individual achieving it but also those around him/her (i.e. family, friends, co-workers, community).

"It only takes small changes to make a big impact on your heart health," says Dr. Amundson. "For example, exercising 30 minutes a day five days a week can lower your blood pressure, cholesterol, and decrease your stress level — thereby lowering your risk for

heart disease."

To nominate someone, you need to tell us what change they've made to improve their lifestyle, why they deserve a Lifestyle Change Award, and provide their contact information as well as yours. Entries can be made at [www.southdakotaheartwalk.org](http://www.southdakotaheartwalk.org) and must be turned in by Aug. 20. A volunteer committee will judge the nominees for each region. The awards will be given out at the Start! Heart Walk for that region. The Eastern South Dakota Start! Heart Walk will be held at Falls Park Aug. 28; the Black Hills Heart Walk at Canyon Lake Park in Rapid City Sept. 18; and the Central South Dakota Start! Heart Walk at Steamboat Park in Pierre Sept. 25. The American Heart

Association has a series of online tools that can encourage lifestyle changes. The Start! program is an initiative for the American Heart Association in which tools are provided to businesses and individuals to get America literally walking to better heart health. The Start! program also offers extensive Web tools at [www.americanheart.org/start](http://www.americanheart.org/start)

including myStart! Online, a program that motivates users by connecting them to experts, related health and nutrition information, and virtual teams, for an interactive and customized experience. To learn more about Start! go online or call (800) AHA-USA1. Start! is made possible in Eastern South Dakota by Avera Health, Avera Heart Hospital, and nationally by Subway Restaurants.

## Feds, Farmers And Friends Feed South Dakota Families

**HURON** — The Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Rural Development are proud participants in this year's USDA Feds, Farmers, and Friends Feed Families food drive running now through Tuesday, Aug. 31.

Announced by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, this annual event is designed to help food banks across the nation that are struggling through tough economic times. Each USDA office across the state of South Dakota will be collecting hygiene products, non-perishable items, canned goods, preferably nutritious foods and sources of protein, as well as fresh produce.

"When school lets out for the summer, our nation's youngsters who receive free and reduced price meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs are at a higher risk of going hungry," Vilsack said. "While USDA's Summer Food

Service Program helps fill that gap, these tough economic times mean that needy families throughout America are turning to emergency food assistance agencies such as food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens to put food on the table. Unfortunately, the summer is also a tough time for these organizations, as they typically see a rise in demand coupled with a decrease in donations. The good news, however, is that while the needs of our hungry neighbors are especially great in the summer months, our opportunity to make a difference in their lives is also great."

A recent study revealed that 49.1 million Americans, or 14.6 percent of U.S. households, lived in food insecure households. This number includes 32.4 million adults and 16.7 million children. The USDA Household Food Security in the United States 2008 report listed South Dakota at 10.3 percent; the national average is at 12.2 percent.

Please help make a difference by contributing your hygiene products, canned food items or fresh produce to your local USDA service center prior to August 31. For a complete list of non-perishable food items and hygiene products, please see the attached list.

To learn more about the Feds Feed Families Initiative visit the following Web site: [www.FedsFeedFamilies.gov](http://www.FedsFeedFamilies.gov).

When doing your grocery shopping, take this list with you for ideas on possible donations you can bring to the office. Look for pull-top cans that do not require can openers.

Non-perishable food items: Canned Proteins; Canned Fruits in Own Juices or Light Syrup; 100 percent Fruit Juices (all sizes); Grains; Condiments; Low Sodium/No Salt Added Canned Vegetables; Soups; Multigrain Cereal.

Hygiene Products: Diapers; Deodorants for Men and Women; Feminine Products; Toilet Paper; Tissues; Soap; Toothpaste; Shampoo.

### SCHOLASTICS

#### Local Students Awarded Biannual Scholarships

The first of a biannual scholarship program award was given to two Yankton students by the General Federation of Women's Clubs of South Dakota to further their education. Chosen by blind study and qualifications were Gabrielle Kachena, an incoming sophomore in nursing at Augustana College, and Heidi Olson, who will be a freshman in nursing at SDSU. Henceforth the awards will be given to graduating senior girls. It was decided by the organizational board to change the student loan program to a scholarship program due to the economy and the escalating costs of higher education. The next awards will be given in the summer of 2012.



Kachena



Olson

#### Area Yellow And Blue Winners Announced

**BROOKINGS** — Kyle Stockland of Viborg, Caleb Cooke of Yankton and Molly Davis of Yankton, were each awarded a Yellow and Blue Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year at South Dakota State University.

Stockland is a junior majoring in pharmacy at SDSU, the son of Frank and Robin Stockland of Viborg and is a graduate of the Irene-Wakonda High School.

Cooke is a junior majoring in medical lab science at SDSU, where he is active in the Brookings Wesleyan Church (youth volunteer), AZ Ministries (leadership team), intramurals and is an Admissions Ambassador. He is the son of Jon and Pam Cooke and is a 2008 graduate of the Yankton High School.

Davis is a sophomore majoring in psychology at SDSU, where she is active in the Wildfire competitive cheerleading and intramural sports. She is the daughter of John Davis and Coleen Craig-Davis of Yankton and is a 2009 graduate of the Yankton High School.

#### Merrigan Graduates From UM-Morris

**MORRIS, Minn.** — Christopher Merrigan, Vermillion, graduated from University of Minnesota, Morris during the 47th Commencement Ceremony held on Saturday, May 15, 2010. Merrigan earned a bachelor's of art degree in social science and secondary education with distinctions.

#### Taecker Earn PHD From Creighton

Matthew Taecker, son of Jeannine Hickey-Taecker, formerly of Yankton, graduated from Creighton School of Medicine in Omaha Nebraska with the degree Doctor of Medicine on May 15, 2010.

Matt will be doing his residency at Denver Health in Denver CO., specializing in the field of Emergency Medicine.



Taecker

#### Iowa Lakes C.C. Graduates Announced

**ESTHERVILLE, Iowa** — Iowa Lakes Community College held its Spring Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 14, 2010, on the Estherville campus.

Iowa Lakes Community College offers associate degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Area graduates included Zeb Irwin, Associate in Science, Environmental Studies of Elk Point.



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Wednesday, July 21st • 1-5pm

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**Yankton's Home Team!**  
AM 1450  
**MORNING COFFEE**  
WEEKDAYS 7:40 AM  
MONDAY-FRIDAY  
Monday, July 19  
7:40 Mark Johnson  
8:15 Yankton Police Chief  
Tuesday, July 20  
7:40 Pam Meylor  
Yankton Riverboat Days  
8:15 Yankton Riverboat Days  
Wednesday, July 21  
7:40 Wayne Williamson,  
Yankton Riverboat Days  
8:15 Yankton Community Library

www.yankton.net

**Information Day**  
Your chance to learn about great educational options right here in Yankton with Mitchell Technical Institute and RTEC!  
Full-Time • Part-Time • Dual Enrollment  
**Financial aid & funding available**  
Today's popular technical programs in high-demand areas like Energy and Communications!  
Come learn more!  
**Wednesday, July 21**  
**3:00-6:00 PM**  
**RTEC**  
1200 W. 21st St. **RTEC, Inc.**

**Ice Cream Social**  
Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> • 4-7pm  
Serving Taverns, Cake, Pie & Ice Cream  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
1009 Jackson, Yankton  
Proceeds going to St. John's Preschool scholarship fund. Matched by Thrivent Insurance up to \$500.

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