

Life In Poetry

# Poet Analyzes Life In A Planetarium

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

Here's a splendid poem by James Doyle, who lives in Colorado, about the way children make up mythic selves that will in some way serve them in life. To create one's self as a palm reader is only one of many possibilities.

### IN THE PLANETARIUM

I read the palms of the other kids on the field trip to see which ones would grow up to be astronauts. The lifeline on Betty Lou's beautiful hand ended the day after tomorrow, so I told her how the rest of our lives is vastly over-rated, even in neighboring galaxies. When she asked me how I knew so much, I said I watched

*War of the Worlds* six times and, if she went with me to the double-feature tomorrow, I'd finish explaining the universe. I smiled winningly. The Haley's Comet lecture by our teacher whooshed in my one ear and out the other.

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## Senior Games Slated For Yankton

The city of Yankton's Recreation Department, in coordination with the Yankton Area Senior Center, is hosting the 2013 Yankton Senior Games for seniors 50 years and older from any community. The event will be held from Aug. 6-8. Participants 49 years old who turn 50 on, or before, Dec. 31, 2013 are eligible to participate.

Events will include a 5k Road Race, swimming, shuffleboard, bench press contest, golf — individual and team competitions, bean bag toss, table tennis, track and field, horseshoes, disc golf, basketball competitions, jump rope, bowling and 8-ball pool. Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in all events per age and gender category.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Summit Activities Center and participants are encouraged to pre-register in order to prevent cancellation of events. For additional information, visit the Summit Center at 1801 Summit Street or call 668-5234. Remember to follow the Yankton Department of Parks and Recreation on Facebook.

## P&D Seeks Military Tribute Submissions

The *Press & Dakotan* is paying tribute to the military in its annual Heritage edition, coming out in September.

As part of the effort, we are asking for submitted items from our readers by Monday, July 29.

We are seeking first-hand accounts and photos of military experiences. The special edition will cover a wide variety of stories from different eras, from World War II to the present.

Submitted articles should not exceed 800 words in length.

We welcome a broad range of contributions. Areas of interest include family military history, Native American and women's military stories, and life on the homefront during wartime, just to name a few.

Of particular interest are photos from our readers reflecting both the war and home fronts.

For more information or to submit contributions, email kelly.hertz@yankton.net or call 665-7811 or (800) 743-2968, extension 110. Submissions can also be mailed to Editor Kelly Hertz at 319 Walnut Street, Yankton SD 57078.

## 'Ribs At The Ranch' Set For Freeman

FREEMAN — The annual Ribs at the Ranch event will be held in Freeman on Saturday, June 29. The event takes place in the Freeman Academy north parking lot.

Supper is served at the sixth annual ribs cook-off contest from 4:30-8:30 p.m. The public can sample ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, watermelon, sno-cones, 1919 keg root beer and other soft drinks. Ribs may be purchased in full or half racks. The popular "sampler" ticket will also be available to purchase one rib from each chef and vote for the People's Choice Award.

Illustrious chefs scheduled to attend at press time include Jonathan and Andrew Ahart, Bob and Cheryl Wollmann, Rob Ness and Fred Forman.

The Soulmates and other local groups will provide musical entertainment and there will be free activities for the kids, including a bounce house.

Entries are still open for any barbecue enthusiast. Contact Vernetta Waltner at vwaltner@freemanacademy.org or 605-925-4237 for more information.

# Creative Solution To Messy Problem

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate

### Dear Tom and Ray:

Every morning when I walk out the door to go to work, there is bird poop all over the sides of my car. Always in the same exact spot. Granted, there are telephone/cable/electrical wires hanging over my driveway, connected to my house. And there is a tree nearby. But neither the tree nor the wires hang directly over my car. I know for a fact that the birds like to sit on my side-view mirrors and do their business all over my car. I've washed it off once already a week ago, but now it's getting just downright embarrassing, so it's time for another washing. This didn't happen last spring, so I don't know what's gotten into the birds that would drive them to destroy the appearance of my vehicle. Any suggestions on how to keep the birds away from my precious black 2007 Ford Fusion? Thanks.

—Megan

**RAY:** I think you've got some narcissistic birds, Megan. Maybe they're celebrity birds?

**TOM:** We helped a woman once who had a similar problem. One particular bird could see his reflection in the car window, so he liked to sit on the mirror and admire himself.

**RAY:** I guess he particularly liked to admire himself after breakfast, because her car looked a lot like yours does.

**TOM:** Actually, we don't know if he



### CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

was admiring himself or "hitting on" that pretty bird he "saw" in his reflection.

**RAY:** In any case, you can eliminate the appeal of your car for these birds in one of two ways. You can cover up the windows so they can no longer see their reflections ...

**TOM:** Or you can make the "perches" less appealing. That's the way I would go.

**RAY:** You know the birds are sitting on the side-view mirrors. So cover them with something that makes it hard for them to sit there.

**TOM:** Like a taser?

**RAY:** No. Not nice. I would suggest trying something like kids' birthday party hats. You know, the cone-shaped hats with the elastic chin straps? Buy a bag of those, and toss them in the car. When you get home at night, put one on top of each

side-view mirror. You even can use the elastic bands to hold them in place. The conical shape should make it hard for the bird to perch there, and I'm guessing they'll find someplace else.

**TOM:** I like the party hat idea. They're cheap, and easily replaced. So if one gets too soggy after a rainstorm, for instance, you can retire that one and slap on another. Go to iParty.com and stock up, Megan!

**RAY:** Well, don't get too many, because you might not need to use them for long. Once you interrupt these birds' routines, they may go find another car that they like better and forget about what fun it is to Jackson Pollack your Fusion.

**TOM:** Or maybe they'll decide to fork over \$25 a month and avail themselves of the full-length mirrors at a nearby gym. Good luck, Megan.

What is the most cost-effective way to buy a car? Tom and Ray hash it all out in their 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." Get 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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# USD Named To Teacher Prep Honor Roll

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota is making the grade when it comes to educating future educators.

According to information released by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), USD was named to the NCTQ's Teacher Prep Review's National Honor Roll, earning three out of a possible four stars for training undergraduate secondary educators. Across the United States, the NCTQ identified 84 secondary education programs (out of 594) for the honor roll, which means only 14 percent of all

secondary education programs in the nation performed at least as well. USD was also named a top 25 Bargain for teacher education by NCTQ.

USD's secondary and elementary education programs were evaluated based on standards developed by the NCTQ. In addition to making the Honor Roll, USD is one of just three South Dakota colleges and universities considered a "highly-rated program" (along with Northern State University and Dakota State University) for secondary education. Nine South Dakota institutions with

teacher training were evaluated by the NCTQ, including USD's elementary education program which received a two-star (out of four stars) rating, placing the program in the upper 22 percent of all reviewed programs.

"The School of Education faculty and their partners, including the College of Arts & Sciences, have been working diligently to move USD forward and serve our students better," stated Chuck Staben, USD Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "This report by the NCTQ re-

fects both our cooperation as a system and real improvements we have made in teacher education, some of which are not yet reflected in this rating."

The NCTQ Teacher Prep Review is a national evaluation of colleges and universities that prepare elementary and secondary teachers. The overall ratings are used to help institutions, school districts, parents and aspiring teachers compare programs and determine those that are doing the best — and worst — job of training new teachers.

# Students Test Out Their Handmade Hovercrafts

BY JAMIE FORSYTHE  
© 2013, Belleville News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — Eighth-grader Cayla Adams sports a red batting helmet as she steps onto a baseball diamond in Belleville, Ill.

But Cayla wasn't stepping up to bat. Instead, she climbs into a large, blue hovercraft designed by fellow Belle Valley eighth-grade students. She successfully completes a lap around the field before the supervising adults realize a couple essential bolts had fallen off.

After a quick run to get two more bolts, Emge Junior High student Tyler Adams mans the hovercraft. He gets off to a rocky start getting stuck in the grass twice, but he quickly gets the hang of maneuvering the hovercraft in circles around the baseball diamond.

After making several laps, Tyler emerges from the hovercraft covered in dust from the field. "It was fun," he exclaims.

Nigel Rice, who is also an eighth-grader at Emge, commands the hovercraft next. Afterward, he wobbles out. "I can't feel my legs," he says.

Cayla, Tyler and Nigel were among 18 students from Harmony-Emge, Signal Hill and Belle Valley school districts who participated in a two-week STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Camp for academically talented and highly motivated students. The students participating in the program were selected by district officials. The program ended Friday with the demonstration of the hovercrafts.

"It's an enrichment program to challenge some of the kids that are already at the top of their grade levels," explained Camp Director Bryan Snow, the technology director for both Harmony and Signal

Hill school districts.

During the camp, a collaboration among all three schools districts, the students learned about and constructed hovercrafts.

Snow described a hovercraft as "an air cushion vehicle that uses a skirt and airflow to pick it up off the surface and also to propel it."

He said a hovercraft is different from an airboat, which is pushed through the water with a propeller.

"With the hovercraft, you are actually flying over the top of whatever surface you are on," Snow said. "It's one of the very few amphibious vehicles."

Every morning of the camp, the students learned about science and math principles that govern how a hovercraft works including lift, thrust and buoyancy at Emge Junior High.

During the afternoon portion of the program, the students worked on constructing a hovercraft with help from Snow, teachers Jill Mathenia from Ellis Elementary School, Matt Zipfel from Signal Hill, and Josh Strausbaugh from Belle Valley and AmeriCorps volunteer Sarah James.

"All the kids have been really excited to build every day," Snow said. "We have a good group of kids."

The students worked in

teams of six to build a hovercraft. Each team consisted of two students from each of the school districts. The teams—Superman, The Force and Rocketman Rockets—were named by the students.

The large hovercrafts, which were 6 foot by 4 foot, were built using Styrofoam, plywood, Fiberglas, bolts, nuts, screws and a lot of Gorilla glue, Zipfel said, and rubber tubing for the skirt underneath.

The ultralight propeller and the small gas-powered engine were the only two items not constructed by the students. Zipfel said the hovercrafts have the potential to travel up to 30 mph.

The teams put their hovercraft creations to the test during land competition Friday at Belle Valley. Camp organizers opted not to test the devices on water.

Signal Hill eighth-grader Annabelle Heddell said her team's hovercraft, a red one built by Rocketman Rockets, made it through over an hour of competition before a propeller mishap occurred and took it out of commission.

The hovercraft for the Superman team didn't make it into the competition, Cayla said. It was used for parts to help the other hovercrafts. "We weren't very good at measurements," she admitted.

## REUNIONS CWACH PICNIC REUNION

The 75th Cwach picnic reunion will be held on Sunday, June 30, at noon at JoDean's, 2809 Broadway, Yankton.

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8:45 am Dakota Museum (Crystal Nelson)

**Wednesday, June 26**  
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8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

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