

The Great American Cleanup Is April 17

BY JULIE PERAKSLIS

Director, Keep Yankton Beautiful

Keep Yankton Beautiful has coordinated the Great American Cleanup for 10 years now and in the last 5 years alone we have served our community with over 1,600 dedicated volunteers performing 7,400+ hours of work and collecting over 79,000 pounds of garbage...what a tremendous accomplishment!

This year we are hoping to expand our cleanup routes and are looking for even more individual volunteers and teams or groups to join the Great American Cleanup, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 17th between 8am and Noon.

As the snow melts there is a good bit of trash peeking out, bringing down the look and feel of our city.

Once again, we hope to unite businesses, organizations, and the people of Yankton in making our community look fresh, clean and healthy for this long-awaited spring season!

At KYB we are reaching out to individuals, local businesses and organizations to put together teams to participate in this important event. If you or your organization can contribute or bring a team, please contact us at (605) 838-0665 (must dial the 1 + 605, but it is a local call) and/or info@keepyanktonbeautiful.org or stop by the office between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs. or Friday.

We will need a lot of community participation to add routes this year, as well as to continue with our regular cleanup routes. It's only a few hours on a Saturday morning but your participation will benefit the community throughout the spring season.

We have had volunteers as young as 4 participate and have opportunities for people who would have difficulty performing the actual cleanup work. Volunteers will meet at the Memorial Park south shelter for materials, a brief safety talk and light refreshments before starting out.

We are also underway with



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our membership renewal campaign. Many may not know that we do not receive operational funding from the city. The city provides tremendous support for special events and programs, but operationally we rely heavily on the financial support of our individual and business members, donors and grantors.

We are in the middle of our annual membership renewal drive and are so thankful and appreciative of the members who have supported us throughout the years and made all of the cleanup events, educational outreach, litter reduction initiatives and beautification projects over the last 10 years possible.

We hope to grow our membership base this year to allow us to expand our litter reduction, waste collection and beautification programs and initiatives.

If you are interested in supporting us as a volunteer and/or member/donor, please contact us to have membership materials sent to you, or visit us at the office generously provided by the law firm Kennedy, Pier and Knoff at 322 Walnut next to the Dakota Theater.

We are in the process of getting membership forms on our website as well as a "donate now" button that will allow you to donate directly and securely. We hope to have those improvements in place in the next two weeks.

If you have any thoughts, questions or suggestions for Keep Yankton Beautiful please do not hesitate to let us know. We love to hear from you.

We truly appreciate the incredible support we have received from the people, businesses and city offices in Yankton and keep a list of donors, members and supporters on our website at www.keepyanktonbeautiful.org.

Local Assistance Available To Taxpayers

WASHINGTON — As tax season continues, Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) has announced that assistance is available at locations throughout the state to help South Dakotans prepare and file their yearly income tax returns. A special toll-free number and Web site have been created by the IRS to help taxpayers find local resources and information on the documents needed to file their return.

"Filing yearly tax returns can often require a complex web of documents and information," Johnson said. "There are many helpful resources available to South Dakotans to make it easier to prepare and file returns correctly."

South Dakotans can find information on the nearest Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) tax preparation locations by calling 1-800-829-1040.

The TCE Program allows senior citizens aged 60 and above to seek free tax preparation assistance. The VITA Program allows for military personnel and their families as well as any individual or family with an income of generally \$49,000 or less to seek free assistance with preparing their taxes.

Volunteers at tax preparation sites across the state will utilize software to prepare non-business tax returns for 2009

tax forms due on April 15, 2010. Taxpayers can log on to http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,0_id-107626,00.html to find more information about the volunteer sites.

Items taxpayers need to bring to the VITA/TCE sites to have their tax returns prepared include photo identification; Social Security card; current year tax information, including wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R from all employers; interest and dividend statements; a copy of last year's Federal and State returns and bank routing and account numbers for direct deposits; and other documents required by IRS guidelines.

Taxpayers are encouraged to utilize the above resources to ensure they are prepared when visiting tax preparation sites. Additional locations throughout South Dakota could become available as the filing deadline approaches, so taxpayers are encouraged to seek up-to-date information.

The IRS also recently completed a Return Preparer Review, which is a comprehensive review of the paid tax return preparer industry. The review offers advice for taxpayers who are considering hiring tax preparers to help with tax filing. To read more about the review, visit http://www.irs.gov/taxpros/article/0,0_id-210909,00.html.

This Car Thinks It's Been Burglarized

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

I am trying to jump-start my husband's 2008 Honda Accord. It's been sitting for a few months since he was deployed to Iraq, and I need to move the car ASAP before the street sweepers come. However, when I connect the last jumper-cable clamp, the horn starts blowing. How do I make it stop so I can jump the car and not have the whole neighborhood staring at me? Thanks! — Lisa

RAY: Jump-start it in the middle of the night, Lisa. No one's out staring at that hour.

TOM: Actually, it's your alarm system that's going off. When the battery died, the car's factory-installed alarm system assumed that someone was tampering with the battery or had disconnected it in order to break into the car.

RAY: So when you hook up the jumper



CLICK & CLACK

cables, it's like you're replacing the battery. Since the alarm's memory is intact, it picks up right where it left off, and starts honking

the horn and flashing the lights. It also immobilizes the engine so you can't start the car.

TOM: So here's what you need to do. Sometime in the middle of the day (don't listen to my brother), hook up the jumper cables. The horn will start to blow. As soon as it does, using the key fob, lock and then unlock the doors. You also can do this with the original Honda key in the driver's door.

RAY: Once the car is locked and then unlocked with a legitimate key or key fob, the alarm will reset and you'll be good to go.

TOM: And from then on, just try to start it (or better yet, drive it) every few weeks to prevent the battery from dying.

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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Youth Set To Test Skills During Bridge Building Conference

BROOKINGS — More than 150 prospective engineers will be in Brookings March 18-20 to see who can build the best 20-foot-long steel bridge.

The contest is part of the American Society of Civil Engineers Midwest Student Conference, which is drawing students from nine universities in the Upper Midwest and Canada. The conference, held in Brookings on a rotating basis, is sponsored by the South Dakota State University student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The bridge-building contest is an interesting process to observe, according to Nick Haltvik, of West Concord, Minn., who is directing the contest.

In a span of eight to 10 minutes, teams completely assemble a bridge that can withstand a load of 2,500 pounds. Bridges are

judged on aesthetics, construction time, weight of the bridge and ability to withstand a given load, said Haltvik, who graduated from SDSU in December with his master's degree in civil engineering. He has been part of the contests since enrolling at State as a freshman in 2004.

The top two teams advance to national competition at Purdue University in late May. The region has been ruled by North Dakota State, a five-time national champion, and Lakehead University, a powerhouse from Thunder Bay, Canada, Haltvik said.

Last year's national winning team from State University of New York-Canton completed the bridge building in four minutes, but most teams take twice as long, Haltvik said. He added, "teams that don't practice can take 30 minutes."

Teams of three to six members

must assemble their bridges with steel pieces no longer than 42 inches, and no parts can be pre-assembled.

A wrinkle in this year's contest is that the steel deck has to be offset from the lower system. "Because of this, a slight eccentricity is induced into the piers and the lower structure of the bridge, causing a torsional loading effect," he said. "This makes the calculations more complex and critical that all potential failure modes are considered."

There is no charge to watch the competition or to attend any of the Friday workshops, which are at the Days Inn Convention Center.

The keynote speaker at the 6 p.m. Friday, March 18, banquet is SDSU alumnus Travis Konda, a bridge design engineer with HNTB Corporation in Kansas City, Mo.

Konda, originally of Sisseton, will speak on his experience replacing the U.S. 90 bridge at Saint Louis Bay, Miss., after it was demolished by Hurricane Katrina. Konda earned his bachelor's and master's degree from SDSU in 1998 and 2001, respectively, and his doctorate in 2004 from Iowa State.

Conference participating schools include SDSU, NDSU, the University of North Dakota, Iowa State University, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minnesota State University-Mankato, and Lakehead University.

For more information on the event, interested people can contact Zachary Rothstein, Hutchinson, Minn., conference chair, at 320-583-4200 or zarothstein@jacks.sdstate.edu.

4-H's 'Operation: Military Kids' Seeks Photos For New Contest

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service seeks photography from military children for a new contest.

South Dakota 4-H's Operation: Military Kids program is a co-sponsor of a photography contest for military children ages 6-18. Under the theme of "Capturing Patriotic Moments," children are invited to submit photos in two categories, family moments and service members.

Submitted photos must be 5 inches by 7 inches and printed on standard photo paper. A label on the back should include the division entered, child's name, address, age and type of camera used. Do not write directly on the back of the photos. Send entries to Candice Twinnereim, South Dakota Army National Guard Youth Coordinator, 120 W. 11th Ave., Webster, SD 57274. Entries must be postmarked by April 30.

Judging will be based 40 percent on photographic quality, 40 percent on composition, and 20 percent on interest or impact. Your county extension office has more information on taking quality photos and the judging criteria.

Approximately 15 photos will be selected for the Operation: Military Kids traveling photo

exhibit, which will tour South Dakota. Winners will be announced in May.

The South Dakota National Guard Family Readiness Office is cosponsoring the contest. April marks a national month-long celebration of the children of military service members.

South Dakota Cooperative Extension 4-H/Youth Development Specialist Kathryn Reeves said this photo contest gives kids a chance to document the inspirational moments happening around them as part of military families.

"We want to encourage all children in military families to take part in this free contest that allows kids to express their creativity and to honor their loved ones who are serving the country," Reeves said. "The kids also get the chance to have their work highlighted around the state in the competition."

Operation: Military Kids is a partnership of U.S. Army Child and Youth Services, USDA National 4-H Headquarters, and the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service's 4-H/Youth Development program.

For more information about South Dakota 4-H, visit the organization's Web site at this link: <http://4h.sdstate.edu>.

USD Greek Councils Recognized For Outstanding Leadership

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota's Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils were recognized for outstanding leadership and educational development at the 2010 Mid-American Greek Council Association and National Black Leadership Conference in St. Louis recently.

The Interfraternity Council received the Outstanding Achievement in Academic Achievement and Council Management for the Jellson Division II while the Panhellenic Council was honored for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Council Management, Leadership and Educational Development, Membership Recruitment, Philanthropy and Community Service, and Risk Reduction and Management in the Sutherland Division I.

The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils are the women's and men's Greek governing bodies dedicated to

overseeing chapters with values driven guidance, accountability and governance. The 2010 Mid-American Greek Council Association and National Black Leadership Conference annual meeting featured more than 2,100 undergraduate students, including six representatives from USD's Greek community. While in St. Louis for the three-day conference, the USD contingent had an opportunity to network with peers, expand their knowledge of Greek life's best practices and take away new ideas.

"The Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values Conference is an outstanding opportunity for the representatives of the USD Greek Community to learn about the best practices from around the nation," stated Paul Rann, Interfraternity Council president. "I am proud to be able to represent the USD Greek community on a national level and to contribute to its continued success."

60th Anniversary

Albert and Molly Stensaas of Canistota will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on March 19, 2010.

An open house is planned at West Wall Lake Zion Lutheran Church from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 21, 2010.

Greetings may be sent to 45363 263rd Street, Canistota, SD 57012.

The Stensaas

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