

Life In Poetry

Poem Takes A Small Sip From A Thirsty Subject

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

I don't think we've ever published a poem about a drinker. Though there are lots of poems on this topic, many of them are too judgmental for my liking. But here's one I like, by Jeanne Wagner, of Kensington, Calif., especially for its original central comparison.

MY MOTHER WAS LIKE THE BEES

because she needed a lavish taste on her tongue,
a daily tippie of amber and gold to wait her into the sky,
a soluble heat trickling down her throat.
Who could blame her for starting out each morning with a swig of something furious in her belly, for days when she dressed in flashy lamé leggings like a starlet, for wriggling and dancing a little madly, her crazy reels and her rumbas, for coming home wobbly with a flicker of clover's inflorescence still clinging to her clothes, enough to light the darkness of a pitch-black hive.

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Experts To Share Information, Examine 2011 Missouri River Flood At USD Conference

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota's Farber Center for Civic Leadership and Morningside College will host a two-day emergency management conference on the University of South Dakota campus beginning today (Tuesday).

The Missouri River Flood Conference, designed for local, state, and federal officials, will include best practices related to the flood fight last summer and address preparation for future emergencies. Tim Cowman, executive director of the Missouri River Institute, will deliver Monday's keynote address, "The Anatomy of the Missouri River Flood," at 8:30 a.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room. Additional speakers on the first day include Sioux City Fire Chief Tom Everett at 10:15 a.m. and Rick Fosse of Iowa City, Iowa, who will lead a 3 p.m. plenary session, "Double Trouble: A Tornado and a Flood in Iowa City."

John Berge, executive director of the USDA National Food and

Agriculture Council, begins the second day of the conference with a keynote address at 8:30 a.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room followed by a presentation from David Pearson of the National Weather Service. The conference also includes workshop sessions on topics related to the response and recovery of the event, including "Psychological First Aid" by Gerard Jacobs, Ph.D., of USD; research and learning opportunities as well as experts who will share information on volunteer coordination, law enforcement's function during a disaster and the United States Geological Services task through the flood.

The conference is free of charge and open to public officials, private citizens, volunteer organizations, academic professionals and students. For registration information, please contact conference coordinator Michelle Skaff at (712) 899-3757 or email miskaff@sioux-city.org.

Compost Available At Transfer Station

Compost made from grass clippings, leaves and other yard material is available to local gardeners at the Yankton transfer station located at 23rd and Kellen Gross Drive.

The compost is loaded into containers and vehicles by those getting the material. The compost is

considered a soil conditioner and the proper use of the compost is the responsibility of those receiving the material. The compost has not been tested for chemical content. The transfer station is open 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There is no charge for the material.

BIRTHDAYS

HELEN ZDENEK

Our dearly loved mother, Helen Zdenek, will be celebrating her 90th birthday on March 31, 2012. We, her children, are requesting that you help celebrate this joyous occasion by sending her birthday greetings. Cards may be sent to Helen Zdenek, PO Box 96, Tabor, SD 57063.



Zdenek

Vermillion Steakhouse To Debut Philanthropic Event

VERMILLION — RED Steakhouse has launched an annual philanthropic event that aims to raise funds for causes that benefit the Vermillion community. The annual event, "MINGLE," is a gourmet food and wine tasting event designed to gather people together and raise awareness and funds that will benefit the local community.

"MINGLE at RED" with the Dakota Hospital Foundation will be held Thursday April 5, running from 4:30-9 p.m. For the inaugural event, RED Steakhouse has decided to MINGLE with the Dakota Hospital Foundation

(DHF). Proceeds from this year's MINGLE will go towards funding a third labor and delivery room within the Sanford Vermillion Hospital. Tickets for this event can be purchased in advance or at the door. Ticketholders receive a Spiegelau glass to take home and can sample from 100 wines. In addition, there will be a Reserve room, where for a

further donation, participants can taste through a collection of 10-12 limited production wines. Chef Tom and his team will be showcasing their culinary skills and providing a variety of different foods to accompany the wines, and numerous wine representatives will be present to mingle and answer any wine-related questions.

MEEHAN-STORGAARD ENGAGEMENT

Linda Storgaard is pleased to announce the engagement of her son, Jason of Vermillion to Meloney Meehan of Sioux Falls, daughter of Mary & the late Mike Meehan, Madison. Meloney is the General Manager of Homewood Suites by Hilton of Sioux Falls. Jason is employed at Northern Gas of Sioux City.

The couple is planning a May 18th wedding at Ponca State Park.



Beware Of This Mechanic's Song And Dance

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I've been a fan for years. I had a great 2000 Ford Crown Victoria, which I always had serviced at a local muffler/repair shop. Last year, I gave the car to my daughter in Michigan. When she took it to her own mechanic for a tuneup, he discovered that all eight fuel-injector clips had broken off and the fuel injectors were held in position by plastic zip ties! My repair-shop owner is telling me that there is a problem with these clips, that they tend to break off, and that it is standard to use zip ties to hold them in place. He never mentioned this during the nine years he serviced my car. My daughter's mechanic says my guy is "blowing smoke," and he has never seen anything like this before. Who do I believe? I am very leery about returning to my old guy now with my newer 2005 Mercury. What do you fellows think? Would you go back to him? — **Dorothy**

TOM: No. He's endangering your life, Dorothy. And he's trying to cover up his bad judgment with a song and dance.

RAY: We used to try that, but very quickly, we ran through the entire 20th Century Songbook, and our feet were killing us.

TOM: Those clips do break sometimes. We've seen it happen when you remove the fuel injectors to make a repair. But if you break one, or two, or eight, you buy new ones. They're



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

sold separately by dealers, and they're cheap. Very cheap.

RAY: So the only reason to use zip ties would be laziness. They're not an acceptable substitute.

TOM: They're plastic, so they're not designed to take the high underhood temperatures in the middle of the engine compartment, which can be several hundred degrees. And over time, the zip ties will get brittle and fail. If one breaks, a fuel injector can come flying out, spraying gasoline at high pressure all over the engine.

Smokers To Blame For Grass Fire In Rapid City

RAPID CITY (AP) — Officials say a grass fire that threatened several homes and apartment buildings near the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology last week was started when two students discarded smoking materials.

The Friday fire caused the volunteer evacuation of several homes and apartment buildings.

KOTA-TV reports that investigators have determined the fire was accidentally started by two college students smoking.

Man Facing Sex Crime Charges Pleads Guilty

ABERDEEN (AP) — An Aberdeen man facing 23 felony sex crime counts has pleaded guilty to a single charge of raping a child younger than 10.

The *American News* reports that 42-year-old Richard Mette was to stand trial beginning Monday but reached a plea agreement with prosecutors that calls for him to be sentenced to 15 years in prison.

A judge must agree to the plea deal. The charge to which Mette pleaded guilty carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Inflated Home Price Case Ends In Mistrial

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A judge has declared a mistrial in a wire fraud and mail fraud case involving a home builder and a loan broker who allegedly sold a Lincoln home at an inflated price in 2006.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* says a federal jury deadlocked after 10 hours of deliberating and Senior Judge Richard Kopf declared a mistrial. He referred the case to a magistrate judge for a new trial date.

Jason Svoboda, of Columbus, is a loan adviser and Douglas George, of Liberty, Mo., ran a construction company called Main Street Homes.

The indictment says they told a mortgage lender that a house cost nearly \$222,000 and that George would loan the buyer \$22,000. But, the filing says, the house actually cost \$200,000 and George never loaned any money.

Man Convicted In Boy's Death Appeal Denied

MINDEN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Court of Appeals has denied an appeal from one of the men sentenced in the death of a 4-year-old Minden boy.

The Kearney Hub reports that the court has upheld the sentence of 39-year-old Charles Turnell. He is serving 19 to 20 years in prison after a felony attempted child abuse resulting in serious bodily injury conviction in September.

Two others involved in the case — Sharon Turnell and Dustin Scoville — have also appealed, but their sentences have not been reviewed by the court. They're serving sentences of 49 to 50 years in prison.

The child, Landon Payne, was Sharon Turnell's nephew and had lived with the couple since August 2009. He died Dec. 22, 2009, a day after he was taken to a hospital.

Man In Jail For 10th Drunken Driving Arrest

PAPILLION, Neb. (AP) — A man arrested on drunken driving charges for the tenth time has pleaded not guilty.

KETV in Omaha reports that 51-year-old Reginald Dawson has had prior convictions in Hawaii, Missouri and Nebraska.

Dawson was parked in the middle of Fort Crook Road in Bellevue in January, when police spotted him. Investigators say Dawson refused to take an alcohol breath test, which is a felony in Nebraska.

A Sarpy County district judge has kept Dawson's bond at \$100,000 and set the next court hearing for May 18.

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