

Life In Poetry

Poet Looks At Life Through Backyard

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

I've recently published a children's book about a man who is so fussy about his yard that he loses his home, so I was immediately taken by this fine poem by Lynne Sharon Schwartz about a similar man. We all enjoy writing that confirms what we've privately observed about the world. Schwartz lives in New York City.

CEMENT BACKYARD

My father had our yard cemented over.
He couldn't tell a flower from a weed.
The neighbors let their backyards run to clover
and some grew dappled gardens from a seed,
but he preferred cement to rampant green.
Lushness reeked of anarchy's profusion.
Better to tamp the wildness down, unseen,
than tolerate its careless brash intrusion.
The grass interred, he felt well satisfied:
his first house, and he took an owner's pride,
surveying the uniform, cemented yard.
Just so, he labored to cement his heart.

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Discover Hockey Day Slated For Yankton

The Yankton Area Ice Association invites girls and boys of all ages to attend Discover Hockey Day on Sunday, March 10. The free event will take place at the Yankton Kiwanis Ice Arena on Whiting drive from 4-6 p.m. after Open Skate, with registration starting at 3:30 p.m.

Discover Hockey Day is designed to allow new and emerging skaters to experience the equipment, skills and techniques of playing hockey. Protective equipment, pucks and sticks will be provided to participants. Participants are encouraged to bring friends and family members to experience hockey as well.

Hockey instructors will be on hand to help along with several current Yankton Miracle hockey players. Each contestant must submit an entry form signed by a parent or legal guardian. Forms will be available at the ice rink on the day of the event.

For more information on Discover Hockey Day, contact Darrell or Rhonda Schenkel at 665-3076.

Yankton Writer's Club To Meet March 11

The Yankton Area Writer's Club Meeting will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, March 11, at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant, 502 West 21st St., Yankton.

From published authors to hobbyists, from pro to amateur, the Yankton Area Writer's Club is comprised of people in Yankton and the surrounding area, who have a passion for writing and a desire to help aspiring writers by offering readings, critiques, conferences and monthly lessons.

The club is open to all ages and there are no dues. It meets the second Monday of every month (the third Monday if the second falls on a holiday).

For more information, contact Nancy Burk at 605-664-6582 or yankton.area.writers.club@gmail.com, or visit <http://www.iw.net/~nnburk/>.

Open Houses Planned For St. Rose School

St. Rose School at Crofton will soon hold its annual open houses and registration days for Preschool and First Grade students. Parents interested in learning more about the St. Rose Preschool program and who do not presently have a child enrolled in the program are invited to attend a Preschool Registration and Open House at 7 p.m. Monday, March 11, at the St. Rose Preschool and Education Center.

Parents and potential Preschool students will learn more about the program, tour the Preschool facilities, enjoy refreshments and be able to ask questions and meet teachers and staff members at that time.

Parents and future St. Rose School first grade students are invited to attend the school's annual First Grade Registration and Open House the following week, at 7 p.m. Monday, March 18, at the St. Rose First Grade Classroom. Parents and students will meet their first grade teacher and other staff members, tour the school facilities, have refreshments and activities and have the opportunity to ask questions at that time. All incoming first grade students at St. Rose School receive \$100 off their first year's tuition, as a welcoming gift from the St. Rose School Boosters.

If you'd like more information on Preschool or First Grade Registration, contact Mr. Bosch at the St. Rose School office at 402-388-4393.

Pancake Supper And Kids Carnival Planned

Ability Building Services of Yankton will hold its fourth annual Spring Flip Pancake Supper and Kids Carnival on Tuesday, March 12, at Calvary Baptist Church, 2407 Broadway, Yankton. The event runs from 5-7 p.m.

Besides the meal, there will be live entertainment by the Yankton Children's Choir and by Laurie Larson and Friends. There will be products available for sale, and there will be a raffle for a Kansas City Royals gift package. Also, there will be a kids carnival with prizes.

The proceeds from this event will benefit the ABS Activity Fund.

'Survivor' Contestant To Speak In Yankton

Former "Survivor" contestant Holly Hoffman will be returning as the featured speaker at the *Press & Dakotan's* "Celebrate Women" event in April.

"Celebrate Women" will be held Thursday, April 18, at the Riverfront Event Center, with Hoffman's talk set for the Dakota Theatre. Watch the *Press & Dakotan* for ads with more information and when tickets will be available.

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Dumb Move May Not Be Harmful

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

Bonehead move on my part: While changing the oil for the first time in my 2005 Toyota Sienna van, I could not locate what looked like a normal oil drain plug. So, I ended up draining out the transmission fluid and then overfilling the motor oil. I did not realize my mistake until I was about two miles down the road, wondering about the rough gear shifting. I immediately returned to my shop, added transmission fluid and drained/refilled all the motor oil. I managed to drive the car a total of four miles and up to 55 mph with no transmission fluid. There does not appear to be anything wrong with the transmission, as it now shifts smoothly. (1) What damage could I have done to the transmission? (2) What damage might I have done to the engine by over-filling the oil? Thanks. —**Tony**

TOM: Congratulations, Tony. You are now eligible to join the Bonehead Support Group. Send your application to my brother. He's President for Life.

RAY: Gee, I'm surprised you even got the van to move at all if you really drained all of the transmission fluid. Normally, it'll just sit there and refuse to shift into any gear if the transmission is empty.

TOM: My brother would prefer you not ask him how he knows that!

RAY: So, I'm guessing you didn't drain out all of it. After all, it's pretty near impossible to completely empty the transmission just by opening the drain plug. A good amount of fluid inevitably remains behind in the torque



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

converter and the valve body. You obviously still had enough in there to move the car.

TOM: The answer to your question is: It's impossible to know exactly what damage you did. Obviously, you didn't do catastrophic damage, because the van appears to be running fine — at least from the point of view of a guy who doesn't know what an oil drain plug looks like. That's good news. What you don't know is what less-significant damage you did that will simply shorten the life of the transmission or engine.

RAY: In the case of the transmission, the fluid provides lubrication. Moving parts operating with minimal to no lubrication obviously will wear down faster, and their lives will be shorter. How much shorter? I couldn't even guess without taking apart the transmission (perhaps someone will be doing that

on the Dean's List for more than one college.

SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls has announced its Fall 2012 President's List. These students have demonstrated outstanding academic performance in the classroom and laboratory settings.

In order to become eligible for the President's List, students must be full-time and have achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for the semester. These students should be commended for their efforts and performance.

The area students (listed with their hometowns and majors) achieving this recognition at Southeast Technical Institute from your community is/are:

- Christopher D. Stibral, Yankton — Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning/Refrigeration
- Jason Charles Metz, Yankton — Sports Turf Management Technology
- Kirsten Bernice Muhmel, Yankton — Media Design Technology
- April A. Jones, Sioux Falls — Health Information Services
- Celina Rose Dorzok, Sioux Falls — Health Information Services
- Heide Michelle Blagg, Yankton — Early Childhood Specialist
- Rebecca Jane Wirth, Yankton — Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Abdominal/OB/GYN
- Jordan Scott Hansen, Yankton — Computer Network Security Technology
- Michelle Frances Briscoe, Lesterville — Business Administration
- Nicholas William Barkl, Yankton — Automotive Technology

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

OMAHA, Neb. — The following area students from your area were named to the fall Dean's List at Creighton University for the fall semester of the 2012-2013 academic year.

- Michael Kotrous of Nio-brara, a sophomore College of Arts and Sciences student
- Luke Buffington of Gayville, a freshman College of Business student
- Ryan Ford of Yankton, a sophomore College of Arts and Sciences student
- Matthew Gubbels of Yankton, a sophomore College of Arts and Sciences student
- Amy Johnson of Yankton, a sophomore College of Business student

Full-time students who earn a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a 4.0 scale are eligible for the Dean's Honor Roll.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Some 4,000 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the Dean's list for the 2012 fall semester. The guidelines for inclusion on the list are as follows:

Undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, and the Tippie College of Business who achieve a grade point average of 3.50 or higher on 12 semester hours or more of UI graded course work during a given semester or summer session and who have no semester hours of I (incomplete) or O (no grade reported) during the same semester are recognized by inclusion on the Dean's List for that semester.

Undergraduate students in the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine may qualify for the Dean's List with fewer than 12 semester hours of graded credit if deemed appropriate by the college.

Beginning fall 2011, College of Nursing students participating in clinical courses must have a total of 12 semester hours of earned credit, with 8 semester hours of graded credit with a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

Area honorees included:

- Dakota Dunes — Haley Holton, Liberal Arts & Sciences.

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