

American Life In Poetry

# A Death In The Family

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

Amanda Strand is a poet living in Maryland. I like this poem for its simplicity, clarity and directness. No frills to decorate it, just the kind of straightforward accounting of an experience that Henry David Thoreau said he looked for in an author.

### FATHER AND DAUGHTER

The wedding ring I took off myself,  
his wife wasn't up to it.  
I brought the nurse into the room  
in case he jumped or anything.  
"Can we turn his head?  
He looks so uncomfortable."  
She looked straight at me,  
patiently waiting for it to sink in.  
The snow fell.  
His truck in the barn,  
his boots by the door,  
flagpoles empty.  
It took a long time for the taxi to come.  
"Where to?" he said.  
"My father just died," I said.  
As if it were a destination.

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## Dakota Wesleyan University To Host 23rd Regional Science Fair

MITCHELL — Dakota Wesleyan University will host the 23rd annual South Central South Dakota Regional Science and Engineering Fair on Tuesday, March 24, in the Christen Athletic Center.

The competition includes students in grades six through 12, from 21 schools in 18 South Dakota counties. Projects will be on display for viewing by the public from 2 to 5 p.m.

Students participating in this regional event will bring projects that have already won in science fairs at local schools. This year's fair includes 134 projects produced by 171 students.

"Our science fair projects continue to show their worth," said Dr. Mike Farney, science fair director, professor of mathematics at DWU.

Last year's entries at the 65th International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) were: a microchip system to monitor cows, by Justin Krell, Plankinton; a sunscreen made of berries, by Julie Boyle, Avon; and a natural herbicide, by Amanda Reiff and Devin Tolsma, Avon.

While these did not win at the ISEF, Boyle's project won second place (\$500) at the Sanford Science Festival last June. Another one of last year's entries, by Riley Nanninga from Avon, won the right to compete at ISWEEP

held in Houston. There he won a bronze award (\$150) for his project, "Application Cent\$,," which was a study on sprayer control.

"This year's South Central South Dakota Science and Engineering Fair will have projects researching: cancers cures, pencils made from grass and a new set of gears for bicycles," Farney said. "Titles range from the exotic, 'Homopolar Motors,' to the earthy, 'What's the Scoop on Manure?'"

More than 90 judges will select the Grand Award winners, including three projects that will advance to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair May 10-15 in Pittsburgh, Pa. One project will advance to ISWEEP in Houston, and one project to compete in Oswego, N.Y.

Awards to be given to participating students include cash, certificates, DWU scholarships including \$10,000 to the senior grand award winners, plaques, medals, trophies, major industry recognition and recognition by a variety of military branches.

In addition to DWU, sponsors include *The Daily Republic*, Your Touchtone Energy Cooperatives, Sixth District Medical Society, Twin City Fan Companies, LTD., Corey and Lisa Thelen, Davison County Implement and Logan Luxury Theatre.

## Car Talk

# Car Dies When Hot

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**Dear Car Talk:**  
We live in the Southwest and have a 1992 Lincoln Town Car, which is much loved by my husband. The only problem is that it likes to die when the temperature is above 96 degrees. We will be traveling for over 30 minutes and boom, it dies. It starts again in about 20 minutes, but if it is still hot, it will soon die again. This also happened once in cooler weather when we had been driving in the mountains for two hours. We've been given theories such as vapor lock and boiling fuel, and advice that included clothespins, but I don't feel comfortable betting my safety on clothespins. I hope you can help us. Thank you. — Felicia

Don't discount clothespins, Felicia. I always keep a couple in the glove box. I used to clip them on my nose whenever my brother was in the car.

Clothespins aside, your first step is a little detective work. In order for the engine to run, it needs three things: Air, fuel and spark. I'll assume that air is not a problem, since you continued breathing long enough to write to us. So you have to determine whether the engine is dying because it's losing fuel or losing spark.



Ray MAGLIOZZI

through those wires. That tells you there's spark.

What we'd instruct you to do is, next time the car dies, open the hood and touch the test light to a spark-plug wire. Then have another person try to start the car. If the light flashes, you're getting spark. That means the problem is fuel.

If you try to start the car and the test light doesn't flash, then we know it's a spark problem. By knowing which of those it is, we can save you a lot of time and money in trying to figure it out.

If the test tells us that the problem is lack of fuel, we'd suspect either the

If you were one of our customers, we'd lend you a little inductive test light and show you how to use it. If you open the hood and just touch the probe of the test light to any of the spark-plug wires while the car is running, the light will flash, indicating that electricity is pulsing

electric fuel pump or the fuel pump relay.

If you had no spark, we'd suspect one of the electronic ignition components, like the electronic ignition module, the coil or the hall-effect sensor.

But start by finding a mechanic who's willing to work with you to narrow it down. If you need help finding a mechanic you like, try searching our Mechanics Files (www.mechanicsfiles.com), which is a database of mechanics who are personally recommended by other readers and radio listeners of ours. Good luck.

*Changing your oil regularly is the cheapest insurance you can buy for your car, but how often should you change it? Find out by ordering Click and Clack's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.*

*Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.*

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## Yankton Chamber, Local Business Owners Return From 'Bootcamp'

Yankton Chamber of Commerce, The Wooden Spoon, Lily Crest and Twist of Pine returned this past week from a Colorado-based business improvement "Destination Bootcamp," where they learned hundreds of new methods to bring more customers and visitors to Yankton. Carmen Schramm, Jen Uecker, Cathy Clatworthy and Lisa Kneiff were among a group of 43 business owners from across North America who attended the two and one-half day, 20-hour workshop.

The Chamber and these business owners are the first from the Yankton area ever to attend the "Destination Bootcamp" and their attendance was only possible due to the generous support and financial assistance of First Dakota National Bank and CEO Larry Ness. After discussing the need to put action behind continuing talk — the Community Reinvestment Program was put into action and conversations began with several businesses to determine who would attend the spring training.

The two and one-half day "Destination Bootcamp," created by marketing consultant Jon Schallert, teaches independent business owners how to reposition their businesses as "consumer destinations." According to Schallert, a business using his "Destination Business" strategies can compete effectively



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Carmen Schramm, Jen Uecker, Cathy Clatworthy and Lisa Kneiff were among a group of 43 business owners from across North America who attended "Destination Bootcamp."

with superstores and big box stores, and significantly impact the local community. According to Schallert, it is not uncommon for destination businesses to create change in an entire city, by drawing consumers from miles around, from outside the immediate marketplace of a community.

"With the 14 step principles we learned at the Bootcamp, we will be able to satisfy more of our customers' needs and make purchasing everything from

home decorating items to custom cakes a much more enjoyable, fun experience! Additionally, we will be attracting more visitors and tourists from outside Yankton," says Executive Director Carmen Schramm. "With what we have learned, there's no reason we can't attract shoppers and travelers from hundreds of miles away while at the same time, building local consumer loyalty. Plus, this is only beginning since there are other plans in place to help kick start and revitalize Yankton

in the coming weeks and months."

Each business attendee provides a different service to the Yankton market including downtown retail shopping, custom framing, custom cakes, food services, marketing consulting and a new bed & breakfast beginning construction this spring to the lake area. As part of the financial assistance to this workshop, each business will be required to mentor one additional business in Yankton. By doing so, they will be helping another business re-evaluate their current methods and train them in building their market area. Any member wishing to be considered for mentorship is requested to contact the Chamber.

Schallert's Destination Business Bootcamp is held in Colorado three times annually. Schallert has worked with independent business owners since 1983, speaks to thousands every year and is the President of The Schallert Group, Inc., Longmont, Colorado. One newspaper called Schallert "the marketing guru rooting for the retail underdogs." Business owners interested in attending may contact the Yankton Chamber of Commerce at (605) 665-3636 for more information on the Bootcamp experience, or they can visit Schallert's website at www.Destination-BootCamp.com.

## Master Gardeners Spring Fling Slated March 24

The Missouri Valley Master Gardeners annual Spring Fling will be held at the Tuesday, March 24, at the Avera Professional Pavilion, 501 Summit Street, Yankton. Activities begin at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Shann Doerr at (605) 660-7439 or shann.doerr@vyn.midco.net/.

## BIRTHDAYS

### JOSEPHINE BRAUNESREITHER

Josephine Braunesreither will be celebrating her 100th birthday March 18.

An open house to celebrate her birthday is set for March 19 from 3-5:30 p.m. at Sister Hames Majestic Bluffs, 2111 West 11th St. in Yankton.

### FRAN HENDRICKS

Fran Hendricks will celebrate her 85th birthday Friday, March 20, 2015.

Cards may be sent to 4709 6th St. #215, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 57110.



Hendricks

## Save Some Green St. Patrick's Day With 10 Energy Tips

DES MOINES, Iowa — Keep more green in your wallet this St. Patrick's Day by following these 10 energy-saving tips from MidAmerican Energy Company.

**1. Take advantage of free home energy assessment services.** — Complete an online energy assessment to compare your energy use to similar homes in your area or schedule a free on-site HomeCheck® if your home was built before Jan. 1, 2005. During a HomeCheck, an energy expert will come to your home and identify various energy-saving improvements. To take advantage of this program, call 800-545-0762.

**2. Set your thermostat to 68 degrees during the winter and 78 degrees during the summer.** — For every degree you lower the setting below 68 in the winter, or increase the setting above 78 in the summer, you reduce your energy consumption by approximately four percent over a 24-hour period. Save even more by adjusting the temperature when you're asleep or away automatically with a pro-

grammable thermostat.

**3. Switch to energy-efficient lighting.** — On average, lighting accounts for 20 percent of a home's electric bill. Customers can easily save some green by installing CFL or LED light bulbs, which use 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than standard incandescent bulbs.

**4. Recycle old appliances.** — Keeping a spare refrigerator or freezer running can add \$100 or more to a home's energy bill each year. Customers with a working refrigerator, freezer or room air conditioner can call MidAmerican Energy at 800-621-2757 to have their appliance hauled away and recycled free of charge, and customers will receive a rebate of \$50 for a refrigerator or freezer and \$25 for an air conditioner.

**5. Plant a tree.** — Trees can reduce a home's heating and cooling costs when strategically planted to provide ample shade for summer and windbreak for winter. Trees also improve air quality and help to protect and replenish the soil. MidAmerican Energy's

Plant Some Shade program enables Iowa customers to purchase high-quality landscape trees at discounted prices. Trees, ranging from 3 to 8 feet in height and selected by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, are offered for \$30 each during spring and fall.

**6. Preventive maintenance pays.** — Have your home's heating and cooling system serviced once a year to keep it running efficiently. Check your furnace filters regularly and replace dirty filters that make your system work harder and use more energy than necessary. In addition, MidAmerican Energy offers rebates with its HVAC Tune-Up program to help offset the cost of increasing the efficiency of existing equipment and ductwork.

**7. Ensure your home has adequate insulation for year-round comfort.** — This includes the attic, exterior walls, floors, basement and crawl spaces. A knowledgeable homeowner or skilled contractor can seal and insulate a home and potentially save up to 10 percent on an-

nual energy costs.

**8. Let the drapes do the work.** — Keep draperies, shades and blinds open on sunny winter days, especially with windows on the south side of your home, and closed on hot and sunny summer days.

**9. Turn it off and unplug.** — When plugged in, many appliances and electronics use electricity whether they're turned on or not. This is wasted power. By turning off and unplugging appliances and electronics, you can possibly reduce your wasted energy load by as much as one-third.

**10. Clear the way inside and out.** — Be sure your air registers and radiators aren't blocked by furniture, rugs, draperies or other objects in your home. Vacuum or dust register vents on a regular basis so air can circulate freely. Keep your air conditioner unit clear of grass, weeds and shrubs to allow air to flow over its cooling coils. This will keep your air conditioner running more efficiently. Visit MidAmerican Energy's website for more tips on how to save some green.

**Thank You!**  
Thank you to everyone who helped me celebrate my 80th birthday. Thanks for all the gifts and the many, many cards I received.  
**Joyce Wiepen**

**Fox Run Quik Lube**  
2501 Fox Run Pkwy  
Your 10-minute oil change center  
No Appointment Needed  
Tues - Fri 8-5 • Sat 8-2  
Next Door to Post Office

*We think of you in silence  
We often speak your name  
But all we have are memories  
And your picture in a frame  
Your resting place we visit  
And put flowers there with care  
But no one knows the heartache  
As we turn and leave you there.*  
**Patrick Smith**  
3/17/1934 to 9/18/2013  
Love,  
JoAnn, Jill, Jay, Chad and family