

SD Ag In The Classroom And SD Farm Families Host Essay Contest

MILLER — South Dakota Ag in the Classroom (SDAIC) and South Dakota Farm Families are sponsoring an essay contest for all South Dakota third- and fourth-graders and high school seniors in South Dakota.

The themes of the contest revolve around conservation and preservation of natural resources. The topic for the third and fourth grade contest is "How Do Farmers Turn Waste into Something Useful?" and the senior contest topic is "How Are Farmers Actively Working to Preserve and Protect the Environment?"

"Protecting the environment is something farmers and ranchers do every day," said Ann Price, SDAIC director. "If they don't protect the natural resources they are given, there won't be any way to grow the crops and animals that feed us."

Winners in the third and fourth grade categories will receive a classroom pizza party and a certificate. The winner of the high school contest will receive \$250 cash.

Entries are due April 4, 2015, and winners will be announced on or before April 10.

Entry forms must be included with all entries and can be found at www.ag-classroom.org/sd. Third- and fourth-graders should submit their 100-250 word essays and seniors should submit their 500-1,000 word essays to Ag Week Essay Contest, c/o South Dakota Ag in the Classroom, PO Box 402, Miller, SD, 57362 or email them to sdagclassroom@yahoo.com with the subject line "Ag Week Essay Contest."

Contact Ann Price at sdagclassroom@yahoo.com or 605-853-6040 with questions.

Life Is Too Short To Worry About How You Shift

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:

I feel compelled to follow up on your column on downshifting through the gears when coming to a stop. You came out against it because you said it wears out the clutch, which is more expensive to replace than the brakes. But I have a BMW Z4 with automatic transmission and paddle shifters. I routinely use the paddle shifters to slow the car down through the gears when approaching a stop. I see no harm to the transmission in using this approach. Your argument about wearing out the clutch does not hold water, as I have no clutch. I feel this is the most appropriate way to slow down the car with no detriment to any mechanical parts. Your comments?

— Maurice

It's a free country, Maurice, and if your pursuit of happiness includes playing with your paddle shifters, it would be unpatriotic of me to interfere. Especially since I have friends who rebuild transmissions for a living and still



Ray
MAGLIOZZI

So what you're doing is a lot less likely to cost you big bucks than if you had a pedal-operated clutch and a stick shift.

Plus, an automatic transmission will downshift "automatically" anyway as you're stopping. It would do it more gently and unnoticeably on its own, with less torque, and less wear and tear. But it is going to downshift itself anyway as you slow down to stop.

Keep in mind that with any mechanical device — whether it's a transmission or a ballpoint pen — every time

have kids in college.

Automatic transmissions DO have clutches, Maurice. They're just different kinds of clutches than are used in cars with stick shifts.

They are, however, more likely to last the life of the car than their stick-shift cousins.

you use it, you bring it one small step closer to oblivion. So making harder downshifts will decrease the life of your transmission a little bit.

But in the big picture, what you're doing is not terribly harmful. Your automatic transmission and its internal clutches should last the life of the vehicle anyway. And if it gives you pleasure, then, by all means, keep doing it. Life is short, Maurice. Paddle away.

It's NEVER cheaper in the long run to buy a new car. Want proof? Order Car Talk's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, 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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 AND DOUG BERMAN

Building Relationships To Watch Students Grow

Communities and schools work together to help our students learn and grow. Shawn Wagner, representing Wells Fargo Bank, visited our classroom on Wednesday. He read books to the children and answered several questions.

The children asked, "What is your favorite book?"

Mr. Wagner replied, "I enjoy reading books. I love so many of them. It's hard to pick out a favorite. Books are like good friends. You can visit them over and over again!"

When businesses and schools work together, everyone wins. The books Mr. Wagner read were donated to our kindergarten classroom. Shawn enjoyed interacting with the children. We learned that he likes the Vikings, has two boys, works at a bank, and helps customers with their banking needs.

"Thank You" to Wells Fargo Bank and Shawn Wagner for the wonderful books donated to our classroom!



LEFT: Mrs. Wagner's kindergarten class from Lincoln Elementary School pictured with Shawn Wagner representing Wells Fargo Bank in Yankton. ABOVE: Shawn Wagner reading "Handa's Hen" by Eileen Browne.

The Potholes Are Back — Rocky Roads Ahead

SIOUX FALLS — Spring-like weather has returned to South Dakota but along with it has come a major threat to your car and your mental well-being — potholes.

"It's impossible to avoid all potholes, and suddenly swerving around them can lead to a crash," said AAA South Dakota spokeswoman, Marilyn Buskohl. "But there are definitely some things you can do to more safely navigate South Dakota's rocky roads."

• **Inspect Tires** — The tire is the most important cushion between a car and a pothole. Make sure they have enough tread and are properly inflated. When checking tire pressures, inflate them to the manufacturer's recommended levels, which can be

found in the owner's manual or on a sticker on the driver's door jamb or in the glove compartment. Don't go by the numbers found molded into the sidewall of the tire. Those are maximum tire pressure levels.

• **Check your Suspension** — Make certain struts and shock absorbers are in good condition. Changes in vehicle handling, excessive vibration or uneven tire wear can indicate bad shocks or struts. Have the suspension inspected by a certified auto technician if you are unsure. For a list of AAA's Approved Auto Repair shops in South Dakota, visit www.sd.aaa.com and look under the Automotive tab.

• **Keep a Forward Look-out** — Make a point of check-

ing the road ahead for potholes. You may have time to avoid a pothole, so it's important to stay focused on the road and not on any distractions inside or outside the vehicle. Before swerving to avoid a pothole, check surrounding traffic to make sure your actions won't cause a collision or endanger nearby pedestrians or cyclists.

• **Slow Down** — If a pothole cannot be avoided, reduce speed safely, being sure to check the rearview mirror before any abrupt braking. Hitting a pothole at higher speeds greatly increases the chance of damage to tires, wheels and suspension components.

• **Beware of Puddles** — A puddle of water can disguise

a deep pothole. Use care when driving through puddles and treat them as though they may be hiding potholes.

• **Check Your Alignment** — Hitting a pothole can knock a car's wheels out of alignment and affect the steering. If a vehicle pulls to the left or right, have the wheel alignment checked.

• **Be Sensitive To Noises and Vibrations** — A hard pothole impact can dislocate wheel weights, damage a tire or wheel and bend or even break suspension components. Any new or unusual noises or vibrations that develop after hitting a pothole should be inspected immediately by a certified auto technician.

MENUS

Menus listed below are for the week of March 23, 2015. Menus are subject to change without notice. All meals are served with milk.

Yankton Elementary Schools

Monday — Cheesy Hotdog
 Tuesday — Chicken Leg
 Wednesday — French Bread Pizza
 Thursday — Hamburger
 Friday — Fish Sticks

Yankton Middle School

Monday — Walking Taco
 Tuesday — Cheesy Hotdog
 Wednesday — Chicken Burger
 Thursday — French Bread
 Friday — Ham And Cheese

YHS A Line Menu

Monday — Chicken O's
 Tuesday — Turkey Tenders
 Wednesday — Teriyaki Chicken
 Thursday — Shrimp Poppers
 Friday — Italian Dunkers

YHS B Line Menu

Monday — Fiestada Pizza
 Tuesday — Macaroni & Cheese
 Wednesday — Taco Bites
 Thursday — Cauliflower Soup
 Friday — Combo Flatbread

YHS C Line Menu

Monday — Ham & Cheese
 Tuesday — Walking Taco
 Wednesday — French Dip
 Thursday — BBQ Chicken
 Friday — Mini Corndog

Sacred Heart Schools

Monday — Chicken Teriyaki
 Tuesday — Pizza Casserole
 Wednesday — Taco In A Bag
 Thursday — Tavern
 Friday — Popcorn Shrimp

The Center/Yankton

Monday — Chicken Fried Steak
 Tuesday — BBQ Ribs
 Wednesday — Sloppy Joe
 Thursday — Turkey
 Friday — Potato Crunch Fish

Tabor Senior Citizens Center

Monday — N/A
 Tuesday — Liver & Onions
 Wednesday — Roast Pork
 Thursday — French Dip
 Friday — N/A

Healthy Yankton Accepting Applications For Raised Garden Beds For 2015

Healthy Yankton is now accepting applications for two raised garden beds for the 2015 growing season.

The raised beds are 6 feet by 2 1/2 feet and have a working height of 30 inches. The purpose of the raised beds is to provide an opportunity to garden for those not able to utilize the traditional garden beds because of a physical limitation.

Anyone interested in utilizing a raised bed for the 2015 season must complete an application. If more applications are received than available beds, Healthy Yankton will review all applications and a lottery system will be used for the final selection. There is no fee to apply for a raised bed, the fee is collected after the raised beds are assigned.

For more information on the garden, call Angie O'Connor at 668-8590 or email healthyyankton@gmail.com.

Children's Gardening Mini-Grant Available

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension and the Community and Family Extension Leaders (CFEL) have announced opportunities for helping educational garden projects fund seeds, plants, small garden equipment or other programming materials through Children's Gardening Mini-Grant.

The grant is offered to any school-age group, K-12, with preference given to after-school and out-of-school time programs.

Participants must part-

ner with SDSU Extension through a Master Gardener, a county 4-H Youth Program Advisor, FNP/EFNEP assistant or other connection.

The program must incorporate hands-on learning experiences for children over a period of 6-12 weeks and include programming related to plant science and nutrition. A brief summary report of the project is also required.

Applications and a complete list of grant requirements are available at

iGrowSDLocalFoods.org under the publications tab in the resource library. Applications are due April 1, 2015.

Deliver or mail the application to the SDSU Extension Regional Center in Sioux Falls, at 2001 E. 8th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57103. Or email the applications to Christina.Zdorovtsov@sd-state.edu.

Happy Birthday to our "BABY" brother!

Chuck Turner Jr. will turn 60 on 3/22/15

Love ya,
 Your elders!
 Sharon, Tarry, and Lynda



P&D CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL (605) 665-7811

BONUS CASH DAYS
March 16th to 27th

Lunch will be served in Lesterville,
 March 26th from 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Take advantage of great new rebates on
MICHELIN and **Firestone** Ag Tires.

Bonus Cash Day Specials

\$7 off oil changes
\$30 off set of 4 passenger or light truck tires
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Tabor Lumber Cooperative
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