

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY:

## Written Words – If Lucky – Live Forever

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

If writers are both skilled and lucky, they may write something that will carry their words into the future, past the hour of their own deaths. I'd guess all writers hope for this, and the following poem by Peter Cooley, who lives in New Orleans and teaches creative writing at Tulane, beautifully expresses his hope, and theirs.

### THE ONE CERTAIN THING

A day will come I'll watch you reading this.  
I'll look up from these words I'm writing now—  
this line I'm standing on, I'll be right here,  
alive again. I'll breathe on you this breath.  
Touch this word now, that one. Warm, isn't it?

You are the person come to clean my room;  
you are whichever of my three children  
opens the drawer here where this poem will go  
in a few minutes when I've had my say.

These are the words from immortality.  
No one stands between us now except Death:  
I enter it entirely writing this.  
I have to tell you I am not alone.  
Watching you read, Eternity's with me.  
We like to watch you read. Read us again.

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## 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results Released

PIERRE — The 2009 South Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report has been released. Students in grades 9-12 at randomly selected public, private and Bureau of Indian Education schools participated in the survey.

Key indicators included in the report:

- 22 percent of respondents had ridden in the past month with drivers who'd been drinking
- 26 percent reported binge drinking in the past month
- 49 percent of the students tried smoking cigarettes
- 47 percent said they'd had sexual intercourse at least once
- 78 percent reported receiving HIV/AIDS prevention education in school
- 15 percent had eaten five or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day within the past week
- 29 percent attended physical education classes at least one day a week
- 23 percent reported watching TV at least three hours daily

"We hope schools and other organizations can use the data to devise prevention programming measures," said Amy Beshara of the Department of Education's Coordinated School Health pro-

gram. "While we've made progress in some of these areas, the results indicate that unified, concerted efforts are still required to change risky behaviors."

Administered every other year, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a questionnaire that assesses the six priority health-risk behaviors that result in most morbidity, mortality and social problems among youth. The six priority health-risk behaviors include those that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection; unhealthy dietary behaviors; and physical inactivity.

The South Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Coordinated School Health, which is a collaboration between the state Department of Education and Department of Health.

To view a complete copy of the report, go to <http://healthy-schools.sd.gov>.

## School Receives Nutrition Grants

PIERRE — Grants of more than \$1.2 million to school districts and other agencies across the state have been awarded by the South Dakota Department of Education's Child and Adult Nutrition Services.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides funds to elementary schools for the purchase of fruits and vegetables. The snacks must be served to students at times other than schools' breakfast or lunch meals. Schools with at least half of their students eligible for free or reduced-price meals receive funding priority.

Eighty elementary schools in 51 districts will get the grants for the 2010-2011 school year; 35 sites will receive the special funding for the first time. More than 18,000 students will receive fresh fruits and vegetable snacks through the program.

Yankton School District has two schools who will qualify for this grant next year. They are Webster and Lincoln Elementary Schools. Webster received the grant for the 2009-10 school year. This will be Webster's second year in the program and Lincoln's first next school year.

The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and schools apply through a competitive grant process that is administered by the state Child and Adult Nutrition Services office.

Through another USDA-funded grant, six rural school systems in South Dakota will share \$58,252 in one-time money for the purchase of new food-service equipment. Andes Central School District, Crow Creek Tribal School, Faith School District, Little Wound School System, McIntosh School District and Shannon County School District will use the funds to upgrade their kitchen facilities.

"The two grant programs will provide students with more opportunities to eat healthy foods during the school day," said Janelle Peterson, who oversees both programs for Child and Adult Nutrition Services. "We are pleased to be able to secure these funds for some schools with the highest needs."

For a complete list of schools receiving FFVP funds during 2010-2011, visit <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/cans/FFVP/index.asp>

## Odd Braking Sensation May Signal Problem

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray: Every time I am braking and go over a bump in our 2008 Prius (a frequent occurrence in hilly San Francisco), the anti-lock braking system kicks in. The problem is that when it does so, it feels like the brakes disengage for a second and the car goes faster. Our Toyota dealer tells me this is the way the ABS is supposed to work, and the brakes aren't disengaging – the computer system is just taking over the braking process. Is this true? It just doesn't feel safe to me. If I had to stop suddenly, I don't feel confident that I'd be able to do this in this car. Thanks. – Betsy

TOM: Gee, Betsy, we hate to kick poor Toyota when it's down. But I guess it's only fair. We've been doing it to GM for the past 35 years. RAY: I know exactly what you're experiencing, Betsy. I recently was testing a different Toyota hybrid, the RX450h, and had the same sensation with the brakes. And it is disturbing. There's a moment there where you feel like your brakes are failing.

TOM: Toyota tells us, just like it told you, that this is normal, and not a problem. It says that the ABS system works by momentarily interrupting the braking force to prevent a skid – and the resulting loss of control.

RAY: And that's true. But most ABS systems interrupt the braking force for a fraction of a second. In your case, and in the case of the RX450h, it seemed longer. And scarier.

TOM: So while Toyota might be right that



CLICK &amp; CLACK

the ABS is working the way it was designed to work, it offers the driver less confidence than ABS systems in other cars. And for that reason, we think a fix is called for.

RAY: My own guess – and I want to emphasize that this is pure speculation – is that it has something to do with when the hybrid switches from regenerative braking to traditional friction braking. And that if the ABS deploys (even properly) during that moment of switchover, it creates a strange delay. I would think it's the kind of thing that likely can be fixed with software, but perhaps it's not that easy.

TOM: Interestingly, Toyota has recalled the newer Priuses (the 2010s) to fix what sounds like a very similar problem. Here's Toyota's description of the reason for recalling the 2010s:

"Toyota has received complaints of

inconsistent brake feel during slow and steady application of brakes on rough or slick road surfaces when the anti-lock brake system (ABS) is activated in an effort to maintain tire traction.

"The system, in normal operation, engages and disengages rapidly (many times per second) as the control system senses and reacts to tire slippage. If the same brake pedal force is applied under these conditions, in the worst case, this may lead to an increase of vehicle stopping distance and thus raise the possibility of a crash."

RAY: They say that the older Priuses, like yours, use a different ABS system, and so are not subject to this recall. But it sounds like a similar issue. So we have to wonder if the recall eventually will be expanded to include older Priuses, too.

TOM: In the meantime, here's what you can do to help. Go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov), which is the website of NHTSA, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It collects reports of safety-related concerns. And if there are enough verifiable complaints, NHTSA can launch an investigation that may lead to a forced recall.

RAY: But before it ever gets to that, we hope that Toyota will learn from the mistakes of GM and, more recently, Toyota, and step up and offer a fix. If for no other reason than that customers like you, Betsy, are lacking confidence in their cars.

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](http://www.cartalk.com).

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## Rural Development Kicks Off Campaign To Assist 20,000

HURON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has kicked off its "All the Way to 20K" campaign to assist low- and very-low income families become homeowners.

Across the nation, USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has approximately \$2.5 billion for the Section 502 Direct Loan Programs and with these funds, 20,000 families can become successful homeowners.

Elsie M. Meeks, State Director for Rural Development in South Dakota, wants consumers to know the agency has offices across the state to assist them in achieving the dream of home ownership with a program that makes loans directly funded by the government.

"Affordable housing is important to rural communities," said Meeks. "Providing housing opportunities to rural residents is just one way USDA enhances the ability of rural communities to develop

and to grow, ensuring the best possible quality of life."

South Dakota Rural Development has more than \$11.3 million in funding for its Direct Home Loan Program, which is available to low- and very-low income households in rural areas where the population is less than 10,000. Some areas with populations of not more than 20,000 also are eligible. By definition, very-low income is defined as below 50 percent of the area median income (AMI). Low income is defined as between 50-80 percent of AMI. Click here <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do?pageAction=pageLoad&requestInfo=DirectIncomeLimits&NavKey=incomeLimit@11> to review area income limits for this program or visit <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do?pageAction=pageLoad&requestInfo=DirectIncomeLimits&NavKey=incomeLimit@11>.

With the direct loan program, there is no down payment requirement and closing costs may be included in the loan. Maximum loan amounts vary by county and applicants may be eligible for payment assistance, which would subsidize the interest portion of the house payment, lowering the overall monthly payment amount. Applicant's eligibility requirements include good credit history, adequate and dependable income and repayment ability for the loan.

Moreover, with direct loans there is no confusion about what type of mortgage loan a buyer will get. Loans are for terms up to 33 years; and for those with incomes below 60 percent of AMI that cannot afford 33-year terms, a 38-year term is available.

Housing approved for purchase under this program must be modest in size, design and cost. This means not having market value in excess of the applicable area loan

limit and is free of certain prohibited features (like a swimming pool). Additionally, the home must meet Rural Development's requirements for decent, safe and sanitary housing — a determination that is made by staff at the local office. Rural Development officials usually make a decision with 30 days of receipt of the loan application.

All South Dakota counties, excluding the towns of Sioux Falls and Rapid City, are eligible areas. To determine eligible areas, go to <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov>. For more information about the direct loan program, contact the nearest USDA Rural Development office, a list of which can be found online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd>, or call the South Dakota State Office at 605-352-1102 and ask to speak to a single family home loan specialist. USDA Rural Development staff will gladly meet with prospective homeowners who wish to buy in any eligible area of the state.

## STREET

From Page 1

works and see how the public accepts it. It will be there for a long enough period of time that people will be able to use it and get used to it, and then make a recommendation to the commission as far as it is working or not — especially with the aggregated industries down there."

Loren Haak of Yankton Ag Service has criticized the plan in the past and registered his concerns again during the meeting. His business is located along Second Street and draws large machinery.

"We're looking to make it pedestrian for who knows how many people?" he said. "We still don't even know, because there is so much that has to be done there yet. We're getting the cart ahead of the horse here again. Why are we doing this?"

Duane Schurman, owner of Southgate 66 along Second Street, was even more critical of the plan.

"My sales tax is better since they moved the bridge," he said. "I don't want it down to three lanes. I think it's stupid."

Yankton resident Dan Lammers said Second Street has too much to offer as a four-lane truck route to be narrowed.

"It's a perfect place to get the

sems off Broadway, off Fourth Street," he said. "There's no (stop light on Second Street) now. It gets them through town. They're traveling through. They're not coming here (in order) to shop."

Lammers hypothesized that the truck traffic, combined with all the stoplights along Fourth Street east of Broadway, are contributing to accidents.

"I hate to see those routes get clogged up any more until you've got proof we're going to get a couple thousand people a day walking across that (Meridian) bridge," he said.

One property owner spoke in favor of the conversion.

"I am in favor of it as someone who does want to do development down there," said the owner. "That's the reason why I bought the building. I would like to see the additional parking."

Since the Discovery Bridge was completed, the official truck route has moved from Second Street to Fourth Street and ownership of Second Street is now entirely in the hands of the city. Only local truck traffic is encouraged along Second Street. With the changes, Yankton Public Services Director Kevin Kuhl said those trucks, which are among approximately 4,000 vehicles that use the street daily, will still have plenty of room to maneuver.

Commissioner Pauline Akland, who comes into contact with many truckers through her work-

place, said she has heard many comments against changing Second Street.

"So many of them have complained about coming into town and having to turn on Fourth Street," she said. "They can't hardly get around that corner by First National Bank."

Riverboat Days could make for a dangerous situation as people dodge amongst the parked cars and into traffic, according to Commissioner Dave Carda.

"I do like the temporary striping in the turning lane, but I really don't care for the parking," he said.

In a 5-2 vote on the matter, Akland and Carda were opposed to the temporary change. Commissioner Paul Lowrie abstained from the discussion because he owns property along Second Street, and Commissioner Charlie Gross was absent.

Kuhl said Monday that engineering work is currently being done for the project, and it is unclear when city street crews will have time during their busy summer construction schedule to get to the painting of Second Street. However, he said he would like the changes in place by Riverboat Days.

The issue will come before the City Commission again next year. If the now-temporary changes are deemed worthwhile, money is already budgeted for 2011 to make more permanent adjustments to Second Street.

## MNRR Seeks Teaching Input

Teachers, the National Park Service's Missouri National Recreational River wants and needs your input as we begin the strategic planning process for a developing a multi-faceted, curriculum-based PreK-12 park education program that will be designed to meet the needs of you and your students.

Come join park educators and your colleagues, park summer Teacher-Ranger-Teachers, for a morning of collaborative brainstorming and sharing your dreams for standards-based park curriculum resources, programming, and field trip opportunities for your students and professional development opportunities for yourself.

The park will be holding its first teacher workshop on Tuesday, June 15, running from 9 a.m.-noon in the Yankton Chamber of Commerce conference room. Free professional development hours and documentation will be provided for all participating teachers.

For questions or to register, e-mail [anne\\_doherty-stephan@nps.gov](mailto:anne_doherty-stephan@nps.gov) or call Anne Doherty-Stephan, Chief of Interpretation and Education for Missouri National Recreational River at (605) 665-0209 x29.

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**Glasses Begin June 19th**

**Stories & Movement Mon. 2:00pm 7-9 Year Olds**  
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Taught by Dr. Eugenio Zapata, this class offers a style of dance that includes technique, creativity and interpretation.

**Judi's Dance Studio** Riverboat Days Shows Aug. 20 & 22  
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