

Helping Veterans



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Robert Bender, seam squirrel of Pup Tent No. 12, Yankton, presents a \$500 check to Brenda Teunissen, office manager/team leader of the Vet Center in Sioux Falls. The Vet Center, located at 3200 W. 49th, assists all veterans with health, clothing, gasoline and housing needs of the veterans. The Vets Standdown will be held at the Sioux Falls VFW Post on Sept. 19. For more information, contact the Vet Center at 605-330-4552.

American Life in Poetry

Last Gasp Of A Summer Garden

BY TED KOOSER
 U.S. Poet Laureate

We're at the end of the gardening season here on the Great Plains, and the garden described in this poem by Karina Borowicz, who lives in Massachusetts, is familiar to tomato fanciers all across the country.

SEPTEMBER TOMATOES

The whiskey stink of rot has settled in the garden, and a burst of fruit flies rises when I touch the dying tomato plants. Still, the claws of tiny yellow blossoms flail in the air as I pull the vines up by the roots and toss them in the compost. It feels cruel. Something in me isn't ready to let go of summer so easily. To destroy what I've carefully cultivated all these months. Those pale flowers might still have time to fruit. My great-grandmother sang with the girls of her village as they pulled the flax. Songs so old and so tied to the season that the very sound seemed to turn the weather.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 2013 by Karina Borowicz, whose most recent book of poems is Proof, (Cochill Press, 2014). Poem first appeared in the journal ECOTONE and is reprinted by permission of Karina Borowicz and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2014 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

SCHOLASTICS

CONNIE KERNS-GRAMS

HAYS, Kan. — Connie Sue Kerns-Grams, Irene, was one of 337 graduates of Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas, in the summer 2014 term. Kerns-Grams earned a Master of Liberal Studies with an emphasis in political science.

Fort Hays State, one of six state universities in the Kansas Board of Regents system, announces only verified graduates. The process of verifying that all requirements have been met for all graduates takes several weeks after the end of the term.

Where Have All The Smaller Pickups Gone?

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:
 Remember those Datsun mini-trucks that used to be around? Where did that class of trucks go? It seems like all you can get now is a full-size F-150 or similar. Is there anything like those old Japanese mini-trucks still on the market, or should I start shopping for a classic El Camino? What happened to the small trucks? — Bryant

RAY: People stopped buying them.
TOM: There still is a class of pickup truck smaller than the full-size F-150s, Silverados and Ram 1500s. But they're not much smaller.

RAY: Toyota still makes the Tacoma. Nissan still makes the Frontier. And Chevy is coming out with a redesigned Colorado for 2015.

TOM: But these are not mini-trucks. The trucks you remember were, essentially, compact Japanese cars with pickup-truck beds. They were cheap, lightweight and utilitarian.

RAY: Not enough people want that anymore. Pickup trucks have become large, luxury cars. The smallest two-door Toyota Tacoma these days, for example, is only about a foot and a half shorter than the smallest full-size Toyota Tundra. And that Tacoma is still 208 inches long — only a little shorter than the old Lincoln Town Car land yachts that used to ply the airport terminals.

TOM: And even though you can order it with a four-cylinder engine and get a little better mileage than the full-



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

size Tundra, it's a cheaper and less-capable vehicle. So unless maneuverability or parking is an issue, most buyers choose the larger, more comfortable, more up-to-date Tundra.

RAY: The problem for manufacturers is that, once you design and build a smaller pickup truck and equip it with everything a modern vehicle needs to have, it doesn't cost much less than a full-size pickup. And the mileage isn't that much better. So most people go for the bigger truck.

TOM: You should have a look at the Chevy Colorado when it comes out. That'll be the most modern and up-to-date of the less-than-full-size pickup trucks out there.

RAY: You can look at the Honda Ridgeline (which is more carlike than other pickups, but not much smaller).

TOM: You can look for a used Subaru Baja, which was the most recent El

Camino-ish vehicle that failed to sell and was killed off. It was last made in 2006.

RAY: You can look for a used Ford Explorer Sport Trac, which was last made in 2010. That's a Ford Explorer with a pickup-truck bed. Again, not small, but smaller than a full-size pickup.

TOM: You can look for a classic El Camino, or even a really old Toyota or Datsun truck, if you're willing to give up safety and reliability.

RAY: But what you're really lusting after just isn't for sale anymore, Bryant. At least not in the United States.

TOM: If you're willing to relocate, then we can help you out. Go to any third- or even second-world country, and you can have your pick of cheap, small pickup trucks. Just don't look too closely at the body panels, because you may see the words "Hungry Man Dinner" stamped into them.

Tom and Ray share secrets on how you can save tens of thousands of dollars on your cars over the next 20 years in their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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Mead

From Page 1

that they'll look back at the 125th and say they did a good job making (Mead) the legacy project."

One of the project's main proponents from the start has been South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

While Daugaard was on hand for the wagon train send-off in Yankton earlier this month, the governor had high praises for the project's progress and designation as a legacy project.

"I was on the grounds of the Mead Building (this month) and met with the historical society to see the progress they've made and it's just extremely impressive," Daugaard told the Press & Dakotan. "Not only are they making good progress, but the progress they're making is first-rate. They're steaming the old windows, throwing

away the bad parts, installing new parts to the windows, they're repainted and they're literally like new. It's going to be a first-rate job."

Mead project manager Greg Homstad said, at the moment, the focus is on maintaining the outside of the building in anticipation of winter.

"What we're working on is addressing some maintenance that had been deferred for 40-plus years on the exterior of the building," Homstad said. "We're doing waterproofing to stop the intrusion of water in the structure. We've got the roof pretty well taken care of, but with the masonry around the building, (we're) trying to get that as weather-tight as possible before the weather makes it impossible to work outside."

As 2014 winds down, the plan is to hook the building up to utilities such as sewage, electricity and water; the building has not previously been on the city grid for these services. Volunteers will also be re-stenciling the ceiling as the winter months go on.

Homstad said the focus will then shift to the interior of the building.

"As we move into the colder weather, we'll be starting to move inside again and trying to get to plaster restoration - things that are more visually significant to visitors," he said.

For more information on the Mead Building project, visit <http://dtm.qwestoffice.net/mead.html>.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsen-PandD/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/

Retirement Open House
Fran Fox
Fox Hospitality
Thursday, September 18
4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Yankton Chamber of Commerce Building
803 E. 4th St, Yankton

Thank you, **Fran Fox** for your 50 years of service to the community. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

Refreshments provided by: General Federation of Women's Club

Yankton! WHAT A DISCOVERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LGBT Rural Summit Series Set For Wayne

WAYNE, Neb. — Wayne State College (WSC) in Wayne, Nebraska, will host the nation's third LGBT Rural Summit on Friday, Sept. 19. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights will host the Nebraska Summit, in partnership with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, The True Colors Fund and Wayne State College. The event will be held at Wayne State's Gardner Auditorium in the Gardner Business Building on the WSC campus.

The daylong conference will feature nationally recognized speakers discussing important topics ranging from "Life in Rural America," "The Future of the LGBT Move-

ment," "Legal Issues and Nondiscrimination in Rural LGBT Communities," "LGBT Health Disparities" and "LGBT Youth in Rural America." The luncheon speaker will be Michael Barth, with his speech on "Gender Stereotypes." Barth recently graduated from Gordon-Rushville High School and was a state champion at this spring's Nebraska High School Speech Tournament.

Federal government leadership, LGBT rural community members and interested community partners will be available for attendees to share their stories and learn more about the programs and services that exist to strengthen the lives of LGBT individuals in

rural communities across the country.

After the 4:30 p.m. adjournment, attendees are invited to stay for the screening and follow-up discussion of the movie "Out in Silence." The documentary captures the remarkable chain of events that unfold when the announcement of filmmaker Joe Wilson's wedding to another man ignites a firestorm of controversy in his small Pennsylvania hometown. "Out in Silence" is an Emmy Award winner for Achievement in Documentary.

To RSVP, visit <http://Nebraskalgbtruralsummit.eventbrite.com/>.

For more information, contact

LGBTRuralSummit@ascr.usda.gov or call 202-720-3808.



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