

LAURA ON LIFE

Learning to Speak

When you get to a certain age – it takes some of us longer than others – you have learned some basic rules of life. If these rules are not broken, your life will be less stressful. Among these rules are:

1. Never wash a colored sock with your whites.
2. Never miss an oil change or inspection.
3. Never allow your child to eat a Popsicle indoors.
4. Always take a map even if you have GPS.
5. Never pluck a nose hair while you are wearing mascara.
6. Always carry cue cards in case you are ever asked to “say a few words.”

That last scenario can strike “stress” (read terror) into the most fearless warrior. For me, public speaking was as awkward as trying to put tights on a wired toddler. I’m a writer;



Laura Snyder

a purveyor of the written word. Just because I can write with some degree of proficiency does not mean that my mouth works in tandem with my brain. Just because my brain and my mouth are located within an inch and a half of each other doesn’t mean there is any connection between the two.

Some eloquent speakers have somehow managed to make that connection. It’s invisible, but it’s definitely there. My brain and my mouth are like nosy neigh-

bors. They are always wondering what the other is up to, but they don’t like each other enough to ask.

So what’s a girl supposed to do when she’s asked to “say a few words”?

She says as few words as possible.

Once, I thought a simple thank you to the audience would be enough. I stood up on legs that had turned to cream of mushroom soup and spoke into the microphone.

“I thank you all from the heart of my bottom.”

...And then I had to apologize.

I finally admitted I had a problem and promptly joined Toastmasters. Toastmasters, does not, as one might think, manufacture toasters. It is a group of people who practice speaking in front of that same group of people.

When I first heard about it, I thought, “You’re kidding, right? People actually do that? On

purpose?”

It makes sense though, that if you make a mistake or have a brain spasm, the damaged is contained to the small group of people that have the same affliction. All Toastmasters have the same goal: To be able to speak coherently in front of an audience without having heart failure.

When a new person joins and gives his or her very first speech, we all know what they are feeling. We’ve all been there. The symptoms are pretty much the same the world over.

1. Shortness of breath because you forgot to breathe.
2. Hands so clammy that they slide effortlessly in and out of the introductory hand shake.
3. Butterflies that amass in great quantities in your gut and threaten to spill out your mouth with the rest of your dinner.
4. Knees that knock like a Model T

Ford.

5. A voice that shakes as if you were orating in a wooden roller coaster.

Toastmasters prepares you for your first speech by giving you tips about what to say, how to say it and to wear cotton underwear to absorb the sweat.

After the first speech, it gets easier. The cotton underwear is still a must, but I now feel like I can stand and speak for an audience without an urgent need for a nearby restroom. Somehow, simply knowing what the goal is and having the plan to get there gives me the confidence I need to speak to audiences.

Learning to speak well is a basic skill everyone should master. This cannot be overstated, because another basic rule for life is that when someone asks you to “say a few words,” refusing is not an option.

Laura Snyder is a nationally syndicated columnist, author & speaker. You can reach Laura at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com for more info.

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HUTCHINSON COUNTY LAND AUCTION

100 +/- ACRES, Kaylor Township
Thursday, November 3, 2011 • 11 AM

We will sell the following real estate at Tract 1 land site located from Kaylor, SD 2 miles north on 418th Ave and 1/4 mile west on 288th St.

Don't Miss This Auction if you are looking to expand your current farming operation or to purchase as an investment. These parcels include prime farm land and CRP income.

Tract 1: Legal Description: W 1/2 E 1/2 W 1/2 SE 1/4 and W 1/2 W 1/2 SE 1/4 17-97-59 Hutchinson County, SD 60 +/- acres. According to FSA there is 58.7 acres of cropland. Soil Rating: .780 Taxes: \$599.30

Tract 2: Legal Description : NE 1/4 SE 1/4 28-97-59 Hutchinson County, SD 40 +/- acres. This tract is located from Kaylor 1 mile east on 290th St. and 1/4 north on 419th Ave. According to the FSA there is 18.8 acres of cropland and 19.4 acres enrolled in the CRP program at \$100.83 per acre thru Sept 30, 2020. Soil Rating: .823. Taxes: \$423.56

TERMS: 10% nonrefundable down payment day of sale with the balance due on or before December 16th 2011. Both tracts are available to the new owner for the 2012 crop year. Title insurance and closing costs split 50/50 between buyer and seller. 2010 taxes due in 2011 paid by the seller. 2011 taxes due in 2012 paid by the seller. The property is sold in as is condition and as a cash sale with no financing contingency. Sold subject to existing easements, restrictions, reservations, or highway of record, if any. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, it is not guaranteed. All prospective buyers are encouraged to inspect the property and verify all data provided. Statements made the day of sale take precedence over all written advertising. Real Estate licensees are agents for the seller. Sold subject to confirmation of owner.

Jamie D Anderson, Darline Dalin, Vera Olson, Lois Zupp, Richard Zupp, Owners

Allen B. Brown, Closing Attorney

For additional information, maps and pictures visit: www.westraatkins.com

Joel R. Westra, RE Auctioneer, Beresford, SD 605-310-6941
Pete Atkins, RE Auctioneer, Tea, SD 605-351-9847
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Bon Homme County

LAND AUCTION

Saturday, Oct. 29
beginning at 10 a.m.

LOCATED 41181 315th Street, from Springfield, SD, 4 miles west on old Highway 37, 1 mile south and 1/4 mile west or from Chief Standing Bear Bridge, 2 1/2 miles north, 1 mile east, 1 mile north and 3/4 mile east

156 +/- Acres

REAL ESTATE consists of an improved, well balanced farm, 71.4 acres presently under cultivation with the balance building site and pasture. This property offers a nice 1100 sq ft home, 40x76 cattle shed, other out buildings, domestic use well and mature shelter belt. If you are looking for a property that offers a beautiful view of the Missouri River, great hunting plus a solid return on your investment or want to add to your present farming or livestock operation check this one out. All is centrally located between Springfield and Running Water, South Dakota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NE 1/4 of 5-92-60.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% non-refundable down payment day of auction, another 40% payment within 30 days and balance due after January 1 but before January 10, 2012. Possession March 1, 2012. Title Insurance will be used with a 50-50 cost split between buyer and seller. Announcements day of auction take precedence over printed material. Peterson Auctioneers are representing sellers.

D.J. and Becky Fryda, Owners

For more information and photos visit www.PetersonAuctioneers.com or call 605-369-2638

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Real Estate and Personal Property

AUCTION

Saturday, Oct. 22 -- 11 a.m.

LOCATED: 405 N. Main Street, Avon, SD

In case of inclement weather, auction will be held in Avon High School Auxiliary gym

Real Estate sells first

Real Estate consists of a 1 1/2 story 2 bedroom home and a 32x36 3-stall wood constructed building with 8' and 14' overhead doors. The home offers a recent poured basement, near new propane furnace, 1 1/2 baths and wiring and plumbing updates. Situated on a 50x140 lot, this property offers a very good location.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 6, Blk 9, Roose's 2nd Addition.

TERMS & CONDITIONS \$5,000 non-refundable down payment day of auction with balance due at closing. Title insurance will be used with a 50-50 cost split between buyer and seller. 2011 taxes prorated to closing. Possession upon receipt of final payment. Announcements day of auction take precedence over printed material. Peterson Auctioneers are representing seller.

A line of antiques collectibles, shop, household, miscellaneous, motorcycle and car will be sold.
A complete listing will appear next week.

Bettie Meidinger Conservatorship

For photos visit www.PetersonAuctioneers.com

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