thankfulness for God's blessings, Mueller said.

"It's incredible how many people have stepped up to the plate for the gala, from the donors (of cash and prizes) to the people buying items (during the auctions) to the hundreds of volunteers," she said.

The gala reaches out to people of all faiths and has seen a tremendous response, Mueller

"This gala is a community builder," she said. "It's not just for Catholics. The people who make donations, and the people who come to the gala, and the people who buy ads, aren't just Catholics. It brings so many people of different faiths together."

Support for the gala continues to grow, even during the current tough economic times, Mueller

"The Catholic churches in Yankton, St. Benedict and Sacred Heart, have formed such a bond together in the last few years through the gala and other projects," she said.

"They are working together for the school, and the new (parish center/school) building has been such a blessing. Even during the worst economic times, Father Mark (Lichter) reminded me, 'This (effort) is of God, not us."

The gala means more than just raising money, Mueller said. By giving of themselves, the participants are showing their Christian stewardship and charity, she

"The more that people get involved with the gala, the more they grow and trust in their she said.

The gala's success is an outgrowth of the development office's successful effort. Lichter said. The funds allow the Yankton Catholic Community to reach out to needs, he said.

"I am grateful for our Development Office: Carla Mueller, Carol Guenther, Michelle Flannery, and Jerry Keeley," the priest said. "They have worked together to make the gala what it is and has become. Their work not only benefits the school but both parishes. I want to congratulate

Besides Mueller as chairwoman, the gala leadership consists of three committees — Atmosphere, Activities and Auction — overseeing 42 sub-committees. This year's committee chairs were: Atmosphere, Dave and Sarah Carda; Activities, Eric and Sarah Heine; and Auction, Josh and Melissa Pavlish.

The committee chairs are rotated over the years, bringing in new leadership, Mueller said. In addition, the gala organizers work to draw new volunteers and build on the gala attendance and donations, she said.

The committees and sub-committees work for six months on the gala, Mueller said. "The last four months are the real heavy time," she said.

This year's gala featured the theme, "Old Hollywood," which lent itself to a fun atmosphere, Mueller said.

"A lot people dressed up like Old Hollywood. It was a ton of fun," she said. "With the ladies, we had a lot of flapper dresses. The guys came in their pinstripe

The auctions showcased a wide variety of products and services from area businesses and individuals, Mueller said. She expressed amazement at the creativity and variety of the auction items. The gala also benefits from sale of advertising, which topped \$10,000 this year.

In addition, the gala conducts a grand raffle, with a grand prize of a vehicle or cash. This year, Gerald Peterson and Kathy Heydlauff split the grand prize of

\$15,000.

"They have bought tickets in the last 10 years the grand raffle the last 10 years, and they each bought tickets this year," Mueller said. "He won the raffle, and they split the cash. Each took home \$7,500."

The gala also features an auction known as "Fund A Need," Mueller said. Sacred Heart School principal Regan Manning, along with the parish priests, choose a need for the school that

"At the beginning of the auction, Mr. Manning explains what need is being met for that year's gala," Mueller said. "This year, we raised \$42,000 that will enhance the libraries.'

This year's "Fund A Need" honored Barb Rezac, who served the Yankton Catholic Community for 20 years, Mueller said.

Rezac formerly served as Sacred Heart School teacher and principal. She later worked as the YCC development director

until recently taking a similar position at Mount Marty College.

Mueller remains very optimistic about the future of the Sacred Heart School system. The current enrollment of nearly 400 students from 225 families is the highest since the 1960s. The staff consists of about 30 members.

In 2002, construction of new classrooms for pre-kindergarten through fourth grade was added on to St. Benedict Church. In 2011, a new building for grades 5-8 was constructed at the Sacred Heart Church site, and the 1922

building was razed.

"The Catholic schools get stronger every single year," Mueller said. "The classrooms are just swelling with kids, which is great and something that we should make us excited and proud.'

Sacred Heart School provides a firm foundation for its students' Christian faith, Mueller said.

"The one gift that we can give our kids, that can never be taken away, is their faith," she said. "When it comes down to it, if you don't have your faith, you don't have anything."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

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An Opportunity to Continue Growing In Faith

Invites you to be our guest at a Barbecue for prospective students & parents on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at the Msgr. Cyril J. Werner Activity Center,

502 Broadway, Hartington, NE

Invitation open to Students in grades 6 - 12 of all faiths.

The evening Includes:

Cedar Catholic Bus Departs from the Mt. Marty College northwest parking lot. (Return RSVP card to reserve your seats!)

6:30 p.m. Gathering Time & School Tours 7:00 p.m.

Barbecue Supper Served 7:30 p.m. Presentation

7:45 p.m. Questions & Answers, Tours 8:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer 8:15 p.m. Cedar Catholic Charter Bus

Departs for Yankton.

Hosted by the Catholic Development Committee Please RSVP by Monday, June 11, 2012 by calling 402-254-3912 or by returning this reservation form:



Yes, I (we) would like the Cedar Catholic Coach Bus to transport us to and from the BBQ on June 13th. ____ No, I (we) cannot attend but please send us information about Cedar Catholic.

Student's Name(s): ____ Parents' Name: ____ State: _____ Zip: _ __ City: ____

Return to: Cedar Catholic Jr. - Sr. High School c/o Catholic Development Office • PO Box 654 • Hartington, NE 68739

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Thursday Karaoke with Papa Ray

7-11pm 6-7pm – Domestic Beers

\$1.50 5-7pm – Hamburger/ Pizza Burger & Fries \$5.00

Friday

Baked Butterfly Shrimp with Hashbrowns Serving 5:30-8:00

Saturday

No Band Regular Menu 5:30-8:00

Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm Sunday at 6:30pm Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30

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Pancakes, Rolls, Eggs, Ham or Sausage, Milk, Juice or Coffee

KC Hall

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\$25 Cash Drawings Every 1/2 Hour from 9 to 11PM



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Dinner Special! Steak & Shrimp \$11.50 SAT., JUNE 9TH Breakfast Buffet

\$7.50 Dinner Buffet Chicken & Pork \$10.50 SUN., JUNE 1 OTH All Day Buffet

Chicken & Ham \$10.50

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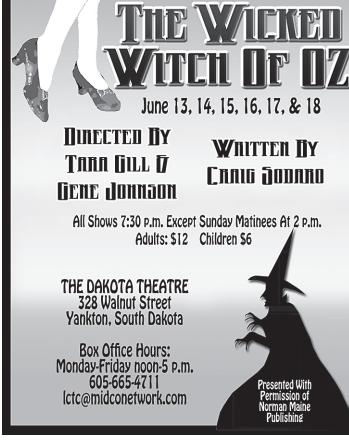
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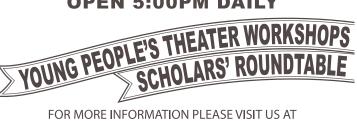




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