

Same-Sex Couples Seek Marriage Licenses In D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) — One gay couple met on a Star Trek fan site, another dancing at a country western bar. Some have been together for months, others more than a decade.

About 150 pairs had something in common Wednesday, though, applying for wedding licenses on the first day same-sex unions became legal in the nation's capital.

The mood at the marriage bureau inside the city's Moultrie Courthouse was celebratory. Couples clapped, called out "Congratulations" and cupcakes and tulips were handed out. One family said it was important to show up the first day.

The District of Columbia became the sixth place in the country permitting same-sex unions. Connecticut, Iowa,

Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont also issue same-sex couples licenses.

Because of a processing period of three business days for all marriage license applicants, the couples won't be able to marry until Tuesday. That's the day they can pick up their licenses.

Most couples who applied for licenses were from the district and nearby Virginia and Maryland, which said last week it will recognize same-sex unions performed elsewhere until the state Legislature or courts decide otherwise. One couple got on the road at 4 a.m. to drive from West Virginia and another couple was from Delaware. Some said it was symbolic to get married in the nation's capital, but for many D.C. is simply home.

OBITUARIES

Elwyn Aase

MISSION HILL — Elwyn Leonard Aase, age 85, of Mission Hill, South Dakota died Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at Wakonda Heritage Manor.

Funeral services are 10:30 AM, Saturday, March 6, 2010 at Vangen Lutheran Church in Mission Hill with Reverend Lance Lindgren officiating. Burial will be in the Vangen Cemetery with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791 of Yankton. Visitation is from 3:00 to 8:00 PM, on Friday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton, South Dakota with a prayer service and video tribute at 7:00 PM. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

Pallbearers will be Randy Blunck, Larry Holzman, Harley Stearns, Bill Beaulieu, Scott Aase, and Eric Wilhoj. Honorary pallbearers will be Elwyn's grandchildren.

Elwyn was born December 13, 1924 to Mons O. Sr. and Helen (Worre) Aase in Tilden, Nebraska. He was baptized on January 1, 1925 at Our Savior Church in North Branch, Nebraska. His family moved to South Dakota and lived near Gregory. He later graduated from Lake Andes High School in 1942. He was drafted into the United States Army on August 25, 1944 during World War II. He was discharged on January 12, 1946. He returned to work on the family farm until enlisting in the US Air Force on February 9, 1951 during the Korean War. He served until February 8, 1955. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for many years doing various construction projects, including the dams along the Missouri River. He later took over the family farm west of Lake Andes.

He married Lorraine (Zentner) Grate on March 12, 1971 in Lake Andes, South Dakota. Together they raised cattle until moving to Mission Hill in 1983. After moving, Elwyn worked at the Human Services Center in Yankton until 1986



Aase

when his health forced him to retire.

Elwyn was a past member of the Yankton Moose Lodge and the Lake Andes American Legion. He was a very devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed playing practical jokes, hunting, playing cards, but he especially loved spending time with his family and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, of nearly 39 years, Lorraine of Mission Hill; eight children, Vicki (Harley) Stearns of Bellville, TX; Lori (Larry) Holzman of Beresford, SD; Joseph (Sheila) Grate of Fairview, SD; Julie (Randy) Blunck, of Yankton, SD; Lyle (Janet) Grate of Sioux Falls, SD; Diane (Terry) Carpenter of Lake Hughes, CA; Rose (Bill) Beaulieu, Marshall, MN and Eugene (Betty) Grate of Yankton, SD; three brothers, Harlan Aase of Watertown, SD; Clifford (Marilyn) Aase of Springfield, SD; and Mons (Kay) Aase Jr. of Murray, UT; three sisters, Ruth (James) Sejnoha of Dripping Springs, TX; and Shirley (Jim) Hoag of Madison, MN; 24 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, James Aase; and granddaughter, Charlotte Aase.

To view Elwyn's video tribute (available March 5th) post an online sympathy message, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 4, 2010



Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Verdell Larson

PALMDALE, Calif. — Verdell Larson, 78, of Palmdale, Calif., formerly of Vermillion, died Sunday (Feb 28, 2010) at his residence.

Funeral services have been rescheduled to 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, at Iverson-Sieck-Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion, with burial to follow at Pleasant Valley Cemetery, rural Vermillion.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service Tuesday at the funeral home.

Joseph Hansen

Joseph F. Hansen, 81, of Yankton died Wednesday (March 3, 2010) at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Arrangements are pending with Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

Senate Rejects Social Sec. Bonus Payment

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday rejected a proposal by President Barack Obama to give people on Social Security a \$250 bonus check.

Republicans and Democratic deficit hawks combined to reject the idea by a 50-47 vote. The plan, offered in the Senate by Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., would have added \$14 billion to the out-of-control budget deficit.

The vote came as the Senate debated a \$100 billion-plus measure to extend unemployment assistance, revive a bevy of popular but expired tax breaks, help states with soaring Medicaid costs and prevent doctors from having to absorb big cuts in Medicare payments.

The costly measure follows passage

Tuesday of a stopgap \$10 billion measure to fund several of the same programs through the end of the month.

The daunting price tag on the measure guarantees more complications and an even rougher path through the Senate than experienced by the bill passed Tuesday.

The full-year measure blends \$66 billion for unemployment benefits for people who have been out of work longer than 26 weeks with \$29 billion for Medicaid help to state governments and health insurance subsidies for the jobless. There's also \$26 billion for expiring tax breaks such as an income tax deduction for sales and property taxes and a business tax credit for research and development.

The measure closes \$29 billion worth of tax loopholes to help defray its cost, including one enjoyed by paper companies that get a credit from burning a pulp-making byprod-

uct known as "black liquor," as if it were an alternative fuel.

All told, the measure would add \$107 billion to the deficit over the coming decade. Democrats have labeled most of the bill an emergency measure, exempting it from stricter budget rules enacted just last month.

Although the government faces a projected record \$1.6 trillion deficit for the current budget year, many senators have an appetite for more spending. In addition to the Social Security proposal, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., wants \$1.5 billion for "youth activities," including summer jobs.

Sanders said the \$250 Social Security payment was needed to make up for the lack of a cost-of-living adjustment this year for beneficiaries. Disabled people and veterans also would have been eligible for the payments.

HAITI

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Just getting into Haiti was an eye-opening ordeal in itself.

"The border crossing (from the Dominican Republic to Haiti) was probably one of the scariest things I have ever been through," Heinz said. "It was intimidating when you have non-United Nations people standing there with big automatic weapons and no UN troops in the area."

Dvorak explained that the border where the group crossed into Haiti was the same as where the group trying to take 33 children out of Haiti was stopped.

"Handing over our passports through the window was very intimidating for me," Dvorak said. "We had them in a bunch, and we had to hand them all over. Which made you wonder, are we going to get them back? It just looked kind of shady. Then they stamped us out of the Dominican Republic — but no one stamped us into Haiti."

From there, the medics followed the fault-line into the country, seeing destroyed villages and homes along the way. Once the group arrived in Deschappelle, it was ready to do what it could to help.

"We made rounds to see what we would be dealing with,"

Johnson said. "We worked very full days. We had four complete surgical days and, in those days, we did 18 surgeries."

The hospital where the group was working is normally a 100-bed facility, but in the weeks following the earthquake, it had been routinely serving nearly 800 patients.

"They had pictures of the halls just packed with beds and people sleeping on the floors, the courtyards were filled on the outside and just packed," Johnson said. "So they had worked through a big backlog of patients by the time we got there and were starting to get pretty burnt out."

One aspect of patient care that the group said differed greatly from the U.S. was the amount of time a person will spend in the hospital. In Haiti, patients will stay for 10 days just for dressing changes.

However, the men said that they were impressed with both the medical professionals and with the people of Haiti.

"I thought, given the fact that most of the people had lost family members or loved ones, that they exhibited a remarkable resiliency," Johnson said. "They were not down in the depths of despair; they are used to bad conditions. I think they were more resilient than we would be if the same thing were to happen here."

For Campbell, his first trip to

Haiti surprised him.

"I have to say the medical equipment that was there was old but it was functional. That was my worst fear heading down there," he said. "I was pleased that it was workable. ... The anesthetists do a very good job with what they have down there. Here, we are so concerned with patient care and comfort levels; there, not one of the patients we dealt with got post-operative narcotics. They are really a tough, resilient people."

However, the worst may be yet to come for the devastated country.

"I think we are going to see a lot of diseases now, with the rainy season setting on, people are living in mud and sticks and bed sheets," Dvorak said. "A lot of the people that had left Port-au-Prince are now moving back and I don't know what they are going to find."

Campbell said that in Deschappelle, there were an estimated 75,000 refugees from Port-au-Prince who are now moving back.

"People are moving (debris) by hand," Heinz said. "I think I saw one piece of large equipment when we were there, one bulldozer."

The men said they saw a lot of activity on top of the rubble. Survivors were digging through the concrete, digging out the rebar and mining the rubble for any treasures that people may

have had on them when the earthquake struck.

Haiti has never had a well-established economy due to rampant corruption. Unfortunately, the men say that, from what they saw, that has not changed.

"There is food sitting in ports that customs will not release, because people have not been bribed to get it out of the port," Johnson said. "If that kind of nonsense doesn't stop, the world is going to become so discouraged that the help will cease. It is kind of like anarchy down there right now."

For the group, the lasting impression of Port-au-Prince is one of unimaginable devastation. And yet, even as they were leaving and arriving home, their thoughts returned to the people they had just left behind.

"On the following Monday when we were back home and I went into surgery, everything worked, everything was so sharp, everyone was working with the one goal of providing great care to the patient, it is just a thousand percent better than there," Johnson said. "But then I think about the patients we saw. ... There are lots of complicated things that I keep thinking about trying to find a way to help them. The memory of the people and their problems just don't go away. There is a never-ending need for ongoing care down there."

WAGES

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being paid a wage, I'm paying back into the system."

Now is the time for laborers to seek training and educational opportunities that will diversify their skills, Dellinger stated.

"We're continuing to see a number of small entrepreneurs coming into the community and trying to find locations for their businesses," he said. "Typically, these small businesses that we're seeing are those that would provide above-average wages and require above-average skills."

"Many of the manufacturing jobs we've lost over the last couple years are not likely to come back," Dellinger added. "If they do, it will probably be in a small trickle rather than en masse. The

recovery period of job growth is going to take longer than just the next six to 12 months. How do people prepare and educate themselves for other opportunities in the interim?"

With the economic times as they are, Dellinger said he hopes local retailers and providers of goods will be savvy at offering consumers a good bang for their buck so they don't go shopping out of town.

"If we buy outside of the community, we do nothing for local employment," he said. "It actually affects it adversely, because fewer people are needed if fewer consumers are shopping local."

Dellinger said that he and other individuals working toward economic growth in the area are doing all they can to improve the job situation.

"Every employer in town probably wishes they could pay their people more, but based on

the scale of economy in the area ... this is the going rate," he said. "How can we positively affect the going rate? We're trying it every day through scholarships to college degree programs, land acquisition that can be used to attract new businesses, assistance to entrepreneurs, funding to the Regional Technical Education Center and a variety of other ways. All of this stuff is what works toward the idea of our economy growing because more people are making more money and spending more money."

The biggest challenge is overcoming the perception that this area has a lack of available labor, according to Dellinger.

"(Potential new employers) have a concern that the labor

market cannot meet the demand during peak economic times," he said. "We try to disprove that through data that says, 'Look at the fact that you have all these workers who are underemployed by wage compensation versus their skill level if they were working in a different economy.'"

"Where do we find that happy medium that allows employers, whether new or existing, to pay a higher wage opportunity within their business model?" Dellinger continued. "If everybody made a dollar more an hour, how much more money would circulate through this town every day? We understand that companies have pressures against them. At the same time, we as a community have pressures against us. So we try to find a good balance."

IN REMEMBRANCE

Harold Alfred Arens
10:30 AM, Thursday
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
Crofton

Elwyn L. Aase
10:30 AM, Saturday
Vangen Lutheran Church
Mission Hill

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
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WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

What makes a house a home?

Habitat for Humanity's
Volunteers and
Financial Contributors

Thank you...

To our local community contributors, businesses, churches and organizations!

Thank you...

To our volunteers who contributed more than 3000 volunteer hours of labor on our Capitol Street homes!

Habitat for Humanity

To view a list of Habitat for Humanity's volunteers and financial contributors...visit our new website

www.habitatyanktoncounty.com

Congratulations

"First Dollar" In Honor Of First Discovery Preschool

First Discovery Preschool opened in January and currently is offering two class times. The 3-4 year old class is 9-11:30 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The 4-5 year old class is 12:30-3:00 on Monday through Friday afternoons. There are still some openings. You may contact us by calling 665-6362 or email preschoolnow@yahoo.com. Check us out on Facebook under First Discovery Preschool. You may also visit our website at yanktonassembly.com and click on the preschool menu. We are located at 801 West 25th Street.

YANKTON ONLY
Press & Dakotan

ANNUAL 7 DAY SHOE SALE

Thurs., March 4th - Wed., March 10th

LADIES **SAS** starting at **\$72.00**

ALL MEN'S WORK & DRESS BOOTS **\$15 OFF**

Several Styles of Ladies Dress & Casual Shoes 1/2 Price

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All Shoes, Boots & Overshoes without a Special Sale Price will be 10% off

NO SHOES SOLD AT REGULAR PRICE!

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