

PRIEST

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...serving the three Kingsbury County parishes for 10 years. Meanwhile, his effort to obtain a green card ran into red tape. The situation was complicated by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, that brought much of the process to a slow grind, he said. Gallagher didn't leave the United States for fear of jeopardizing his green-card application. He didn't return to Ireland, even for vacations or to visit family.

"I knew, if I left the country, I would never get back," he said. "If I were out of status, I wouldn't get here again for 10 years."

Remaining in DeSmet for a decade, Gallagher developed a strong relationship with the local residents. "DeSmet was more than just an assigned station. I put my roots down in DeSmet. This was my only world," he said. "Everybody knows you and that you're always there. They depend on you, and that's what I liked about DeSmet."

Gallagher saw himself serving the entire area, not just Catholics.

"They may have worshipped in a different house, but they were all my people," he said. "I was the pastor, the person they came up to. They were the ones I visited when things were going the wrong way. They were my daily world, my people, and they still are."

Then the immigration process hit a paperwork problem, and Gallagher was ordered deported.

"The bishop tried, but they told him it was an impossible case," he said. "Everybody thought we lost the fight, there was no way out of this."

Gallagher sought divine guidance, submitting to God's will even if it meant leaving the life he knew.

"There were signs in my life, that God wanted to take you in a new direction, out of your comfort zone," he said. "I thought I better not speak out (against the deportation). Maybe God wanted me to serve somewhere else, the same way when I left Japan."

However, Gallagher's friends were not willing to give up, and his cause gained a groundswell of support. Girls Staters even asked Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) for assistance during his appearance at the event in Vermillion.

Gallagher said he was stunned at the effort of those around him.

"I was never in a position in 10 years where I needed somebody's help. Then, you're down and on the way out, and you find you're not alone," he said. "I saw people standing up for me. It didn't matter what (faith) community they belonged to, they claimed me. People were thinking we were in this together."

Gallagher watched the process unfold as his friends' effort intensified.

"I wasn't going to stop them. I was proud of them. But (the bureaucracy) was this impossible labyrinth, this crazy maze, so I didn't expect it to happen," he said. "When I was told, 'You have got to leave, I was prepared to bow my head and go quietly away with a great pride in my heart.'"

Then came the news that he

would be allowed to stay in the country.

"From the beginning to the end, from the first announcement of my deportation, 55 days later I had my green card," he said. "I wasn't surprised at what the people did, but I was surprised, more than surprised, at what they accomplished."

In the meantime, Bishop Paul Swain had already made his July 1 reassignment of priests around the Sioux Falls Diocese. Gallagher continued working for the diocese as a supply pastor, filling vacancies during weekend Masses. He also worked in Rochester, Minn., during the week.

His temporary assignments at the Armour and Stickney parishes developed into an interim position from Easter 2009 until he was fully assigned July 1, 2009.

With his green card in hand, Gallagher returned to Ireland for the first time in 11 years. He was amazed at the changes, particularly the signs of wealth. He also noticed a renewed sense of national pride, including Gaelic as the official and widely-used language.

"When I returned to Ireland, the world had completely changed, but the people are the same," he said. "They have got the same heart and same mischievous nature. They are just as keen to enjoy life."

Living abroad for his entire adult life, Gallagher has remained true to his Irish roots. That includes the celebration of St. Patrick's Day around the world.

"So many people claim to be Irish," he said. "I was born in Ireland, but here, they use (the

term) for anyone of Irish breed or origin."

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated as a national and religious holiday in Ireland, unlike the party atmosphere found in the United States and elsewhere, Gallagher said.

"In Ireland, you see people wearing a shamrock, but I have never seen anybody so green as I do here. I would go somewhere, and I was the only one not wearing green," he said. "In Ireland, it's more low key. You attend Mass as a holy day of obligation. Here, people say they are proud to be Irish. I think in Ireland, we say we are happy to be Irish."

St. Patrick's Day usually falls during Lent and is allowed as a day of grace when people can drink alcohol or take part in other things they may have given up for the 40-day season, Gallagher said.

During his missionary work in Japan, Gallagher saw St. Patrick's Day celebrated among the Irish who immigrated to the Asian nation for employment, particularly in the computer and high-tech industries.

Now, in South Dakota, he has become part of the St. Patrick's Day tradition in Huron. He celebrates Mass and participates in the dinner and fundraisers that benefit St. Martin's Catholic School.

Two years after he nearly was forced to leave his South Dakota home, Gallagher said he holds a warm spot in his heart for those who have done so much for him. Their support convinced him, at least for now, that this is home.

"It brought me to a place I needed to go," he said. "I don't know what tomorrow holds. You leave it in God's hands."

REGION DIGEST

Portions Of Auld-Brokaw Trail Closed

The Yankton Department of Parks and Recreation is advising the community that the Auld-Brokaw Trail, at all low-water crossings and under bridges, will be closed due to flooding caused by the spring thaw and recent rainfall.

Citizens should not enter the water because of strong currents and unstable footing. Also, as the water recedes, the trail will be dangerous in any areas where mud, silt and debris are covering the concrete.

If the temperatures drop below freezing, be advised that wet areas will freeze causing ice on the concrete.

The Park and Recreation Department will monitor the water levels, and will clean and open the trail when the water is back into the channel.

Throughout this spring season any time precipitation is forecasted, the public is advised to approach all low-water crossings and under the bridges with caution due to rising water levels.

For more information, call the Park and Recreation Department at 668-5231.

Rounds To Make Guitar Donation Friday

VERMILLION — Gov. Mike Rounds will present a commemorative electric guitar to the National Music Museum at 2 p.m. Friday, March 19.

The Ibanez electric guitar was signed by performers at the South Dakota Vietnam War Memorial dedication concerts in 2006, including Steve Miller of the Steve Miller Band; Mike Love and Bruce Johnston of the Beach Boys; and Stu Cook and Doug Clifford of Credence Clearwater Revisited (both original CCR members). The guitar is part of the governor's personal collection.

In addition to the guitar, Gov. Rounds is also donating a collection of documentary materials related to the 2006 War Memorial dedication. The state's memorial to honor the 28,000 South Dakotans who served in the Vietnam War was dedicated Sept. 15-16, 2006. Two concerts were held at Hollister Field in Pierre as part of the dedication events. The Beach Boys with special guests Red Willow Band performed on Friday, Sept. 15. Steve Miller Band with special guests Credence Clearwater Revisited performed on Saturday, Sept. 16. Both concerts sold out 10,000 tickets.

The informal presentation is scheduled to take place in the Arne B. Larson Concert Hall. Dr. Brad Randall will accept the gift on behalf of the National Music Museum Board of Trustees.

Armed Forces Bonus Briefing March 22

An Armed Forces veterans bonus is being paid to veterans by South Dakota. All active-duty service counts.

Veterans Service Officer Charles Hafner will be giving a briefing at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 22, at Yankton VFW Post 791, located at 209 Cedar St. Everyone is welcome.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

OBITUARIES

Beulah Mayer

Beulah Mae Mayer, age 85, of Yankton, South Dakota, passed away peacefully after a lengthy battle with colon disease on Monday March 15, 2010 at the Avera Yankton Care Center in Yankton. Beulah spent the last few weeks surrounded by loving family and friends and the kind and caring staff of the Avera Yankton Care Center.

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 19, 2010 at First United Methodist Church in Yankton with Bob Cappel, Pastoral Assistant officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton. Visitation is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a video tribute at 7:00 p.m. Visitation resumes one hour

prior to the funeral at church.

Pallbearers are Aaron Mayer, Kevin Mayer, Brian Mayer, Matthew Mayer, Michael Mayer and Lynn Eckman.

Beulah was born on February 6, 1925 at home on the farm south of Irene, South Dakota to Oscar and Bertha (Sylliaasen) Kjeldseth. Beulah graduated from Wakonda High School where she met her husband, Luverne Mayer. They were later married in 1945. Beulah was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and then joined the United Methodist Church in Wakonda. She lived in several places throughout South Dakota and



Mayer

Nebraska. When she moved to Yankton, she joined the First United Methodist Church where she has been a long-standing member. Beulah loved to travel and she was able to see many parts of the country. She also loved music and dancing, playing bingo and pinocle and she lit up when visiting with her friends. Beulah always had a sincere, unselfish smile for everyone she met.

Thankful for having shared her life are her three sons: Larry Mayer of Yankton, Darrel (Elena) Mayer of Rock Rapids, Iowa and Merle (Sue) Mayer of Aurora, Iowa; 10 grandchildren: Jill, Aaron, Angela, Michael, Kevin, Matthew, Laura, Brian, Jason and Alyana; six great grandchildren; three nieces: Gloria (Butch) Becker of Yankton, Marilyn (Tom) Kilgore of Manhattan,

Kansas and Lori (Tom) Dickman of Carmel, Indiana; and her loving sister, Hazel Nelson of Yankton.

Beulah was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Gladys Nelson Pickering. Special thanks goes out to the residents of Sunrise Apartments and heartfelt appreciation to the loving staff at Avera Yankton Care Center.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 17, 2010

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Cletus Gran

Cletus L. Gran, age 74, of Yankton, SD passed away Sunday, March 14, 2010 at the Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 19, 2010 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. David Lund officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories, Yankton.

Visitations will be 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a prayer service and video tribute at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Reid Christopherson, Wayne Brinkman, Steve Hauger, Jason Smith, Kevin Smith, and Ethan Wehling.

Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren: Emily Wehling, Elizabeth Gran, and Evan Gran.

Cletus Lemar was born to Casper and Olga (Evenson) Gran in Lesterville, SD. He grew up in Lesterville and attended Lesterville Grade School, Scotland High School and graduated from Yankton High School in 1953. He served in the U. S.



Gran

Army and was honorably discharged in June of 1960. He was united in marriage to Karen Erstgaard on September 14, 1963 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton, SD. He was employed at Northern Propane Gas Company, Hills Gas and Appliance and Teeco Products for 30 years, retiring in 1998. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sons of Norway, and Moose Lodge.

His memory will be cherished by his wife, Karen Gran of Yankton, SD; son, Dan (Tracy) Gran of Sioux Falls, SD and their children, Elizabeth and Evan Gran; daughter, Lori (Jeff) Wehling of Maple Grove, MN and their children, Ethan and Emily

Wehling; sisters, Mavis (Robert) Brinkman of Puyallup, WA, and Eleanor (Arnold) Christopherson of Sioux Falls, SD; brother-in-law, Robert (Evelyn) Hauger, Irene, SD, and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and sisters, Myrtle (Viggo) Henriksen, and Mildred Hauger.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 17, 2010

OPSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Cecilia Huenemann

MENNO — Cecilia E. Huenemann, 93, of Menno died Monday (March 15, 2010) at Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno.

Funeral service are at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, with the Rev. Scott Henry officiating. Burial will be in Kassel (Zion Reformed) Cemetery, rural Menno.

Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the church.

Services are under the direction of Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno.

Joseph McCormick

SANTEE, Neb. — Joseph McCormick, 49 of Santee, Neb., died Tuesday (March 16, 2010) at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Arrangements are pending under the direction of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Bridget H. Rupiper

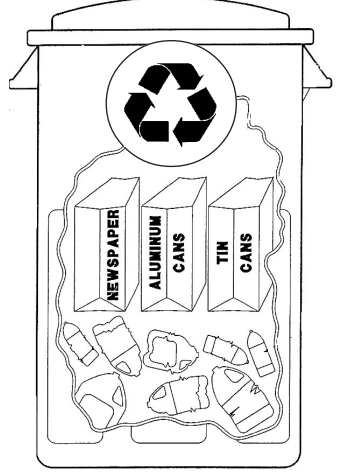
10:30 AM, Saturday
St. Benedict Catholic Church
Yankton

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

Please sort
your
recyclables.

Questions about sorting?
Call 668-5211





Thank You

A sincere and blessed Thank You to all the wonderful people from this community, who helped us get back to "somewhat normal." Through your generous donations of food, supplies, clothing, shelter and money — the human basic needs. After my family's house fire in early December, words cannot express the feeling of helplessness I felt when I was unable to provide those basic needs for my family after the fire. With the community's help through the Yankton Police Dept., Vermillion Police Dept., Clay County Sheriff's Office, Sanford Hospital, Avera Hospital, local schools, church groups and private donations, we are now able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. At this time we are still in temporary housing — compliments of Brian & Anita Emmick and E Circle E hunting lodge — but can see a better future for us as a family.

People have said, "Everything happens for a reason." I still don't like the idea of having a house fire to leave you with nothing, however it gives you a new appreciation for friends and family and how we truly need each other to survive.

Sincere thanks, blessings and appreciation to all,
Doug, Staci, Shelby, Shandra, Samuel, Jordan
Hanson family

we salute ag producers

National Ag Week
March 14-20

First National Bank South Dakota
332 Broadway, Yankton, SD
605-665-9611 • www.fnbsd.com

Thank you to the area farm families and businesses for all you do. We invite all ag producers to stop by the bank to register for a free steak dinner, plus free cookies and coffee on Friday.