

OUR TOWNS

Gayville
Mission Hill
Volin

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Benefit Planned For Volin Resident

VOLIN — Family and friends are planning a benefit for Julie (Kopping) Hoxeng of Volin, who has been fighting cancer for six years.

The date is set for Jan. 9 at the Wakonda Legion Hall.

A supper/auction/dance is in the works. A free will offering supper will start at 5 p.m. and will be served throughout the auction that will start approximately at 6:30 p.m. with a dance to follow.

The committee is busy planning the event that will help Julie and her husband Terry with financial difficulties due to her six-year battle with cancer. Julie's illness has forced her to take a medical leave of absence

from her job at First National Bank in Yankton. The committee is going to meet once a week up until the time of the benefit.

With the holidays upon us, this benefit reminds us of how important family and friends are and the true meaning of giving and caring for others. Accounts will be opened at the following banks for the "Julie Hoxeng Benefit": First Premier Bank in Wakonda, Cortrust Bank in Gayville, and First National Bank South Dakota at 332 Broadway in Yankton. Modern Woodmen — Cathy "Lynch" Becker — is donating matching funds up to \$1,500.

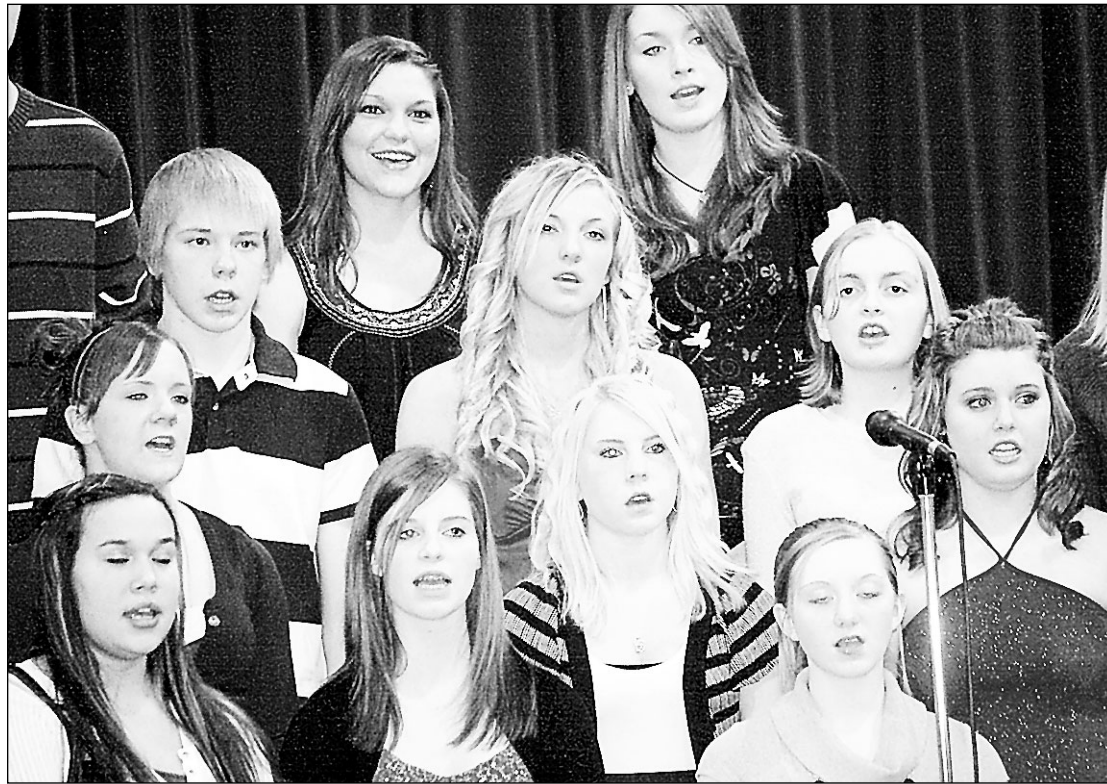
If you would like more information, call Pam Ganschow at 605-267-2607 or Amber (Hoxeng) Sorensen at 661-9400.

Julie (Kopping) Hoxeng grew up on a farm south of Wakonda. She graduated from Wakonda High School in 1975. She married Terry Hoxeng of Volin in 1976. From this great union, they have two children and three grandchildren; Brian (Heather) in 1980 who have two children Wyatt and Savannah and Amber (Jon) Sorensen in 1983 who have one son Alex. Her parents are Vivian Kopping and the late Frank Kopping. She has a brother Rodney and a sister Carolyn of Wakonda.

Julie was first diagnosed with breast cancer on Dec. 31, 2002. She went into remission for three years and since has been battling recurrences.

She has been with First National Bank South Dakota since 1995 and has recently taken a leave of absence to concentrate on her treatment.

Julie was a First Responder for Volin. She loves to spend her free time gardening, golfing with Terry, and sharing quality time with her children and grandchildren.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
LEFT: Members of the Gayville-Volin High School choir harmonize during a performance of "Winterlight." ABOVE: The GVHS band perform the holiday favorite "Silent Night" during Tuesday's holiday concert.

GV Delivers Sounds Of Season

New Musical Director, Students Ring In The Holiday Spirit

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
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GAYVILLE — The gymnasium at Gayville-Volin School was filled with the sounds of Christmas Tuesday night, when it was the middle school and high school's Winter Concert.

It was a special night for Gayville-Volin's choir and band director Meghan Powell, as it was the first concert she has ever directed.

"It went really, really well, I think," said Powell, a Yankton High School grad, after the show. "I was happy with all the students."

The evening featured performances from the sixth and seventh grade band and choir, the high school band and choir, the All-State Choir delegates and alternatives, and a special Woman's Choir. Jeanie Wieger acted as accompanist for the sixth and seventh grade choir, and Laurie Hanson accompanied the high school choir.

"I think it went well," High school choir member Vanessa Ryken said. "Everybody liked it."

High school choir member Megan Bye added, "I think we sounded really good tonight. We all flowed together really well."

High school choir member Meghan Rice agreed, saying, "I think we sounded better than last year — we actually had three-part harmony."



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Meghan Powell directed her first concert Tuesday as musical director of the Gayville-Volin school district.

"There were some really good songs this year, and it really came together the last two weeks of (rehearsal)," choir member Luke Buffington said.

"I think most of (the students) are really proud of what they are doing," Powell said. "They have really worked a lot."

Powell said the students have been rehearsing for the concert "just about every day" since early October.

"Since it was my first year, we started as early as possible," she said. "I was like, 'We're going to get it, and we're going to get it good.'"

The extensive rehearsals tested some of the students' patience, but Powell said they all pulled through in the end.

"It's been a little bit of a challenge trying to keep

them really singing 'Frosty the Snowman,' but I think now they're getting more excited because it's so near," she said before the concert.

Powell said her favorite part of the process is "working with the students and seeing them grow."

She added that she has seen a lot of growth in the middle school band.

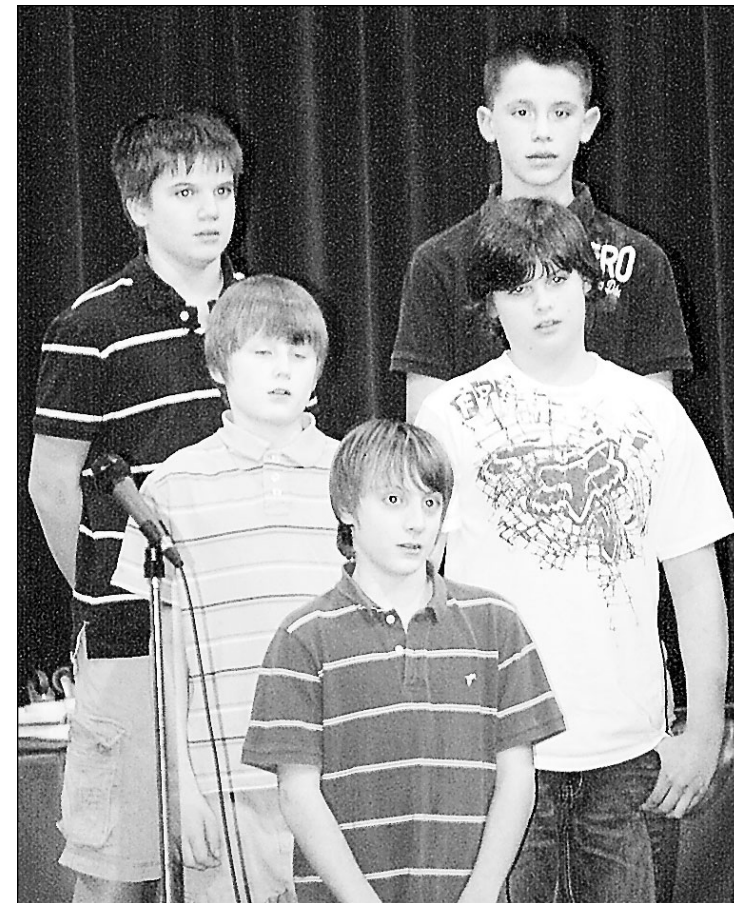
"When we first got the music, it was really hard to even get through it, and now they're kind of catching on and playing it really well," she said. "So that's really exciting, seeing them get more excited about playing."

Powell said one of her main challenges in organizing the show was choosing which numbers to perform.

"That was kind of hard," she said. "Coming here right away and having Christmas so early in the year, I didn't know how they played, as someone with more experience would have a better idea. So we had a couple different songs, and I would narrow it down, and those are the ones we would work on."

Luckily, Powell said she had a strong musical support system to rely on for advice.

"My mom's a former choir director and my dad's a band director, so I was constantly on the phone with them," she said. "I also have tons of friends and teachers that I've called and asked questions."



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Members of the Gayville-Volin sixth- and seventh-grade choir perform "Frosty Hand Jive," a jazz version of "Frosty the Snowman," during Tuesday night's holiday concert. To see or purchase images from the concert, visit spotted.yankton.net.

Overall, the rehearsal process and the concert itself were rewarding, Powell said. "I've had a lot of fun," she said. "I've really enjoyed myself."

The sixth and seventh

grade choir consists of 36 members, while the band consists of 18 members.

The high school choir has 48 members, and the high school band has 20 members.

'Poker Alice Christmas' At Gayville Hall

GAYVILLE — Gayville Hall presents "A Poker Alice Christmas," starring the Poker Alice Band and country western singer Brenda George, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Gayville.

The veteran band from rural Clay County, founded more than two decades ago, will play seasonal favorites as well as selections from its repertoire of western swing, country, blues and pop, according to Gayville Hall proprietor Doug Sharples.

George, of Avon, sang with Poker Alice in the late 1980s and has reunited with the band once or twice annually at Gayville Hall since 2003. This will be their first Christmas show together.

Poker Alice co-founder Nick Schwebach sings and plays lead and steel guitars. Owen DeJong,

the widely known classical music host on South Dakota Public Radio, plays the fiddle. Both are from rural Wakonda.

Public broadcaster Larry Rohrer, also of rural Wakonda, sings and plays bass in the band. Its other members, both of rural Beresford, are Dennis Jensen on guitar and vocals and Al Remund on drums.

Gayville Hall is at 502 Washington Street in Gayville. Reserved seats cost \$15. Call 605-267-2859. Tickets are \$12.50 at the door.

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