

# OUR TOWNS

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## Communities And Friends Unite For Hoxeng Benefit

Event Slated For Saturday In Wakonda

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VOLIN — A fund-raiser to benefit a Volin woman has brought out the best in area communities.

Set to take place at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Wakonda Legion Hall, donations for the Julie Hoxeng benefit have surpassed organizers' expectations despite a planning period of only seven weeks.

Hoxeng is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

According to organizer Pam Ganschow, more than 200 items have been collected for a live and silent auction, and more than \$11,000 has been raised from area residents.

What the event needs now is bidders, Ganschow said. "People have been generous enough to come and donate, so now we need people to bid."

The evening will include a pork loin sandwich dinner, for which a freewill donation will be held. Auctions are set to begin at 7 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m., Ganschow said. Music will be provided by the band, The After Bar.

"We're hoping to miss the snowstorms," she said. "I know they're talking about some weather (for Wednesday), but we're hoping it gets in and gets out so we can scoop out and be ready for it."

Hoxeng's grown children, Amber Sorensen and Brian Hoxeng, both



Hoxeng

have been involved in planning the benefit for their mother. It was Sorensen who made the initial call that got the planning started.

She said both of her parents are moved by the public outpouring. "They're very overwhelmed," Sorensen said. "They did not expect the response from the community that they've gotten. Not everybody knew the situation as it is now, so they're very overwhelmed."

Brian Hoxeng said his mother currently is "really trying to focus on getting better now," and has taken a leave of absence from her job at First National Bank of South Dakota in Yankton to do that.

"She's still a fighter," Hoxeng said. "She's fighting it, but she's just tired. But her spirits are always up. She knows she's going to beat this."

Julie Hoxeng was diagnosed with cancer Dec. 31, 2002. After treatment, she went into remission for two years, but the cancer returned.

"She's been fighting ever since," Sorensen said.

Sorensen and her brother both said they appreciate the help they're receiving from community members.

"We've had so many people come out and want to donate and help — either donating money, donating



Amber Sorensen, Amy Haver, Phyllis Hunhoff, Brian Hoxeng, Jean Koupal and Teresa Kokes inspect some of the many auction items that have been donated for a benefit for Volin resident Julie Hoxeng, which will take place at 5 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Wakonda Legion Hall.

their time — in any way they can," Sorensen said. "It's amazing how many people from all over are wanting to come in and either be there for the day, or give support."

"This community really does get involved when one of their own needs help," Brian Hoxeng added. "Then they all come together."

Sorensen described her mother as "probably the most loving, supporting, strong-willed person" she has ever known. "I hate to see her go through this," she said.

"She pretty much explained it all right there," Hoxeng said. "She's my best friend, too. ... I can talk to my mom about anything. This hits hard."

Sorensen said the public's response to her mother's illness is such a giving person herself.

"She would do anything for anybody," Sorensen said. "She's helped

out with our friends in their times of need, or in our school events when we were in high school. She was there to back us up if there wasn't a coach, or they just needed extra help. She was there to do it."

These sentiments were echoed by some of Hoxeng's coworkers, who also have been assisting in planning the benefit.

"Julie's a real go-getter," said Phyllis Hunhoff. "She's dedicated to her job. She's a caring person."

"I've worked with her since she's been (at the bank), and we've become very good friends," said Teresa Kokes. "She's awesome to work with, and I want her to come back. We miss her."

"If anything would happen to any of us, she would be out there trying to do the same thing that we're doing for her," said Amy Haver.

Jean Koupal, a former coworker

of Hoxeng's, added, "If we can help in any way, we are there for her. We just all want her to know that."

Sorensen said her mother is planning to make an appearance at the benefit "at some point. It depends on how much energy she has."

Regardless of whether they see her on Saturday night, Brian Hoxeng encouraged everyone to "just come down, have a good time and show support."

Financial donations can be made by calling CorTrust Bank in Gayville at 267-4487, First Premier Bank in Wakonda at 267-2665 or First National Bank of South Dakota in Yankton at 665-9611. A matching fund up to \$1,500 has been established by the Modern Woodmen of Randolph, Neb.

For more information about the benefit, Pam Ganschow can be reached at 267-2607.

## South Dakota Corn Growers to host 24th annual meeting

Top leaders in the agricultural industry will converge together on Saturday, Jan. 9, for the South Dakota Corn Growers Association's (SDCGA) 24th annual meeting at the Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls. Headlining the event will be a key agricultural influencer in Congress.

Rep. Leonard Boswell, D-IA, will deliver the keynote address at the SDCGA Annual Meeting which has grown into one of the largest one-day agricultural events in South Dakota. Boswell, chairman of a highly influential subcommittee within the House Agriculture Committee, will inspire those attending with his keen perspective from Washington.

South Dakota Congresswoman, Stephanie Herseth Sandlin will also be present to listen to Rep. Boswell at the SDCGA evening banquet.

"I'm honored to welcome my colleague and friend Leonard Boswell to South Dakota for the annual meeting of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association," said Herseth Sandlin. "As an Iowa, fellow member of the House Agriculture Committee, where he serves as Chairman of the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee, and strong advocate of renewable fuels, he shares my commitment to our agricultural producers and the important role they play in our region's economy. I look forward to hearing his insights and trust he will share valuable perspective with those attending the South Dakota Corn Growers Association annual meeting."

In Boswell's post as chairman of the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee, he will play an integral role in guaranteeing that producers have risk management tools that truly work, while ensuring that consumers have a safe and affordable food supply.

"Rep. Boswell's presence in the state could not be better timed as farmers are focused as never before on providing food and fuel security to the world," said Bill Chase, president of the SDCGA.

More than 1,200 producers, legislators and industry partners will participate throughout the day in educational opportunities and an evening filled with fine dining and entertainment. An illustrious line up of speakers will provide opportunities for producers to learn from leading experts on the topics of marketing, future trends and energy security.

The day will begin with high energy as David Kohl leads off the line-up of experts with his presentation, "Mega Forces of Agriculture in the New Economic Realities." Next up is Richard Brock of Brock Associates presenting "The Changing World Economic Environment ... Impact on Commodity Prices and Farmers."

At mid-point of the day the SDCGA is proud to welcome the nation's top corn official, Rick Tolman, CEO of the National Corn Growers Association as the luncheon speaker. Tolman has been on the front lines of industry changing policy, biotechnology advancements, advocacy of the corn ethanol industry and image management of the nation's

corn producers. Also during the noon luncheon, NCGA Corn Yield Contest participants will be recognized.

Energy security is the focus of the afternoon as Robert Zubrin opens our minds to dynamic concepts in his presentation "Energy Victory: Winning the War on Terror by Breaking Free of Oil."

As with any Annual Meeting, an important time for SDCGA members will occur with the Resolution Meeting at 3:45 p.m. as members help set the policy and priorities for the organization over the next year.

Following a day packed full of learning and networking the SDCGA will kick off "CornMania 2010" featuring an evening of fine dining including a social, silent auction and the opportunity to hear from Rep. Boswell.

Following Boswell's speech and a presentation by South Dakota's Congressional delegation in attendance that evening, the audience is in for a special entertainment treat when the best Beatles Tribute Band around takes the stage. American English will wow the crowd with their rendition of

top Beatles' hits including "She Loves You", "I Want to Hold Your Hand", "Hey Jude", "Eight Days a Week" and many more.

"The SDCGA Annual Meeting is designed to celebrate the successes of the South Dakota corn industry while recognizing

the leaders who have made a difference in the SDCGA over the past years," said Chase.

For a full agenda of the day's events, go to [www.sdcom.org](http://www.sdcom.org). Tickets for the Annual Meeting banquet are \$50 for members of the SDCGA or \$125 for

non-members. The day-long educational seminars are at no cost and open to the public; the lunch program is \$10 per person. Register online at [www.sdcom.org](http://www.sdcom.org) or by calling the SDCGA at 605-334-0100.

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**Coyote Gameday**  
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Join Us At The **DakotaDome**

**Coyote Men vs. Cornell**  
Friday, January 8th  
7:30PM Tipoff  
Game Sponsored by **CorTrust Bank**

**Coyote Men vs. S. Illinois Edwardsville**  
Saturday, January 9th  
7:30PM Tipoff  
Game Sponsored by **Avera**

**Coyote Women vs. Seattle**  
Sunday, January 10th  
1:00PM Tipoff

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