

OUR TOWNS

Gayville
Mission Hill
Volin

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Gayville Native Directs Iowa Opus Honor Choir

Beth Mueller (Snow) has been chosen to direct the 23rd annual Iowa Opus 7th and 8th Grade Girls Honor Choir.



Mueller

This concert is sponsored by the Iowa Choral Directors Association, Inc. and will take place in CY Stephens Auditorium today (Thursday) on the Iowa State University Campus in Ames, Iowa.

The chorus will be made up of 180 singers chosen by audition from across the state of Iowa.

Mueller is the daughter of Kenneth and Koren Snow of Gayville. She graduated from Gayville-Volin High School in 1977 and has been a choral director in Iowa since 1986. Currently, she is in her 22nd year of teaching at Maquoketa Valley in Delhi, Iowa. There she directs the 7th & 8th Grade Boys' and Girls' Chorus, the 7th & 8th Grade Vocal Jazz Ensemble, the High School Concert Choir, and two High School Vocal Jazz ensembles.

Mueller has served on the Iowa Choral Directors Executive Board as the North East Representative from 2002-2006 and currently acts as the All-State Jazz Choir Chair. Mueller has been the associate choir director for the biannual Iowa Ambassadors of Music European Tour since 2002. In this capacity she has had the opportunity to work in conjunction with Dr. Paul Torkelson, recently retired from Wartburg College, and many other fine music directors from around the state of Iowa.

Besides conducting, Mueller also enjoys arranging and composing for her various ensembles, acting in community musical theater productions, singing in her church choir, golf and horseback riding.

Mueller resides in Manchester with her husband, Roger. They have two children; Philip, a senior at Millikin University in Decatur, Ill., who is studying Commercial Music and Communications; and Teri, a junior at Maquoketa Valley who enjoys a wide variety of activities from playing the French horn to running cross country.

Pitching In To Lend A Hand

Free Turkeys Are In The Cards During Upcoming Volin, Gayville Benefits

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
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During the next week, area residents will have several chances to play cards and win frozen turkeys while raising money for community organizations.

The first of these is the Volin Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders' annual "feather party," which will be held at the Volin Town Hall at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20.

During the event, attendees will play games of pitch for the chance to win a season-appropriate prize.

Assistant Chief Dean Gustad said, "There's eight people per table, and whoever wins the game of pitch will get a frozen turkey."

Sixty 10- to 12-pound turkeys have already been procured for the occasion.

Chili and ham sandwiches will also be served throughout the evening, and a full cash bar will be available, as well.

Gustad said this is a yearly event that serves as a way to raise funds to cover general expenses.

"It usually lasts until about midnight to 1 a.m.," he said. "It depends on when everybody leaves, or else all the turkeys are gone."

People who don't know how to play pitch are welcome to attend, as well.

"We do sell a number you get to put on a card to win a turkey," said Treasurer Matt Cwach. "We've got other ways to win turkeys. And we've got a gun raffle for everybody if they want to take a chance and make a donation."

The gun being raffled off is a 7 mm Winchester short mag rifle.

Raffle tickets are available at the rate of one for \$1 or six for \$5. They can be purchased either at the event or at the RPM Unlimited office, which is located at 30393 447th Ave. in rural Volin.

Gustad said the amount of money raised varies from year to year.

"Between our food and the turkeys and everything, usually we raise anywhere from \$800 to \$1,500," he said.

Gustad and Cwach both said the event is important to the fire department and the first responders.

"It's the only time that we reach out to the community and ask for their support," Gustad said.

"It helps a little bit every time just to get a little extra to pay for whatever project we have going on," Cwach added.

Cwach encouraged card-players and non-players alike to attend Friday's fund-raiser.

"It's just a good time," he said.

The second cards-and-turkeys fund-raiser will be held Nov. 23-25 when the Gayville American



TRAVIS GULBRANDSON/P&D
Matt Cwach, treasurer of Volin Fire and Rescue, stands by one of the town's trucks. A card party to raise funds for the Volin Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders will be held Nov. 20.

Legion Post 237 hosts its annual "pitch party."

The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. each night at the Gayville Community Center, with a dinner of oyster stew and roast beef sandwiches. A full cash bar will also be available.

"It's the only time that we reach out to the community and ask for their support."

MATT CWACH
Volin Fire Department

Card-players will then play games of pitch for the chance to win eight- to 10-pound frozen turkeys, of which approximately 300-320 have been acquired.

Post Adjutant Gary Heier said the funds raised will help the Legion to "keep things going. If we make enough, we have other things, like we're talking about buying new coats and shirts for our firing squad and color guard. We get rid of it somehow."

Approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 is raised each year.

"It depends on what we need and what we do," Heier said.

He added that while the event starts at 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, the games of pitch might not begin until later.

"A lot of people come in early for supper, and as they play cards, they buy more soup and sand-

wiches," he said.

Heier said holding the event on multiple nights will make the fund-raiser more convenient for area residents.

"It used to be Monday night was our big night," he said. "Now it's kind of our slow night, and Wednesday is our big night. As the years go by, things change."

The number of attendees will dictate when the event draws to a close each night.

"Sometimes on Monday night, by 10 or 11 p.m., it's all done," Heier said. "Tuesday night might be a little bit later. Wednesday night sometimes goes to 1 to 2 a.m."

Multiple tables will be set up for the games.

"There's eight people per table, per card game," Heier said. "On some nights — like Monday or Tuesday night — we might have six, eight, 10 tables. On Wednesday night, we might have up to 13 tables going, plus the people that don't play cards and just buy chances on chance cards."

Heier added that the evenings could give people who don't know how to play pitch a chance to learn.

"A lot of times, if they're not sure (how to play), they'll get in with a group and they'll help them," he said. "Sometimes, it's better to get in with people you know than strangers, because they'll take advantage of you."

Tickets do not need to be purchased for either event.

Thanksgiving Eve Service, Holiday Dinner Scheduled

VOLIN — Faith United Lutheran Church of Volin will be having a Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, with Holy Communion and a Pumpkin Pie Party to follow that evening. The church is located at 44874

303rd Street, Volin.

Also, there will be a potluck Community Dinner at noon on Thursday, Nov. 26. Meat and potatoes are provided. The public is welcome.

For more information, call Pastor Velma at 267-2249.

A Night Of Country Classics Set For Gayville Hall

GAYVILLE — Gayville Hall presents "A Celebration of Country Classics," starring the John and Susan McNeill, Owen DeJong, Nick Schwebach, and special guest Annie McNeill Ideker, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, in Gayville.

Ideker plays piano and performed many years in the McNeill Family Band while growing up. Now a medical doctor in Minneapolis, she will making her fifth "reunion" performance with her parents at Gayville Hall.

The McNeills, who live in Springfield, have been featured performers and Gayville Hall's country music hosts since the alcohol-and-smoke-free music venue opened in 2001.

Schwebach will play lead and steel guitars and DeJong fiddle. They perform regularly at Gayville Hall and lead the Poker Alice and Public Domain bands. They are from rural Wakonda.

Gayville Hall is located at 502 Washington Street in Gayville. Tickets are \$12.50 at the door, or \$15 reserved. Call 605-267-2859.

The University of South Dakota
College of Fine Arts Department of Music
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