

OUR TOWNS

Gayville
Mission Hill
Volin

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Family Leaves Musical Legacy To GV School

Memorial Allows Band To Add Instruments

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
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GAYVILLE — Thanks to a donation from an area family, the Gayville-Volin School Band is two instruments larger.

When Meckling-area farmer Gerald Jepsen died this past February, his wife Marianne and their four grown children wondered what could be done with the memorials they received.

"The kids thought, 'Well, he went to Gayville High School and he loved music,' so they thought if people didn't designate (where the memorials would go), they would give the money to start a fund at the high school and buy some instruments," Marianne Jepsen said.

The funds totaled \$1,100 and went toward the purchase of a French horn and a marching tuba, or sousaphone.

"I think it's really great," Jepsen said. "Gayville School is a nice school. It's really great for them."

"It's very generous," said Meghan Powell, the school's music director. "It was nice to have some extra money to buy something special with..."

"Getting these instruments is a huge step," she said. "Usually you buy one instrument, or you work toward one instrument per year. Getting two in one year, I feel kind of spoiled."

If it wasn't for the donation from the Jepsen family, the school might never have been able to get these specific instruments.

"Those are just (instruments) a small school can't afford, usually," said elementary music instructor Laurie Hanson. "It's really neat, because otherwise our school wouldn't be able to get those kind of horns."

"We haven't had a marching tuba for a couple years, and I don't think we've ever had a French horn," Powell added.

In the beginning, Jepsen said, the plan was to assist students in purchasing an instrument for themselves, but it was soon decided it might be more beneficial to buy something the school could keep.

"I'm sure a small school would have a harder time (obtaining certain instruments)," Jepsen said.

Hanson verified this, saying, "Because we're a small school, some of the kids can't buy instruments, and so they play a school instrument. We have a trumpet and a flute and a few things, but we've never had any big brass instruments."

When the students graduate, the instruments will remain at the school for other students to play.

Powell is currently in the process of recruiting students to play the marching tuba.

"Right now, with the sousaphone, I'm kind of twisting some arms," she said. "It'll probably be a student who's a sixth-grader next year... The sooner we can get it in the program, it's going to help out a lot. We need some bass."

"The French horn we picked up because I have a girl who's supposed to transfer here next year from Utah, and she said she played the horn. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, what are we going to do?'" Powell said. "Even if she

doesn't transfer here, it's a good instrument just to have."

Music was always a big part of Gerald Jepsen's life, beginning when he played with the Gayville Legion's Drum and Bugle Corps when he was 9. In high school, he played with a band called the Jive Five with Kenneth Snow, Jim Snow, Lloyd Haarberg and Harold Fiedler.

Although her husband kept his trumpet for the rest of his life, Marianne Jepsen said that after Gerald returned home from serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he no longer played.

"We would have been married 61 years in April. He passed away in February. I don't think I've ever seen that man play that trumpet, and I don't know why he never got it out. But he loved music," she said.

When he wasn't working, Gerald liked to spend his time listening to bands on the radio or watching them on television.



TRAVIS GULBRANDSON/P&D
Meckling resident Marianne Jepsen holds a photograph of her deceased husband Gerald as he appeared with the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps. Jepsen's family donated funds to Gayville-Volin School, enabling it to buy two musical instruments.

He and Marianne also liked to attend area dances.

"We went whenever we could go," she said. "We enjoyed it." This is why she thinks the

donation to the school is such a fitting tribute for her husband.

"I think he would really be thrilled. He'd think that was super," she said.

Scammers Take Advantage Of Healthcare Reform

PIERRE — Consumers searching for health insurance coverage since the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009 (PPACA) should be on the lookout for scammers providing misleading information about the new law.

South Dakota Division of Insurance Director Merle Scheiber encourages consumers who have been offered policies that are supposedly necessitated by federal health-care reform to call the Division to verify if the policies, companies and agents are legitimate.

"Scam artists nationwide are going door-to-door selling 'ObamaCare' insurance policies," Scheiber said. "The sales people may claim there is a limited open enrollment period to buy health insurance and that the coverage being offered will be grandfathered or exempted from changes required by the new health-care reform law."

The information is inaccurate, Scheiber said. There is no open enrollment period currently associated with the new health care law, he said.

The requirement for all Americans to purchase health-care insurance does not go into effect until 2014 for most people, Scheiber added.

For a list of the changes included in the PPACA and when they go into effect, visit the NAIC Health and Managed Care Committee Web page (http://www.naic.org/committees_b.htm) and look for the PPACA charts. Information can also be found on the (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform>) and (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform>).

You may contact the Division of Insurance for assistance by calling 605-773-3563, by letter to the South Dakota Division of Insurance, 445 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501, or by e-mailing insurance@state.sd.us.

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June 26 in Freeman, SD

\$75 entry fee due June 15. Late entries \$150.

Prizes: 1st - \$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd - \$200, 4th - \$100, 5th - \$50.
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Contact Vermetta Waltner, 605-321-7351 or vwaltner@freemanacademy.org, or www.freemanacademy.org/ribsattheranch.html for complete rules and information

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Saturday
Kenny Carlow
Serving from Menu 5:30-8:00
Singles Dance - Basement
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Sunday at 6:30pm
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-6:00
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BLOOD DRIVES

The Siouland Community Blood Bank Mobile Unit will be at the following:

- Friday, May 7 - HyVee, Yankton, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Monday, May 10 - Community Center, Platte, noon-6 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 11 - Avera Sacred Heart Hospital/Benedictine Center, Yankton, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 11 - Andes High School, Lake Andes, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 12 - Crofton Auditorium, Crofton, Neb., noon-6 p.m.
- Monday, May 17 - Yankton Mall, Yankton, 2 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 19 - Community Center, Gayville, 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
- Thursday, May 20 - Community Auditorium, Tyndall, 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Monday, May 24 - VFW Hall, Hartington, Neb., noon-6 p.m.
- Monday, May 24 - Wagner Fire Department, Wagner, noon-6 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 25 - Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Benedictine Center, Yankton, noon-6:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 28 - WalMart, Yankton, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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