



 Today Rain H 46 L 38	 Thurs Scatt. Showers H 52 L 33	 Fri Mostly Sunny H 54 L 38	 Sat Mostly Cloudy H 50 L 30	 Sun Partly Cloudy H 42 L 26
---	---	---	--	--

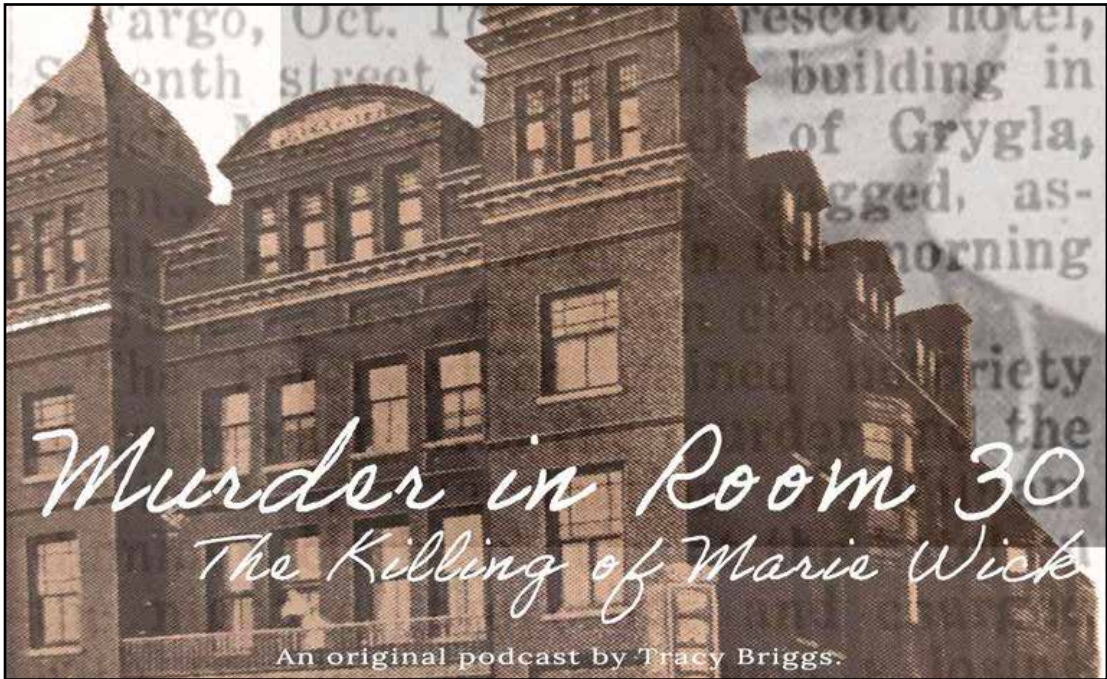
Wednesday, October 27, 2021

WE'RE ONLINE www.tricocanary.com

Vol. 47 Number 18

In this issue ... The entire 4-part series of "Murder in Room 30: The Killing of Marie Wick" is shared with readers.

Murder in Room 30: The Killing of Grygla's Marie Wick 100 years ago



The 4-part podcast can be found under "The Vault" at inforum.com/podcasts/ or on Apple, Spotify and Amazon. Search for it using "The Vault Forum."

June 7, 2021, marked the 100th anniversary of one of the most brutal murders to happen in Fargo, followed by what was heralded as "The most sensational murder trial in North Dakota history." 18-year-old Marie Wick of Grygla, Minnesota, was killed in a downtown Fargo hotel during her first trip away from home.

In the four-part series, that is shared in its entirety here, Forum Journalist, Tracy Briggs, takes us through the twists and turns of the case in which justice might have come 20 years too late.

Written by: Tracy Briggs, Journalist, The Forum of Fargo/Moorhead, June 1, 2021

Part 1:

In mid-December 1944, in the waning months of WWII, people all over the world were tuning into radio news reports from a distant European forest. After the successful Allied invasion at Normandy that summer, the Nazis were launching a counteroffensive along the western front to try and turn the tide of the war back in Hitler's favor. The Battle of the Bulge, as it came to be known, would dominate the airwaves that cold and snowy Christmas season. But not for everyone, everywhere.

On a small farm in northern Minnesota (*Grygla*), Hans and Katrina Wick's thoughts were elsewhere 335 miles away in Bismarck, where the man convicted of murdering their beloved teenage daughter Marie would soon be walking out of prison.

The murder, which happened 22 years earlier at a downtown Fargo hotel on June 7, 1921, was among the most brutal in the region's history, and the subsequent trial was called the most sensational in North Dakota history.

So why was the man convicted of murdering Marie getting out of prison? Did people really think he didn't do it? And if he didn't, who did? The thought weighed heavily on the Wick family that year. With the prison release, someone would get their loved one home for Christmas, but it wouldn't be them.

Forum Communications will take a closer look at the Murder of Marie Wick — a teenage farmgirl from Grygla, Minnesota, whose first trip to the "big" city of Fargo ended in tragedy. What happened? Who murdered her and why? And did the wrong man spend 22 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit?

The sheltered girl takes a trip to 'the big city'

The '20s might have been roaring for many in America, but not so much for 18-year-old Marie Wick. By all accounts, she was pretty sheltered, growing up on her family's farm outside of the small town of Grygla, Minnesota (population 155 at that time).

Her Norwegian-born father Hans and American-born mother Katrina raised seven children here. Marie was the second born, following older brother Arne. Newspaper reports of the day said the pretty, dark-haired Marie had only ever ventured about an hour away from Grygla. The only things she knew of the world outside her hometown came from the movies she'd see in nearby towns like Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

So no doubt, she was probably more than a little excited — and maybe a little nervous — when she boarded a train out of Crookston, Minnesota, to Fargo, North Dakota, 75 miles away, where she'd stay overnight before making the second half of the trip to Pettibone, North Dakota, to visit relatives.

If Marie and her parents were nervous, they might have been reassured to know that once in Fargo, she would meet up with a family friend from Grygla, who was now living just across the Red River in Moorhead, Minnesota. Once she arrived at the Northern Pacific Train Depot on Main Avenue, that friend, Arnold Rasmussen, even walked Marie to her hotel just across the street.

Staying at The Prescott

Marie had a room at The Prescott Hotel at 15 7th Street near the deLendrecies building, which still stands today. It originally housed The Fargo Daily Argus newspaper in 1886 and became The Prescott Hotel, named for owner William Prescott, in 1901.

An early advertisement declared it "one of the best equipped and strictly modern hotels of the city." It boasted of "electric light, steam heat, private and public baths, plus excellent cuisine and service." This was no flop house. It was a respectable hotel for a young woman inexperienced in traveling.

When Marie and Arnold walked into the hotel lobby, the night clerk, William Gummer, picked up Marie's bags and showed her to her room — Room 30 — upstairs, at the end of the hall. According to reports, Marie came down a short time later, and she and her friend Arnold went out to see the sights of Fargo.

Marie's eyes were reportedly as wide as saucers as she looked at streetcars she had only seen previously in the movies go up and down Broadway.

The friends enjoyed an ice cream soda before calling it a night.

Arnold walked Marie back to The Prescott around 11 p.m. She stopped at the front desk and asked that same night clerk who helped her with her bags earlier, William Gummer, for a 6 a.m. wakeup call the next morning so she could

make her 7 a.m. train to Pettibone. He agreed. She walked up the stairs, went into Room 30 and was never seen alive again.

A tragic night

The next morning at 6 a.m., Gummer said he made repeated calls to Marie Wick's room as she had requested. But she wasn't answering. Gummer later told police he decided to go upstairs and knock on her door. When she didn't answer, he used his pass key to let himself in. What he saw next was described this way by crime journalist Peter Levins in a 1940 retelling of the murder:

"Almost immediately in the dim light which filtered through the drawn shades, he saw that there was something wrong. Frightened, he stepped back, closed the door, and hastened to tell one of the hotel proprietors, Fritz Lawrence, together they returned to discover that Marie Wick had been bludgeoned to death."

A nightmare scenario for the teenager's first night in the big city.

The investigation begins

Police officers and sheriff's deputies were called to the hotel in the early morning hours of June 7. After hours of investigating the bloody scene, they determined Marie had been attacked as she slept sometime between 12:30 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. She was choked into unconsciousness, gagged, tied up and sexually assaulted. Her wrists were tied to the bed frame with torn up bed sheets, and her head was covered in a blood-soaked pillowcase. Authorities say it appeared she was beaten with the brass nozzle of a fire hose that had been taken from the hotel hallway.

Immediately, the police started to look into the last people to see Marie alive. Could her family friend Arnold Rasmussen have had something to do with it? Did he sneak back into the hotel after he had supposedly dropped her off from their sightseeing adventure?

Not likely. Police said Arnold was spotted between 11 p.m. and midnight at Pan's Cafe on Main Avenue, where he met his girlfriend Jenny Halgunseth. The couple walked to Jenny's house. Both Jenny and her sister told police Arnold didn't leave their house until about 2 a.m. Arnold's roommate backed them up when he told them Arnold came back to their place just after that.

Investigators decided to go farther back into Marie's day. They looked for a man who reportedly played cards with Marie on the train from Crookston to Fargo earlier in the day. They also took a good, long look at who else was in the hotel that night. They examined the hotel register to see the comings and goings of the other guests.

A bank president for a suspect

One looked a bit unusual. A prominent man named H.J. Hagen, the former president of the Scandinavian American Bank of Fargo, was said to have signed into his room, after getting off the 1 a.m. train from an out of town trip. That was the same time period that police suspect Marie had been attacked. And Hagen was in room 31 right next door.

Hagen said he had nothing to do with the crime and asked authorities to take his fingerprints and examine his body for signs of a struggle. They complied. Days later after a thorough investigation, they announced that Hagen's prints were not found in Wick's room, and his body showed no signs of a struggle. He was ruled out. The investigation into the card-playing man on the train also yielded nothing.

Getting their man

But it wouldn't be much longer that police would find their man — or who they thought was their man. One week to the day Wick's body was discovered, they arrested the hotel clerk, William Gummer, for the crime...the same man who helped Marie up the stairs with her bags in the evening and discovered her body in the morning.

Part 2:

Who was William Gummer? Depends on who you ask.

In 1921, some claimed he was a boy in a man's body, an unsophisticated farm kid from Mayville, N.D., the naive youngest of eight children who was inexperienced in the ways of the world.

But ask others and he was a lothario, a slick and promiscuous lady's man who preyed on women for sport. Gummer, they claimed, was prone to dangerous outbursts, which erupted only after he flashed a smile — his almost wicked grin.

A key figure from the start

Right away, 22-year-old William Gummer was a key figure when Fargo Police officers and Cass County Sheriff Fred Kraemer showed up to investigate Wick's murder. Gummer was among the first people Wick met after arriving in Fargo. It was him who checked Marie into her room at the hotel that evening, and him who discovered her lifeless body in the morning. Was he so close for comfort that he had to be involved, or was he a victim of circumstance?

Sheriff Kraemer said they arrested Gummer after thoroughly ruling everyone else out. They ruled out Wick's hometown friend, Arnold Rasmussen, who she went sightseeing with the night she came to Fargo. They also ruled out a man who was supposedly paying attention to her on the

Marie Wick...

Continued on page 3 & 4



An artist's sketch of murder victim, Marie Wick, who was killed in Fargo on June 7, 1921, while staying at The Prescott Hotel. Photo courtesy of The Forum



Megan Larson is the new Head Start teacher and ECFE Director in Grygla. Photo courtesy of Megan Larson



Tina Taus is the new English teacher at the Grygla School. Fun fact: Tina taught both Megan and Brenna in Middle School English in Middle River! Photo by Grygla Eagle Newspaper



Brenna Dallager is the new Business/Computers teacher at the Grygla High School. Photo by Grygla Eagle

Meet our new teachers

Megan Larson

What is your new position at the school? Head Start teacher and ECFE Director

What/where were you previously teaching or employed? Warroad Early Learner's Center as a 3 year old teacher and ECFE Director

Educational background? Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from Bemidji State University and currently working on my Masters in Early Childhood Education from UND.

Where are you living? Rural Gatzke

Family? My dog Otis. What attracted/drew you to your new position/school? I wanted to be back in Grygla after student teaching here in the fall of 2019. I love working with early learners and was ex-

cited when I found out I could do both Head Start and ECFE.

Describe your teaching style? Go with the flow. I'm constantly changing my plans throughout the day to accommodate what my students want to do as long as we are still meeting our goals.

What goals have you set for your first year? I hope that my students love coming to school and know they can just be themselves when they are there. I also hope to build on my relationships and learn from the other teachers that I got to know when I was student teaching.

Five adjectives that describe

New teachers...

Continued on back

• CHURCH CALENDARS

GRYGLA LUTHERAN PARISH
Grace and Our Savior's, Grygla
Vicar Marilyn Grafstrom
Recorded services are available on-demand on the church website and will play on Garden Valley channel 36 on Wednesdays 7pm and Sundays 9am & 7pm. gracelutherangrygla.weebly.com

Wednesday, October 27
11am Bible Study, 6pm Grace Choir, 6:30pm JH Confirmation
Sunday, Oct 31
Grace: 10:30am Worship OS: 9am Worship

GOODRIDGE AREA LUTHERAN PARISH, ELCA
Bethany, Ekelund, Faith
Pastor Kristin Dahlen Ostercamp

Sunday services are posted online on the Parish YouTube channel. They are rebroadcast on the GVTV Channel 36 on Wednesdays at 9am and 6:30pm.

Sunday, Oct 31
Bethany: 8am Worship, 9am SS
Ekelund: 9:30am Worship, 10:30am SS
Faith: 10am SS, 11am Worship

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

Order your holiday pies and wreaths

It's time to start thinking about the holidays! That means pies and wreaths – you're in luck to make your purchase!

Grygla Student Council is selling pies while the freshmen class is selling wreaths. Both will be delivered before Thanksgiving.

The pies are \$19 each and include the following options: blueberry, strawberry/rhubarb, rhubarb, apple, caramel apple, pumpkin, french silk.

See the wreath sheet below. You can get in touch with a Student Council member or fresh-

men student, or call the Grygla School to order. (294-6155).

St. Clement's – Grygla; St. Ann's – Goodridge
Fr. Adam Hammess
Sundays:
St. Clement's: 10:15am Worship.
St. Ann's: 12pm Worship

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
Skime
Pastor Steve Bliss
Sundays
9:30am Worship, 11am Facebook Live Broadcast

UNITED LUTHERAN PARISH Gatzke
Pastor Tim Lundeen
Sundays
8:30am Worship

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH
St. Petri – Grygla; Mt. Olive, Nazareth – Trail; Oak Park – Oklee
Pastor Jeff Merseeth
Wednesday, October 27
Wednesday School 5-7pm
Saturdays
9am Worship at Mt. Olive
Sunday, Oct 31
St. Petri: 8am Worship, 9:15 SS
Nazareth: 8:30am SS, 9:45am Worship
Oak Park: 9:45am SS, 11am Worship

dent Council member or fresh-

men student, or call the Grygla School to order. (294-6155).

The Goodridge Freshmen class is also selling wreaths from now until Friday, November 5th. If you are interested please see a freshmen or contact Andrea Halvorson at andrea.halvorson@goodridgeisd561.org or Elroy Johnsrud at elroy.johnsrud@goodridgeisd561.org.

Wreath choices/prices are:

18 inch \$20.00; 30 inch \$30.00; Swag \$20.00; Candy Cane \$25.00; Cross \$30.00

Small Wreath (Standard Size)	\$20.00
20-25 inches	
Large Wreath (Commercial Size)	\$32.00
30-35 inches	
Extra Large Wreath	\$42.00
40-45 inches	
Cross	\$25.00
Swags	\$20.00
*Money due with order	
*Make checks out to Grygla School	

The above price sheet is for the wreaths available through the Grygla School.

Grygla Elementary Halloween party

The Grygla Elementary Annual Halloween Party will be happening on Friday, October 29th, from 12:30pm-2:50pm. The party is for children ages 0-6th grade and will be held in the Grygla School small gym.

The school is looking for volunteers, monetary or candy donations to help make the fun event possible. The party will be Halloween themed with crafts, games, activities, and treats.

The GG Go-Getters 4H welcomes you to join

Students in grades K-12 interested in more information about 4-H is invited by the Grygla/Gatzke Go-Getters to attend the next meeting this Wednesday, October 27th, at 6:15pm, at the Grygla Civic Building. Anyone interested in hearing more about 4H is invited.

2021 Grace WELCA raffle

Homemade Quilt: Clinton Brobst; Yeti Cooler: Roger Smith; \$100 Cash Prize: Leann Wikert; Iconites Air Fryer: Joel Olson; Game Camera: Donna Lian; Homemade "Maxine" Quilt: Kris Monson; Camp Chef Mountain Man Outdoor Grill: Madelyn Vigen; Bunn Coffee Maker: Jane Manzey; \$75.00 Cabela's Gift Card: Matt Eske-li; Set of 7 Hand Embroidered Dish Towels: Gretchen Smeby; \$50.00 Grygla Coop Store Gift Card: Murray Jorde; 2 Braided Rugs: Jim Hest; \$20.00 Cash Prize: Karol Byklum; Set of 7 Hand Embroidered Dish Towels: Lorraine Holthusen

Please contact a member of the Grace WELCA to claim/ pick up your raffle prize if you haven't already.

HELP WANTED
Farmers Union is looking for a motivated person for shop. Includes oil changes and fixing tires etc. Benefits include health insurance, 401K, sick and vacation time. Wage depends on experience. Stop by office for application or call 218-294-6117 and ask for Brenda. G31-36C

Thank You
Thank you to all of our family and friends that came to help us celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary. A special thank you to our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for making it happen. It was a special day. Thank you again to everyone for thinking of us.
Ralph and Grace Rundell G3C

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that the City of Grygla will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 8, 2021, at 6:30 PM at the Grygla Community Center.
This will be an informational meeting to discuss the proposed water and sewer improvement project, including economic and environmental impacts, service area, alternatives to the project, and potential funding sources, including USDA Rural Development. All residents and property owners within the City of Grygla are encouraged to attend. G32-33C

Monson Electric Services, Inc.
Grygla, MN
LICENSED - BONDED - INSURED
Residential - Commercial and Farm Wiring - Underground Trenching
G43C-30W
Brad Monson • 294-6349

Community Calendar
Wed | Oct 27
Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am; Grygla Library open 2-6pm; 4-H Welcome meeting at Civic Building 6:15pm
Thurs | Oct 28
VB play-in game at high
Fri | Oct 29
Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am; Grygla Elementary Halloween Party 12:30-3pm; VB quarter-finals at high
Sat | Oct 30
OS Thief Lake Lutfesk Supper 3pm; Marie Wick Memorial at Valley Cemetery 3pm
Sun | Oct 31
Happy Halloween!
Mon | Nov 1
Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am

Betts Pottery November studio sale

Want to get a jump start on your holiday shopping with no supply chain worries? Stop by my studio for some one-of-a-kind, handmade gift items, with refreshments to enjoy while you shop! I will be throwing pottery for us. They were 50 yards out and I saw a flock of

I have times set for:
Thursday, November 11th, 4-7pm
Friday, November 12th, 9am-Noon

My studio is at my house, address below:
29813 390th Ave NE
Grygla, MN, 56727
If you have any questions feel free to message me on Facebook, otherwise I hope to see you there.



JOHNSON
Funeral Service, Inc.
Funeral Pre-planning Monuments
Thief River Falls • 218-681-4331
Red Lake Falls • 218-253-2128
Oklee • 218-796-5177
www.johnsonfuneralservice.com
G46TFC

U.S.P.S. No. 002330
Grygla Eagle
MEMBER NNA
NATIONAL NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION
Serving Eastern Marshall & Northern Beltrami Counties
PUBLISHER - RICHARD D. RICHARDS
Kari Sundberg, EDITOR
Phone 294-6220
—SUBSCRIPTION RATES—
\$30 per year in the trade area (Grygla, Gatzke, Goodridge & Wannaska addresses)
\$40 per year outside of the area
PUBLISHER'S LIABILITY FOR ERROR:
The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.
The "Grygla Eagle" is published weekly by Richards Publishing Co., Inc., Box 159, Gonvick, MN 56644. Periodical postage paid at Grygla, MN 56727.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Grygla Eagle, PO Box 17, Grygla, MN 56727.

Northern Lights fishing report

Written by Ben Kucera

On this week's report, it feels like late fall. This past week I found myself excited for the cold mornings and north winds. I knew I had to get out because it should be a migration weekend.

Thursday, Christina joined me in a field that was full of ducks and sheet water. I had mixed feelings about this hunt remembering the last soybean field I hunted and all the work sloping through the mud. But this time it was a breeze thanks to everything being froze. We got out there, set up, and had the first flock of ducks sliding across the ice before legal shooting. We didn't see a lot of birds return but we shot a nice bag, mainly of drake mallards. We should have had our 8 ducks, but I wanted to let Christina shoot and get the last one, and she had a couple opportunities. In the end, we decided to leave and save the field for another hunt.

On Friday, Christina and I headed to a pond where I thought the mallards from Thursday may be sitting. We paddled the canoe up a few channels and broke ice in the pond. It was a slower morning. Right away we missed a line mallard that was setting in behind us and then only shot one mallard of a six pack that was decoyed in front. So shooting was not at a premium. Then we had a 3 pack that I could see landing in some water out past us. I started calling and they picked up and headed straight for us. They were 50 yards out and I saw a flock of

widgeon heading for the decoys and I had to make that quick call shoot the ducks or geese. I opted for the geese as the ducks were going to be in and out quick. At about 30 yards the geese made a telltale sound of a swan and made for a disappointment. We shot 3 birds total that morning.

Saturday was a solo hunt that ended with a goose and six green wing teal. In all, a decent weekend.

On the youth deer hunt side of things, our 2 youth hunters each shot a nice doe. On the fishing side of things, Lake of the woods is heating up a little. The blinker, sandbar, and swift ditch have been getting better with the colder weather. The depths are 8'-15'. Jig and minnow have become the favorite presentation. Whiskey and south tip are producing fish as well, if you want to travel out there. Longpoint area, LEMs reef and closer reefs and structures are producing nice fish as well. Again, jig and minnow are best, and I'd start at the reefs shallow and then move to the edges and off the reef.

Good luck and be safe this week.

Ben Kucera is the owner and creator of Northern Lights Tackle & Custom Rods. He is also a Marshall County Sheriff's Deputy residing in Grygla with his wife and children. Ben is an avid fisherman who will be writing and submitting a fishing report weekly. You can follow his Facebook page at Northern Lights Tackle and/or contact him at 218-684-0588.



Senior Citizen's Annual Meeting

The Grygla Senior Citizen's Club will be holding their Annual Meeting on November 3rd at the Grain Bin Café at 12pm. There will be a meeting and election of officers for the upcoming year. All the offices are open: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and two places on the Board of

Directors.
All members are encouraged to attend the meeting and let your votes and voices be heard. In other news, monthly birthday celebrations with cake and games will also start up again on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. You are invited to join in on the festivities!

Turkey Bingo is back

It's back! Turkey Bingo – the popular evening where folks flock to the Grygla School to try and win their Thanksgiving Turkey! There's also bacon and pork loin up for grabs! The event will be on Thursday, November 18th, at 7pm in the

Grygla School Commons. Bars and refreshments will be available. Games are \$0.25 a card with the last game being blackout at \$1 per card. This fun evening is sponsored by Grygla Student Council.



Ralph and Grace Rundell celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last Saturday! Photo courtesy of Kristine Dougherty

ST. CLEMENT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH ANNUAL HUNTER'S SUPPER
~ at the ~
Grygla Community Center
TURKEY & ALL THE TRIMMINGS
Adults **\$13.00**
Students (5-12 yrs.) **\$6.00** • Under 5 yrs. **Free**
Saturday, November 6, 2021
Serving from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm.
Variety Table and Raffle Tickets for Muzzleloader, Homemade Quilt, Cash and other valuable prizes.

Murder in Room 30: The 4-part story of Marie Wick



The night of the murder, Marie Wick and her friend Arnold Rasmussen walked through downtown Fargo. It was the first time Marie had seen streetcars in person. *Photo courtesy of NDSU archives*

Marie Wick... Continued from front

train from Crookston. And authorities say they were able to check out and verify the movements and alibis of every other guest in the Prescott Hotel that night.

The prosecution claimed there was simply no one else who could have done it. They laid out their reasons in William Gummer's trial in Valley City, N.D., in February 1922. The trial had been moved from Cass County to Barnes County because of the sensational nature of the crime and the fear that a fair and impartial jury could not be found in Cass.

The prosecution states its case

Cass County State's Attorney William C. Green made several points as he pointed a finger at Gummer.

- Green speculated that the murder had to have been done by someone familiar with the hotel — the layout and routine of the place.
- This person would have had to have known there was a single woman alone in Room 30 when he broke in to commit the crime after midnight. Gummer would know that because he checked her into the hotel.
- Green said not only would Gummer have known that Wick was in Room 30, but also that at least until about 1 a.m. the room next door was unoccupied, so there would be less chance to be heard sneaking into her room.
- Also, Green said the person who broke into the room and attacked Wick while she slept would have had to have known the layout of the room since the shades were drawn and it was dark. No one heard Wick scream out before she was attacked, so whoever choked her did so quickly without having to fumble his way through the room waking her up.
- But Green said the light did come on at one point

during the attack as there was blood on the lightbulb. He contends that if an outsider had committed the murder, they would have been too afraid to turn the light on because it would attract the attention of the hotel clerk on duty. Because Gummer was the clerk on duty, he knew no one else would notice a light going on in Room 30 in the middle of the night.

- Green said the murderer had to have been familiar with the murder weapon, the brass nozzle of a fire hose taken from the hallway. He said as an employee of the hotel, he would have known exactly where to find that hose and how to unfasten the nozzle.
- Green said Gummer had a clear motive to sexually assault Wick and to eventually kill her. Green claimed that Gummer was angry after Wick rebuffed his sexual advances shortly after she checked in. Gummer admitted talking to his friend Andy Brown around 10 p.m. and telling him there was "a good looking girl in Room 30" and also that he had called her on the phone to "find out if she was sporty or not." However, Gummer said when she rejected him, he "gave the matter no further thought."
- In the testimony, Gummer admitted on two previous occasions he had been intimate with women who came to the hotel alone but explained that they consented to his advances. Attorney Green went on to say that Gummer had motive to kill Wick after the attack as she would have been able to identify him since she had met him earlier. If an outsider had broken into the hotel, Green said, he might not have killed her after the rape because she wouldn't have been able to identify him later to police.
- Green showed the jury bloody trousers — probably the best piece of evidence that law enforcement had. A pair of bloody trousers were found at the foot of the basement stairs

of the hotel, but not until June 13, almost a week after the murder. The pants were not found in earlier searches of the hotel in the days following the murder, so Green speculated Gummer, while on duty in the days after the crime, ditched them down the stairs.

Green said it was simple: Gummer had the means, motive and opportunity to commit the crime. He claimed Gummer was cold and calculating and that the only law he lived by was "the law of his own desires." In his closing argument, the state's attorney pointed out that Gummer was his own worst witness, getting flustered and angry on the witness stand when questioning wasn't going his way.

It's interesting to note that Green's closing argument was being made in front of an all-male jury. Women in North Dakota weren't allowed to serve on a jury until 1923 — the year after the trial — and then only if they went down to the courthouse and petitioned to be on a jury.

But the lack of women on the jury perhaps played into Green's final pitch to the jury members as fathers.

The defense fights back

Gummer, his lead attorney, W.H. Barnett, and attorney Hjalmer Swenson (also Gummer's brother-in-law) answered back. They claimed the prosecution's case was "like a house built upon the sand" — weak and full of circumstantial evidence.

- The defense pointed out that the crime could have easily been committed by an outsider or hotel guest as at least four guests were out of their rooms and in the lobby during the time of the murder, which had now been narrowed down by police to between midnight and 1 a.m.
- The defense said police failed to locate and rule out a man named James Farrell of Willmar, Minn., who had signed the hotel registry that evening but, for some reason, doesn't show up as occupying

a room in later accounts. And unlike all of the other people who signed the registry, Farrell was never interviewed or even found. Barnett pointed out that Gummer saw Farrell at the front desk and his description of him matched a man named James Farrell who had lived in Willmar at least in 1918. But there is no record of police going to Willmar to investigate it.

- However, the prosecution argued that there was no James Farrell — he was made up to help cover Gummer's crime. They argued that once Gummer killed Wick, he knew he needed to point the finger at someone else, so he had his friend and roommate, Andy Brown, write James Farrell's name in the hotel registry. The prosecution brought in a handwriting expert from Minneapolis who testified that it appeared Brown's handwriting matched Farrell's signature.
- The defense also had another explanation for the prosecution's argument that the murder had to have been committed by someone familiar with the hotel. They pointed out that Fred Lawrence was a longtime guest who would have known the hotel, as would Andy Brown, a friend of Gummer's who was also hanging out at the hotel a lot. Defense attorneys argued they weren't trying to pin the blame on anyone, just that reasonable doubt existed about Gummer's guilt.
- The defense also said the timing just didn't add up. They said Gummer was in the hotel office for all but 15 minutes of the midnight hour when the murder was thought to have taken place. He was found sleeping at his desk when the banker H.J. Hagen arrived at the hotel around 1 a.m.
- Hagen's name came up in another point made by Barnett and Swenson about how police treated a man of high status like Hagen differently than they'd treat a simple "boy" like Gummer. Barnett said the state had based their

claim of Gummer's guilt on his past life (and sexual history). But if Hagen had been arrested, would they have taken his past into account or given him the benefit of the doubt?

- Gummer's defense argued that prosecutors were "overly enthusiastic," caring less about who they'd convict and just that they'd convict someone, to help them maintain their reputations as "good prosecutors."

What about his fingerprints

While newspapers wrote at least one story about how the fingerprints of another man suspected earlier in the case, the former banker Hagen, did not match the evidence found in Room 30, there is no mention of whether Gummer's fingerprints matched the evidence in the room or not.

In the accounts obtained by Forum Communications, there is no mention of the suspect's fingerprints by either the prosecution or defense. If they matched, you'd think the prosecution would have used that as evidence. If they didn't match, the defense would have used it.

Whatever the evidence, circumstantial or not, it only took the jury of 12 men just six hours to render a verdict of guilty of first-degree murder for Gummer. He was later sentenced to life at the State Penitentiary in Bismarck. But this story is far from over..

**Part 3:
In jailhouse interview, Gummer blamed jury for wrongly convicting him**

In an interview just moments after he arrived at the State Penitentiary in Bismarck to start serving his life sentence for the 1921 murder of Marie Wick, William Gummer was angry, but confident his conviction won't stick.

The sky was cloudy and the temperatures were chillier than normal that Sunday morning, March 19, 1922, when a car coming from Valley City, N.D., pulled up to the North Dakota State Penitentiary.

In the car? Officer William Skeels escorting 23-year-old William Gummer to the place where he was set to spend the rest of his life. Gummer had just been convicted in the June 7 murder of 18-year-old Marie Wick of Grygla, Minn. The crime was among the most brutal in the region's history and the trial called North Dakota's most sensational.

Gummer got out of the car and walked calmly through the doors of the prison. There he found the warden and told him, "I'm not guilty of this."

The warden replied, "Well, that's too bad. For if you were guilty I'd try to get you out. You know we have 250 men in here and they all say they're not guilty and I wouldn't want to have one guilty man to show them bad tricks."

Gummer smiled.

So what if the warden mocked his pleas of innocence? He'd continue to make them for the next 22 years.

As William Gummer, convict No. 3600, sat down for the interview, he was described as lacking "prison pallor" even though he had been jailed for sometime. He looked healthy. He was of slight build, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, medium weight and freshly shaven. By what he was wearing during the interview, it appears the conversation happened just moments after he arrived at the penitentiary.

The reporter noted, "He had not been dressed in as yet. He wore brown trousers and a silk shirt. This he will exchange for khaki trousers and a hickory shirt."

During the interview, the reporter said it appeared Gummer had retained the "iron nerve" he exhibited in court. He was composed most of the time and even smiled and laughed when he answered questions about the murder.

The reporter opened to Gummer: "Your nerve didn't fail you as you came in here."

Gummer replied, "No, because I don't expect to be here always. I figure something will turn up to solve this crime and I'll be free."

Very quickly in the interview, Gummer said he felt he got a raw deal in his trial.

The interviewer asked, "You had a good lawyer to prepare your case, didn't you?"

"Yes, but I don't think the jury — they had had enough intelligence to try that kind of case. They selected men who hadn't read the newspapers and I don't consider that kind of a man of sufficient intelligence to try that kind of a case. There were a couple of old men on there who were pioneers. I learned one thing in that trial and that is that people can get on the witness stand and they'll be believed as much as

someone telling the truth."

In addition to blaming the jury for its inability to comprehend the case, Gummer blamed overly ambitious Cass County officers who were too eager to rush to judgment instead of thoroughly investigating the case. Gummer told the reporter he also blamed himself for his conviction because when he was first approached by law enforcement, he told a lie about his whereabouts that night because he didn't want to confess that he was asleep on duty while clerking at the hotel.

Gummer agreed with the prosecution that the motive of the crime was rape, but disagreed that it had to be someone who was familiar with the hotel — in other words, an employee like him — that committed the crime. He and his lawyers claimed that while police checked the alibis and whereabouts of the hotel guests and cleared them, there's no way they got everyone.

"There were too many people about the hotel about midnight," he said.

During the trial, Gummer's attorney pointed to a man who had signed the hotel registry that night named James Farrell who was never seen again after signing in. And Farrell does not show up in a diagram of the guests who slept in the hotel that night of the murder.

The defense claimed police never followed up and looked for him even though beside his name he wrote Willmar, Minn., so they knew where to start looking. Prosecutors, however, claimed there was no James Farrell and that Gummer's friend and roommate, Andy Brown, forged the name to throw suspicion off Gummer.

But as Gummer sat down moments before he would be incarcerated for life, he told the reporter he didn't want to get into his theory of the murder because he had been advised not to discuss it. It would be something he and his attorney would talk about in the years to come as they fought to get Gummer's conviction overturned.

In the meantime, Gummer said he wanted to focus on getting a job in prison "where I'll get a chance to use my brain. A fellow wouldn't want to degenerate too much in here."

However, the warden said there were more convicts than jobs at the time. Gummer would likely be able to get a job in the twine plant soon, but he was expected to spend most of his time in his cell on lifer's row with the other 18 inmates. He would also get regular exercise time outside the cell and have the chance to write letters and take correspondence courses.

Because of the notoriety of the case, Gummer was coming into prison a celebrity. Other prisoners craned their necks to see the man who had occupied so much of the front page as of late. The warden also guessed that visitors to the prison would be asking about him — and that he might even take some attention away from Henry Layer, the current most famous and notorious murderer at the state penitentiary.

Gummer probably wouldn't have guessed that cold March day in 1922, as relaxed as he appeared, that he wasn't getting out of prison soon. In fact, the young man would be middle-aged when a change in the state's attorney meant a reexamination of the facts — and with that, the possibility that Gummer could be a free man.

**Part 4:
New prosecutor 'convinced' convicted man is innocent in 1920s Fargo slaying**

After years of research, interviews and a boastful confession by another man, the new lead prosecutor fights to make sure justice is finally served in the death of Marie Wick and conviction of William Gummer.

In the spring of 1922, 23-year-old, William Gummer was walking into the state penitentiary in Bismarck, where he was sentenced to spend the rest of his life. After a monthlong trial, the hotel clerk was convicted of murdering an 18-year-old woman at Fargo's Prescott Hotel where he worked.

Meanwhile, not far away from where the murder happened, a young man named Ralph Croal was working as a clerk in the Cass County court that spring. The 29-year-old was a proud graduate of Fargo High class of 1911, an avid baseball fan and preparing to marry his sweetheart Clara Hanson that summer.

Life was very different for

Marie Wick... Continued on page 4



Hotel clerk William Gummer was arrested in connection with the murder of Marie Wick. *Photo courtesy of The Forum*



The Prescott Hotel at 15 7th Street in Fargo boasted as being "one of the best equipped and strictly modern hotels of the city." It was the site of one of North Dakota's most brutal murders in 1921. It couldn't survive the scandal of the murder and closed its doors a short time later. The building later became the YWCA, but was eventually torn down. *Photo courtesy of NDSU archives*

Marie Wick...
Continued from page 3

these two young men in their twenties in the 1920s, but in the years ahead, the paths of the successful young attorney and the convicted murderer would intersect and forever change the final outcome of what had been called North Dakota's most sensational murder case.

Would the life sentence of William Gummer be considered justice served or would we later look back at him and think of him as a man wrongly convicted?

This is the final installment of "Murder in Room 30, the Killing of Marie Wick." In episodes one through three, Forum Communications told you about the tragic death of Marie Wick, an 18-year-old from Grygla, Minnesota, who was murdered during her first overnight stay in the "big city" of Fargo. She was found dead in her hotel room on June 7, 1921. Hotel clerk William Gummer was arrested, convicted and sentenced for the crime. Gummer professed his innocence from the day police showed interest in him. He thought they rushed to judgement and failed to look into a mystery man named James Farrell who signed the hotel registry that night, then disappeared.

In this final story, Forum Communications will look at how Gummer's attorney, his brother in law Hjalmer (H.W.) Swenson fought tirelessly for years to get Gummer out of jail. Swenson agreed Gummer did not commit the assault and murder and fought tooth and nail to earn Gummer a pardon.

But the pleas would fall on deaf ears until a new states attorney took over in Cass County. Ralph Croal took office in 1939, 17 years after Gummer was sent to prison. As he reviewed the evidence in the brutal crime, he started to come to the same conclusion as Swenson, perhaps the prosecution did rush to judgement all those years ago and maybe they got it all wrong.

"I'm not guilty of this"
The first words William Gummer uttered to the warden of the North Dakota State Penitentiary when he arrived that cold Sunday morning in March of 1922 were "I'm not guilty of this." The warden brushed the comment off, implying "that's what they all say."

But fortunately, Gummer had a firm believer in his older sister Theresa's husband, H.W. Swenson, an attorney from Devil's Lake, North Dakota. The two men met over

the next 18 years, trying to strategize about how to get Gummer pardoned. Gummer took and passed a lie detector test, they made appeals to the North Dakota Supreme Court and the state board of pardons. All were rejected. Gummer remained in jail. He was 23 when he walked into prison and 41 when his last pardon was denied. But in 1940, Swenson opted for another tactic. A commutation of Gummer's sentence.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, a commutation "reduces a sentence, either totally or partially, but does not change the fact of conviction, imply innocence or remove civil disabilities, such as the right to vote or to hold public office." It falls short of a pardon, which absolves the person of guilt for the crime.

Under North Dakota state law, no prisoner serving a life sentence is eligible for a reduction of his or her sentence until that person has served half of their life expectancy. It was determined that date would be October 1941 for Gummer. So the fight began to garner enough support and evidence to petition the pardon board for the commutation.

A boastful confession
Ralph Croal had been digging into the Gummer case since 1934 while he was still an assistant states attorney. But the real breakthrough came in 1936, when a man in Denver named Arthur James apparently bragged to some friends that he and his friend Blackie Carter (also known as Paul Welch) murdered a girl at a hotel in Fargo around the same time of Wick's murder. He joked that a clerk named William Gummer was doing life for their crime. Three people signed affidavits verifying they heard James making that confession.

Croal and Swenson investigated and concluded that Blackie Carter could very likely have been the "James Farrell" that had signed into the hotel registry the night of the murder, but was never heard from again.

You might remember the prosecution argued that there was no James Farrell and that it was Gummer's friend Andy Brown who forged that signature to throw suspicion off of Gummer. But could Blackie Carter be James Farrell?

Croal teamed up with Swenson to find out. They traveled to St. Paul where Carter was operating a service station.

Croal, Swenson and Twin Cities law enforcement drove up to the service station to talk to Carter. He denied commit-



Hans and Katrina Wick faced the tragedy of the death of their teenage daughter, Marie, in 1921. In 1944, the farm couple from Grygla, Minnesota had to face the possibility the man convicted of the murder could walk free. Photo courtesy of Forum archives

ting the crime. But all three men say they thought he was lying.

He admitted he was in Fargo that night and that the day following the murder he traveled to Minot. So then does it add up that he indeed could be James Farrell who could not be found the next day?

More handwriting evidence

When they asked for a handwriting sample to compare it to that of James Farrell's signature, a handwriting expert said Carter's writing was similar in character and slant as that of James Farrell's signature. But perhaps more interesting was seeing how Carter wrote the hometown James Farrell wrote in the registry. Farrell misspelled Willmar, Minnesota using just one L in Willmar and so did Carter.

But keep in mind, a different handwriting expert during the trial said Gummer's friend Andy Brown's handwriting was also similar to Farrell's.

So Carter's guilt might not be a slam dunk. But Croal was convinced he was their man.

Even so Croal said they could not arrest Carter because at that time, "he could not be convicted of the crime except on evidence that is just as circumstantial, or perhaps more so," than the evidence upon which Gummer was convicted in 1922. While Croal might have been frustrated not to arrest Carter, he felt at least there was enough evidence to question whether Gummer really belonged in prison.

Prosecutor speaks on Gummer's behalf

In December of 1944, Croal testified to the pardon board

saying:

"I feel that the facts which we have developed are sufficient to show that the crime was committed by Blackie Carter and therefore that Bill Gummer could not have been the man who committed the crime."

It would be up to the pardon board to decide whether it was enough to let Gummer walk.

So we go back to where this story started: a small farm outside Grygla, Minnesota as an aging couple faces another Christmas without their Marie.

What did Marie Wick's parents think

Hans and Katrina Wick struggled with the thought that the man convicted of killing their oldest daughter might soon walk free. Somewhat surprising however, is that neither Hans nor Katrina Wick was thoroughly convinced Gummer was guilty, but they suspected he might know who did do it.

Katrina Wick said in a telephone interview on Dec 10, 1944, "I don't think he should be given his release. They should keep him there."

Mrs. Wick would be disappointed. A short time later, the pardon board ruled that after nearly 23 years in prison, Gummer's sentence would be commuted. He would walk out of prison later that month.

Even though a commutation does not turn a guilty verdict to innocent, the pardon board seemed to hint that Gummer might have been innocent based upon his favorable lie detector test as well as statements made by Carter and James.

The board ruled, "After carefully considering all of the mat-

ters, the state board of pardons has reached the conclusion that grave doubt exists regarding the guilt of William Gummer and that as a result thereof and obvious good conduct as an inmate of the penitentiary for 23 years, that board should exercise the authority vested in it by the constitution and statutes of the state and grant clemency to Willam Gummer."

A free man

On Dec. 28, 1944, Gummer, the man who walked into prison a confident 23-year-old sure that he wouldn't be in the state penn long, left a 46-year-old, no doubt worn down by his ongoing legal fight. At 23, he agreed for a long sit down interview with a newspaper reporter to state his case, hoping it would do some good. But on his release day, he told prison officials that he was happy to be out and while he "appreciated the interest of newsmen," he declined to be interviewed.

He also did not reveal any future plans to anyone, but was taken, at his request, to the Bismarck Bus Depot where he reportedly boarded a Fargo-bound bus.

If he got off the bus in Fargo, he'd find things had changed. For one, the hotel where he worked, where the murder took place, The Prescott Hotel, didn't survive the scandal. It closed a little over a year after the murder. The building that had been home to the Daily Argus newspaper before it was The Prescott, was eventually used by the YWCA. It was later torn down and is now a parking lot.

What happened next

Perhaps after he got off the bus, Gummer stopped into the

states attorney office to thank Croal for his efforts or check up on the case or maybe he just grabbed a sandwich and a cup of coffee and took another bus home to see his family in Mayville, hoping to never think about the case again. We don't know.

But we do know that following that day, Croal and Gummer's brother-in-law and attorney Swenson continued to dig into the case, hoping to find evidence to put Carter behind bars. However, their hopes were undoubtedly dashed just six years later, when Carter, 54 and farming in Wisconsin, agreed to take a lie detector test and undergo truth serum sessions.

The man who administered the sessions, Professor C.B. Hanscom of the University of Minnesota, said "the questioning and lie detector tests had absolutely cleared Carter."

Carter went back to his farm in Wisconsin. Swenson, disappointed that his years of searching still hadn't fully cleared his brother-in-law, remained undeterred. He continued to seek justice until his death just eight years later in 1958. Cass County States Attorney Ralph Croal also died in 1958. The likelihood of a conviction after their deaths was extremely low.

What happened to Gummer after he was last seen getting on that bus for Fargo? It turns out he would live another 37 years after his release from prison. But what did he do? And were they good years, or was he plagued by his time in the state penitentiary?

According to newspaper reports, Gummer began working as a barber shortly after his release. He worked in Bottineau, Mayville, Larimore and Grand Forks. He met and married Grace McKenzie in Crookston, Minnesota in 1954. A newlywed at 56, he never had kids.

He retired as a barber in 1972 and lived in Montana and Grand Forks. He died on June 23, 1981, at the age of 82 and is buried in a cemetery in Mayville, N.D.

In photos of Gummer in his later years, he simply looks like a more weathered, slightly wrinkled and grayer version of the mug shot taken the first day at the penitentiary. There's even a hint of "that smile" prosecutors read as unseemly.

Was it a personality flaw, a hint of an evil lothario who preyed on women? Or was it just a smile that changed his life forever? Marie Wick has been gone now for 100 years and we still don't know the answer.



The Forum's archives are full of clippings about the "sensational" Marie Wick murder at Fargo's Prescott Hotel. After years, attorneys debated whether William Gummer was guilty of the crime. Photo courtesy of Forum archives



Marie Wick is buried at the Valley Cemetery in rural Grygla. Photo courtesy of Gretchen Smeby

Marie Wick Memorial

Marie Wick, born and raised in Grygla over 100 years ago, was brutally murdered in a Fargo hotel when she took a trip to visit her aunt. The story has generated much curiosity online after a 4-part podcast was recently released detailing the tragic events that unfolded on June 7th, 1921.

The Grygla Eagle Newspaper will run a full-length story on Marie Wick: The Girl in Room 30 in next week's Eagle.

However, a memorial has been organized by various Grygla community members for **Saturday, October 30th, 3pm**, at the Valley Cemetery where Marie is buried.

October is recognized as Violence Prevention & Awareness month. If anyone would like to make a donation to the Marie Wick Memorial, all proceeds will go to the Violence Intervention Program in Thief River Falls, Minn.



A newspaper photograph of Marie Wick, not long before she went to Fargo. Photo courtesy of Forum archives



Handwriting analysts were called in to assess the similarity between James Farrell, Andy Brown and Blackie Carter's signatures. The analysts ruled both Brown and Carter could have signed Farrell's name. Photo courtesy of The Forum

September School Board Minutes

Grygla School Board Meeting Minutes
September 16th, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Chairperson of the board Jeremy Rychlock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with James Verbout, Tera Nordby, Luke Nordvick, Gretchen Smeby, Principal Gieseke and Superintendent Jamie Lunsetter present. Clinton Brobst absent.

Pledge of Allegiance
Motion by Gretchen Smeby, second by James Verbout to approve the agenda as presented/amended. Passed 5-0. Minutes of the 8/19/21 regular school board meeting are approved as printed/amended. Approve payment of bills: Motion by Luke Nordvick, second by Gretchen Smeby to approve payment of the bills check #38292 through check #38356 and wire payments. Passed 5-0.

Finance Report: Bills: General Fund \$154,094.23 MSDLA/Checking \$1,459,003.32 Food Service \$100.00 \$ Community Service \$2134.10 Trust \$ Scholarship \$ Student Activity \$3,791.82 Total \$160,120.15 Total \$1,459,003.32

Student Report Given by Riley Saurdiff and Kia Klein. The students reported on the return retreat. The student council met during the summer to get the retreat for the first day of school planned. It was a great success and a fun day for our staff and students. They then reported on Homecoming week. They discussed the coronation and dress up days. They also discussed the various activities that took place during the week. Finally, they discussed the fundraisers that have and will be taking place for two area families whose kids have been diagnosed with and are fighting Cancer.

Teacher Report: Given by Tina Taus. Mrs. Taus reported that the 6th grade attended outdoor education day at Oakland Park in

Grygla City Council approved September's Minutes

The October meeting of the City Council was held at the Grygla Civic Building on Monday, October 11th. Council members approved the September minutes, which are included below. Official minutes are taken by Grygla City Clerk and recapped by Eagle Editor. For the full version, including receipts & disbursements, visit www.grygla.govoffice2.com

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Grygla City Council: September 14th, 2021
The regular meeting of the City Council was scheduled to be held at the Grygla Civic Building at 7:00 pm. The meeting was called to order, at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Mosher with the following council members

present: Gavin Nordby, Devin Ruud, Lindsay Oslund and Karla Byklum. Absent: None. Also present was Rose Aune.

Council approved minutes, along with receipts, disbursements, checking, savings & total balances for that month. The payment of all bills was also approved. Other items included:

- PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
The ground is ready. Looking for people to help set it up.
- FIRE HYDRANT BY COOP STORE
There was nothing new to report
- WATER TOWER
There was nothing new to report

Thief River Falls. They learned skills including archery and casting fishing lures. They also won root beer floats for being the best behaved students!

Principal Report: Given by Principal Gieseke. Mr. Gieseke introduced new staff including Mrs. Taus, Mr. Kvasager, Mrs. Beth Kucera. Mr. Gieseke also discussed the new school to work program, which he is spearheading. He also discussed the revised classroom emergency response guide, which he also provided as a copy to the board.

Superintendent Report: Athletic Update - Mr. Lunsetter Gave a quick early season update on volleyball and football. Bus Log - No issues reported. Other - Election mail-in ballots will be mailed October 1st in regards to the operating referendum and boiler bond election.

Motion by Jeremy Rychlock, second by Tera Nordby to approve Dustin Nelson as head Robotics advisor and Audrya Nelson as co-Robotics advisor. Passed 5-0. Motion by James Verbout, second by Luke Nordvickto certify tax levy at maximum. Passed 5-0.

Motion by Jeremy Rychlock, second by Gretchen Smebyto approve Shaunna Olson, Hazel Thomas and Lindsay Oslund as election judges. Passed 5-0. Motion by Tera Nordby, second by Jeremy Rychlock to approve Shaunna Olson, Hazel Thomas and Lindsay Oslund as members of the election board. Passed 5-0.

Trustee Reports: Gretchen Smeby brought up streaming football games at the football field. Mr. Gieseke and Mr. Lunsetter will look into this.

Meeting closed for MSEA Negotiations.
Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 7:35. Next Meeting is 10/20/21, 7:00 p.m.

- COMMUNITY CENTER
Painting was done and it looks really good.
- TREES
There was nothing new to report
- SAWMILL LOT
There was nothing new to report
- DIAMONDS LIQUOR LICENSE
Diamond's paid liquor license by the end of the week. The council will be looking into taking action on the Revolving loan.
- AIRPORT MICROTOWER
The council doesn't think that there's enough people that use the airport to make it worth putting the MicroTower up.
- LIBRARY BUDGET

- Jim Trojanowski was unable to attend to give a report. The council budgeted \$2,000 for the library.
- TRAP RANGE
So far Rose hasn't gotten answers on requirements on a trap range in town. Waiting for an email from someone working with the state Trap league.
- 2022 TAX LEVY
The 2022 Tax Levy was approved. There was no increase since there was an increase to the water and sewer rates.
- SEWER LIABILITY COVERAGE
Liability Waiver approved.
- EXTRA MEETINGS
All had the budget meeting.

Word of the Week
...enhancing vocabularies
one Grygla Eagle at a time.

Burgeon

\Bur-juhn\

Verb - used without object
To grow or develop quickly; flourish.

SIMPLY DELICIOUS

Written and made by Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor
Spaghetti Squash Enchilada Boats

These were a total hit at my house. Each "boat" is enough for two people so keep that in mind when making them!

First, cut your spaghetti squash in half the long way and clean out the seeds. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle some salt and pepper. Bake that face down on a cookie sheet for 400 degrees for about 50 minutes. In the meantime, I sautéed my green peppers with garlic and made up my taco meat.

After 50 minutes, take the squash out and "rake" your

noodles loose in each half. This is so satisfying, right!? Right. I love doing this. Just gently take your fork and scrape from top to bottom and the squash easily comes loose like spaghetti noodles.

In each half, then take out some of the "noodles." Add in some taco meat, cheese, and a little red enchilada sauce. Then add back in the "noodles" you took out from that half. Add another layer of the taco meat, cheese, and red enchilada sauce. Put your peppers on top of each "boat."

Bake for 15 more minutes. Serve with sour cream and tomatoes.



WHAT A JOKE

You know how they throw the ball into the crowd after they win the game? That's not allowed in bowling. I know that now.

Call for student digital art for exhibit in Thief River Falls

The Northwest Minnesota Arts Council (NWMAC) is pleased to announce a call for student digital art for a student art exhibit at Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls in January and February 2022. The medium for this exhibit is digital art and the theme is celebrations.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, December 22, 2021.

The pandemic has shown us the importance of celebrating special occasions with family and friends. We may see more value in observing rites of passage such as births, birthday parties, weddings, and even funerals. This digital art exhibit (in conjunction with regional potter Betsy Saurdiff) celebrates the idea that we can once again get together and celebrate!

Student digital art will be around the theme of celebrations, gatherings, and rituals. All work will be original digital artwork that will be submitted to fit an 8.5 x 11 frame. Frames will be provided.

Betsy's pottery is created to help us commemorate life's celebrations. A punch bowl is taken out of storage only when there is a celebration. We elevate the celebration by using a ladle to carefully serve the special drink out of the beautiful open vessel. This exhibit includes punch bowl sets made

of porcelain clay. Other items are plaques, crosses, angel wall hangings, mugs, personalized serving bowls, nesting bowls, serving platters and funerary urns. The pottery represents celebrations such as new births, baptisms, first communion and confirmation, graduation, weddings, anniversaries, traditional holidays and funerals. The creative process includes wheel-thrown, altered and hand-built porcelain with a variety of surface treatments. The purpose of each piece is to help celebrate life events.

Please submit digital art to treyeverettcreates@gmail.com. Physical submissions should be mailed to Trey Everett, 414 Houston Avenue, Crookston MN 56716. Submissions do not need to be framed but need to be 8.5 x 11 inches or smaller.

For more information about our exhibits look to our website at www.NWArtsCouncil.org, or if you are an artist interested in exhibiting a body of work with NWMAC, please contact Trey Everett at (218) 280-4917 or treyeverettcreates@gmail.com. This exhibit is made possible with funding from The McKnight Foundation. Please sign up for our e-newsletter on our website home page to see the latest news and grant announcements. Email director@NWArtsCouncil.org or call 218-745-8886 to reach our office during regular business hours.

KCC Bears over GG Chargers

GG: 8 6 0 8 = 22
KCC: 0 14 6 8 = 28
Stats from the GG vs. KCC football game last week on Tuesday, October 19th

Andrew Loken 3 yard TD run, 2pt Kaylor Torgerson run good; Chisolm Schmiedaberg 50 yard TD run, run good; Blake Rychlock 5 yard TD pass to Lewis Jones, run no good; Ozzie Rice 45 yard TD run, kick no good; Aaron austad 2 Yard Td run, kick no good; Andrew Loken 1 yard Td run, Lewis Jones pass to Matt Busse good; Schmiedaberg 32 yard TD run, Rice good.

Andrew Loken 22 carries for 94 yards 2 td's; Lewis Jones 13 carries for 77 yards; Matt Busse 9 carries for 48 yards; Blake Rychlock 7 carries for 18 yards; Kaylor Torgerson 1 carry for -5 yards; Blake Rychlock 7 for 10 for 82 yards 1TD & 1 INT

Defense tackles: Andrew Loken 13 tackles; Elliot Philipp 11 tackles; Nolan Anderson 8 tackles; Matt Busse 7 tackles;

Lewis Jones 6 tackles; Jordan Coan 3 tackles; Jolson Sargent 2 tackles; Tre Alten 2 tackles; Tucker Verbout 1 tackle; Kaylor Torgerson 1 tackle; Reece Sundberg 1 tackle

Coach's Comments: Charger football team lost in final second to KCC Bearcats 28 to 22. What an exciting game for the fans, but a true heartbreaker for the Goodridge-Grygla football team losing the Conference Championship and a #1 seed in the playoffs on the final offensive play. Fourth & ten for the Bearcats, a Chisolm Schmiedeberg counter that broke through three Charger defenders to steal the game away with 39 seconds left. Hopefully this bitter pill the Charger football team had to swallow will motivate them in the playoffs to redeem themselves & get a rematch in the Section Championship game.

Charger football will start the playoff run vs. Northern Freeze Tuesday night in Grygla, October 26th, 7pm kickoff.



Grygla School Patrol Installation



The Grygla Elementary students held their School Patrol Installation last week. Sgt. Jesse Grabow of the Minnesota State Patrol came in to discuss safety with the PreK-6th grade. School Patrol Captains for this year are Paizley Moe, Caitlyn Rath and Emma Sundberg. Photos courtesy of Grygla School





Tina Taus is one of Grygla's new teachers. She is shown in her classroom with the Grygla Seniors.
Photo by Grygla Eagle Newspaper

New teachers...
Continued from front

you: Outgoing, determined, resilient, adaptable, responsible.

What interests/hobbies do you have outside of the classroom? I enjoy helping my dad on the farm when I can. I try to spend as much time with my 3 (almost 4) nieces as much as possible. I also enjoy hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling.

If you could trade places with anybody for a week – who would it be? I would love to trade places with a teacher from 50 years ago to see the difference in a preschool classroom along with all the changes that came to teaching when the pandemic hit.

Brenna Dallager

What is your new position at the school? Business/Computers teacher

What/where were you previously teaching or employed? American State Bank in Grygla

Educational background? Associate's degree in Business at NCTC and Bachelor's in Applied Management at Grand Canyon University. I'm currently working towards my Master's at Grand Canyon University.

Where are you living? Between Grygla and Goodridge, by the 12-mile corner.

Family? Brothers: Kobey (senior) Kaden (19 yrs), Sisters: Katey (1st Grade), Madisyn (20 yrs), Hayley (24 yrs), Trista (27 yrs). Parents: Darci Dallager and Chad & Stacey Dallager.

What attracted/drew you to your new position/school? I love the business world! It has always been a plan for me to find a career in business and the teaching opportunity came up and I took advantage of it!

Describe your teaching style? I am very new and have been observing for the first few weeks, so I am not quite sure yet.

What goals have you set for your first year? Learn as much as possible from Beth Kucera and take all the advice I can get from any veteran teachers. I still have a lot to learn.

Five adjectives that describe you: Dependable, competitive, organized, motivated, and honest.

What interests/hobbies do you have outside of the classroom? Well of course I love coaching and playing volleyball, camping, shopping, and projects around the house/yard.

If you could trade places with anybody for a week – who would it be? Hugh McCutcheon - Minnesota Gopher head volleyball coach. I love volleyball and would love to experience coaching at the U. The atmosphere is crazy and their program is always incredible!

Tina Taus

What is your new position at the school? I am the 7-12 English teacher.

What/where were you previously teaching or employed? My first teaching job was at Franklin Middle School in



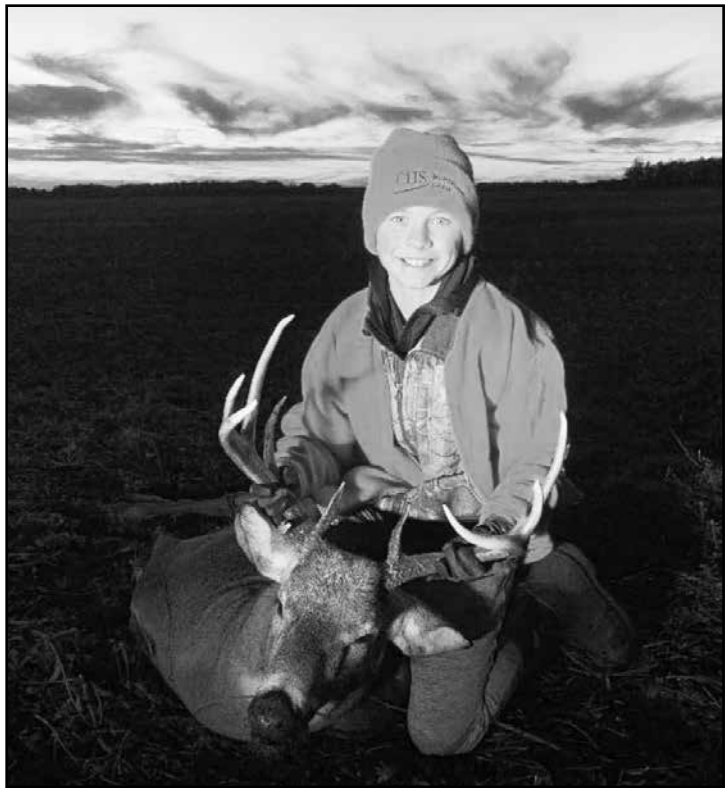
Braxton Homme, age 10, got his first deer last Thursday evening of the youth hunt. It was an 8-point buck that went into the back of that truck!
Photo courtesy of Amber Homme

Youth Deer hunters have great luck

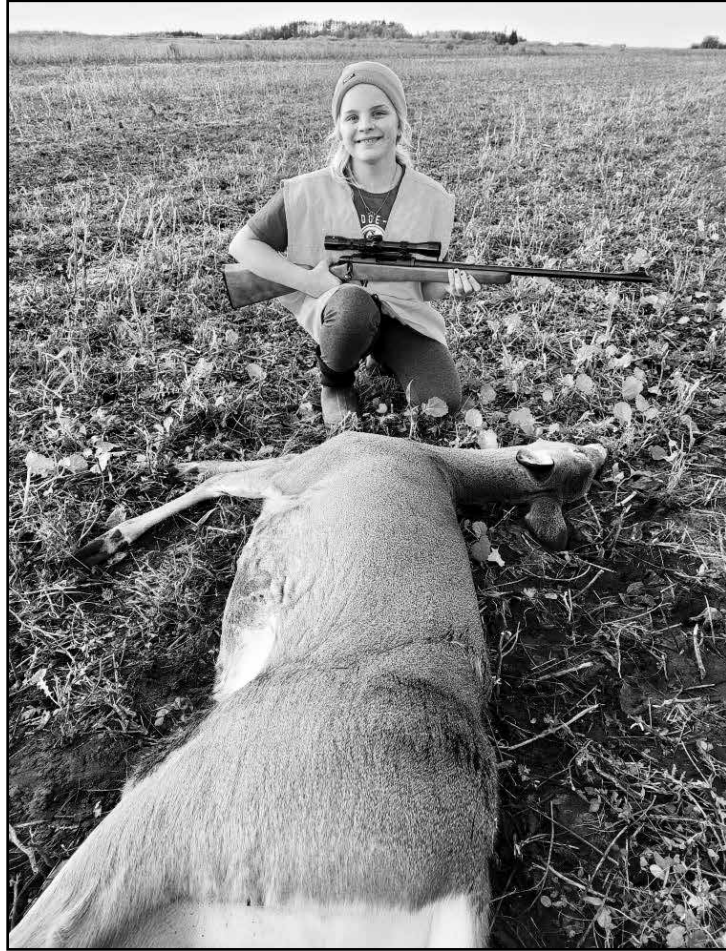


It was Grayden Hagen's first year deer hunting. The 11-year old shot quite the trophy buck on the Hagen farm land last Saturday evening! The rack had a total of 17 points, but 14 are required size to be counted. With this one getting mounted, the taxidermist was called and said it measures 173 1/8 inches.

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Hagen



Blake Stanley shot his 11 point buck on Thursday night west of Grygla with his 243!
Photo courtesy of Brandi Stanley



Josie Landsrud went out with grandpa Jeff Lawrence for her first year doing the youth hunt! She got her doe on opening day. *Photo courtesy of Ellie Landsrud*



Brody Saurdiff got a 10-pointer southwest of Grygla on Friday night hunting with his dad.
Photo courtesy of Missy Saurdiff



Julia Halvorson, above, shot her first-ever deer over the youth hunt weekend while sitting with her dad, Cody. After passing on 50+ deer waiting on her big buck, she decided to punch a tag on this big doe. Her sister, Ava Halvorson, below, finished out her youth season with a 300+ yard shot on this big 13-point buck. She was hunting out of her grandpa's deer stand. Her dad tried to get this one during bow season but missed saying Ava was the better shot! *Photos courtesy of Andrea Halvorson*



Addison Severts shot her first buck, a 5-pointer, last Friday over by Middle River area on her grandpa and grandma's hunting land. *Photo courtesy of Tausha Severts*



Matthew Brown bagged a 10-pointer on Friday morning last week when he was hunting near Holt. This was his second deer and he was using Jon Tinnes' 6.5 Creedmoor! *Photo courtesy of Destiny Brown*