



				
Today	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
H 0 L -18	H -10 L -26	H -1 L -3	H 16 L -13	H -6 L -16



Coming next week ... Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club holds their annual holiday/membership supper.

A Very Verbout Christmas



Sitting just outside of Grygla is the old farmstead of Robert and Mary Ann Verbout, who resided here from 1957 until 2010. Their granddaughter, Alisha Anderson, along with her husband, Robbie, and their three children moved into the old farmhouse for a few years before recently building their new home right across the yard. Soon the old farmhouse will be moved off the property, which prompted one last family Christmas (and trip down memory lane) to be held at the farm. *Photo courtesy of Alisha Anderson*

Written by Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor

This is a special Christmas story about one family who came together over the holidays to recreate some timeless memories in a familiar old farmhouse.

The children and grandchildren of Robert and Mary Ann Verbout gathered to celebrate one last Christmas in the old house that built them – a house that will soon be moved off the farm.

Sitting just outside of Grygla, is the old farmstead of Robert and Mary Ann Verbout, who originally bought the property in May of 1957 and resided there until 2010. (The couple then moved to Valley Home in Thief River Falls following Mary Ann's heart surgery.) Robert passed away in 2012; Mary Ann in 2018.

Their granddaughter, Alisha Anderson, along with her husband, Robbie, and their kids, now reside on the farm, just having built a beautiful new home after living in the old farmhouse for a few years first. The old house will soon be moved to rural Grygla, with another family able to create some new memories in it and make it their own, but first, Alisha wanted one last Christmas for old time's sake. She had many memories of growing up and celebrating a big Christmas at her grandparent's house and decided to get the ball rolling one last time.

The following interview was conducted with Alisha Anderson, who is the daughter of John Verbout.

First, let's start with the timeline of you moving into your grandparent's house and how that came to be:

Robbie and I moved back to Grygla in June of 2018. We weren't sure where we wanted to live yet or where we wanted our kids to go to school. We were living with my dad until we sold our house in Duluth. Our house sold in December of 2018, but we still weren't quite sure where we wanted to call

home.

Call it fate, but the person renting my grandparent's house at the time decided to move back to his hometown, so the house was open for us at the right time. We moved into my grandparent's house on Thanksgiving weekend; I was able to tell my grandma we were moving in before she passed.

While living here, both Robbie and I were pulled back into small town life. The simplicity and slowness of rural living was a breath of fresh air and my grandparent's yard was home for me; I couldn't imagine going anywhere else. A few job changes occurred in our favor, and we made the decision to build across the yard after exceedingly vetting the idea of remodeling and adding onto my grandparent's house. We moved into our new home mid-July of this year, 2021.

And your grandparent's old house will soon be moving off the farm?

Yes. My hope was that we could find someone who could put the house to good use, and I'm so happy that it will be. It will be heading east to a farmstead in rural Grygla.

Let's dive into where the idea for "A Very Verbout Christmas" began:

Ever since I had my own Christmas in that house when my family moved in on Thanksgiving weekend in 2018, I have wanted to have a big family Christmas again. My Grandma passed away a week after we moved in, so it was a very emotional and sentimental time for me. Family time, traditions, and making memories are important to me.

While we were living in my grandparent's house, different cousins would come over to visit and we would all talk about

all the memories we had growing up, many of them involving Christmas Eve. I love hearing all the stories that my aunts, uncles, and cousins have to offer. My dad is the third youngest of the 11 siblings so there are a lot of things he doesn't remember or has a different point of view on due to his age. Similarly, as one of the younger cousins, there were things we never got to experience or didn't pay attention to since we were so little, so it's fun to hear things we didn't catch on to due to our age at the time.

My dad's youngest sister creates these cute short Christ-

family gathered for Christmas?

It has been a very long time. The last time Grandma and Grandpa hosted Christmas Eve was in 2002, I believe. Each year they'd host Christmas Eve for whoever could come, knowing that it might be the in-laws turn that year so not everyone would be there. We have all gathered since for weddings and funerals, however, not even then do we get everyone at one time due to there being so many of us. Grandma and Grandpa had 11 kids (8 girls and 3 boys) and 29 grandchildren.

Was your grandparent's house the traditional gathering place when they both still lived there?

Yes, you always knew you had a place to go on Christmas Eve as my grandma loved having a houseful. As the years passed, it became more and more stressful, however, I know as a mother myself, there was probably nothing better than as many of her kids as possible all together under one roof for one night of the year.

"A Very Verbout Christmas" took place on the farm on December 29th. Was everyone able to make it?

10 out of 11 of my grandparent's children were able to attend, 13 of 29 grandchildren, and 23 of 44 great grandchildren. We had 58 people packed in my grandparent's house that night and it sounded just like it used to: full of laughter, chaos, and thuds from upstairs as the little ones played. Some had never met each other before but they all played together as if they knew each other forever.

Take us into the house that night you all gathered:

We had all the traditional food, drink, and goodies that my grandma and aunts used to make on Christmas Eve. My

aunts decorated with old pictures and décor that used to be present at Christmas Eve celebrations, complete with a real Charlie Brown Christmas tree decorated with bulbs from their time-period. All other décor was stuff that was familiar to all of us from our visits to Grandma's house.

We tried to give everyone an experience as if nothing had changed.

One year, my grandpa gave my grandma a record player for Christmas, so my aunt had a record player set up playing old vinyl's of Lynn Anderson and Buck Owen's Christmas classics, which prompted some waltzing in the living room.

We had our traditional sleigh ride, one for the whole family, even though it was bitterly cold, and one for us older cousins and some aunts to push each other off one more time. Once again, there was a bottleneck to get out the door to the sleigh ride, a few gloves were sent home with the wrong people, and we lost a boot along the way. We had a piñata for all the great grandchildren just like we always had growing up too. My aunt orchestrated a "Verbout Family Feud" which was a fun way to test each other on traditions they all had. There were many laughs during this game and of course, the noise level in the whole house increased dramatically!

Finally, my aunt worked hard to give all her 10 siblings a "Santa" gift. This was a memorable gift from their childhood or something she remembered her siblings playing with a lot. Each gift was from its vintage year, and it was just really special of her to go out of her way to find and remember 10 special items that most remembered.

What is your own favorite Christmas memory in your grandparent's house?

My favorite Christmas

Verbout Christmas... Continued on back



We've got just enough snow out there to make for some great riding. All of the snowmobile trails in the area have been groomed courtesy of Aaron Holthusen, who will be going back out there this week. The Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club is wishing you a fun and safe snowmobile season. *Photos courtesy of Aaron Holthusen*

Candlelight snowshoe and ski events held

A winter favorite is the snowshoe and ski candlelight events held by area Minnesota State Parks. Unfortunately, none were held last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but they are back up and running this year in various State Parks surrounding the area.

You can check out the MN DNR website under State Parks/Candlelight Events for more information on location, dates and times.

Upcoming events at a park closest to Grygla would be this Saturday, January 8th, at Itasca State Park. (Also again on Saturday, Feb. 5.) It's an evening lantern lit snowshoe walk that provides a new experience and fun for the whole family. The event runs from 5-7:30pm. Start at the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center. Lighted trails include Schoolcraft Trail and trail to Mississippi Headwaters. Snowshoe or hike at your own pace along the lantern lit route during this drop-in event.

For more information, contact Connie Cox at 218-699-7259.

Before you go:

- Anyone age 16 or older must carry a signed ski pass when using groomed cross-country ski trails in state parks or state forests, or on state trails or grant-in-aid trails.
- Many parks offer rentals. See a list of cross-country ski rentals or snowshoe rentals on the Minnesota State Parks website.
- Be safe and smart in cold weather. Tips are available on the Minnesota State Parks website.
- Restrooms and vault toilets are open daily at all Minnesota state parks throughout the year.
- Before you go... Find out the snow conditions.
- Trails are still open, even when there's no snow - it just becomes a wintery hike, rather than snowshoe or ski!
- Purchase a vehicle permit and get a year of unlimited visits to all of Minnesota's state parks and recreation areas.



Left: 10 of the 11 Verbout siblings were able to make it to the Christmas celebration on the 29th. Front row, L-R: Lenay Hermanson, John Verbout, Roxane Kirkeide, Dawn Wilson. Back row, L-R: Dennis Verbout, Sharon Hook, Barbara Partridge, Shirley Magner, Susan Smith, Ardell Smith. **Right:** With the farmhouse being empty, the crew was able to create a very nostalgic atmosphere for their last Christmas in the house.

Photos courtesy of Alisha Anderson



• 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
Calendar N/A

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.
Wednesday, Jan 5
7pm Confirmation at FAITH
Sun, Jan 9
Ekelund: 8am Worship, 9am SS
Faith: 9:30am Worship, 10:30am SS
Bethany: 10am SS, 11am Worship
Mon, Jan 10
Faith Quilting 9am-12pm

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF 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
Sunday, Jan 9
11am Worship w/ Annual Meeting to follow, 8am FB Live Broadcast

UNITED LUTHERAN PARISH
Gatzke
Pastor Tim Lundeen
Sundays
8:30am Worship
Mondays
9am Quilting

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH
St. Petri - Grygla; Mt. Olive, Nazareth - Trail; Oak Park - Oklee
Pastor Jeff Merseth
Wednesday, Jan 5
Wednesday School 5-7pm, LYS 7-8pm
Saturday, Jan 8
Mt. Olive Worship at 9am
Sunday, Jan 9
St. Petri: 8am Worship, 9:15am SS
Nazareth: 8:30am SS, 9:45am Worship
OP: 9:45am SS, 11am Worship

Please email your church calendars to grygla.eagle@gmail.com in a timely fashion.
Thank you!

Paraprofessional Needed

The Grygla School is looking for a Paraprofessional to work one-on-one with a high school student. Please contact Derek Gieseke, Principal, if interested. 218-294-6155

G41-42C

Thank You
We would like to thank all of our friends, family, Grygla and surrounding communities for your overwhelming generosity and support at our recent benefit. We are so lucky to be part of an amazing community where everyone comes together to support one another.
Gretchen & Oliver Smeby

G42C

Parent's Night

Charger's girls basketball will be holding Parent's Night on Monday, January 10th. This was previously scheduled for February 18th, but has been moved to January 10th in Goodridge vs. RLCC. Senior players and their parents will be honored on the court prior to the Varsity game. Junior High plays a combined game at 4:30pm, JV at 6, Varsity to follow.

Sportsman's Club Holiday Supper

The Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club will be holding their holiday/membership supper this Saturday, January 8th, at the Grygla Community Center. The Grain Bin Café, along with Vince Hagen, will be doing the cooking with Broadway Station out of St. Hilaire bartending. The evening kicks off with a 5pm Social Hour, 6pm Dinner, 7pm Door Prizes, and a DJ beginning at 8pm. Club Membership is \$25/single, \$35/family. Everyone is welcome to join and come out for a fun evening!

StatePoint Crossword

Theme: FOOD & DRINK

- ACROSS
- *Lettuce variety
 - Drivel
 - *Café alternative
 - *Cantina cooker
 - *Waldorf salad ingredient
 - Animal trail
 - Radio knob
 - Hurry up, acr.
 - One who accepts the offer
 - *Anise-flavored spirit
 - "Happily ____ after"
 - Operatic solos
 - ____ Air in L.A.
 - Hairy vertebrate
 - Freed
 - In the past
 - Small type of drum
 - *Wine in Italy
 - Charleston, e.g.
 - Chow down
 - a.k.a. honey badger
 - Wet nurse
 - Hervé Villechaize on "Fantasy Island"
 - Expression of doubt
 - Founding Father
 - City in Japan

Community Calendar

Wed | Jan 5
Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am; Grygla Library open 2-6pm; BBB/GBB practice; Grygla Archery League 6:30pm

Thurs | Jan 6
BBB vs. KCC at Grygla; GBB at Kelliher

Fri | Jan 7
Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am; GBB/BBB practice

Sat | Jan 8
Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club Holiday Supper at Grygla Community Center (5pm Social Hour/6pm Supper)

Sun | Jan 9

Mon | Jan 10
Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am; GBB vs. RLCC in Goodridge (Parent's Night) BBB in Grygla

Tues | Jan 11
JH/C/JV BBB/GBB at Northern Freeze

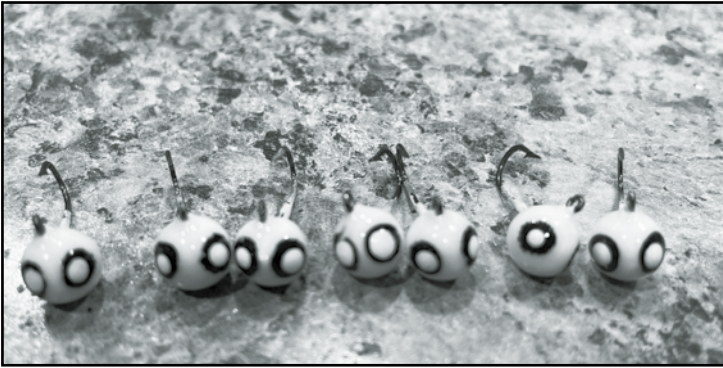
Email your calendar items to grygla.eagle@gmail.com

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Northern Lights fishing report

Written by Ben Kucera
On this week's report: cold, cold, cold. As winter settles in, fishing has been, well, fishing. There are a lot of mixed results and reports, but the most common theme is better quality in the 22'-26' depth and more action out deeper, though a lot of little ones.
A jigging spoon with a shiner has been good along with anything that glows. This report is pretty much lake wide. Most of the resorts on the east side are pretty much letting out anything while Springsteel is just starting to let trucks out. Make sure to call ahead and see what's allowed. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to

get out anywhere fishing at all. Between the cold, work, and vehicle troubles it hasn't been a very good start to the fishing season for me. I have a few jigs at the store and plan on getting some more up there soon. Good luck and stay safe.
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.



Tucker Verbout, above, caught this nice 26" up at Morris Point last week while Blake Rychlock, below, caught this nice 24" over on Red Lake.



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Generosity and kindness make Marshall County Christmas projects possible

The 2021 Marshall County Social Services Christmas Projects were once again successful because of the kindness and generosity of so many in the communities of Marshall County. The Food Basket and Sharing Tree Projects would not have been possible without the support of the local businesses that set up trees and collected gifts; church and community groups that collected and donated handmade quilts, toys, gloves, and clothing in support of the project; students and staff from our local schools

that donated toys and other gifts; monetary donations from community businesses and individuals; and the help of so many volunteering their time to help with the project in some way. Through the generosity of many, Marshall County Social Services was able to distribute food baskets to 150 people and gifts to 234 children in need this Christmas Season. The people of our communities have made this Christmas Season a little bit brighter for many in need because of their generosity, kindness and caring.

Wednesday, January 5, 2022



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FDIC
In two locations
G42C

Only in Minnesota: a weekly feature in the Eagle

Minnesota's Boundary Waters look even more spectacular in the winter

Even in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, it's easy to forget the immense beauty of Minnesota's bodies of water – especially in winter. During this season, the sparkling lakes turn into snow-covered expanses that blend into the surrounding environment. This is true for much of Minnesota. But way up north, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the icy lakes and wintry forests combine into an unforgettable expanse of snow-covered beauty. The Boundary Waters are always spectacular with wild beauty, and that is doubly true when the weather gets cold.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is a vast expanse of land in northern Minnesota. It preserves more than 1 million acres of spectacular wilderness.

The Boundary Waters is a popular place for camping, canoeing,



and fishing throughout Minnesota's warmer months. But don't overlook this wilderness when the weather turns cold. There is plenty to do as long as you are prepared.

The flat stretches of frozen lake make for excellent snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. You can get to vantage points you'd never reach on foot in the summer months.

Winter hikes along the area's many trails will take you to some truly spectacular sights. You may climb a hill to view a lake from above or hike to a gorgeous, rocky waterfall. In such a huge area, there are endless places to see Minnesota's beauty.

If you're looking for an amazing experience this winter, get bundled up for a trip to the Boundary Waters. With planning, this can be an unforgettable visit to Minnesota's most spectacular landscape.



Mar-Kit Solid Waste Landfill Facility receives Achievement Award



The Marshall County Board of Commissioners congratulates all Staff and Board of the Mar-Kit Solid Waste Landfill Facility in receiving the Association of Minnesota County's 2021 County Achievement Award! Mar-Kit was chosen in December for this prestigious award from a field of all 87 counties in Minnesota and is certainly a deserving recipient.

Mar-Kit began as a collaborative Joint Powers effort between Marshall and Kittson Counties in 1990 and has handled the areas solid waste needs in an effective and efficient manner ever since, with current volume of 205 tons per day. We enthusiastically applaud Manager Dale Nelson and his crew for a job well done!

The picture was taken recently at the Mar-Kit facility and includes Mar-Kit Board members: Loren Younggren, Leon Olson and Darrel Johnson (Kittson County Commissioners); Dale Nelson (Mar-Kit General Manager); Gary Rice (Mar-Kit Board member); Rolland Miller, Sharon Bring and Gary Kiesow (Marshall County Commissioners). Not pictured is Mar-Kit Board member LeRoy Vonasek. Photo courtesy of Scott Peters



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

Wynd

Noun

\Wahynd\

A narrow street or alley.

• SIMPLY DELICIOUS

By Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor

This is a recipe straight from Ree Drummond, The Pioneer Woman. She shared a Pancake Mini-Muffin recipe on her website that looks simply delicious. Brew that coffee and serve these little bite-size pancakes on an upcoming, lazy weekend IN.

Ingredients

- 3 c. flour
- 1 tbsp. baking powder
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 2.5 c milk
- 1 tbsp white vinegar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp. vanilla extract
- 4 tbsp butter, melted
- Blueberries, optional
- Warm syrup, for serving

Directions

Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. Sift together flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt. Set aside. Stir together the milk and vinegar and let it sit for 1 minute. Whisk in eggs and vanilla. Combine dry ingredients and wet ingredients, then stir in melted butter. If batter is too thick, stir in a little milk. Spray a mini-muffin pan generously with baking spray. Fill cups 2/3 full. If using blueberries, drop 2 to 3 blueberries into each cup. Bake for 8 to 9 minutes, or until golden brown on top. Let sit in the pan for 1 to 2 minutes, then turn them out of the pan. (Use a small knife if any are stubborn.) Serve warm with warm syrup!



• WHAT A JOKE

I don't call them New Year's Resolutions. I prefer the term,

"Casual promises to myself that I'm under no legal obligation to fulfill".



Strategic Farming: Let's Talk Crops

By Liz Stahl, Extension Educator – Crops and Phyllis Bongard, Content Development and Communications Specialist

Pull up a chair and join in or bring the conversation with you as you go about your day. Whatever works best for you, join us this winter to discuss some of the key issues and questions around commodity crop production facing Minnesota farmers today through the "Strategic Farming: Let's Talk Crops" webinar series. This live, online program will provide up-to-date, research-based information to help optimize your crop management strategies for 2022. Sessions will be held over Zoom, which can be accessed via your computer, phone or other mobile device, and run from 9:00 to 10:00 am Wednesdays, January 5 through March 30, 2022.

Sessions will be very informal and open to all interested. Each session will start with a brief presentation by the discussion leaders for the day, followed by discussion framed around farmer/participant questions on the topic.

Topics and speakers include:

- January 5: 2022 Crop fertility adjustments
Dan Kaiser, Extension nutrient management specialist, and Brad Carlson, Extension educator - water resources
- January 12: 2021-The year when past indiscretions were revealed (think compaction)
Aaron Daigh, North Dakota State University, and Jodi De-Jong-Hughes, Extension educator - water quality
- January 19: Compare and contrast: Management of corn for grain and silage
Joe Lauer, UW-Madison corn agronomist, and Luiz Ferrareto, UW-Madison ruminant nutritionist
- January 26: New findings with sulfur fertility
U of MN Nutrient management specialists and researchers
- February 2: Strategies for effective weed management in 2022
U of MN Weed scientists and researchers
- February 9: Cover crops: Termination timing and planting green

Axel Garcia y Garcia, Sustainable cropping systems specialist, and Anna Cates, State soil health specialist

February 16: Tar spot of corn: Status and options for this rising issue

Dean Malvick, Extension plant pathologist, and Nathan Kleczewski, plant pathologist, GROWMARK Inc.

February 23: Small grains management update

Jochum Wiersma, Extension small grains specialist

March 2: Soybean gall midge: Knowns and unknowns
Bruce Potter, Extension IPM specialist, Bob Koch, Extension soybean entomologist and Gloria Melotto, graduate research assistant

March 9: Getting ready for corn insects in 2022

Bruce Potter, Extension IPM specialist

March 16: Can we store C in a production ag system (and to what benefit)?

Anna Cates, State soil health specialist, and Jodi De-Jong-Hughes, Extension educator - water quality

March 23: Biocontrol strategies to manage pests

George Heimpel, Extension entomologist

March 30: Taming your fertility and soil amendment input costs

U of MN Extension Nutrient management specialists and researchers

For more details and to register, go to <https://z.umn.edu/strategic-farming>. You need only register once for the program series. At registration, please take a moment to let us know what questions you would like highlighted. There is no charge to participate, thanks to generous sponsorship from the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. Not able to attend a day? No problem. Sessions will be recorded and posted for viewing later at your convenience.

If you are not familiar with Zoom, details will be included at registration on how to access the sessions on your computer (all you need is the link) or mobile device. We hope you will take this opportunity to join with U of MN Extension in discussing crop topics at our "Strategic Farming: Let's Talk Crops" program in 2022.

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

*January-June to be featured
this week with July-December
continuing next week.*

care Hero. The Charger's boys and girls basketball teams each hold Parent's Night. Emily Johnson, grade 8, wins the Grygla School Spelling Bee. Amy Sampson wins the Goodridge School Spelling Bee. Goodridge Lutheran Parish coordinates Buena Vista Ski Trip. Abby Kiesow named to NDSU Dean's List (Accounting). Shantel Verbout among U of M Crookston graduates (Bachelor of Science, Agronomy with High Distinction). Chromebooks and wireless hotspots available for free checkout at the Grygla Library to anyone in need.

Dean's List with B.S. in Agricultural Business. Mike Mickelson Memorial Scholarship fund started at AC4TA supporting young actors (Fergus Falls). Grygla Lion's Club cancels annual membership supper due to COVID-19 – membership currently sits at 72. Levi Kiesow and Chloe Kuznia receive AAA award. A lot of local youngsters have great luck fishing up on the big lake! Game time Friday night at the rink where the Grygla Ice Devils take on the Wannaska Wolverines. Charger athletes are allowed more spectators – 6 per participant.

with recent warm weather. At just 24 years old, Ryan Sirek spends four months in the hospital with COVID. Grygla Fire Department assists in multiple fires over the weekend (3 grass fires, mutual aid to Middle River wildfire, along with a shop fire). Sargent and Nelson wrestle for TRF.

ily. Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club holds spring ditch cleaning day, along with picnic at Grande Corner. Three Grygla athletes join Co-op teams with Freeze & Roseau (Reece Sundberg & Gavin Aune with Freeze baseball; Justin Thompson with Roseau golf). Grygla School holds 2021 Spring Fling, crowning 8th graders Brody Saurdiff & Kinsley Oslund. Cheyenne Irlbeck holds leadership role within her sorority at UMN Crookston. Grygla Student Council holds Blood Drive. Charger's Track & Field Meets are scheduled. 39th Annual Consignment Auction Sale is set for April 24th in Goodridge. Grygla High School holds 2021 Prom.

June - The Grygla Garden Club holds Rhubarb Social at the park in town. Goodridge Sand Volleyball League starts back up for the summer. Lots of changes at the gravel pit out east: DNR stocks 375 lbs. of fish, Holthusen Constructio improves beach area, and an \$18,000 fishing pier project led by the Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club. Betsy Saurdiff retires after 36 years of teaching! Annual Charger Kindness Day is held with students helping community members with various clean-up projects. Justin Thompson and the rest of the Roseau Ram's Golf team head to state. JO Volleyball hits the road to play in a variety of tournaments. The Accel Weight Room program starts in Grygla. Northwoods Church holds first funeral since 1958. Goodridge School Summer Rec program tours Hanson's robotic dairy farm. Summer League basketball is held every Tuesday night at the Grygla School. Northland announces spring President's List with the following local students on it: Ben Groven, Katerina Groven, Shantel Horachek, Blake Jensen, Jaden Kiewow, Amy Wiskow, Trystan Jelle. Northland announces spring Dean's List with Maloni Henrickson named to it. Grand Opening of the Goodridge Lending Library!

memories include the annual sleigh ride after the meal. We'd all put on our winter gear and hop on what I remember as an old rickety sleigh pulled by my grandpa's equally rickety tractor. Cousins of all ages and some aunts and uncles would be piled on this nighttime sleigh ride. We'd all push each other off and run to catch up to the sleigh to hop back on.

Another memory I have is what the house sounded like on Christmas Eve with everyone packed in there. We are a loud family, and everyone wants to get their voice heard, which in turn makes the whole event much louder. I was often brought back to that familiar sound while living there these past 3 years during birthday parties for my kids. The noise of kids playing upstairs along with constant chatter and laughter downstairs brought me right back to Christmas Eve. We would always have Santa Clause come and he would give us presents, sometimes actual presents and sometimes half empty can of peanuts.

Finally, I remember all of us cousins going down to the basement for the piñata.

What did it feel like to move your own family into that house for a few years?

Living in my grandparent's house for just shy of 3 years

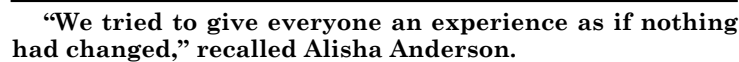
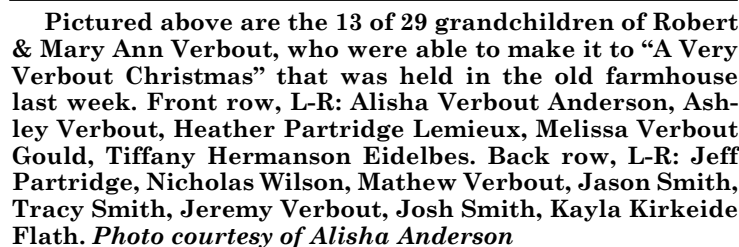
was really special to me. I was able to have 3 extra Christmases, several birthday parties, and bring my 3rd baby home to that house. I worked from home during the pandemic and due to lack of space, my office was right in the living room in front of the picture window, the same place you could find my grandpa sitting most days watching the cars go by. I made many pots of soup on that stove, just like my grandma did for us; we always knew there'd be chicken dumpling soup at hunting season.

I had several cousins and some uncles over during our stay there so I was able to do a lot of memory and story swapping that probably wouldn't have happened otherwise. I also found out why Grandpa made my grandma sleep closest to the wall, someone had to block the draft from the north wind when it blew!

It sounds like it was "A Very Verbout Christmas" indeed!

Preparing for this Christmas celebration with my aunts and my dad is something I'll always treasure. Hearing their memories and getting to partake in the traditional Christmas preparation is an experience I would have never had otherwise.

Moving back has been one of the best decisions we've ever made. I wouldn't trade the experiences I've had or that my kids have gotten since moving back for anything.



Hannah (Saurdiff) Erickson's New Year's resolution last year was to find ways to handle stress, which lead her to rediscovering her love for reading. In the 365 days of 2021, Hannah read 142 books! Of that impressive number, she says, "It has helped me so much with my mental health and a great way to disassociate from all the stress that came with the year. I am already looking forward to all the amazing reads that 2022 has in store!"

She shared images below of just 95 of the 142 books she read over the course of the year! Feel free to use this as a guide to pick a few if you're looking to sit down and relax with a good book.

Hannah's top 5 picks out of this list are: *Verity* by Colleen Hoover, *Sometimes I Lie* by Alice Feeney, *Don't look for Me* by Wendy Walker, *Ugly Love* by Colleen Hoover, *If you Find Me* by Emily Murdoch

Hannah and her husband Kyle live in Hope, ND, with their two boys Henry (4) and Leonard (2). She is in her sixth year of teaching 5th grade at Hope-Page Elementary. "It is important to me to model my passion for reading with my children and my students," she said.

For 2022, Hannah didn't set a goal for reading, but she does have a lot of books on her "to be read" list that she's excited for!

