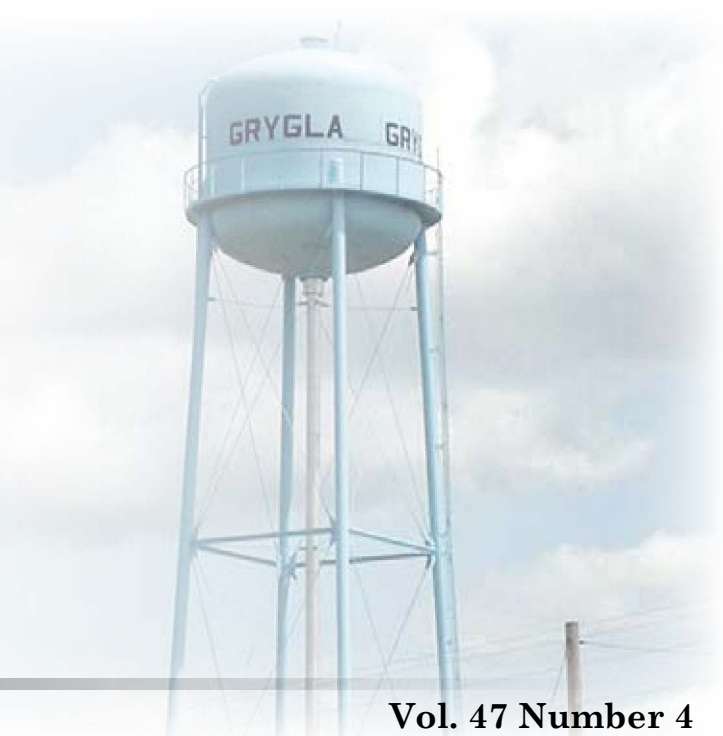




 Today Mostly Sunny H 82 L 57	 Thurs Sunny H 79 L 58	 Fri Partly Cloudy H 78 L 58	 Sat Mostly Cloudy H 79 L 60	 Sun Partly Cloudy H 80 L 60
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A look at next week ... Sue's Beauty Shop has been operating in Grygla for 50 years!



A farewell tribute issue

Our beloved Barn Boys take the stage one last time

The Back Behind the Barn Boys announced on Sunday that this Thursday's show in Warren will be their last. The beloved band is scheduled to take the stage at the Marshall County Fair in Warren, opening for Jo Dee Messina. Back Behind the Barn Boys open at 6pm with Messina to follow at 8pm.

Of the announcement to end their shows, at least in a concert-type setting, the band said 1982-2022 has a nice ring to it. The statement read, "Putting shows and ourselves together, even just for an hour per year, is getting more difficult and stressful at our age, so we've decided to call it a 40-year day!"

The band still hopes to get together informally to play, tell road stories, and share some laughs from time to time, probably closest to their hometown of Gatzke, MN, population 24.

The online statement from the band ended with the following:

"SALUTE! Thank you to Jason Rominski, and those associated with the Marshall County Fair in Warren, MN, for all you've done in the last decade and more to resurrect us. We have very much enjoyed our run in the sun. Thanks to all of you friends and fans (and our families) perpetually, for your support, your generosity, your smiles, and your friendship. See you Thursday!"

As a farewell send-off to our Barn Boys, the Grygla Eagle will be running a **special tribute in this week's Eagle** to the band. Back in 2017, Eagle Intern Kendra Jensen spent a lot of time with the band and put together a wonderful write-up in the process. The story was spread out over a couple of weeks in the summer of 2017. We'll run part 1 of that story in this week's issue (page 3 & 4); part 2 will be featured next week, along with pictures of the Barn Boys' final performance on stage in Warren.

• LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Written by Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor

It seems like every few years, a statement like this has to be made, unfortunately. It's not meant as a form of complaining, but rather to shed some light on a few things and give a new perspective.

I received a phone call recently. A rather upsetting one, at that. The reader was upset that I've had two front page stories about Goodridge residents the previous two weeks. And that I've also had an awful lot of Goodridge news in the paper as of lately and feels like I don't cover anything in Grygla anymore.

These are fair points. Let me do some explaining. Goodridge is our neighboring town. We are two different communities, yes, but we also come together for MANY things. I should also point out that half of my subscribers have Goodridge addresses. Those folks deserve newspaper coverage too.

As for the front-page stories the previous two weeks – I will not apologize for covering stories on people from Goodridge. The first one was about Chaplain Clifton Clifton Hanson, USAF, a Goodridge High School 2001 graduate, who is serving our country as a Chaplain in the United States Air Force. **VERY DESERVING** of coverage. There was also a wonderful event put on with him speaking at it and leading a Worship service that I attended in rural Goodridge.

Last week's front-page (and entire back page) story is about a Goodridge teen whose life was saved by the quick response of another Goodridge resident, who is also a Goodridge Fireman, who is his boss at work, which is where he was when he went into sudden cardiac arrest. The Goodridge Fire & Rescue Department, not only sponsored this week's issue of the newspaper, they expect ZERO recognition for the jobs they do and the lives they save, yet I made the choice to cover this story and give that young

teen, along with our neighboring local heroes the recognition they deserve. I will not apologize for front and back newspaper coverage on this.

Goodridge Freedom Fest has also been covered a couple of times as a lot of time and effort has went into planning that awesome upcoming event. A lot of Grygla people also attend Freedom Fest and appreciate the detailed schedule of events.

Let's not forget that Goodridge is also our neighboring town where many residents subscribe to the Grygla Eagle. They also have a variety of activities/events that Grygla residents enjoy attending as well. It seems silly to even have to explain why Goodridge-area things are covered in the Eagle.

Take the Thief River Falls Times, for example. TRF is a large enough town where The Times could cover strictly TRF events, but they cover area news instead. I, for one, appreciate them being inclusive to area towns and items of interest surrounding their city.

As we all know, little hometown newspapers are dying off everywhere. The Grygla Eagle is going strong and is at no risk of being shut down. However, it's a constant battle against social media and it's a struggle to stay afloat. If you think there's not much to read in the paper, imagine it from my point every week, trying to find stuff to fill that paper - every 7 days - in constant competition with social media and all of our other news just a finger click away.

Most of us put our highlight reels on social media the second they happen, or shortly thereafter. Whether it's our kids' events at school or in the community, or it's a business wanting to share something, or an advertisement of some kind. Because of our social media world, I will admit, the Grygla Eagle Newspaper isn't as present as it should be or once was.

Most of the stuff is right in front of me AND you. A lot of the social media posts are exactly what would be going in

the newspaper. Most people are so willing, generous, and understanding of how this works, allowing me to use their photos in the paper and give them photo credit.

But some are not. Some think I should still attend every single event like the old days. Other businesses adapt to our fast-moving technology; the newspaper is no exception. We have every right to also change up the way we operate and "get news."

As for behind the scenes, I'm only as good as what I'm aware of. A lot of times people just assume I know what's going on at any given time, at any given place. I don't. And many times, the newspaper is never even contacted about an upcoming event, job ad, flyer, or business happening. I welcome you to always shoot me a text, email or call, to keep the community newspaper in the loop because, again, I'm only as good as what I know.

I've gotten so many types of phone calls over the years. If someone's paper came a day late, they want to know why (as if I have anything to do with the United States Postal Service). If I have my personal column in there (like the first few years), there was chatter that I'm putting too much of myself in. So, I took it out. Then there were calls asking why I don't write a personal column like Joy used to. Well, kind of a no-win situation there. I am the only employee of the paper. My voice is bound to be present in the paper, whether some think that's too much or some think it's not enough.

There are the calls about the same kids being featured. Well, to that I say: it's the same kids on the court every game. It's the same kids volunteering, helping out, and showing up.

There are the calls about the same community members being featured at stuff. Well, I say again: it's the same people volunteering their time and effort. If you don't like it, consider helping yourself at some of these events and maybe new

people can be featured. (That is, IF, they don't run away when I take my camera out, which happens a lot.)

What I'm trying to say is the newspaper is a thankless job at times. I'm not writing this to look for praise. And not all the phone calls and texts are complaints. I do get a lot of nice calls, texts and even handwritten letters. I am beyond appreciative for those community members that always take the time to thank their local paper for coverage.

But to close out, just a reminder that no one appreciates negative phone calls or complaints from community members about their job. I understand the newspaper operates under the public eye but let me remind you of something: we're all just doing the best we can. In a very fast-paced, one-click away, social media world.

As for the paper, I'm trying in a very small community that doesn't always have a ton of things going on every week. I'm trying very hard in a small community where some people want to talk to me for the paper, and some people don't. I'm trying very hard to keep the pages full of enough of a variety to please the farmers, the sports enthusiasts, religious items, crafters, gardeners, etc.

I should also use this time to explain why I don't use the Eagle Facebook page much either. If I posted every story and item of interest on Facebook, the newspaper would just lose most of its subscribers, which we do not want to happen.

In conclusion, even though I feel I'm putting in the work, we know there's always room for improvement, so that's what I'll do - try harder.

Thanks for hanging with me 'til the end. I look forward to bringing you more news that includes the Goodridge, Grygla, Gatzke area. I also welcome you to utilize your community newspaper. We're here for YOU.

Baby items available at food shelf

The Grygla-Gatzke Food Shelf will have some baby items on hand this month. There will be a variety of baby food, diapers, and baby gift bags (assorted newborn essentials) available. If you can use any of these items or know of someone who can, please visit the food shelf on Saturday, July 23rd, between 8-10:30am.



Let this serve as your reminder to visit the 4-H stand this Thursday at the Roseau County Fair! The Grygla Go-Getter's 4-H kids will be serving supper from 3:45pm until 8:45pm! Come and show your support, let them cook you up a delicious meal and then check out their exhibits/animals and all the fair has to offer!

Keepin' it REEL



Fishing is a tough job, but these young boys tackled it, catching catfish left and right out at the gravel pit last week! The catfish ranged from 10 to 19 pounds! Makes ya think twice about going for a dip, doesn't it?!

Above, L-R: Cooper Aune, Landon Nordby, Shay Jacobson, Jens Oslund, Brett Rychlock and Gus Jones.

Photos courtesy of Jamie Aune



• 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, July 20
11am Bible Study, 6pm Grace Choir
Sunday, July 24
Grace: 9am Worship
OS: 10:30am 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, July 24
Ekelund: 8am Worship
Faith: 9:30am Worship
Bethany: 11am Worship

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

St. Clement's – Grygla; St. Ann's – Goodridge
Fr. Bryan Kujawa
Sundays:
St. Clement's: 10:15am Worship.
St. Ann's: N/A
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
Skime
Pastor Steve Bliss
Sundays
8am Worship
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 Merseth
Saturday, July 23
Mt. Olive Worship 9am
Sunday, July 24
St. Petri: 8am Worship
Nazareth: 9:45am Worship
Oak Park: 11am Worship
Upcoming event:
LYA Convention St. George Utah, July 28-31

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Red Lake Falls • 218-253-2128
Oklee • 218-796-5177
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Summer League Standings

Week 4 Standings	W	L
Purple	6	2
Green	5	3
Red	5	3
Gray	4	4
Orange	3	5
Blue	1	7

Week 4 Results
Green 67
Steven Hanson 28
Wyatt Neuschwander 14
Matt Hanson 13
Blue 54
Peyton Verbout 21
Cole Halvorson 14
Gus Jones 10

Red 61
David Jones 28
Brandon Bakken 17
Spencer Coan 12
Purple 38
Jordan Coan 13

Gray 59
Nick Groven 21
Tucker Verbout 15
Brock Olson 11
Orange 53
Tristan Gustafson 24
Anthony Loken 16

Gray 31
Tucker Verbout 12
Cory Clevon 10
Blue 65
Jake Olson 12
Hogan Lundeen 10
Peyton Verbout 10
Cole Halvorson 10
Dustin Nelson 10

Red 61
David Jones 23
Brandon Bakken 17
Tyler Stinar 13
Green 42
Steven Hanson 15
Wyatt Neuschwander 11

Purple 61
Jordan Coan 25
Ethan Schulz 12
Jamison St. Germain 10
Orange 32
Gus Jones 11

Next week, July 26th, brings the playoff games, beginning at 6:15pm with the Championship at 8:15

BENVILLE TOWNSHIP
Notice of Primary Elections
Tuesday August 9, 2022
Benville Townhall
Polls open 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
G18-18C

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Footcare clinics

North Valley Public Health will hold Foot Care and Blood Pressure Clinics on the following dates:
Middle River Royal Manor Apts.: Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Contact: LAH/BNP at 218-222-4466
Newfolden Community Center: Thursday, July 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Darcy Hestekind at 218-874-2256
Argyle LAH/BNP in the mall: Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Penny Korynta at 218-437-8431
Oslo Community Center: Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Contact: North Valley Public Health at 218-745-5154
Grygla Community Center: Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Contact: North Valley Public Health at 218-745-5154
Please call to cancel if you are feeling ill.
Please call the person listed above to sign up. We require sign-up sheets so that we can staff accordingly. If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call to cancel.
Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time.
The North Valley Public Health staff will soak feet and trim nails. The fee for this foot care service is \$20 per person.
The North Valley Public Health staff will do free blood pressure checks upon request.

Lion's annual picnic

The Grygla Lion's Club will hold their annual picnic in the park on Wednesday, July 27th. The picnic will be in the Ralph Klein Park at 6pm with the regular July meeting to follow.

COVID vaccines

North Valley Public Health (NVPH) will be offering free COVID vaccines at the Marshall County Fair on Thursday, July 21st, and Friday, July 22nd, from 2-4 p.m. Both Moderna (ages 18 and up) and Pfizer (ages 5 and up) will be offered. Our booth is located in the Centennial building. Please bring your vaccine card with you. If you have any questions, please call our office at: 218-745-5154.

U.S.P.S. No. 002330
Grygla Eagle
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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
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Grygla Eagle, PO Box 17, Grygla, MN 56727.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SUMMER DAYS

ACROSS
1. Candy bar Baby
5. New York baseball player
8. * ___ days of summer
11. Southern cuisine pod
12. Austin Powers' charm
13. Phlegms
15. Finish with plaster
16. Balanced
17. Shy
18. *Usually June 21
20. Wood sorrels
21. Between septet and nonet
22. Stir fry pan
23. *"Out" for most kids in summer
26. Popular white fish
30. ___ Tsu
31. Pavlov's conditioned ____
34. Part of cathedral
35. Dwelling
37. *It's often hot and muggy in summer
38. Be in accord
39. Physicist Niels ____
40. Like some wedding cakes
42. A Bobsey twin
43. Comparative of staid
45. *Like waterskier's dream lake surface
47. Jean-Claude ____ Damme
48. Not our
50. *Dangle them in the pool?
52. *Tossing around, pl.

Northern Lights fishing report

Written by Ben Kucera
On this week's report, the water is finally going down..... slowly. Lake of the Woods is still all over with the best results happening out deep and further away from shore. Whatever your favorite tactics are for fishing deep water flats, give it a try. A spinner with a crawler has been working along with a jig and shiner. The crank bait bite should start picking up as well. It's not fast and furious by any means, but if you stay at it you will get a few for the pail.
I've started to see a lot more sturgeon being caught by Pine Island as well. Red Lake has been doing well. Trolling a spinner with a crawler or leech has been the choice.
This coming week, we head to Long Lake for a few days to chase some rainbows and a few days of relaxing. Hard to believe we are almost into August and my waterfowl season is fast approaching.
Enjoy the lake and fishing if you are heading out. 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.

Grygla Open is almost here



The annual Grygla Open will be held Friday, July 29th, at Oakcrest Golf Club in Roseau. Entry fees are \$200/team, with only a few team slots left. Entry fees include green fees, cart rental, meal after golf, and chance at door prizes.
There will also be contests for Longest Drive and Longest Putt, and a 50/50 raffle.
Team registration will start at 8:30am with Tee-Off at 9:00am on the 29th.
To sign up a team, message Robbie Anderson at 218-684-1740.

Marshall County Veteran Appreciation Day

Wednesday, July 20th, at the Marshall County Grandstand at 8pm, following the parade. Please join in for music, a message and the presenting of Outstanding Veteran and Outstanding Veteran Advocate Certificates. The first 250 veterans, spouses and legion auxiliary members will receive a \$10 meal ticket good at the fair food vendors. Veterans will also be able to attend the Friday night entertainment, the Fabulous Armadillos, an Eagles tribute band, with proof of Vet status, ie: VA card, Legion card, etc.
For veterans and attendees who have difficulty walking, they should be dropped off at the handicapped parking area where there will be golf carts/ side-by-sides to provide rides to the grandstand.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12				13	14		
15				16				17			
	18			19			20				
		21				22					
23	24	25				26			27	28	29
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		47				48	49				
	50	51				52			53	54	
55						56			57		58
59						60			61		
62						63			64		

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55. Drunkard
56. Falling out
57. Like one deserving of a Christmas gift
59. On and on (2 words)
60. Black tropical cuckoos
61. Bob ____ of boxing industry
62. JFK's brother
63. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
64. Typically 5 of these in a men's tennis match

DOWN
1. "Arabian Nights" bird
2. Luau strings
3. Crosby, Stills and Nash, e.g.
4. Attention-grabbing shout
5. *Summer blockbuster
6. DVD player button
7. Muscle quality
8. Russian parliament
9. "Sittin' On The Dock Of The Bay" singer
10. Cowboy's heel prod
12. Courage to carry on
13. Counter seat
14. *Summer activity: berry ____

19. Game status
22. Car wash option
23. Granite store units
24. Explorer John ____, a.k.a. Giovanni Caboto

25. Commotion
26. German mister
27. Farm structure, pl.
28. Part of an eye, pl.
29. *Adjective for bikini?
32. *County event
33. Tall tale
36. *#5 Down venue
38. Improvise
40. Sophomore's grade
41. Antonym of ingests
44. Old hat
46. NBA venues
48. Threesome
49. No-distortion sound reproduction, pl.
50. Arctic floater
51. Augmented
52. Brawl
53. Republic of Ireland
54. Hare's tail
55. *Uninvited picnic guest
58. Ambulance squad, acr.

Results shared next week!

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City of Grygla
218-294-6292
Minutes/Agendas avail.
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

GRYGLA GENERAL STORE
GROCERIES HARDWARE SPORTING GOODS OFF-SALE
THIS WEEK'S LUNCH COUNTER SPECIALS!
Effective July 18th-July 27th, 2022
Monday, July 18.....Burgers & Fries, Personal Pizza
Tuesday, July 19.....Alfredo & Breadsticks
Wednesday, July 20.....Hotdog Bar w/Variety of Fixins
Thursday, July 21.....Steak Sandwiches & Subs
Friday, July 22.....BBQ Rib Sandwiches
Monday, July 25.....Burgers, Fries & Chicken Strips
Tuesday, July 26.....Spaghetti & Meatballs, Breadsticks
Wednesday, July 27.....Prime Rib Sandwiches & Baked Beans
*Sides, Pizza and Cheeseburgers offered everyday.
G18C

Stepping Stone AND Bench Orders...
...will be due August 1st, 2022.
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Mail to:
THANK YOU
for your support!
Please call: **Lyle Nelson at 294-6433**
~~ FOR GOD AND COUNTRY ~~
G12,14,16,18C

“Berry Supper” in Gatzke

You are invited to United Lutheran Church of Gatzke on Sunday, July 24th. The entertainment beings at 5pm with guest pianist Brianna Geer performing. Following the con-

cert is the potluck “Berry Supper” where you are invited to bring any berry treat to share. This event is a free-will offering with all proceeds going to Trails to Treatment.

Grygla Fall Fest Parade

Its parade time again! “Celebrate with the best” at Grygla Fall Fest....August 27-28, 2022.
You are cordially invited to join the fun. The parade is sponsored by the Grygla Merchants and ran by the Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club. It will take place on Saturday, August 27th, at 10:30 am. Line-up will begin at 9:30am across from Motel 89.
There is no registration fee. Candy will not be provided this year. For the safety of our enthusiastic children running out for candy during the parade, we ask that you not toss candy from your entry. Walkers may distribute candy along parade

route as mandated by state law.
Entries are due by Wednesday, August 24th. Mail to: Helen Anderson, PO Box 167, Grygla, MN, 56727. (218-689-4950) or email handerson14259@gmail.com
Please include entry name, address, category (church, family, old cars/trucks/tractors, commercial, non-profit, animal, etc.) Please include a description of your entry.
Winners will be chosen in the following categories: Most Original, Best Depiction of Theme, Funniest, Best Car, Best Tractor. Prizes sponsored by the Grygla Merchants.

4-H...More Than You Ever Imagined
Today's 4-H offers many exciting projects and programs for young people. 4-H members can chose from subjects like: animal nutrition, photography, food production/marketing, space technology, money management, and decision making.
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Today
Scatt T'Storms
H 75 L 57

Thurs
Partly Cloudy
H 83 L 60

Fri
Scatt T'Storms
H 80 L 60

Sat
Partly Cloudy
H 77 L 58

Sun
Partly Cloudy
H 77 L 55

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

NOW ONLINE www.tricocanary.com

Vol. 44 Number 3

A look at next week... Grygla organizations benefit from approximately \$90,000 in Beltrami County ConCon funds

Back Behind the Barn Boys: Part 1, The Early Years

Interview by Kendra Jensen, Eagle Intern

Although their glory days happened twenty years before I was a thought, even I had heard the stories of the local legends that are The Back Behind the Barn Boys. They ventured out from our small town area to pursue a dream and helped put little Gatzke, Minnesota, on the map. With the full support of our community behind them, it seemed as if everyone back home was living out their dreams along with them. Their successes became the community's pride and they were quickly deemed local musical heroes.

Any time I casually mentioned to people that I was getting the chance to interview these guys, I was taken aback by how excited everyone got by the mere mention of their name! With a sparkle in their eye, everyone would make some sort of remark, "Oh, I saw them live once!" or "I still own their record on vinyl!" It appeared as if everyone had a personal story about this band, and now so do I.

I recently had the pleasure of putting faces to the names I had been hearing about for so long as I caught up with the current members of The Back Behind the Barn Boys, Gene Lunsetter, Terry Ruud, Tom Bernstein, Randy Larson, Dan Schulz, and Pat Erickson at their annual practice session at the old cafe in Gatzke. Unfortunately, Randy McMillin wasn't able to join us that day.

To be completely honest, I had never been to Gatzke before. When I spoke with Gene Lunsetter on the phone, he told me, "You'll be able to find us once you get here." At the time, I was a little leery because I had no idea what that meant. I soon understood; I rolled by the Gatzke sign and saw only one building with six cars parked outside of it. As I walked in, the band was jamming away and I instantly got why these guys are such a big deal.

When did you start play-

ing music individually?

Terry: We didn't really start individually, Randy Larson's mom was our music teacher at Gatzke Elementary School. She played with a lot of gusto.

Randy: She had us all playing guitar at a young age.

Gene: We just always sang together in Sunday school, high school, things like that.

Who were your musical influences growing up?

They all agreed they were mostly influenced and inspired by local musicians around them.

Tom: Last resort was a local band up here back in the day and we just looked up to them like crazy!

Terry: As I'm sure you know, we have a lot of talent crammed up here in this area and it's always been that way.

The guys also say along with local talent, some of their favorite musicians whom they've looked up to were, The Beatles, The Statler Brothers, Oak Ridge Boys and Alabama.

How did The Back Behind the Barn Boys form?

Randy Larson: Kurt Vandermeer was our music teacher in high school. We were all in an octet together. Oddly enough, Terry, Gene, Tom and I all sang different parts. We took the octet and turned it into a quartet.

The Barn Boys started playing together in 1980, they were all fairly young when they formed their band with Dan Schulz, the drummer, being the youngest member at the age of 16.

What was your first gig together?

Tom: Our first gig was for Randy Anderson at the VFW in Roseau, Minnesota. We only knew maybe two hours of music.

Terry: We got asked to play there the day of, so we all went to my parents garage and learned all the music for that night right there and then.

Did any of you have stage fright starting out?

Terry: I don't think we were

ever scared on stage because we were always so focused on not forgetting the words!

Randy: We get a kick out of playing with each other and were more focused on having fun on stage together than what was going on in front of us.

Terry: We escape the nervousness by being this little clan of guys who grew up together.

Randy: I think we work harder on entertaining each other than we do the crowd!

Dan: It's a relaxing and fun atmosphere with these guys.

What was it like first playing shows together?

Tom: Kind of how it is now... funny! We would just always get together and have a good time.

Gene: The week was long because we were excited for the weekend to play.

Terry: For the first three years we just played here around home.

Randy: We would go out and try to find ourselves gigs.

Tom: To play in Fargo, that would be a big deal for us.

How would you deal with screw ups on stage?

Randy: Sometimes the only thing you can do is laugh.

Tom: You almost have to!

Randy: There was this one time, actually, where we just had to stop a song, laugh, get through that and start up a new song.

Dan: There was this one time in South Dakota where a screw up happened on stage. The guys stopped the song and said, "We're gonna try that one more time." I said, "No, I'm not."

Terry: Yeah! We kept counting down the beats for him, thinking he would start to play but he never did. He just sat there! We played the entire song without him.

Where did the name Back Behind the Barn Boys come from?

Terry: Well, my older brother, Bob, had this little compact cassette recorder and he used

Then and Now
In the top photo, L-R: Tom Bernstein, Gene Lunsetter, Mike Semanko, Terry Ruud, Randy Larson, Randy McMillin and Mike Sistad.

In the lower picture line-up, L-R: Tom Bernstein, Gene Lunsetter, Dan Schulz, Terry Ruud, Randy Larson and Pat Erickson.

Other members of the band through the years were Gregg Brown (Nashville), Craig Elkin (Nashville), Perry Steilow (Sioux Falls), Randy Hamill (Albuquerque), Jim White (Plymouth), and Paul Salo (Fargo). Sound technicians included Tom Monson, Steve Hoi-berg (Fargo), Rick Guptill (Fargo), Dan Breslin (Fargo), and Bob Bussiere (Nashville).



to record these silly cassettes. He would just make stuff up and I would join in. There was this Statler Brothers album called The Complete Lester Moran and the Cadillac Cowboys. My brother heard that on KTRF one day and decided he was going to make a spoof of it called Beanball Barnette and the Back Behind the Barn

Boys. Later, when we formed, we used it and shortened it to The Back Behind the Barn Boys.

How did you develop your sound?

Tom: One thing I really like about our band is even when we learn a cover tune, it only takes a couple of days and it sounds more like The Barn Boys. We

have an original sound without even trying.

Dan: The 4-part harmony really sets us apart I think. Not only that, but we all sing a little so on some songs we even get to a full 7-part harmony.

Tom: That really does make a difference.

Back Behind the Barn Boys		
Schedule '86'		
April:		
4/1-3/86	Opera Hall Saloon	Hopkins, MN
4/8/86	Depot	Devils Lake, N.D.
4/15/86	School	Cavalier, N.D.
4/22/86	Mandan Com. Center	Mandan, N.D.
4/29-12/86	Boothill	Gillette, WY
4/14-19/86	Boothill	Rapid City, S.D.
4/24-26/86	Crumly's	Mandan, N.D.
4/27/86	Dorn UND (6-F. Civil Code)	Grand Forks, N.D.
4/28-3/86	Cactus Jacks	Fargo, N.D.
May:		
5/4-10/86	H. W. West	St. Cloud, MN
5/12-17/86	Texas Tea	Grafton, N.D.
5/19-31/86	Ranchman's South	Saskatoon, Sask., Canada
June:		
6/2-7/86	Rodeo Club	Calgary, Alta., Canada
6/12/86	Rodeo Club	Edmonton, Alta., Canada
6/13/86	Fan Fair Week	Nashville, TN
6/14/86	Fair	Lawrenceville, GA
6/15/86	Fair	Whitish, N.D.
6/22/86	Sunwest Festival	Devils Lake, N.D.
6/25/86	Fair	Croby, N.D.
6/26/86	Fair	Watford City, N.D.
6/27/86	Fair	Underwood, N.D.
6/28/86	Rochester Fest '86	Rochester, MN
6/29/86	Fair	Grand Forks, N.D.

The Back Behind the Barn Boys April-June 1986 schedule!



The Back Behind the Barn Boys used to tour 48 weeks a year! During their career, they opened for pretty much anyone big in the 80's, including Merle Haggard, The Judds and George Strait, to name a few. The band that started in Gatzke, MN, also took the stage at the Grand Ole Opry.



Playing on stage at Cowboy's in Lubbock, Texas.

The Barn Boys make their big break

Terry: It was 1982. We were just about to break up actually when Dave Ullstad, the owner of KKK in Thief River Falls, talked us into entering a national contest called Wrangler Country Star Search. Sort of, I suppose, like the equivalent to The Voice now. We said, "Okay, well, we'll get together for this one last thing." So we won at the local level, then we won at the regional level, and wouldn't you know, we won for the whole state of Minnesota. So we won a trip to Nashville and got the opportunity to appear on the Grand Ole Opry stage. After that, we really got bitten by the bug.

Dan: When we went down there for that competition, we had the biggest following. There were 50 some groups down there and The Barn Boys had the most followers out of all of them. That made us feel pretty special.

What made you pursue music?

Terry: On the plane ride home from Star Search, a guy who was sitting next to us said, "You know, you guys are pretty good. You should take yourselves more seriously and maybe consider this as a living." All of us being from around here never really thought about making a living out of this. We didn't even know you could be a musician for a living! Anyway, we talked it over on the plane and by the time we got home we had decided to go to the bank and take out a loan to buy our bus, a PA system and cheesy polyester outfits.

Gene: That, and there wasn't a lot to do back in the day in Gatzke.

Tom: I mean how often do you get to do something with all your friends?

Were you nervous to leave Garzke and start touring?

Tom: No, I don't think we were nervous at all! We were too naive to be nervous.

Randy: I think the most incredible thing looking back is that we didn't have any cell phones or GPS. We played 48 out of 52 weeks of the year and Gene was just a wonderful navigator who

drove us everywhere.

Gene: I used to have nightmares about driving that bus.

Were your parents supportive of you leaving?

Tom: Every set of parents were great. They were totally supportive of us 100%.

Randy: A lot of our parents helped redo the bus and helped us get our loan.

Tom: Basically anything they could do to get us out of here they did. We couldn't have done it without our parents.

Dan: They fed us, they clothed us...

Randy:...and even bought us matching outfits!

How did you guys write your own music?

Terry: We kind of did that individually.

Randy: The songs I would bring to rehearsal needed work so Terry and Gene would make it into something where it probably wasn't ready otherwise. So it was definitely a collaboration.

Terry: There's the age old question: Do you start with music or do you start with lyrics? For me, usually a line will pop into my head and the music comes along later.

What is your favorite song you've ever written?

Tom: I think as a whole we like "Personal" the most.

Why was it so important for you to keep connected to your home town of Gatzke?

Randy: It's where we're from.

Tom: We had a population from anywhere to 8-12 people so that was something to brag about.

Gene: It was part of our personality I think.

Dan: It's just the small town people you grew up with, you know?

So when did you know you were kind of getting to be a big deal?

Barn Boys...

Continued on page 3

