



Today	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Scatt Tstorms	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy
H 70 L 53	H 70 L 52	H 76 L 56	H 82 L 64	H 81 L 62



A look at next week ... State Patrol legend Sylvia Maurstad retires - story courtesy of Roseau Times.



On the right, Sue Aune fixes Janet Lian's hair. Janet was Sue's second-ever customer and has been going to her for the last 50 years; Sue's first customer was Harriet Nelson. *Photos by Grygla Eagle Newspaper*

Sue's Beauty Shop celebrates 50 years of business

June 16th, 2022, marked 50 years that the doors to Sue's Beauty Shop have been open.

Sue Aune was just 22 years old when she first started her business in Grygla. She had graduated from Warroad High School in 1968, attended beauty school in Thief River Falls at Northland, and just a couple of years later opened her own business after meeting her husband and moving to Gatzke.

At that time, Sue's Beauty Shop was located next to the old restaurant in town – where the old café used to be. The view looked different on the street back then as the old post office sat where the current diesel pumps, with Sue's Beauty Shop and the old restaurant sitting where the Grygla Community Garden currently is. Sue shared that she first rented the building from Arden Thomas for just \$30 a month! She served the community in that building from 1972 until 1981 before buying the building she's been at ever since. Back then, the building was a gift shop called Country Sunshine. Sue's old building was turned over to Jackie Dobmeier,

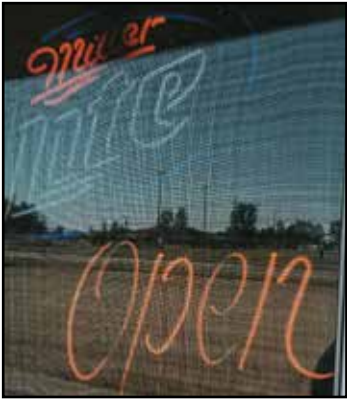
who used it for a business that helped farmers, before she sold it to another lady who made ceramic dolls there. Finally, Tom Morrissey bought the building for a hunting shack; it still resides in rural Gatzke.

With celebrating 50 years of her successful business, Sue does admit that she'd like to hang up the scissors soon. "I'd really like to retire if I could sell the business to some young person who could keep it going," she said. She has enjoyed serving the community for the last 50 years, especially as the only salon in town.

Currently, Sue is open Wednesday through Friday from 7am until the evening hours. There was a time where she was open 6 days a week, but has slowed down as of lately. For anyone interested in getting an appointment with Sue, her prices have increased (but only slightly) since the day she first opened 50 years ago. Haircuts were only \$1.25 back then! She continues to operate at one of the lowest priced salons in the area, which is just what her customers love and appreciate.

The Hound to open soon

The Hound Pub & Dining in Grygla (formerly Yo-Hawn's Bar & Grill) will be opening soon! The new Grygla business announced that they officially have all necessary licensing and are just a couple short weeks away from opening their doors. Their statement read, "We've been working away all summer to get the doors open ASAP for you. We can't wait to finally be able to invite you in to show you the new place (and the new menu)! Stay tuned for an official opening date."



Sneak peek photos by The Hound.

Grygla City Council approves June Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Grygla City Council: June 13, 2022**
- The regular meeting was called to order at 7pm at the Civic Building by Mayor Mosher with the following council members present: Gavin Nordby, Lindsay Oslund, Devin Ruud 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:
- WATER TOWER**
There was nothing to report at this time.
 - PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**
Rocky Hagen & Devin Ruud will get together after Ruud is done helping with The Hound renovations and discuss options for starting the process.
 - FIRE HYDRANT BY COOP STORE**
Tabled until Spring 2023.
 - COMMUNITY CENTER**
The committee is working on getting bids for the flooring.
 - AIRPORT**
There was nothing new to report at this time.
 - FEMA REIMBURSEMENT**
The county is waiting to see if they are approved for FEMA reimbursement. In the meantime, they will be sending out forms for the city to fill out for all of the flooding expenses and damages.
 - PICNIC TABLES**
Three aluminum tables were ordered and will be delivered in a few weeks.
 - SEWER LINE REPAIRS**
Garden Valley will receive the bills for the sewer repairs by Jim Hest's house. They had drilled through the sewer line and caused it to fill in with mud which caused a sinkhole in the yard.
 - EXTRA MEETINGS**
Ruud had the Rabies Clinic & RL meeting. Nordby had RL mtg. Nordby, Mosher, Oslund and Byklum had The Hound loan approval meeting.

Grygla School Board June Minutes

- Thursday, June 23, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
- Chairperson of the board Jeremy Rychlock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with James Verbout, Tera Nordby, Clinton Brobst, Gretchen Smeby, and Superintendent Jamie Lunsetter present.
- Luke Nordvik and Principal Gieseke absent.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Motion by Jeremy Rychlock, second by James Verbout to approve the agenda as presented. Passed 5-0. Minutes of the 5/18/22 regular school board meeting are approved as printed.
- Approve payment of bills: Motion by Gretchen Smeby, second by James Verbout to approve payment of the bills check #38963 through check #38985 and wire payments. Passed 5-0.
- Finance Report:** General Fund \$191,642.72 with Food Service \$2,617.24 and Student Activity \$260.39 for a total of \$194,520.35. MSDLAF/Checking total of \$1,197,402.42.
- Student Report:** None
- Teacher Report:** Given by Robin Johnson. Mr. Olson said Excel numbers have been as high as 21 this summer. BBB has had 3 tournaments at Moorhead, Mayville and Walker. Mr. Grandstrand said there are around 30 kids in summer baseball, and it's going well. 7 on 7 football will be held at UND and several football players are currently at NDSU football camp. JO's have been going very well. Read Write Math has 25 kids participating, the second highest ever. Summer School has gone very well, with 19 kids taking part. Swimming lessons are coming up with around 40 kids signed up.
- Principal Report:** None
- Superintendent Report:** Athletic Update - we will host a triangular in BBB with Northern Freeze and KCC on Monday, June 27th. Bus Log - nothing to report. Building Project - the boilers are out, and the propane tank is in place. Peterson has been working very diligently and appears to be on time. Audit dates - July 27 and 28. 2022 Election - 3 members up for election. Health Insurance - switching from Blue Cross to Medica. The new gym has been painted and Mr. Lunsetter will have an update in the Grygla Eagle next week on that and the boiler system.
- Motion by Tera Nordby, second by Gretchen Smeby to approve the FY 23 Budget as presented: (Expense Budget, Revenue Budget) General Fund \$3,137,007.00 (2,878,334.00); Food Service \$138,014.00 (102,850.00); Community Service \$32,930.00 (45,172.00); Debt Service \$0.00 (136,856.00); Scholarships \$10,000.00 (5,150.00); Trust \$2,000.00 (700.00); Student Activity \$57,500.00 (63,250.00). Total \$3,377,451.00 (3,232,312.00)
- Motion by Clinton Brobst, second by Jeremy Rychlock to approve MREA membership for 2022-23 School Year Passed 5-0. Motion by James Verbout, second by Jeremy Rychlock to approve the 2022-23 through 2024-25 Principal Contract. Passed 5-0. Motion by Gretchen Smeby, second by Tera Nordby to approve the hire of Katelyn Larson, Social Worker/Substitute Teacher. Passed 5-0. Motion by Tera Nordby, second by Clinton Brobst to approve the hire of
- School Board Mins...**
Continued on page 2



The Back Behind the Barn Boys took the stage for one final time last week at the Marshall County Fair in Warren where they opened for country music singer JoDee Messina. The Grygla Eagle Newspaper featured a throwback tribute to the local band that was written back in 2017; part 1 was shared in last week's paper with part 2 being shared this week. (See page 3-4.) *Photos by Marshall County Fair*



• 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 27
11am Bible Study, 6pm Grace Choir
Sunday, July 31
OS: 9am Worship
Grace: 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 31
Joint Parish Worship at Bethany 10:30am
VBS July 31-August 3



Results from last week's StatePoint Crossword puzzle.

Grygla Bush Car Races

New this year to the Grygla Fall Festival are Bush Car Races. The rules for the new event are shared here.
Saturday, August 27th, 4pm
Classes will be: 4cy fwd, 6/8cy fwd, any rwd, and 4x4/ AWD Trucks/Cars. There will be a powderpuff race following the Truck class feature. Motors MUST be stock.
If time allows and enough interest we will also have a 1 heat Demo after all races for interested drivers. (Vehicle must have raced earlier in day)
A 2 or 4 Point Roll Cage is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED but optional for cars. All trucks/ SUVs must have a minimum 2-point roll cage. Cage must be bolted or welded to the floor and ceiling of vehicle.
Drivers door reinforcement HIGHLY RECOMMENDED but not required.
Glass may be left in but must be secure. Mini vans MUST have all glass other than windshield removed before entering event grounds.
Must have working seat belts with shoulder strap, Header Allowed. Helmets and eye protection are mandatory.
Vehicles MUST have working breaks.

Sunroofs must be covered with with sheet metal and properly secured.
Vehicles MUST enter pits through the North East gate of event grounds - follow signs. Inspection and registration will take place upon entry. Inspection will be open 1-3 pm on day of event. Drivers meeting approx. 45 minutes prior to race. Racing starts at 4pm.
Air bags removed.
No driver under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be allowed to participate.
No Weight may be added to the vehicle. No trailer hitches allowed.
All race trucks must have front and rear bumper within 24" off the ground.
Drivers under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian present at registration.
No one under the age of 16 allowed in the pit area.
In the event of an accident all drivers and pit persons are to move away from the scene to allow EMS workers to do their jobs.
Vehicles with rear wheel

Bush Car Race...
Continued on back

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

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

Summer League Schedule

Week 5 Standings

	W	L
Purple	8	2
Red	7	3
Green	7	3
Gray	4	6
Orange	3	7
Blue	1	9

Week 5 Results
Red 69
Carson Rubischko 18
David Jones 15
Brandon Bakken 13
Tyler Stinar 11
Blue 62
Blake Rychlock 33
Peyton Verbout 14
Jake Olson 12

Gray 50
Matt Busse 13
Purple 73
Jordan Coan 36
Sheldin Sundberg 13
Jamison St. Germain 11

Green 70
Matt Hanson 18
Gerald Melin 17
Steven Hanson 10
Brady Olson 10
Orange 44
Lewis Jones 31

Purple 75
Jordan Coan 39
Raymond Moe 14
Ethan Schulz 13
Blue 52
Hogan Lundeen 17
Peyton Verbout 12

Red 77
Brandon Bakken 18
Spencer Coan 13
David Jones 12
Carson Rubischko 11
Orange 51
Lewis Jones 33

Green 67
Brady Olson 20
Gerald Melin 19
Steven Hanson 15
Gray 62
Matt Busse 14
Nick Groven 13
Andrew Loken 11



The Importance Of Agriculture
Agriculture is the backbone of America. It's our largest industry, employing one out of every six people. Each farmer and rancher in the U.S. produces enough food and fiber to sustain many families.
We're proud to be involved in financing agriculture.
If we can be of help to you, come in and visit with us.
ASB AMERICAN STATE BANK
www.asbgrygla.com
201 Vance Ave. S.
Erskine, MN 56535
PO Box 78
Grygla, MN 56727-0078
(218) 294-6111 • TOLL FREE (877) 814-9937
FAX (218) 294-6239
(218) 687-2865 • TOLL FREE (800) 434-7721
FAX (218) 687-2328
FDIC
In two locations
LENDER
A FULL SERVICE BANK

GOODRIDGE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
6TH ANNUAL Freedom FEST
JULY 30TH
EVENT LINE-UP
7:30 am Freedom Run SK Registration at the Football Field
8:30 am SK Runners Meeting & National Anthem
8:45 am SK Runners Take Off at the Football Field
10:00 am Fun Run Starting at the Football Field
11:00 am Parade
12:00 pm Eric Mickelson / Singer & Emcee
12:30 pm Freedom Run Awards & Presentation
12:45-2:00 pm Cathy Erickson Band
2:00-3:00 pm 'National Anthem' - Jordynn Johnsrud
Cathy Erickson Band
Red, White & Blue Quilters Presentation to Veterans
Cathy Erickson Band
Gun Salute
Taps
3:00-6:00 pm Downtown Horns
5:00-5:30 pm Cornhole Tournament Registration
5:30 pm Cornhole Tournament
6:00-8:30 pm Tami Lee & The Northern Lights
7:45 pm Live Auction & Raffle Drawing
FOOD & DRINKS
• Smoke on Wheels BBQ
• Wahoo Waffles
• Bjerk's Concessions
• Snowie of Warren
• Goodridge Muni Beer Garden
FEATURED ARTISTS
★ *Al Belleveau* Iron Artist
★ *Trevour* Caricaturist
★ *Kathy Bauek* Face Painter
★ *Shannon Westrum* Woven Baskets, Whisk Brooms, Jewelry
★ *Janet Johnson* Pottery
THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS
• American Legion Post 117
• Baker Street Sales
• Electronics Plus of TRF
• Farmers Grain, LLC
• Farmers Union Oil, TRF
• Garden Valley Technologies
• Goodridge Area Development
• Goodridge Co-op Creamery
• Goodridge Lion Tamers
• Goodridge Muni
• Hunts Creek Ag & Trucking, LLC
• Hruby Road Service
• Jay Swanson Agency
• Jim Wilson Farms
• Nelson & Nelson Construction
• Prairie Planting Plus
• Red Lake Electric
• Salo Signs & More
KIDS ACTIVITIES
• Human Gyroscope
• Bounce House
• Quad Bungee
• Inflatable Archery
• Kids Metal Welding
• Balloon Twister
• Caricaturist
• Face Painter
★ Minnesota Crafters
★ Farmers Market
★ Artists
★ Vendors
G19C

School Board Mins... Continued from front

Jacki Lunsetter, Full-time Paraprofessional. Passed 5-0. Motion by Tera Nordby, second by Gretchen Smeby to remove Galen Clow and Karina Tinnies and approve Jamie Lunsetter and Jeremy Rychlock as authorized signers for school safety deposit box at American State Bank. Passed 5-0.
Motion by Jeremy Rychlock, second by James Verbout to accept the following donations: Sheldon Ruud Scholarship \$350.00; Rain Care Company Scholarship \$400.00; American State Bank Scholarship \$500.00; Barb Picolet Scholarship \$100.00; Farmers Union Oil Scholarship \$1,000.00; Todd Stanley Scholarship \$250.00; Machinewell Scholarship \$1,200.00; WELCA Scholarship \$200.00; Grygla Lions Scholarship \$500.00; Fourtown/Grygla Sportsmans Club Scholarship \$1,000.00. **Trust-ee Reports:** None
Meeting Closed for Superintendent Contract Discussion. Meeting Adjourned at 7:45.

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.

Footcare clinic

Grygla Community Center: Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m

U.S.P.S. No. 002330
Grygla Eagle
Serving Eastern Marshall & Northern Beltrami Counties
PUBLISHER - RICHARD D. RICHARDS
Karl 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.

Fall athletic meeting

Charger Athletics is gearing up for fall sports! Join us at the Fall Athletic Meeting!
Who: All fall sports participants and their parent/guardian.
Where: Grygla School
When: Monday, August 8th.
Registration from 5:00-6:00 pm followed by a parent/coaches/athlete meeting from 6:00-6:30 pm.
Prior to the meeting, be sure to fill out the online form which can be found under the meeting invite on Facebook.
Want to get a head start on the required paperwork? Complete a medical physical if you are a new athlete, or it has been more than 3 years since your last physical. To obtain the form, follow the link below, print the Physical Exam Form and bring it with you to your appointment.
Follow this link: <https://www.goodridge.k12.mn.us/page/important-forms> or this link: <https://www.grygla.k12>

Merchant Meeting

There will be a Grygla Merchant Meeting on Tuesday, August 2nd, at the Grain Bin Café at 12pm. Old business will be discussed, including getting the 2022 Merchant Dues to Robbie Anderson, Treasurer. New

mn.us/page/forms-schedules print the MSHSL Eligibility Statement, and complete the last 3 pages.
Fill out the Participation/Deposit fees form. Sports deposits are only required for 1st time athletes. Book deposits are only required for 4th graders or new students in grades 5-12 (Goodridge). Book/Chrome book deposits are required for grade 7 in Grygla.
Have your check/cash ready to go. Checks can be made payable to GHS.
Bring your completed forms (last 3 pages of the MSHSL Eligibility statement, Medical Physical Form if needed, Participation fees form and form of payment) to the fall sports meeting. Or mail it/drop it off at the Goodridge or Grygla school office. Email it to Cynthia in Goodridge at cynthia.jensen@goodridgeisd561.org or Shaunna in Grygla at sholson@grygla.k12.mn.us
business includes discussion on the Merchant's Tailgate party this fall at a Charger's home football game, along with business sponsored chairs that are on order for the players bench in the Grygla School gym.

• DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that freshwater jellyfish do occur right here in Minnesota!? The MN DNR Facebook page shared the following information: Freshwater jellyfish can be found in some Minnesota lakes during late summer. The free-floating form of this quarter-sized crea-

ture's life cycle, called a medusa, captures zooplankton in its tentacles similarly to its ocean cousin. Unlike ocean jellyfish, these little jellies can't sting you. No need to be alarmed when they show up in large numbers!

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.

Grygla Open this Friday

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.

A farewell tribute: throwback to this special feature on the BBBB from 2017

In honor of The Back Behind the Barn Boys, who took the stage one last time in Warren last Thursday, the Grygla Eagle is running this special tribute in their honor. We hope you enjoyed page 3 & 4 of last week's Eagle that featured the story from 2017 written by Eagle Intern, Kendra Jensen, who spent a lot of time interviewing the band members for this special feature that summer. Part 2 is shared this week for our new & old readers to enjoy.

Whale Tales

Stories from the infamous tour bus, nicknamed "The Whale"!

Mike Sistad: One thing I remember, because it scared me to death, was driving one night on extremely icy roads. A few of us would take turns and I started out that night. I believe it was on Hwy 2 going west from maybe Fosston. It was going OK because a sand truck had obviously gone ahead of us so at least one lane was not too bad going slow. Unfortunately, going around a curve in the road, it became obvious that the sand truck had turned around at a median crossing so we were on bare ice probably a half inch thick. Well, the bus started sliding sideways and was probably at a 45 degree angle to the road before I could gradually pull it back straight and move to the shoulder to get some traction to stop. I can't remember which Barn Boys were still awake with me when this happened but I'm sure it scared the life out of all of us. We stayed on the side of the road that night for a few hours waiting for a sand truck to come by so we could continue. When we walked outside we couldn't even stand on the road it was so slippery. I'm just glad it ended well with no one hurt, including the whale.

Randy Larson: There are many whale stories and it's hard to pick out just one. I remember one time we were playing warm up for Marshall Tucker. Marshall Tucker was a little hard to get along with and was arguing with the people that hired both our bands

in front of the crowd about something. I do not remember all the details. The Barn Boys did put on a pretty good show, then it was time for Marshall Tucker. I guess they played pretty good but the pre-show argument seemed to stick in the minds of a full grandstand. I had "The Whale" parked facing the crowd directly behind the stage so if you sat watching the show you could see the front of the bus during the Marshall Tucker show. So I started flashing the oval marquee light that read "Barn Boys" on it. The crowd liked us and soon caught on that I was flashing the light at them. It was great! Every time I flashed the marquee the crowd cheered. I just sat in the driver's seat flashing that light and listening to the crowd cheer and then just laugh.

Terry: One year at Fan Fair in Nashville, we got invited to the Warner Brothers Records Company Picnic, and we found ourselves visiting all sorts of big time stars. I introduced myself to the fabulous Irish singer, Maura O'Connell. We visited for a bit when she said, "Come over here, I have some friends I'd like you to meet." Her "friends" were Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, John Cowan, Mark O'Connor, Pat Flynn--the New Grass Revival plus! What did they want to talk to me about? "Does that old bus belong to you guys? Love it! We used to have a bus like that!" What did we have in common with some of the greatest musicians in the world? The Whale!



Mike Sistad in action, opening for Marshall Tucker in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. Also pictured is Pat Erickson and Gene Lunsetter.

Of this moment, Randy Larson says, "I had "The Whale" parked facing the crowd directly behind the stage so if you sat watching the show you could see the front of the bus during the Marshall Tucker show. I started flashing the oval marquee light that read "Barn Boys" on it. The crowd liked us and soon caught on that I was flashing the light at them. It was great! Every time I flashed the marquee during their show the crowd cheered!"



The Whale had a little roadside trouble! Rick Guptill says, "The way I remember this happening is we were all playing cards in the back just as we always did. After a couple of cocktails, somebody said it was time for a bathroom break so the bus pulled over on the side of the road. And down we went. Mind you, it was one of the hottest days I can ever remember in North Dakota...about 102 degrees. We did our thing and were going to leave and the poor Whale wouldn't move, it just sunk! It took 2 wreckers and a state truck to pull us out. After it was all over, we looked at the damage to the road and couldn't believe how deep the ruts were in the road!"

To hear more great memories of the infamous tour bus, read "Whale Tales" above!



Barn Boys, Pat Erickson and Randy McMillin, were unable to be a part of this special interview but we want to give them special recognition anyway!



Pat Erickson, Mike Sistad, Mike Semanko, Gene Lunsetter, Terry Ruud, Tom Bernstein, Randy Larson

Back Behind the Barn Boys: Part 2, The Later Years

Interview by Kendra Jensen, Eagle Intern

Back Behind the Barn Boys: Part 1, The Early Years ran in the Grygla Eagle on July 19th. It seemed everyone enjoyed reading about the early years of Gatzke's very own Barn Boys. They are a hit near and far and will be taking the stage at the Grygla Centennial in a couple of weeks. Of the band, Mike Sistad says, "I wouldn't have had the opportunities that have come my way without my time with The Barn Boys. They will always be a part of my musical family!"

This band is made up of some really wonderful friends; I am happy to bring you this second half in our 2-part special. ENJOY.

How long did you tour, and what made you decide to stop touring?

Terry Ruud: We toured from '82 to '90. We had to tour constantly, to survive financially, and it got to be too much for too long.

Mike Sistad: I left the BB's in '88. My plans were to finish my college degree in Nashville with the hopes of doing something on the music business side of things and be home more with my young daughters.

Randy Larson: I was done the fall of '87.

Dan Schulz: I toured from '80-'84.

What was the reason behind The Barn Boys splitting up?

Terry: There were a few reasons; Mike Sistad went to Belmont College, in Nashville, so we lost his multi-instrumentation; Randy Larson decided to leave, so we not only lost a fourth of our life-long harmonies, but we also went through a number of bass players trying to replace him (and teaching a life's worth of repertoire to a number of newbies is not exactly fun); Tom got Grave's disease; and Gene was missing out on spending time with his growing family. We had handled all the changes fairly well.

When Sistad left we changed musical direction slightly and focused more on vocals, but working in the many bass players tired and frustrated us, so when Gene decided it was time to spend more family time, we all understood that recreating our vocal blend, with two original components of that missing, would be next to impossible. Even though we felt we could have continued as a very different band, we didn't want to, and we wanted the band to be remembered as we were. The real reason we split up was that we didn't feel the cohesiveness that we felt as a group of friends, growing up, and THAT was always our strongest, most unique, characteristic.

Tom Bernstein: We were just replacing too many members. It's a hard life, living on the road. It's even harder when you have to keep replacing members.

Dan: There were just too many changes.

If you could go back, do you wish things would have ended differently?

Terry: We quit in August of 1990, and we had a contract to play the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas in October of that year. Of course things COULD have ended differently, but they didn't, and you know the old saying, "Wish you one hand..."

Randy Larson: No, not re-

ally. For myself, I am content. But I was hoping the band would get that final break and make it big.

Dan: No, everything happened just the way it was supposed to. We were all friends when we started, we were all friends when we ended, and we are all friends still to this day.

What do you think could have come of The Barn Boys, if you would have continued your music career?

Terry: I always pictured the band as a lifelong project and career, and that someday we would amass music and experiences enough that we would be like the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, or like our other heroes (but not as well known), the Montana Band.

Dan: I always pictured us being like The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, too.

Was it a mutual decision between all members to take a break as The Barn Boys?

Terry: Yes. Gene came to me and told me he had decided to leave the band. We cried. We called a band meeting, and it was very painful and purposeful. We knew what we had to do, and that's what we did.

Tom: Absolutely, there were no hard feelings.

Now days, how much of your time is spent playing music?

Terry Ruud: Not enough.

Randy Larson: I play in Eagle Creek and practice around home when I can.

Tom: I don't do a lot anymore, I sing whenever The Barn Boys do.

Dan: I like to play here and there. I fill in as drummer for other bands sometimes.

How do you balance playing music with other obligations?

Terry: Everything else is higher priority; music is pure fun.

Randy Larson: Music is not an obligation in my mind, it's a gift.

After The Barn Boys, did any of you try to pursue music individually as a career?

Terry Ruud: I moved to Nashville, got a couple songs recorded by other aspiring artists, played the Sunday Night Showcase a couple times at the Bluebird Cafe, played guitar in some bands, including some at Tootsie's and other bars on Lower Broadway. It never felt quite right. I have never thought of myself as a solo artist, and my entire experience had been in a big band, and that band happened to be a gang of my best friends. I never felt as comfortable or confident in any other musical situation.

Mike Sistad: After the BB's, I moved to Nashville in '88 to finish my degree at Belmont University. They have a music business degree and my hope was to do something on the business side of music and not have to be gone as much with my young daughters, Amie & Amber. I played a little bit when I first got to town but did not move to Nashville to do that. I was fortunate to get my foot in the door on the business side and work with a lot of incredibly talented folks.

I interned with a wonderful musician/producer from Muscle Shoals named Barry Beckett. My first day with Barry we were in the studio and he was recording Bob Seger. My first official music business job was

with Arista Records Nashville from '91 to '00 in the A&R department working with artists, songwriters & publishers. Before I left Arista, Connie Bradley from ASCAP had talked to me about coming to work at the company (they collect performance royalties for songwriters & publishers). After being out for most of the year on tour with Phil Vassar, Connie offered me a position at ASCAP working with songwriters & publishers. Of course, a large number of the songwriters are also artists. I've been at ASCAP since 2001 as Sr. Creative Director and love getting to work with the folks that are writing, singing and playing songs.

Randy Larson: Not so much a career, but I have played in area bands Imagine, Saddle Tramp, and Eagle Creek.

What are the musical projects you have been involved in individually?

Terry Ruud: I did a solo album, played in Twin Cities-based bands Buffalo Alice and The Fantastic Convertibles, and have had an eclectic acoustic band, The Cat Sank Trio, around Fargo/Moorhead for the last fifteen years.

Mike Sistad: I toured with songwriter/artist Phil Vassar's band for about a year playing fiddle and acoustic guitar. Phil was one of the artist's I helped get signed to Arista. I played with him at the Grand Ole Opry a couple times when it was still televised (Mom & Dad got to see me!) and also opened a lot of Kenny Chesney shows with Phil, including the Houston Rodeo, which was crazy! Most of the industry folks in Nashville had never seen me play and didn't even know I played so it was a good feeling to have so many Nashville friends get to know that part of me, too. It was great fun touring with Phil, but I was still ready to get off the bus and be home more.

Tom Bernstein: I ran sound for Saddle Tramp for 4 years. That was fun, I got to see another side of music.

Do you have children? If so, are they musical?

Terry: Yes, a daughter, Maggie, and she would rather sing than breathe.

Mike Sistad: Yes, 2 daughters, Amie & Amber. They both played in marching band in high school and Amie marched with the Vanderbilt University band a few years during college. Amie graduated from Belmont University and Amber graduated from MTSU - Middle Tennessee State University.

Randy Larson: Yes, 3 kids. My oldest son Geoff is in Eagle Creek so I get to play on stage with him, which is fun. He plays guitar and some mandolin and is a good singer. My daughter Justyne is good to sing and we sometimes do music things together. My youngest, Dayle, is a very good drummer and guitar player. We all jam together at times.

Tom: I have two sons, Duncan and Logan. They both have great voices.

Dan: I have three kids. My daughter Nicole plays guitar and piano. She sings at a lot of weddings and actually moved to Nashville for a year. My son Tyler plays drums and my other daughter, Miranda, sang a lot in high school.

Gene Lunsetter: Yes, my kids are very musically tal-

ented.

What do your kids think about "The Back Behind The Barn Boys"?

Terry Ruud: Cool.

Mike Sistad: Cool! They love the BB's! When Terry lived in Nashville he would sometimes babysit them many years ago!

Gene Lunsetter: I "think" they are proud of Dad. They have enjoyed all the Barn Boy reunion shows and had no objections to singing and playing with us, which you just may hear at the centennial.

Dan Schulz: They think it's pretty cool their dad played on the Grand Ole Opry stage.

Do any of you teach music? If so, where and for how long?

Terry: I taught songwriting at Trollwood Performing Arts School in Fargo for 4 years.

Randy Larson: I like to mentor young bands or musicians once in a while.

Gene Lunsetter: "Music Teacher" is my official title, but I think we have all been music teachers to our children and to family and friends along the way. I have been fortunate to teach 9 Barn Boy kids (Hudson is the last one) in my 19 years at Grygla School (25 overall). I also taught 12 years of private guitar at NCTC in Thief River Falls, along with several years teaching lessons at Kezar Music. I must give co-teaching credits to Mrs. Lunsetter regarding our own kids' music education as she was the one who got them to music lessons when I couldn't.

On your reunion tour, what was that like playing together again after all those years?

Terry: Our friend and former booking agent, John Dagen, came up with the idea for a reunion tour "Ten Years Together, Ten Years Apart" around the upper Midwest, opening some shows, playing some of our old haunts. It was a blast! We laughed a lot!

Mike Sistad: I love any excuse to get to laugh with my band friends!

Randy Larson: I like getting back together with child friends and just laugh and laugh. Oh yeah, and sometimes the music is fun, too.

Tom: It made us feel old; we were like a van full of zombies!

There's a lot of talent up in this Gatzke/ Grygla area. What do you think, is the best advice you could give to kids who want to pursue music?

Terry: See how far you dreams will go! And Tammy Wynette told us, "You don't need Nashville; make Nashville need you."

Mike: First thing, hopefully you do it because you love it. Second, if you love it, then work really hard to get good at it and surround yourself with people that challenge you. Talent without putting in the time and work is not enough. Dream BIG! I wouldn't have had the opportunities that have come my way without my time with The Barn Boys. They will always be a part of my musical family!

Gene: I know the talent is here...I've taught so many. Make music a part of your life in some capacity. You won't regret it.

Tom: Enjoy what you're doing, because not everyone gets

Barn Boys... Continued on page 4

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

A farewell tribute to the Barn Boys

...continued from page 3

to do it. Also, take it seriously, but not too seriously.
Dan: Follow your dreams. Don't be shy or scared and take every opportunity you get!
Last but not least, how excited are you to be playing the Grygla Centennial?!
Terry: It's going to be great fun to play in our hometown when so many of our schoolmates and other former locals will be back for the big celebration.
Mike: It will be fun to play, but I always love getting to laugh with my family and friends that I don't get to see enough! My brother Mark thought we should do an early 60th Wedding Anniversary (it's in Dec.) thing for our parents at the farm on the Friday afternoon since a lot of folks will

be around for the weekend so that will be a fun way to start the celebration weekend. Both my daughters and their families will be visiting, too.
Randy Larson: Yeah, really pumped! Thanks to Gavin Nordby for asking us to play!
Gene: Grygla opened their arms to me 19 years ago to teach in their school district. I like to think I've been good to them but I certainly know they've been great to me. Playing at the Centennial will be pretty awesome!
Tom: It's going to be a great time.
Dan: It's always fun seeing family and friends!
This interview concludes our 2-part special on The Back Behind the Barn Boys. What fun it was to hear about the early and later years and all of their experiences. I want to thank the members

that were able to visit with me and share some of their memories. Of course, there were a few members missing from the interviews due to other obligations, but we want to give them a special shout-out, anyway! To Pat Erickson, Mike Semanko and Randy McMillin! 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 Hoiberg (Fargo), Rick Guptill (Fargo), Dan Breslin (Fargo), and Bob Bussiere (Nashville).
Make sure to attend the Grygla Centennial where the Barn Boys will take the stage under the big tent on Saturday, August 26th, from 5-7pm. Hearing the band back together again is sure to please hometown friends, family and fans.

Bush Car Race... Continued from page 2

drive MUST have mud flaps that extend to the ground.
Vehicles MUST have standard DOT approved tires.
Slogans, advertising, and printing may be placed on vehicles. The vehicle number MUST be printed on both sides of the vehicle and MUST have a sign on the roof. NO profanity allowed on the vehicle. (This is a family friendly event).
Vehicles MUST be removed within 24 hours following the conclusion of the event or it becomes property of the Grygla Bush Race and Demo Committee.
Trophies for 1st-3rd each class + Payout- to be determined. Entry fee \$25 per vehicle & driver. Pit passes are \$20.
For questions contact Bill Timm 218-452-1503 or Ryan Petersburg 320-815-1996.



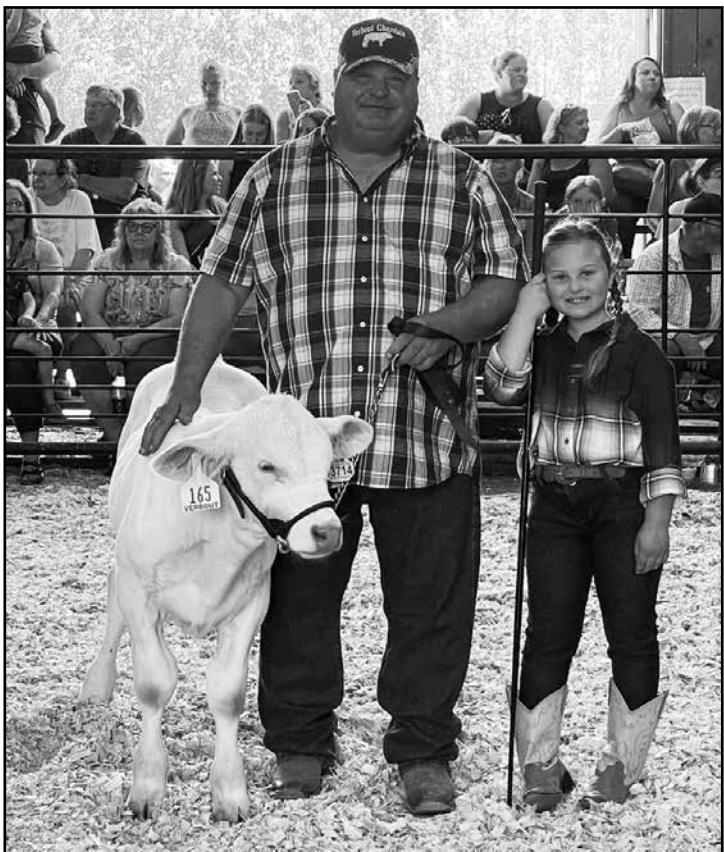
Grygla Go-Getters 4H Club at the Roseau County Fair



Well, he isn't a member of the Grygla Go-Getter's 4H Club, but he did decide to enter some tasty treats into an exhibit at the Roseau County Fair last week! Gerald Langness, of Grygla, is known for his lefse and krumkake, both of which earned him a couple of ribbons! Grand Champion on the krumkake and Reserve Champion on the lefse.
Photo courtesy of Gerald Langness



Katelyn Larson - Grand Champion Senior Showmanship. *Photo courtesy of Katie Brobst*



Presley Anderson showing Annabelle with her Grandpa John. As a Cloverbud, you need to have an adult showing with you. *Photo courtesy of Katie Brobst*



Gus Jones selling his Beef Steer in the Market Sale. Gus was also named Grand Champion Junior Division Showmanship. *Photo courtesy of Katie Brobst*



Presley Anderson is a Cloverbud with the Go-Getters so can only get a green participation award right now at the fair. She took her Impatient flower for "Indoor Gardening" and a display on how she fed and raised her bottle kitten named Nugget. *Photos courtesy of Ruth Anderson*



Left: Josie Saurdiff got Reserve Champion on her welcome board. Right: Cloverbud, Scarlett Sundberg, entered a horse string art project. *Photos courtesy of Ruth Anderson*



Left: Kamdyn Brobst sold his Steer to the Grygla Merchants at the Market Sale. Right: His sister, Lakylie, showed the same Steer (Marv) for Senior Showmanship. *Photos courtesy of Katie Brobst*



The Grygla Go-Getters 4H Club (youth members and their parents) all worked in the 4H stand last Thursday night at the Roseau County Fair. *Photo courtesy of Colette Brobst*