



				
Today Partly Cloudy H 8 L 2	Thurs Cloudy H 33 L 31	Fri Cloudy H 44 L 19	Sat Cloudy H 34 L 33	Sun Scatt. Tstorms H 44 L 29

In this issue: From Minnesota to Milan - Gabby Caldwell walks the runway during Milan's Fashion Week in Italy.

LYO students serve almost 100 guests



Grace Lutheran Church held their LYO Valentine supper, which takes place every other year at the church in town. The LYO students served almost 100 guests in attendance, working hard to prep and serve the meal, and decorate the dining hall. The menu consisted of stuffed chicken breasts smothered in a garlic mushroom sauce, creamy mashed potatoes, green beans, fresh garden salad, dinner rolls, and delicious assorted desserts. Special vocal music was provided. Adult helpers included Lynn & Ruth Anderson, Wayne & Hazel Thomas, Amber Sundberg, Tausha Severts and Gretchen Smeby.

Pictured on the right: Allie Sundberg, Addison Severts and Emma Sundberg prepare the chicken last Sunday afternoon in preparation for the big supper. Landon Nordby and Cooper Aune put the finishing touches on the tables!

Photos by Grygla Eagle Newspaper

Mark your calendars: upcoming community meals

Grygla Merchant's Breakfast

The Grygla Merchant's will be serving their free customer appreciation breakfast on Saturday, March 16th, from 7-10am at the Grygla Community Center. Everyone is invited to go fill up on pancakes and sausage!

Spring Opener

The Goodridge Lion Tamers "Spring Opener" is set for Saturday, March 23rd, at the Lion's Hall. Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres from 7pm-12am. Tickets are being sold for \$40. Ticket holder must be 21 or over. Need not be present to win. (Wear pink for a bonus chance to win!)

Firemen's Supper

GOOD GRAVY! Literally. Those Grygla Firemen sure know how to do it. Along with the gravy, you'll get mashed potatoes, roast beef, ham, coleslaw and corn. The annual supper will be on Sunday, April 7, from 4-7pm at the Grygla Community Center. This year's cost has not been set yet – watch for more information to come.

Grygla Lion's Smelt Fry

ALL YOU CAN EAT! The Grygla Lion's Smelt Fry is set for Saturday, April 13, from 4-8pm at the Grygla Community Center. In addition to smelt, your meal ticket also gets you baked potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw and dinner rolls.

Goodridge Lion's Smelt Fry

The 42nd Annual Goodridge Lion's Consignment Auction Sale and Smelt Fry will be held on Saturday, April 20th. More details to come.

Grygla Lion's Club continues to serve



The Grygla Lion's Club held their annual Potato Dumpling Supper on Thursday, February 22nd, at the Grygla Community Center. Area clubs were invited with guests from Warroad, Greenbush-Badger, Wannaska, Red Lake Falls, Goodridge and Thief River Falls clubs attending. Approximately 50 people were served and enjoyed visiting with different club members. Following the meal, the Grygla Lion's Club held their monthly meeting. *Photos courtesy of Julie Sparby*



From L-R: Lion's Club Zone Chair, Curtis Zimdars along with his wife Marilyn from the Greenbush Badger Lions Club. Alan Swanson from the Goodridge Lion's Club and Shriner's Club spoke to the group about the upcoming Shrine Circus and requesting clubs to support it by buying tickets for the area children to attend. Allen Bertilrud of the Red Lake Falls Lion's Club is the District LCIF Coordinator, and Team Sheehan Foundation leader. He spoke to the Lion's about supporting the foundation and also the LCIF. Mike Hagen of the Wannaska Lion's Club is the District Governor of Lions. He spoke about the area clubs being involved in their communities and complimented the Grygla Lion's Club for the annual Potato Dumpling Supper and the camaraderie of inviting different clubs to visit about what they are doing in their own community. He also mentioned the great fundraiser Goodridge Lion's Club held to raise the money for the new playground equipment. *Photos courtesy of Julie Sparby*

• CHURCH CALENDARS

GRYGLA LUTHERAN PARISH
Grace and Our Savior's, Grygla
Pastor Marilyn Grafstrom
Recorded services will play on Garden Valley channel 36 on Wednesdays 7pm and Sundays 9am & 7pm.
Wednesday, Feb. 28
11am Bible Study, 2:15pm Release Time, 3:30pm FFF Night, 6pm Grace Choir, 7pm Lent Worship
Thursday, Feb. 29
9am Grace Quilting, 7pm OS Lent Worship
Sunday, Mar 3
March Calendar N/A

GOODRIDGE AREA LUTHERAN PARISH, ELCA
Bethany, Ekelund, Faith
Wednesday, Feb 28
Release Time/Confirmation, 7pm Lent Service at Ekelund
Sunday, Mar 3
March Calendar N/A

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
St. Clement's - Grygla; St. Ann's - Goodridge
Fr. Bryan Kujawa
Sundays:
St. Clement's: 11:45am Worship
St. Ann's: 10am Worship

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 Merseeth
Wednesday, Feb 28
Wed. School 5-7pm, 6pm meal, 7pm Naz Vespers
Thursday, Feb 29
5pm Mt. Olive
Saturday, Mar 2
9am Mt. Olive
Sunday, Mar 3
Nazareth: 9:45am Worship w/ 8:45am SS
Oak Park: 10am SS, 11am Worship

Please send your March calendars and Lent/Easter schedules to:
grygla.eagle@gmail.com

Community Calendar

Wed | Feb 28
Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am; Grygla Library open 2-6pm

Thurs | Feb 29
GBB Play-In Game at UMC or NCTC - TBD

Fri | Mar 1
No School; Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am

Sat | Mar 2

Sun | Mar 3

Mon | Mar 4
Senior Meals at Grain Bin Café 11am

Tues | Mar 5
Northern Blast VB Practice in Goodridge 6pm

Garden Club Luncheon

Spring is in the air! At least that's what it feels like out there! The Grygla Garden Club is hosting their luncheon on Saturday, March 16th, at The Hound at 10:30am. A light lunch will be served (soup & sandwich) for \$15/person. During the luncheon, Grygla Garden Club members, Lisa Erickson and Joni Anderson, will be giving a presentation. Mark your calendars and bring friends!

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6th Annual Fun Run

The Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club will be hosting their 6th Annual Fun Run on Saturday, March 23rd, at 6pm at Fourtown. \$20/entry fee (includes meal). All proceeds will go towards new playground equipment at Grande Corner.

Game stops include: Goodridge Muni, The Hound, Gravel Pit/Grande Corner, TBD, TBD, and Fourtown.

Rules: Complete 5 stops (all 6 stops gets you an extra card), return to Fourtown by 6pm with game stop pictures, registration open until 6pm and includes meal, start at any location and time.

1st place prize of \$250, 2nd place prize of \$100, 3rd place prize of \$50.

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NOTICE OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION PRIMARY ELECTION

To the voters of Township of Benville. In the County of Beltrami, State of Minnesota.
Notice is Hereby Given, that a Presidential Primary Election will be held in the Election Precinct at: Benville Town Hall. 65510 Flintlock RD NW, Grygla, MN 56727 on Tuesday, the Fifth (5th) day of March 2024, at which the polls will be open from the hours of ten (10:00) AM to eight (8:00) PM.

42nd Annual Goodridge Lions Consignment Auction Sale & Smelt Fry

Saturday, April 20th
Contact Gary Kiesow 378-4480, Gerry Wayne 689-9468, Craig Race 290-4365
Items must be called in by April 1st to be on the auction poster.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed quotes will be received until 4:00 p.m. on March 8th, 2024 by the Marshall County Highway Engineer, in Warren, Minnesota, on behalf of the Marshall County Board of Commissioners for the rental of heavy equipment to be used for road and ditch repair work within Marshall County. Proposals shall be obtained from the Office of the County Highway Engineer, 447 S. Main, Warren, MN or from the Marshall County website, under Highway Department. All quotes must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Quote for Equipment Rental 2024" and addressed to: County Engineer 447 S. Main Warren, MN 56762. Marshall County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotes and to waive irregularities therein.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following coaching positions are open for the Goodridge/Grygla Chargers: Head Volleyball Coach, 2 Junior High Volleyball Coaching Positions, and 1 Junior High Football Coach. Please contact AD Tom Loberg @ 218-378-4134 or AD Jeff Mumm @ 218-294-6155 if you have any questions or to apply. Positions are open until filled.

Foster Family Recruitment

Beltrami County is collaborating with Leech Lake Child Welfare and North Homes Children & Family Services to recruit foster homes in the area. Two informational meetings will be offered on the Zoom platform to provide information to those who may be interested in serving in a number of capacities.

Any individual or family considering foster care licensure for emergency placements, respite, ongoing placements as well as permanency placements/transfer of custody/adoption are encouraged to attend.

The first session will be held Tuesday, March 5, 2024

at 12:00pm. A second session is being held Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 6:00pm. You only need to attend one session. The Zoom information is available below and on the Beltrami County website under public notices.

If you would like additional information, please contact: Beltrami County: 218-333-8317 or 218-333-8318. Zoom Information: Visit zoom.com and using the following meeting id and password:

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 12:00pm: Meeting ID: 778 1893 0048; Password: H3Da5U

Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 6:00pm: Meeting ID: 790 8006 5008; Password: J9nmnC

Elementary Basketball/ ECFE Fundraiser Night

The Grygla Elementary Basketball and ECFE Fundraiser Night will be held on Thursday, March 28th. The BBQ meal will be served from 5:30-7pm,

along with a silent auction taking place during that time. Elementary Basketball games will be played all evening.

NOTICE LEE TOWNSHIP

The Lee Township Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12th, at 6pm at the Grain Bin Cafe.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Steenerson Township that the Annual Town Meeting and Election of Officers will be held Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, at the Steenerson Town Hall 5:00 pm. Voters will Elect a Supervisor (3 yr. term) and Clerk (2 yr. term).

In case of inclement weather the meeting will be held the following Tuesday at the same time and place.

Thank you,
Darlyne Roen, Clerk

BIO Girls begins this week

BIO Girls is a 12-week program that builds self-worth in girls grades 2-6 through life-skills, curriculum, mentoring and non-competitive physical activity. BIO: Beautiful Inside and Out will return to the Goodridge School for its 5th year. It begins this Wednesday, February 28th, with all spots filled! BIO Girls is on a mission to empower girls to find their confidence, to stand up to peer pressure, to build healthy relationships and to be kind.

Co-Site Directors are Ashley Nerhus and Crystelle Philipp. Mentors this year are Khunsa Drangstveit, Nicole Hilgeman, Heidi Nelson, Jena Johnsrud, and Cindi Kilen. The Junior Mentor is Carter Lee Johnsrud.

U.S.P.S. No. 002330
Grygla Eagle

Serving Eastern Marshall & Northern Beltrami Counties
Richard D. Richards - PUBLISHER
Kari Sundberg - EDITOR
Phone 294-6220

—SUBSCRIPTION RATES—

\$35 per year in the trade area (Grygla, Gatzke, Goodridge & Wannaska addresses)
\$45 per year outside of the area

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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.



The Grygla Senior Citizen's Club has been raising funds to be donated to the Grygla Rescue Department. A total of \$633 was collected at the Grain Bin Café over the month of December. Pictured are members of the Senior Club, Rose Hanson, Bonnie Nelson and Thelma Thomas, presenting the check to Robbie Anderson, who accepted the donation on behalf of Grygla's Rescue team.
Photo courtesy of Carol Steuck

Elementary Intramurals

Grygla Elementary Intramurals wrap up this week for students in grades 4-6. The playoff games will be held this Friday from 1-3pm and are open for parents, grandparents, and community members

to come watch.

Friday, March 1 (Playoffs)
1pm G1: 1 seed vs. 4 seed;
1:30pm G2: 2 seed vs. 3 seed;
2pm 3rd place: G1 loser vs. G2 loser;
2:30pm 1st place: G1 winner vs. G2 winner



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Mail Ballots were mailed out on February 5th.

If you did not receive a ballot, please contact your local Election Official.

Your county election official:

- Can mail you a sample ballot for free upon request
- Maintains your voter registration record
- Election Management

Leanne Novacek (leanne.novacek@co.marshall.mn.us) or
Sue Peterson (sue.peterson@co.marshall.mn.us)
Phone: 218-745-4851
Website: www.co.marshall.mn.us
208 E Colvin Ave, Suite 11, Warren, MN 56762

Notice to Voters

Young Author’s Conference coming up for local students

Northwest Service Cooperative is hosting a Young Authors Conference on March 6th for area students in grades 5-8. This event will be held at Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls from 9am-2pm.

The Young Authors Conference is designed to encourage and inspire young writers, promoting student enthusiasm and competence in written communication. Through interaction with established authors, poets, playwrights, storytellers, illustrators, journalists and teachers of writing, students discover and explore their writing talents and potential. This year students will be able to attend 3 different sessions throughout the day, participate in a book fair and an autograph session with authors and illustrators.

The YAC has 415 students registered already from 23 area schools!

Below is the list of presenters, along with their sessions. The Young Author’s Conference includes three local presenters: Sapphire Brown, Stephanie Olson and Kari Sundberg.

Nashville Recording Artist Sapphire Brown has been in the music industry since she was young. She is passionate about the arts and loves helping others unlock their creativity. She recently released a new EP “Breakthrough” and it’s available on all your favorite music streaming platforms.

Stephanie Olson is currently the English teacher for grades 7-12 at Goodridge Public School. She earned her Writing MFA from Hamline University and has served on several literary editorial boards, including

Water-Stone Review and Red Bird Chapbooks. Her work has appeared in a handful of publications, most recently with Tiny Seed Journal. She lives the rural life with her family, dogs, and cat, and she hopes you try writing at least one thing down today.

Kari Sundberg is the editor/writer for the Grygla Eagle Newspaper and does freelance writing for various publications around the state. In addition to her full-time job, Kari is also a full-time student at the University of Minnesota Crookston where she will graduate this May with her Bachelor of Science in Communications and English, along with minors in Writing and Humanities. Her favorite type of writing includes lifestyle and creative writing pieces.

The agenda line-up for the

conference is as follows:

Unlock the Creative Strengths Within You – Sapphire Brown

Beyond the Blank Page – Stephanie Olson

How to Write a Stage Play – Kari Sundberg

Creating Your Own Wild Images – Susan Hawkinson

Writing a Movie Scene – Bly Pope

Digging for Diamonds (The Art of the Interview) – Roxanne B. Salonen

Choose Your Path – Deb Mercier

Keep Your Lights On and Write – Debbie Hoven

Digital Illustration – Jessica Lundeen

Flash Fiction or the Short, Short Story – William Durbin

You Are a Writer and Have a Story to Tell – Kent Nerburn

Word of the Week

...enhancing vocabularies

one Grygla Eagle at a time.

Aole

Adverb

No; not at all.

Ah-oh-ley

• SIMPLY DELICIOUS

By Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor

Crockpot Cheesesteak Potato Casserole

Easy and simply delicious. Brown and drain 1.5 lbs. ground beef. Sauté 3 bell peppers, one onion and one large scoop of minced garlic in the ground beef once it’s cooked. Season well with steak seasoning and add 2 tbsp. Worcester-

shire sauce. Add this mixture to the crockpot. Now add in a bag of Southern Style Hashbrowns with Onions and Peppers (frozen 28 oz. bag), 1 can cheddar cheese soup, 2 cups shredded provolone cheese, ½ cup sour cream. Mix everything together. Cook on high for 2 hours or low for 4 hours.



Strategic Farming: Let’s talk crops

Submitted by U of M Extension

Focused on what pays for soybean insect pests

For over 20 years, insecticides have been used to control soybean aphids (SBA) in Minnesota. “Keeping track of the available products has been something of a roller coaster ride,” says Dr. Bob Koch, University of Minnesota Extension soybean entomologist, “particularly as it pertains to chlorpyrifos.” Its tolerances were revoked in 2022; then in November, the order was vacated, allowing the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to conditionally register chlorpyrifos for 2024.

While chlorpyrifos is an effective tool, it’s also associated with health concerns. Koch warns against immediate, widespread use, but instead suggests using it in rotation with other effective insecticides.

Pyrethroid insecticides have also been used heavily to control SBA, resulting in an increase of performance failures. Lab assays with SBA have documented pyrethroid resistance, but they couldn’t necessarily predict product performance in the field. A comparison of insecticide field trials from 2005 to 2020 found that a pyrethroid effectively controlled SBA through 2014. However, control deteriorated rapidly after 2014, coinciding with the increase of lab-confirmed resistance.

As a result, Koch doesn’t recommend using a pyrethroid as the initial SBA control treatment. If aphids are resistant, not only would the insecticide be ineffective, it would kill the natural enemies that suppress SBA populations.

Can pyrethroid resistance be reversed? If aphids displayed a fitness cost when developing resistance, it might be possible for susceptible populations eventually to outnumber resistant ones if pyrethroid use ceased. Instead, the opposite occurred in Koch’s study. This suggests that even if pyrethroid inputs were reduced, it’s unlikely that populations could become susceptible again.

Managing insecticides to maintain efficacy is critical and cost-effective. In a regional study comparing seed treatments to scouting and using threshold-based recommendations, using the economic threshold (ET) of 250 aphids per plant provided a larger return on investment. Preventative applications are not only costly, they may affect beneficial insects and increase risk for insecticide resistance.

Soybean gall midge (SGM) is a newer pest in Minnesota found throughout much of the southwestern part of the state. The bright orange larvae feed under the outer layers of the stem tissue, causing dark le-

sions at the base of the plant. Damage can lead to plants breaking off, wilting and dying.

Nebraska entomologists have documented 100% yield losses on field edges and 17 to 31% losses in the field’s interior. Most Minnesota fields are nowhere near this level of infestation, but we need to watch for this pest.

Because the larvae feed within stem tissue and adult emergence occurs over an extended period, spraying insecticides is largely ineffective. Other integrated pest management tactics are needed for SGM.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has identified soybean lines or varieties which appear to have some resistance that may lead to SGM-resistant varieties. Furthermore, they found that hilling soybeans, which protects the stem from SGM, has shown positive results, but logistics of hilling are challenging.

Koch and colleagues identified ground beetles, those abundant beetles that scurry around on the soil, as a potential predator of SGM. They found the beetles did indeed eat SGM larvae both in the lab and field.

They also discovered a new parasitic wasp species associated with SGM. The female kills SGM by laying eggs directly into larvae. Koch estimates that 5 to 10% of the SGM population is killed by them.

Another new pest, the soybean tentiform leafminer, was detected in Minnesota in 2021. The heaviest infestations have occurred in western and northwestern Minnesota, but seem limited to field edges near trees. The pest status of this insect is being evaluated.

These tiny larvae move into the leaf and feed. As they grow, they hollow out the leaf leaving a blotch and eventually creating a tentiform mine. Insecticides with translaminar properties applied at the early larval stages provided good control, while there was almost no control at the late tentiform stage.

Like SGM, there may be some germplasm in current soybean varieties that could potentially provide resistance to this pest.

For more information from University of Minnesota Extension, visit extension.umn.edu/crop-production.

Thanks to the Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the Corn Research and Promotion Council for their generous support of this program.

For more news from U of M Extension, visit <https://www.extension.umn.edu/news> or contact Extension Communications at extdigest@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

• MN DNR NEWS

With deadline approaching, DNR urges fish house owners to remove shelters from the ice

If shelters aren’t removed by the deadline, they may be confiscated and removed, or destroyed by a conservation officer. Shelters may not be left at public accesses, and no trash or other materials – including wooden blocking materials – may be left on the ice.

The removal deadline for shelters in the northern one-

third of the state is 11:59 p.m. on March 18, though the DNR urges people to monitor ice conditions and consider removing shelters in advance of the deadline. Exceptions to the removal deadlines are Minnesota-Canada border waters (March 31), Minnesota-South Dakota and North Dakota border waters (March 5), Minnesota-Wisconsin border waters (March 1) and Minnesota-Iowa border waters (Feb. 20).



The Chargers fell short by just 10 points in their game against Red Lake Falls last week. Pictured above left: Brooklynn Kriel and Anna Sundberg defending Shandi Nelson for RLF. Right: Morgan Underdahl hits a 3-pointer. Photos by Grygla Eagle Newspaper

Charger basketball stats from last week

BBB on Tuesday, Feb. 20, in Goodridge vs. SH

Chargers 56, Sacred Heart 51

Stats - Blake Rychlock (8 pts, 11 reb), Sawyer Jacobson (3 reb, 2 steals), Spencer Coan (17 pts, 3 reb, 4 asst), Chase Manderud (4 pts, 6 reb), Carson Rubischko (13 pts, 6 reb, 5 asst), Lewis Jones (14 pts, 9 reb, 3 asst)

Coach’s comments: We expected a battle from the Eagles, and that’s exactly what occurred. It was a tight game throughout and neither team shot the ball as well as they usually do. The Eagles did a very good job of defending Lewis and Blake, so we needed other guys to step up. Spencer, Carson and Chase did just that. Spencer made 5 3s, Carson had a superb all around game, and

Chase had great effort and made a huge bucket with a couple of minutes left. It was a very important win for us as we finished 17-1 in the North Star Conference.

GBB on Thursday, Feb. 20, in Red Lake Falls

GG 47, RLF 57

Ashlyn Nelson- 10 points; Brooklynn Kriel- 7 points; Morgan Underdahl- 11 points; Chesney Salo- 12 points; Anna Sundberg- 7 points

Coach’s comments: It was a tale of two halves. We couldn’t get anything going in the first half. Second half we came out and played better. We beat them in the second half, but it was just a little to late.

GBB on Friday, Feb. 23, at Erskine

GG 44, WEM 29

Ashlyn Nelson- 4 points;

Brooklynn Kriel- 3 points; Morgan Underdahl- 14 points; Chesney Salo- 13 points; Mylee Sjulestad- 2 points; Anna Sundberg- 6 points; Caylen Rabbit- 2 points

Coach’s comments: We finished the season with a win. The girls played really good defense in the second half to hold them to 6 points in the half. We got some shots to fall and made some nice passes to get layups.

The Section 8A GBB Tournament Bracket has been released and our girls earned the 10th seed. They will travel to Argyle on Monday, February 26th, and play the 7th seeded SAC Storm at Argyle at 7pm.

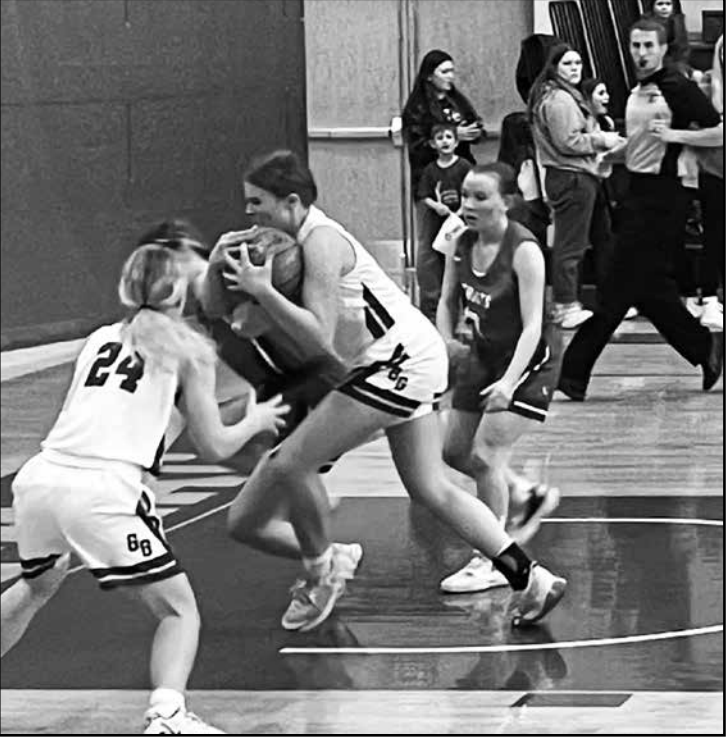
BBB on Friday, Feb. 23, in Goodridge vs. F/B

Fertile/Beltrami 83, Chargers 51

Stats - Blake Rychlock (12

pts, 4 reb), Spencer Coan (10 pts), Carson Rubischko (11 pts, 5 reb), Landon Nordby (2 pts), Lewis Jones (16 pts, 3 asst)

Coach’s comments: The red-hot Falcons came to Goodridge as a top 10 team in the state, and they showed why they deserve that ranking. We started the game well and hung with them for the first half, but their defensive pressure, depth and offensive execution wore us down in the second half and the Falcons cruised to a dominant victory. They are a very impressive team and will be tough for anyone to beat in the section tournament. We will look to finish our regular season on a high note on Senior Night in Grygla on Tuesday against Warroad.



The Charger girls headed to Erskine last Friday night and beat the Patriots in their last regular season game. Pictured above left: Mylee Sjulestad battles for the ball with Janessa Torgerson ready on standby! On the right, Coach Elroy Johnsrud watches at Caylen Rabbit scores her first-ever Varsity points! She had just received her varsity jersey earlier that week! Below: #21 Norah Philipp for the Chargers. Photos by Grygla Eagle Newspaper



Modeling from Minnesota to Milan, Italy

By Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor

From portfolios, to agencies, to signing, to casting, Gabby Caldwell explains everything that has taken her from Moundsville, Minnesota, straight to the runway in Milan, Italy.

What can only feel like a dream to some, Gabby has been living out during Milan's Fashion Week that took place in Italy February 20-26. Being part of "The Big Four" is something a lot of models strive for, but many never get to experience. "The Big Four" refers to the four biggest events in fashion around the world: Paris Fashion Week, Milan Fashion Week, New York Fashion Week, and London Fashion Week. Walking in one of these shows is a goal most models have when they get into the industry; for Gabby, well, that dream has become a reality.

Background
Gabby graduated from Irondale High School in 2022. She is the daughter of Alison (Stanley) Caldwell and the granddaughter of Ida Stanley, of Grygla. She attended Grygla School for a short time while in 3rd grade back in 2012/2013. During high school, Gabby was very involved with a variety of activities. She played varsity basketball, volleyball and track. She also participated in band and DECA. Gabby is currently attending the University of Minnesota and will graduate with her B.S. in Family Social Science/Pre-Law this coming May. When fashion week wraps up in Milan, Gabby will be coming back to Minnesota to focus on her studies but hopes to travel more in the future. Afterall, she is a professionally signed model with quite the photos to show for it. It's not a bad day when Vogue Italia is snapping your pictures...

Taking a chance
"I wasn't always into fashion, but since being a part of this industry, I have come to appreciate the creativity behind the clothes, make-up, hair, and concepts as a whole," she admits.

In fact, modeling kind of fell into Gabby's lap. It was something she was interested in for a while, but never acted on until last September of 2023 when she attended an Open Call. She ended up signing with a mother agency (thought of like a home base) where they promote their models to booking agencies around the world. Booking agencies get the modeling gigs, while the mother agency negotiates on behalf of the model, finding all of those bookings. Gabby's mother agency is Caryn Models in Minnesota; her agency in Milan is Boom Models.

Boom had gone on a scouting tour through the United States and had appointments at Caryns. That's when Gabby

was able to meet them in person and was ultimately chosen last December and given a year-round contract. That contract wasn't solely intended for Milan's Fashion Week, but she intentionally went abroad, hoping to be a part of it. That trip included a 7-week stay in Italy with her aunt, Gwen Stanley, accompanying her. "I was very nervous to fly to Italy. Staying there for seven weeks is a long time to be away from home, too," Gabby shared. She was thankful for the company of her aunt and said the two got to do everything tourist-related in Milan before castings picked up, so the time flew by.

Up until the last seven weeks, Gabby had only a few months of professional experience. That included modeling for businesses and brands, everyday ads, social media campaigns, as well as e-commerce shoots. She was also featured in ELLAS Magazine Dragged edition last October 2023.

Milan
Gabby has been in Italy since January 16th. She was able to walk in two shows. The first one was for Accademia Del Lusso; the second show had not happened as of press-time, so Gabby was unable to confirm the designer at the time. Due to the exclusivity of most of Milan's fashion shows, her aunt Gwen was not able to watch in person as most of the "invite only" guest lists are made up of designers, buyers and production companies, celebrities, photographers and media. However, there was a live stream available and a link on YouTube, so Gabby's family could watch the shows she modeled for.

Getting to Milan required being signed with an agency, but that didn't guarantee a gig during fashion week. "There are many castings with hundreds of girls waiting in line to compete for only a few slots," Gabby explained. "After castings, there are fittings, and then confirmations. You may not know if you are in a show until hours before. With that being said, you could also be completely ready for a show and get pulled from the line-up right as you are about to walk out. It's very last-minute and chaotic, but that's part of the fun of fashion week," she said.

With this being Gabby's first season in Milan, she said that most models are cast and walk 0-2 shows just to get the experience. The following seasons, models can be pre-booked, which is why many of the spots for these shows are already chosen and filled.

Getting to the runway
Each show has a concept and a very specific look the designer is going for. Most bookings have less to do with the value of the model, but more if they fit the concept. "Brands will look through all the mod-

els in a show pack presented by the agencies and choose who they think fits the look and who they want to see in person. It's very cut-throat if you don't fit the image, but that's just the way they create beautiful, cohesive shows," she says, confidently.

Gabby gave great insider info on how the show works. She said each show is about 30-minutes long, assuming it's not a huge collection. There are usually about 50-100 looks and about 30 models, 25 of which are pre-booked. Some models wear multiple looks, some wear only one, it's all up to the designers.

The models get no say in what they wear, and everything is pulled together at the very last minute. Gabby said she wasn't ever dressed in her full looks until minutes before walking out. As for the hair and make-up prep, the artists use techniques that allow them to do full faces in only ten minutes. Each model has a stylist that may have been the designer for that specific look. Gabby noted that the stylists are so sweet and make sure the models have everything they need.

Models are also given no training when it comes to hitting the runway; they are expected to already have their walk perfected.

Lights, cameras, action
As mentioned, Gabby was able to score two shows for her first season, which is really great. "I was shocked," she described. Ten minutes before her first show, she was told she would be opening. "I was so nervous getting ready because I wasn't sure who would be watching me walk. Then I found out I'd be opening.

Opening when I had never walked before was quite an experience, but after modeling the first look, I was on a high and super excited for my next look."

Making connections
While in Milan, Gabby has been able to meet so many fellow models from all over the world. Not only has she also gotten some great photos to build her portfolio, she's also gotten the chance to show her face to many different casting directors. With this, she hopes they recognize her face and name in future seasons.

With checking her first season in Milan off the list, Gabby is looking towards the future, which involves hopefully landing a few more shows this coming fall fashion week. Her future goals include getting signed with agencies in London, Paris, New York, Chicago, and Greece.

From Minnesota to Milan, and no stopping there...Gabby is going places and making a name for herself. Here's to more big runways and bookings coming her way.



Gabby Caldwell is the daughter of Alison (Stanley) Caldwell and the granddaughter of Ida Stanley, of Grygla. Gabby's modeling career is taking off abroad as she walks the runway in Milan, Italy, during Milan's Fashion Week. Pictured above is Gabby modeling a look that was part of a collection created by Accademia Del Lusso and LABA Douala in collaboration with Afro Fashion Association.

Born from a project about Denim Upcycling, the capsule collection 'From Trash to Flash' is the result of a work of exchange and sharing between different cultures with a common goal: sustainability. All denim was upcycled from the markets of Douala in Cameroon and mixed with noble cashmere yarns and wool made in Italy.

Photo credit to Vogue Italia, courtesy of Gabby Caldwell



After she gets back home the end of this month, Gabby hopes her experience and exposure in Milan will help make a big jump in her modeling career in the United States.



Most models only dream of walking in on the "The Big Four" events. Gabby was a part of Milan Fashion week after only being signed to an agency for one month!



A look "behind-the-scenes" while the models go through hair and make-up for prior to the shows, along with the look boards of each model. Gabby's look for this specific show is shown in photo #1 and #20. Photos courtesy of Gabby Caldwell



Gabby is pictured with her mom Alison (Stanley) Caldwell, her brother Nigel, and her grandma Ida Stanley. Photo courtesy of Gabby Caldwell