

# The Gayville Hall Gazette

## Summer, fall shows feature country classics, blues, Beatles

Gayville Hall's ninth season continues on Saturday, June 27, at 8 p.m. with the first show of our summer and fall schedules.

On the 27th, banjo virtuoso Dan Kilbride and guitarist Dalton Coffey lead our country music variety show, "The Hay Country Jamboree," with country singer Brenda George and Iowa's "Singing Farmer," Ervin Pickhinke. Ed Tryon of Sioux City will accompany Pickhinke on upright bass and dobro.

George and Kilbride are Gayville Hall favorites and Coffey, a twenty-something-year-old guitar wizard, the finest young performer frequenting our stage. Pickhinke and Tryon made a great first impression in a Jamboree last fall, but a spring snowstorm nixed their second scheduled appearance at a canceled April 4th show. We look forward to a great evening of music and humor.

Gayville has resurrected its annual Hay Days celebration after more than a decade break from the tradition. This was one of the great summer celebrations in southeastern South Dakota. Gayville Hall will take part in this year's Hay Days celebration with two discount-priced, special performances of "The Hay Country Jamboree" on Saturday, July 18, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The one o'clock show, which will be an hour long, will give Hay Days attendees a chance to enjoy a taste of the Gayville Hall experience for only \$7. The 90-minute seven o'clock show will cost just \$10. Gayville Hall regulars, including our country music hosts John and Susan McNeill, fiddler Owen DeJong, lead guitarist Nick Schwebach, banjo player Daniel Kilbride and their guests will star.



Ervin Pickhinke, the "Singing Farmer," and his sidekick, Ed Tryon

On Saturday, August 1, at 8 p.m. the McNeills, Schwebach and DeJong, a.k.a. Gayville Hall's Fab Four, will present, for only the second time, "A Celebration of Merle Haggard." The show drew a full house last year at its first outing and should be a crowd pleaser again. The musicians have starred in our tributes to Hank Williams and Johnny Cash, the most popular and repeated shows at Gayville Hall, and in other country concerts since 2001.

"The Hay Country Jamboree" on Saturday, Sept. 5, at 8 p.m. includes the McNeills, Kilbride, Coffey, and our special guest, the recording artist Elaine Peacock, a wonderful country and gospel singer from

Elk Point who will be accompanied by Pam Lowe at our baby grand piano. This will be Peacock's second appearance at Gayville Hall after too long an absence.

Authentic, old-time southern blues return to Gayville Hall in a big way on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 8 p.m. with the great folk and blues artists from Tennessee, Sparky and Rhonda Rucker, performing on piano, harmonica, banjo, fingerstyle and bottleneck guitar, spoons, and bones. Sparky is an acclaimed storyteller and folklorist as well as a soulful singer, musician, and recording artist. An exciting evening is guaranteed.



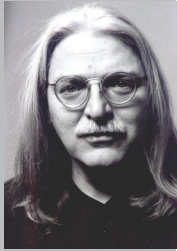
The Ruckers

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### GAYVILLE HALL'S SUMMER AND FALL LINE-UP 2009

<b>"The Hay Country Jamboree"</b>	<b>June 27</b>
starring DAN KILBRIDE as MC, DALTON COFFEY, BRENDA GEORGE, ERWIN PINKHINKE & ED TRYON	
<b>Hay Days Special: Two "Hay Country Jamborees"</b>	<b>July 18</b>
starring THE MCNEILLS, DAN KILBRIDE, OWEN DEJONG, NICK SCHWEBACH, and SPECIAL GUESTS the one-hour concert at 1:00 p.m. costs \$7; the one-and-a-half hour concert at 7 p.m. costs \$10	
<b>"A Celebration of Merle Haggard"</b>	<b>Aug 1</b>
starring GAYVILLE HALL'S "FAB FOUR": THE MCNEILLS, NICK SCHWEBACH, & OWEN DEJONG	
<b>"The Hay Country Jamboree"</b>	<b>Sept 5</b>
starring THE MCNEILLS, DAN KILBRIDE with DALTON COFFEY, and special guest ELAINE PEACOCK	
<b>The Blues at Gayville Hall</b>	<b>Sept 19</b>
starring reknowned folk & blues artists SPARKY & RHONDA RUCKER	
<b>Five spectacular shows -- details pending</b>	<b>Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31</b>
including "A CELEBRATION OF WILLIE, WAYLON, & THE BOYS," one HAY COUNTRY JAMBOREE, a 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT by THE PUBLIC DOMAIN TUNE BAND, and two CLASSIC COUNTRY SHOWS	
<b>"A Celebration of the Beatles"</b>	<b>Nov 7</b>
starring Rapid City's own ABBEY ROAD BAND	
<b>"A Celebration of Country Classics"</b>	<b>Nov 21</b>
starring ANNIE MCNEILL IDEKER on piano, THE MCNEILLS, OWEN DEJONG, & NICK SCHWEBACH	
<b>"A Poker Alice Christmas with Brenda George"</b>	<b>Dec 5</b>
starring THE POKER ALICE BAND with BRENDA GEORGE	

# From the HOUSE



by Gayville Hall Proprietor Doug Sharples

## Gayville Hall's Origins

When Judi and I started Gayville Hall in the spring of 2001, we were seeking a break from our film production business, which we had been operating in Wakonda since 1971, and from filmmaking itself, which is an intellectual, artistic, financial, and technological challenge. Making movies is hard work, especially if you do most of the work yourselves without the endless crawl of technicians you see at the end of Hollywood movies. We were, quite honestly, spent.

Except for my mostly jobless, two-and-a-half year attempt to break into Hollywood, I had been working steadily in film production since 1967, and the romance had definitely faded. The climax of our film careers, and what broke the camel's back, so to speak, was our two-hour documentary of which I am still very proud about my favorite American writer, Jack Kerouac, the author of *On the Road*. The film, "Go Moan for Man," was a struggle of nearly 20 years to finance, make, and distribute. We needed a big break.

When the Gayville Country Store closed down in March of 2001, I looked at the empty space in the historic old building we had owned since 1997, noted its acoustic quality, and had a "eureka" moment. We had been shooting footage of Omaha jazz musician Preston Love since the 1980s. I had booked Love's quartet for a noon concert at the National Music Museum with the help of Andre Larson so I could film more scenes of the great saxophonist. Love asked me to help him find another gig for that evening.

I had degrees in theatre, so the

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## GAYVILLE HALL MUSICIAN PROFILE

### Daniel Kilbride

Banjo virtuoso Daniel Kilbride made his first appearance at Gayville Hall in 2006. Since then, he has become a Gayville Hall favorite, known for his incredible banjo skills, as well as his humor.

Kilbride, who now resides in Sioux Falls, grew up in a family of 12 children (seven girls, five boys) in the Wakonda area. Though he has never worked as a full-time musician, bluegrass music and the banjo have been an indispensable part of his life since the late 1970s.

**Please tell us about yourself:** Well, I'm very single and looking. I have been married twice. I have two boys, Jay 25, and Brian, 29. I am a Christian.



**Do you come from a musical family?** Out of the 12 kids in my family, I'm really the only one who showed any musical interest. ... When we were growing up, my father played the harmonica and I think each of us boys learned to play one song on the harmonica, but we didn't really have any musical interest beyond that.

**How did you get interested in the banjo?** I was working on the Spirit Mound Sub Station ... that must have been 1977. I was 21. There were some guys working there from Arkansas. One Saturday afternoon, I went to a cook-out, and, at some point, they brought out their instruments. One had a banjo. I'd never heard bluegrass music before, let alone seen someone play it. I was just amazed at the amount of music you could get out of [a banjo]. ... Two weeks later, I went to a garage sale in Vermillion and purchased my first banjo. I was all excited and took it to John Clark [the banjo player] and he looked at it and said it was a piece of junk and to hang it on the wall.

**When did you start actually playing the banjo?** Two years later, we were living in Stillwater, Oklahoma, when my wife saw an ad in the paper for a college professor who was giving banjo lessons. He was a two-time Tennessee champion. ... He said I needed to get a good quality banjo if I was going to take lessons from him. So, one Saturday, we went into Oklahoma City to a store that sold Gibson banjos. ... I was making good money then and I ended up buying one for \$1200. ... It was 1979. I remember my wife about had a cow when I came home and told her I'd paid \$1200 for a banjo. ... I started taking lessons once a week. ... After about a month of taking lessons, the banjo was all I could think about and so I started taking three lessons a week and soon I was taking one lesson every day. ... One year later, my instructor and I entered a contest. My instructor took 2nd place and I took 1st place.

**Do you play from sheet music or by ear?** I play by ear. I have bought quite a few instructional videos that I sit down and learn from, too. ...

**How many songs do you know?** About 100 songs. ... I have them all written down and every once and a while, I pull out that list and go down it. If I come to a song I haven't played in a while, I work on it so I can refresh my memory.

**What do you like about playing at Gayville Hall?** The main thing is the crowd. It's the type of crowd that's very receptive. They come just to hear the music ... and that makes all the difference. ...

**Do you get nervous?** I'm always nervous. I have terrible stage fright. My hands are usually shaking so bad that I can barely play.

**On stage, you're pretty funny. Does cracking jokes go along with playing the banjo, or is that just your personality?** That's just me. If I had my choice, I'd just be the guy over on the side playing the banjo.

**WANT TO READ MORE?**

*There's more to our interview - go to [www.gayvillehall.com](http://www.gayvillehall.com); click on "Musician Profiles."*

## Hay Days Celebration Returns to Gayville

*Gayville Hall to participate with an Open House, two shows*

After a 12-year hiatus, the Gayville "Hay Days" festival is back this summer. The resurrected celebration takes place Saturday, July 18, and will feature a parade, arts and crafts, food, water fights, and entertainment, all taking place on Main Street in Gayville.

Gayville Hall will participate in the day-long celebration with two special concerts and an Open House.

The day kicks off with a parade at 10 a.m. Gayville Hall's parade entry will feature one of Gayville Hall's great musicians playing live music. During the parade, look to catch a specially-made Gayville Hall wooden nickel. The nickel can be redeemed for \$2 off one regularly-priced admission to a show.

Immediately following the parade, there will be an Open House at Gayville Hall until 1 p.m.. Patrons, Gayville residents, and visitors are invited to browse the Hall during this time, checking out the art gallery and the many other interesting displays the Hall has to offer. Who knows ... an impromptu musician or two may even take the stage to entertain browsers as they look around!

Meanwhile, at the community center in Gayville, there will be food and

arts and crafts vendors from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. On Main Street between the Community Center and the Gayville Post Office (the 1 1/2 block area in front of Gayville Hall), there will be a variety of activities for children and adults, including water fights, a children's pedal pull, games, a roaming clown, and other activities during this time. At noon, a horseshoe tournament will begin in the back yard area behind R.J. Ryder's.

At 1 p.m., Gayville Hall will offer a one-hour performance of "The Hay Country Jamboree." This special performance will be \$7 at the door.

The Hay Days celebration continues on with a kids' water fight at 2 p.m., a round bale competition at 3 p.m., and a poker run, beginning at 4 p.m.

At 7 p.m. Gayville Hall will present a second, special performance of "The Hay Country Jamboree." This performance, which will run one-and-a-half hours and cost \$10 at the door, will star the McNeills, Dan Kilbride, Nick Schwebach, Owen DeJong and guests.

The 2009 Hay Days celebration culminates with a dance in the beer garden at Wild Bill Cody's, featuring Poker Alice from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

## From the House: The Origins of Gayville Hall

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thought of raising a little stage, printing up a few posters, and "putting on a show," like in the old Andy Hardy movies, seemed elemental and appealing. I could do it in Gayville, and the whole process, unlike film production, could be over in just a few weeks from start to finish. In comparison to the film business, starting and maintaining a little, down home music venue seemed easy and its simplicity refreshing.

After the Love concert, I figured, we could engage our friends from college days, musicians John and Susan McNeill, and two great musicians from the Wakonda area, Owen DeJong and Nick Schwebach, whom we had first heard perform at the Kochi Lounge in Yankton in 1979, to play at Gayville Hall, as we named the new venue.

John had been composing and re-

corded music for sound tracks of many of our films since the 1970s. Owen and Nick had also recorded public domain instrumentals that we had used as film background music. With these musicians, we would have the core of a talent pool that could make Gayville Hall feasible.

Eight years later, John and Susan and Nick and Owen remain the most frequent and popular performers on the Gayville Hall stage. Dan Kilbride, Dalton Coffey, Brenda George, and Nick and Owen's Poker Alice Band have also become frequent, regular performers, outdrawing regional and even national names we have put on our stage. Folks like the familiar, especially if it is top notch.

Gayville Hall has been a wonderful diversion for Judi and myself. We hope it can continue for many more years.

## From the STAGE



by Gayville Hall MC John McNeill

### "Reverse Time" for an Evening at Gayville Hall

The old saying is that time doesn't stand still. "Time and tide wait for no one" is the aphorism. And it's true: Time marches on. But at Gayville Hall, we're doing our best to impede time. To slow it down. A lot of things in this world are moving too fast. Racing on, and leaving the good stuff lost in the dust. Trampling tradition underfoot to embrace the products of tasteless popular culture. Alas!

But, insofar as music is concerned, Gayville Hall is refusing to cooperate. On our stage, we're preserving the past and enjoying it as much as ever. A lot of music from days gone by is just too good to bid goodbye. You know the line in the old church song, "Give me that old time religion, it's good enough for me." That line is music to our ears.

The programs Doug and Judi produce at Gayville Hall will be music for your ears because this stage is a place of "dusting off." Bringing back the great songs from the archives of country music and American popular song and presenting them in live public performance on the Gayville Hall stage -- this great old music -- it's what we do.

All week long, the world rushes on. There's little we can do about that. But Saturday nights are ours, and we apply the brakes to Time. Apply them so vigorously, in fact, that we manage a Time reversal -- if only for two hours. We go back in Time and revisit the good old days in music. After the shows are over, we can try to catch up with the rest of the world if we want. But when the house lights go down and the stage lights go up at Gayville Hall, Time is just gonna have to wait for a while.

# Summer, fall shows feature interesting mix of talent, themes

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October will be Gayville Hall's busiest month ever, with five Saturday shows in a row on October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, the details of which are being finalized as this issue of *The Gayville Hall Gazette* goes to press. See the fall issue of *The Gayville Hall Gazette* or our website ([www.gayvillehall.com](http://www.gayvillehall.com)) later this year for final details.

Plans for the month include a 30th anniversary concert for Schwebach and DeJong's Public Domain Tune Band, "A Celebration of Waylon, Willie and the Boys," as well as two other country classics shows and a "Hay Country Jamboree."

The sixth Saturday show in a row this fall will be a very special concert. In eight plus years, Gayville Hall has inexplicably presented only one show of Beatles tunes. We are very pleased to present "A Celebration of the Beatles" at 8 p.m. on Nov. 7 starring Rapid City's acclaimed Abbey Road Band,

one of American's finest Beatles tribute bands. Abbey Road has opened for Asleep at the Wheel, The Guess Who, Bobby Vee, The Grassroots, and Tommy James and the Shondells. The show should be one of our most memorable ever.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, at 8 p.m., pianist Annie McNeill Ideker returns to Gayville Hall to perform in "A Celebration of Country Classics" with her parents, John and Susan McNeill, Nick Schwebach and Owen DeJong.

The ninth season at Gayville Hall will climax on Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. with a special treat, "A Poker Alice Christmas, with Brenda George." Owen and Nick's five-piece band and the great country singer will team up to perform swing-



*Rapid City's Abbey Road Band*

ing tunes from their eclectic repertoires and seasonal favorites.

VISIT:  
[www.gayvillehall.com](http://www.gayvillehall.com)  
 for updated show information.

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## Gayville Hall's 9th season continues with great shows this summer, fall!



*Check out Gayville Hay Days this July!*

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