

ENTERTAINMENT

Backus continues concert series

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

A new set of performers will take the spotlight on the Backus Community Center stage over the next few months during the second year of the Backus concert series. The first show is set for next week.

Monroe Crossing, veterans to the Backus stage, kick off the five-concert series at 7 p.m. Sept. 27.

“I think this is going to be the best season Backus has put together yet,” said Ward Merrill, executive director at Backus. “We’ve got such a nice mix of talent and some real quality this year.”

The lineup for this season’s series includes: Monroe Crossing; Ragamala Dance “Sacred Earth”; Billy McLaughlin and his electric string quartet; Tonic Sol-fa; and James Sewell Ballet, “Guy Noir: The Ballet.”

“We’ve got a good mix of talent,” Merrill said. “We’ve got two dance companies coming and this is one of the first times we’ve had dance groups like this up here. I think people will enjoy them, it’s different than shows we



PHOTO COURTESY OF JSBALLET.ORG
James Sewell Ballet, “Guy Noir: The Ballet” — March 20

typically see.”

Last year was the first year a Minnesota State Arts Board grant, along with local funding, made the series possible. In addition to offering concerts to the community, the grant also allows each group to conduct outreach programs in all Koochiching County schools.

“That is something that doesn’t cost the schools anything,” Merrill said. “The outreach allows the performers to make a connection with the community through the schools and students. We try to make the most of having these performers up here.”

The grant dollars also allowed Merrill and other Backus staff to tour different venues and theaters – many of which were historic – around the state, Merrill said. The tours allowed the groups to experience how each venue secured performers, promoted shows, funded programs and how each



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONICSOLFA.COM
Tonic Sol-fa — Feb. 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLYMCLAUGHLIN.COM
Billy McLaughlin and his electric string quartet — Jan. 9

space used sound and lighting. The experience, Merrill said, allowed him and others to pick up on a few details and will hopefully enhance the community’s experience with this years’ series.

“We invested about \$20,000 in new lighting in the theater,” he said. “The system

allows us to effect a lot of color on the stage. I think it’ll really enhance what people see and experience.”

In addition, Backus secured a liquor license and will sell beer and wine before each show and during intermission to offer a “classier atmosphere.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONROECROSSING.COM
Monroe Crossing — Sept. 27




PHOTO COURTESY OF RAGAMALADANCE.ORG
Ragamala Dance “Sacred Earth” — Oct. 25

Season tickets for the Backus concert series are \$45 for adults; \$10 for students; and \$95 for families. Single-show tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for students; and \$25 for families. All shows begin at 7 p.m.

“If people buy a season ticket and are unable to attend a performance, we are encouraging them to loan the ticket to a friend,” Merrill said. “Our ticket prices are low and we’re able to do that because these shows are funded in large part by the arts grant. Our goal is to keep doing what we’re doing and that is bringing quality art opportunities to people despite our rural location.”

QR CODE DIRECTORY



Scan the QR code to reveal more information, including valuable discounts, upcoming events and news about the products and services you care about.

Print or display the offer on your phone to redeem at the selected business.

The Journal

RETAIL



**401 Fourth Street
Int'l Falls, MN
218-283-3454**

We feature a great selection of furniture styles, including traditional, contemporary, casual, cottage, mission, distressed, painted, arts and crafts and eclectic. You can express your personal style, whether it be wood, leather, upholstery, with accessories, area rugs and flooring.




RETAIL



**Your Only Locally Owned Source of
Fine Jewelry Since 1983.**




HEALTH/MEDICAL



Focused on You

LITTLEFORK MEDICAL CENTER

**RURAL HEALTH CLINIC
PINEVIEW RECOVERY
CARE CENTER
JACKPINE CHATEAU**





**We offer a large variety of fresh
flowers & gifts. Enjoy the convenience of
safe & secure ordering 24 hours a day!**

**Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Saturday 9am-3pm
532 4th St. Int'l Falls • 218-283-8141**





Everything you need, for every job.

**Do it Best NORTHERN
LUMBER & HARDWARE**



Accepts All Patients.



**RAINNY LAKE
CLINIC**

**SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
218.283.5503
1400 Hwy 71 • International Falls, MN**





**From Walleye to Whitetail...
The Outdoorsman's
Headquarters**

Hwy. 53 and 11th Street - Int'l Falls

**Scan for a DOUBLE
Discount COUPON
at the Outdoorsmans!**





**Sjoblom's
Landscape & Nursery**


A year-round garden & gift center

**Gift Shop • Garden Center
Wildlife & Pet Supplies
Landscaping • Trailers**

**Hwy 11 East • Int'l Falls
218-286-5365**




SERVICES



**Corrin's
Plumbing, Heating
& Air Conditioning, Inc.**

445 4th Street • 283-8161

**Bill Corrin, Owner
Family owned since 1909**





**Visit our new website!
superonefalls.com**

**Scan Here For Our
Weekly Sales.**

SuperOne Foods

**Hwy 11-17 • Int'l Falls, MN
283-8440**



AUTOMOTIVE



Wherley Motors

International Falls, MN

**Check out our inventory. Our
Online showroom is open 24/7
for your shopping convenience.**

**309 5th Street • Int'l Falls, MN
218-283-8486**



**Please call our
ad dept. to join this
QR code directory.
(218) 285-7411**