

LEISURE

FUN IN BORDERLAND
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A BLAST FROM THE PAST



Birchdale community members report the Birchdale church had “a great turnout” for its celebration of the building’s 100 years of service to the community Sunday. Several people came dressed in clothes from the past and there was a display of items that would have been common 100 years ago when the church was built. The Sloughgrass band and the Birchdale Orchestra provided entertainment followed by a short program. A pot luck included numerous dishes made from old recipes like Judith Nelson’s Swedish meatballs made using a recipe from her grandmother Christine Nelson, who was an original settler in Birchdale. Ross Beneki brought homemade ice-cream for everyone that he made with a hand cranked ice-cream maker. Old home movies from when the basement was added under the church was also shown.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Backus receives Minnesota State Arts Board grant

Board awarded \$2.7 million in grants

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Backus Community Center will have the opportunity to offer another year of musical performances and outreach programs to area students thanks to a Minnesota State Arts Board grant. “We’re really excited about this grant,” Backus Executive Director Ward Merrill said of the \$51,300 the community center was awarded.

The Minnesota State Arts Board last week awarded 150 grants to Minnesota artists and organizations through the Artist Initiative-visual arts, Arts Tour Minnesota, and Cultural Community Partnership grant programs.

Merrill said this is the second arts tour grant Backus has received in two years.

“What makes us so excited is that there were 101 applicants and 41 were funded,” he said. “We were one of the fortunate ones. The competition for these grants is tremendous.”

Beginning next fall and running through the spring, the lineup for the Backus Concert Series is: Monroe Crossing, Ragamala Dance, Tonic Sol-fa and Billy McLaughlin.

Each musician or group will hold a performance at Backus as well as outreach programs to all Koochiching County students, including St. Thomas and home-schooled children.

“The purpose of the grant,” Merrill said, “is to bring quality arts experiences to under-served parts of Minnesota...We are so remote up here and this way, everybody gets to experience these quality arts groups. We couldn’t do

these performances without the support of the state arts board.”

ABOUT THE GRANTS

Artist Initiative project grants support the artistic and career development of Minnesota artists. It is funded by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature from the state of Minnesota general fund and the arts and cultural heritage fund. It also receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Arts Tour Minnesota grant program supports touring performances, exhibitions, and other arts activities throughout the state. It is funded by an appropriation from the state’s arts and cultural heritage fund.

The Cultural Community Partnership grant program supports the artistic and career development of artists of color. It is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Minnesota State Arts Board is a state agency dedicated to ensuring that all Minnesotans have the opportunity to participate in the arts. It receives an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and private sources. The Arts Board offers grants, services, and other resources to individuals and organizations throughout the state to stimulate and encourage the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in the state. Additional information about the arts board can be found online at www.arts.state.mn.us.

Kids and Company returns to Fort Frances stage

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After a two-month lull in the Kids and Company shows held in Fort Frances, entertainment is returning to the Townshend Theatre at 6:30 p.m. Monday, as The Mysteries of Mr. E takes the stage.

According to the performer’s website, Eric Leclerc is considered Canada’s national magic champion and has been

entertaining children of all ages for more than 20 years. In his new show, The Mysteries of Mr. E, he plays an eccentric professor with a lovable and magical charm. His name is Mr. E and he teaches children valuable lessons through the art of magic.

During his show, the site said Mr. E not only inspires self-confidence in children, but he also touches upon educational themes such

as science, geography, and recycling.

The Mysteries of Mr. E has been described as an interactive and entertaining learning experience, the site continued. What sets Mr. E apart from other performers are the important lessons his show demonstrates to children and the magical way they are presented – creating a fun and stimulating environment. His show is full

of side-splitting comedy and amazing magical illusions, and is known to keep younger children laughing and engaged.

For those who do not have a season pass to the Kids and Company shows, tickets to Monday’s performance are \$10 and are available at the Fort Frances Public Library, Betty’s, Revco Carpet, Coffee Landing Cafe and at the door. Children under the age of 3 get in free.

Sweden-based show launches nationwide casting call

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Anybody in Borderland who has Swedish ancestors, a dream to see Sweden or has an urge to find their Swedish roots, could be a prime candidate for a television show in Sweden, produced by Meter Television.

Meter Television producers are conducting a nationwide search for Americans with Swedish ancestry for the nominated reality TV-show, “Allt för Sverige.” After three successful seasons of Allt för Sverige-Great Swedish Adventure – the U.S. title of the show – producers are now casting for season four, according to a release. Casting officials are looking for people 20-70 years old, who must apply by Feb. 16.

The producers of the

Swedish version of “American Idol” and “Minute To Win It” are coming to the U.S. to find fun, outgoing Americans with Swedish ancestry to participate in their television series “Allt för Sverige,” the release said.

If selected, Americans will have the opportunity to travel to Sweden and participate in the television series. Chosen participants will compete in extreme cul-

tural challenges to discover their rich and fascinating roots while trying to win the grand prize – meeting their Swedish relatives.

The release described the opportunity as a “once-in-a-lifetime” chance to discover a new land and culture and have a chance to win a “spectacular” prize.

“Allt för Sverige” will be shot and broadcast in Sweden and potentially other

countries. This is an opportunity for someone to discover their ancestry and experience their rich and fascinating Swedish cultural heritage, the release concluded.

To apply, visit www.greatswedishadventure.com.

For more information, contact Sofia Eng, Los Angeles office casting producer, at 310-500-8350 or sofia.eng@meter.tv.

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