

ENTERTAINMENT

RAGAMALA DANCE HITS BACKUS STAGE SATURDAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAGAMALADANCE.ORG

Ragamala Dance “Sacred Earth,” will take the stage at Backus Community Center at 7 p.m. Saturday as the second show in this season’s Backus concert series. Single-show tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for students; and \$25 for families. Preschool-aged students and under are free. Tickets are available at Backus, City Drug, and Betty’s in Fort Frances.

German celebration twice as nice in Borderland

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Borderland residents have two opportunities to experience a well-known German celebration.

The first offering comes as Oktoberfest on Friday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2948 in International Falls and the second comes as OktoberFest in Birchdale Saturday.

In International Falls, Oktoberfest begins at 4:30 p.m. with a meal of traditional German food followed with performances by Don Hughes on accordion, and vocalist and harmonica player Margarete Kostiuk. At 8 p.m. Uncommon Joes — a band that performed at the downtown Crazy Daze in July — take the stage.

In Birchdale, attendees are encouraged to bring chili to the Birchdale Community Building for the Chilly Chili Cook-off judging at 5 p.m. A potluck begins at 6 p.m.

Friday
The Falls’ fourth-annual Oktoberfest is sponsored by the International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and its members, and will be the first outing for new chamber ambassadors, Chamber president Faye Whitbeck said.

The event will again feature its home-cooked, authentic German meal of brats and sauerkraut, hot German potato salad, apple slaw and German cake for \$8 per plate.

Whitbeck said the event features home cooked, not just home recipes. “We cook the food ourselves,” she said, adding more food will be prepared in an effort to accommodate the popularity of the event. She encouraged people who want to eat to arrive by 4:30 p.m.

“It’s really a warm atmosphere with fall colors,” Whitbeck said. “We have some coming in customs to do polkas, raise a stein, and get the German camaraderie going.”

Saturday
Soren Olesen, one of the OktoberFest in Birchdale organizers, said the event began with an accordion band and dancing when the Community Building was constructed in 1998. After the first handful of years or so, the event developed into a more family-oriented evening.

The evening will feature the chili cook-off, which has in past years drawn some unusual offerings. Last year more than 20 chilies were judged. He encouraged competitors to get their chili there before the 5 p.m.

judging begins.

“We get all kinds of different chilies,” he said. “One year someone who hunted in North Dakota brought sandhill crane chili.”

In addition, pumpkin carving and haunted hay rides will be offered, along with a smoky campfire and people in costume. Beside chili, people are encouraged to bring a potluck dish

“so we all don’t have to eat chili,” Olesen said.

Road construction is expected to be finished by Saturday allowing people to travel to Birchdale without a detour.

“The weather should be beautiful, and we load people on a hay wagon and go across the field,” Olesen said. “I hope there is no moonshine or it’s hard to scare everybody.”

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- Vermilion Community College Graduate- 1986 (A.A. Natural Resources Law Enforcement)
- Hibbing Community College Graduate- 1986 (Law Enforcement Skills Program)
- Hired Koochiching County Boat/ Water Patrol- Summer 1986/1987

- Hired Full-Time International Falls Police Dept.- 1991
- D.A.R.E. Officer, K-9 Officer with International Falls Police Dept.
- Past President LELS #105 Local Union
- Hired Chief Deputy with Koochiching County Sheriff's Office- 2007 (Successfully Investigated minor crimes to Murder)
- Appointed Sheriff Koochiching County- 2012
- Emergency Manager Koochiching County (Incident Commander of June 2014 flood operations)
- Graduate of the National Sheriff's Institute- 2013
- Past President International Falls Little League
- Youth Hockey Coach- International Falls
- Recreation Football Coach- International Falls
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