

Volume 17, Issue 2 July 2025

BROADWAY ON THE BORDER IS BACK!



This summer, the stage is set and the excitement is building! With Nancy McBride and Alexandria Gilbertson at the helm, Broadway on the Border returns July 19, delivering a spectacular show brimming with heart, talent, and theatrical wonder.

From the sultry rhythms of *Chicago* to the soaring melodies of *Wicked*, with stops in *The Little Mermaid*'s underwater world and *Hamilton*'s revolutionary stage—this summer's Broadway on the Border will have something for everyone. Whether it's your favorite tune or a dazzling new discovery, this is a show you'll never forget.

SUMMER ARTS DANCE AND THEATER



Gilbertson

Alexandria Gilbertson is a Alexandria professional dancer and instructor from Greenville, Michigan. She holds a degree in Dance from Grand Valley State University and has over five years of professional experience performing and teaching across Michigan and beyond. Alex has had the privilege of

collaborating with renowned artists from major cultural hubs, including New York City, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, enhancing her craft and artistic perspective. Through grade school, Alex trained with Flat River Dance Company from ages 3-18, and was then hired as a professional guest artist, choreographer, and instructor there. Miss Alex has also been heavily involved with other elements of performing arts like symphonic orchestra, stage plays, musical theater, show choir, crew, set design, lighting design and costume design. Alex is excited to be back at Backus for another summer!

Summer Arts July 7-18 Performance: July 19

Check out the classes offered to area youth and adults:

Creative Movement Beginner Dance Intermediate Dance Advanced Dance One Act Theater Broadway Choreo Broadway on the Border Ballroom Dance for Adults 2 July 2025

From the Director's Desk

Happy summer!

So much to say; so little space! We can't wait to share the highlights with you! From concerts to community gatherings, summer arts, summer lunch, and building updates, this summer has been bursting with joy! Catch up on all the happenings in this edition of our newsletter. Happy reading! ~Lois Lundin

Take a peek—the fresh paint is gleaming and the floors are shining! Things are looking great!





Thank you
Northern
Lumber
for donating
paint for
our hallway
project!

Robert Two Bulls Art Exhibit Coming to Backus, July 18 and 19

The Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls, Missioner for the Department of Indian Work (DIW), is will be visiting our community in July. Backus is deeply honored to welcome Robert Two Bulls as the inaugural artist in our new Artist Spotlight Series. His work brings profound perspective and beauty to our walls—and we're proud to celebrate his voice and vision with our community.

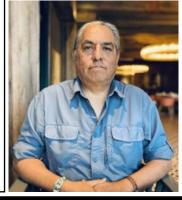
His greater Two Bulls family leads an Indigenous art renaissance. Twenty-one family members, spanning four generations, have works with 40-plus years of Two Bulls family creations. "Art-we think about it as storytelling." While here, six of his paintings will be displayed at the Backus Community Center Art's Festival on July 18th and 19th. He will be formally present there to meet with the public and answer questions about his visual and life works.

Robert Two Bulls Art Exhibit

Backus Room 101 Friday, July 18 Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Presentation begins at 7:00 pm

Visitors are welcome to view artwork again on Saturday evening, July 19.

Doors open at 6:00 pm







Veterans Milton and Irene enjoy a puzzle from the wall in the Veterans Lodge.

Summer Lunch for Kids is a hit! Area children come to Backus Monday through Thursdays to pick up a lunch to go. Thank you to volunteers for coming to pack lunches!





BACKUS STAFF

Lois Lundin,

Executive Director

Hoa Sobczynski,

Business Manager

Michelle Boelk

Music Director

Darcy Sullivan, KCC-TV Director

Alyssa Crawford, Office Assistant Volume 17 Issue 2



RIVERFEST 2025 was a tremendous success! Great music. Food trucks. Cornhole. Classic cars. A beer garden. Fireworks from our Canadian neighbors. And PERFECT WEATHER! The Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater was the place to be on July 1. Thank you to the Minnesota State Arts Board for grant funding to make the music happen, and to the City of International Falls for partnering with Backus!



























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July 2025



"Historic Backus Community Center, the heart of International Falls, where all generations celebrate arts, culture, recreation, wellness, and life-long learning."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julie Bartkowski *President*Patti Ballan, *Secretary*Tim Fairchild, *Treasurer*Donna Frederickson *Vice President*Lauire Knapp
Jim Lyman
Joe Nikolanci
Gail Rognerud
Mike Williams

The next board meeting is September 11 at 5:15PM in room 101/102.

Do you want to join the Backus Board?!

BACKUS VALUES YOUR INPUT!

Do you have comments, questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding Backus?

Please contact the Backus Board at backusboard@backusab.org

Welcome new Backus Board Directors!!

Laurie Knapp Joe Nikolanci

COMING SOON TO BACKUS

- RLCO String Camp August 2025
- Finger Knitting Blanket Class—Fall 2025
- Kids Interactive Concert September
 20, 2025
- Looney Lutherans Dinner Theatre -November 23, 2025