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PLAIN TALK

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Volume 128, Issue 18

USPS 657-720



Friday,
May 3,
2013

75¢



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Once upon a song...



The 2013 kindergarten class of Austin Elementary School proudly presented "Once Upon a Song – A Collection of Songs Inspired By Our Favorite Books," Monday, April 29, in the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center. The program was written and directed by Mrs. Gretchen Burbach. Piano accompaniment was provided by Anthony Burbach. To view or purchase more photos of the concert, log on to spotted.plaintalk.net. (Photo by David Lias)

Celebrate Elvis this weekend at National Music Museum

By Travis Gulbrandson

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A broken guitar might not be the first thing most people think of when they hear the National Music Museum (NMM) has made some new acquisitions.

But what if that guitar was owned by Elvis Presley? And played by him in the last year of his life? And, well, broken by him?

The guitar in question is one of six acquisitions to be featured at an open house at the NMM Friday (today) and Saturday.

"It's simply a chance to celebrate the new acquisitions and let the public know they're here, and have a little fun doing it," said NMM director Dr. Cleveland Johnson. "We took the Elvis theme and ran with it."

Not only will the museum be offering free admission on May 3-4, it will offer several other attractions, as well, including Presley's Harley-Davidson motorcycle, courtesy of Pioneer Auto Show of Murdo.

In addition, Heck's Dakota Style Barbecue will serve Memphis-style barbecue from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday and from 11 a.m. until supplies last on Saturday.

The first 50 visitors on Friday who successfully complete a scavenger hunt in the NMM will receive a voucher for a free plate of food.

"We're just trying to have a good time and to give people an excuse to

come here," Johnson said, noting he also hoped to take advantage of Vermillion's increased traffic over commencement weekend.

For many music fans, the biggest attraction may be Presley's guitar, a 1975 C.F. Martin that he used in 29 concerts during the last year of his life.

"This instrument ... was damaged in a freak accident onstage," Johnson said. "(Presley's) guitar strap broke, it slipped from his hands, a string broke, he was frustrated and he threw it up in the air."

The guitar now has two visible holes toward the bottom that resulted from its crashing to the stage.

"He couldn't use it for the rest of the concert, so he gave it away to a young lady at the front of the audience," Johnson said. "It passed through any number of hands on the way to landing here, where it will stay."

Along with the Presley guitar, the museum has acquired the following five "celebrity" instruments:

- A 1966 custom-made Grammer-branded Johnny Cash guitar;
- A 1961 electric guitar used and autographed by Muddy Waters;
- A 1958 Explorer model bass guitar once used by The Who bassist John Entwistle;
- A 1954 electric guitar once owned by Chet Atkins; and

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Burbank girl's federal duck stamp honor revoked

By Travis Gulbrandson

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In the span of one week, an area 6-year-old won the 2013 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition, and also had her title revoked.

On April 19, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that a painting of a canvasback duck by Madison Grimm of Burbank had won the national contest, and would appear on the 2013-14 Federal Junior Duck Stamp.

The painting previously had been named winner of the South Dakota State Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

Then, on April 26, it was announced that Grimm had been disqualified.

According to a press release, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disqualified Grimm following the contest after "concerns were raised by parents and teachers about the authenticity of the work."

The Federal Duck Stamp Office investigated and learned that the painting had been transferred, the press release said.

This means that the outline of the image in the painting was transferred to the canvas using a photograph and a sheet of graphite paper.

"This is inconsistent with the Junior Duck Stamp Contest rules," the press release said. "On the advice



This painting of a canvasback duck by Madison Grimm of Burbank was announced April 19 as the winner of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition. On April 26, officials announced that her work had been disqualified, and meaning she will not receive the \$5,000 first prize award and her artwork will not adorn a duck stamp.

of the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's Office, Grimm's painting was disqualified."

As a result, Grimm's painting will not be featured on a stamp and she

will not receive the \$5,000 scholarship that normally goes to the contest-winner, which has led to

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