
Enhanced programs set at Washington County Libraries, funded through state grants

Washington County Libraries will expand programs in March, thanks to a boost in funding from the state.

A dance program and a family folk group will be featured in libraries throughout the county for the month. The public is invited to the free events.

Sharing the Gift is a dance program featuring Larry Yazzie and his son Jessup. The Yazzies present a series of dances including the Fancy, Eagle, Buffalo, and Round, and put them into the context of their own experiences and in contemporary American Indian cultures. The show includes audience participation and is specially designed for families with children.

Performances of Sharing the Gift will be:

- 1 p.m. Sunday, March 7, Wildwood Library, Mahtomedi;
- 3 p.m. Sunday, March 7, Hardwood Creek Library, Forest Lake;
- 10 a.m. Saturday, March 13, Park Grove Library, Cottage Grove;
- 1 p.m. Saturday, March 13, R. H. Stafford Library, City Central Park Amphitheater in Woodbury;
- 3 p.m. Saturday, March 13, Oakdale Library.

The Roe Family Singers will also provide a fun program for all ages. The Roe family is a local family folk band with husband and wife Quillan and Kim Roe and additional band members. They refer to themselves as a “good-time, hillbilly band” from Minnesota. Their instruments include the autoharp, kazoo, washboard, harp, banjo, guitar, and even a musical saw. For their performances in Washington County, the band will play children’s music that is a mix of traditional songs and their own songs. They incorporate audience participation and encourage audience members to think about the lessons contained in their songs.

The Roe Family Singers are scheduled at five Washington County Branch Libraries:

- 10 a.m. Saturday, March 27, at the R. H. Stafford Library, with a performance in City Central Park Amphitheater in Woodbury;
- 1 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in Oakdale Library;
- 3 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in the Park Grove Library in Cottage Grove;



- 1 p.m. Sunday, March 28, in the Wildwood Library, Mahtomedi;
- 3 p.m. Sunday, March 28, in the Hardwood Creek Library.

Funds for these programs are from a sales tax approved by the voters of Minnesota in November 2008.

The approved amendment to the state's Constitution raised the state sales tax rate and dedicated the added revenue to natural resources and the arts. For two years the Legislature has authorized part of the funds to go to regional public libraries systems.

Washington County Library is a recipient of some of the funding through an allocation from the local regional library system, MELSA, an alliance of metro public libraries.