

## A NIGHT FOR THE MUSEUM

Oktoberfest music permeated the Museum's hallowed spaces, greeting guests coming for the annual "A Night for the Museum" fund raising dinner and auction. A German-themed dinner and beverages



were provided by Jill and Dan Nystrom of The Rusty Moose, featuring bratwurst with sauerkraut, German cucumber salad, potatoes, and slaw, topped off with German Chocolate Cake donated by our local Safeway grocery store. Museum artifacts provided entertainment as part of the Museum Trivia game activity: Prussian Helmet from WW1, an Armadillo taxidermy hand bag from Mexico, "Talc-em Brush" for powdering baby's behind, Medicine/Ceremonial Rattle made from Deer dew-claws belonging to Simon Francis, and a white granite "Mano" once belonging to Catherine Francis, used for scrubbing hair from soaked hides were among the pieces from the Museum's collection. Cal Russell, Society President and emcee, led the group in the heads/tails/50/50 game netting the winner half the "pot," which was won by Laurie Edwards who promptly donated it back to the Museum.

The Society's "Education Committee," shared stories of a number of colorful folks of German descent who played an active role in the early days of Kootenai/Boundary County. Among these were Albert Klockmann, one-time owner of the famed Continental Mine, Fred C. Fisher, owner and operator of The White Caribou Bar in Porthill and downtown Bonners Ferry, and Henry Blume, grandfather of Bill (Blume), the Barber. A brief history of the true meaning of the Swastika and "The Swastika Club of Bonners Ferry," added entertaining pieces of history to the program, as did a snapshot of the original Oktoberfest and its significance.

Following all this fun, John Sater of Sater's Auction, took charge of the live auction, containing 22 items. Some of these included 2 one-day passes to Silverwood Theme Park, a Room/Spa/Springs package, modernistic wood floor lamp, a metal art moose 'Welcome' sign and a pine cone 'Welcome' sign, a leaf blower, and many baskets filled with fleece blankets, wine, hand-crafted jewelry, gift certificates and other items generously donated by businesses and individuals. John kept the bidding lively and competitive, as those vying for their favored "prizes" continued to lend to the laughter and chatter of the evening. Door prizes and drawings completed the evening in fine form. The



Boundary County Historical Society and Museum wish to acknowledge all those who attended, who donated funds and their time to make this a successful event. The funds raised from the evening will be used to upgrade lighting inside the Museum to LED, which will replace the outdated fluorescent tubes. Thank you for your support and generosity

through attending this dinner and participating in the various fund raising activities during the course of the evening.

## IDAHO DAY

The date was 1863, and the place somewhere far north in Kootenai County. Settlers were coming into the area, clearing land, preparing to build homes, and starting farms. This became the setting for an archaeology dig celebrating Idaho Day. The Idaho Legislature, in 2015, established an official Idaho Day to be observed each year on March 4th to commemorate the creation of Idaho by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. The Idaho Statehouse and many communities around the state this year were presenting programs on Monday, March 5th.

Fourth grade students from Naples, Mount Hall, and Valley View arrived at the Boundary County Museum for the "dig." In small groups, students created a grid using string taped across the top of a box representing their "dig site," dividing the box into 9 blocks. A cadre of volunteers from the Museum assisted each group as they proceeded to uncover their treasures.



As they carefully began to excavate, using simple tools such as plastic spoons, toothpicks, and watercolor brushes, they sketched their "findings" onto a paper grid. Such items as Kootenai Tribal artifacts from the Museum's collection, feathers, berries, bones, animal hair, and rock shards were recorded on the groups' grids. Sue Kemmis, Museum Curator, engaged everyone in discussion of what the objects may be and how they may have been used by the early people of the area. The room was filled with excited voices and ideas bouncing around among the groups. In all, 110 budding archaeologists participated and enjoyed this special event. Just prior to bus time, each student, teacher, assistant, bus driver, and volunteer team leader received a sugar cookie, cut in the shape of Idaho, with a star for Bonners Ferry. Oh what a Dig!