

St. Ignace Singers Kate Springsteen, Katelyn Frosland Enjoy Hollywood Experience

By Stephen Underwood

The young, singing Kates from St. Ignace, Kate Springsteen and Katelyn Frosland, discovered tough, multi-talented competition when they made their California sojourn for the FAMEUS national finals last month. They also brought back new experiences and lessons for the future.

They sang Tuesday, August 9, at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and Miss Springsteen placed third in the jazz vocal category. She had qualified at a regional competition in Chicago in May and Miss Frosland qualified at a regional event in Detroit a week earlier.

Miss Springsteen, 16 and soon to be a LaSalle senior, was there with her mother and father, Betty and Mike Springsteen. To compete at the higher level, she added significant stage movement with a thematic costume, building on her experience at a similar event last year in Las Vegas.

The competition in Hollywood, however, was tougher.

"I thought it went really well," said Miss Springsteen. "My first song, ["Come Rain or Come

"I sang my hardest and felt really good about it. I felt like I accomplished something."

—Katelyn Frosland

Shine"] could have been better, but the second one ["Blues in the Night"] went really well.

"I kind of felt like I should have placed higher," she added.

Miss Frosland agreed about the level of talent.

"It was so tough and there were so many tough competitors," she said. "The first-place person from Detroit didn't even place here. I sang my hardest and felt really good about it. I felt like I accomplished something."

She performed Jessica Simpson's "Angels," and found the judging was about much more than the singing.

"It's not about your voice, but about your performance," she said.

Wendy Frosland, her mother, concurred.

"Katelyn did wonderfully, as far as her vocals, but a lot of these kids, you can tell they've really been schooled in stage presence and choreography, which we haven't. When they called out the names, Katelyn just said she was very honored to just make it out here.

"It was very fast-paced and there were a lot of talented kids out there," she added. "We registered at 7:30 a.m. and didn't get out of there until 11 p.m., so that shows you how many there were."

The two were joined by Mrs. Frosland's fiancée, Ron Mink, and Katelyn's friend, Stephanie Damron, in California. They were surprised that Hollywood isn't nicer or cleaner, but were

enchanted by the Magic Kingdom, having never been to Disneyland, or even out of the state before.

Miss Springsteen also appreciated the chance to see new people, places, and things.

"It was a lot of fun. We saw the Hollywood Walk of Fame and went to the Santa Monica beach," she said.

She met the event hosts, Debbie Allen and Raven, while attending a gala the day after the main contest. Mrs. Allen starred in and choreographed "Fame," both the original 1979 film and the 1982 television series. In each, young people were inspired by their peers toward higher levels of performance excellence. At the FAMEUS National Finals, it

was the same.

"I thought it was a great experience," said Mrs. Springsteen. "When you are around that kind of talent, it ignites your enthusiasm and your own talent, and you can go from there.

"To say there was a lot of variety there would be an understatement, even with the entrance and exit styles" to and from the stage. "You are on a different court out there. Just like the [St. Ignace] girls basketball team when they advanced through to the finals."

Mrs. Springsteen could see a clear difference between her daughter's showing last year in Las Vegas and this year.

"Her ease in performance, that's where she really grew," Mrs. Springsteen said. "Last year,

she did a nice job, but here she had the movement and the stage presence. She's improved so much. When you're part of things like this, you can really grow."

She also had praise for Miss Frosland's efforts. "Getting up there after seeing the things all of the other kids had done builds courage," she said. "Katelyn did it beautifully."

Neither Kate is content with stopping now, and each is looking forward to the next opportunity to perform.

"I can't wait to go somewhere else and perform again," said Miss Springsteen.

"It was well worth it," said Mrs. Frosland. "Katelyn is already talking about wanting to go next year."

Native American Trail, Now US-2, To Get Historical Marker; Groundbreaking Friday

A historical marker will be placed at the Bridgeview Scenic Turnout on US-2 to commemorate the history of the origins of the route as a Native American trail and later a path used by explorers, traders, and armies.

A groundbreaking for the marker is planned for Friday, September 2, at 2 p.m. at the turnout approx-

imately one mile west of St. Ignace. The public is invited to attend.

The Michigan Department of Transportation and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians developed the marker to educate travelers about the history of the route.

The project is funded by Federal Transportation Enhancement funds.

Parent Appeal Does Not Sway School Board To Keep 8th Grade at St. Ignace Middle School

School on Track To Begin Sept. 6

By Stephen Underwood

A turnout of more than 20 parents and some of their children at a hastily scheduled personnel committee meeting Monday, August 29, was not enough to convince St. Ignace Area Schools administrators and school board members to reverse a decision made in July to move the 8th grade class to LaSalle High School.

The meeting at the middle school library also gave Superintendent Michael Springsteen a chance to express his continued optimism that school will begin for the district Tuesday, September 6, with the LaSalle renovation project being completed in time.

Mr. Springsteen, district principals Don Gustafson and Bonnie Ledy, three school board members, and the concerned families engaged in 90 minutes of discussion, with some impassioned statements and questions. Deb Evashevski, the city's Downtown Development Authority director who has a son going into eighth grade, organized the parents, but those in attendance had a wide variety of concerns and issues to bring to the table.

With the district and board deciding to make half an administrator position one of its budget cuts for the 2005-2006 school year, the district is left with two principals. Rather than put a load of almost 500 students in nine grades on Mrs. Ledy, and, less than 300 on Mr. Gustafson, it was decided at the July board meeting to house the 60 8th grade students in a wing with two empty classrooms at LaSalle, with the idea that it would balance the workload for the principals and provide better administrative supervision for the students.

"We looked at a lot of different things, and going through the decision-making process was painful," said Mr. Springsteen. "In my opinion, the way we did it is the best and most efficient use of our supervisors. I know it can be done. We've heard a lot of talk, but we're trying to do what's best for the kids."

He also said it was common for most of the smaller schools in northern Michigan to have grades seven through 12 in the same

building.

The parents in attendance, however, felt that putting their 8th-graders in the high school was not the best thing for them.

"That's where we differ," said Mrs. Evashevski. "We feel the best thing is to keep them here in this [middle] school. I think it was a selling issue when we passed the bond for this building. My gut feeling is that you're trying to deal with numbers. I'm dealing with my child."

While about one-fifth of the class's parents were represented, Mrs. Evashevski said she called many others, who were not able to make it to the meeting, and that only several said they were neutral on the issue and none who wanted the switch.

"These kids will not have their year to be top dog," she added.

The parents' concerns were also raised in light of the district's increased concern about drug use in the high school. Many of the parents said they don't want their children exposed to that environment that soon.

Bullying by older students is another concern.

"My kids are afraid to go there," one parent said Monday.

Another parent, however, said there's some level of drug use among 7th and 8th grade students already. Cases of eighth grade students bullying each other was also raised, and the new plan could possibly alleviate that, a parent suggested.

School Board President Diggy Clement emphasized that with the lower numbers at LaSalle, the 8th-graders would have more administrative support and be more closely supervised.

"We'll have a much better handle on the eighth grade in the high school," added Mr. Gustafson, who was formerly the middle school principal. "There are a lot of discipline issues in the eighth grade."

"That's not what the teachers I've talked to have said," countered Mrs. Evashevski.

Later in the meeting, eighth-grade teacher Pat Chargo, who along with Marty Spencer and Pat Shiemke will be teaching the class, emphasized that the teachers will be well aware of protecting the students.

"Yes, your kids are going to miss some opportunities," he said, "but I also have three elementary school kids, too, and I would not like to see them undersupervised.

We have a lot of years of experience and we're going to look out for your kids."

Questions were raised about how students would participate in student council, band, assemblies, and other activities that would either require them to go back to the middle school building or participate with the high school students. The administration is still working on most of those issues, but administrators said the school probably will opt for a separate 8th grade band and allow eighth graders to participate on the high school student council. Assemblies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, they said, and the athletic programs will not change.

Some parents said they felt it was a numbers issue, but Mr. Springsteen said that while cutting half an administrator was obviously a cost-cutting move, it wouldn't cost the district any more money to keep eighth grade in the middle school.

One father suggested that the district try half a year with the students still at the middle school, then switch them if it didn't work out.

"I really think (our decision) will work out better this way," Mr. Springsteen.

"What if it doesn't?" asked the parent.

"We'll have to deal with it then," said Mr. Springsteen.

In the end, some parents just felt like the 8th grade students would be missing a special year when they are the oldest in their school, and that one year's maturity is a big difference for ninth-graders going in. They also complained that they or their children weren't consulted on the matter, but administrators said the matter was discussed at board meetings, which are open to the public.

"I talked to many parents who weren't aware of this until August," said Mrs. Evashevski.

One parent however, who had opinions on both sides of the issue, said she had been a middle-school student at LaSalle and "loved it," though the fact that she had big brothers helped protect her. "There are a lot of things in this district we can be thankful for," she said.

A few parents said they might withdraw their children either for home schooling or to transfer to Gros Cap, an elementary school in Moran Township that educates students through the eighth grade.



Metal artist Randy Dunn and his apprentice, Chris Bindschatel, stand in front of the dinosaur Mr. Dunn created out of pieces of previous projects. The dinosaur was recently sold in a Les Cheneaux Watershed Council auction. Mr. Dunn is expected to be at Art in the Park this Saturday, September 3, in Cedarville.

Working Demonstrations at Art in the Park To Headline Les Cheneaux Labor Day Weekend

By Amy Polk

"The key to Art in the Park that sets it apart from other events like this is that we try to have as many artists demonstrating as possible," said glassblower Rick Shapero. "The motivation behind this is to give patrons the chance to see the creative process."

Mr. Shapero is a member of the Les Cheneaux Artisan Cooperative that is sponsoring Art in the Park this Saturday, September 3, in Cedarville's waterfront park on Hodeck Street. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free, and many of the 15 artists will sell their work.

Since Art in the Park was founded five years ago, Cooperative members have made it their goal to bring to light the artistic process, rather than the product. Demonstrators will include weavers and spinners, potters, wood carvers, metal artists, and painters. Live music will be featured throughout the day.

Art in the Park provides a social setting and patrons are encouraged to talk to artists and watch them work.

"Art in the Park is always a great venue for young people to find inspiration," Mr. Shapero said.

The Les Cheneaux Artisan Cooperative provides professional development and exposure for artists and direction for fledgling artists. It has 42 members from the Les Cheneaux Islands, DeTour, and Pickford areas, who contribute to auctions and fundraisers for charity events throughout the year. A map of artists workshops and galleries is available at the Les Cheneaux Welcome Center in Cedarville and at local businesses.

Other events sponsored by the Cooperative include Music and Art Dockside in Hessel in July and a fall artist studio tour in October.

Culturama Returns to St. Ignace Sept. 8 - 10

French Voyager Historian, Large Inflatable Art Structure To Highlight 2005 Event

By Ryan Schlehuder

Culturama will include two unique features during the three-day culture and arts event, to be held Thursday, September 8, to Saturday, September 10.

One of the largest collaborative art projects in Michigan will be on display at Little Bear East Arena in St. Ignace during 2005 Culturama. Large, inflatable air structures, decorated with depictions of features of the Eastern Upper Peninsula, were created by more than 1,000 residents of the Upper Peninsula. The effort is part of a Oneness of Humankind: Unity Through Diversity art initiative, coordinated by Darryl Brown, a historian of Fort de Buade in St. Ignace and Fort Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City.

Another Culturama feature will be the archaeological and genealogical research of Tim Kent, of Ossineke, south of Alpena. He will be dressed as a French fur trader of the late 1600s and early 1700s and will recount his 3,000-mile paddling adventure to retrace the mainline fur trade canoe route across the U.S. and Canada at a lecture from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, September 8, at Little Bear East.

The lecture, the first event to start the Culturama weekend, is \$10 per person. Refreshments will be available.

Culturama features the work of traditional artists and artisans, musicians, authors, culinary artists, and historical and cultural re-enactors and storytellers.

Hands-on participation is encouraged throughout the show, providing a chance for those who visit the show to better appreciate the patience needed to stitch a quilt or spin yarn from raw wool.

This year's theme is "French Connection."

Participants can enjoy a guild St. Ignace history walk from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, September 9. Admission is free.

The culmination of the weekend will be the gathering of music, artists, hands-on activities, and ethnic foods Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free of charge.

Saturday's event will feature

artists and workshops such as woodworking, musicians, spinning, drum making, Native American crafts, nautical knot skills, water colors, quilting, and scissor cutting. Visitors will have an opportunity to participate in some of the workshops.

Culturama coordinators are still accepting artists and workshops for the event. For more information, call the Mackinac County Michigan State University Extension office at 643-7307.

The event is supported with a \$7,300 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Accident Claims Life of Hessel Man

Jesse Leach of Hessel has died following a collision with a sport utility vehicle while riding a four-wheeler Sunday afternoon, August 28. The accident took place on Poglese Road in Marquette Township at 1:30 p.m.

According to the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, Mr. Leach, 43, was operating a four-wheel, off-road vehicle as he exited his driveway onto Poglese Road, when he was struck by an oncoming vehicle driven by another Hessel resident. Mr. Leach was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident. The driver of the sport utility vehicle was not injured.

Mr. Leach was transported by Clark Township ambulance to War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste.

Marie, where he was later pronounced dead.

Mr. Leach was a longtime employee of Gough's Livery Stable on Mackinac Island. He leaves behind his wife, Susie, and two children, Kevin and Stephanie.

A complete obituary will be printed in this week's issue.

Free Worship Concert Sunday

A free praise and worship concert will be offered Sunday, September 4, at 7 p.m. at the St. Ignace Marina. Glen Memorial Baptist Church of St. Ignace is sponsoring the concert.