

MARTY

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King, who now lives in Denver, read this week's *Press & Dakotan* articles and forwarded it to other N7 board members.

"The stories came to our attention from you guys (at the P&D)," King said. "We never would have known about the whole issue if we had not read the stories."

The N7 board considered the shoes an immediate need, King said. The shipment of 32 pairs should arrive by the Sept. 9 cross-country meet at Corsica, he added.

"We thought that Nike would help with (Marty's) situation. This has taken off," he said. King offered further help down the road for Marty.

"They don't need to be afraid to pick up the phone. If there is a need for the teams, let it be known," he said. "We have a lot of resources with the work we do, and this is all part of giving back."

This week's *Press & Dakotan* stories about the shoe drive and benefit concert also drew statewide attention, said Marty school superintendent Mike Elsberry.

"We had great reaction from the articles," he said. "We have received some nice monetary donations from Tyndall, Yankton and Wagner, and a lady in Rapid City is sending some shoes."

The Marty school will continue with its athletic fundraising efforts, the superintendent said.

"At this point, Nike has offered to donate the shoes for the (cross-country) team. This means we will continue the fundraising for football, and boys/girls basketball — and then, track," he said.

"So, in a way we have had the one team's needs met, but the fundraising will continue for all sports. Events like (the Indigenous concert) will help along those lines."

The \$575 raised at this week's concert was modest by most standards. However, the American Indian pride shown by Nanji's fans couldn't be measured in dollars and cents.

Audience members scrambled for autographs after the concert. Fans approached a nearby reporter for his spare pen and notebook pages. Other fans found creative alternatives.

"One more (autograph), brother!" a man said, as Nanji signed the fan's T-shirt.

"Oh, sign my purse!" a woman said as she frantically searched for a writing surface.

Nanji took it all in, patiently posing for photos and signing autographs. The impromptu "meet and greet" lasted nearly as long as his performance.

Nanji provided a sense of closure with his performance on the Dakota Theatre stage.

"My dad (the late Greg Zephier Sr.) had a band that performed in Yankton," Nanji said. "He thought about putting on a show here (at Dakota Theatre), but he didn't get around to it. I got to play here, and I really like the venue."

Audience member Darla Irving of Lake Andes said she has followed Indigenous for about 15 years and owns all of the group's CDs.

"Mato's father, rest his soul, created the band and made it what it is today, with determination and perseverance," she said. "Mato is known for his voice, it's so inspirational. I am like thousands of his fans. His music draws me in."

Looking ahead, Nanji said he will perform in Ireland and Poland during his European tour. Then it's back to the United States, where he will perform with Los Lonely Boys at the Seminole Nation Days in Oklahoma. But another event lies on the horizon.

"I just heard (Wednesday) that I will be participating in a Jimi Hendrix tribute that will tour (in the United States and Canada) through the end of October or into November," he said. "I will perform with Jonny Lang, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Robert Randolph and Susan Tedeschi."

Nanji has also found success with the recent release of his new CD, "Acoustic Sessions."

"It's a celebration of 10 years of Indigenous music. We selected two songs from each record, from 1998 to 'Broken Lands' in 2008," he said. "It's the first time I did an acoustic record. It's in stores with the Vanguard record company. I have done three albums with them now."

While Indigenous provided the headline act, Wednesday's concert also featured area Native talent.

A drum group and Native dancers opened the concert, and the evening ended with the

drum group playing an honor song for the Marty teachers and students invited on stage.

"We wish the students and teachers a good year to come," said Master of Ceremonies Allen Hare.

Nanji's performance also inspired the opening act, Yankton Sioux tribal members Matt Knudsen Jr., Justin Cornier and Aidan Standing Cloud of Wagner.

Knudsen admitted the band was caught off guard with the quick invitation to open for Nanji. However, the group — which doesn't even have a formal name — jumped at the opportunity.

"We have practiced on and off again during the past year, but we haven't played for people live. We got in a day of practice before the concert," he said. "This (performance) was filled with anticipation and excitement. It has been both intimidating and scary. It's been exhilarating."

Cournoyer said he has known Nanji and Zephier for years. Nanji has emerged as a musical influence, he added.

"At first, I listened to Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins and alternative stuff. I was more into grunge rock," Cournoyer said. "Then I listened to Mato, and he inspired me to play the blues."

Nanji showed vocal excellence during a difficult acoustic solo at Wednesday's concert, "and Mato hit it right on," Cournoyer said.

The Wagner band members said they were grateful for the learning experience and opportunity to open for Indigenous. The evening inspired other Indians of all ages, they said.

"This started out as a fundraiser, but it became a spiritual thing," Cournoyer said.

"I liked the privilege that (Nanji) asked us to play," he added. "We would like to go on tour and play on stage before large audiences, just like him. That would be cool."

Police ID Owner Of Trunk Containing Baby Bodies

BY THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Investigators have identified the owner of a trunk in which the mummified remains of two babies were found, bringing them a step closer to solving the intriguing international mystery.

The owner of the steamer trunk, abandoned for decades in the basement of an apartment building, was Janet M. Barrie, a Scottish immigrant who was born

in 1897 and worked as a nurse in Los Angeles before moving to Vancouver, where she died, officials said Thursday.

Confirming her identity will help investigators as they try to solve the puzzle of the abandoned remains found wrapped in sheets and nestled in doctor bags amid scrunched up copies of 1930s newspapers.

The coroner's office has been unable to determine how the babies died, and it may never be known why they were placed in the trunk or who put them there.

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