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Switchback in Grayling concert Dec. 30

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GRAYLING --

On Wednesday, Dec. 30. at 7:30 p.m. the Grayling Rotary Club is staging a Holiday Benefit Concert featuring the award-winning Chicago duo Switchback at the Grayling High School.

Switchback is on a short tour up north over the New Year's weekend and they are making a stop in Grayling to play at this benefit event. The proceeds from this concert will go to support the Grayling Rotary Club community efforts.

Switchback is the duo of Marty McCormack on bass and vocals and Brian FitzGerald on guitar, mandolin and vocals. The show will feature a combination of country, blues, cajun, pop and Irish songs from Switchback's 12 albums, plus a collection of Christmas favorites and a good mix of tunes from the Beatles, Van Morrison, Johnny Cash, Stevie Ray Vaughan and others.

Switchback tours the world every year playing festivals, performing arts centers, opera houses, theaters and pubs from Iowa to Canada and from Ireland to Italy. In 2008, Switchback traveled to almost half of the states in the U.S. and played to international audiences in The Netherlands, Ireland, England and Canada. This winter they are off again for tours of Ireland and Italy in January and February and on the way they stop over on an island in Northern Ontario to play at a sold-out performance this New Year's Eve.

At the end of December, the duo is releasing their 12th album, "Ghosts of the River Folk."

The concert in Grayling will be the first concert for the duo after the debut of this new album. With "Ghosts of the River Folk," Switchback creates a powerful tribute to the people and spirit of the upper Mississippi, their musical home. Like a ride on John Hartford's beloved Julia Belle Swain riverboat winding its way down the Mississippi River, this collection of songs takes you through the ever-changing scenery and characters that make up this magical part of northeast Iowa. Recorded at the famous Kingsize Studios in Chicago, this new indie-pop release features all original tunes by FitzGerald and McCormack.

Switchback is joined by former Brian Wilson drummer Jim Hines; Ellis Clark on keyboards; fiddler Paul Russell; and Grammy-award winning producer Lloyd Maines on Papoose Guitar. Also contributing to this new project are acclaimed accordionist John Williams, who wrote the music for the DreamWorks feature motion picture, "Road To Perdition;" Brianne Bolin on squeeze box accordion; and Siobhan FitzGerald, Maggie FitzGerald and Mike Hagler delivering vocal harmonies.

The album also features original artwork by Anne de Courtenay, which captures the energy and mystery of a warm summer's night on the upper Mississippi, the night the mayflies danced. "Ghosts of the River Folk" will be available in late December.

For more information call Randy Thompson at 348-5474.

Visit Switchback on the Web at www.WayGoodMusic.com.