

Fright fest at Littlefork

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Halloween is nearly upon us, and residents interested in a good scare can stop by Littlefork for a night of fright.

The Littlefork Chamber of Commerce's Boo Boulevard is an opportunity for local

businesses to showcase their wares. The main event at Boo Boulevard is Spooky Acres, a haunted house attraction.

The event is 7-10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Northern Minnesota District Fairgrounds in Littlefork. The event is \$5 per person or \$20 per family,

and will feature hayrides, bonfires, and concessions. Spooky Acres is not recommended for children under 10 years old.

Wendy Boorman said the "spook house" started in 2005 in her garage for a birthday party. Since then, it's moved to the fire hall, and last year was the first year

it's been at the fairgrounds, she said.

The age disclaimer is a suggestion for parents, Boorman said, because in the past, children were genuinely scared by the event.

"It really is scary," she said. "I just don't recommend it as a mom. It's more teenager or adult level."

Chili, candy corn, and carousing

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Residents who have caught fall festival fever can attend an Oktoberfest event in Birchdale Saturday.

The event kicks off with a chili cook-off judging at 5 p.m., and a potluck to follow at 6 p.m. Contestants should drop off a crock-pot of their chili at the Birchdale Community Building by 5 p.m. to be eligible

for judging. After a winner has been declared, a potluck dinner featuring the different chilis will be held, organizer Soren Olesen said.

One of the main events following the dinner is a pumpkin carving contest, which has become "pretty competitive" in recent years, Olesen said.

"We have about 30 pumpkins to carve donated by the Imes family and some people bring their own," he said.

There's some mystery surrounding a new event for this year, the shinding goose shoot, as organizers aren't sure what it's going to entail yet, Olesen said.

"We quite don't know yet, but it'll probably involve splitting a bullet in half on an ax and hitting two targets at once, as such shenanigans," he said.

The event is put on as a quarterly fundraiser for the Community Building in Birchdale, where the

event is held, Olesen said. Other yearly events include Pioneer Days in July and the North American Sturgeon Championship in August.

"We just like to hold events that promote family fun where people of any generation can come and enjoy themselves," he said.

There will also be a campfire, a spooky hay ride, pumpkin carving and a gourd catapult available for entertainment.

Author to speak about Peace Corps life

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Twenty years after completing her Peace Corps service, Meredith Cornett's return trip to Panama this summer coincided with the publication of her first book, "Peace Corps in Panama: Fifty Years, Many Voices."

To promote the book, Cornett will kick off a fall tour in International Falls at 2 p.m. Nov. 4 at Rainy River Community College theater. The event is open to the public and will feature stories, images and information about the ways international service enriches lives at home and abroad.

From the age of 12, Cornett dreamed of serving as a Peace Corps volunteer, said a release. That dream became a reality in 1991 when she began her service in the Republic of Panama. Cornett is one of more than 200,000 returned Peace Corps volunteers who have served around the world in the 52 years since the program was founded by former President John F. Kennedy.

Cornett is among the 1 percent of Peace Corps volunteers who have served in the Republic of Panama. She served in Panama from 1991 to 1993.

Cornett's book, "Peace

Corps in Panama: Fifty Years, Many Voices," was published in honor of Peace Corps Panama's 50th anniversary. The book is available in paperback and for the Kindle through www.meredithwcornett.com.

"Working on this collection of stories connected me with many generations of returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Panama," Cornett said in a release. "The Peace Corps experience is unique to each volunteer, but there are common elements that weave through every story."

Over a two-year period, Cornett reached out

to hundreds of returned Peace Corps volunteers who served in Panama soliciting their stories and poems. The result is a collection of poetry and short memoir that spans every year of Peace Corps service across each province of Panama. She edited the anthology, which contains two of her own essays.

Cornett is a 2013 recipient of an Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Career Development Grant, which provided financial support for the project. The book was launched at a 50th anniversary reunion of Peace Corps volunteers in Panama City this summer.



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