

Festival time

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Peace run returns to the Falls

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

With an international peace organization descending on International Falls Monday, a quasi-United Nations broke out on the international bridge.

Members of the Peace Run, an international peace organization, came through Fort France and International Falls Monday on their way to Minneapolis. The runners were completing part of a months-long route covering the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

To recognize the crossing, com-

munity members from both sides of the border met on the international bridge, where both U.S. and Canadian national anthems were played, with International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson and Fort France Town Councillor John Albanese being presented with certificates of recognition by the runners.

Anderson said he appreciated the efforts of the organization and the runners.

"It was certainly great to see folks from so many nations come together in one common cause or theme, it was certainly exciting

from that standpoint," Anderson said.

Both officials also took turns carrying and holding the group's peace torch. Anderson carried the torch onto the U.S. side of the bridge, which he said was a first for him.

The organization had last been through International Falls in 1991, when organization founder Sri Chinmoy dedicated the international bridge as a peace bridge. This year's crossing marked the 200th anniversary of the

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STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson holds the peace torch as part of a ceremony recognizing the Peace Run coming through International Falls Monday.

From Birchdale to the big-time

Gary Hultman joins The Boxcars

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Gary Hultman may be from a small town, but he has his sights set on big goals.

The 2012 Indus High School graduate has come a long way from performing around the Midwest with his family band, Sloughgrass. Now, he completed a 16-day tour of Japan, rubbing elbows with Ricky Skaggs and recently joined the Grammy-nominated bluegrass band, The Boxcars.

"I had dreamed about getting to jam with The Boxcars," Hultman told The Journal in an email this week. "Getting a gig like this was one of my goals so I am excited to see where it will take me."

Hultman, 20, met The Boxcars' Adam Steffey at East Tennessee State University, where he is studying bluegrass music in the bluegrass, country, celtic and old-time music program. He is expected to graduate in 2016.

With the recent announcement of John Bowman's departure from The Boxcars, a release said the band was initially unsure of how to search for a replacement.

"John's work here as a Boxcar speaks for itself," Steffey said in the release. "He is one of the highest caliber musicians and singers in our business and will certainly be missed."

The band members acknowledged that Bowman's talents could not be duplicated, so their hope was to find someone who

was dedicated and driven to make The Boxcars as good as possible. In Hultman, they feel they've found that artist.

"Although he is young in age, Gary has talent beyond his years," Steffey said. "He has the great ability to play what each song needs - never overplaying or showboating, always sensitive to the song and the dynamics that it requires. This is a rare quality in a young player but it seems to come quite naturally to Gary."

While music may come naturally, Hultman admits his nerves made an appearance during the audition process.

"I was extremely nervous and extremely excited at the same time," he said. "I had a hard time not over analyzing everything I was playing and being overly critical of myself. But the guys told me they liked my playing and they haven't fired me yet so I guess I'm doing alright."

And already, Hultman feels like part of The Boxcar family.

"The guys are all so nice that they just make you feel comfortable right away," he added of his new bandmates.

In addition to playing the Dobro, Hultman will contribute to the lead vocals of the band as it travels around the United States.

"I had never imagined that a Dobro would fit into their sound," Hultman said of the band he's long admired. "Traveling with those guys is

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gary Hultman, left, performs with Ricky Skaggs and Savannah Vaughn at 2014 Showcase East Tennessee State University show. Hultman recently joined the Grammy-nominated bluegrass band, The Boxcars.



'Edna' cleans her new calf, 'Clover,' who was born Friday at the Northern Minnesota District Fair in Littlefork. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Welcome, 'Clover'

Cow gives birth at fair

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

LITTLEFORK — The bright lights of the games and rides at the midway at the Northern Minnesota District Fair took a back seat Friday to an unplanned event inside one of the barns.

It wasn't on the schedule of events, but quickly became a popular attraction when about 40 people gathered to see a cow belonging to Heather Hall give birth to a 100-pound calf.

"It all happened so quickly," said Heather's mom, Stacy Hall, who serves as the local 4-H coordinator. "The vet had just been by to check the cow and about 10 or 15 minutes later, her water broke."

Stacy Hall said "Edna," who is 6 years old, was overdue with the calf, but Friday's vet check indicated she had "a while to go" before going into labor.

"Heather originally entered a cow and calf pair into the fair, but of course, the calf wasn't born yet," Hall said. "We debated on bringing her, but knew the worst that could happen was that she'd calf at the fair."

Unfortunately, Heather wasn't able to see the birth of the calf, which she named



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Ellie Wendt, left, and Attlee Larson, wave to their families as the enjoy a swing ride at the Northern Minnesota District Fair in Littlefork Friday.

"Clover" in honor of being born at the fair, because she was judging rabbits in another barn. Heather's father, Eric, and the fair's vet, Gib Mouser, were on site to offer their help.

To speed up the delivery, which can be a lengthy process, Hall said when Edna had a contraction her husband pulled the calf out so audiences could witness the birth.

"Everyone was very excited," she said. "For a lot of people, this was their first time experiencing something like that."

Hall reports that both mom and baby are doing well and there are plans to return Clover to the fair next year to celebrate her first birthday.

Fairly good time

The rest of the fair, accord-

ing to organizer Sue Cole, was a success although attendance was down.

"There were a couple other events taking place at the same time," she said of why numbers may have been lower than previous years.

Still, Cole said a good time was had by all who came.

"Our musical entertainment was very good and people seemed to really enjoy the Steele River Band," she said. "King of the Road Entertainment was also very good, but had to pack up early Saturday evening when we had a storm blow through."

A new event, the snowmobile drag races, will be improved next year, she continued, and the always-a-hit oval

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