

LEISURE

FUN IN BORDERLAND
The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who have interesting pastimes or hobbies.
Call the Journal at 285-7411

Group seeks to boost interest in theater

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

When Beth Lowthian moved to the International Falls community last year, she seized an opportunity to start a theater group.

“Both of (my) kids have been involved in community theaters in other places we lived,” she said. “My husband Doug and I thought forming a community theater group here in the Falls would be a great way to add to the theater opportunities that already exist in the area.”

And so Borealis Bards was created.

Lowthian said she held two community interest meetings in November and had nearly 30 interested people attend. Since then, she said, the group decided to name itself Borealis Bards and became a program offered through the Backus Community Center.

“The start-up process has been remarkably effortless so far,” she said, adding the group has received positive feedback from the start. “A quick meeting with Ward Merrill, executive director of the Backus Community Center, and its board of directors, showed us they were all quite excited about the idea and gave us the organization’s complete support. Without this support the group wouldn’t have moved forward as quickly.”

Earlier this month, the group hosted its first night of theater games and acting skills. Many new faces attended and everyone had great fun, Lowthian said.

So who can join Borealis Bards and attend the group’s theater gatherings?

Lowthian said anyone can join, despite any previous acting experience. Also those who don’t want to take the stage, but want

to help with the behind-the-scenes efforts of a show are also welcome.

“We need costume designers, seamstresses, make-up and hair stylists, set builders, and techies,” she said. “(We also) encourage folks that always wanted to try acting to give it a try... Anyone joining now will be part of developing and growing a fun way to express oneself.”

The group’s first performance will be providing entertainment at Backus’ Royal Banquet Medieval Feast April 5.

“We are now drafting the program to include a king/queen crowning ceremony, jester jollies, several short skits and dramatic readings,” Lowthian said.

Hopefully, Borealis Bards will be able to offer its own set of community performances including a traditional stage play, roving performances at sum-

mer events, exploring video possibilities and competing at state-wide acting contests, Lowthian continued.

“We would also like to grow a mentor program where folks with previous experience help newer folks in developing a skill – acting, directing, costume or stage design,” she said.

Lowthian said she’s confident those who join the group will have a chance to build their self confidence and public-speaking skills.

“The major goal of this group is to gather the acting talent out there in the Falls area and encourage new folks to try it out, and to have fun,” she said. “Community theater is about sharing the love of acting with your neighbors and to support your neighbors as they explore the art.”

For more information on how to join Borealis Bards, email the group at info@borealisbards.org.



FILE PHOTO

Students perform during last year’s All School Music Festival.

DAR sees record growth in new members in 2013

DAR REPORT

With the final 2013 membership statistics now collected, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution recorded its most significant gain in new members in the history of the 123-year-old organization.

A record 13,906 new members were welcomed into the DAR in 2013. The previous record was set more than 90 years ago in 1921 when 13,805 women were accepted into the organization.

As of Jan. 1, 2014, the official DAR membership count is 177,049, a net increase of 3,529 members from the official membership count from the beginning of 2013.

“The growing membership of the Daughters of the American Revolution represents our organization’s relevance in today’s ever-changing world as we continue to passionately honor our heritage, focus on the future and celebrate America,” DAR President

General Lynn Young said in a release.

In the past seven years since membership began increasing, the DAR has gained a total of more than 14,000 in net membership.

Seven years ago the Daughters of the American Revolution rolled out its Genealogical Resource System, which is a free resource provided by the DAR to aid general research and to assist with the DAR membership process. The GRS is a collection of databases that provide access to the many materials amassed by the DAR since its founding in 1890. The GRS is the result of a multi-million dollar process launched by the organization to scan DAR genealogical resources and then use DAR member volunteers to go through and index and transcribe all of the old DAR applications, making them searchable online.

Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in

achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR. Each DAR applicant must provide genealogical research that documents her lineage back to an ancestor from the Revolutionary War era. The application and source documentation must provide proof of relation for each generation going back to the Patriot ancestor, as well documentation for the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot.

In addition to increased technology, the growth of DAR membership can be attributed to DAR chapters making a great impact in their local communities, illustrating how DAR is a meaningful and relevant organization today’s woman should want to join. Many women also recognize joining DAR is a way for them to honor and preserve their family history, because when their DAR

application is approved, all of the genealogical family history included with it is conserved by the DAR for all future generations.

The mix of new members and long-time members provides a perfect blend of fresh ideas and initiatives as well as strongly rooted traditions and history. What each member brings to the organization energizes and inspires other members to passionately carry on the mission of promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism.

To learn more about the DAR GRS, visit www.dar.org/grs.

For more information on how to join a chapter near you, call Ellen Davis, regent of the Lady Slippers Chapter NSDAR at 218-634-2494. The Lady Slippers Chapter NSDAR welcomes new members at any time of year.

Music festival set for Wednesday

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The sixth annual All School Music Festival is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Backus Community Center.

More than 230 band students from the Borderland area will perform as one entity for this event. Young musicians from International Falls schools, St. Thomas School, Littlefork-Big Falls School and Indus School are participating.

Band instructors are John Faith, Michelle Boelk, Aron Bohnert and Stacey Ottemann.

The bands have been rehearsing individual numbers at their respective schools and the instructors


will direct massed band selections. After rehearsals on festival day, the entire band ensemble will present a concert at 1:30 p.m. in Backus Auditorium.

Faith has been the organizer of this festival since its beginning in 2009. This festival gives students the opportunity to participate with their peers from other schools and perform under the direction of additional music instructors.

The public is welcome to attend the concert, funded by a grant from The Otto Bremer Foundation sponsored by Citizens for Backus/AB. There is no admission charge but a free-will offering will be taken.

MESOTHELIOMA LUNG CANCER

If you or a loved one have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer or any other asbestos related disease contact us for a confidential review of your rights. There are strict time limits in which to bring these claims. Shermoen & Jaksa, PLLP has been representing Minnesota asbestos victims for over 20 years. We are one of only two Minnesota law firms that regularly litigate asbestos cases.



Shermoen & Jaksa, PLLP Law Office
345 6th Avenue
Int'l Falls, MN 56649
(218) 283-4494
1-866-283-4494 Toll Free

KOOCHICHING SPORTSMEN’S ASSOCIATION

Annual Winter Meeting

Wednesday February 12th, 2014

Upstairs at the Elks Club

6 p.m. Directors Meeting

7 p.m. General Members Meeting

Followed by Dinner at the Elk’s

SUPER ONE CORRECTION

In the February 1st Journal coupon #1080 should read Essential Everyday Mustard 8 oz. for 36¢ not Ketchup.



Hwy. 11-71 West, International Falls, MN
283-8440 • www.s1foods.com
Sorry for any inconvenience.



Your Community News Source.

From sports stats to business news, The Journal keeps you in the local loop.

The Journal

www.ifallsjournal.com
218-285-7411
1602 Hwy 71, Int'l Falls

PULL TABS • PULL TABS AVAILABLE • PULL TABS AVAILABLE • **PULL TABS**

VFW Post Members & Guests

Friday & Saturday

February 7 & 8

Live Music by “Steele River”

RENT OUR BANQUET ROOM FOR A GREAT RATE!

Bingo Every Sunday!
jackpot \$750 and 54#’s

Now Play Electronic Pull tabs & Bingo!
Reg. games still available

Mon. 6:30 pm - Whist
Wed. 6:30 pm - Gin
Sat. 2:00 pm - Cribbage



Play Pull Tabs • VFW 2948 Gambling Lic. #A-00071

PULL TABS • PULL TABS AVAILABLE • PULL TABS AVAILABLE • **PULL TABS**

Rainy Lake Medical Center welcomes

Nancy Burmeister, FNP-BC

Brad Reiners, PA-C

to the Rainy Lake Rural Health Clinic

Rainy Lake Rural Health Clinic

Monday - Friday • 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Same day appointments available at the RLHC Hospital Campus.

Please call 218-283-5503 to schedule your appointment.



Rainy Lake RURAL HEALTH CLINIC