

# LOCALNEWS

## Little River Band to headline Riverfest

### Organizers hopeful for successful turnout to fourth-annual event

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

Contracts are signed and the date is set — planning for the fourth annual Riverfest is well underway.

The Australia-based Little River Band will headline this year's event at the Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater, with opening acts by Lamont Cranston Band and The Mike Ure Band.

"We've decided to have three bands this year instead of four," said Ward Merrill, executive director of Backus, one of the organizations playing host to the event. "We think it'll be a good mix of music. I think all the bands will attract different kinds of people."

The Little River Band, according to its website, had chart success in the U.S. between 1976 and 1983. The band may be most known for the hits "It's a Long Way There;" "Help Is on It's Way;" "Reminiscing;" and "Man on Your Mind."

The rock band is considered to be one of Australia's most significant bands, the site said. The band set a record for having top 10 hits for six consecutive years — the first band to achieve that mark.

Lamont Cranston Band formed in Minnesota in the mid-1960s under the inspiration of blues music. According to its website, the band's visibility increased in the 1980s when RCA reissued its hit release "Upper Mississippi Shakedown," selling more than 100,000 copies and cracking the lower reaches of the Billboard charts.

The Mike Ure Band, which organizers say has ties to Fort Frances, formed in 2012 and is a four-piece, country band from Harrow and Windsor, Ontario. The band's music is a cross between traditional country music and new modern rock country, influenced by groups such as Florida Georgia Line, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean and Keith Urban. The Mike Ure Band has just released their first Nashville-recorded single "Shake This Town."

**WORKING ON SUCCESS**

Last year marked the first year Riverfest was presented in a new partnership between the International Falls Rotary Club and the Backus Community Center. About 1,000 people — the lowest turnout in the event's history — attended Riverfest headlined by Arch Allies, which for the previous two years had opened for Lover

boy and 38 Special.

After breaking even, organizers realized they needed to secure a bigger name band to draw a larger crowd.

"We realized we're not going to have Arch Allies again next year," Merrill told The Journal after last year's show.

But, cost is still a challenge.

Merrill said bringing a big-name band to International Falls can carry a hefty price tag. He said the overall budget for the event is about \$96,000, with \$75,000 slated for talent and production.

"That's the biggest piece of the budget," he said. "A band like the Little River Band is fairly spendy... We're spending considerably more than we did last year."

In 2013, all four bands including production costs totalled about \$30,000.

"People said if they're going to attend Riverfest, they wanted to see a bigger band," Merrill said. "We're not a major talent booking agency, we're the International Falls Rotary and Backus... When we look at a \$100,000 project, that's immense. We do the best we can."

**FINGERS CROSSED**

Organizers are hoping to come out above breaking even on costs this year, and they believe they have a good shot.

"We've been able to gath-

er awesome bands," Mike Ward, president of Rotary said. "I think we've got a great diversity of music for the day to attract a lot of different folks."

Ward believes the popularity of the Little River Band and the diversity of the opening acts will likely attract out-of-town visitors to the show.

"I think people will travel to International Falls to see these shows," he said.

Also working in their favor is moving the event to July 5 to coincide with the local Canada Day July 1 and American Fourth of July celebrations.

"Having the event following the weekend everyone comes home in I. Falls will have an impact on the locals who attend," Ward said. "I'm excited about it."

**GOOD CAUSE**

Both Rotary and Backus have pledged money raised from Riverfest will go back into the community to support local youth programs.

"We hope people will support it," Merrill said.

He added the organizations are contacting and seeking sponsors and are hoping for a repeat of last year's support.

"Last year, we had a great response from groups and business," he said.

Advance tickets are on sale for \$30 each and will be \$40 at the gate. Merrill said VIP tickets that will include benefits and incentives are available for \$75.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.LITTLERIVERBAND.COM

The Little River Band will headline this year's Riverfest event set for July 5 at the Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater located between Highway 11 East and Rainy River.

GET UP TO AN  
**\$80**

**COOPER TIRES  
VISA PREPAID CARD**  
MARCH 1 - APRIL 15, 2014  
When you buy a new set of four qualifying tires today, You'll get a Visa Prepaid Card worth up to \$80 by mail.  
  
**\$80 Reward** — A/T, CTS  
**\$70 Reward** — Cooper Zeon RS3-A  
Cooper Zeon RS3-S  
**\$60 Reward** — CS4, H/T3, H/T, H/T Plus  
**\$50 Reward** — CS3  




LIFE'S A ROAD TRIP.  
COME ON, LET'S GO.

**All Season Equipment Inc.**  
TRAILERS • TIRES • FULL SERVICE GARAGE  
2200 2nd Ave., International Falls, MN • M-F 8-5, Sat 8-Noon  
(218) 373-0373 • [www.AllSeasonEquipmentInc.com](http://www.AllSeasonEquipmentInc.com)

**Rotary Club of International Falls**

**18th Annual Rose Sale**

**Bring Home a Dozen Long-Stemmed Roses** for only **\$15** per dozen

Here is your once-a-year opportunity to purchase fresh-cut roses from Rotary. All proceeds are used by the International Falls Rotary Club for student scholarships and Community Projects.

**Mail in you order now!** Or purchase a ticket from a Rotarian.  
(No orders taken after March 26, 2014)  
Satisfaction guaranteed by Int'l Falls Rotary Club

Mail to: **ROTARY ROSE SALE**  
Rotary Club of International Falls  
P.O. Box 47  
International Falls, MN 56649



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Red ☐ Lollipop  
Number of dozen: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can pick up your roses at one of these civic-minded businesses on:

**Thursday, April 10th from Noon – 5 p.m. or  
Friday, April 11th from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Pick Up At:**  
☐ Streiff's Floral ☐ Gearhart's Floral  
☐ J&D Foods, Littlefork ☐ Gorden's Hardware Hank, Big Falls

**Laminate...**  
Maps, posters and shop drawings up to 38" wide. No seams.  
Also, we can mount documents onto 3/16" or 3/8" foam core.



  
Printing & Design  
1602 Hwy. 71 • 285-7411



**IT'S HARD TO KICK UP YOUR HEELS WHEN PAIN'S GOT YOU DOWN.**  
You don't have to live with the pain. We know feet, we know what makes them hurt and more importantly, not hurt.

- Referrals usually not necessary
- Most types of insurance accepted

Call and ask for one of our ABPS board-certified podiatrists.  
Dr. Stacey Nipp, D.P.M.  
Dr. Robert Nipp, D.P.M.  
Dr. Curt Kristensen, D.P.M.

HIBBING & VIRGINIA  
800.327.1819  
DULUTH  
722.0615

  
NORTHERN FOOT & ANKLE ASSOCIATES  
podiatric medicine & surgery

**Celebrate St. Patrick's Day**

AT THE JUG LIQUORS  
Prices good thru 3/19

**10% OFF All Irish Whiskey & Irish Cream**

**Christian Brother's Brandy**  
1.75  
**SALE \$17.99**

**Grain Belt Northeast**  
12 pack bottles  
**SALE \$11.99**

**Jacob's Creek All Varieties**  
750  
**\$5.99**

**Callia Bella Syrah & Malbec Blend**  
750  
**\$9.49**  
**SAVE \$3**

Limited to stock on hand.

**The Jug Liquors**  
Borderland's Local Liquor Store  
Hwy 53 & 11th St. - M.-Sat. 8am-10pm  
Sale ends Wednesday

**Don't Forget The Bar Supplies!**