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AEOA
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc.

LOCALNEWS

Annual music festival set for Saturday

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Musicians from schools around the area will come together next week for an annual concert at Backus Community Center. The seventh annual All

School Music Festival begins at 12:45 p.m. Wednesday in the community center's auditorium.

More than 250 band students from the Borderland area will perform as one entity for this event. Participating schools include International Falls, Littlefork-Big Falls and Indus. Band instructors are John Faith, Michelle Boelk, Aron Bohnert and Stacey Ottemann.

Students have been rehearsing individual numbers at their respective schools and the instructors will direct massed band selections.

Faith has been the organizer of this festival since its beginning in 2009. The festival provides students the opportunity to participate with their peers from other



FILE PHOTO

Littlefork-Big Falls band teacher Aron Bohnert directs more than 200 students from schools in International Falls, Littlefork and Indus as they participate in the sixth annual All School Music Festival last year at Backus Community Center. This year's event is set for 12:45 p.m. Wednesday at the community center.

schools and perform under the direction of additional music instructors. The public is welcome

to attend the free concert. Free-will donations will be accepted. The event is made possible

by a grant from The Otto Bremer Foundation and is sponsored by Citizens for Backus/AB.

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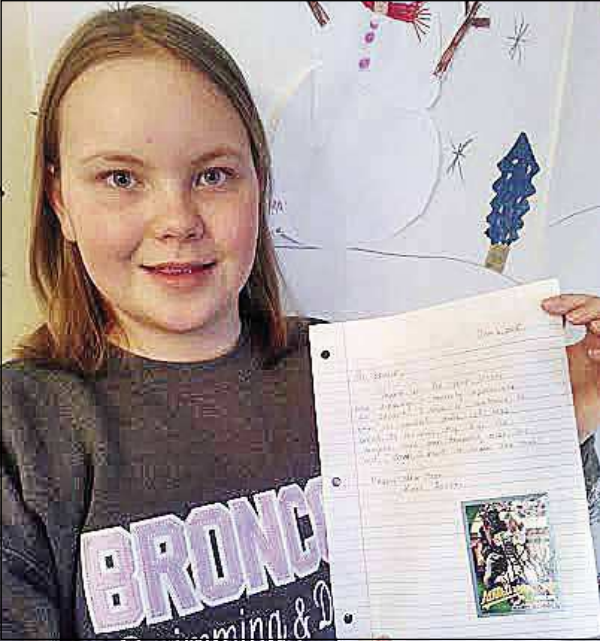
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STAR STRUCK



Gracie Bowles, 10, of International Falls, in December wrote a letter to her favorite Minnesota Twins player, Kurt Suzuki, along with a picture she drew of him playing baseball. To her surprise, she received a hand-written letter back, along with an autographed baseball card. The second grader wanted to write to Suzuki to let him know he was her favorite player and hoped he would keep playing for the Twins.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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