

# LEISURE

## FUN IN BORDERLAND

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who have interesting pastimes or hobbies.  
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### Harmony of Nations brings countries together

The Harmony of Nations Music Festival, which took place in Fort Frances over the weekend, featured headliners Chad Brownlee and Buffy Sainte-Marie, as well several other acts — including the Sloughgrass Band from Birchdale.

The first ever inaugural festival was formed with the goal of uniting artists and audience members from First Nation, Métis, Canadian and American communities, in a creative, musical environment.

The festival featured two evenings of highly regarded musical entertainment by award-winning singer-songwriters and up-and-coming local stars, ranging from folk to bluegrass, country and rock. The days were filled with vendor displays, community performances and interactive artist workshops.



PHOTO BY HEATHER LATTER, FORT FRANCES TIMES

**Award-winning songwriter Shy-Anne Hovorka, Thunder Bay, gave some tips to locals gathered at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Center for a songwriting workshop. That evening Hovorka performed on the Harmony of Nations stage under the big tent at the waterfront.**

Canadian country artist Chad Brownlee performs as the headlining act Friday night at the Harmony of Nations Music Festival.



PHOTO BY HALEY ANDERSON, FORT FRANCES TIMES



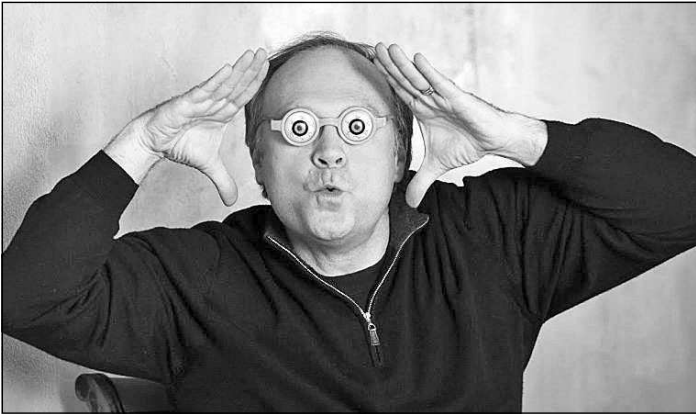
PHOTO BY HALEY ANDERSON, FORT FRANCES TIMES

**Academy award winner Buffy Sainte-Marie took center stage Saturday night as the headliner for the Harmony of Nations Music Festival in Fort Frances. The Canadian music legend was among the 18 artists who performed throughout the first-ever event.**



PHOTO BY HEATHER LATTER, FORT FRANCES TIMES

**The WoodPicks, Thief River Falls, perform a mix of gospel, bluegrass, country and Americana Saturday during a workshop at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Center in conjunction with the inaugural Harmony of Nations Music Festival. During the workshop, the band took time to teach some local musicians how to play a bluegrass tune.**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Scott Novotny will host “Sit Down with a Stand Up,” a free comedy writing workshop at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the International Falls Public Library.**

### Learn to write like a comedian

#### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Ever wanted to write your own comedy skit? Here’s your chance. The Arrowhead Library System presents “Sit Down with a Stand Up,” a free comedy writing workshop at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the International Falls Public Library.

Have you been told you are funny? Have you ever considered becoming a stand-up comedian? Or thought of writing comedy routines? Then attend Sit Down with a Stand Up, Scott Novotny’s comedy writing program that incorporates the history and culture of stand-up comedy in Minnesota and its development since the 1970’s.

Novotny recently celebrated his 30th anniversary of being a full-time professional stand-up comedian. Over that time, he has had people laughing from coast to coast with his clean, non-offensive, very funny observations and humor, according to a release.

Novotny guides participants through stand-up comedy, improvisation, and

comedy writing as well as live demonstrations of a comedy routine. The release said workshop participants will stay engaged by using Novotny’s comedy writing formula for beginning writers.

Minnesotan born and educated, Novotny has written for HBO, Dudley Rigg’s Brave New Workshop, TV commercials, Strange Brew daily comic strip, and Saturday Night Live. “Let Novotny help you find your comedy style in this writing workshop for teens, young adults, and adults of all ages,” urges the release.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, see the organization’s calendar at [www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us/whats-new](http://www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us/whats-new). Or find them on Twitter [www.twitter.com/ArrowheadLegacy](http://www.twitter.com/ArrowheadLegacy) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ArrowheadLegacy](http://www.facebook.com/ArrowheadLegacy).



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