

LEISURE

FUN IN BORDERLAND

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American bluegrass at Harmony of Nations

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Harmony of Nations Music Festival is fast approaching and alongside headliners Chad Brownlee and Buffy Sainte-Marie, are two acts from Minnesota taking the stage.

The inaugural festival takes place Friday and Saturday in Fort Frances, and features regional groups The WoodPicks and Sloughgrass Family Band.

The WoodPicks, Thief River Falls, are a group of five musicians performing a toe-tapping mix of bluegrass, gospel, country and Americana with im-

peccable vocal harmonies. Band members include Greg Dally, Dustin Keller, Gene Lunsetter, Milo Ballingrud, and J.D. Kezar.

Together they have many years of experience playing in various groups throughout the United States and Canada.

The WoodPicks will perform at the festival at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, and according to a release, they promise to put on a good show. The band loves audience energy, and leader Kezar said, “You have their attention, so you want to work harder to reach out to these folks. If they’re smil-

ing with you, you’re getting it across and it’s happy and fun.”

The WoodPicks will also hold a workshop Saturday afternoon at the Fort Frances Public Library where they will teach bluegrass tunes and vocal harmonies. Interested workshop participants are asked to bring their instruments for this one-of-a-kind experience.

From Birchdale, Sloughgrass is a family band with Grandma Audrey Nelson setting the rhythm on the upright bass. She is joined by several family members including daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren

playing a variety of acoustic instruments. They describe their music as a blend of bluegrass, gospel, country, old-time, Scandinavian, and folk.

Sloughgrass will perform at Harmony of Nations at 3 p.m. Saturday.

“Sloughgrass is very excited to be part of this new event,” said Soren Oleson, Sloughgrass band member. “We hope to help it grow to an annual event.”

Harmony of Nations takes place at the Sorting Gap Marina in Fort Frances and aims to bring together artists from Canadian, American, First Nations and Métis

cultures. More information about the festival can be found online at harmonyof-nations.ca.

Weekend passes are \$60; day passes \$35; and child day passes \$12. Tickets are available at Coffee Landing Cafe or online.

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Emmy-award winning Zinghoppers to perform

Program aims to engage, educate, and entertain

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Put your paws up — an Emmy-award winning show is coming to town.

Arrowhead Library System officials announced last week that the Zinghoppers band will perform a free program for all ages at noon July 24 at the International Falls Public Library.

This award-winning, educational and entertaining show, according to a release, was developed just for libraries celebrating this 2014 Summer Reading Program theme, “Paws to Read!”

Utilizing state of the art sound and projection, the Zinghoppers band invites kids on a musical concert journey to the zoo where they’ll experience a lot of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Zinghoppers band will perform a free program for all ages at noon July 24 at the International Falls Public Library.

animals up close and personal. Along the way, there will also be a celebration of books and reading, the release said. Fun, fresh and fully interactive — this show encourages audience participation and patrons

will be dancing, singing and zinghopping along.

This show will feature state of the art video projections on screen of the entire PBS TV show cast: Funky Possum, Olo Da Donkey, Coconuts The Kangaroo, J-

Star and DJ Kitty — along with the Zinghoppy Dancers.

Created especially for preschool and elementary age children, the goal is to engage, educate and entertain.

Books tell Voyageurs National Park’s history

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

An effort to facilitate visitor understanding and knowledge of Voyageurs National Park and its resources, is being emphasized by the release of two publications written by local people close to the park and its roots.

**Geology**

“A Story Written in the Rocks; The Geology of Voyageurs National Park,” written by Chris Hemstad, a Falls teacher and geologist with credit to Leland Grim, a retired professor from Rainy River Community College and biologist at Voyageurs National Park and Tawnya Schoewe, the park’s chief of interpretation, tells a story about change on a scale different from that of human life. It is a story that emerges from the depths of time, enabling the reader to make connections between what was and what is.

In the easy-to-read guide

book, the park’s geological features are brought forth for the young and old who want to discover this nation’s natural treasures.

This book was 25 years in the making, a release said. Over the years, several geologists and park staff assisted with the creation of the book that answers questions like: How this area now known as Voyageurs National Park was formed or why the rocks in the northern part of the park differ from those in the southern end of the park.

**Family history**

“Life at Kettle Falls,” tells the story of the Williams’ family growing up at Kettle Falls through the eyes and ears of author Mike Williams.

From the notorious years, to life with family and friends at the hotel, to the fishing and hunting adventures along the way, this book is a fun read, a release said.

**An idea is born**

In 2005, Voyageurs National Park staff wrote a long-range interpretive plan identifying educational materials completed to-date and a wish list of projects to develop over the next five to 15 years.

The plan includes the park’s six official interpretive themes: geology, voyageurs and the fur trade, people, scenery, water and plants and animals. These themes, according to a release, are extremely important to park officials as they direct park staff when working on visitor service projects for the public.

In 2009, Jefferson National Parks Association, or JNPA, partnered with VNP to begin operating the bookstores at all three visitor centers within the park. JNPA is a non-profit organization that brings money back to parks for interpretive and educational purposes. When a visitor buys a book, a percentage of that purchase goes back to

the park.

Since the partnership began, big changes have occurred in the stores. JNPA is working with park officials to bring the six park interpretive themes to life.

Over the past few years, park officials have chosen to apply returning funds towards the development of publications that will facilitate visitor understanding and knowledge of the park and its resources.

Whether visitors have all day, half a day, a few hours, or 15 minutes to visit the park, they can enter any one of the three VNP visitor center bookstores and leave with a sense of knowing why the park was established. The bookstores reflect Voyageurs National Park and its significance.


Both books can be purchased at any of the park’s three visitor centers or through Jefferson National Parks Association’s online store at www.shopjnpa.com.



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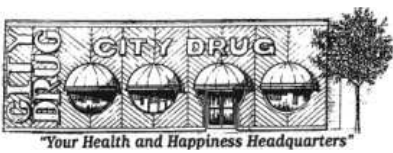
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Free workshop welcomes area musicians Aug. 10-15

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Mark your calendars: Aug. 10-15 is an opportunity to get in touch with your musical side.

For the 36th year, the Rainy Lake Community Orchestra is offering an opportunity for youth and adults to participate in a free Summer String Workshop Aug. 10-15 at the Ranier Community Building.

Visiting professional musicians from the United States and Canada will share their experience and expertise with lessons, instruction and conducting. Area string musicians of all ages and abilities are welcome and encouraged to attend the workshop, where, according to a release, they will have the opportunity

to improve their skills, rehearse and perform symphony orchestra music.

Private and group lessons, quartets and ensembles, youth orchestra and adult orchestra will be offered. The lessons and small groups are scheduled according to skill level and available free time.

The youth orchestra, Rainy Lake Sinfonia, rehearses at 4 p.m., and the adults, Rainy Lake Orchestra, at 5:30 p.m. each day, Sunday through Thursday.

Young students who are able to play advanced musical literature are also welcome to play with the adults; beginning adult students are welcome to play with the youth.

A concert, free and open to the public, will be pre-

sented at 7 p.m. Aug. 15 in the Ranier Community Building.

This orchestra workshop is funded by an Arts Grant Award from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. Funds are made possible from the State of Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

The workshop is sponsored by the Rainy Lake Community Orchestra, the city of Ranier and various friends of the orchestra.

Registration for the workshop is not required; String musicians may come to the first rehearsals in Ranier Aug. 10. All activities during the week are free.

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