

Founding Members Works On Display



Bryan Peters, grandson of Martha Peters, holds one of his grandmother's works, while the daughter of Pat Johnston, Jerri Thompson, stands beside a print of her mother's titled 'Venice.' Works by these two ladies and Florence Goehring highlight the Thedford Art Guild's Legacy Show in the gallery for the month of June. Other artists with art showing are Jane Hodges, Phyllis Kramer, Glen Gier, Pat Edis, Jennifer Rice and Mary Eatinger, who is still a member of the Thedford Art Guild.

Picture & Story By:
Terri Licking

Three fledgling artists formed the Thedford Art Guild 58 years ago to help sponsor the first annual Autumn Art Workshop in the forest near Halsey. Fifteen other area artists soon joined. They answered the question, "Who needs art in the Sandhills?" with a resounding, "we all do!"

Thedford Art Guild is proud to showcase works by these three founding mothers, Martha Peterson, Pat Johnston, and Florence Goehring during the month of June.

Also on display are some of the works of other early members.

There were a lot of paintings, shows, workshops, bake sales and laughter, along with many hours of unselfish labor by the members and their families to make the Thedford Art Gallery a cultural oasis amidst the ocean of grass in Central Nebraska.

The Legacy Show reception will be held Saturday, June 17, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. You are invited to visit with the descendants of the ladies and find out which one has works from four generations of artists on display.

The family of Martha Peters will give one hundred percent of her art that is sold back to the Gallery.

The Thomas County Historical Society Museum will be open that day.

If you are unable to attend Saturday, June 17, but would like to see the show or the museum, you may call Terri Licking at 308-645-2436, 24 hours in advance, or call Ruth Gordon at 308-645-2364 or Helen White at 308-645-2489 with a one hour notice. All three ladies can show you both places.

TAG trivia: The Gallery is in a house built in 1912 that was said to be a flop-house at one time.

Hoffman Ranch Hosts Legacy Tour Stop



Past president of the Nebraska Cattlemen, Brenda Masek of Purdum, welcomed visitors and spoke on current political activities that will affect ranching in Nebraska. Looking on are ranch host Jason Hoffman and tour host Jerry York.

Story & Pictures By:
Linda Teahon

Hoffman Ranch near Thedford was one of 12 stops on the Sandhills Legacy Tour presented by the Western Livestock Journal.

The tour began at Rapid City, SD on Monday, May 22nd and returned to Rapid City Saturday evening May 27th.

Hoffman Ranch rolled out the red carpet to the tour of around 130 guests from 16 states on Friday, May 26th.

The guests first visited the feedlot area where Denny and Jason explained the reason for choosing central Nebraska to locate and the feeding operation of cattle at the site. Guests enjoyed touring the cattle handling facility at that location.

Next the three buses traveled to the west side of Hwy 83, previously known in the 60's & 70's as Hereford Alley. The sale barn was where visitors enjoyed the delicious meal of beef and sides prepared by Sandhills Corral at Thedford. Thedford High School students who are members of FCCLA, served the meal as a fund raiser for their club.

Haxton Hoffman performed the "God Bless America" and "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipe. Many in the crowded barn sang along.

This was tour #12 of the Livestock Tours that started in 2010. 2020 and 2021 years were skipped due to Covid.



Host, Denny Hoffman talks about life in the Nebraska Sandhills.

This tour was an educational way for out of state visitors to visit northwest and central Nebraska and

learn how ranching operations succeed in our great state.

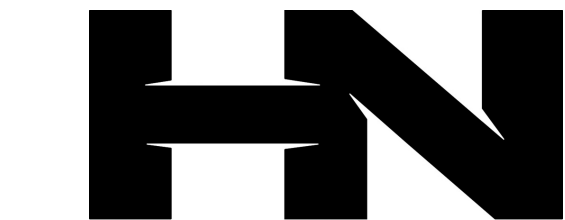


Haxton Hoffman entertains guests by playing two songs on his bagpipe.

Music From Around The World Summer Program

The program "MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD" will be presented on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm (CT) at the Thomas County Library. David Marsh is an experienced musician and presenter who has delighted Nebraska audiences for many years. Please join us for his program. The program is free to attend and is suitable for all ages. Refreshments will be provided.

With over a dozen instruments and stories about each, David entertains with music from around the world. This multi-cultural program is a musical expose of the influence that immigrants from around the world have had on our American culture. Audiences



HUMANITIES
NEBRASKA

learn about the creativity of the "folk" who developed the instruments and musical styles, the role music has played in traditional cultures and the musical influences various cultures have had on one another in America.

Humanities Nebraska (HN) provides major fund-

ing for this program. HN receives support from the National Endowment for Humanities, the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and private donations. The Central Plains Library System also sponsors this program.

Smith Falls Reopens With New Boardwalk



COURTESY PHOTO

The new boardwalk, constructed of composite decking on a steel frame, leads visitors to Smith Falls.

Visitors are again enjoying the sight of Smith Falls, Nebraska's tallest waterfall.

The waterfall at Smith Falls State Park, and the newly constructed 500-foot boardwalk to it, reopened May 26 with only finishing touches remaining in the process.

The waterfall, which has long been popular for the thousands of people floating on the Niobrara River each summer, closed September 2022 for replacement of the aging wooden boardwalk.

The new boardwalk is constructed of composite decking on a steel frame with aluminum

handrails, and is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. New benches provide places for visitors to rest and a platform over the stream has been added midway up the walkway to allow for viewing of the falls from a scenic vantage. Visitors may still access the bottom of the 63-foot waterfall from steps at the boardwalk's north end.

The project largely was funded by Capital Maintenance Funds, which were established by the Nebraska Legislature in 2016 to help preserve Nebraska's public outdoor recreation facilities and parklands; state and fed-

eral funding sources; and Nebraska Game and Parks' funds generated from user fees of the state park system.

Also reopened to the public is the adjacent 1.5-mile Jim MacAllister Nature Trail.

Smith Falls State Park, a 19-mile drive from Valentine, offers non-electric campsites, picnic tables, pay showers and a visitors center with concessions. The waterfall is accessible to pedestrians by the historic Verdigre Bridge that crosses the Niobrara River. A Nebraska State Park Entry Permit is required for vehicles that enter the park.