



June 2019

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center

AND THE GARIS GALLERY OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Our Mission: "To celebrate and perpetuate the history, art and culture of the Chisholm Trail, the American Cowboy and the American West."

BISON exhibit: A VISUAL, INTERACTIVE ATTRACTION

An 1878 book encased in acrylic shows a portrait illustration of an American Bison, another case features bison products such as jerky and socks, and bison toys and furs give children and adult guests a chance to touch and explore. Those are only a few of the many pieces in the exhibit, *Bison: Ancient. Massive. Wild.*, open through July 29.

Working together, dedicated board members and staff succeeded in opening the exhibit three days ahead of the official May 24 date.

"It is our largest exhibit to have here at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center," said Executive Director Stacy Cramer Moore. "It comes from the Kaufmann Museum in Kansas and the National Buffalo Foundation."

Exhibit *Bison* dominates the large multipurpose room and spills out into many areas of the museum. It really becomes an attraction on its own merit. Additionally, the classroom off the main lobby has bison-related items curated from the Heritage Center's collection for guests to explore. Art in the Garis Gallery of the American West and on loan from Oklahoma artists can be found throughout the gallery and the museum.

Did You Know?

The American bison has been here for at least 500,000 years. The largest, Bison latifrons, an Ice Age giant, stood more than 8 feet tall, with horns that spanned more than 7 feet.

"This is such a wonderful exhibit, with so many elements. It really portrays just how important bison were to the indigenous people of our area," Moore said. And while many Oklahoma residents know where to see bison in person, they may not realize its important role from early history to modern day herd management.

Developed in 2009 as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities program, "NEH on the Road" the exhibit was based on a C.M. Russell Museum's permanent exhibition.



For centuries, bison was a source of food, shelter, clothing and tools. Indigenous people resourced every part of a bison leaving nothing to waste. They didn't need to rely on government assistance. Unfortunately, Euroamericans and Europeans saw the animal as an unlimited natural resource and harvested them without such regard.

Imagine, in 1909, the bison was worth around \$4,000 a head. By the late 1800s, bison population was reduced from tens of millions to only a few hundred. It wasn't just because of hunting and oversourcing.

The stream was six feet wide and about six inches deep, with swiftly running water. A buffalo herd came to the creek above our camp and drank it dry. For four hours, the creek bed was dry until the great herd passed on."

Many natural factors also contributed to the demise of the American Bison. Elements of the exhibit reveal those pioneers who were concerned with the extinction of the American Bison, and it offers shocking numbers of the decline, through the use of interactive displays.

Today, that pioneering spirit that William Hornaday and others had, continues as bison ranchers and groups like the National Buffalo Foundation work together, with a successful repopulation in states like Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Kansas South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. Herd management goes beyond just breeding. It involves making sure the bison have natural grazing ranges, with Blue grama, buffalograss and sources of water.



Today, the American Bison is the largest land mammal in North America. A male can reach 10 feet long and six feet high. They can run nearly 40 miles per hour.



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Upcoming Events & Exhibits**May 1 - June 30: Sandy Magrath:****Dogs of the Southwest****May 24- July 28: Bison: Ancient.****Massive. Wild. - exhibit****Mondays: Free Art Monday****July 4 - Sept. 22: A Texas State of Mind, artist Larry G. Lemons****July 11: Meet the artist reception****July 27: National Day of the Cowboy****Oct. 1: Designed by Nature opens**

Follow us on Facebook for Events updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail>

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Association is a 501c3 non-profit. Your contributions to our programs and exhibits are tax-deductible. Consider the Center in your estate and planned giving allocations.

Coming Up - A Texas State of Mind

July 4 – Sept. 22, 2019

Artist Reception - July 11

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

A Texas State of Mind, featuring the art of Larry G. Lemons of Nocona, TX, opens in July, and a meet the artist reception will be 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11, at the Heritage Center.

“The icons of Texas and the great southwest make up my artistic arsenal,” Lemons said. “I have taken colorful and iconic images and wrapped them in a package that I call ‘A Texas State of Mind.’ If you look closely, you will see such universal themes as family values, patriotism, faith, humor, nostalgia and maybe more.”

Lemons and his wife Donna Rose, own and operate a gallery in Nocona. Lemons was once a dedicated photographer, having even earned his Master Craftsman title, but somewhere along the way, he switched gears to painting and also spent years teaching art to students in the public school system.

His artist roster dates to 1998 and includes multiple awards, calendar publishing, feature articles by magazines, television and newspapers, shows like Cowboy True in Wichita Falls, the Booth Western Art Museum Borderlands Gallery in Cartersville, GA, the Kemp Center

Dogs of the Southwest



Thanks to everyone who attended the Sandy Magrath art reception. Sandy didn't mind sharing the spotlight

with some rescue dogs from the Stephens County Humane Society - thanks to Patti Whitaker (image below) for bringing them. And thanks to longtime members Joe and Nancy Litsch for bringing their beloved Mickey to the reception. Many pieces of Sandy's original art, along with notecards, prints and bowls are still available to purchase! Exhibit ends June 30.



for the Arts Northlight Gallery; and he's been a Texas State Artist nominee.

Armadillos, the Lone Star, rusty pickup trucks, horned toads and livestock skulls can be found in many of his paintings. And dogs! Like the image above featuring an old pickup truck filled with rescue dogs. Larry's art is fun, reflecting his own personality.

“If my art makes you smile, then I've done my job,” he said. We hope you join us in welcoming Larry to Oklahoma, at the reception in July!

Original Bison art on display

Four Oklahoma artists have contributed to our summer Bison exhibit and art show, with their own original works on display. Some of the paintings are available to purchase.

Local artist Mikel Davison's new painting, “Moving in Pairs” features two bison is in the Garis Gallery of the American West.



Other paintings include three from Native American artist, Brent Learned, an original custom framed photographic print by Sarah Rodefeld, and Walters artist Sharon Wiley's award winning “Lord of the Plains.”

In addition to these incredible works of art are several historic bison paintings from the Garis and the CTHC art collections, including the “White Buffalo” painted in the 1930s by Louis Shipshee. Duncan artist Pat Holloway Nixon recently donated a landscape with bison watercolor to the Heritage Center and it is also on display in the Garis Gallery. Be sure to visit this summer to see the many new and exciting exhibits we have displayed.

Create with us this summer! Free Art Mondays is back



Every Monday, June 3 to July 29 is “Free Art Monday.”

Drop In/Come & Go: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

A “project of the day” with supplies to complete that project, or create other art with our supplies.

It is not an art class. Come and go! All ages welcome with adult.

Thanks to our summer sponsor, Edward Jones Investments, and financial support from Chisholm Trail Heritage Center members just like YOU we can offer this program for FREE!



Hunting for frogs, creating geometrics among activities offered at Mark Twain’s ‘Family Night at the Museum’

In mid-April, the Heritage Center and Mark Twain Elementary School of Duncan teamed up for a first “Family Night at the Museum” program.

Administrators with the school approached the Center about hosting the event, which was paid for using Title I funds. “Night at the Museum” was designed to increase parent engagement and support student learning.

One question loomed in everyone’s mind. Would it be a success?

Mark Twain Principal Bud Conway said it was the best turnout of any parental involvement program in years. Nearly 250 parents, students and school staff participated in the “Night at the Museum.”

Dana Harris, Title I Coordinator for Mark Twain, said a development course, Engage OK, offered by the Oklahoma State Department of Education, generated discussion to find new ways to reach families.

Harris said that Oklahoma is known for a pioneering, can-do spirit. That same attitude applies in the Heritage Center’s educational and daily programming.

“Some families will not come to the school setting due to their prior school experiences,” Harris said.

CTHC Education Coordinator Leah Mulkey said Title I schools are required to host two family-oriented events per school year. Mark Twain decided to hold one of its family night events off-campus to give students and parents a new venue with different learning opportunities. Academic standards were met in the family-oriented art project, geometric shape construction and the Mark Twain



mascot jumping frog scavenger hunt. Families participating had a quality experience.

In the scavenger hunt activity, each family hunted for frogs throughout the museum, and then documented their find with a family selfie using their own cell phone.

Upon completion of that activity, the family received a new board game to take home, further encouraging family communication.

Activities were created to address problem solving, social interaction, communication and verbal discussion. Learning stations ranged from math challenges, to reading clues, using maps – all generated from the STEAM principles – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

Education team members from the museum were available at the learning stations and to assist families as needed.

All members of the museum’s education team are Great Expectations Model School certified. CTHC is the only non-profit to have this certification, and has maintained it for 14 years. The success of Mark Twain’s “Family Night at the Museum” relied on the commitment of the Heritage Center and its staff.

Pictures from the Night at the Museum are available in a Facebook album.



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& Garis Gallery of the American West
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ADVENTURE ROAD 35
Great Expectations
THE GREAT WEST
TOP 10 MUSEUMS OF THE WEST



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Mark July 27th on your calendar for Duncan's Free Original National Day of the Cowboy Celebration event!

More details on our website and social media pages!



Have you picked up your Summer of Giveaways Brochure? So many chances to win! Available in our lobby. We are the only place in Duncan that is your AdventureRoad.com Partner! Be sure to get your card stamped.

And there are 7 giveaway packages remaining to enter online, with Arts & Culture Giveaway May 22-June 19.

But you'll need your card to enter the 10th prize package for the ultimate giveaway! Pick up yours today!

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Association is a 501c3 non-profit. Your contributions to our programs and exhibits are tax-deductible. Consider the Center in your estate and planned giving allocations. stacy@onthechisholmtrail.com or 580-252-6692.