

# V I S T A S



ADDRESS

From the desk of V. Marie Martin  
Foundation Director  
Wednesday Morning, July 11, 2018  
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**The final numbers are in for the membership drive just completed on May 31.** To date there were **2,574 new/renewed members compared to 1,337 for the same time period in 2017!** This means that all new/renewed members will be visiting the Discovery Center and attending the special community events by just checking in with their FHDC membership card! You still have time to join the at the regular and patron membership levels available at <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/195/Membership-Pricing>.

**NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY** will be celebrated for the 5<sup>th</sup> year at the Flint Hills Discovery Center on **Saturday, July 28, 2018** from 10 – 5pm. This is one of the special community events that FHDC hosts each year. This year ***Visit Manhattan, Kansas; Vanderbilt's; Wrangler and Grass & Grain*** are our great sponsors who are partnering with FHDC to be a part of this family favorite celebration of the American Cowboy!

There will be new activities on July 28<sup>th</sup> along with favorites from past years. The kids can test their skills at **cattle herding** with stick ponies and soccer balls, **supply wagon wheel repair** activity, **rope tricks, cowboy poetry, saddle demonstrations, gun spinning, and Native American and Fur Trapper reenactors** will be just a few of the fun things to see.

National Day of the Cowboy is a day set aside by Congress to celebrate the contributions of the Cowboy and Cowgirl to America's culture and heritage. Currently, 11 states, including Kansas, recognize this day. The first national celebration was in 2005. We believe it is important to recognize the **contributions of the numerous cowboys and cowgirls of the Flint Hills who helped develop this region.**

Have you noticed the **Dino-mite dinosaurs painted on the walls** at both ends of the "**Be the Dinosaur**" exhibit in the Tallgrass Gallery, and the dinosaur skeleton painted on the wall in the mezzanine kids area on the second floor? FHDC's own Penny Cullers, gift shop coordinator, did those paintings. Penny is quite the artist and generously lends her hand to some of the FHDC exhibits that you see on display on the second floor.



Above is a segmented overlay of the original artwork.

Penny said, “The process included projecting the image onto the wall, tracing it in chalk, choosing a color scheme and then diving into painting took two days for each one and it was about eight hours a day.” The T. rex is 29 feet long and about 20 feet high. The triceratops is about 20 feet by 20 feet. Be sure and have your picture and the kids’ picture taken in front of one of the dinos and put it on Instagram at **#FHDCBetheDino**. (read more of Penny’s story at [www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/483/On-Exhibit-Be-the-Dinosaur](http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/483/On-Exhibit-Be-the-Dinosaur).)

**Reserve your rental at the FHDC or the Depot** now if you, a friend or family member is graduating in May 2019. **Reservations go fast for that time period** and the event venues in Manhattan are limited with thousands of students having receptions and parties. Contact **FHDC events manager Jonathan Mertz**, at **785-587-2729, ext. 208**, to make your reservation.

**Back by popular demand on Friday, July 20 and August 17, is Professor Chris Sorensen.** You will recall Prof. Sorensen addressed a standing room only crowd at FHDC for his presentation last year about the total eclipse of the sun pre-event. This year, Prof. Sorensen and astronomer Brenda Culbertson will conduct a **moon, planets and stars viewing** through 8” reflecting and 4” refracting telescopes on the FHDC Terrace. You will also have the opportunity to view major stars and summer constellations. **This is a FREE event for all ages** and you are welcome to bring your own telescopes. No registration is required. Viewing times are 9-11pm for both nights.

**Everything Dinosaurs will be on Saturday, July 21. On this day there will be something for everyone!** At 9am you can go on a guided fossil hike at Tuttle Creek State Park guided by Jordan Van Sickler, Asst. Preparator at the University of Kansas Vertebrate Paleontology Lab. **There is a \$3 FHDC member fee/\$4 non-member fee and you must pre-register by July 20 at 5pm for this event.** From 10-5pm at FHDC guests will have the opportunity to attend three different lectures presented by Ian Trevethan from the Sternbern Museum at Hays. The lectures will be at 11am, the Western Interior Seaway; at 1pm, Meet the Dinosaurs; and at 3pm, Swimming with Mosasaurs! Also from 12-4pm, Jordan Van Sickler will be at the FHDC to conduct live fossil prep work on a **real mosasaur skull!** He will also be demonstrating the process for making fossil casts. For more information go to <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/507/Dino-Saturday>.

**VISTAS Memo, now online at the FHDC website,** <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/414/Vistas-Memo>. The Foundation’s pages are located within the FHDC website, so be sure and take time to browse other sections of the FHDC website to keep up with all the activities happening at the Foundation and the Discovery Center.

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The VISTAS MEMO is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. We thank and celebrate all those investing in the Center’s unique and dynamic mission.