

Norfolk Insider

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“Exploring Native Culture Series”

A series of three different speakers will present topics on Native Americans in programs to be held at the Norfolk Public Library in October. Anne Pruss, Norfolk Library reference specialist, said the series will help to explain and promote diversity in the community.

“We have three outstanding speakers who will give us a better understanding of the Native American history,” Pruss said.

The first speaker is Carol Rempp who will speak October 7 on “To Be Free: Understanding and Eliminating Racism.” Rempp, originally from Long Pine, Nebraska, is an Oglala Lakota who serves as the Native American education consultant for the Nebraska Department of Education. She will discuss the differences between the terms “race,” “culture” and “ethnicity” and why knowing the distinction is important. The presentation will be based

on a book by the same name by Thomas Peacock.



Part of James Horn’s Native American artifacts at Norfolk Library.

On October 14, James Horn of Plainview will give a presentation on “Material Culture of the Plains Indian.” Dressed in authentic 1750-1820 Native American attire, Horn will share historical facts, demonstrations and stories of the Plains Indian culture. Horn worked for the National Parks Service for 30 years before moving to Plainview eight years ago to be closer to family. Now he spends much of his time making items that decorate his home and giving living history programs about the Plains Indians and the Mountain Men.

Nancy Gillis will speak October 21 on the topic “Voices of Native American Women.”

She will present a compilation of excerpts from different documents from which various Native American women’s comments, pleas and advice have been recorded. They will range from the earliest records of negotiations with the colonists to excerpts from contemporary women including professionals, artists and activists. In a series of readings interspersed with background media, she will explore the way Native American women have spoken out in political, social and spiritual settings in humor, anger and celebration. Samples of three different Native American foods will also be provided by Michelle Janis and Howard Mesteth.

“We’re really excited about all three of the speakers as each one offers something a little different. This is something we haven’t done. It brings a diversity of programs to the library,” Pruss said.

All three programs will begin at 6:30 pm and are free of charge.