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A Song For The Trail



COURTESY PHOTO
Neil Diamond impersonator Tom Sadge will be featured at the Shannon Trail Promoters fundraising event at the Skylon Ballroom in Hartington March 28.

Shannon Trail Promoters Prepare For Fundraiser Featuring Diamond Tribute

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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It started 14 years ago with one goal, two counties, two tribes and 16 communities: to promote tourism and unite the communities of northeast Nebraska.

Now, the Shannon Trail Promoters (STP) group is focused on bringing you good, clean entertainment as well.

On Saturday, March 28, the Shannon Trail Promoters are presenting the sounds of Neil Diamond, as sung by well-known impersonator Tom Sadge, who will perform at the Skylon Ballroom in Hartington.

"He looks like Neil Diamond. He sounds like Neil Diamond. Even Neil Diamond, who is friends with Sadge, has said that," said STP member Laurie Larson a member of the Outback Band. "Tom has been in the area several times and has drawn a good following in the area. He is really easy nice guy to work with and he loves the Midwest."

Larson said that the concert, which begins at 8 p.m. with a few songs performed by the Outback Band, who will then back Sadge up for the rest of the performance are in for a treat if they have not heard him before.

"If they shut their eyes, they would think they are hearing Neil Diamond," she said. "They will hear all of the favorites from 'Sweet Caroline' to 'Song Sung Blue' — all the ones you would want to hear."

Larson noted the concert will last about two hours with an intermission where concert attendees will have one last chance to bid on silent auction items.

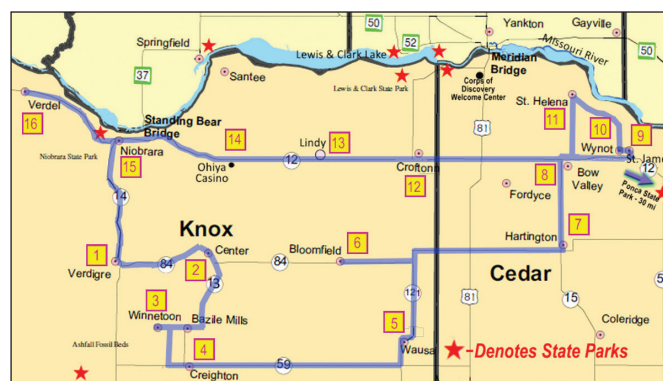
Items on the silent auction include a Husker guitar; a lot of homemade items that Shannon Trail Volunteers have made; the Wausa Locker will be donating some pork ribs; and many gift certificates.

This is the main fundraiser for the Shannon

Trail Promoters, Larson said it is important that it is well attended.

"This is the only fundraiser we pretty much do for the year," she said. "We do one small one in September; other than this, this is it for fundraising."

"Last year we turned around and put everything we made from the concert and bought display ads. We also are refurbishing many of our Shannon statues that are already 14 years old. Right now, we are replacing one in Wynot and there are a couple others that need to be



COURTESY IMAGE
The Shannon Trail, marked in blue, as it runs through Cedar and Knox counties.

replaced. We are trying to get that done with some of the funds raised this year."

She added that STP is fortunate to have Knox and Cedar County lodging taxes to help support the group as well.

Larson noted that the concert is just the finale in what the STP hopes will be an enjoyable day spent in Hartington.

"We wanted to encourage people to spend the day of the concert in Hartington, so we partnered with the downtown businesses and the local VFW," she said. "The VFW will be holding a special supper before the concert with the proceeds going to the VFW. Also, The Shannon Trail worked with the Hartington Chamber and to put a punch card together featuring local businesses."

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