

# Rough Writers to read at Old Country church

The public is invited to "Rough Writers Read" at Old Country Church from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 29, for what promises to be an enjoyable afternoon of listening and responding to creative writings. All are encouraged to invite friends and neighbors to come with them.

Several members of the Rough Writers, a local group of writers, will read some of their original poems, memoirs, or other genres. In addition, several of Lisa Gibson's students will read some of their contest-winning or published essays. Time for questions will follow the readings.

The Rough Writers have been gathering monthly during the school year since September 2007. Their primary purpose is to encourage each other "to write and to keep on writing."

Some also assist with monthly writing workshops at the Good Samaritan Village. Recently they published the book *Memories & Musings*, which consists of the writings of the Good Samaritan Village residents and is available through the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

These readings at the old church located near the Cheyenne County Museum on U.S. 36 are sponsored by the Cheyenne County Historical Society. Donations to help cover the expenses the church are always welcome.

The Rough Writers wish to host several more such readings, on a quarterly basis, opening them to community members and students who wish to share their creative works. Call Lucille Rossbach (332-8903 or 5055) for more information.



STUDENTS IN Kay O'Brien's Culinary Arts class made chocolate and butterscotch covered bon bons on Monday. Shown are (l to r) Kaitlin Figgins, Jenna Hill, Kay O'Brien, Lexi Hilt and Ross Nicklos. Herald staff photo by Nathan Fiala

# Annual art exhibit to be held in Wray

The Wray Art Guild announces that its 44th annual Art Exhibit and Sale is to be held at the Wray Rehabilitation and Activities Center, 700 Main St., Wray, Colo. from May 3 through May 6.

The public is invited to attend the exhibit, and viewing hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 5. On Sunday, May 6, the exhibit will be open from 1 to 5 p.m.

This exhibit is open to all artists. Original works in all media will be accepted. Many

works of art by various artists will be on exhibit as well as for sale. Entry for all works to be exhibited is at the Wray Rehabilitation Center from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to noon. All art work will be released for pick-up at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 6.

For more information please call Patti Bohall at 970-332-4387 or Cindy Musgrave (Artist Alley) at 970-332-5015.

## Club Clip

VFW Auxiliary 1528

The Auxiliary of the VFW Post 1528 met on April 10 at city hall in St. Francis. There were eight present: Connie Rooney, Marlys Poulignot, Carol Connett, Hattie Terry, Dot Hill, Annette Erskin, Kary Jo Meyer and Wanda Dowdy.

Memorial Day was discussed. Connie will plan the program and we will discuss this more at our May meeting.

Since Connie Rooney is moving to Stratton, Neb., she didn't feel like she could continue being the president and do a good job since she will be miles away. Wanda Dowdy will not be able to be secretary/treasurer, since she depends on Connie for a ride to St. Francis. There was a discussion about this, and since no one felt like they wanted to take either of these jobs there was a consensus that we should disband. We will discuss this more at the next meeting. Hopefully by that time, someone will decide to accept one of these positions, and we will not have to take this step.

These are upcoming important days for the VFW Auxiliary - Mother's Day, May 13, Armed Forces Day - May 19 and Memorial Day - May 28.

The following is an article from the March Sunflower Express from the Kansas VFW Auxiliary.

Because of our veteran's sacrifices, we are free to: Support the charities of our choices. Travel throughout our country without limitation. Express our opinions without fear of imprisonment. Choose our friends, our jobs, our hobbies - Not having them chosen for us. Buy the home, car, food, cup of coffee of our choice. Have as many children as we want, and God allows. Pick any one of the above, or think of any other freedom that is near and dear to your heart.

What are you willing to give in return for these freedoms that so many take for granted?

Love your freedom? Thank a vet!!

# Culinary arts class to cater concert

Tickets are now available for the rock concert, "Almost Famous," which will be presented on May 6 and 8 in the high school auditorium. The Sunday performance begins at 3 p.m., and the Tuesday concert is set for 7 p.m.

In addition to lots of rock music (current hits as well as

classic rock), concert-goers will be treated to a dessert buffet prepared by the Culinary Arts class at intermission.

Ticket prices, which include the dessert buffet, are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance for a discounted price of \$9 for adults and \$6 for

students. Contact Marilyn Raile in the high school office, or Debbie Fiala (HS music teacher) at 785-332-2306 to purchase tickets.

Members of the rock band, "Almost Famous" are Tilyn Bell, Luke Guggenmos, Jacquelyn Ketzner, Stephanie Perry, Christina Schoenrogge, Taylor

Archibald, Sarah Whitmore - vocals, Ty Zwegardt and Gavin Cooper - guitar, Brock Zwegardt - bass, and Logan Whitmore - drums. Members of the Culinary Arts class are Kaitlin Figgins, Jenna Hill, Lexi Hilt, Ross Nicklos, Sam Reed and Isaac Schiltz.

# Alumni procures iPads for kindergartners

Sue Ella Touslee, kindergarten teacher at Sacred Heart School in Emporia, and her students recently received iPads for the classroom. Ms. Touslee is a former resident and graduate of St. Francis Community High School.

Kindergartners at Sacred Heart Catholic School are being exposed to the latest in technology via a recent iPad donation from a local experienced educator and consultant. Sharon and Carl Bechtel donated the iPads for use by Ms. Touslee and all of Sacred Heart's kindergartners.

"Sue Ella is one of the best reading teachers I've ever known; and I've worked with a lot of them," said Mrs. Bechtel, who currently works as a

diagnostic consultant throughout the United States. The iPads, she said, will help teach and reinforce fundamental literacy skills and increase student engagement.

Current research indicates that students who are exposed to the iPad technology and accompanying applications exceed the learning levels of non-iPad students. According to a recent study conducted in Auburn, Maine, where half of their kindergarten classrooms were provided iPads and the other half used traditional resources, the students using the iPads had outperformed their counterparts across every literacy measure they were tested on. Results showed particular improvement in a child's level of phonics

awareness and their ability to represent sounds with letters.

"I'm thrilled," says Ms. Touslee, "that the Bechtels selected me and my students for this iPad project and I've enjoyed seeing the high levels of student motivation, engagement, and learning throughout the classroom."

"We will utilize this new tool to make as much of an impact on

students as possible." The iPads came loaded with 25 software applications to teach literacy, math, and other related skills along with additional gift cards to purchase future software. Because the Bechtels strongly believe in Ms. Touslee's teaching abilities the iPads are to remain in her classroom as long as she continues to teach at the school.

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