

# Recognition given for letter written

A St. Francis Community High School student has been recognized as a state semi finalist in the "Letters About Literature" reading and writing initiative.



**Hilt**

Jodi Hilt, a freshman and student of Lisa Gibson, English instructor, was among 106 semi-finalist's letters entered out of almost 56,000 students nationally.

"Superb job," said Roy Bird, director for the Kansas Center for the Book, State Library of Kansas.

About 1,300 letters came from Kansas. There were nine judges who are Fellows of the Kansas Center for the Book, and are either authors, college professors or professional librarians. They recommended letters in each of the three levels: grades fourth through sixth; seventh and eighth; and ninth through 12th.

Following is Jodi's letter, written to author, Nicholas Sparks. Dear Nicholas Sparks,

Last year during my eighth grade year, I read your book for the first time. Your book really changed my life because it helped me to realize that I'm not invincible. Something could happen to me much like what happened to Jamie Sultan, a sweet girl, who always carried a bible with her to school. It changed her life dramatically and it could do the same to mine.

A *Walk to Remember* stood out to me because, as a child, I remember my grandparents fighting diseases such as multiple sclerosis and heart diseases in some of the same ways that Jamie had to fight her leukemia.

I remember sitting at the kitchen table listening to the nurses say, "A few more steps, Linda," to my grandma as she struggled to

make it back to her chair. Multiple sclerosis was taking over her life. It was a very hard thing I had to go through when I was just a little girl. Also, my Grandma Henderson has been like Jamie in many ways. She struggled through heart diseases, during periods of sickness and in health. She's underwent many operations to cure her breast cancer and help her heart.

Even though nothing of the sort has happened to me, I feel like I know somewhat what Landon went through trying to take care of his love of his life, Jamie Sullivan. Because of this, I feel like we share a sense of sadness towards our family members.

I noticed while reading this book that tomorrow is never guaranteed and we need to live each day to the fullest. I learned this also when my grandpa died in a car accident in 2004. My grandpa and I were very close and we used to do everything together. When I found out that he was killed in the accident, I felt much like Landon did after he found out that Jamie was dying. Hurt, angry, sad, and not to mention depressed were some of the feelings I felt. I wanted to blame myself for not being there telling him to put his seat belt on to keep him from getting thrown from the vehicle. I still feel the same way now that I did the day it happened. It was an experience that will stick with me for the rest of my life just as it will with Landon.

In conclusion, this was one of the best books I have ever read during the 15 years of my life. It helped me to cope with the catastrophes that have hit my family over the years. *A Walk to Remember* helped me know that I'm not alone and there are people that are worse off than me. Thanks you for writing this book for others and for me.

Sincerely,  
Jodie Hilt

# Knights are offering two \$250 scholarships

The Cheyenne County Knights of Columbus are offering two scholarships to graduating seniors. Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$250 to be used their sophomore year of college.

The scholarship applications may be picked up at the superintendent's office at both St. Francis and Cheylin. All applications need to be returned to the superintendent's office by May 1.

The applications will be judged by a panel consisting of Knights of Columbus members. The winner of each scholarship will be announced during graduation ceremonies. The winners will receive the money prior to their sophomore year of college to help them when a lot of other scholarships they receive their freshman year are no longer available.



**CHEER TRYOUTS HELD — Front to back: Mikaela Grace, Megan Gilliland, Taryn Richard, Aubree Schleppe; top, Joni Pevler.**

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

# Cheer and pom pon winners announced

The 2008-2009 St. Francis Community High School cheerleaders and pom pon squad tryouts were held two weeks ago. The following girls were selected by a committee made up of Kristi Guthmiller, Sherri Stang and Teresa Porter. Gloria Bracelin and Carol Ross helped with the counting.

Football cheerleaders are Taryn Richard, head; Andrea Holzwarth, Candice Wiese, Cara Hunt, Amber Smull and Aubree Schleppe.

Basketball cheerleaders are Candice Wiese, head; Megan Gilliland and Aubree Schleppe.

Wrestling cheerleaders are Taryn Richard, head; Cara Hunt, Sarah Guthmiller and Amber Smull.

Pom squad members are Andrea Holzwarth, CJ Douthit, Joni Pevler and Amber Smull, all co-captains; Candice Wiese, Lacey Kibel, Aubree Schleppe, Mikaela Grace, Tilyn Bell, Lexi Hilt, Aly Marin and Caitlin Northrup.

# Behind The Scenes

By Janet Carman

The Museum of Cheyenne County is an active place. Margaret Bucholtz, museum director, reports she gave tours to several school groups in February. The old photographs of St. Francis and Wano captured the interest of several of Mr. Jenkins' students. Preschool children stopped and stared in fascination at the woolly mammoth mural and the stuffed animal exhibit.

The new computer and printer/scanner are up and running to serve the office and the needs of those in search of genealogy information. Director Bucholtz answers calls and researches information for people interested in tracing their Cheyenne County roots. The museum is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m.

There is something for everyone at the Cheyenne County Museum.

Be sure to read your alumni letter carefully. There is a chal-

lenge to all St. Francis High School classes to out-donate the classes of '48 and '53. Those donations will go to the refurbishing of Ye Olde Country Church, west of the museum.

Also note that the Historical Society will be serving a brat lunch on Alumni weekend, Saturday, June 21. Proceeds from the lunch donations will go to the church project.

Niche agriculture and old barns will be the topic of a Kansas Barn Alliance Workshop, "Old Barns, New Ideas," held right here in Cheyenne County on May 31. If you are interested in old barns, you are invited. The Historical Society will be serving lunch as a fund-raising project.

Rest easy! You haven't missed out on museum work days. Two more are scheduled for next week: Tuesday and Wednesday. The museum will be open from 9 to 4 so volunteers may work on updating the obituary files.

# Club Clips

## Red Hat Mamas

The St. Patrick's Day sun shown brightly as nine members and two guests of the Red Hat Mamas braved the spring snow and met at the lovely country home of Vernetta Haack near Bird City. The ladies were delighted over the beautifully set tables with an Easter theme. Vernetta, with the assistance of Carrie Magnani, served a delicious brunch featuring four different breakfast casseroles and coffee cakes.

Vernetta presented a brief

overview of how she started with a doll and buggy from her early childhood and added to her collection of antique dolls and some of the construction that went into making the dolls. Some of the dolls dated back to the 1800s. The tour through her home was a step back in time, a time when all dolls were dressed elaborately and were a treasured toy.

It was such a fun day and those attending thanked Vernetta for sharing her collection.

## Tuesday Club

Tuesday Club met March 11 at the Cheyenne Manor with Wilma Lampe and Nancy McCumber as hostesses. Eighteen members and one guest, Margaret Bucholtz, were present.

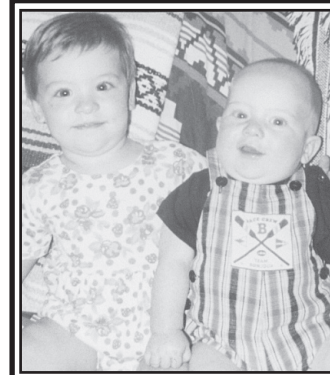
After a delicious dessert, the guest speaker, Margaret Bucholtz, presented a very interesting lesson on "The Orphan Trains." Members learned that the orphan trains operated mainly in the early 1900s and were stopped in 1932.

Two orphans were chosen to

live in Cheyenne County. A boy named Charlie was chosen by the Marian Bower family and the Jasper Berry family chose "Buck" White. Both boys were well known in the county as they grew up here. Margaret told that an Orphan Train Museum has opened in Concordia.

Laura Pugh, program chairman, thanked the speaker for presenting the program.

A short business meeting followed.



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FROM YOUR COUS,  
TAYLOR STEVENS

*In Loving Memory*

**Ted Smith**  
April 20, 1977

**Jessie Smith**  
March 27, 2004

**Hope This Thing Has Brakes,**

**Cuz I'm Over The Hill.**  
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Colby (p.m.)  
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462-332  
CMC, 100 E. College Dr.  
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Wedding  
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