

Students win local contest

Three St. Francis students placed in the VFW St. Francis-Goodland Patriot's youth essay competition. The competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their view on democracy with the prospect of winning money for college.



Rogers



Hill



Zwegygart

Placing were Makayla Rogers, first place, who received \$50; Joel Hill, second place, \$25; and Taryn Zwegygart, third place, \$25.

Makayla's essay won at the local and will now proceed to the district level.

"I'm so proud of these students! What a great way to get a college education fund started! This is an awesome opportunity for students to see that writing is a very important element in their lives. My congratulations to all the students!" said their teacher, Lisa Holzwarth.

There were more than 129,000 students participating in the contest at the national level last year. At the national level the first 46 winners receive at least \$500.

The title of the essays were: "What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers." Each essay was 300 to 400 words.

The judging criteria included: Knowledge of theme (30 points); theme development (35 points) and clarity of ideas (35 points).

"What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers"
By Makayla Rogers

What would I tell America's Founding Fathers, specifically the Constitution writers? If I got the chance to tell them anything, I would tell them "thank you."

I would say "thank you" for their hard work and dedication to getting America organized. Without our Constitution writers, we would not have any rights. They wrote the Constitution for people to have specific rights. I'm very appreciative of those rights I have as an American. I think America is a lucky country.

It's great to think the Constitution writers cared about their future generations. Without them, America could still be untouched and exactly as it was back then. I often wonder what made them decide to write the Constitution. Sure they wanted their freedom, but what exactly made them come together as a group?

I think the men who wrote the Constitution were very smart. Their knowledge on what the people needed and wanted was very strong. Americans received a great deal of relief when this was written. Instead of watching wars rage on longer, they took a stand. They were the ones controlling the rights now, and they made history.

I would ask some questions besides saying "thank you." I would ask them if the idea of organizing a group to write a set of rules had ever come to mind before writing the Constitution. Were they at home wondering how they could change the direction of their country? Or were they simply in with everyone else agreeing that no freedom and no rights were just not fair?

I would also ask what gave them the idea to write the Articles of the Constitution. They could have only made side notes and announced the rules and rights instead of writing the many articles and amendments. They could have not even come up with the idea at all.

As for the last question I would ask, were they nervous? Were they jittery, relaxed, or confident about making such life changing rules for their country?

This is what I would like to ask

our Founding Fathers, the Constitution writers, if I could. What would you ask them?

"What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers"
By Joel Hill

My biggest heroes are the men who wrote the Declaration of Independence. I would enjoy sitting down and talking with them about how the world is today compared to how it was in 1776.

First, I would tell them how proud of them I am. They are my heroes since they risked their lives so we could be free. They also put their families in danger to write the Declaration.

Next I would tell them how war tactics and weapon technology has changed since the Revolutionary War. Today's weapons are more advanced than they were in 1776. They were brave to fight with the old muskets and cannons they had. I think they would be surprised how much more advanced weapons are today.

I would show them all the national monuments in Washington D.C. that was built since their death many years ago. Another thing to tell them would be about the 44 presidents we have had. They would learn about the presidents which were harmful and helpful to the United States.

We still have the original copy of the Declaration in the National Archives today. The men who wrote the article have long been gone, but their work still remains. All the signers were very brave.

If our Founding Fathers came back today, I'm not sure what they would think of our government. I wonder if they would enjoy some of the changes which have occurred.

The way Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration was wonderful and is still admired today. When our Founding Fathers died, America lost some of the most famous people in the world.

Hopefully one day, in many

years, I will be able to meet our Founding Fathers. I would enjoy talking with them very much. Is there anyone you look up to in your life?

"What I Would Tell Americas Founding Fathers"
By Taryn Zwegygart

What would I tell America's Founding Fathers you may ask? I would tell them America is doing great in the economy. That the Constitution is doing really well for our nation. I'd inform them we are a prospering nation.

I would have a conversation over World War I and World War II. We would chat on what wars have popped up since they've been gone. We would talk about the recent war in Iraq. We would contemplate on how to stop the wars from happening. I would tell them about the Japanese bombing Pearl Harbor and the damage it did.

We'd talk about the statues in Washington D.C.; I'd show them how many people come to see their statues like the statues of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and all the others.

I would teach them military maneuvers. I can teach them how to hide in the bushes or trees. Teach them how to use the bottle neck maneuver.

I could show them the kind of weapons we have created. I'd tell them how our weapons can hold more than one round at a time. I might even inform them about the atomic bomb and how it can level the battle field.

I would tell them how amazed I am they defeated the British, the most powerful army back then. I am proud they wrote the Constitution. I'm even more amazed the Constitution actually worked and it is still used the same today.

I have to admit they did make some mistakes, like the prohibition while making our nation. Either way, they still made a great nation. No matter what struggles they had to deal with, like depression, war, and debt, they always found a way to make it through them.

We could chat about many things. Some are more important than others. Some things would be great. Others would be horrible. I believe the best thing I could say to them is thanks for making us an awesome nation. Are you proud of America and its Founding Fathers?



NEW IDALIA SCHOOL is rapidly going up. Workers have had warm temperatures which has helped get the outside up so the roof can go on and the crew can work inside.

Idalia News

By **Chuck Wright**



Idalia residents should know that Medicare Part D Open enrollment runs through Dec. 7. It is time for those who have Medicare to look at their current Part D coverage and be certain that their plan will give them what they need in 2013.

This open enrollment period is the only time to make changes for next year. Trained counselors will be available in Idalia through Dec. 7.

Appointments can be made by calling Encore Life (formerly the Wray Senior Center) at 332-4071. Bring your Medicare card, medication list and information about your current Medicare part D Plan to your appointment.

St. John news

Sunday, Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m. - Morning worship will include the traditional Hanging of the Greens by the children. Following worship there will be a light soup luncheon and the Holiday Craft Auction to support next year's community Vacation Bible School. The Women's Fellowship will also be holding a "Fill Your Own Tin" Christmas Cookie Sale.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m. - "Blue Sunday" at St. John. Got the Christmas blues? Today the worship service will include Holy Communion and the Liturgy of Healing and the Laying on of Hands. All are welcome.

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 12 p.m. - The St. John Women's Fellow-

ship will hold its annual Christmas Luncheon at the church. All Idalia ladies are invited to attend.

Idalia School news
Dec. 3 - 7 - Richard Harada Dance Residency.

Friday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. - School staff Christmas party at the Grainery.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. - School board meeting.

Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. - School Winter Music program.

Tuesday, Dec. 18. - Last day of school

Dec. 18 - Jan. 3. No school

The Idalia school FBLA mem-

bers collected 708 cans of food for local food banks.

The Idalia High School chapter of ICYS will be conducting a Christmas Toy Drive, Nov. 12 - Dec. 14. ICYS students will be volunteering this year at the annual Father Woody's Christmas Party in Denver and will be bringing donated toys to be handed out to children. Idalia residents are invited to bring new toys to Mr. McFadden's room at the high school. There is a need for stuffed animals, children's books, and children's clothing.

Thank You

Thank you for your support during the recent election.

Jeanne Dunn,

Cheyenne County Register of Deeds



Pol Adv pd for by Jeanne Dunn

Adam's Welding & Fabrication

Mobile & In Shop
Welding
785-332-4039



Herald And Times Happenings:

Christmas seen through the eyes of a child is priceless

This year, as in the year's past, the Special Christmas section will be published before the holidays. The section will feature letters from Santa, answers of questions asked of school children, memories and recipes.

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times staffs welcome participation from children to adults. All items must be received by Dec. 5 in order to get them into the special section.

Send letters, special memories, articles and recipes to The Herald at P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 or fax 785-332-3001, or drop them off or e-mail to sfherald@nwks.com titling the subject as "Christmas for the Paper."



DON'T MISS BRINGING IN 2013 WITH A MESSAGE TO YOUR CUSTOMERS IN THE NEW YEAR'S AD.



FIRST BABY CONTEST

With the oncome of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy!

Coming in January a bundle of businesses ready to congratulate the new baby and the parents!

To participate in a Special Section contact Tim at:

The Saint Francis Herald
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

— and —

Bird City Times
PO Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731

Public Notice

Petition filed in court in the Sowers estate

First published in The Saint Francis Herald, Thursday, November 29, 2012. (48,49,50)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of David J. Sowers, Deceased a.k.a. David Sowers Case No. 12-PR-26 A Proceeding Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Teresa Sowers, spouse and one of the heirs of David J. Sowers, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Cheyenne County, Kansas:

Undivided One-fourth (1/4) interest in the West Half (W1/2) of Section Twenty-nine (29), Township Four (4) South, Range Thirty-seven (37) West of the 6th P.M.

The East Half (E1/2) of Section Nine (9), Township (3) South, Range Thirty-nine (39) West of the 6th P.M.

The West Half of the Southeast Quarter (W1/2SE1/4) of Section Eleven (11), Township Three (3) South, Range Thirty-nine (39) West of the 6th P.M.

One-eighth (1/8th) interest in and to all of the oil, gas, and other minerals in, on and under and that may be produced from the East Half of the Southwest Quarter (E1/2SW1/4) of Section Eleven (11), Township Three (3) South, Range Thirty-nine (39) West of the 6th P.M.,

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death.

And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the terms of the "Valid Settlement Agreement" dated November 20, 2012.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before December 26, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in the city of St. Francis in Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

/s/Teresa Sowers
Petitioner

Kevin N. Berens, #19304
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Attorney for Petitioner

TICKETS

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person with the matching number will receive a gift in one of the businesses. When matching the * numbers, cards will be drawn at The Herald office and the winner and a photographer from The Herald will go to the business where they will be photographed receiving the prize.

There will be a drawing for the next three weeks. The big drawing for \$1,000 and \$100 scrip, along with any leftover \$50 and gift prizes will be held on Monday, Dec. 17. The winners of the Christmas Coloring Contest and the Christmas Lighting Contest will be announced and prizes will be awarded.

Everyone is urged to collect their tickets and mark Dec. 17 on their calendar. Plan to attend and win!