



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 19, 2011
Contact: Patti Russell (970) 356-4000 ext. 4230
Jennifer Finch (970) 356-4010 ext. 4702
Re: Fundraiser for Sligo Cemetery

CHILI, MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT PART OF SLIGO FUNDRAISER MAY 29th

WELD COUNTY, Colo. – Students from Pawnee High School’s National Honor Society will host a benefit for the Sligo Cemetery on Sunday, May 29th, 2011, at 12:30 p.m. The benefit event will include a chili meal (\$5, optional), the first viewing of a new documentary on “The Homesteading Women of Sligo” by Rebecca Atkinson and a concert by Paul and Jeanne Schmelzer of the band Willow. The event will be held in the cafeteria of the Pawnee High School in Grover, Colorado.

Each year students in the school’s National Honor Society sponsor a community event such as a blood drive or food drive. This year the eight-member student organization, along with their sponsor Rebecca Atkinson, an English and history teacher at Pawnee High School, decided to sponsor an event “more personal” to their community. The sign at the Sligo Cemetery, a Northern Colorado ghost town originally located between Grover and Keota, needs to be replaced and the grounds are in need of restoration. So, the National Honor Society students dedicated their community event this year to raising funds to meet this community need. In addition to the event, Atkinson has had her students conduct research into local history by interviewing community residents and using local historical documents.

Atkinson herself has participated in the history project by producing a documentary on the Sligo area, specifically the women who homesteaded there. Sligo was built on the Cheyenne-Sterling branch of the Burlingon-Missouri River Railroad in 1884. Residents in the area had hopes of prosperity due to an irrigation plan that would make farming in the area possible. The plan was never realized, however, and a drought in the 1930s marked the end of the town.

Attendees to the fundraising event are invited to the supper, which is optional and a \$5 donation is requested. The documentary viewing and the concert are free. The Depot Museum will also be open during the event.

To get to the high school, travel north on Highway 85 to Ault, turn right on Highway 14 and head east toward Briggsdale, turn north on County Road 77, then turn east on County Road 120. The address of the high school is 19 County Road 120 ¾ (the school is located at the corner of Chatoga Ave. and Pershing St).

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