



CONCERNED CITIZENS—Ruth Milliken, Tom Keller, Bruce Bolin and Jeff Paulsen were among the members meeting on Tuesday morning to discuss ways of keeping people informed on current legislation.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Committee discusses ways to keep people informed

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Community Builders met early Tuesday morning to discuss the town hall meeting held in Bird City on Feb. 13. They also discussed what the group would be doing in the future to keep people informed on what was going on in the legislature.

The Builders have a number of concerns but the main concern is the cuts being made in education, health care and long-term health care.

Present at the meeting were members of the Builders along with school superintendents, Bruce Bolin, Cheylin, and Rob Schiltz, St. Francis, Les Lacy, hospital administrator; and Jeff Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village administrator. Lori Janike, representing the Cheylin Board of Education, was there.

Those there commented that it was good to have both schools working together in a common concern.

"We need to keep our schools functioning and our communities alive," said Tom Keller, of the

Builders.

The consensus of the group was the legislators, Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Faber, had got the message that the people were concerned. It was pointed out that people there also realized the importance that an individual can make a difference and together (10 percent of Cheyenne County's population) makes quite an impression.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller said she didn't think the legislators had done their homework before coming. Mr. Lacy talked about having Dale Dennis with the Kansas Association of School Boards making up a spread sheet on school finance similar to the sheet that Mr. Ostmeyer handed out only this one would be correct.

Mr. Ostmeyer had also told Mr. Schiltz that he would get back to him with new school funding figures and, Mr. Schiltz said he had not heard from him.

Mr. Bolin said that, if school funding is cut, then staff and programs are cut, then test scores go down as do the students' perfor-

mance.

The comment was made, "Do the legislators really believe the state hasn't made cuts or do they think we are not smart enough to see the figures don't match up?"

Mr. Lacy said we all have connections with other groups and suggested that the information be carried to those entities. Mr. Keller suggested contacting Farm Bureau. Several people volunteered to go to the next Cheyenne County Farm Bureau meeting on March 4.

Others also had suggestions which will be followed up on.

Following up on legislators was also discussed. They all agreed that it was necessary to continue writing, calling and/or e-mailing Mr. Ostmeyer, Mr. Faber and Speaker Mike O'Neal.

Politics are politics, said Dr. Miller, but it is the grassroots people who will make the difference. People from all over Northwest Kansas need to be active in contacting legislators and being informed.

Mr. Keller agreed and said we now need to spread out to all these areas. There is a public meeting set for Saturday in Goodland. It was suggested that everyone who can to attend the meeting.

In finalizing the meeting, members agreed to have letters to the editor written, talk to people one on one and to groups, encourage everyone to contact their legislators between now and the end of April, and plan a meeting with the legislators before the end of April.

district and do an audit and recommend how to save money: Are they really necessary or just doing what the local school board and upper educational administrators are supposed to be doing? The branch of the State Fire Marshals Office that does building inspections throughout the State could be dropped and the duties given to local fire chiefs. There are many similar suggestions that need to be examined for their impact prior to implementations, but I believe that many reductions could be made. There is the concern of unemployment for former State employees, but remember that many of these bureaucrats are people who can find jobs elsewhere quickly due to training and experience.

A financial system and government like ours can not withstand a huge bureaucracy that other people (working in private business) have to support. We have come to that point at both the Federal and State levels that our bureaucracy is too large to be supported by the tax payers who work in non-government jobs. We MUST cut back at the State level, not just the local level! Who will champion this cause against a powerful bureaucracy? I will. Will you?

Rick Reeser
St. Francis

Letter to the Editor

The following letter was sent to our representatives and I believe the letter tells a simple solution, since it is inappropriate for the state government to tell the local government to sacrifice at the same time that they are adding staff. I believe that our state taxes are high enough to support a reasonably-sized state government, and that reducing the size of the bureaucracy is the solution. I believe in cutting back at the upper levels to help support the local levels where the real service and work is going on.

Dear Rep. Faber and Sen. Ostmeyer:

Thank you for coming to Cheyenne County last Saturday to hear our concerns and questions. I wish to take this opportunity to further explain my requests.

Our state is in a financial crisis brought on by mismanagement at a number of levels. As a former employer who had many employees and large budgets, I know that getting out of a hole this size probably takes both an increase in revenue and a decrease in expenses. I am semi-retired and have limited income, but I suggest a half percent sales tax increase (some of which is paid by people traveling through the state) for 6 months ONLY to increase revenues.

Our schools and medical facilities are the mainstays of the community, but are struggling to maintain services in a reasonable and quality fashion. We are told to keep cutting back (reduction of staff and services, etc.), but that has been done before and we can not cut back any more.

In the mean time, our bureaucracy at the state level has grown significantly to the point of consuming the tax revenues plus lots more. A former governor added huge numbers of new jobs to our State government employment. Our current Governor has proposed adding over 100 new jobs to the State for this next year of financial crisis!?! What are people thinking? Everyone else is demanded to cut back except the State employees.

Many of the State jobs could be done away with as redundant. For instance, the financial consultants that will come to the local school

Team places third



The Cheylin Cougar boy's B-team traveled to Brewster on Saturday to participate in the Freedom League Tournament with seven teams competing.

The Cougars lost the first game to Grinnell/Wheatland, 18-43. Then returned on Monday to play against Weskan, winning the game 42 to 32 and placing third in the tournament.

On the B-team were players Jacob Brubaker, Blaine Burns, Pedro Guetierrez, Devon Janicke, Ivan Kemp, Reece Leonard and Shawn Pochop.

"It was quite an accomplishment for this young team to place third in the tournament," said Coach Max Keltz. "We are very proud of what they did."



REECE LEONARD his blocking is opponent during the Freedom League Tournament held in Brewster on Saturday.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Part of the following, has as its source an Associated Press article, dated 2-5-10, penned by writers Romans Kokosarovs and Gary Peach.

The article is entitled, "Latvian Ghost Town Auctioned Off For \$3.1 Million."

What does this have to do with anything here in the U. S. more over why should we be interested in the purchase of an abandoned city in Latvia? The Associated Press article relates that, "The town formerly known as Skruna-1, housed about 5,000 people during the Cold War, but was abandoned over a decade ago after the Russian military withdrew from Latvia following the Soviet collapse."

"A representative of a Russian investor won the bidding contest in Latvia's capital, Riga with an offer of 1.55 million (Lats), (\$3.1 million dollars.)"

So what is the significance of some rich Russian buying an innocuous abandoned town in an innocuous place? The significance is,

if we extrapolate from this article that the (1.44 million Lats) is the equivalent to (\$3.1 million dollars), it doesn't take much to figure out that a small insignificant country over somewhere around Russia, has a currency called the Lat, which is the equivalent of the dollar, but is worth twice as much as the dollar. How did this happen?

Let me see, how do you pronounce - (EAR-MARKS)?

How do we pronounce - (IN-FLA-TION)?

How do we pronounce - (CON-GRES-SIONAL TERM LI-M-ITS)?

How do we pronounce - (COR-RUP-TION)?

How do we pronounce - (CZARS)? 'O' yaw, that's Russian, right?

I know, these words are hard to pronounce, but if you pronounce them slowly, with determined inflection the meaning comes through loud and clear.

R. Kent Voorhies
McDonald



Tongish

Birthday celebrated

Joan Tongish is celebrating her 80th birthday Feb. 27. Her children are hosting an open house from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27, at the McDonald Senior Center.

No gifts, please.

South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Brandon and Amanda Winter and David Banister came home for the weekend to visit their grandmother, Amelia Banister who is in the St. Francis hospital.

Bethel Goldt joined the Red Hat Ladies in Atwood Tuesday for lunch at Park Hill and then they all visited at Good Samaritan Home.

Joe Kramer returned Monday from The Pas, Manitoba, Canada. He took in the Trappers Festival and visited with friends there.

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Sprayer, Combine, Tractors, Vehicles to Sell @ 1:00 pm CT with Supporting Equipment to follow.

Storm Date: Thurs., March 11, 2010 - Listen to 790 AM KXXX or check our website for details

www.westernauctionandrealstate.com

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2008 JD 4730 Sprayer, 90' booms, Green Star SF2, Swath Pro, Auto Steer, Command View, 2600 Monitor touch screen system, hydro stat, 800 gal. tank, 380/90 R 46 tires, 400 hrs.; 2002 JD 9650 Combine, Green Star, 1389 engine hrs., 1,078 separator hrs., bin extensions, hydro stat drive, duals 16.9 R 26; 2009 JD 630F Flexheader, 30', harvested 1000 acres, trailer; 1997 JD 893 Corn head, total rebuild 1 year ago; 1990 JD 853A Row Head, total rebuild 1 year ago; 2003 JD 9420 4WD Tractor, 18 spd. Powershift trans., auto steer, 4 hyd., bare back, 800-70-38 tires, 1,962 hrs.; 1999 JD 8200 Tractor, 16 spd. Powershift trans., 4 hyd., 3 pnt., 1000 PTO, 18.4 R 36 tires, 3,072 hrs.; 1987 Kenworth 800 Semi Tractor, 3406 CAT motor, 13 spd. Fuller trans., air ride, 255" wheel base, 65,000 mi. on total motor rebuild; 1999 Wilson Pace Setter 43' Grain Trailer, 63" sides, rollover tarp, air ride; 2003 Orthman 996 Grain Cart, Model 608-220; 2007 Chevy 2500HD LT Silverado Pickup, 4WD, auto trans., 6L motor, reg. cab, loaded, 30,880 mi.; 1985 Chevy Custom Deluxe 30, 1 ton, flat bed, 4 spd. trans, 350 motor, 83,240 mi.; 2008 Polaris 500 HO Sportsman 4 wheeler, on demand AWD, 4x4, 1,187 mi.; 2002 Sunflower Sweeps, 11'x5', w/ Sunflower hard surfaced pickers, anhyd. attach., Model 3612-55; 1998 Sunflower Tandem Disc, 45', w/ harrows, Model 1544-45; 2008 Orthman ItRIPr Strip Tiller, 8 row, Squib Taylor anhyd. system, used 500 acres, Model 836-011; John Deere 520 Double Disc Drill, 3 pnt., 10" spacing, 20., hyd. markers, grass seeders; Sunflower Sweeps, 5'x5', w/ New style pickers, anhyd. attach., Model 3350-23; John Deere Field Cultivator, 35', w/ harrows; 1998 Kent Series V Field Cultivator, 63', w/ New harrows, Model 7554FC96; Orthman Shank Ripper, 8 row, fertilizer applicator; Flex King Rod Weeder, 60', Model RD60; Orthman 8 row Cultivator, Model 605-768; 36, Crustbuster w/ Harrows; Westfield Auger, 36', 8", 5 hp 3 phase Elec. Motor, New; Kelly Back Hoe, Model B60, 3 pnt., 11' reach; Skiles Cone bottom Tanks, 2000 gal. pump, hoses, ready to pull; Skiles Chemical Trailer w/ 1000 gal. tank, pump, tandem axle; 10' Rhino Blade, 3 pnt., hyd. swing adj., Model 1540; 10' Road Boss Grader, 3 pnt.; Blu Jet Trackmaster, 3 pnt.; 30' JD Rotary Hoe, 3 pnt.; Bressler Stalk Chopper, 8 row, 3 pnt., hard surfaced blades

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