Congressman visits county residents

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com Congressman Tim Huelskamp was in St. Francis on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 17, to talk to Cheyenne County residents. The meeting, held in the commissioners' room in the courthouse, was full and there were people standing outside the room.

Congressman Huelskamp had some posters which, he said, showed the "tidal wave of debt." And, who owns the debt? he asked. He answered the question telling that 50 percent is foreign owned and China, he said, expects to be paid back.

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and other entitlements drives the debt. Now that the baby boomers are ready to retire, there is no money in the fund. No money was ever put aside. There are more people retiring than there is money coming in. Within seven to 19 years, it would be bankrupt.

The congressman's report was discouraging, noting that there has been no budget passed; the country has a deficit of \$14.5 trillion and by 2012, it will be \$16.4 trillion. There can be no agreements made in spending cuts.

Huelskamp serves on the House Ag Committee. He said there are three countries wanting to buy pork, beef and wheat which would increase Kansas' economy by \$100 million. However, the president will not sign the necessary trade agreements.

Chuck Kribs, when talking about the deficit, said that the government cannot continue to spend like they have been. He suggested a 2-percent pay cut across the board - everyone from military, Social Security, legislators – everyone! Then take one furlough day. - eliminate inflation!

Huelskamp said if the federal government would cut 1 percent every year, in seven years, the country would be out of debt.

Don Love was concerned about all the casualities in the different foreign countries. Huelscamp said that it is Congress' job to know and authorize where all the troops are. However, the president will not release that information. He said he learns more about where the troops are on television or in the newspapers.

Bill Dungan suggested that more veterans are needed in congress. Congress gets pay raises but the veterans haven't.

Bruce Roelfs said if the government would get rid of all the regulations, there would be more jobs. Ron Louden asked if the cheap



CONGRESSMAN Tim Huelskamp visits with resident at a town meeting held at the courthouse.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

food agreement was the reason the president doesn't want trade agreements? Mr. Huelskamp said, "no, it's politics."

Veda Orth asked about the president's czars, who are paid advisors appointed by the president. Mr. Huelskamp said the president was instructed to get rid of the czars and he ignored the orders.

Bruce Swihart was not happy with the environmental protection agency, wanting them to back off. Mr. Huelskamp said the agency was created in 1970 and has power. Swihart suggested that the money given to the agency be taken away. Mr. Huelskamp said he would like to see \$3 to \$4 billion cut from the agency.

Ward Cassidy, representative for the 120 District, was concerned about the small post offices that are being closed in Northwest Kansas

Mr. Huelskamp said he was unable to solve this problem. The postal service is not government funded. He noted that closing these post offices would not solve the service's money problems; in fact would most likely cost more. He answered the question about

Obama Care by saying, no, they were not getting rid of it.

Fall sports season begins-



SPORTS BEGIN-The volleyball and football teams have been practicing and the first game. Opening game the varsity for volleyball team is against Wheatland/ Grinnell at Grainfield be ginning at 3 on Tuesday, Aug. 30. The football team will see their first action on Thursday Sept. 1 in Wauneta at 3 p.m.



Times photos by Darci Schields and Norma Martinez

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He ended the meeting by saying that the government just needs to get a handle on spending!

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