

Group talks about purpose

By Karen Krien

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A new organization interested in helping the county and its cities grow and develop businesses and small industries met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners Monday morning. The goal was to inform them on what the organization was doing and future plans.

Chairman Tom Keller, along with 11 other members of the Cheyenne Initiative Association, were present. Mr. Keller told how the Association had met in October to participate in the High Plains Regional Cluster which is facilitated by the Ogallala Commons. The Commons is a resource development network for creating thriving communities in the High Plains — Ogallala Aquifer region, thus focusing on hometown competitiveness.

A public forum was held at the end of March where over 100 people agreed on projects they would like to pursue. The projects were directed at benefiting the county and its residents.

The group took the top 12 ideas and are working on them. Mr. Keller said members meet weekly to review priorities, the volunteers and within a short time, people in the county will begin to see and hear about progress being made.

The top project people selected at the forum was "wind energy." Because of the wind which blows through the county, it appeared that this could be harnessed and used as an industry. Those volunteers for this committee have been meeting to study how to go about developing the project.

Second on the list was marketing agriculture products. Others include See GROUP on Page 8



STUDENTS DID WELL at State Music Festival. Pictured (l to r) Debbie Fiala, Matt Whitmore, Gavin Smull, Cara Hunt, Brandon Rueb, Andrea Blair, Shaina instructor; Sarah Guthmiller, Taylor Kennedy, Katelyn Jones, Candice Wiese, Gohl, Amber Smull, Jacob Riedel, Kim Church and Corbin Sherlock.

Music students bring home medals

St. Francis Community High School was well represented at the 2A State Music Festival, bringing home 23 medals for I ratings.



Jones

The festival was held on Saturday in Concordia.

"I was proud of all the students," said Debbie Fiala, music instructor. "They had worked hard to prepare and all performed well."

Earning medals were Katelyn Jones with her vocal solo and her flute solo.

The Vocal Class Mixed Ensemble also earned medals. Mem-

bers of the ensemble are Andrea Blair, Kattie Ford, Shaina Gohl, Sarah Guthmiller, Cara Hunt, Katelyn Jones, Kim Voeller, Lauren Zwegardt, Kim Church, Taylor Kennedy, Amber Smull, Candice Wiese, BreAna Zwegardt, Martin Church, Jonathan Hankins, Jacob Riedel, Corbin Sherlock, Gavin Smull, Matt Whitmore,

Scott Ford and Brandon Rueb.

Other performances at the festival included vocal solos by Megan Rice, Gavin Smull, Cara Hunt, Sarah Guthmiller and Kim Voeller and instrumental solos by Shaina Gohl, Kim Voeller and Kattie Ford.

The mixed vocal ensemble by the Advanced Music Class also performed. Members of this en-

semble are Kattie Ford, Shaina Gohl, Sarah Guthmiller, Cara Hunt, Katelyn Jones, Kim Voeller, Lauren Zwegardt, Candice Wiese, Cassie Dankenbring, Sara Miller, Megan Rice, Miranda Teeters, Corbin Sherlock, Gavin Smull, Matt Whitmore, Brandon Rueb and Mac Frewen.

Many activities planned for annual car show

Antique and classic vehicles will line up around St. Francis' Sawhill Park on Saturday, May 12, for the seventh annual Saturday In The Park car show. Each year, there are over 100 cars, along with pickups, motorcycles and, one year, there was even a boat.

This year, there will be some new events to entertain adults as well as the youth.

Friday, May 11, from 8:30 to 10 p.m. in the band shell, Elvis will be performing. Andre Samu, Limon, Colo., is an Elvis "tribute artist." The public is welcome to attend the

show. A free-will donation will be taken and given to the tornado victims in Bird City.

Elvis will also perform from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday at the car show.

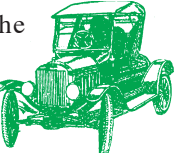
Health fair

The hospital and health office

have organized a Cheyenne County Community Health Fair to help keep people healthy. The staff will be offering blood pressure checks, teaching children and adults who ride bikes how helmets should fit and there will be a drawing for a helmet. The Farm Bureau will have a farm

safety booth. The American Cancer Society will have a booth as well as the Regional Prevention Center.

Susan Roelfs, county health See SHOW on Page 8



Administrator commends staff

By Karen Krien

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The administrator commended the hospital staff and other volunteers who came forward and prepared for whatever disaster might have taken place when the tornado hit the Bird City area on March 28.

Les Lacy, administrator, told the board at the Thursday Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting, that while everyone was relieved that the tornado had not been as devastating as it could have been, one positive aspect was that, "it gave the hospital an opportunity to exercise

its' disaster plan under a very real threat. Any good exercise will identify opportunities for improvement, this was no exception."

The staff was on standby, he said, with wheelchairs and oxygen at every room so they could move at a moment's notice. He said there were five patients in the hospital that day and there were positive responses from all involved. He also noted that additional emergency supplies were located to patient receiving areas and that surrounding Hospitals and Ambulances had been alerted to the

See STAFF on Page 8

Farmer requests help with drive

By Karen Krien

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A farmer asked the commissioners to fix up and maintain a private drive northwest of St. Francis.

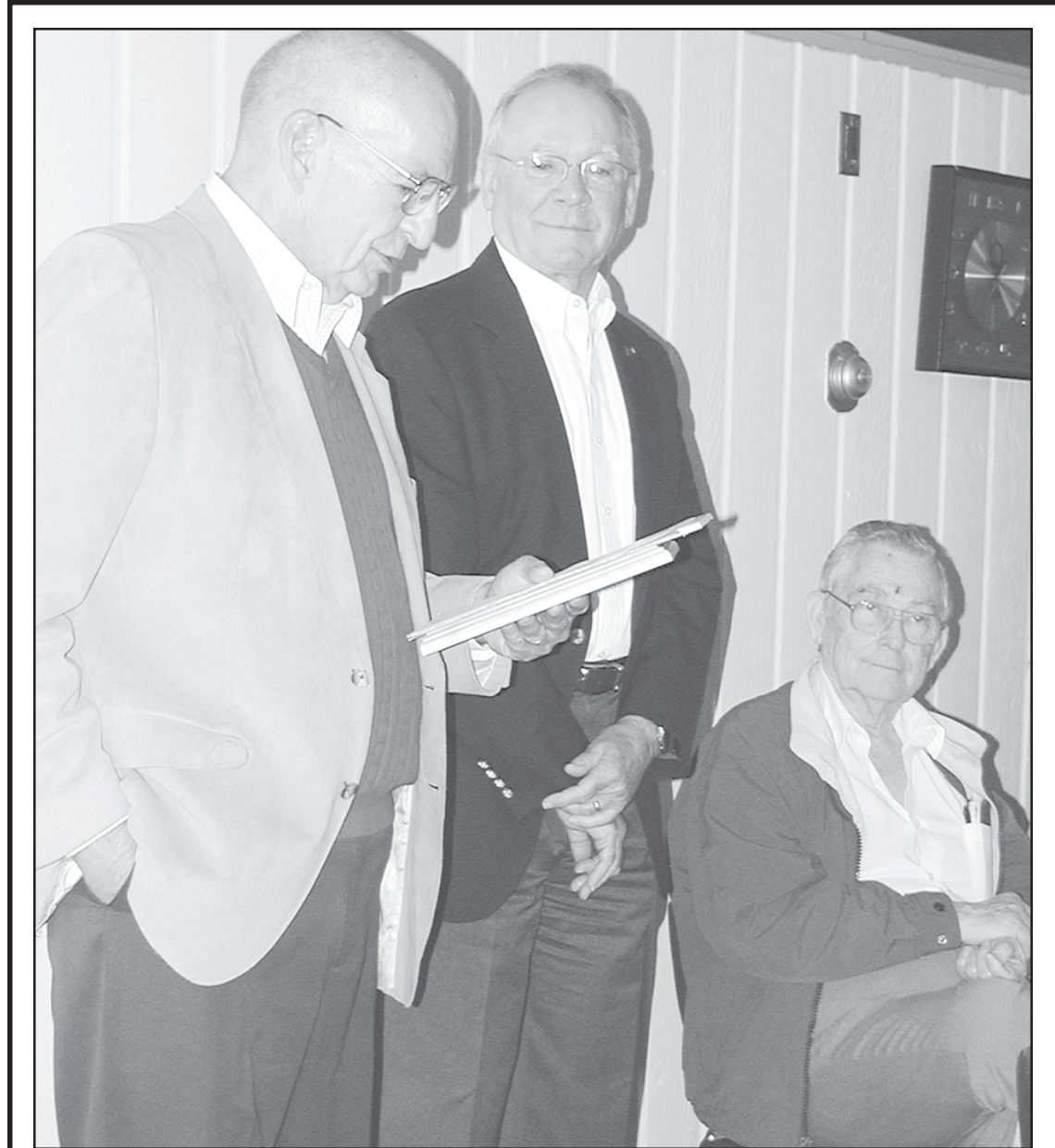
Ben Leibbrandt, representing his son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Heather Leibbrandt, said they were taking in seven foster children, six of which would be attending St. Francis schools. However, the road, which is also a private drive, is so bad that the school bus could not use it part of the time.

Ray Lee, commissioner, said he had looked at the drive and it was in terrible condition.

In a letter submitted by the Leibbrandts, they said they could home school the children but preferred to send them to public school. However, they needed help with the road.

"We will do whatever we need to do for our boys," the letter stated.

Mr. Leibbrandt wondered why some private drives were maintained. See FARMER on Page 8



ST. FRANCIS LAWYER, John Kite, center, and Charles Stewart, Oakley, right, were recognized for 50 years representing clients in northwest Kansas. Jim Milliken, left, briefly told about their careers.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Relay set for August

As summer approaches, plans are being made for the 2007 Cancer Relay for Life. The Relay will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 18 and 19, at Sawhill Park, St. Francis.

"The local committee is excited to plan this year's event," said Betty Loudon, local committee member. "We hope to break all our records for participation and donations."

Last year, the county ranked first in the state for per capita survivor participation and third in per capita income in the state of Kansas.

"This is a remarkable feat and one that we want to strive to and to beat this year," Mrs. Loudon said.

Several teams for the relay have already signed up but more teams are needed. Those planning to have a team need to contact Penny Krien, 785-332-2173 or Jenny Busse at 785-332-3251, team co-chairmen. They will give information and packets to start the team activities. The teams will be out all over the county selling luminarias.

A luminaria is a candle lit in a paper bag of sand, placed around Sawhill Park, burning all night. It honors either a friend or relative who have survived cancer or have died because of the disease.

"If you have not been contacted See RELAY on Page 8

New coordinator talks about projects planned for county

By Karen Krien

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The new coordinator of Cheyenne County Development Corporation, David Butler, met with the commissioners. He said he was new in the county, only being a resident for around a year.

He asked if there were projects that the commissioners

would like to see.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he felt that former coordinator, Carol Redding, had done a good job but they both felt that, the problem with bringing businesses to the county was that none were willing to take that first step to come.

Mr. Butler said the goal of small-town America is to develop more

businesses. With the county's organization, most people don't know that the coordinator will work 12 to 18 months bringing in a business, and then it falls through. Ms. Redding had tried to connect with the Ogallala Commons which the Cheyenne Initiatives Association recently joined but few people were aware of her efforts.

Mr. Butler said he felt that it was very important to take care of the businesses the county already has.

"Survival of small towns is a cut-throat deal," he said. There have been towns and cities trying to lure our businesses away."

He talked about fund raisers to help bring in more money for the Corporation. He will also be writing

grants. To keep people informed, he will be sending out a newsletter.

Ernie Ketner, commissioner, talked about the Initiative Association and how, at first, he was very excited — he would like to see new businesses in empty stores. However, then he found out they were discouraged about the Development Corporation.

"Why can't we work together?" he asked.

It is crucial that the towns are working together, he said, and he worried about motives of the Association.

He said the Association has done some things that are wise and there are key leaders in the county on the board. See PROJECTS on Page 8