

# FORUM

Continued from Page 1A

carried over to the following year. There has been a cut of \$241,000 since the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. In 2011, the cut is estimated to be \$412,700 and in 2012, \$706,426.

If this happens, the administration will be forced to look at cutting extra curricular activities and several teachers.

But, if legislators can be convinced that they are to do what was mandated and find a way to fund schools and health care, this would help eliminate the problems in the future. Raising another cent sales tax and the cigarette tax as mentioned above was one way of doing this.

Mr. Schiltz showed how the losses were calculated, noting that three days before Thanksgiving, the state had made cuts on money which had already been budgeted by the schools. It was noted that the state had also been late in getting money to the schools, making payroll and other expenses hard if not impossible for some schools to come up with.

Dr. Miller said that the legislators are expecting schools to come up with the money. Yes, there are reserve funds that have been built up over many years but, if these funds are used now, there is no money in reserve to fix a boiler if it goes bad or anything else that needs repaired or fixed in the building. Once the reserves are used, she said, they are gone and the problems continue.

Dr. Miller, who is the medical director of the Good Samaritan Village, said many people need home health but, then there are those people who need long-term health care. If St. Francis were to lose the Good Samaritan Village nursing home which houses almost 50 residents, it would be traumatic.

We need a good stable long-term health care facility, she said, and we need to maintain it. Medicaid pays for 61 percent of the costs at the nursing home. The nationwide average for a day in a nursing home is \$162 per patient. The cost at the Village is \$144 per day per patient. The state now pays \$144 per day per patient but with the cuts, the state will pay only \$129 per day — the Village will be losing money.



**TJ PERRY, St. Francis school student, asked how less state funding would affect his class and those following.**

Mr. Patton pointed out that the Village pays \$1.5 million a year in salaries. If it were to close, not only would it be critical for residents but would also be a great loss to the county and communities.

Mr. Lacy pointed out that the people attending the meeting had made the first step by coming to find out what was going on and be educated. Now, he said, the second step was to contact legislators.

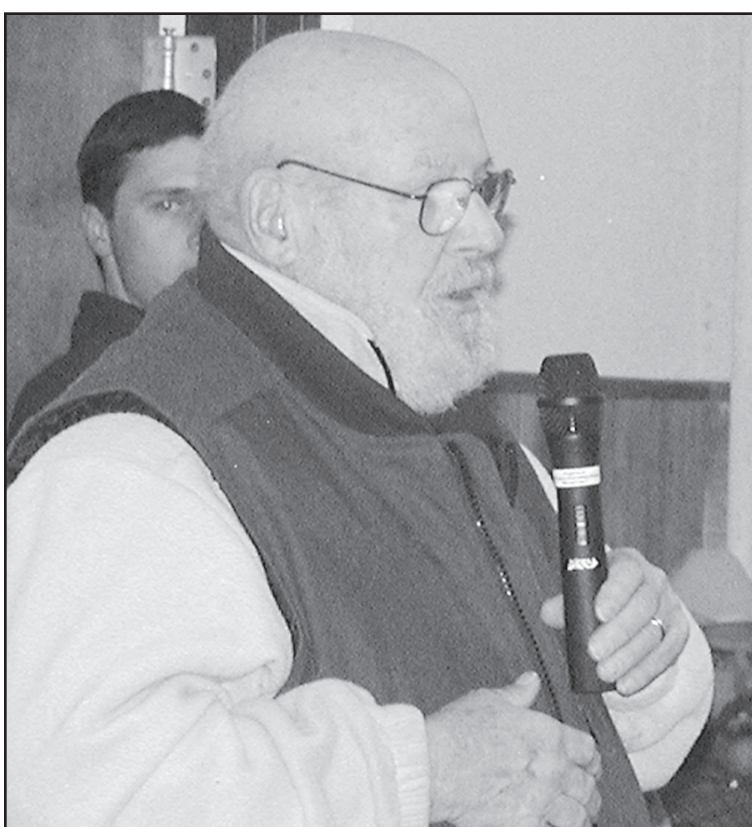
Everything needs to work together. The people pay taxes out but, if we don't have a school, hospital or nursing home, he said, that money doesn't come back to the county.

Mr. Patton talked about how the county generates and spends tax money. With that money, he said, the county provides services such as county roads, fire and emergency medical service, county health, airport, just to name a few. The county also appropriates money to the hospital and fair board.

The state has backed out of paying gas tax and this will affect county roads.

Legislators, he said, need to be held accountable. There seems to be an unwillingness to find a way to give the funds they promised!

Sherry Schultz, one of the Builders, pointed out that, as of Monday, the legislators had not



**CHUCK KRIBS, Bird City, asked questions about the Local Option Budget. Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said only 30 percent of the general fund can be raised and St. Francis schools has maxed out the 30 percent.**

taken a cut in their pay.

There were numerous questions asked from the floor, ranging from how will the cuts affect students and future students, to raising the local option budget, to consolidation, to making sure the county was getting its fair share of tax money.

One of the questions was "when do the legislators make the decisions concerning tax cuts and funding?" The answer was the end of April but emphasis was made to contact legislators now and to

attend the 8 a.m. town hall meeting in Bird City on Saturday.

It is important, Mr. Keller said, to fill the town hall and show the legislators that represent us that we are concerned about what they are going to do.

**Contact your representative**  
Contact representatives for this county are:

- Ralph Ostmeier, state senator, phone - 785-296-7399, e-mail - ralph.ostmeier@senate.ks.gov, address - Room 225-E, Kansas State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Street,



**ROB SCHILTZ, St. Francis School superintendent, explained how he calculated the losses that the school will have.**

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

Topeka, KS 66612.

At home, Ostmeier's phone number is 785-824-3773, e-mail, rostmeier@ink.org, address - Box 97, Grinnell, KS 67738.

• John Faber, phone - 785-296-7500, e-mail - john.faber@house.

ks.gov, address - Room 161-W, Kansas State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66612.

At home, Faber's phone number is 785-694-2619, e-mail - jfaber@ink.org, address - HC2, Box 130, Brewster, KS 67732.

## FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

collect money from the other derby fair board sponsors. Members agreed that it was important to pay the winners the night of the derby. In addition, they request the money to be presented to the Cheyenne County Fair Board by July 1. Members also set the money from each sponsor at \$300.

**Talent show added to venue**

Gary Cooper, secretary, reported that he had visited with Ruth Milliken of the St. Francis Music Club and the club agreed they would put on a local talent show for the fair. One of the topics discussed was the public announcement system.

He had talked to Roy Elfers about the times he and Scott King had been disc jockeys together. Mr. Elfers said he had talked to Mr. King and he agreed to allow his sound system to be used if it is operated by Mr. Elfers.

This is the kicker, Mr. Cooper said. Roy is the swine superintendent and is involved with the weigh in on Wednesday night. Roy said he could do the sound system on Thursday night for the talent show.

Mr. Cooper said the club was willing to do the talent show on either Wednesday or Thursday. Furthermore, there may be some people from Goodland who would participate in the talent show.

Discussion followed with providing some monetary incentive for the talent show. Mr. Cooper said the Music Club makes donations to the community by way of scholarships. Mr. Bursch asked him what the club might want for performing and what the price of the gate tickets would be. Mr. Cooper will get more information about the length of the show to get an idea of what to charge at the gate.

In keeping with the topic of

the amateur talent show, making a stage available was discussed. Several ideas were tossed around, but it was the consensus that the fair board should provide a nice stage since the club is putting forth the effort to have the talent show.

The last issue is deciding what night it would be scheduled. Members agreed that Friday would set for the amateur talent show with more details forthcoming.

**Area scheduling**  
Brian Hobrock, board member, wanted to discuss having a night set aside for rodeo roping. Last year, there was a good turn out for the roping and he was wanting to see if cowboys from the Yuma County Fair would be available for roping contest.

Megan said that she had talked to someone concerning the roping and there were people who wanted to come. The roping will be on Wednesday night.

Some discussion about the night for the horse verses horsepower followed and was agreed to have it on Thursday night. It was also discussed to have a mutton bustin' event.

Mr. Bursch said the committees should have a meeting before the next board meeting and bring the information updates.

**Show ideas**

Mr. Bursch presented to the members three advertisements he received in the mail. One is from a funny farm association that has clown acts, peanut pedal power, etc.; another from Gary Puckett formerly of the Union Gap band; and the other was from a company that represents professional wrestling. Offering 10 to 12 wrestlers for two hours of wrestling for \$1,600.

"They also have a platinum package with three former wrestling champions and music," said Mr. Bursch. "All for \$2,700."

## Obituaries

### Marvin "Dutch" Keith Walz

Oct. 7, 1941 - Feb. 2, 2010

Marvin "Dutch" Keith Walz, age 68, of St. Francis, Kan., died Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010, in his home. He was born at home on Oct. 7, 1941, in St. Francis, Kan.

Dutch started working at the St. Francis grocery store while in high school. He graduated from the St. Francis Community High School in 1959.

After graduation he then started working for Don Topping building homes in St. Francis for 5 to 6 years. Work was slow one winter, and he decided to take his chances for work in Denver.

He started working for Design Dynamics, building exhibits for major companies. Years later then becoming the vice president and production manager of the company. He worked at Design Dynamics for 27 years, and retired in 1994, deciding to come back to his roots in St. Francis. A few years passed and he decided to work part-time for Housing Authority in town. He worked 10 years faithfully to the end.

He enjoyed fishing with friends, family and especially teaching his grandchildren to catch the big one. He lived his life through the nature of Colorado, camping, rock hounding, collecting Indian artifacts, bird watching and many other great outdoor experiences.

He was also an avid pool player and a firm believer in teaching children all that he knew.

Friends and family will miss his good faith in helping others, his motivation in being a wonderful son, husband, father, grandfather and an amazing friend.

Dutch married Darla O'Leary on April 27, 1968, in St. Francis.

He is survived by mother, Dorothy Schield; wife, Darla Walz; two children, Yvonne Herrema (Michael) of Aurora, Colo., and James Walz of Colorado Springs; three grandchildren, Clay, Alexandra and Nathan Herrema; stepbrother, Larry Schield (Sara); and stepsister Kaye Bauman.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Walz, and stepfather, Marvin Schield.

Ceremonies were held on Friday, Feb. 5, at the United Methodist Church with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were Bill Stull, Carl Adams and Maurice Stramel.

Casket bearers were Francis O'Leary, Larry Lillich, Paul Boger, Melvin Confer, Larry Schield, Victor Dankenbring and Joe Schield.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to United Methodist Church of St. Francis, Cancer Society and Good Samaritan Village.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

### Check Your Calendars Ladies .....

The gals at CJ's Boutique are having a big "DENIM BLOWOUT" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18, 19 & 20!!! We have denim jeans ranging from size 0 thru 14 on sale at 70% off the original price for 3 big days only.

Choose from brand names such as Lawman, Tummy Tuck, Tribal, Moto, Ethyl, French Dressing, Click, Western Ethics, Rocky, American Rag and Vanilla!!!

**NOTE: Jag Jeans not included in this sale—**

While you're at CJ's - Check out our new Spring jackets and tops. We also have beautiful jewelry in stock & some really fun purses for Spring and Summer. See you then!!

(785) 460-0337

1105 Taylor Ave, Colby, KS

### Gas saving Tips:

- Consolidate trips. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much gas as one longer multi-purpose trip.
- Don't haul unneeded items in the trunk. An extra 100 pounds in the trunk reduces fuel economy by 1 to 2 percent.

Only in America.....

Do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.



Station  
785-332-2421

Owned by the farmers and ranchers of this community since 1913