

# TEA partiers gather again: Locals call for fiscal responsibility in second rally of the year

By Pamela Robel, Daily News staff writer

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## Geoff Crimmins/Daily News

Robyn Giovannetti stood with a sign and waved to cars honking in support of the Pullman Taxed Enough Already rally on Saturday.

The Troy woman sported a T-shirt that read, "I'll keep my freedom, guns and money ... you keep the change." Giovannetti said she had the shirts printed herself and was surprised by the support they had gotten.

"I was at the grocery store and had about 20 people say they liked my shirt, and I got tears in my eyes," she said.

About 150 people gathered for Saturday's rally, the second TEA Party in Pullman. The first was in April, along with parties in Moscow, Colfax and across the nation.

Giovannetti said she was out to support the TEA Party because of the message of accountability it was sending.

"We're trying to reach any American that really understands how grave a situation we have in our country. We have to start paying attention and holding our politicians - Republican and Democrat - accountable," Giovannetti said.

Giovannetti said the grassroots effort is what is needed to create a change.

"If we get more people trying to change things from the bottom up, we'll be OK," she said.

As the protest began, pocket-sized Constitutions were passed out, speakers took to the microphone, and signs reading everything from "Stop spending, start cutting" to "R.I.P. Liberty, Freedom 9-17-1787 to \_\_\_ - \_\_\_ - 2009" were waved.

Mark Tetzlaff of Pullman said he was attending the rally to "stand up for the idea of fiscal responsibility" in the government.

"Our goal is to convey to people watching that we don't support the wasteful use of money or the use of money we don't have," Tetzlaff said.

Denise Culbertson organized the April TEA Party in Colfax and worked diligently Saturday to support the second party.

"People need to get involved. People need to know what's going on and how close we are to being a socialized country. We're not free," Culbertson said.

She said that along with her attendance at the TEA Party on Saturday, she was helping to organize another TEA Party scheduled for July 4.

Culbertson said that among her concerns are the proposed cap-and-trade regulations and the rising price of gas and the effects those issues will have on people on the Palouse.

"I don't think people realize how much less ounces there were in things like chips and mayonnaise when gas prices went up last summer," Culbertson said. "It's just a couple ounces but the prices went up, too. You don't really notice it but it's a slow trickle."

Back at her post near a crosswalk, Giovannetti said she was tired of sitting at home complaining about the state of the country and wanted to do something.

"We're out here just reaching out to people and letting others that are frustrated and angry know they're not alone," Giovannetti said.

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