

Candidates have opportunity to talk

By Karen Krien

All candidates running for county offices, House of Representative and State Senate candidates were given the opportunity to meet with St. Francis and Bird City people and give a short talk on Monday evening. The meeting was organized by the Kansas Right for Life organization and was originally set to meet at the city park in St. Francis before the clouds started building and the thunder began to boom!

Those candidates present were: Rep. John Faber (R) and Bob Strevey (D), both running for State Representative, 120th District; Ralph Ostmeyer and Dan Rasure, both Republicans and running for the State Senate, 40th District; incumbent Ron Krien, commissioner, District 3; and Kelly Morris, commissioner, District 2; Chuck Kribs and Gary Morris, sheriff; Mary Morrow, and, Deb Patton, representing her husband Dale Patton, who will be running for commissioner, District 2, as an affiliate on the general election ticket.

They gave a short talk on some of the issues they felt were important. They also answered questions from the audience.

Rep. Faber told the audience that he was "the same guy the people elected 7 1/2 years ago," that he was

a pro-live supporter and wouldn't sign a "no tax increase" because, to keep schools in northwest Kansas, it may be necessary.

"When a school is closed down, the community dries up and blows away," he said.

He was unhappy with the closing session of the Kansas legislature's no increase for education, noting that the governor revealed that the state had received a \$65 million windfall and it could have been used for school funding.

Bob Strevey said he had supported Rep. Faber but thought the people needed a choice so had changed his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat. A retired teacher of 31 years, farmer, cattleman, and laundry manager at the Norton Correctional facility, he said he was interested in the development of this area because if something doesn't come in, property tax will go up. He is opposed to borrowing from different funds, noting that when this is done, we are just burdening our children and grandchildren.

He is on the U.S. 36 Association board and wants to see a plan made to make U.S. 36 stronger, saying that Missouri will soon be making U.S. 36 a four-lane highway.

Dan Rasure is concerned about the population decrease, schools and roads. He would like to see



CHUCK KRIBS visits with Dan Rasure and Bob Strevey at the Meet the Candidates Monday evening in St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

more businesses coming to northwest Kansas, focusing on small manufacturing businesses and helping present businesses to grow. He said that if the population continues the same rate of decline, in 20 years, he will not be able to live in northwest Kansas. As one of the younger candidates, he informed the audience that he had majored in business management in college and, when asked

the question of what such a young person could bring to the district, he said that he had saved a company \$6 million with in 6 months — he felt that his business knowledge could be a benefit.

Ralph Ostmeyer said he was a fourth-generation farmer. He had served in the House for two terms, eight years as a county commissioner and 14 years on the local school board. He is family oriented and for pro-live. He said that if the education tax formula is changed, northwest Kansans will undoubtedly see their taxes jump. He noted that, contrary to some reports, Kansas students are doing "extremely well."

Ron Krien is in his second term. He said the county budget is tight and the commissioners are trying to make less money go around without raising taxes. He plans to continue to build bridges, roads and control the budget. He noted that he strongly supported the recycling program as it extended the life of the landfill. He would like to see the county purchase adjoining property to the landfill so, when the time came to put in more cells, the property would be grandfathered in. When asked if hazardous waste pick up sites could be moved into the city limits instead of the landfill, Mr. Krien said that it would be almost impossible as the Environment Protection Agency regulations require proper containers and lockers for these items.

Kelly Morris reported that he was born and raised in Cheyenne County and was a licensed plumber and his wife was on the state school board. He thought, with Denver only 180 miles away, St. Francis/Cheyenne County was in an ideal area to bring in people and businesses. He was asked his

opinion on consolidation of city and county businesses. He noted that he had heard there was overlapping of jobs and, with the need to cut back or raise taxes, it might be necessary to look into different consolidations, referring mostly to the positions of law officers/sheriff.

Chuck Kribs said he has been out, spending at least four hours a day talking to people in the county. He noted that what he had gathered from these people is they want to see the sheriff department's budget under control and better service. They are also concerned about the drug problem in the county. As Mr. Kribs' answer to the drug problem, "we need a good clear policy on how we will enforce drug problems fairly but toughly."

Mr. Kribs has spent 30 years in government management working with Martin Marietta (now Lockheed Martin) where he retired as executive director. He worked with solving budget problems as well as working with the law officers and emergency services.

"I think the county needs a full-time sheriff with good common sense," he said.

Gary Morris said he was just an "ole farm boy" with military experience. When asked how he could better manage the budget, he said he thinks some of the training could be done in Cheyenne County. He also noted that he had been instrumental in straightening out an \$8 million account while in the Air Force. If elected, he plans to show up on time and do the work. He has no law enforcement experience but was in security while in the military where it was necessary to "think on his feet."

Parade plans told

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Fair is less than a month away and with the fair comes the Fair Parade which is set for 10 a.m. on Aug. 7 in downtown St. Francis.

This year's theme is "As Good As It Gets" and there is no time like the present to start planning a float for the parade. The ideas are endless and the results will be worthwhile.

The 2004 Grand Marshall has been selected and will be revealed the week of the parade.

Last year, the parade marched down a different route and will continue that same route this year, starting at the high school and ending at the west end of Main Street. Everyone is encouraged to come down and enjoy the fun on Main Street.

The floats will be judged beginning at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday. The antique cars will also be judged at that same time.

"If you want your float judged, please be present on College Street west of the high school and the practice field," said Gloria Bracelin, Chamber Secretary.

The antique cars are asked to line up in the drive north of the high school.

The parade is being coordinated by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. Parade Committee members are Carla Lampe, Dawn Lucas, Kim Ritter, Gloria Bracelin, Rick Lucas, Brittany Lucas and Brooke Lucas.

Entry forms are available at First National Bank, Bankwest, the Chamber office and The Saint Francis Herald office.

Driver wins Colorado derby

Former St. Francis and Bird City resident Kelly Lampe once again won the big money at the Greeley Rocky Mountain Stampede Demolition Derby on Saturday, June 20.

According to an article which appeared in the Greeley Tribune on June 26, the writer Tom Fasanco, said that Mr. Lampe had walked away with a first-place check of \$3,100 before an estimated crowd of 11,000 screaming fans.

Mr. Lampe, in the article, said "They boo me every time I pull in. I used to paint boo down the side of my car so they'd cheer for me," Mr. Lampe said.

His mother Gerri Lampe, St. Francis, said she and husband Billy, had attended the Stampede and said the guys from Colorado were tired of Nebraska drivers coming down and taking away all the prize money so they had ganged up on the Nebraska drivers, especially Kelly and actually destroyed his car. But before they ganged up on him, he had already won the slop heat, qualifying him to enter the main event.

Mr. Lampe and his pit crew immediately went to work on the car after it was pulled out of the ring and Mrs. Lampe said they had to actually re-shape the car before working on the motor to make it work.

Lampe, 39, and fellow Nebraska Sam Williams, 27, were the last two drivers left in a finals field of 29 beat-up cars. For the fifth or sixth time, (Lampe said he had lost count) he, the bald guy from Edison, Neb., has taken home the 4-foot trophy.

It's not as though Mr. Lampe didn't have to work for it. Mr. Lampe, who owns Lampe Motor Sports and drives a 1975 Chevrolet Caprice Classic, knew what he was getting into when he had to eliminate Mr. Williams to win the grand prize. Mr. Lampe built the engine that ran "Those two guys really drove their hearts out. When it came down to it, Kelly really pulled it together," said Jamie Estergaard of Briggsdale, who finished in third place. "He's been driving quite a few years and he put on a good show."

Mr. Williams, who is from Valentine, Neb., and won \$2,000 for his runner-up finish, ended up riding on a left rear rim before finally shutting it down. Three straight crunching hits put Mr. Lampe in the winner's circle.

"It was his motor in my car, and we run together a lot," Mr. Williams said. "I was trying to get him to line up with me front end to front end, but he wouldn't do it. He had a lot

faster car and I'm driving a tank."

It's easy to figure out why Lampe isn't the most popular drive at the demolition derby. He's won too much during the 14 years he's raced at the Stampede.

"I've won first at least five, if not six times, and seven top-two finishes and the rest are top five," Mr. Lampe said, whose last victory in Greeley was in 2001. He placed second in 2002 and fourth last year.

"Everything's brand new, the motor and transmission. That's what I do for a living. I build the cars," Mr. Lampe said.

The confident Lampe, whose strategy is to use the driver's doors as a defensive weapon, drives in about 10 derbies a year across the country.

"People cuss me because of the way I drive. I'm a defensive driver," he said. "I'm there to put on a show for the crowd, but most of all I'm there for me."

Mr. Lampe, who said he can win \$5,000 to \$10,000 during an average year, never tires of placing first.

"I am so pumped. It's non-stop. I built this car in 11 days to come out here and I have an eight-man crew," Mr. Lampe said. "I couldn't do it without them. They make the car come true."

Coming Soon ...

51st Annual Tri-State Area Antique Engine & Thresher Show



Tri-State Antique Auto Display, Swap Meet & Flea Market
Bird City, Kansas

Coming in July

Cheyenne County Fair

New this year!! Pre-fair section features 4-H's, fair and carnival activities, schedule of events and other interesting happenings at fair time. After-the-fair section features the results and many photos.



The Saint Francis Herald

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Cheylin Swim Team 2004



2004 CHEYLIN SWIM TEAM: Back row, left to right - Coach Hayley Young, Ty Carmichael, Shayna Johnson, Heath Churchwell, Jeremiah White; middle row - Jessie Smith, Whitney Churchwell, Teryn Carmichael, Stephanie Busse; front row - Craig Busse, Tia Sager, Afton Krien, Whitney Wright, Sydney Busse. Not pictured - Kori Underwood, Taylor Leibbrandt, Ethan Young, Forrest Burr, Jacquelyn Ketzner, Brandon Gordon, Dalton Magnani.

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