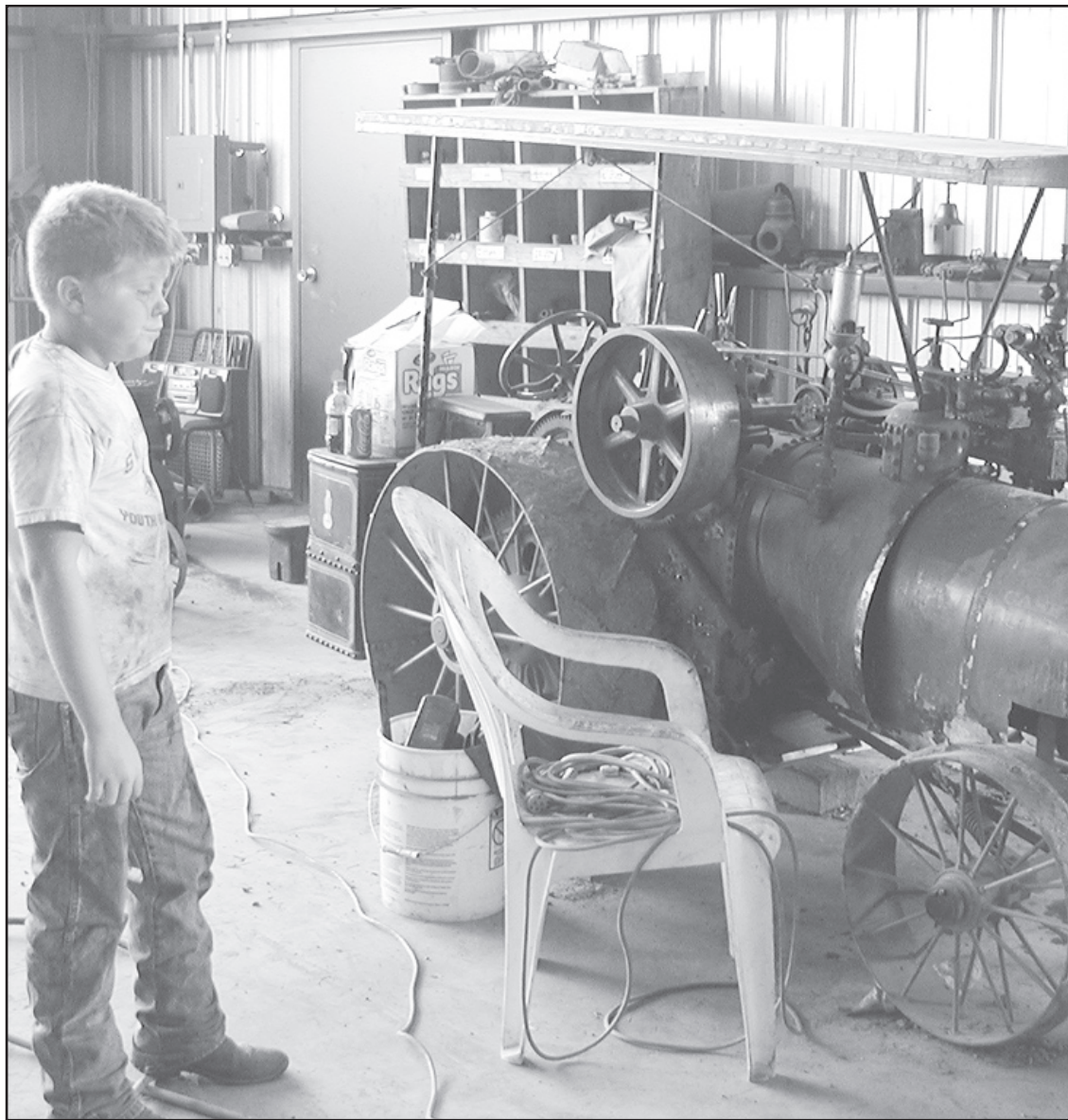


THRESHER SHOW BEGINS!



Show draw visitors from tri-state area

ON THE LEFT, Tanner Gilliland takes a last look at the tractor he drove last year in the tractor parade. The scaled model did not pass this year's inspection for safety. Above, Norm Dorsch puts the finishing touch on a circa 1930 John Deere tractor that will be on exhibit at the Thresher Show. Getting these tractors ready is a year-long job.

Times staff photos by Linda Schneider

By Linda Schneider
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Today, (Thursday) is opening day for the Antique Engine and Thresher Show. And for the next three days, Bird City, Kan. will be busting at the seams with visitors from all over the tri-state area and further.

The Thresher Show is an event that takes weeks of preparations, inspections and repairs. Every antique tractor and

each piece of equipment will be checked, cleaned and made ready for the daily parades.

One of the exhibits will include the antique steam engine tractors. Many of the steam engine tractors are nearly 100 years old. A 1916 Case and a 1912 Advance Rumely to name just two, and each one requires a certification for insurance and for safety.

For over 25 years, Gerald

Wright and his crew have been inspecting to ensure the safety of the steam engines. For three years in a row they have checked the thickness of the steam compartments and if they do not pass inspection, they are not driven. With the pressure that it takes to run these massive tractors, there is a lot of danger as Mr. Wright will tell about the tragic accident that killed two people and injured 40 spectators when

a steam engine tractor blew up in Median, OH.

What is unique about the inspection is Mr. Wright's crew. They are young men and women who come out to the Thresher grounds to help with the inspections. They are as young as 10 years old and not older than 18.

This year, under the watchful eye of Mr. Wright, Rex Weishape and David Burns of Bird City, Marcus and Brady Colson of

Colby, Tanner Gilliland of St. Francis, and other youths, learn about using gauges, tearing into engine cases, sand blasting and making the tools that will open up the bellies of these 100-year old tractors. They learn about the history of each tractor, each one of the crew has his favorite and will tell the story of who owned and how it came to be part of the Thresher Show. In addition, each one of the crew is licensed

to drive the old tractors in the Thresher parade.

In addition, behind the scenes, for nearly as long as Gerald, has been Rosemary Powell. She has been responsible for recording the information needed for insuring the tractors for the show.

"The fun thing for these kids, is that they will get drive the tractors they have been working and inspecting," said Mr. Wright.

Polls open on Tuesday for primary election

By Karen Krien
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The primary election will be held on Tuesday. Terry Miller, election officer, said as of Monday, there had been 66 people voting in the advanced voting booth in the clerk's office in the courthouse. The advanced voting booth will close at noon on Monday.

Officer Miller said this year,

all voting on Tuesday will be held in only two places: at the American Legion hall in Bird City, and at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. There will be no voting at Peace Lutheran or in the basement of the courthouse.

There are a three local races in the primary. The winners of these races will be uncontested in the general election unless

there is a write-in campaign.

Running on the Republican ticket for District Court Judge, District 15, division 2 are: Kevin Berens, Scott Showalter and Andrea Wyrick.

Republicans running for the office of county treasurer are: Dolores Jenik, incumbent; and Carl Jenkins.

County sheriff candidates running on the Republican tick-

et are: Craig Van Allen, incumbent; David Warren and Philip Wolters.

A write-in vote is being conducted for Steve Orth (D) who is wanting his name put on the ballot in November under the District Magistrate Judge District 15, position 1. He must get a certain percent of the votes to have his name on the ballot.

Other local candidates to be

listed on the ballot are: Ray Lee, county commissioner, District 2; Andy Beikman, county commissioner, District 3; Terry Miller, county clerk; Mary Morrow (R), register of deeds; Kari Milliken Gilliland (R), county attorney; Robert Van Allen (R), District Magistrate Judge District 15, position 1, Ryan Shay and Diane Shay, both Republicans, Wano II Township com-

mitteeman and woman; Roger Moore (R), Wano I Township trustee; Fred Magley (R), Wano II Township trustee.

The results of the election will be listed in the Aug. 7 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and the *Bird City Times*.

The general which includes the presidential election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Three seats decided by the voters at Tuesday's election

By Karen Krien
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The primary election has been set for Tuesday. Many of the offices are running uncontested in this election. However, there are three seats, that of sheriff, treasurer and District Court Judge District 15, position 2, that will be decided in the Tuesday election.

Featured this week will be the candidates for sheriff and treasurer, along with a write-in candidate, Steve Orth, who is wanting to have his name listed on the ballot in the general election.

The office for sheriff has three candidates listed on the ballot and all of them are Republican. They include Craig Van Allen, incumbent; David Warren and Philip J. Wolters.

Running for county treasurer are Dolores Jenik, incumbent; and Carl Jenkins.

Those running for judge include Kevin Berens, Scott Showalter and Andrea Wyrick. Articles on their opinions and history were ran in earlier issues

of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. (Copies are available to read at *The Herald* office.)

Sheriffs Craig Van Allen

Craig Van Allen has been the Cheyenne County Sheriff for over a year, having stepped up when Sheriff Troy Gardner resigned. Before then, he had been at the county sheriff's office as deputy for 2 years and 1 year at the city police department. Also, for 3 years, he was a Lindsborg Reserve Police officer.

I am dedicated, he said, to protecting lives and helping people in need. He thinks it is important to conduct thorough investigations and creating a safer county for the future.

The sheriff's office oversees the county and the city of Bird City. Officers are available to help the city of St. Francis officers when called upon. In the time he has been sheriff, he has established working relationships with other agencies.

He graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Academy and has over 100 hours additional training in Kansas Law Enforcement. He is knowledgeable of

the current laws and applications.

"I have dedicated myself to work hard and earn the trust of the people," he said. "Through this commitment, I have been able to advance from part-time deputy to the current sheriff."

Sheriff Van Allen has lived in the county for 35 years and graduated from St. Francis Community High School. He and his wife, Sharon, have two sons, Trey and Josh.

He is a member of the Lutheran Church.

Prior to working in law enforcement, he was employed as the department manager at Van Allen, Wheeler, for 20 years.

He is concerned that the tax dollars are used wisely and that all people are treated fairly. Whatever the situation, he said he has the courage to face it.

David Warren

David Warren is running for sheriff of Cheyenne County on the Republican ticket.

Mr. Warren has worked for the St. Francis city police, was a senior correctional and field training officer



Van Allen



Warren



Wolters



Jenik



Jenkins



Orth

at Kit Carson Correction Center and a member of the Kit Carson Correctional Center Special Operations Response Team.

He graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and is a National Rifle Association Law Enforcement handgun and shotgun instructor, as well as being a certified chemical agent and concealed carry instructor for Kansas.

In a rural farming community such as Cheyenne County, he said, law enforcement is about getting to know the people you serve and find out what their concerns are.

He sees that, with the rising costs of fuel, there will be a rise in thefts in rural areas where there are fewer chances of getting noticed. If elected, the departments patrolling will include getting out in the county and making sure resident's property is protected.

My definition of patrolling, he said, does not include running ra-

dar on country roads or harassing the farmers who are busy trying to make a living. He also plans to work closely with the other departments including the city police, fire and emergency medical service.

Mr. Warren and his wife Brenda moved to St. Francis in 1991. They have two sons, Shawn and Scott, who both are students in the St. Francis school system.

Philip Wolters

Philip J. Wolters is running for Cheyenne County Sheriff under the Republican ticket.

Mr. Wolters came to St. Francis a little less than a year ago to work in the St. Francis City Police Department. Since he has been here, he has also become actively involved on the county's 911 Dispatch board.

Law enforcement has been Mr. Wolters entire career. At 19, he went to work for Burns International Security Service in Denver. He attended several courses offered by the Adams County sheriff. As a result, he was promoted to sergeant. He

was recruited by Longmont Security Patrol in 1984 where he attended a number of law enforcement training course. Within 5 years, he was managing the business. He said, in the early years, Longmont Security provided training for Longmont Police officers.

In 1992, he became a reserve deputy with the Weld County Sheriff's office in Greeley, Colo. He continued taking courses and went to the Police Academy. He was recruited by Weld County and became a full-time deputy.

He became a firearms instructor for the Larimer/Weld counties combined Law Enforcement Academy, working from May 1998 to July 2001.

While working for Weld County, he also worked as a seasonal park ranger for the state of Colorado. His assignment was at Boyd Lake State Park in Loveland.

I was, he said, a full-time employee working an opposing four on/four

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