



CANDIDATES answer questions during the forum held at the high school on Thursday night. Those pictured are (l to r) school board candidates Bob Holzwarth, Mike Antholz, Ed Marin, Kelly Gienger, and Sunflower District candidates Tammy Grice and Cindy Burr.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

# Forum held to introduce those running for office

By Karen Krien

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The public forum introducing the candidates for the St. Francis school board, city council and the Sunflower District Extension was held Thursday evening in the high school cafeteria.

All candidates were present with the exception of one who had a prior engagement. Attending were city council candidates: Justin Gardner, Mike Hanson, Paula Keller, Carla Lampe, Jen Dankenbring-Padgett and Bruce Swihart, (Dan Hoard was missing); school board candidates: Mike Antholz, Kelly Gienger, Bob Holzwarth, Ed Marin and Derrik Tice; Sunflower District: Cindy Burr and Tammy Grice.

Heading the forum was Kevin Berens who gave each candidate a chance to tell why they were running. Then the forum was opened up for questions from the audience which were submitted in writing. Most of the questions were directed at the city council candidates.

The first question read: These are tough times and the budget is tight. How can the city tighten their budget without raising the electricity bills?

Mrs. Lampe, who has already served four years on the council, noted that she had learned a lot and was still learning. She said that valuation is down \$4 million. That lack of money also affects the city. The city's utilities are the main source of revenue. Also, when applying for many of the grants, what the city is charging for water and other utilities is looked at. If these charges are not comparable to other cities, then St. Francis is counted down.

She noted that sales tax is economy related so when people aren't buying, they aren't paying sales tax. The council, she said, took three months in coming up with a health insurance plan that would work for employees as well as keep within the budget.

Mr. Swihart admitted he didn't know but felt sure the council had studied the matter and sometimes, "tightening the belt" hurts. The object is to evaluate everything and make things better.

Several times throughout the question/answer session, those who had no experience had passed in answering the questions.

The question of the county and city cooperation and communication was brought up — can this save the taxpayers' money without eliminating jobs?

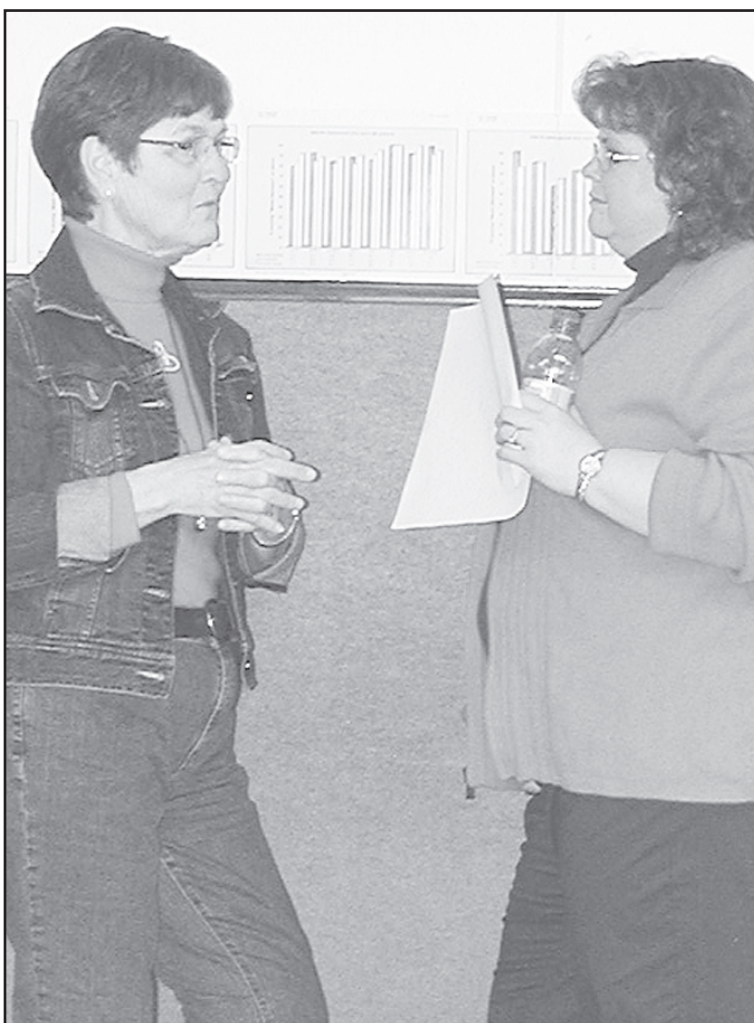
Mrs. Keller said it makes sense to combine and cut costs.

Mr. Hanson felt like there needed to be cooperation and the law already backs up each other.

Mrs. Padgett works as a 911 dispatcher and said she knew communication was important.

What is the condition of the infrastructure?

Mr. Gardner said much of the city's water and sewer systems are 75 years old and this is a problem.



RUTH MILLIKEN and Tammy Grice, Sunflower District candidate, visit.

They have been ignored. He went on to say that he doesn't know how to fund this matter but also noted that the city does a great job with the sewer lines.

What about property cleanup?

Mr. Hanson said it was a touchy issue, mentioning the cat problem in the city. He thought cooperation from the people was important.

Mr. Swihart said he hoped property owners would voluntarily clean up and take pride. The condition of property reflects on all who live in the city.

Mrs. Lampe said she had found out that some people do not understand what is "good shape." The city has taken steps to deal with the cleanup and follow up on how the cleanup is going.

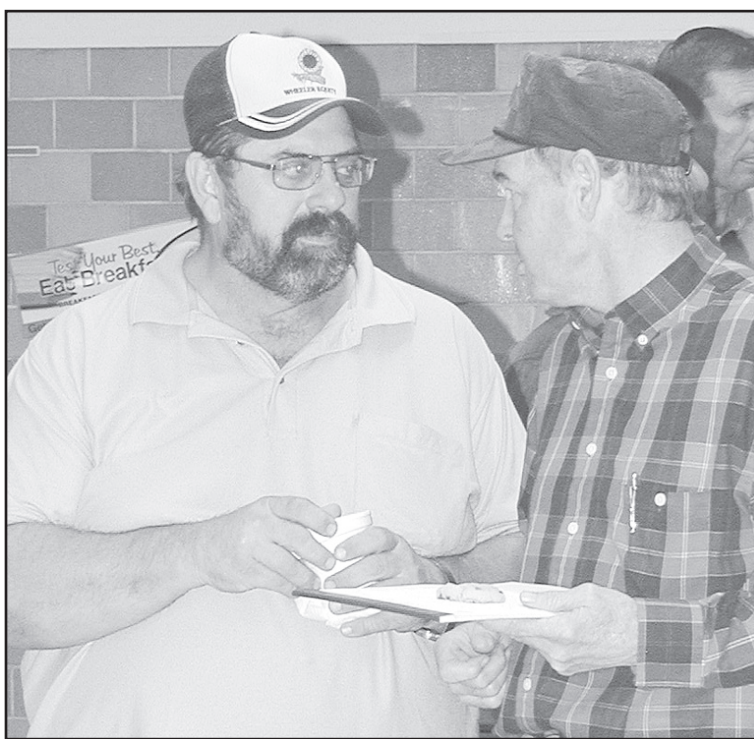
Mr. Gardner said he felt the city has been extremely fair in urging people to clean up abandoned properties.

The school board members were asked what they would like to see improved at the schools?

Mr. Tice, noting that he had not served on the board, saw the school board and administration as doing a good job of balancing what the government brings down and lays out for them to do while still doing a good job with the students. He noted that the kids do very well and test scores are outstanding.

Mr. Marin said he saw the government has already set the standards and admitted that he had a lot to learn.

Mr. Antholz felt the teachers do an excellent job teaching. He would like to see more programs such as



MIKE ANTHOLZ, school board candidate, talks to teacher Lyn Wiley.

academic bowls, noting that he doesn't want to take away from the sports.

Mr. Gienger, who is serving his third term, noted that any programs are a benefit. The schools are limited because of teacher availability. Just wanting to keep what we have, he said, could be a challenge. He noted there were students who competed in a science olympics this year.

Mr. Berens thanked all who had attended and the candidates for showing up. He commended Ruth Milliken, Janet Jensen and Deb



PRINCIPAL Hoagie Carmicheal talks to Sherry and Dale Weeks following the candidate forum held on Thursday night.

## Selling At UNRESERVED AUCTION

620 +/- Acres Cheyenne County Grassland

Friday, March 27, 2009 – 1:00 PM Mountain Time

VFW, Main Street, Goodland, Kansas

Come Early for a Complimentary Lunch

Sponsored by: First National Bank of Goodland, KS – 12:00pm Mountain Time

Legal Description: All of Section 35-5-42, Cheyenne County, Kansas

Land Location: 2 1/2 miles East of Kanorado and then North approximately 16 miles on Road 5.

Terms: The successful buyer will be required to enter into a written purchase agreement with a 10% down payment the day of the auction. The balance will be due at closing on or before May 1, 2009. Possession on date of closing. Seller will provide marketable title to the buyer evidence by a policy of title insurance. Cost of title insurance will be divided equally between seller and buyer. Seller will pay all 2008 taxes. Buyer is responsible for 2009 taxes. Property will not be sold subject to financing. Please have all financial arrangements made prior to the auction. All announcements on day of auction will take precedence over anything written or implied. Stock Realty & Auction co. is working for the seller. Information was obtained from sources deemed reliable, but Broker makes no guarantees as to accuracy. All prospective buyers urged to fully inspect property and rely on their own conclusions

Herbert & Carolyn Schritter, Owners  
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GIVING BACK TO THE  
COMMUNITY



Bev Wilkening and Pastor Chris Farmer, representing Salem Lutheran Church, accept a \$1,000 check from Karen O'Very of St. Francis Super's. It is a part of the cash for receipts program. Recently a check for \$1,000 was given to the Senior Center.

## WRAY COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

**Blood Draw Dates:** Weekdays April 1st-22nd 6:00-9:30am @ Wray Hospital  
Idalia Visions March 30 and 31st, 7:00-9:00am  
May take normal medications prior to test  
Fast for 12 hours (but DRINK plenty of water!)

**Cost:** \$25.00 – Chem Panel (glucose, blood count, electrolytes, thyroid & more)  
\$15.00 – PSA (prostate blood test for men)

**Fair Date:** April 25th @ the Wray Schools Kitzmiller Building 8am-Noon

**Call for a Blood draw appointment: 970-332-4811**

(Appointments Highly Encouraged!)

Call for any questions 970-332-2245

Jennifer Kramer-RN, Lynn Clapper-RN, Mary Gelvin-LPN