Meet the Candidates

The school board and city council candidates will be on the ballot at the general election on Tuesday. To help voters be more informed on the candidates, the following is a brief bio on each. People with further questions should talk to the

John Knodel

John Knodel has been serving on the St. Francis Board of Education

for the last 10 years as the representative for District 3, Posi-

tion 3. He was appointed to fill the seat after the death of Dean O'Brien in August 1997. He



Knodel

said he may have never considered being on the board of education before then but, today, he is glad he has had the opportunity.

"We have such a good school system — one of the best in the tri-state area — and, I am happy I have been involved," he said.

Mr. Knodel said the school has excellent administrators who have made sure the level of technology and the facility are constantly kept up. He does think that more students in the school would be good, however, he thinks that the "kids are outstanding" and there is a positive attitude seen in both the students and

Mr. Knodel and his wife Natalie are the owners of Knodel Funeral Home. Mrs. Knodel is also a member of the St. Francis City Council. They have three daughters,

Mallory, Meredith and Mattie. Dr. MaryBeth Miller

Dr. Mary Beth Miller is running

unopposed for a seat on the St. Francis Board of Education. She will be repre-1, position 1.

senting District Dr. Miller and family moved to St. Francis in 1999



tice at the Cheyenne County Hos-

"One of the reasons I moved to St. Francis was so the children would have a chance to be a part of a good school system," she said.

Since then, her daughter Sheryl has graduated and gone on to college; and Sara and Marvin are still attending the St. Francis schools.

Dr. Miller said being on the board will be "new territory" for her. She is not going onto the board to change anything but to learn. She estedinandenjoy does want to be a part of the transibeing on the tion from superintendent Carl school board." Werner to Rob Schiltz, who has Mrs. Zweygardt been the assistant superintendent. said. "I also think She would also like to know more that having an experienced board will about the funding for schools.

She is very optimistic about the intendent smoother."

future of the St. Francis schools, noting that the trend is changing toward smaller classes, and that is what St. Francis already has.

"My goal is to keep the St. Francis schools as very good schools," she

When asked about the proposed gymnasium, she said she understood it was a controversial matter. However, she thinks that to go forward, that the school administration rest of the faculty.' needs to be constantly bettering the With good schools, it will help

attract new families with children to including supplying the students and live in St. Francis. Dr. Miller is married to Terry

Miller, the Cheyenne County Clerk.consantly

Sherry Weeks

Sherry Weeks is serving her 10th year as Member At Large on the St. Francis Board of

Education. She is running unopposed on the bal-

Mrs. Weeks said the future of the school could depend upon the population but even with fewer





wants to see the school to continue be involved and providing an excellent education for students.

"We have a great school with the staff and administration working together," she said. "We need to be proud of our schools."

When asked her opinion of the proposed new gymnasium, Mrs. Weeks said she thinks that in many ways the gym is needed and can be used. She noted that the people she has talked to are saying that a new gym will be a good thing because of the scheduling problems with sports practices. She also pointed out that the gym in the grade school is too small.

'The new gym will offer a walking track for the public which will be good deal for many," she said.

Mrs. Weeks is an insurance clerk at the Cheyenne County Hospital. She and her husband Dale, who is a manager of the Wheeler Equity, have five children and eight grandchildren. Mr. Weeks is a member of the St. Francis City Council.

Bonnie Zweygardt

Position 2, Bonnie Zweygardt is running for her

fourth term on the St. Francis Board of Education, having already served 12 years. "I am inter-



Zweygardt

make the transition of the new super-

She added that she is looking forward to working with Rob Schiltz when he assumes the duties of superintendent.

"I have really enjoyed working with Carl (Werner-superintendent) and we probably don't know how lucky we are to have had him all these years," she said. "He is an outstanding superintendent and he has had a positive influence on the

Mrs. Zweygardt sees the school as being in very good shape.

'We have kept up with technology staff with adequate computers," she said. "We have a great staff that interact with the students."

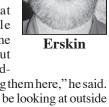
More students would be ideal for the school system, she said. And, in the future, she hopes that the administration and board will continue to improve the technology.

Mrs. Zweygardt is a clerk in the appraiser's office. She and her husband Ron, who is a farmer, have two daughters, Lisa and Pam, and a younger son, Zack, who is in junior high. They also have one grandchild.

Bud Erskin is running for a seat on the St. Francis City Council be-

cause he thinks it is important to he is concerned about St. Francis.

"I think it is important that young people come back to the community but that means find-



ing jobs to bring them here," he said. 'We need to be looking at outside businesses who are willing to come to St. Francis and then give them tax

We have a lot of empty buildings and, if someone is willing to put in the inventory to open the doors, then we need to offer an incentive.

"If we don't, we will continue to lose residents until we don't have a town. We need to act now."

Mr. Erskin sees St. Francis as becoming a retirement community and says there is nothing wrong with that but employment is still needed.

"Rightnow, it is 'MYOJ' or 'make your own job," he said.

"I also think we need to forget As a representative for District 2, about competing with Wal-Mart. I did and I have won," he said.

We have great people and we need to look at those resources and use Mr. Erskin has spent many years

as a director on the U.S. 36 Associa-"I was very involved in the Asso-

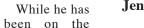
ciation and, if elected, I would like

Mr. Erskin is the owner of Majestic Service and a dealer for U-Haul trailers. His daughter Kari and husband Troy Meyer have a daughter essary or is it routine money manage-Audrey.

Roger Jensen

Roger Jensen has been a member of the St. Francis City Council for

eight years and, during those years, has been the council president, and board member of the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organi-While he has



board, he has seen the Recycling Organization established, the city hall relocated to a larger building that now has room for the police department, high speed internet installed and the rehabilitation of the water tower and a new meeting room.

The recycling building has been one of the projects he has continued to encourage people to use. The recycling center will save space in the Cheyenne County Landfill. Recycled items collected at the fa-

cility are taken to Colby where they

go to different outlets. He noted that the recycling effort is not a moneymaker but is a service to the county as it keeps over 100,000 pounds out of the solid waste site each He has seen a number of projects completed including the remodeling

of the city hall for offices and a meeting room, and the recycling center. The building of the new firehouse and emergency medical service facility are already underway. "The last eight years the council has

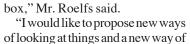
been very progressive and we have accomplished a lot for the good in the community," he said.

Bruce Roelfs

Bruce Roelfs is running for a seat on the St. Francis City Council and wants to become

involved in the changes concerning community management. "I take an in-

terest in the community's future need to think outside



Roelfs

doing things for the community.' Mr. Roelfs pointed to the senior center, which is an excellent activity for the older generation but also he sees the need to promote jobs and entertainment for the younger genera-

'We need fresh ideas with common sense," he said.

He thinks the new ambulance and to bring this involvement to the city firehouse facility is great progress and would like to be involved in future planning by the city council.

"Hindsight is always 20-20 but sometimes, is the spending really necment?" he said. "That statement may

rattle some cages but I only want the best for St. Francis's future.

"This has always been my home even during my 21-years in the U.S. Coast Guard.

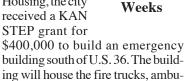
'Our future will depend on attracting the younger people to the community and keep our young generation employed here.

Mr. Roelfs, a certified massage therapist, is the owner of Massage Therapy and Bodyworks. He is mar-

ried to Susan, the county health nurse. Dale Weeks

Dale Weeks has served on the St. Francis City Council for four years.

During that time, he has served on tees including the KAN STEP Committee. Through the Department Commerce and Housing, the city received a KAN STEP grant for



lances, offices and a meeting room for firemen and emergency medical technicians. Mr. Weeks has been on hand for each of the steps from the planning to

the pouring of the cement, to the erection of the structure. The side of the buildings went up last week but the forecast of wind and rain halted the work on Saturday. He said the building, which will be built with volunteer laborers, will need to be up and finished in a year. He said that he wanted to serve an-

other term to see the emergency building put up as well as help with decisions on street repairs and the water issue in the southeast part of

"There are just a lot of unfinished projects I would like to see through,"

He sees the future of St. Francis turning around, especially with the moisture that was received this win-

Mr. Weeks is the manager of the Jessica.

Wheeler Equity Co-op. He and his wife Sherry, who is an insurance clerk at the Chevenne County Hospital, have five children and eight grandchildren. Mrs. Weeks is a member of the St. Francis Board of Education.

Scott Schultz

Scott Schultz is running unopposed for the position as St. Francis Mayor.

He has served the council for eight vears.

Mr. Schultz said he considered not running but said he has a fantastic council, and some are running again this



"They (council members) are a positive group and everything is running smoothly," he

The council is continually looking forward and making progress, he

Some of the projects recently fin-

ished are the recycling center, the new

city offices and meeting room and now, the city is working toward the completion of the new firehouse and emergency medical service building. "The council is trying to be progressive and I think the community is

standing behindus," Mr. Schultz said. "Some people disagree and say that we are spending too much (money),

instead of looking at what the board has done over all." He went on to say that the new city council meeting room is so much bet-

ter, looks more professional, for having people attend meetings. In the future, Mr. Schultz thinks there will need to be some new ideas

for bringing businesses in to town. 'We are an ag-dependent community but I think that some more small manufacturing businesses would be great for our town," he said. "We need

to use technology to our advantage."

Mr. Schultz and his wife Nancy own Schultz's, a furniture, carpet and gift store. He also runs a small remodeling business. They have three children, Jennifer, Josh and

Club Clip

The Classy Classic Red Hatters met Thursday, March 22. The following poem was written by member Helene Landenberger in honor of the

Classy Classic Red Hat Event At the Heritage Corner Cafe, in the town of Bird City,

The tables were decorated with shamrock ditties. March 22, at six was the date and time, The musicians that came were mighty fine. The high schoolers came with songs of the season. There was Keadra Dixson, Nikki Johnson and Samantha Beeson. Max Hengen and Lincoln Pochup sang songs of fun, Then the piano was played by Emily Erickson. The Classy Classics had an interesting evening The pork chops had just the right seasoning. St. Patricks' day was remembered in the songs and the food. Twenty-four brightly dressed ladies set the mood.

Liz Weber, Helene landenberger and Mary Lou Munn,

Were the hostesses for March, and all this fun.

It was announced that in April, Atwood is the location,

At the Aberdeen Steak house, for another evenings' mini-vacation.

Donlay Heart 6x8 In Goodland