

Meet The Candidates

By Karen Krien

The general election will be held Tuesday. There are three seats up for election on the St. Francis City Council; three seats on the St. Francis Board of Education; and two on the Sunflower Extension District Board.

The three city council candidates receiving the most votes will be the new council members. Carla Lampe is running for a second term. In all, there are seven candidates but Daniel Hoard was not available for questioning nor for a photo.

The board of education has two candidates running unopposed. In District 3, position 6, there is a contest with three candidates, Mike Antholz, Bob Holzwarth and Ed Marin.

The extension board has only two candidates to fill the two positions.

The following articles will help readers to make a more-informed decision on who they want into the offices. Now, everyone is encouraged to get out and vote!

City Council Justin Gardner

Justin Gardner is looking forward to the opportunity to become a member of the St. Francis City Council.

"I see this as a great opportunity to serve the community by helping to solve the problems that may face the council," he said.



Gardner

The council, Mr. Gardner said, has done a fantastic job of maintaining and repairing the infrastructure with a very tight budget.

"I would like to see a more concerted effort by the community in keeping retail dollars spent locally," he said.

In the future, he sees the council facing challenges of rising costs of living in the form of energy and fuel consumption. This will be compounded with the shrinking of economic gross products.

St. Francis, he said, will be facing many of the same problems that have affected other communities nationwide. It will take community-wide efforts to tackle these problems and remain the kind of little town we are all proud of.

Mr. Gardner was born and raised in St. Francis. He is a heating/air conditioning/plumbing serviceman with Lampe Hardware. His wife, Danielle, works in the county attorney's office. They have a 6-month-old son, Gus.

Michael Hanson

Michael Hanson has been actively involved in both the Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service and the county fair board for the last three years. Now he is wanting to extend that involvement to the St. Francis City Council.



Hanson

"I would like to get our youth involved," he said. He also said he would like to help the city out with the new generation and the changes in the future.

Some of the things he would like to see changed if he is elected to the council would be to see that all laws are enforced to all citizens, no matter who they are. He would also like to improve city facilities and generate events to bring people to St. Francis.

He thinks the city council does a good job in keeping property cleaned up.

Problems he sees now and in the future, include rising utility rates, replacing and repairing old water and sewer lines as well as electrical lines.

Mr. Hanson was born and raised in St. Francis. He is a farmer.

Paula Keller

Paula Keller was not raised in St. Francis but her husband, Perry, was. After they married, they moved back to St. Francis to raise their family.



Keller

"St. Francis has been a wonderful community," said Mrs. Keller. "Out of civic duty and appreciation for what we have here, maybe I can give back, in a small way, with my time and resources by serving on the city council."

She likes the fact that the city council promotes beautification of the downtown area and the city in general.

Not having served on the council, Mrs. Keller said she doesn't know any issues confronting the council. However, she sees there could be challenges in the future.

There is a downturn in the economy, she said. There is a potential for higher utility rates and finding affordable housing for low-income qualifiers.

Mrs. Keller was born and raised in Bogue and is a court stenographer. Mr. Keller is a farmer and rancher. They have two children, Nick, who is 23, and Holly, who is 19.

Carla Lampe

Carla Lampe is running for a second term on the St. Francis City Council.

The last four years have been a learning experience, she said, giving me an appreciation of anyone holding a position on a civic board. The board makes decisions based on their best judgment, after studying issues not only affecting what's going on now — but also for the future.

Sometimes, she said, we agree to navigating through our disagreement. This is what makes a good council — respecting each other while also listening and representing our citizens.

Energy and power are big for the community and, until she sat on the council, Mrs. Lampe said she didn't understand the impact it has on all of the residents. The city, she said, is fortunate to have JR Landenberger as the superintendent.

"Utilities are the main source of revenue for St. Francis and, as the outlook on power continues to change, we are lucky to have JR's expertise," she said. St. Francis is a "can do" community! The KansStep project (Emergency Building) took many years, months and hours but what an accomplishment, she said. She also recognized the senior citizen center, the school system, hospital and clinic.

In the future, the council is looking at an income-based housing project, economic incentives for existing and new businesses and, of course, the constant maintaining of the city streets, sewer, power and water.

Mrs. Lampe serves on the St. Francis Community Foundation Board, Swimming Pool Board and the St. Francis Economic Development Board, along with being involved in several other organizations.

Mrs. Lampe works at First National Bank. She and her husband Rod have three children. Tyler and his wife, Megan; Allyse, who attends the University of Nebraska, Kearney; and Brett, a sophomore in high school. She has a 19-month-old granddaughter who, she said, is one of the greatest joys of her life. Tyler and Megan are expecting a baby in August.

Jennifer Dankenbring-Padgett

"I am committed to the future growth and development of St. Francis," said Jennifer Dankenbring-Padgett, who is running for a seat on the city council. "I have a desire to be involved and become an active member in the community and with the future prosperity of St. Francis."



Padgett

Bruce Swihart

Bruce Swihart has worked with the city council on the Swimming Pool Committee. By serving on the council, he plans to continue the leadership that the community already has in St. Francis.



Swihart

"I want to maintain the infrastructure and services," he said.

He said he doesn't see much he wants to change but would like to see the council continue to accomplishing the goals as the money is available.

In the future, Mr. Swihart sees a poor economy with uncertain times and reduced revenue.

If he is elected to the city council, he said he is always open to ideas and easy to work with.

"I just hope to serve!" he said. Mr. Swihart was born and raised in McDonald. He and his wife, Shirley, teach in the St. Francis schools. They have three children, Ben, 25, who is planning to marry in the near future; Seth, 22, and Addie, who will be 20 in April.

School Board Kelly Gienger

Incumbent Kelly Gienger is seeking a second term on the St. Francis Board of Education in District 2, position 5. He said he considers serving on the board as an honor and plans to do his best to maintain the quality of education that the school has had in the past.



Gienger

Over the last four years, Mr. Gienger said he has seen several changes and notes that change is a natural part of the school process. With kids in school, Mr. Gienger has an interest in their education and the education of the other students.

"I like that the school administration and board place a high priority on the quality of education that our students are receiving," he said. "There is opportunity for students to be well rounded with programs in yearbook, drama, FFA, athletics, band, vocal, art and dance."

The main problem he sees in the future is school finance. It will be interesting, he said, to see what the Kansas economy does and how much it will affect education.

Born and raised in St. Francis, Mr. Gienger is a farmer and rancher. His wife, Penny is a housewife and substitute teacher. They have four children: Gabe, 21; Jordan, 20; Elizabeth, 18; and Zach, 14.

Derrick Tice

Derrick Tice is running unopposed for a seat on the St. Francis School Board in District 1, position 4.



Tice

"I think the school is a vital part of our community's success," he said, when asked why he was running. "I

would like to be a part of its continuing achievement."

Without being a part of the day-to-day operations, Mr. Tice said he had no agenda for running.

"This isn't to say that once I have spent some time on the board and become familiar with its inner workings that some opportunities to improve won't present themselves."

Over all, he said, I think the administration has done an excellent job of conserving resources and providing for our children. The staff is doing a great job of balancing our children's education priorities.

"The education our children receive is second to none," he said. "If you have followed our schools' assessment scores, I think you would agree."

Over the last several years, the St. Francis schools have received an award that placed us within the top 5 percent of schools in Kansas.

Not unlike any other school in the area, Mr. Tice said, we are faced with declining enrollment and funding cuts.

"Funding cuts are something we can't control — they are dictated to us by the state government," he said.

"Declining enrollment is an issue that I think our community as a whole should address. I'm not saying I have the answer but if our community can attract more people and attempt to return our young people to St. Francis, that will, in turn, help our school enrollment."

"These are tough issues that require work and commitment, resolving them will not be quick or easy."

Mr. Tice noted that he has been fortunate to receive so many words of encouragement and looks forward to serving the school and the community.

"Make sure you get out and voice your vote!"

Mr. Tice was raised in Hoxie and graduated from Fort Hays State University. He is a district sales manager for Producers Hybrids.

He is married to Heidi (DeGood) Tice, who is the chief financial officer at the Cheyenne County Hospital. They have two children, Madison, 9 years old, and Kobe, 6 years old.

Mike Antholz

Mike Antholz is running for a seat on the St. Francis Board of Education in District 3, position 6.



Antholz

I am running, he said, to give the people of St. Francis who don't have children or grandchildren in the school, a voice on the board.

"These people also pay taxes that support the school and I feel that I have developed the leadership skills over the past years to help through the tough times," he said.

Mr. Antholz has been the Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service director for nine years along with being the leader of the local Knights of Columbus Council for three years and the foreman for the county road and bridge crew for two years.

"I feel, the school does an excellent job educating kids today and keeping up with today's standards," he said.

He said he sees the board will have some tough decisions to make due to the cuts in state funding.

Mr. Antholz was born in St. Francis and raised in McDonald where he graduated from McDonald High School. He met his wife Margyre while working as a bus supervisor for the Cheylin

School District. They have been married for over 30 years and have one daughter, Bridgette.

In 1983, he went to work for the Cheyenne County Road and Bridge Department where he was a territory grader operator until being promoted to foreman in 2001.

Bob Holzwarth

A life-time resident of St. Francis, Bob Holzwarth decided that running for the school board was a good opportunity for him to give back something meaningful to the town he thinks so much of. Besides, he also has two kids in the school system.



Holzwarth

"This community has been a great place to live and raise a family," he said.

The school, he said, has a high standard of academics which is due to good leadership of administration and teaching staff.

In the future, he thinks there will be challenges with budget cuts and declining student enrollment. But, even with these challenges, he knows it is still important to maintain the high quality of education.

He said since he is not on the board, he feels that he needs to be more familiar with the operation before making any comments on things that might need changed in the schools. Mr. Holzwarth has had many years of experience in farm and ranching management which, he believes, will be an asset. He also believes that he will be able to bring to the board the ability to listen to the concerns faced by the school and help resolve any issues with common sense and maturity.

A farmer-rancher for over 35 years, he and his wife, Connie, an agent for Farm Bureau Financial Services, have three grown children: Camille Tabor, Tatum Bevans and Melissa Workman; and two children at home: Alyssa and Tyler.

Ed Marin

Ed Marin is running for St. Francis Board of Education in District 3, position 6.



Marin

"I am genuinely interested in the success of our school and community," Mr. Marin said. He is an emergency medical technician and said he thought serving on the board of education would be another way to give to the community.

When asked what he would like to see changed in the school system, he said that he didn't feel that he could answer that question until he had served on the board.

"I would need to be a member and study the challenges the school faces before I can determine the changes that need to be made," he said.

Mr. Marin has three daughters, two who have already graduated and one who is a sophomore. He has seen that the school works hard to maintain high academic standards and, he said, shows concern toward fiscal responsibility.

In the future, he sees the school enrollment declining and a reduction of state and federal funding. It could be a challenge to maintain the academic standards and facilities.

A co-owner of Lampe Hardware, St. Francis, Mr. Marin feels that his business experience has given him valuable experience in dealing with the public, employees and the budget.

Mr. Marin was born in Sterling, Colo., He and his wife, Anita, a

teacher at Dundy County/Stratton Schools, daughters are: Samantha, a junior at Kansas State University; Katlin, a freshman at Benedictine College; and Alyson, a sophomore at St. Francis high school.

Sunflower District Cindy Burr

Cindy Burr is running for a second term on the Sunflower Extension District board. She was one of the board members when the Sunflower district was organized several years ago. She is currently president of the board.



Burr

Extension, she said, has been a large part of her life and she wants to ensure that it is there helping people today as it has helped her in the past.

Agriculture, 4-H and youth, family and consumer science, and community development are the four parts of extension and Cheyenne County needs all the support and knowledge extension can give.

As a member of the board, Mrs. Burr oversees the extension program for the Sunflower District (Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties), as well as helping plan programming to fit the needs of county residents.

She sees two major problems facing the council: 1) budget; 2) keeping youth involved.

Budget is always an issue, Mrs. Burr said. As a district board, we have full authority over the mill levy that is set and therefore, have the responsibility of spending the taxpayers' money wisely.

With the many things going on, it is sometimes difficult to keep youth involved in 4-H and other extension programs.

Mrs. Burr was born and raised in Bird City. She is a program technician at the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency office in St. Francis. She and her husband Troy, a farmer and rancher, have three children, Natasha, Shannon and Matt. They also have five grandchildren, Bailey Merklin, Taylor Wilson, Hunter Wilson, Alix Wilson and Tylee Wilson.

Tammy Grice

Tammy Grice is running for a position on the Sunflower Extension District Number 6 board. There are two positions open and she will be replacing Penny Gienger, who chose not to run.



Grice

I am running because I want to do everything possible to make sure Cheyenne County and northwest Kansas gets as many opportunities to expand in 4-H, economics and agriculture, as well as promoting St. Francis and Bird City, Mrs. Grice said.

As a board member, some of the future challenges and problems she sees include: managing the costs of programs; getting people of the area to present programs; and spreading the funding fairly.

If anyone has ideas for programs, grants or other ways of benefiting the county, Mrs. Grice urges them to call her or the extension office.

Mrs. Grice was born and raised in Cheyenne County. She graduated from St. Francis Community High School and went on to earn a degree in elementary and secondary education as well as a master's degree in special education.

She married Gary Grice, who is deceased. Daughter, Allison, is 14 years old and a freshman at St. Francis high school.

THE 2008 CHEYENNE COUNTY Wildlife BOARD

would like to thank the contributors, participants and preparers of this year's banquet.

— Tim Stimbert, Francis O'Leary, Gordon Ross, Dustin Gilliland, Duane Wilkens, Hal Sager, Rodney Radcliff, Kyle Schultz and Martin Hilt

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