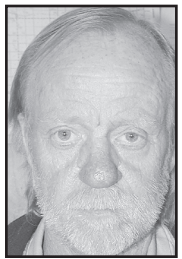


Meet the candidates —

Candidate wants common sense used

Robert "Bud" Erskin Jr. is running for a seat on the St. Francis City Council.



Erskin

"I want to bring a fiscally sound, common sense approach back to our community," he said, when asked why he was running.

"I have been blessed through hard work, determination and proper budget balancing to run a community-based business, Majestic Service. Through the efforts of my family and friends, we have been blessed to see this business become a successful venture. These are the same things that will be great assets to help the city to become even better."

Quoting John F. Kennedy with a few minor changes, he is challenged: "Asked not what your people can do for you but what can you do for your people," and

he thinks that should be the goal of the council.

He would like to see the city with fiscal accordance and self sufficient. The city, he said, needs to be more accessible for businesses of all sizes and shapes to fit into the St. Francis community and be viable.

To bring in businesses, he thinks that the taxes generated need to be more productive and it is important to bring youth back "home." These two things, he said, need to be a priority.

Our town is dying, he said. We need to change it because our current efforts have not deemed themselves to be successful.

Bud has been a resident of the county since 1980. He was born in Wichita but raised in a military family, living in Italy and Puerto Rico as well other countries.

He and his wife, Lounie, live in St. Francis. They have one daughter, Kary, who is married to Troy Meyer and two grandchildren, Audrey and Aiden. They, along with his mother, Annette, run Majestic Service.

Candidate proud to be a part of St. Francis

Scott Schultz has had 12 years experience as mayor of St. Francis and is running for another term.



Schultz

"I am proud to be a part of what St. Francis stands for," Mr. Schultz said. "This is a community that stands together! We work hard to get things done."

Lots of community effort went into the new emergency building, the new digital equipment at the theater and working toward restoring the band shell, just to name a few, he said.

"There are definitely changes ahead but, with my experience as the current mayor, I feel that I am qualified to hold this position," Mr. Schultz said.

During his 12 years as mayor, Mr. Schultz said he has worked with the city council, the city employees and the public. Being a mayor requires time and patience. It also, he said, requires working with budgets and problems that arise.

"The mayor has to be able to listen and to be objective," he said. "Some things can be changed and some cannot."

On Mr. Schultz's agenda is to try to improve St. Francis. "I want to continue to try and move forward with making St. Francis a place that people want to call home."

He added that he wants to continue to work toward keeping the budget in check.

As budgets have gotten tighter, the city and county have been working together on certain projects, he said, and we will

continue to do so.

"I have lost track of how many times I have been told that St. Francis is such a clear, friendly town," Mr. Schultz said. "However, there are still some improvements to be made."

With the average age of St. Francis, residents are getting old. He sees that there is a need to work at making this a community that older residents can stay in, but we also need to find ways to bring younger people back so our community can maintain and hopefully, grow.

As a city official, Mr. Schultz said he would like to see residents be more willing to come forward with ideas or concerns for the community.

He sees the future of St. Francis as no different from other cities.

"There are definitely tough times ahead," he said. We need to work together to keep what we have and promote growth. Keeping St. Francis viable is a priority!

Mr. Schultz was born and raised in St. Francis. After graduating from St. Francis Community High School, he attended college at Fort Hays State University. He was also in the military at Ford Ord, Calif.

"Family is very important to me," he said.

His family consists of wife, Nancy, daughter, Jennifer and husband, Brandon Fey of Flowery Branch, Ga., son, Joshua of Littleton, Colo., and youngest daughter, Jessica of Maricopa, Ariz.

He and Nancy are self employed and the owners of Schultz's Ltd., which is a furniture, floor covering and gift store. They started selling floor coverings in 1976 and then furniture and gifts in 1994.

Candidate sees state cuts trickling down

Larry B Wilson is running for mayor of St. Francis.



Wilson

The state has cut the education budget, he said, and it will trickle on down to our school system, and they will need more tax money. The county, the city, the hospital, and the school are going to have to cut all the fat from their spending. Taxes need to be kept at a level that our senior citizens on a fixed income can stay in the homes that they spent all these years working for!

"When we want more money to spend we hear how such and such cities are higher so we need to keep up," he said. Why should we try and keep up with the Joneses? Let us, the city of St. Francis, become the Joneses!"

I'm sure there are a lot of people out there better for the job, but where are they? he asked.

Mr. Wilson said he ran a business in this city for 25 years. The city, he said, should be run with as little spending of your tax dollars as possible.

If elected, he said he will try to handle the people's money as if it were his!

We are due for hyper-inflation down the road, he said, as our federal government tries to pay down the national debt with mass produced dollars and foreign countries quit buying our debt. We need to start preparing now!

Mr. Wilson is concerned about the safety and education of the young people, stability in taxes

for seniors, better control over city employees and equipment and stopping the use of the city park and Main Street gutters as a "doggie park."

"If we have someone convicted of a misdemeanor, I will expect them brought up for some type of sentencing as soon as possible," he said.

Mr. Wilson is also concerned about the Good Samaritan Village noting that the facility is very important to the older people and the surrounding area. However, he would rather see a financial group be formed by people who have the money to invest. They could buy shares and have it owned privately, then leased back to some corporation that knows how to run such a facility.

"I understand this approach was taken in Colby a few years ago," he said. "My feeling is that if the county, city or hospital becomes involved with this, in the near future, a black hole will appear, sucking in tax money."

Mr. Wilson was born in Wray and grew up around the Kirk and Idalia area. He and his wife, Louise, moved back to St. Francis in 1968 to raise their family and to be nearer to Louise's extended family.

He retired in 2003 when he had back surgery. Before his retirement, he ran a business and worked for the Van Allen business in Wheeler and Sharon Springs. His main occupation today is making quilts for the family and the Kansas Family Services Foster Care.

They have three children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. "They are all very important to us!" he said.

Man wants to return supportive service

Roger Jensen is running for another term on the St. Francis City Council, having already served 12 years. He has been the chairman for the majority of that time.



Jensen

"I enjoy being on the council and being a part of a progressing city council," he said.

He noted that the community has been very supportive of him and his family.

"I want to return that in service," he said.

Having served for 12 years, Mr. Jensen thinks that he is familiar with the many facets of the council.

He said he had no specific agenda to address on the council. "I don't believe that candidates should go on the council with a special agenda," he said.

The infrastructure of the city is in constant need of change, Mr. Jensen said.

"We have a good handle on water storage and sewer," he said.

"The condition of the electrical structure in the alleys on both sides of Main Street needs to

be addressed soon. Also, water lines are old and will need to be addressed in the near future."

Streets, he said, are always in need of repair, especially the north curb on Main Street which is currently on the council's agenda.

In the future, Mr. Jensen thinks there may be an eventual consolidation of city and county government, putting them on the same level. There are some services, he said, such as law enforcement which he thinks could be combined to save tax dollars.

"I would like to say that I remain optimistic of the future of the community," he said. "I want St. Francis to be a great community for my grandchildren."

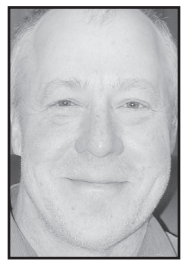
Mr. Jensen was born and raised in St. Francis. For 11 years, he was in Hays attending college. In 1979, he returned to Cheyenne County and has been working in construction ever since.

He and his wife, Janet, have five children: Tyler and finance Adina, Travis and wife, Mande, Tate, Chris and wife, Sarah, Stacie and husband, Butch; 12 grandchildren and one on the way.

Mr. Jensen and his son, Travis, are in the construction business.

Candidate says he cares about the city

Dale Weeks has served on the St. Francis City Council for the last 8 years.



Weeks

"I care about the city," he said.

While he has no specific agenda for serving, he does see some things he would like changed including some of the regulations forced on a small cities. These regulations, he said, always seem to come

with high costs.

He also has concerns about the future of the city. There is less funding from state and federal governments, he said. That means that it will be up to the city to finance street repair projects, replace equipment and maintain utilities without their help.

Mr. Weeks was born in Hoxie but has lived in St. Francis for the last 33 years. He and his wife, Sherry, have five children and 10 grandchildren.

For the last 24 years, Mr. Weeks has been the general manager for the Wheeler Equity.

County 4-H day results told

Cheyenne County 4-H Club Day was held on Thursday at the high school. The model meeting was held the following day. The results included:

Model meetings

Pleasant Hill, regional blue; Lawn Ridge, regional alternate; and Plum Creek- blue.

Skits

Club skit-Plum Creek- blue
Demonstrations and Talks
 Junior division: Shadryon Blanka, regional blue; Kattie Wurm, blue; Cheyenne Yardley, red.

Intermediate division: Emily Elfers, red; Dominique Johnson, red; Bryce Raby, red.

Senior division: Valerie Wurm, regional blue; Allison Grice, blue.

Vocal Solo

Junior division: Karly Bandel, regional blue.

Intermediate division: Jude Faulkender, regional blue; Mariah Beikman, blue; Jake Faulkender, blue; Cheyenne Hewitt, blue.

Vocal Duet

Junior division: Colton and Cutter Neitzel, blue.

Dance

Solo Dance: Hadleigh Hilt, blue.

Group Dance: Taylor Archibald and Bryce Raby, blue.

Piano

Junior division: Kattie Wurm, regional blue.

Intermediate division: Mariah Beikman, regional blue; Martin Beikman, regional blue.



JUDGE ANITA POCHOP is carefully studying the Favorite Food Show display of Jordan Raby, a member of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Senior division: Valerie Wurm, regional blue.

Favorite Food Show

Junior division: Colton Neitzel, junior champion; Joseph Augusta, blue; Cutter Neitzel, blue; Kattie Wurm, blue.

Intermediate division: Ivan

Kemp, intermediate champion; Bryce Raby, blue; Jordan Raby, blue.

Senior division: Allison Grice, senior champion; Taylor Archibald, blue.

Assess alfalfa for possible winter damage

Across the County

By Marty Fear, Extension Agent

This could be a tough winter for alfalfa in Kansas, especially on newly seeded stands. The two main concerns for alfalfa are winterkill and heaving, said Jim Shroyer, Kansas State University Research and Extension crop production specialist.

"There is a wide range of winter-hardiness among alfalfa varieties. Some varieties may have suffered winterkill injury this winter, especially where the crop had no snow cover," Mr. Shroyer said.

As in wheat, winterkill in alfalfa

occurs when the crown is frozen, he said.

"If the plants are damaged by winterkill, the taproot will turn soft and mushy. Producers should check for bud and new shoot vigor. Look for delayed green-up, lopsided crowns and uneven shoot growth. If you see any of these symptoms, check the taproots for firmness. Some plants may even begin to green up and then die. But plants that put out second leaves are probably fine," the agronomist said.

If some plants are injured and stands have been thinned, producers may wonder about thickening the stands. Mr. Shroyer

advises caution.

"Inter-seeding alfalfa to thicken an alfalfa stand will generally not work. If the stand is one year or less old, new seedlings will generally come up and then be outcompeted by the survivors from last year. If large areas of a one-year-old field have been killed, those areas can be disked and then seeded. If the stand is two or more years old, inter-seeding alfalfa will not work because of allelopathic effects from the established plants," he said.

This winter could also result in a more common form of injury to alfalfa. As the soil freezes and thaws, alfalfa stands can be

damaged by the heaving effect, he said.

"This winter has been cold enough to freeze the soil where it is not under snow cover. Soils with high levels of clay are especially prone to winter heaving," he said.

If heaving has occurred, dig up some plants to determine if the taproot is broken, he advised.

"Plants with broken taproots may green up, but they perform poorly and eventually die. Slightly heaved plants can survive, but their longevity and productivity will be reduced. Crowns that heaved one inch or less are not as likely to have a broken taproot. With

time, these plants can reposition themselves. Raised crowns are susceptible to weather and mechanical damage. Raise cutter bars to avoid damaging exposed crowns," he suggested.

Producers can start to evaluate the health of their alfalfa stands in March or April, as soon as the soils thaw, Mr. Shroyer said. "They should look at the crowns and roots. Buds should be firm, and white or pink in color if they have survived with good vigor. The bark of roots should not peel away easily when scratched with a thumbnail. When cut, the interior of healthy roots will be white or

cream in color."

When alfalfa growth reaches 4 to 6 inches, producers can use stems per square foot to assess density measure, he added. A density of 55 stems per square foot has good yield potential. There will probably be some yield loss with stem counts between 40 and 50 per square foot. Consider replacing the stand if there are less than 40 stems per square foot and the crown and root health is poor, he said.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments. Till next week - Marty