

OFFICES

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the general election in November. Election officer Miller reported that Dave Warren has done the necessary paperwork and will be running in the general for the sheriff position.

Because there are only the two local races in the primary, articles with information about the register of deeds' three candidates ran last week in The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times. This week, Andy Beikman and Brett Poling are featured as the candidates for District 3 commissioner.

Andy Beikman

Incumbent Andy Beikman is running for commissioner, District 3.

He has served eight years. He said he is running for a third term because he likes the job. There are also several projects that I would like to see through completion.

The commissioners, in the last few years, have dealt with and are still dealing with some important issues such as the landfill, tentative acquisition of the Good Samaritan Village and lease with the Society, and health care costs.

Mr. Beikman said the landfill situation is a top priority to him. We have to make some big changes to satisfy the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. We have made the first step in filling a management position but in the near future, we will need to be charging more for dumping fees and will set up a standard operational procedure.

"If we do not make these changes, our landfill could close earlier than planned and it will cost a tremendous amount to transport trash," he said.

Mr. Beikman expressed concern on issues with the Good Samaritan Village nursing home. He said there are no ways unanswered questions.

I would like to see the Society to run the nursing home for a couple of years, he said, just to see how it is run, including the problems and costs that are involved.

We still don't have any answers to our questions on the costs of insurance and the county's insurance agent isn't sure that they have a policy that will cover it.

I don't like to be pushed into making a decision, he said. The airport runway is a prime example of how important it is to take time and do it right – think about the decisions we are making. The runway was a four-year plan that took eight years but, today, we have an excellent runway.

Health insurance is an important part of our employee's benefit package. I don't want to take that away, he said.

Last year, the state of Kansas took away \$750,000 in taxes when they did away with the property tax on water-tank batteries and other oil and gas well equipment that is leased. That money, he said, will need to be recovered in this year's budget.

So often, he said, it is examples such as the unexpected loss of tax money along with state and federal unfunded mandates that causes the taxes to increase. But, to be fair, there are also the increases in necessary equipment repair and upkeep as well as fuel.

Mr. Beikman said he is in favor of county-wide law enforcement. At the present time, the county and city of Bird City are sharing law enforcement. It would save both the cities and the county money if we were not duplicating the expense of staff and equipment.

Andy is the owner of Bumper To Bumper Auto Parts as well as ABE Engineering. He said that people know where he is and can talk to him if they have concerns. I am a commissioner for the people and I want to do what is best for the county.

His wife, Mary, is the art teacher in the St. Francis schools. They have two children, Mariah, a sophomore, and Martin, a seventh grader.

Dr. Brett Poling

When asked why he was running, Dr. Brett Poling, candidate for commissioner, District 3, said, "My vision for the future of our county is to be a self-sustaining entity. I am worried about other organizations or businesses coming in to micro-manage certain aspects of our county.

"There is no transparency on the books and I feel as a taxpayer for this county we should be able to see how our money is spent. We have got to figure out how these nonprofit organizations are losing money. We need to encourage them to look at other avenues to put money back into the county."

Dr. Poling used the example of the ambulance service. They are county funded, yet generate money and put it back into our county's general fund. If you look at those books you will see that the ambulance service rarely uses all of the annual budget and most years actually comes out ahead with what is generated.

That is what I'm referring to as a self-sustaining entity.

He also believes that there could be a way that other departments to have the ability to generate funds to put back into the general fund.

"I believe the commissioners need to dig deep and spend some time looking back through budgets and expenditures and see what changes can be made to make each branch of our county a little more self sufficient.

"I would be willing to do that, take the time to figure out how to make a few changes. I realize that this is going to take some time and changes can't be made overnight, but wouldn't it be nice to know the future of Cheyenne County is looking better?"

As a commissioner, he said, I know there are a lot of tough issues being debated and I would look at each issue as a regular taxpayer, not one of three people

with the power to go forward with a motion. I understand that on a lot of issues I have may get out voted, but at least I will keep everyone in District 3 in mind, as well as everyone in the entire county.

One of the biggest concerns, he said, is for the future of the Good Samaritan Village. If you look at how many employees and area businesses that were affected by that fire I think most residents would agree with me that we need it for Cheyenne County and for our elderly. I just hope if my family ever needs it, we won't have to travel to spend time with them. Not that I have all the answers, but I do have a fresh perspective and some innovative ideas that could create revenue if we as a county take it over.

I was raised in Saint Francis, loved the small town camaraderie, and went off to college knowing that one day I wanted to come back and live the American dream with my wife and children. In 2000, I married my wife, Cynthia, and convinced her to move back here with me. It didn't take much pressure as she was born and raised in a small town in Iowa, much like Sainty. I became an instant dad to Foster Grant and from there decided to start growing our family. We were blessed with two more boys, Tiernan and Tyson and in 2004 we got our little girl, McKenna.

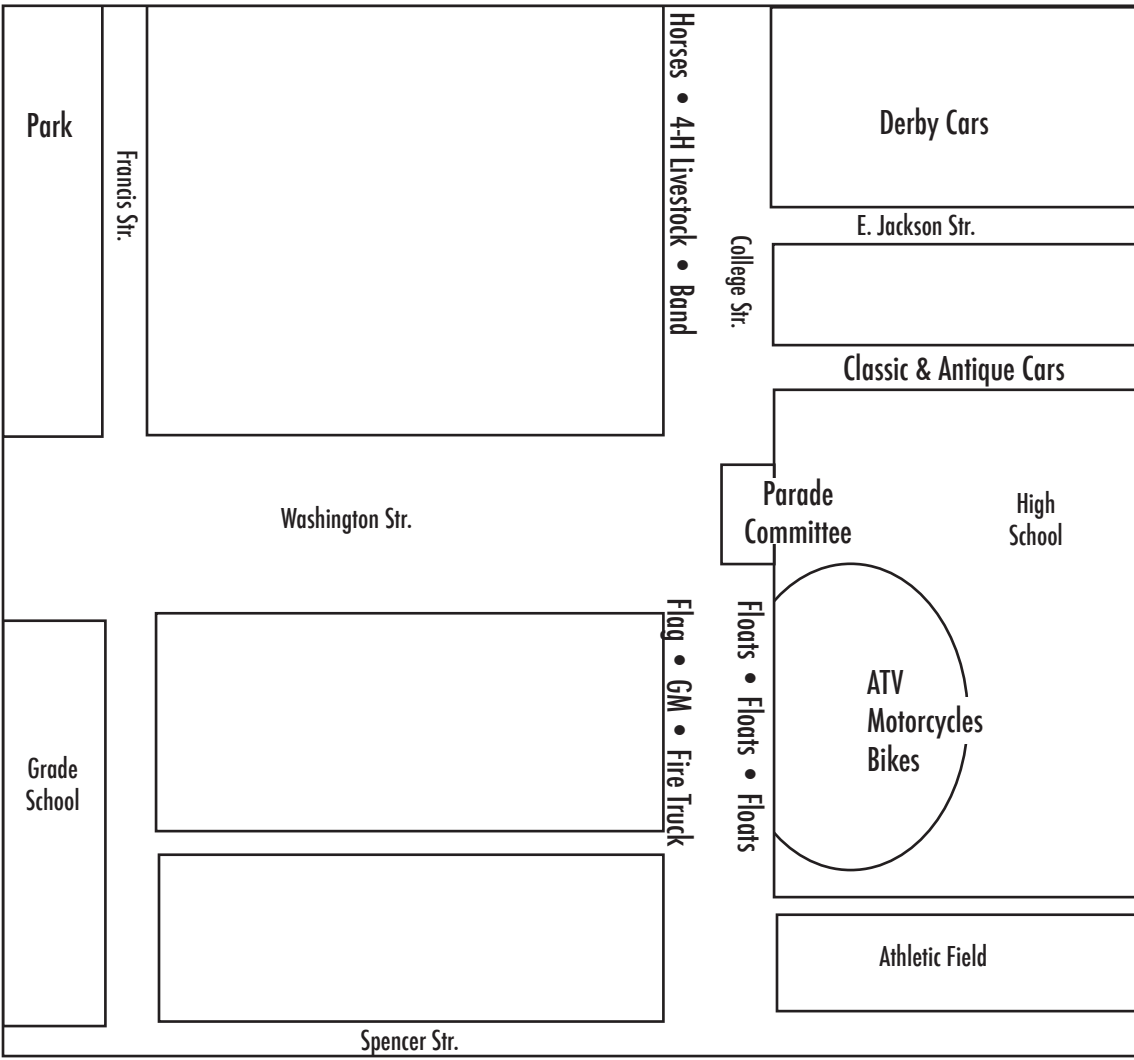
My wife has worked with me for the past 11 years at our chiropractic office in Saint Francis. Four years ago we opened a practice in Goodland. This week, we just moved our Goodland office to our permanent location at 912 Main. Cynthia has been an emergency medical technician for nine years and currently sits on the Board of Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service.

We have also helped out at Riverside Recreation by being on the Rendezvous Committee the past few years and she was recently added as a board member at Riverside. She is my biggest supporter, Dr. Poling said, and believes in this county and in me.

Many people have asked me why I want this position or why I am running.

To put it simply, he said, I am tired of sitting on the sidelines. I am proud to be a resident of Cheyenne County and I am ready to have my voice count and to be the voice of a lot of citizens of this county. I will take phone calls, jot down concerns and take every issue seriously. I feel that I have the commitment it takes to help this county, I have fresh ideas, I have determination and drive.

"I truly encourage all of you taxpayers to get out and vote at the Aug. 7 primary. I have talked to quite a few residents and many have said they haven't voted in years. No time like the present to have your concerns voiced. This is a pretty important primary on so many levels. I am encouraging you all to vote. This is our county and your voice counts.



Fair parade line up for Saturday

Parade is Saturday, still time to build a float

Plan your float and parade entries around the theme, "Carnival Lights and Country Nights," said Carla Lampe, parade coordinator. "We want the 2012 parade on Saturday to be the biggest parade ever.

"It's not too late to build a float or entry. The theme gives those planning floats and other entries plenty of ideas to work with."

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday down St. Francis' Main Street starting at College Street in front of the high school. All entries are to meet at the school and those floats being judged need to be at the school by 9 a.m.

The employees at First National Bank are heading up the organization of the parade. There will be no entry blanks to fill out but those with floats can contact the bank at 785-332-2145.

The honor of this year's parade marshal is shared by two Bird City men, Norm Dorsch and Ken Beougher. Last year's marshal was Dr. Judy

Baxter.

New this year will be the Hobo Snack Shack which will be located at the park, giving people a place to grab a hamburger or hot dog.

Last year the overall grand champion float was Tri-State Irrigation. Winning the first-place commercial division float was First National Bank. The Keller family won the family division; and Living Water Fellowship Church, Bird City, took the organization division.

Criteria for judging floats include: 1) Unique theme creation; 2) creative use of material and 3) originality. There is a grand champion overall winner and three divisions: Family; Organization/Church; and Commercial.

Mrs. Lampe reminds anyone thinking of having a float that it isn't too late to get it together and enter it in the parade.

"Every entry makes the parade just that much bigger and better," she said.



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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

State of Kansas
Special District
2013

The governing body of
Sunflower Extension District #6
Sherman County

will meet on August 15, 2012 at 4:00pm MDT at Sherman Co.Courthouse, Rm 1, Goodland, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to levied.

tailed budget information is available at Sunflower Extension District #6 Office, Goodland, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2013 Expenditures and Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2013 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual 2011	Current Year Estimate for 2012	Proposed Budget Year for 2013				
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate*
General	395,396	2.160	398,800	2.160	430,100	300,737	2.160
Debt Service							
Totals	395,396	2.160	398,800	2.160	430,100	300,737	2.160
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	395,396		398,800		430,100		
Total Tax Levied	286,211		289,912		xxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation:	126,057,003		134,201,300		139,225,427		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

Jan 1,	2011	2012	2013
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

Becky Vandike, Chair

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It's Almost That Time Again —

Booster Sponsors

Your name or business will be acknowledged every time we run a Booster Ad, and by being a Booster Sponsor you will be helping to promote school activities & feature team photos throughout the school year!

Kids —

You take care of the grades — and we'll take care of the memories!

For more details, contact
Tim Burr
at 785-332-3162

The Saint Francis Herald

Bird City Times