

# Meet the Candidates

## Andy Beikman

Write-in District 3 Commissioner

Andy Beikman is running as a write-in for commissioner, District 3.

He served eight years in this district and said he would like to see several projects through completion.

"I like the job but, more importantly, I feel a commitment to the people of Cheyenne County," he said. "There are several issues that need addressing that could affect the residents for years to come including establishing a well-run county landfill and working with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

"If we loose our landfill, it will cost county residents in tax money as well as the inconvenience of having our trash transported to other landfills," he said.

"I feel that we have made steps in satisfying the Kansas Department of Health and Environment officials but we need to continue work at saving our landfill."

When the Good Samaritan Village nursing home closed because of the October 2010 fire, Mr. Beikman said he was concerned about the residents, many who have lived their entire life in the county, as well as the staff who depended



Beikman

on their salaries and local businesses. When the Good Samaritan Society proposed selling the nursing home building and contents, as well as the apartments to the county for \$1, he said he wanted to know more details.

Before we commit taxpayers' dollars, he said, I want to make sure we know all the answers.

I would like to see the Society to run the nursing home for a couple of years, he said, so we can see how it is run, including knowing 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, indicating that he feels that this is what the Society is trying to do. Every decision made needs to be thought through and studied carefully.

Andy is the owner of Bumper To Bumper Auto Parts in St. Francis 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.

## Melissa Tabor-McAtee

Write-in Treasurer

Melissa Tabor-McAtee is running as a write-in candidate for the position of Cheyenne County Treasurer.

She has spent that last two years in the courthouse as the Cheyenne County Deputy Treasurer. Mrs. McAtee said she had been encouraged by many citizens of Cheyenne County asking her to be a write in as treasurer. She has a complete working knowledge of this position as her experience in the office has provided her that.

"I feel confident about being able to help everyone in the county who comes into the treasurer's office," she said.

If elected in this position she said she will continue to provide customers with the same helpful, pleasant experience they've had with her in the past.

Having worked in the treasurer's



McAtee

er's office, she knows the software used by the state including that used for driver's licenses, motor vehicle and the accounting software. She is also familiar with the legal descriptions, maps and area people.

Melissa said she has a great working relationship with the county commissioners, fellow employees, and the state.

Melissa moved to St. Francis in the summer of 1997 with her mother, Connie Holzwarth who is married to Bob Holzwarth. She started school in St. Francis as a freshman, graduating from St. Francis Community High School in 2001.

She worked in the community while in high school and after graduating. In September, she married A.J. McAtee. Melissa has a daughter, Bailey, who is in the third grade at St. Francis Elementary.

"I have a number of ties to the area and county," Mrs. McAtee said. "If elected, I will bring efficiency along with knowledge and a pleasant atmosphere. I will also provide the county with accountability."

## Jeanne Dunn

Register of Deeds

Jeanne Dunn won the Cheyenne County Register of Deeds primary election and is running unopposed on the ballot in the general election on Nov. 6.

She said that she is up and ready for new challenges, responsibilities and learning experiences.

Mrs. Dunn has worked as the district manager for the Cheyenne County Conservation District for the last 26 years.

"I work daily with the public and have extensive knowledge



Dunn

of office operations, accounting, budgets, computer programs, land legals and ownership as well as working with local, state and federal agencies," she said.

New to the office, her goal is to make a smooth transition and operate the office with friendly service and efficiency. She said she has no changes planned at this time.

Jeanne was born and raised in Limon, Colo. She and her husband, Jim, have lived in Cheyenne County for 33 years where they live on a farm northwest of St. Francis, raising wheat, corn, milo and operate a cow-calf operation.

The Dunns have three daughters, Dr. Jessica (Dunn) Starkey, Jamie Dunn and Jandy Dunn.

## Brett Poling

District 3 Commissioner

Brett Poling won the district 3 primary election in August.

As a commissioner, he said, there are a lot of tough issues being debated, some have been on the docket a long time and need a resolution.

"I could add that I have a fresh perspective," he said. "I would look at each issue as a regular tax paying citizen."

"I understand that on a lot of issues I may get out voted, but at least I will keep everyone in District 3 in mind, as well as everyone in the entire county."

Dr. Poling said he knows one of the biggest concerns 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."

"None of us want to think that we will need that level of care, but look at the statistics. I just hope if my



Poling

## Dolores Jenik

Treasurer

Dolores Jenik is running for the office of Cheyenne County Treasurer. Mrs. Jenik has been in the treasurer's office for a total of 14 years, three years as deputy treasurer and 11 years as county treasurer.

Her duties include:

- Able to be bonded for a minimum of \$25,000, which is required by state stature.
- Keeping an accurate account of all county funds and tax records.
- Being responsible for collecting, disbursing and investing county money.
- Is an agent of the state of Kansas to provide Motor Vehicle titling, registration and driver's license services to county residents.
- Stays updated on the laws that govern the treasurer's office and the motor vehicle, driver's license department.

"I would like to offer more services to residents for easy access to help them meet their tax obligations in these tough economic times," she said.

She implemented two easy ways to help pay taxes: agreements for payments on delinquent taxes and prepay payments to an escrow accounts for current taxes.

One of the changes Jenik sees coming is a driver's license program that will be connected to the new motor vehicle program that was launched in May.

"It seems that the legislature is passing new laws and regulations semi-annually, which change or affect the treasurer's office."

This keeps it interesting, as well as challenging.

"We know about some laws and regulations in advance and some are told just in time for them to come into effect."

The state, she said, offered E-Tag renewals, where credit card and E-check payment options were offered on the Internet to



Jenik

family ever needs it, we won't have to travel to spend time with them."

Not that I have all the answers, he said, but I do have some ideas and alternate avenues to push forward.

Dr. Poling was raised in St. Francis. He went off to college knowing that one day, he wanted to move back and raise his family.

"I love this community," he said. In 2000, he married Cynthia and became an instant dad to Foster Grant. They were blessed with two more boys, Tiernan and Tyson, and in 2004, they got their little girl, McKenna.

Cynthia has worked with Brett for the past 11 years at their chiropractic office in St. Francis.

"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 citizens of this county," he said. "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 am encouraging you all to vote. This is our county and your voice counts."

Dale Patton has served one four-year term as county commissioner in District 2 and is running for another term.

"I feel I need to serve one more term in order to bring unfinished business to completion," he said.

His goals for department includes fiscal restraints to hopefully reduce future mill levies in order to preserve lifestyles, employment and quality of life in Cheyenne County

Mr. Patton said he would like to re-evaluate expenditures, address the rising cost of the county's medical insurance and attempt to work with state and federal government on unfunded mandates.

"I would also wish to address state policies that are crippling rural Kansas including Cheyenne County," he said.

As a commissioner, he said, I am



Patton

working diligently to negotiate a contract with the Good Samaritan Society for the welfare and best interest of all parties involved. I look forward to having a signed contract with the Society no later than 2013.

Born in Colby and raised in St. Francis and Denver, Mr. Patton not only brings with him his four years experience as a county commissioner but has been the mayor of Sheridan, Colo., for eight years, was on the Sheriday City County for seven years, the planning commission for 15 years, a fire commissioner for 15 years and served on the Sheridan Housing Authority for 15 years.

He has lived in the county for 14 years. He and his wife, Deb, of 17 years, have five children and eight grandchildren.

"I would like to maintain that I have an open door policy and am happy to discuss issues with residents," he said. My phone number is 785-332-2153.

"As a self-imposed proponent of term limits, if elected, this will be my last term as commissioner."

## Terry Miller

Clerk

Incumbent Terry Miller is running for a fourth term as Cheyenne County Clerk.

He said he is running because he continues to enjoy working in the clerk's office and creating elections.

"I like helping our citizens," he said "It feels good to take a phone call and answer questions someone may have or to help those that come to the office looking for help."

Most of his experience, he said, has been on the job for the last 12 years. Each year the clerks/election officials have mandatory election training presented by the Secretary of State. Elections in the state, he said, have changed drastically from when I started.

Today counties, by law, are required to have a voting machine available at each poll. Our elections, Mr. Miller said, are now put together digitally.

"We used to do many steps with pen and paper," he said "We can now check if a voter is registered in another state as well as Kansas."



Miller

While the changes have been unwelcome to start, he said, it has streamlined our procedures and created more secure elections.

As for budgets, Mr. Miller said he has witnessed good times in the oil and gas valuations and lower mill levies/taxes to the now much lower valuations, thus the higher taxes.

"I've worked with numerous commissioners and I commend them all! While it may not seem like it at times, the commissioners are always looking to keep taxes lower and still provide all the vital services to the county."

"I've also been blessed to work with two great deputies. Dixie Curry started me out on solid footing and Deb Lindsten has been a huge asset to the office since then."

My goals for the office, he said, are to continue streamlining every process we can. I look forward to maintaining elections standards and integrity.

Mr. Miller doesn't see any big changes that he would make in the office, unless, he said, we're blessed with more unfunded mandates!

Mr. Miller was born and raised in St. Francis. In 1997, he, his wife, Mary Beth, and three children, Sheryl, Sara and Marvin, moved back to Cheyenne County.

## Robert Van Allen

District Magistrate Judge

Robert Van Allen is running unopposed for District Magistrate Judge, District 15, position 2.

Judge Van Allen has served two four-year terms and says he is running because he enjoys the opportunity to serve as the county's magistrate



VanAllen

judge. He has eight years experience but is continuing to earn the required hours.

Mr. Van Allen feels like he has a proven record for being fair. He has dealt with people for 52 years.

My main goal, he said, is to make decisions and get them right based on the law and the facts pertaining to the case.

"I have no ties or obligations to anyone but the citizens of Cheyenne County," he said. "I feel I have maturity and good common

sense."

Judge Van Allen said he thinks it is important to work with the county attorney, whoever he or she may be.

"The most important thing is to get it right!"

Judge Van Allen was raised in Sharon Springs but has lived in Cheyenne County for the last 39 years. He and his wife, Barb, have three children, Darren, Craig and Brian.

A PROPOSITION to amend section 1 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, relating to classification and taxation of watercraft, to be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election to be held on November 6, 2012.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5017

§ 1. System of taxation; classification; exemption. (a) The provisions of this subsection shall govern the assessment and taxation of property on and after January 1, 2013, and each year thereafter. Except as otherwise hereinafter specifically provided, the legislature shall provide for a uniform and equal basis of valuation and rate of taxation of all property subject to taxation. The legislature may provide for the classification and the taxation uniformly as to class of recreational vehicles and watercraft, as defined by the legislature, or may exempt such class from property taxation and impose taxes upon another basis in lieu thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to the taxation of motor vehicles, except as otherwise hereinafter specifically provided, mineral products, money, mortgages, notes and other evidence of debt and grain. Property shall be classified into the following classes for the purpose of assessment and assessed at the percentage of value prescribed therefore:

- Class 1 shall consist of real property. Real property shall be further classified into seven subclasses. Such property shall be defined by law for the purpose of subclassification and assessed uniformly as to subclass at the following percentages of value:
  - (1) Real property used for residential purposes including multifamily residential real property and real property necessary to accommodate a residential community of mobile or manufactured homes including the real property upon which such homes are located.....11 1/2%
  - (2) Land devoted to agricultural use which shall be valued upon the basis of its agricultural income or agricultural productivity pursuant to section 12 of article 11 of the constitution.....30%
  - (3) Vacant lots.....12%
  - (4) Real property which is owned and operated by a not-for-profit organization not subject to federal income taxation pursuant to section 501 of the federal internal revenue code, and which is included in this subclass by law.....12%
  - (5) Public utility real property, except railroad real property which shall be assessed at the average rate that all other commercial and industrial property is assessed.....33%
  - (6) Real property used for commercial and industrial purposes and buildings and other improvements located upon land devoted to agricultural use.....25%
  - (7) All other urban and rural real property not otherwise specifically subclassified.....30%

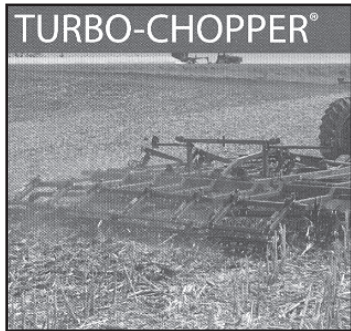
Class 2 shall consist of tangible personal property. Such tangible personal property shall be further classified into six subclasses, shall be defined by law for the purpose of subclassification and assessed uniformly as to subclass at the following percentages of value:

- (1) Mobile homes used for residential purposes.....11 1/2%
- (2) Mineral leasehold interests except oil leasehold interests the average daily production from which is five barrels or less, and natural gas leasehold interests the average daily production from which is 100 mcf or less, which shall be assessed at 25%.....30%
- (3) Public utility tangible personal property including inventories thereof, except railroad personal property including inventories thereof, which shall be assessed at the average rate all other commercial and industrial property is assessed.....33%
- (4) All categories of motor vehicles not defined and specifically valued and taxed pursuant to law enacted prior to January 1, 1985 .....30%
- (5) Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment which, if its economic life is seven years or more, shall be valued at its retail cost when new less seven-year straight-line depreciation, or which, if its economic life is less than seven years, shall be valued at its retail cost when new less straight-line depreciation over its economic life, except that, the value so obtained for such property, notwithstanding its economic life and as long as such property is being used, shall not be less than 20% of the retail cost when new of such property.....25%
- (6) All other tangible personal property not otherwise specifically classified.....30%

(b) All property used exclusively for state, county, municipal, literary, educational, scientific, religious, benevolent and charitable purposes, farm machinery and equipment, merchants' and manufacturers' inventories, other than public utility inventories included in subclass (3) of class 2, livestock, and all household goods and personal effects not used for the production of income, shall be exempted from property taxation.

Explanatory statement. This amendment would allow the legislature to classify and tax watercraft upon a basis different from other property. A vote for this proposition would permit the legislature to provide for separate classification and taxation of watercraft or to exempt such property from property taxation and impose taxes in lieu thereof. A vote against this proposition would continue the taxation of watercraft in the same manner as all other property.

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