

Election will thin Golden Plains candidates to nine

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about the students and the school. The district has been fortunate to maintain our enrollment and that our students, parents and communities welcome new students and their families.

She believes Golden Plains should continue to be conservative in its spending. Another challenge the district faces is to maintain our enrollment. She feels the district will still be here in five years, even though it may be in a different capacity.

"I've only lived here for 11 1/2 years," she said, "but to me, this is home. My husband Dave and I raised our son here. I have met many wonderful people and have

become good friends with them. This community has all the right elements for a great quality of life. I want to continue working diligently for our communities and USD 316. This is where I want to be."

David Gould, Rexford, has lived in the district all of his life. He said he feels he has the same background and experience as other candidates. He believes he is fair and plans to do his best for the school district and all of its kids, teachers and parents.

When asked what he sees as the district's strengths, he said that is his family values and is small enough to care for each child. We have a small student-teacher ratio, he said, and every child can participate in school if they want to and succeed.

Some challenges he feels the district is facing include keeping the doors open and staying financially sound, keeping good teachers, keeping the buildings in good shape and keeping children safe.

If we all work together, he said, the school will be here for our children's children and that we can make Golden Plains the best school in northwest Kansas. He said he believes that sports and education go hand in hand and that all of us are going to have to work together to secure our future. He believes that we should be proud of all our school programs, including education, athletics and extra-curricular activities.

"I am not running for my own agenda," he said. "I am running to be a voice for the people. I believe that a school board member should vote in a sound and thought-out manner. I believe that he or she should take time to ask the public's views before voting on most matters relating to the school...it's the people of the district that they are voting for, not themselves..."

Ben Hoeting, Rexford, has been a resident of the district for 12 years. He said he has experience serving on other boards, dealing with budgets, problem solving and enforcing policies. He also has experience serving on interview panels for hiring.

Ben said he sees our students as one of the district's greatest strengths and feels we need to keep a strong student body. He feels we need to make sure we keep a staff capable of teaching our children and that the community continues to support our schools.

He believes that a declining budget has to be the biggest challenge for any school district and that the district needs to be sure our dollars are spent wisely. He said he sees staff as another im-

portant issue — they need to be able to teach all students. His vision of the future includes doing our very best to keep our school strong by teaching our kids to the best of their ability.

"Jeanette and I have been married for 25 years," he said. "We have a son in the seventh grade at Golden Plains. I farm southwest of Rexford and also work for Wells Fargo Insurance as an adjuster. Wells Fargo trusts me with their money every day and I hope the people ... will also trust me with your school."

Don Koerperich, Selden, has lived in the district 33 years. He says some of his strengths are that he was born and raised here. He has an associate's degree from McCook Community College and has four children, one in middle school and two in elementary school. As a co-owner of Koerperich Bookbinders, he has experience dealing with employees, customers and budgets. He is a Sheridan County emergency medical technician and has served as the association's treasurer for two years.

Strengths he sees in the district include the teachers. He said he feels they are all dedicated to the students and the future of the school, including becoming qualified in the English as a Second Language program. Because of the low student-teacher ratio, he believes each student gets the attention they need. He feels the district has great parent involvement in academics and sports.

Challenges he thinks the district

is facing include budget cuts, the board will have some tough decisions to make concerning the budget. Decline in enrollment is another challenge; he said we need to work on attracting families here. He also sees fuel and bus maintenance costs as an issue.

He sees the district as strong in the next five to 10 years. He said he believes the towns in the district will continue to attract families and keep growing. He has heard of other districts going to a four-day week and thinks this is something the board will have to check into

"I grew up in Selden and graduated from Golden Plains High School," he said. "I think it is an excellent school and that is part of the reason why I chose to return to Selden after college to raise my family. I want to do my part to make sure that Golden Plains will be here for my children to graduate from."

Kim Moss, Menlo, has lived in the district 22 years. Her background includes helping her husband with the day-to-day operations of their family farm, which requires goal planning, financial strategies, dedication and commitment. She considers herself to be strong-willed, to have determination and to have an open mind.

Kim said she likes the one-on-one that she sees the Golden Plains faculty give to both students and parents. The challenges that she feels the district is facing include budget cuts, keeping enrollment on the increase, the at-

tracting competent teachers to a smaller school.

She said her vision of the future is that the district will still be up and running strong. She would like to see Golden Plains graduates move back and help in the growth of the school.

"For any of you that don't know me, my husband Kent and I farm in the Menlo area, and have three children that have attended Golden Plains," she said. "My son Brent is a 2004 graduate, Tanner is a senior this year and Drake is a junior. During my children's time here at GP, I have been very active in their day-to-day activities anywhere from being a room mommy to being a class sponsor for a few years.... I really enjoy volunteering anytime I can in the kids activities."

"I firmly believe that at one time or another that everyone should sit on the board to see all aspects of how the school is run."

Terry Moss, Rexford, has been a resident most of his life. He said he has been on the school board before and is familiar with the community.

He believes that some of the district strengths are its strong enrollment, the staff and the great bunch of kids. He said that meeting the budget challenges and cut-backs are a challenge the district must face.

He said his vision of the future is as one of the top small schools still functioning out here. He said that he is "fair and not afraid to go against the grain."

Todd Schwarz, Rexford, said he has lived in district his entire life. He graduated from Golden Plains High School in 1987 and attended Kansas State University, where he earned a degree in agronomy. He work in his family's farming and ranching business. He has been involved in area parish councils as an officer and committee chairman. He feels he has a fair view of the future of the district.

Todd believes Golden Plains has a strong teaching staff who care about its students and take pride in their growth and success in the world. He feels that, given the current financial conditions, the budget will continue to be a major challenge.

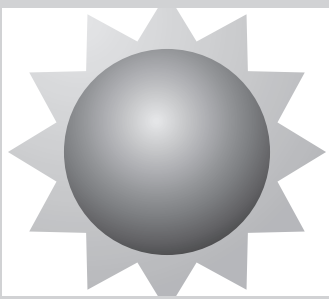
He said his vision of the schools' future is to be thriving, with success and growth in numbers.

"I've been married to my wife Tanya for 15 years," he said. "We have two children attending USD 316 and one that has graduated."

Matt Vogler, Rexford, has been a district resident five years. He said he is from a small town in Nebraska and cherishes small-town heritage and values. He feels that since did not grow up in this area, he has a fresh perspective about many issues that the district will face. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years and attended college while on active duty, majoring in computer science and economics. He has been a computer programmer, sold

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Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. North wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 18.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 55.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 25.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Monday: High, 58; Low 28

Tuesday: High, 67; Low 26

Precip: Monday 0.00 inches

Tuesday 0.00 inches

Month: 0.49 inches

Year: 0.64 inches

Normal: 0.97 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

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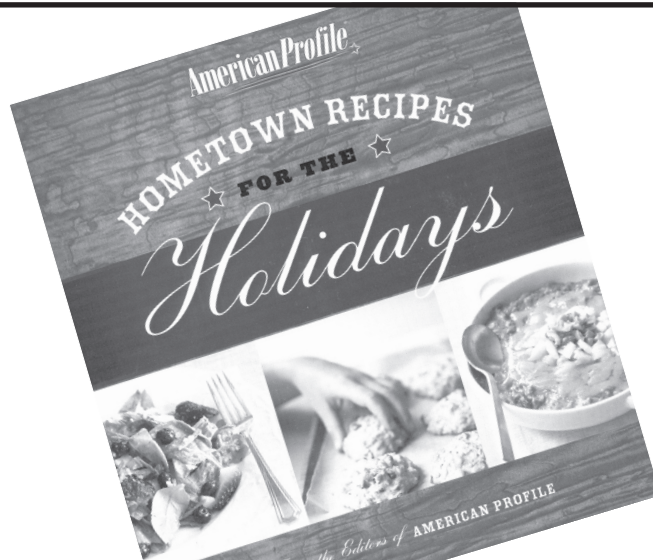
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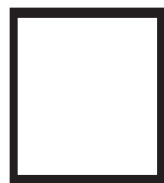


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