New initiative benefits rural Kansas cities

By Ron Wilson
Director
Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

"Our state was created by pioneers who came here and built their homes. Then they got together with their neighbors and built their churches and their schools and their communities. We need to do that again." Those are the words of Cheryl Lyn Higgins, a passionate advocate of rural communities. She is the director of a new initiative which is benefitting rural Kansas.

Cheryl Lyn Higgins is director of Neighborhood Initiatives for the Sisters of St. Joseph, a Catholic order based in Concordia. The Sisters of St. Joseph was founded in France in 1650.

In 1836, several sisters traveled from France to what was then the U.S. frontier. In 1883, they set up a school in Concordia and organized other schools and hospitals around the region. At Concordia, they established a motherhouse to serve as their convent and academy. In 1902, the cornerstone was laid for a new motherhouse, which is an awesome five-story brick building that now serves as headquarters for the Sisters' activities and home for more than 30 retired Sisters. Other Sisters are living and working in other communities around the region.

"Earlier in the century, the Sisters ran orphanages and hospitals to meet the needs of that time," Cheryl Lyn said. "Now they are working on how to meet the needs of our current time." They are also concerned about the depopulation of rural communities. One way of responding to such community needs is a new project they call Neighborhood Initiatives, directed by Cheryl Lyn Higgins.

Cheryl Lyn is from Winfield originally. She was a newscaster and radio station manager in south central Kansas and northern Oklahoma before becoming the Chamber of Commerce director in McPherson and subsequently in Junction City. Among many other activities, she operated an outstanding community leadership development program.

In 2010, her son saw a listing for the position of Director of Neighborhood Initiatives for the Sisters of St. Joseph and encouraged her to apply. Ultimately she got the job.

"It's a real credit to the Sisters that they genuinely want to serve the people in these communities," Cheryl Lyn said. "And, they were willing to allow us to experiment with this position."

The first part of this new outreach was to hold community conversations to identify the most pressing needs. Those needs varied, but a common theme was the need for leadership. So, Cheryl Lyn drew on her previous experience and designed a leadership development program for communities where Sisters are located, such as Ellis, a town of 1,852 people. Now, that's rural.

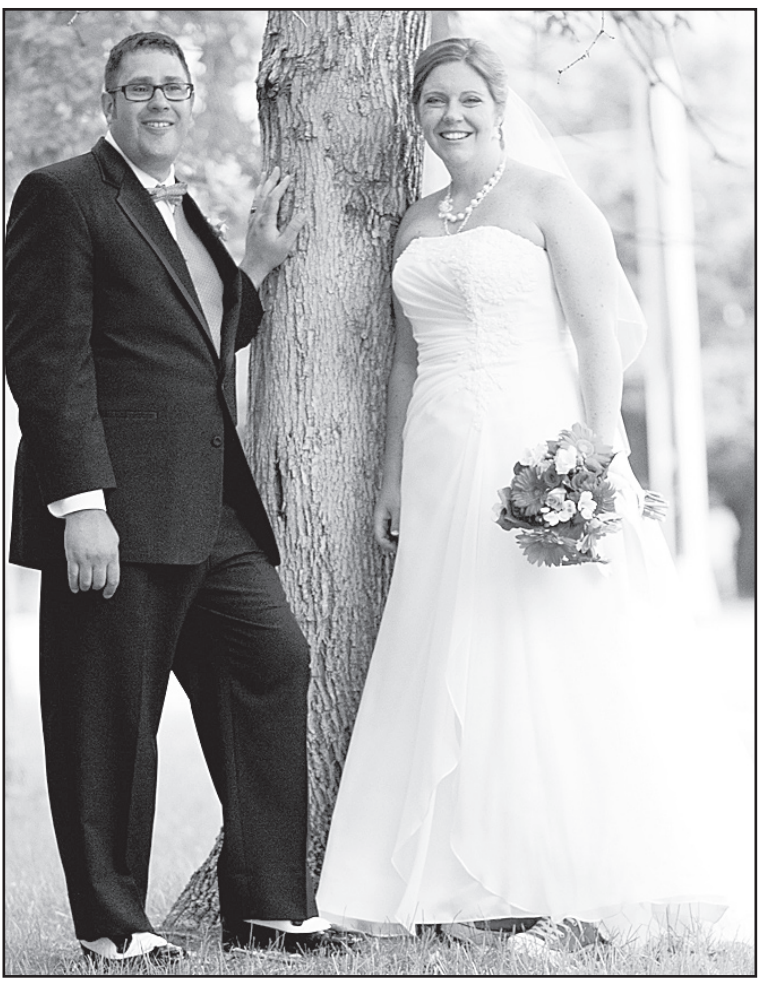
"Some people have been in leadership positions for a long time, but not enough new people are stepping up to serve," Cheryl Lyn said. "The mayor of Ellis has been mayor for 15 years. In the last five years he has waited to file for re-election until the last possible day, in hopes that someone else would step up. And apart from elective office, we need others who will give their time and effort for their communities in various ways."

In September 2011, a community conversation was held in Ellis. Subsequently a leadership class was launched, involving people from various walks of life and even including a high school student. "We have been so delighted with the results," Cheryl Lyn said. "Class members are already working on housing initiatives and downtown revitalization, and taking ownership of next year's program."

It went so well that such leadership development is now being offered to any rural community in the region at no charge whatsoever. Participants do not pay any fee. Requests have come from as far away as Wellington. For more information, go to www.csjkansas.org/neighbhorhood-initiatives-2.

To Cheryl Lyn, local grassroots leadership will be needed to make a difference and fight the pattern of rural depopulation across the state. We salute the Sisters of St. Joseph for fostering such leadership.

"There's a wealth of opportunity in our communities: Buildings to be renovated, history to be preserved, and downtowns to be revitalized with small businesses," Cheryl Lyn said. "Like the pioneers, we have the spirit to rebuild our civic, religious, and economic communities."



Todd and Linda McKenzie

July wedding enjoyed by couple

Linda McKenzie of Goodland and Todd Martinez of Cheyenne, Wyo., were married on July 21, 2012, at the Temple Events Center in downtown Denver.

The couple were married in a double ring ceremony with Pastor Chris Herrington officiating.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father. She wore a satin strapless a-line flared skirt with asymmetrical side drape and a chiffon overlay with beaded appliques. She wore hot pink peep toe heels. She carried long stemmed bright pink, orange and yellow gerber daisies and sweetheart roses loosely arranged and tied with a hot pink satin ribbon arranged by a friend of the groom.

She wore an opal and diamond ring given to her by her late grandmother, Arlene McKenzie and pearl earrings from her grandmother Nina Spencer. Her pearl and crystal necklace was custom made by the bride's cousin, Felicia Christensen. Christensen also made necklaces for each of the bridesmaids.

The maid of honor was Hollie Lusk of Zwink, Colo., and the bride's attendants were Zaneta Hahn of Lincoln, Neb., Karin Langford of Duluth, Minn. and Carrie Herrington of Prescott, Ariz. They wore black chiffon, strapless, empire style, knee length dresses with sweetheart necklines.

The best man was Billy Wurtsmith of Pensacola, Fla, cousin of the groom and the groom's attendants were Chad Martinez of Longmont, Colo., and Zach Martinez of Parker, Colo., both brothers of the groom, and Steve Gonzales of Denver. They wore black tuxes with hot pink vests and ties and black and white wing tip shoes.

The ushers were Matt McKenzie, brother of the bride and Chad Martinez and Zach Martinez, brothers of the broom. Joshua McKenzie, nephew of the bride, was the ring bearer and Zaira Hahn was the flower girl.

The reception, dinner and dance were also at the Temple Events Center. Kristen Soery made the cake and she and Jacki Christy were the servers. The bride's cake was four tiered. The top two were gluten free lemon cream cake, than a layer of chocolate cream cake and a layer of strawberry cream cake. The groom's cake was a Harley Davidson motif carrot cake with cream cheese icing.

The parents of the couple were Don and Lori McKenzie of Goodland and Ben and Diane Martinez of Parker, Colo. and Shirley and Rich Bastian, Burns, Wyo. Their grandparents are Nina Spencer of Goodland and the late Dick Spencer, the late Dean and Arlene McKenzie, all of Goodland and Frank and Priscilla Martinez of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Served at the dinner was a gluten free meal of flank steak, chicken breasts, spinach salad, mushroom risoto and asparagus spears wrapped in bacon.

The reception music was provided by Marty Melia of Goodland and Andrew Melia of Atwood. The bride and groom changed into Converse sneakers (hers - hot pink, his - black) for the dance.

After the wedding, there was a shivaree of sorts (a McKenzie family tradition) of creating mischief at the bride and groom's new home.

The bride is a third grade teacher at American Academy Charter School in Denver and the groom is a support engineer at Perceptive Software in Denver.

After a wedding trip to Cozumel, Mexico, the couple plan to live in Aurora, Colo.

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Couple plan to marry

Meredith Jill McGilvray and Brandon Lloyd Sparks, both of Haxtun, Colo., plan to marry on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012, at Old Town in Burlington.

She is the daughter of Michael and Dona McGilvray of Bird City formerly of Woodrow, Colo., and the granddaughter of Betty Emerson and the late Ode Emerson of Brush, Colo. and the late Delma and William McGilvray of Woodrow, Colo.

He is the son of Rosemary Schuster of Goodland and Wayne Sparks of Amarillo, Texas and the grandson of the late Virginia and Millard Sparks and the late Lloyd and Katherin Knoot, all of Cheyenne Wells, Colo.

Meredith McGilvray and Brandon Sparks

The bride-to-be graduated from Woodlin High School in 2001 in Haxtun, Colo, and received a Bachelors degree in business administration from the University of Northern Colorado in 2005 in Greeley, Colo.

The groom elect graduated from Goodland High School in 2002 and from the Northwest Kansas Technical College in 2003 with a degree in carpentry.

They are both employed at MV Equipment, LLC.,

rotary

The Goodland Rotary Club met for their regular weekly meeting at noon on Friday Aug. 24, in the meeting room at Northwest Kansas Technical College. President Jenifer Sanderson called the meeting to order. After some announcements, Sanderson introduced the new District Governor for District 5670, Robert Friesen

Friesen, a member of the Rotary Club in Lyons, talked about the goals of the District for the new Rotary year which started on July 1. The District Governor acknowledged that, although this is the last year District 5670 will exist in Kansas, he still has several goals that he would like to see the District 5670 clubs achieve this year, including increasing clubs memberships by 5 per cent and increase membership giving to the Rotary Foundation annual fund by 30 per cent.

Friesen talked about the District re-districting that Rotary International is mandating. In Northwest Kansas, most of the clubs, including Goodland, Colby, Sharon Springs, Hoxie and Oberlin have chosen to join with the Wichita District. Atwood is the only club in District 5670 that has chosen to go with a Nebraska district. Several of the eastern tier clubs in District 5670 are joining the Kansas City District. Friesen concluded by telling the Goodland Club to "just have fun" in this final year for District 5670.

After the weekly drawing, the Rotary Club meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting for Goodland Rotary is Friday, Aug. 31, at noon in the Northwest Tech meeting room. Visitors and anyone interested in joining Rotary are welcome to attend.

Marty Melia, club reporter

matters of record

Sherman County Bastille

The following people were booked into the Sherman County Bastille:

August 24: Erick Neason, 31, Goodland, was arrested by sheriff's deputy for driving under the influence and no driver's license.

Tobias Hernandez, 31, Goodland, journal entry - 48 hours, sheriff's office.

August 25: Damion Johnson, 40, Goodland, journal entry- 72 hours, sheriff's office.

Mark Abbott, 28, Goodland, arrested by city police for battery and disorderly conduct.

Joseph Bradley, 19, Goodland, arrested by city police for battery and disorderly conduct.

August 26: Michael Doxon, 24, Edson, warrant arrest for other jurisdiction, sheriff's deputy.

August 27: Joseph Rohn, 34, Goodland, arrested by city police for burglary and theft x2.

Sept.1: Joyce Rivera, 69, Goodland, arrested by city police for theft.

Sept.3: Ty Kaiser, 18, Goodland, arrested by sheriff's deputy for driving under the influence.

Classifieds work! 899-2338

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Sherman County
will meet on September 28, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Commissioner's Room for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.
Detailed budget information is available at County Clerk's Office 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.

	Prior Year Actual for 2011		Current Year Estimate for 2012		Proposed Budget Year for 2013		
FUND	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	2,163,656	19.913	2,305,158	16.572	3,012,601	1,386,093	19.963
Debt Service	144,354	2.285	145,701	2.027	203,525	141,725	2.041
Road & Bridge	1,389,445	13.421	1,639,525	18.085	1,830,200	1,095,910	15.783
Noxious Weed	68,830	1.915	90,324	0.848	135,864	80,547	1.160
Health	276,632	0.465	288,259	0.468	317,419	29,984	0.432
Conservation District	22,766	0.327	22,098	0.322	23,000	20,027	0.288
Election Board	41,313	0.947	77,312	0.726	66,025	35,478	0.511
County Home Maintenanc			41,486	0.317	40,000	16,411	0.236
Historical Society	2,924	0.014	9,000	0.136	9,000	7,514	0.108
Appraiser's Cost	142,192	2.101	154,539	1.943	161,600	138,695	1.997
Program for the Elderly	24,125	0.238	23,169	0.324	24,125	20,854	0.300
Free Fair	29,886	0.428	30,000	0.425	30,000	24,792	0.357
Park-Soldier's Memorial	4,773		1,250		16,554		
Cemetery	47,766	0.645	41,403	0.594	42,850	37,505	0.540
Parks-Interlocal Rec	30,424	0.446	33,845	0.500	38,925	34,688	0.500
Library	24,544	0.353	24,540	0.356	25,000	21,759	0.313
County Hospital Maitenan	407,612	5.841	415,606	6.000	466,450	416,600	6.000
Employee Benefits	1,194,965	19.908	1,119,087	16.194	1,671,000	1,011,675	14.570
Tort Liability	15,951	0.198	15,810	0.221	18,000	15,758	0.227
Auto Administration	62,520		63,500		65,400		
Health Care Services	205,338		568,010		401,168		
Health Capital Outlay					50,468		
Noxious Weed Capital Ou					23,437		
Pros Attorney Diversion	4,176		1,330		14,797		
Pros Attorney Training	4,695		2,900		9,891		
Special Alcohol	10,000		10,000		13,817		
Special Parks & Recreatio	2,500		3,056		3,000		
Tourism & Convention	106,443		140,000		140,000		
911 Fund	19,676		22,000		29,485		
Economic Development	100,980						
Sheriff's Commissary	18,943		19,500		12,295		
Waste Disposal	852,828		827,714		1,756,049		
E-911	14,165		139,198		88,972		
Sales Tax for Road Projec	927,879		2,340,743		918,268		
(2012) 911 Fund					72,000		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	16,306						
Non-Budgeted Funds-B	23,803						
Non-Budgeted Funds-C	12,411						
Totals	8,414,821	69.445	10,616,063	66.058	11,731,185	4,536,015	65.326
Less: Transfers	27,884		262,000		135,000		
Net Expenditure	8,386,937		10,354,063		11,596,185		
Total Tax Levied	4,405,715		4,333,588		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	63,441,645		65,607,990		69,434,844		

Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2010	2011	2012
G.O. Bonds	11,135,000	11,325,000	10,715,000
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	271,369	237,671	354,873
Total	11,406,369	11,562,671	11,069,873

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

	Prior Year Actual for 2011		Current Year Estimate for 2012		Proposed Budget Year for 2013			
Other County SCRFD #1	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax	July 1, 2012 Estimated Valuation	Est. Tax Rate*
General	198,453	4.453	288,048	4.552	287,400	194,910	43,551,908	4.475
Equipment Reserve					42,274	0		0.000
Totals	198,453	4.453	288,048	4.552	329,674	194,910		4.475

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Janet R. Rumpel
Clerk

Page No. 30

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