SCHOOL, from Page 1a

funding.'

stabilize."

Goodland's open.

better way to survive."

We need to meet the challenges of our state

Although none of the candidates expressed

an interest in going into the schools and "shak-

ing things up," each looked forward to work-

"We've got a problem with declining en-

rollment," Short said. "It's going to be tense

for the next several years. We hope that we

He said small towns hold on to their schools

'We've gotta do what's best for kids," he

to survive, and he will work to keep

said. "Kids are our future. I think there's no

DeJong said he wants to strengthen our

"I see in the future that we're at an impor-

schools to attract more people to Goodland.

tant juncture for our town and especially our

school," he said. "If we have the best educa-

DeJong said he is looking to make Good-

land a place where people want to move be-

cause of good schools and a safe community.

clining," he said. "Kids are our No. 1 way (to

"I'm concerned about our community de-

tion around, we can draw from all around."

ing on the problems the district faces.

School board candidates talk about the issues

See VIEWS, Page 1a

He was born and raised in Goodland, graduating from high school here in 1964. After school, he went to Kansas Wesleyan College in Salina, where he earned a degree in business administration.

Short now runs Short and Son, a cattle and machine hauling business started in 1934 by his grandfather, C.E. Short. He went into partnership in the business with his father Gene in 1972.

The Shorts have two grandchildren, John, son of Amy and Mike, and Jase, the son of Angie and Ben.

New candidates include **Amy** (House) Sederstrom, a housewife, farmer and part-time officer manager at Truck and Tractor Repair.

Sederstrom said she is running to ensure a brighter future for her children, Blaine, 5, and Nichole, 7. She was born and raised in Goodland and lives with her husband Greg just south of town.

After high school here, she went to the University of Northern Colorado, where she earned a degree in business administration and finance. When she moved back, she worked at a bank and then was a substitute teacher for three years.

"I've been in this district," she said, "I substitute taught in every building in this district. You see a lot. That's good training to me."

Sederstrom has been through Leadership Sherman County, a class which teaches people how to be more involved in the community. She is an active member in the Sherman County Farm Bureau and is a member of the site council for West Elementary.

The Rev. Chad M. DeJong also is running.

"I'm running because it's important for the community to be involved in the politics of the town," he said. "Our kids are the most valuable thing that we have."

DeJong has some experience with schools since his wife Lisa worked at a Christian school in Kansas City while he was in college. He said he was involved with her school and worked in abstinence education programs in the city.

DeJong was born and raised in Fruita, Colo. After graduating from attract more people)."

Friedrichs said she looks to the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and other groups to help promote our area and bring up population numbers.

Candidates: Enrollment, money major school issues

"We'd like to see those numbers rise," she said. "Regardless, the important thing is that we educate the students we have."

If elected, she said, she will focus on academics in all grades.

"I think it needs to be a priority," she said. "The future can be bright," Showalter said,

"as long as we spend our money wisely."

He doesn't have any particular focus, he said, but will work to make the district better. "I just want to help out," he said.

House is awaiting to see what the future brings to Goodland. He said he won't go into office with

a set plan, but will work for the community. "I'm not running on any sort of agenda or platform," he said.

Stover said he fears if the population does not get a boost, one of the elementary schools will be closed, a prospect that scares him.

"(That) is something I don't want to see and will fight against," he said.

If elected, he said, he plans to study the district to find areas that need improvement. He wants to attend a grant writing workshop and look into the school's textbooks.

"The classroom may be the main focus of a school," he said, "but the education process also requires extracurricular activities that provide experience and growth beyond the "three Rs" (reading, writing and arithmetic)."

Smith said he knows the area population is on the decline, but he wants to avoid raising the property tax.

"We need to be more diligent with expenditures," he said.

The future of schools needs to include a lot of work on the early years, said Sederstrom.

"I'm a strong advocate of getting these kids a good start," she said. "Those first three or four years are so important."

If elected, she said, she wants to do her best to have the district challenge students.

"I think if we raise the bar with education, it helps everybody," she said.

Although few have done much campaigning for their seats yet, the school board primary will he held on Tuesday, March 1, just two weeks away, with all voting at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall in Goodland. The primary vote will narrow the field for the three board seats to six candidates.

Smith said he looks forward to a good race and hopes a lot of people turn out to vote.

Calgary Bible College in Kansas intendent in Burlington, Colo.

City, where he earned a degree in pastoral studies and biblical studies. After school, he pastored a small church in Odessa, Mo., about 30 miles east of Kansas City, for a year while working at a roofing and to earn a doctorate in veterinarian

handyman job he held through college. He moved here to be pastor of 2003. The couple has a 3-month-old taking over his practice in 1999. daughter, Katie.

said.

Dr. Gary Smith, veterinarian at Prairieland Animal Clinic, is running for a seat on the school board,

that we have the best education, sports and extra curricular activities available," he said.

Smith said he has experience Holly, Colo., for over 20 years and was board president for several

Smith was born and raised in Holly, Colo. He went to Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangely for two years before attending Colorado State University medicine in 1993. He came straight to Goodland, where he started to the Goodland Bible Church in July work with Dr. Richard Whitmore,

He and his wife Debbie have four "We love it here," Mr. DeJong children, Tanner, a freshman in high school; Keegan, an eighth grader; Taylen, who is in third grade; and Kelbey, a first grader.

Smith is involved in the Kansas Kids Wrestling club, which Keegan, "I'm running just to make sure Taylen and Kelbey compete in.

LeAnn Friedrichs, a deputy court clerk, says she's running because she's "always loved school."

"I'm running for the school board with schools through his father, for one reason," she said, "aca-Larry, who sat on a school board in demic excellence for all USD 352 students.

She said she later worked at the high school there, he went on to years. His brother Glenn is a super- high school as a secretary and book-

keeper and as an aide in special education. Friedrichs said she knows some of the issues facing teachers through her husband Dennis, a technology and physics teacher at the high school.

Friedrichs was born in Pratt and graduated from a school about 17 miles south of there in Coats. She attended three years at Emporia State University, where she majored in business. She moved to Goodland in 1969 and has worked at several places, settling in a job as a trial court clerk for Sherman County the last 2 1/2 years.

The Friedrichses have five children, three from her previous marriage, Rob Bergin, a custom farmer and combiner in Limon, Colo.; Eric Bergin, manager of a tire store in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and Sandra Trachsel, who works with Trachsel A&B Accounting in Goodland. Her two step-children are Katy Friedrichs, a registered nurse at the University of Colorado Hospital in Denver, and Carl Friedrichs, a lieu-

tenant in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. They have four grandchildren, Forrest, 15; Dillon. 12; and Kolt, 8, children of Sandy and Cleve Trachsel, and Bailey, 2, son of Carl and Carly Friedrichs.

"I would love to see every student, educator and parent excited about education," she said.

After over a year of covering school board meetings for The Goodland Star News, Greg Stover, now a part-time sports reporter, is running for a seat on the board to be sure there is plenty of competition.

"I believe nobody should run for public office unopposed," he said. Stover was born in Albany, N.Y.,

and went to school in south Florida. He went into the military early and earned a General Education Diploma through the U.S. Army.

He spent 23 years in the Army, reaching the rank of personnel sergeant. He has been stationed in Germany; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.; Cleveland, Ohio; and Fort McCoy, Wis. Since he left the military, he has lived in Florida, Illinois, Wisconsin, Colorado, Iowa and Kansas.

Before coming to town, Stover was a graduate student at Fort Hays State University studying history. He came to town on a Greyhound bus and started work at The Star-News in 2003.

Goodland native and deputy sheriff Jason Showalter said he is looking to get involved with the community again through work on the school board.

"I want to give back to the community that has given to me for so many years," he said.

Showalter, 22, said he has been involved in the district as a student, graduating just four years ago in 2001. He worked for the schools for six years doing summer building maintenance.

In high school, he played basketball and ran track. Showalter also worked as a disc jockey at the radio station.

He was born in Topeka to Shelly and Scott Showalter. He father is a lawyer who works with court services here and is a private attorney. He moved to Goodland shortly after Jason was born.

After high school, Deputy Showalter attended two years of college at Kansas State University and has transferred to Fort Hays State University, where he continues to pursue a degree in criminal justice.

He started working for the sheriff's department in 2002 as a detention officer and a dispatcher.

Andrew House also a native of Goodland and local farmer is running for election to the school

volvement," he said.

House and Gennifer, his wife, have two children Elizabeth, 8, and Drew, 7, both in Goodland schools. He went through local schools, graduating

After school, House went to Kansas State University where he earned a degree in geography in he has farmed ever since.

Light at 12th to be four-way stop for weeks

By Kathryn Burke

Traffic in every direction has to tronic controller. ome to a halt since the stop light at The problems started, Bandel tinued problems, Bandel decided ler," he said. "I tried to see if they'd light mode and will be for another night the system switched from a replaced. six to eight weeks.

and will stay that way until work-The Goodland Star-News ers can replace the \$5,000 elec- the light worked on and off, but af- was forced to buy a new one.

ter days of warmer weather and con- "We need a whole new control-

Over the next few weeks, he said, not repair old fixtures so the city

board.

"I'm running for community in-

from high school here in 1984.

1991. He came back to town where House has done some homework, sitting in on some meetings to better understand how the school board works. Gym contract, money

in school board's hands

Charles Bandel, superintendent light. of electrical distribution with the over to flash for about a week now

timed controller to a flashing red

city, said the light has been switched though the light had malfunctioned ment. because of cold weather.

12th and Main is set in a flashing red said, about a month ago when over- the electronic controller had to be overhaul it, and they said they

"Finally it just went out on us," he said. Crews set the light to flashing He said workers originally red until they get the new equip-

The manufacturer, he said, does 2001, he added.

wouldn't touch it."

Bandel said the light was one of the first of its type, installed in 1987. The city had to replace the controller in the light at 11th and Main in

Troopers foil thieves in Brewster break-in

An afternoon break-in at a Brewster crop-spraying firm Wednesday evening ended with the arrest of two area men after state troopers tracked them down on I-70.

Thomas County Undersheriff Jason R. Moses said that authorities were alerted shortly before 6 p.m. on Wednesday of two men breaking

into Berkgren Chemical Co. south Kansas Highway Patrol troopers in of methamphetamine and possesof Brewster.

men "forcefully enter into the office carrying about \$2,000 in cash, but 50, Colby, was charged with burand leave a short time later." The the owner said there was no cash at witness called the sheriff's office.

Berkgren Chemical is just south of the I-70 interchange. Using a description provided by the witness, theft, criminal trespass, possession torney Andrea Wyrick.

the area located and arrested two sion of drug paraphernalia, Moses Moses said a witness saw two men nearby. Troopers said one was the office.

> Jeffrey W. Murphy, 27, Goodland, was arrested for burglary, on charges by Thomas County At-

said. He said Charles D. Mitchell, glary, theft and criminal trespass.

They were being held in the Thomas County Jail awaiting a decision

GYM, from Page 1a

and I think we'll enjoy him." In other school business:

 Selby, transportation supervisor Bob Harkins, activities bus driver Rick Murray, and board members Danny Whalen and Ron Schilling went to Dallas Fort Worth on Wednesday to look at a new activity bus for the district.

Selby said they plan to look at quite a few buses, ranging from \$135,000 to \$165,000, at ABC Bus years," Selby said. Sales. The board has already looked at pictures of a few buses from the same company.

"These are all used buses," Selby said

Despite some winter weather earlier this week, the group flew down,

in the First National Blank's airplane, piloted by Chuck Hall and Larry McCants, to shop for buses and came back the same day.

"We saw a lot of buses and we have lots of questions," Selby said.

He said the board planned to look at another bus at Kearney, Neb., Thursday or today.

The board plans to continue extra Monday sessions to complete changes to the Policy Handbook.

"It hasn't been changed in like 10

He added the changes are mostly consolidating lengthy wording into fewer pages or paragraphs.

The changes, Selby said, are mostly minor, but they help to fill legal requirements.

'It's a lot of little things," he said.



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