

School board candidates talk about the issues

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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 high school there, he went on to

Candidates: Enrollment, money major school issues

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We need to meet the challenges of our state funding."

Although none of the candidates expressed an interest in going into the schools and "shaking things up," each looked forward to working on the problems the district faces.

"We've got a problem with declining enrollment," Short said. "It's going to be tense for the next several years. We hope that we stabilize."

He said small towns hold on to their schools to survive, and he will work to keep Goodland's open.

"We've gotta do what's best for kids," he said. "Kids are our future. I think there's no better way to survive."

DeJong said he wants to strengthen our schools to attract more people to Goodland.

"I see in the future that we're at an important juncture for our town and especially our school," he said. "If we have the best education around, we can draw from all around."

DeJong said he is looking to make Goodland a place where people want to move because of good schools and a safe community.

"I'm concerned about our community declining," he said. "Kids are our No. 1 way (to

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.

"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 waiting 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 be 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.

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 board.

"I'm running for community involvement," 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 from high school here in 1984.

After school, House went to Kansas State University where he earned a degree in geography in 1991. He came back to town where he has farmed ever since.

House has done some homework, sitting in on some meetings to better understand how the school board works.

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

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Traffic in every direction has to come to a halt since the stop light at 12th and Main is set in a flashing red light mode and will be for another six to eight weeks.

Charles Bandel, superintendent of electrical distribution with the city, said the light has been switched over to flash for about a week now

and will stay that way until workers can replace the \$5,000 electronic controller.

The problems started, Bandel said, about a month ago when overnight the system switched from a timed controller to a flashing red light.

He said workers originally thought the light had malfunctioned because of cold weather.

Over the next few weeks, he said, the light worked on and off, but after days of warmer weather and continued problems, Bandel decided the electronic controller had to be replaced.

"Finally it just went out on us," he said. Crews set the light to flashing red until they get the new equipment.

The manufacturer, he said, does

not repair old fixtures so the city was forced to buy a new one.

"We need a whole new controller," he said. "I tried to see if they'd overhaul it, and they said they 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 2001, he added.

Gym contract, money in school board's hands

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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 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 years," Selby said.

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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