

Screenings offered here

Lifeline is offering screenings to residents living in and around Goodland to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture on Saturday, Aug. 4, at the First United Methodist Church at 1116 Sherman St.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability. Eighty percent of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke. Preventive ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke and screenings are fast, noninvasive, painless, affordable and convenient.

Screenings identify potential

cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women.

Packages start at \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (877) 237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Commissioners halt maintenance on Rd. 11

ROAD, from Page 1

- Examined the south door of the county courthouse. While working on the door, a contractor discovered the concrete was flaking off. The commissioners decided to get someone out to look at the door and give them some options.
- Decided to hire an information technology specialist for the county. It was suggested the IT

person could also handle billing for the ambulance department. Enfield said the person should be hired as soon as possible, so if they did take over the billing, they could be trained in time for when the county takes over the ambulance service in January.

Strnad said she and County Clerk Janet Rumpel had found \$40,000 in the budget, which can be used for the IT person's salary to finish out the year.

State candidates set top priorities

STATE, from Page 1

prominence because of Gov. Sam Brownback's focus on water legislation. He said he is proud of the eight or nine water policy initiatives developed by his committee.

Ostmeyer was also on the redistricting committee. He said he is willing to take the blame for the Senate's failure to pass a map.

"We weren't able to pull it off," he said. "I wasn't able to convince my colleagues."

Ostmeyer said he also helped work out a compromise on home-owned carnivals, which had been facing stricter safety requirements.

Shield's question for the Senate candidates was "What is the proper role of state government and what should its top priority be?"

Ostmeyer said the budget should be the first priority. The Legislature was able to put a surplus in the budget this year, he said.

"With the governor's tax plan I feel that we're on the right direction," he said.

The other priority should be education, Ostmeyer said. Many of the counties in the 40th District are down to one school per county, he said, and they can't get cut any further.

Miller said the first priority of the Legislature should be to make to the state succeed. Miller cited the Kansas Legislative Research Committee, who said that the state could have as much as a \$2 million budget deficit. Miller said the Legislature's role is to fix that budget.

Fixing the budget may take either serious cuts or raising taxes, he said.

Shield then introduced the House candidates. Both Rick Billinger of Goodland and Ward Cassidy from St. Francis are incumbents, each having served one term in the House.

Billinger spoke first. He is originally from Park and moved to Goodland in the 1970s. He was elected by the 121st District's Republican Committee to fill Rep. Jim Morrison's post after his death in December, 2010.

Billinger said the Legislature needs to stick behind schools, ag-

riculture and hospitals. It has been doing a good job with the budget, he said. There was a deficit in 2010, and the Legislature was able to get to a surplus this year. However, he said, the state can't afford to keep spending money and expect future generations to pick up the debt. Billinger said he did not vote in favor of the governor's tax plan, because it was projected to result in a budget deficit down the road he favors property tax relief over income tax relief.

With many new legislators Billinger said there will be a lot of opportunity for people with only one term under their belts to get choice committee assignments.

Cassidy, a former principal and current school counselor, beat a 14-year incumbent for the old 120th District in 2010. He said his first priority was to get on the appropriations committee, which at the time had no members from west of Salina. He was able to get on the committee during this year's session, and said before long he had people listening to his western Kansas perspective.

With all of the incumbents running against each other, Cassidy said he might be the only one next year who has any background in school finance.

Shield asked the House candidates the same question, "What is the proper role of state government and what should its top priority be?"

Cassidy said his priority is western Kansas. He said he likes to get involved in issues that affect people in western Kansas. For instance he has been talking to the Board of Cosmetology about the length of time it takes to get board certified. Currently it can take up to six months, he said, which can hurt people's chances of getting jobs.

"That's what I like to do: get involved," he said.

Billinger agreed that the priority should be western Kansas, and other than that, legislators should focus on the budget.

"You can't spend what you don't have," he said. "And with 60 or more new legislators, we'll have a lot more say."

County hopefuls tout business experience

COUNTY, from Page 1

people will make all kinds of campaign promises.

"I have a proven track record," he said. "Not only in law enforcement but in small business."

Challenger Burton Pianalto is currently the investigator for the Sherman County Attorney's office. He was born on a farm near Bird City. He spent 14 years in the Sheriff's Department and holds degrees in criminal justice and communications.

Pianalto said he believes the Sheriff's Department is top notch, there is a need for change. There are many changes coming in law enforcement, he said, especially in technology, and a sheriff must be able to keep up.

Pianalto said the Sheriff's Department needs to work side-by-side with churches, businesses and other law enforcement agencies. He spoke about the need to stop drug trafficking, saying Sheriff Butts had taken money out drug enforcement.

The first question for the sheriff candidates was about budget and personnel management experience.

Pianalto said he has worked with finances and budgets before. He said that even though Sheriff Butts had returned money to the county, that means that he over-budgeted by that amount. He also pointed to \$112,000 in wages that have not been paid, and said that means the department is not fully staffed.

Butts used some of his time to respond to Pianalto, saying he had not taken any money out of drug enforcement, and that Pianalto might be referring to the Quad County Drug Task Force, a joint venture with other counties that has since been dissolved.

Butts also said that he had been in small business before going into law enforcement, and he believed his budgeting record is very good, and

the county commissioners, past and present, will back him up on that.

Question two was "What should the top priority of the Sheriff's Department be?"

Butts reiterated that while there is a lot of other crimes, such as domestic abuse, his top priority is drug enforcement.

"I hate to say it, because Sherman County is my home, but we can find drugs every day of the week," he said.

He also said a priority is the investigators position, which Pianalto holds. Butts said the investigator has done nothing for the Sheriff's Department or the Goodland Police, and the position needs to be reabsorbed by his department.

Pianalto said his priority would be to bring some stability back to the Sheriff's Department.

"How can you have a good team if you have people leaving all the time," he said.

He also said a priority is to partner with the community to teach good behavior, to help today's youth avoid being tomorrow's offenders.

Schilders then introduced the candidates for county commissioner from District 2. All three are neighbors and live north of Edson.

Lowell Coon said he was born and raised in Sherman County. After graduating from Goodland High School in 1989, he attended Colby Community College, the University of Kansas, Regis University and the University of Nebraska. He has owned and operated a business in Manhattan, worked at Fort Riley and several places in Colorado, and for the past several years has taught biology in Colby.

Coon said he has been working more and more on his farm, and plans to do so exclusively this year instead of teaching in Colby.

Coon said he believes there are many things that need to be addressed in the county, and one of the top issues is making sure people are

comfortable living and working in Sherman County.

Paul Flanders said he is the fifth generation of his family to work on his farm north of Edson.

Flanders said it is important to keep up with roads and bridges as well as emergency services. Another priority is to look at all of the county's finances, and it is important to elect someone who can take the time and do the research.

"I certainly don't know everything," he said. "But I'm eager to get in there and learn."

Ken Klemm is a rancher and business owner. He said it is important to know how someone thinks, because once they are elected, the public has to trust them to do the job, since most don't go to commission meetings. Klemm said he looks at everything through the U.S. Constitution.

"The county is run pretty darn good," he said, "but its important to look at everything from a constitutional viewpoint."

That viewpoint, he said, will help determine if county commission decisions are infringing on people's rights, or keeping them dependent on government.

Klemm said his loyalty would be to the citizens, and not to any cliques.


The first question was "what oversight should the county commissioners have in developing standards for the county departments?"

Klemm said the first thing is to hire good people for the department heads, and then give them room to work.

"We can't micromanage," he said.

Citizens also need to have the freedom to solve their own problems, he said. For instance, Klemm said his area had a prairie dog problem, and so the landowners formed a committee and took care of the problem.

Flanders said the role of the coun-



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