





| PV Biographs! | What would you do if you found a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? | What is your ideal springbreak vacation? | What's your favorite mythical creature? Why? | What's the most embarrassing thing to happen to you at school? |
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|  <p>Freshman Kayla Weers</p> | Spend it. | Hanging with friends and working. | Flying monkeys. Because I like monkeys and they can fly. | Fell down the stairs in front of everyone. |
|  <p>Sophomore Daniel Younger</p> | Buy a car and put the rest in the bank. | Go to Japan. | Dragons because they can fly and breathe fire. | I laughed so hard in math that I cried. |
|  <p>Junior Paige Clinton</p> | I would jump up and down because everyone had always said it was impossible; then, of course, spend it. | Go someplace where it's warm and just relax and sit in the sun. | Centaur because they look cool. | In middle school I was sitting at the lunch table and forgot I opened my milk, so I shook it, and it went all over my white shirt. |
|  <p>Senior Caley Penn</p> | I would get all I could from it, and then I would go on a wild shopping spree [and] buy everything I see. | South Padre. Or anywhere with a beach is fun. | Centaur. Sagittarius, that's my Zodiac sign. | When I was squatting in weights, they departed me and I couldn't do anything about it because I dropped the bar. |

Candidates for the upcoming election give reasons to be elected for the school board

Jama Hambleton Co-Editor

Every four years, select members of USD 362 participate in the election of the school board. This year, residents of district areas 4 (Linn Valley, parts of New Lancaster and Jingo), 5 (Goodrich, parts of Centerville and Parker) and 6 (La Cygne) will get to vote in this election.

Kay Voorhees, an owner of a small farm outside of Linn Valley, is running for the Area 4 seat. She is a former Vice President and Trust Operations Officer with Commerce Bank with an "extensive" background in the trust/financial services industry. She is also a substitute teacher in the Prairie View school district, and an adult education teacher in Paola.

When not working, Voorhees (a Miami County 4-H Master Volunteer) participates in multiple 4-H organizations. She has been a leader of a 4-H community club since 2000, and is currently the treasurer of the Miami County 4-H Foundation.

Along with her experience in finance and education, Voorhees is also a mother and taxpayer. She believes that all these things (if she is elected) will help her to relate with the district's students, parents and teachers.

"I tend to be able to see both sides," Voorhees explained. "People tend to think I'm pretty fair."

If elected to the school board, Voorhees would like to use her skills to help the district through the current economic recession, but thinks that any problems within the district should be addressed by the entire school board.

One problem that Voorhees has noticed is the apparent conflict between the teachers and administration/board, something that she would like to see resolved in favor of the students.

Voorhees' opponent for the Area 4 seat is Chris Van Tyle, a resident of La Cygne and a PV graduate. Van Tyle graduated from Prairie View High School in 1994 and received a Bachelor's degree in education. He was a teacher for two years before returning to the family farm full-time.

"Having been a teacher, I [give] insight to the other side."

As the current president of Kansas's Farm Bureau, Van Tyle also has experience with financing. He currently travels with a group, presenting to junior high school students about agriculture.

With the current turn in the economy, Van Tyle thinks the school should still try to offer as many programs as possible, keeping students and faculty happy.

"Our main goal is to make our school district a productive one," said Van Tyle, "one that offers the most opportunities for the students, as well as the people working in the district."

Van Tyle emphasized that by satisfying the teachers by working hard while on the school board, the high school years would be more "positive."

Roger Sims, a resident of Parker, is running for the Area 5 seat. Sims was a member of the USD 362 school board from 1985 to 1993, and then later from 1997 to 2005, totaling 16 years on the school board.

"The reason I want to run for school board is that I believe my experience both on the board and in the classroom would help make the school board more accountable to students and parents in the school," said Sims.

Sims attended the University of Kansas for a bachelor's degree in journalism, and worked as an area newspaper writer for 16 years. He later became the news editor for *The Louisburg Herald* and then

The Osawatomie Graphic. He then came to work at Prairie View High School as an English teacher and publications advisor. Currently, he is working as a teacher at West Franklin High School.

"I think that as a teacher in the West Franklin district and a board member in the Prairie View district," stated Sims, "I can help students and parents in different ways."

If elected to the school board, Sims wants the schools to continue to meet the Standard of Excellence on state assessments. He also wants to repair damage done to the morale of teachers and staff of Prairie View, something he says is the lowest in the past two years. Another thing Sims would like to focus upon is the school's budget and cuts that have been made or going to be made.

"We need to make sure our education dollars are being spent efficiently in a way that we can get the most out of it for our students," said Sims. "The bottom line isn't that we've cut costs; it's that we've educated our students well while staying within budget."

However, Sims stated that the students still need to feel well-prepared for college and then the workforce.

Mike Gillespie is also running for the Area 5 seat. A current resident of Parker and a Prairie View graduate, Gillespie is also the father of two, Monetta and Cruz. Though Gillespie does not have any school board experience, he does, however, have a two-term experience on the Parker City Council from 20 years ago, and was also on the County Fire Board.

"There are new people with new ideas out there," said Gillespie.

Gillespie says that goals you may have set as an individual require the rest of the school board in order to accomplish. He does want to focus upon keeping the district in the best possible condition, therefore

keeping the interest in the education of its students, saying that the students are "the ones [who] are going to be taking care of us in our old age."

Gillespie believes that Prairie View has good teachers, some that try to make learning fun for the students, which Gillespie believes is a good thing for the district.

"Schools need to be a place where kids want to go," Gillespie explained.

Gillespie stated that there is apparently no mutual trust or respect on the current school board, something that should be gained back.

"Right now there are a lot of rumors and a lot of people upset," said Gillespie. "We need to be able to gain mutual trust and respect back on the school board. We need to get the district patrons involved."

Gillespie stressed that Prairie View is not the only school suffering from the economic recession, but hopes that those patrons are aware that no one's "going to come in and wave a magic wand and make it all better."

Susan Barrett is also running for the Area 5 seat. Barrett wishes to ensure a better quality education for the USD 362 students. Barrett attended Pittsburg State University and did graduate work at the University of Kansas for behavior-modification.

Barrett has also taught for Fort Scott Community College, thus giving her the "teachers' perspective." She has done psychology work with La Cygne Elementary and Prairie View Middle School. She is currently on the YMCA Advisory Board and Osawatomie Chamber Board and has worked previously on other boards. She has also been a part of parent/teacher groups and participated in fundraising for the district elementary schools.

Barrett is currently the Director

of Community Relations and Development for Tri-Ko, Inc., co-owner of Barrett's Automotive and owner of her own photography studio.

Barrett, too, wishes to focus upon the current state of the morale of the school board, saying that the school board should be "responsive and receptive" to everyone in the district.

"We should all work together on the school board," said Barrett. "It is more important now than ever that we all work together, so that quality education continues and is not compromised during this time of increasing budget demands."

Barrett stressed that the school board is a team that should "be able to work together" to guarantee public relations and budget demands.

"We need to research what we cut," explained Barrett. "You...are going to college, and we can't let anything hinder that."

Wade Teagarden, a lifelong resident of La Cygne, is the only candidate for the District Area 6 seat. Though he says that he has no particular qualifications to be a good school board member, he does have financial experience, having worked on several Miami County 4-H boards and in a bank for several years.

Using his financial skills, Teagarden would like to see the current budget issues ironed out and teachers' contracts completed. Overall, Teagarden would not make any changes to the curriculum or programs that the Prairie View school district currently offers.

Teagarden believes that the school board is the kind of job that anyone should "take a turn at," but it is still an important job.

Elections will be held April 7, 2009.