

POLICE

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was doing some paperwork. On Thursday, I was cleaning out my office."

Kimball said he returned to Centerville for several reasons. He finds that local residents are friendly. He likes the town's location, its housing and its variety of services and activities.

The timing was also right for his family, Kimball said. He and his wife, Melanie, have a five-year-old daughter, Emma, who will start kindergarten next fall.

"It hasn't been a hard transition to come back," he said. "The streets and the layout of the town are all the same, and I remember the people and the names again."

Kimball said he wasn't planning any formal presentations at the school this spring. However, he wants to get to know the town's young people, and he wants them to do the same.

"I plan to do a school walk-through. I want the kids to see the town cop," he said. "I also want to talk with the kids when they cruise around town at night."

Kimball has worked well in his first month on the job, said Centerville mayor Jay Ostrem. "Brion is reliable and responsible," the mayor said.

Ostrem added that Kimball and the community benefit by already having a sense of familiarity with each other.

"We have known each other, which really helps," the mayor said.

Ostrem said he welcomes the return of a full-time police chief. "In the past seven months, we have used a part-time officer with county support," he said.

In addition to working together on patrols, the City of Centerville and the Turner County sheriff's office share another connection. Ostrem serves not only as mayor but as a deputy and investigator with the sheriff's office.

"It's been a team effort with Sheriff (Byron) Nogelmeier," Ostrem said.

Kimball said he likes that sense of teamwork and having a back-up if needed for a call or to cover if he's out of town or on vacation.

Kimball knew he wanted to get into law enforcement after he graduated from Sioux Falls Washington High School in 1993.

He studied criminal justice at Killian Community College in Sioux Falls. He worked for 1 1/2 years as a corrections officer at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

He has also worked with security for a private business and as chief of police at Kadoka and Colman.

Law enforcement has become a family affair, as Kimball's brother works with the Sioux Falls Police Department.

Kimball enjoys working in small towns, although he admitted the hours can become long. "I'm a workaholic," he said with a grin.

Rural police work carries many benefits, Kimball said.

"Small-town law enforcement is more personal, where you know everybody. It's laid-back," he said. "I get to work outside, which is nice. I also like being able to do something new every day. You can't say that about a lot of jobs."

However, small-town police work can also have its hazards, Kimball said.

"It's a dangerous position. There are problems with domestic disturbances and calls involving alcohol, like bar fights," he said. "You never know what you are going to find."

And the small-town familiarity can also create problems, Kimball said.

"It becomes more difficult, because the person you ticket or arrest is nearly always somebody that you know and consider a friend," he said. "But you need to treat everybody the same."

Law enforcement officers enjoy a special fraternity, Kimball said, noting he knows many people who wear the badge in the region and across the state. But he also knows many officers who start their careers in rural areas and end up quitting or moving to larger communities.

"We are working on the retention of officers in small towns," he said.

Kimball said he sees himself spending his career in rural communities. He doesn't feel the urge to patrol in urban areas.

"I have always liked the (rural) people," he said. "I have worked in small towns, and I have stayed in small towns."

Ostrem, the Centerville mayor, said he's glad that Kimball has taken a liking to small towns and has returned to his town.

"There have been a lot of positive comments since Brion returned," Ostrem said. "We are happy to have him back."

RACES

From Page 1A

court clerk between incumbent Janet Wiechelman and challenger Sally Kneiff.

On the Democratic ticket, voters will decide the primary for District 1 commissioner between Terry Pinkelman and Merle Tramp. The seat represents the northern one-third of Cedar County.

A new commissioner is guaranteed, as incumbent Frederick Pinkelman of the Wymot, Neb., area is not running for re-election.

The third commissioner, Marlen Kraemer of Coleridge, is not up for election this year. Kraemer has served as commissioner since 1985 and represents the southern one-third of the county.

The primary for district court clerk covers the entire county, while the two commission primary races will be decided only by voters in the respective districts, Dowling said.

Randolph voters will also decide a ballot measure, asking whether to impose a 1 percent sales tax. The first \$67,000 would go toward a downtown improvement paving project, with the remainder going toward property-tax relief.

In addition, the City of Randolph would be permitted to increase its restricted funds budget above the allowable growth by such amounts collected by the sales tax.

This year, city, school and village candidates in Cedar County advance directly to the November election, Dowling said.

Cedar County has 6,209 registered voters, including 3,051 Republicans; 2,273 Democrats and 885 non-partisan (independent) voters.

Dowling hopes for one change after the 2010 elections. For the past 10 years, Cedar County has been split between the First and Third congressional districts, which means parts of the county receive different ballots. Dowling hopes the county becomes reunited after this year's census.

"Every 10 years, they do the census and redistrict. We are up for redistricting after this year," he said. "We are lobbying hard, so that hopefully we don't stay split up as a county. Only two counties in the entire state of Nebraska are split up — Cedar and Sarpy, which is the Omaha area."

To the west of Dowling, neighboring Knox County Clerk Joann Fischer also sees interest shaping up for county and local races.

"We have had 114 Early Voters, and I don't think I will have many more," she said. "It's hard to say what the turnout will be at the polls. We have several local elections that I think will draw certain parties to the polls."

The Republican primary features the sheriff's race, which has drawn three candidates: Doug Salmen, Don Henery and Matt J. Gartner. The winner will face Democrat Mark A. Krepel in the

general election for a four-year term.

A new sheriff is guaranteed, as incumbent Jim Janacek chose not to run for re-election.

The other GOP primary race at the county level features Norman Mackeprang against Ernest Ibach for District 5 supervisor. No Democrat has filed for the office, but write-in candidates can appear on the general election ballot.

No primary will be held for the District 3 Supervisor race, Fischer said.

Knox County has 3,100 registered Republicans, 2,045 registered Democrats and 815 registered non-partisans.

Some Knox County voters will also cast ballots in other races or

measures, Fischer said.

A portion of Knox County residents will vote in the Plainview school board race, Fischer said.

The Plainview school board race features eight candidates: Krista Hanks, Gale Retzlaff, Alden Zuhike, Lucy Christiansen Tim Knaak, Marilyn Elwood, Jennie Leiting and Corey Dahl.

Voters will choose up to three candidates, Fischer said. The top three finishers advancing to the general election, where the top three will be elected to four-year terms, she said.

The Tri-County Hospital election is a vote for two candidates and will be decided in the primary, Fischer said.

The Orchard Fire Levy issue is for the Orchard Fire District that extends into a small portion of the

southwest corner of Knox County, Fischer said.

Voters in the Verdigr and Hill townships will decide levy issues, Fischer said. "They will be decided in the primary and are decided by majority votes," she said.

Fischer expects the primary election to go well. Unofficial results will be posted on the county Web site, likely around 9:30 or 10 p.m. Canvassing will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the courthouse in Center, Neb.

"I can say the work in preparing for the election has gone smoothly, and I anticipate Election Day will go smoothly also," she said.

Results will be posted on Election Night on the respective Web sites of www.co.cedar.ne.us and www.co.knox.ne.us.

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