

# Quotables: Local candidates speak out at forum



Kathleen Barbosa /Index

Local candidates for district three state representative speak during last Thursday's forum at the El Kadir Shrine Club sponsored by the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce. The forum included candidates from races including County Commissioner, Public Administrator, State Representative and more.

"It's the right thing to do, oh and by the way, it would bring millions of dollars into Missouri. Those are Missouri tax dollars we can bring home where they belong."

— Rebecca McClanahan, Democratic candidate for district three state representative, about expanding Medicaid in Missouri

"I don't think it's the way to solve the needs of education. We need to get the economy working in a more positive way and make sure more people are employed."

— Nate Walker, Republican candidate for district three state representative, about Proposition B

"Everybody deserves life liberty and pursuit of happiness and with that it makes every individual stronger and a better person"

— T. Jack Ward, Democratic candidate for Public Administrator



"[Public Administrator is] a position that has a positive impact on the lives of many different people. I would strive to be compassionate where compassion is required, while exercising firmness when a situation requires a firm hand."

— Rhonda Ward, Republican candidate for Public Administrator



## Sheriff candidates discuss election platforms

By Paige Yungermann, Assistant News Editor



**Democrat  
Larry Logston**

Larry Logston, Democratic candidate for Adair County Sheriff, is running with the goal to increase revenue, combat the methamphetamine problem and ensure proper training for members of law enforcement.

Logston said the first thing he plans to accomplish if elected is to boost morale throughout the Sheriff's office.

"The morale is pretty low right now," he said. "On day one, I'm going to go in, talk to the deputies, see what works, what doesn't work, anything I can do to make their jobs easier."

Logston said he has 14 years of law enforcement experience. He has a Criminal Justice degree, has worked for Missouri probation and parole, and has worked as the Adair County Chief Deputy.

Logston said the budget is one of the biggest issues of the upcoming election. He said he plans to generate revenue by fully utilizing the jail. Logston said the jail currently is being filled to half of its 65-inmate capacity. If elected, Logston said he

plans to talk with Sheriffs from surrounding counties about sending inmates to the Adair County jail. He said many inmates from surrounding counties currently are being sent to the jail in Pattonsburg, Mo., and the more inmates being housed in the Kirksville jail, the greater the revenue for the Adair County Sheriff's office.

He said he will use this revenue increase to fight the methamphetamine problem. Logston said he plans to hire a canine unit and a full-time investigator.

Another issue he said he plans to address is deputy training. He said he will make sure all deputies are properly trained to ensure safety and to make sure citizen's rights are not violated.

Logston said one challenge of the campaign is that his opponent, incumbent Robert Hardwick, has raised more money. Because of this, Angie Logston, Larry's wife, said they are campaigning door-to-door and making their own signs to save money.

"Hard work is going to win this election," Logston said. "My reputation, my hard work and my committee's hard work on this election is going to win this election. I don't believe that any amount of money can buy an election."

Grace March, Larry's Campaign Manager, said his involvement with the community proves his dedication to it. She said Logston is the vice president of the Kirksville School Board and is on the

Kirksville Parks and Recreation Board. March also served with him as an Adair County Deputy, a job she said gives him the experience necessary to serve as Sheriff.

Angie said because of her husband's friendship with several members of the Adair County law enforcement and his experience as Chief Deputy, he knows what needs to be done in the Sheriff's office.

"The deputies want a change," Angie said. "They need a strong leader."

Republican Sheriff Robert Hardwick is running for reelection to maintain the changes he made when elected to office four years ago.

Hardwick said the Sheriff's office was chaotic when he came into office, Hardwick said. He said equipment was broken, checks needed to be mailed, vehicles were broken and files needed to be processed.

"It was like everybody quit working," Hardwick said. "I don't want this office to go back to that, and I want to continue with the modernization of the Adair County Sheriff's office that all my employees and I have worked hard to do."

Hardwick currently is finishing his first four year term as Sheriff. He said he previously has served in the military for 10 years, worked for the Texas Department of Public Safety as a state trooper and corporal, and worked for the Kirksville Police Department.

"I love what I do," Hardwick said. "I'm passionate about what I do. I'm passionate about helping people and working with this community."

He said he plans to continue working closely with his staff to keep the budget balanced. Hardwick said he also will continue to combat the methamphetamine problem by working with the Northeast Missouri Drug Task Force and area law enforcement agencies.

"The community plays a vital role in law enforcement," Hardwick said. "You have to have the support of your community, and we have very good support with the community."

Coe Ann Hardwick, Robert's wife, said her husband has supporters because he works long hours and often leaves during the middle of the night to check on someone who calls for help, even though other officers already are going out to address the situation.



**Republican  
Robert "Bob" Hardwick**

"He'll say 'I think I need to go,' and he'll jump up and get on his clothes and gear, and he'll go and see about whoever it is, especially if it's someone he thinks needs some extra help," Coe Ann said.

Dave Young, who has worked with Hardwick in law enforcement, said Hardwick's experience serving for four years as Sheriff makes him the ideal candidate to serve during the next term.

"Like any job, it takes a while to break in," Young said. "[Hardwick] was an experienced officer, and he's even more polished and experienced now."

Hardwick said the opportunities he has to help others while working as Adair County Sheriff during the past four year are memories he will never forget.

"That's what we do here," he said. "We take care of people. I'm very blessed. I enjoy this community. I'm so proud of my employees. They work very, very hard."

**▮ We look at each item, and prioritize those items. We see what those priorities are and go from there.▮**

— Robert Hardwick  
About the budget