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By ROBERT PIERCE

• Leader & Times

On Feb. 11, two women will be contesting a seat on the Turpin School Board, Both have experience in the classroom, one as a full-time teacher and the other as a substitute.

Incumbent Tara Kirkhart brings 23 years as an educator to the table, and she said she is running for a second term to continue dedicating that perspective to the board and to continue shaping the improvements of Turpin, Okla., school board.



She added she believes her teaching experience is likewise valuable in decisions concerning policy issues such as teacher support, training, evaluations, job descriptions, materials to adopt, instructional programs, curriculum, standards and technology programs.

“You are one person bringing ideas, presenting them, listening to others and working together for the betterment of a school as a whole,” Kirkhart said.

Her challenger, Pam Bromlow, has been involved with the Turpin district for 14 years, serving eight of those as a substitute teacher. She has also volunteered as a coordinator for Box Tops for nine years, and with two sons who have spent the entirety of their secondary education at Turpin, she has likewise attended school board meetings as a guest since 2011.

“Having been a volunteer, employee and parent enables me to bring many perspectives to the table,” Bromlow said. “I think I can make a positive contribution.”

In addition to her time in the classroom, Kirkhart has taught at and attended a variety of state teaching conventions and has attended and participated in a variety of school board workshops over the past five years.

Kirkhart grew up on a farm outside of Turpin and graduated from Turpin High School. Two of her children, Chandler and Brenton, have graduated from THS, and a third, Annalynn, is scheduled to graduate in 2016.

Kirkhart, along with her husband, Roger, own and operate Panhandle Pizza in the Beaver County community, having started the business about six years ago.

Kirkhart graduated from Southwestern College in Winfield, and after having taught high school and grade school title reading in Minneola, she later taught at South Middle School in Liberal.

“Community involvement is important to me,” she said. “I have served on a great number of committees since 1985.”

As for Bromlow, her oldest son, Eli, recently graduated from THS, and the youngest, Eric, will finish his secondary education this year.

