

By ROBERT PIERCE • Daily Leader    There are now three candidates vying for the District No. 2 seat on the Seward County Commission currently held by incumbent Joyce Hibler.

Ada Linenbroker recently filed to run for the position, and she said one of her primary issues is controlling the county's spending. "I know we need to do things, and I want to do a lot of stuff if the community needs it, but if we don't have the money and the people say we don't have the money, that's one of the things," she said. "If people vote no for something, we're going to mean no."

Last week, the commission voted to begin work on drainage problems at the Seward County Fairgrounds, and Linenbroker believes this is a step in the right direction.

"I don't want to see the fair completely die away," she said. "I know they're working on redoing the fairgrounds, which is great. They do have problems with drainage out there."

Linenbroker said the bond issue recently passed for Southwest Medical Center will also benefit the community.

The board likewise recently approved a conditional use permit for wind farms in Seward County. Linenbroker said wind energy is critical for Southwest Kansas, but questions remain about who will pay for putting in transmission lines for wind farms.

"They're going to have to have something to take that power out of there," she said. "If they have to put new power lines up, who's going to have to foot that bill? Is it the taxpayers? How much is that going to cost. A lot of the wind farms don't have to pay property taxes."

Cooperation between city and county governments is something else Linenbroker would like to work on if she is elected.

"There's some projects that are so huge that it takes both groups to do some of the things," she said. "I would like to see them work more together."

The commissions of both the City of Liberal and Seward County are talking about having more meetings, which Linenbroker said will open the lines of communication between the two entities.

"If you don't talk to each other, how do you know what the other groups are doing?" she said. "Our community, if we want it to keep growing, we're going to have to keep working it."

Linenbroker said many people are leaving Liberal due to high taxes and expense rates.

"I hate to see people moving out of Liberal down across the state line just because it's too expensive to live here," she said. "I know I can't do it all, but I would like to see if there's some

way we can save on paying taxes.”

Candidates have until noon June 10 to file for positions on the county commission, and the primary will take place Aug. 3.