



10 pages

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## Huckabee wins county caucus



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Approximately 300 people attended the Thomas County Republican caucus Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee won the caucus. Those in atten-

dance had the opportunity to speak in favor of the candidate they supported.

### *Huckabee's tour stops help him lead Kansas*

TOPEKA (AP) — Conservatives control the important decisions within the Kansas Republican Party, and many of them don't seem ready to have John McCain as the GOP's presidential nominee.

They showed as much in Saturday's presidential caucuses, giving rival candidate Mike Huckabee an easy victory. Huckabee, the for-

mer Arkansas governor, captured nearly 60 percent of the vote, while McCain, the Arizona senator, received less than 24 percent. All 36 of the GOP National Convention delegates at stake went to Huckabee.

The results came only two days after national news reports — and some party leaders — began treating McCain as the party's pre-

sumed nominee. His closest rival, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, suspended his campaign, with McCain far ahead in the hunt for the 1,191 convention delegates needed for the nomination.

Conservatives have long attacked McCain over issues such as taxes, immigration and campaign finance reform. He's also drawn criticism for not support-

ing amendments to the U.S. Constitution to ban abortion and gay marriage. The same day Romney dropped out, Huckabee received the endorsement of Kansans for Life, the state's largest anti-abortion group. And the next day, on the eve of the caucuses, he came to Kansas for rallies that packed supporters into venues in Olathe, Wichita, Topeka and Garden City.

By Everett Robert

Colby Free Press

Close to 300 people showed up Saturday at the Colby Community Building for the first Kansas Presidential caucus in 20 years.

With Ill. Senator Barack Obama capturing the Democratic nomination on Super Tuesday, the Republican's 36 delegates went to former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Huckabee received a total of 11,627 votes in Kansas, with 152 of those from the Thomas County region.

Republicans from Sherman, Sheridan, Rawlins, Decatur, Cheyenne, Wallace, and Thomas counties were present.

Other candidates included Ariz. Sen. John McCain who got 64 votes from area voters and a total of 4,587 statewide.

Representative Ron Paul of Texas had a total of 16 ballots cast for him in Colby and a state-wide total of 2,182.

In a distant fourth place was former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Dr. Alan Keyes who captured five votes for a total of 288.

People commented they felt it was their duty as Americans to serve their country by voting.

"I could be sleeping, but I wanted to participate in the democratic process," said Joel Sowers of Colby.

Representatives of the candidates were each given 10 minutes to speak on behalf of their choice. Representatives for Ron Paul spoke first, followed by McCain, Huckabee, and then Dr. Keyes. If the full 10 minutes were not used, members of the audience were given a chance to speak on behalf of the candidate. They were given one minute to speak, and could only speak on behalf of their can-

didate and couldn't attack an opposing candidate.

Josiah Allen of Rexford said the candidates, especially Huckabee, addressed the issues that were important to him, abortion and foreign policy.

Steve Ziegelmeier, Thomas County Republican chairman, said the caucus went well considering most people present had never experienced a caucus before but was a little disappointed by the turnout.

"I understand that people were busy and this was at a certain time," he said.

He also said certain candidates who have already dropped out may have affected the turnout.

Rep. John Faber said the caucus went great but, "Next time we need to look into providing advance balloting, especially if it is going to be a regional gathering like this one was," he said.

National attention was on Kansas during this caucus and Faber commented said this made, "Kansans feel important."

This also attracted all three major candidates to Kansas last week. On Friday Huckabee made stops in Olathe, Topeka, Wichita, and Garden City. Chairman Ziegelmeier said Kansas role was "huge" and Faber said Kansas being a "winner take all state attracted the candidates here"

Voters felt the same way. "Kansas plays a role, especially now, and we have the chance to express our views with our caucus. Every vote counts," said Joan Albers of Colby.



Ziegelmeier

## Committee to find district Boy Scout executive director

By John Van Nostrand

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The troops are here. They just need a leader.

A committee has been formed to find an executive director of the Boy Scouts troops in the Buffalo Bill District, a six-county region of northwest Kansas.

"We've gone at least 20 years without an executive," said Ron Boller.

Boller held an invitation-only, informational meeting about the position Saturday in Rexford, the day after the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boys Scouts in the United States.

An executive director oversees programs, recruits, memberships and funds of the district. Boller said the troops in Buffalo Bill District have been sharing an executive director with a district in Hays, but that has slowed the growth of the Buffalo Bill District in those areas.

"It's been better than nobody, but it does have a negative impact," he said.

Boller said places like Brewster and Golden Plains have not had Boy Scout troops. Boller recently helped start a troop for Golden Plains school students.

"We are losing our Scout legacy. What do you do," he said.

Currently, there are about 300 Scouts among Thomas, Wallace, Cheyenne, Sherman, Rawlins and Logan counties, which make up the Buffalo Bill District. About one-third of the Scouts are in Thomas County. The Buffalo Bill District is part of the Coronado Area Council based in Salina. Coronado covers Kansas from about Salina, west to the Colorado border. There are about 4,000 scouts in the council.

There are seven Boy Scout troops and seven Cub Scout troops in the Buffalo Bill District.

Boller said he is proud of the Buffalo Bill District's 87 percent retention rate with its members. Retention rates are based on the percent of scouts who return the following year.

Boller said the Coronado Council has a strategic plan to create

and find an executive director. The committee is led by Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider who has a son who is an Eagle Scout, an accomplished level of scouting.

The committee will begin acquiring three years worth of financial pledges to establish the full-time executive director position. In addition, the committee will create an endowment to ensure the position will be long-term. The committee is expecting to work with the Thomas County Foundation with the endowment.

"The committee fully embraced this," Boller said.

Estimates for the Buffalo Bill District are \$100 per scout per year for a full-time executive director. Boy Scout's national headquarters will assist with the benefit package. An executive director must have a bachelor's degree and a history in scouting.

Fundraising will begin this spring. Plans are to have the director begin work in early 2009.

Boller, who is currently director of outreach at Shepherd's Staff



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boy Scout Andy Wood created a flame with flint and steel Saturday. Eight members of Boy Scout troop 140 plus two leaders drove to a farm along the Prairie Dog Creek for a 10- mile cross-country hike. A committee has been formed to find an executive director for the troops in the Buffalo Bill District, six counties in northwest Kansas.

Christian Conference and Retreat Center in Rexford. Prior to Shepherd's Staff, he had been in Boy

Scout administration for 23 years. Boller assists with a Cub Scout troop in Colby and in Rexford.

Additional meetings about the

position are expected to be held throughout the district in the near future. For more information, contact Kreider at 460-5400.

## Briefly

### Baseball benefit

A pancake feed from 7-1 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building will benefit the American Legion Baseball program.

Free-will donations will be accepted.

### Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m., Thursday, at the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds. Agenda items include: committee reports for building and grounds (bids on 4-H building addition); rodeo (contracts); parade (theme for 2008 fair and grand marshal); demolition derby; races; fair book (dairy classes, booth for 4-H clubs on drug prevention); Thomas County Community Foundation grant

application and committee sign-up board members. All meetings are open to the public.

### Mom's group to meet

Mothers of Preschoolers, also known as MOPS, will meet from 9 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, at Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. "MOPS is open to all moms with children ages 0-6 years old," said Denita Rodgers, one of the members. "At the meeting, discussion will be about ideas and tips for cooking on a budget." Childcare is provided. For questions, call Rodgers at 460-1325.

### Genesis sets meeting

The annual meeting of Genesis-Thomas County, Inc. will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, in the

conference room at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Avenue in Colby. The public is invited to attend.

### Discussion group Monday

Pioneer Memorial Library is sponsoring Clark Killion, professor of composition and director of the Writing Center in the English Department at Dodge City Community College. He will conduct a discussion group at 7 p.m., Monday, at the library, 375 W. Fourth St. The event is free and open to the public.

### Free tax help available

Senior citizens and low income individuals or families are encouraged to have their taxes done free of charge by an AARP representative. Alvin Volk of Colby is trained in helping fill out tax forms and is

available from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Thursdays, at Pioneer Memorial Library. Volk will help each Thursday through April 10. For questions, call 460-2645.

### Daffodil drive begins

American Cancer Daffodil Days is coming and orders may be placed until Thursday, Feb. 21. The daffodils will be delivered to Someplace Special in Colby around the first week in March, said Cathy Harrison, coordinating the event. Prices range from a bunch for \$10 to bouquet with vase, \$15. In addition, there is a "Bear and A Bunch," for \$25 and one-half and full cases of daffodils from \$250-\$400. For questions or to order, call Harrison at 460-2501; 462-2331; fax: 462-6242 or e-mail: harrison@st-tel.net

