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Friend says man will challenge Obama

By Kayla Cornett

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Candidate Randall Terry wants voters to know that they have a choice when it comes to a Democratic candidate for president, adding that he believes he has what it takes to beat President Barack Obama this summer.

However, Terry's antiabortion campaign has hit a snag in his plans to be on the ballot for the party's Kansas caucus on Satur-

day, April 14.

Anti-abortion activist Gary Boisclair, who is running for Congress in Minnesota as a Democrat, visited the *Colby Free Press* Thursday to discuss Terry's campaign. He said three states have denied Terry a spot on the ballot because they caved in to pressure from the Democratic National Committee.

According to *The Wichita Eagle*, the Kansas Democratic Party, along with the parties in Alaska and Wyoming, have ruled Terry ineligible for their ballots.

The Eagle reports that party attorney Joe Sandler said "Terry failed to meet two deadlines, one for naming his state representative and another for filing a plan to encourage participation in the caucus by potential delegates."

Boisclair said he thinks the Obama administration is threatened by Terry, who lives in Florida, and that is why the committee is pressuring state party officials to deny his candidacy.

He said Terry is the alternative candidate for Democrats whose voices haven't

been heard.

"Randall's giving a voice for those Democrats who have been pro-life all along and are underserved," Boisclair said.

He said Terry is using pictures and advertisements of aborted babies as a way to jolt voters into action. Boisclair said showing the ugly truth has driven previous movements, and Terry believes it will drive his campaign as well.

Terry will be visiting Kansas from Sunday to next Wednesday to promote his campaign.



Gary Boisclair



Randall Terry



OK, girl, you're up this time

Juniors Angela Ritter (left above) and Camron Spresser were selected by ticket votes to get a pie in the face Friday at the Golden Plains Junior Carnival. Andrew Luna (left) and Haydyn Best had the honor of delivering the goodies. Mia Betz (right) had her face painted by volunteer Melissa Ritter during the event at Golden Plains High School in Rexford.

JUDY ROGERS
Golden Plains High School

Fire kills two, burns homes west of Denver

CONIFER, Colo. (AP) — Bolstered by reinforcements, fire crews focused today on building containment lines around a seven-square-mile wildfire that destroyed dozens of homes in the mountains southwest of Denver and may have claimed two lives.

About 400 firefighters from several states, including expert hotshot teams, were at the blaze and fire managers hoped to get help from air tankers for a second straight day. The fire, which broke out Monday, has quickly spread because of strong winds. Until now, firefighters have been focused on protecting homes.

"We're going to try to take a bite out of this fire," Jefferson County sheriff's office spokeswoman Jacki Kelley said.

As crews dig lines around the fire's perimeter, a search team is using dogs to look for a woman missing in the fire zone. Her home was among 28 destroyed or damaged in the blaze.

Authorities believe the fire was likely sparked by embers from a

controlled burn set last week to clear vegetation in the hopes of preventing a wildfire.

The fire forced mandatory evacuations of 900 homes south of the commuter town of Conifer, about 25 miles southwest of downtown Denver. Residents of 6,500 more homes were warned Tuesday to be ready to leave since many homes are in winding canyons, and authorities wanted to give as much advance warning as possible.

Meanwhile, investigators are trying to determine whether the fire reignited from a controlled burn that was meant to reduce vegetation that could fuel a devastating blaze around homes and watersheds. The Colorado State Forest Service conducted a 35-acre burn in the region on Thursday — on land belonging to Denver's water authority — said forest service spokesman Ryan Lockwood.

Crews finished the effort Friday and patrolled the perimeter daily to ensure it was out, Lockwood

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GOP split stalls immigration bills

TOPEKA (AP) — Proposals for cracking down on illegal immigration in Kansas are foundering because of a split among majority Republicans in the state House, but House GOP leaders were under pressure today to get the bills moving.

House Speaker Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson told fellow Republicans during a caucus meeting that he'd prefer to avoid a debate on immigration because it would be divisive.

Some conservatives want the House to debate proposals favored by Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who helped draft tough immigra-

tion laws in Alabama and Arizona. Other, rural Republicans back a proposal from influential business groups to create a program to place some illegal immigrants in hard-to-fill jobs in agriculture and other industries.

Bills taking both approaches have stalled in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee.

Hall cites editor and rail leader

EMPORIA (AP) — Officials with the Kansas Hall of Fame planned to announce the first three members of the 2012 class of laureates today.

The announcement was set for 11 a.m. at the William Allen White House State Historic Site in Emporia. The rest of this year's honorees will be announced later.

The inductees include White, the famed Emporia publisher who became a national figure and a friend of presidents, and Cyrus K. Holliday, founder of Topeka and the fabled Santa Fe Railway, along with the railroad itself, now part of BNSF Railway.

The Kansas Hall of Fame opened last year at the Great Overland Station in Topeka to coincide with the state's 150th birthday. Its mission is to recognize outstanding Kansans.

This year's honorees will be inducted at a June 15 gala at the depot in North Topeka.

Levant manufacturer named 'Business of Year'

By Kayla Cornett

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RoadRuner Manufacturing in Levant recently received the Kansas Small Business Development Center's Existing Business of the Year award for the region and its owners were honored at the plant Tuesday.

Brad and Marie Skolout, owners of RoadRuner, received a plaque and certificate from Megan Horinek, business consultant for the regional center in Hays.

Fifteen other businesses were recognized earlier at a ceremony in Topeka on March 13. These businesses were selected from more than 2,500 that received services from

the center statewide in 2011.

Horinek said she nominated RoadRuner because she knew they were a good business.

The company, which manufactures trailers, was founded in 2000 and now has five employees.

Brad Skolout said he began work on re-designing, building and selling pod trailers, which are used for hauling trees. The product line has grown to include sprayer trailers and combine trailers with sales in 30 states and even one in Nigeria, he said.

"The (Small Business Development Center) has always been very supportive and offered great programs to help with our business," he said.

Brad Skolout is a member of the Thomas County Fair Board and he and his wife are members of Trinity Lutheran Church and the Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.



Megan Horinek (left), business consultant for the Kansas Small Business Development Center, presented Brad and Marie Skolout of RoadRuner Manufacturing with a plaque and certificate Tuesday for the center's regional Existing Business of the Year award. Their son smiled as the crowd of about 20 at the firm's plant in Levant applauded.

