



CAUCUSES SEE RECORD VOTER TURNOUT



KENDRA JOHNSON/GAZETTE

Over 1,000 votes were cast in the Republican Caucus held at the Anderson Building on Saturday.

By JESSIE WAGONER
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Voters came out in large numbers on Saturday to caucus for the presidential candidate of their choice. Passionate voters waited in line to make their opinion known at both the Republican and Democrat caucuses with close to 2,000 votes cast in total.

Republican caucus

The Republican caucus was held at the Anderson Building on the Lyon County Fairgrounds. Voters cast their vote by private ballot. Karen Hartenbower, caucus chair, said voter turnout was much larger than in previous years.

"In our packet for the caucus the state sent us 500 ballots and said 'be prepared that you might have to print more,' we have printed 700 more," Hartenbower said. "We have

had lines out the door, it's as huge here as it is in Kansas and all over the United States. This is my third caucus and before we'd have like 200 people."

There were representatives for Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio at the caucus. They each had 10 minutes to present information about the candidate. Donald Trump had a representative sign up, however the representative did not make an appearance at the caucus.

Jessie and Bobbi Niedfeldt from Allen attended the caucus to support Cruz.

"I've been following Ted Cruz for a couple years in the senate, there's a few issues you know that are very important," Jessie Niedfeldt said. "Second Amendment is important, following someone who believes in that is important and he stood up against the Supreme Court for that. We're Christians, born again, and



KENDRA JOHNSON/GAZETTE

Sage TeBeest speaks on behalf of Bernie Sanders during the Democratic Caucus held at Emporia High School on Saturday. Sanders received 562 votes and Hillary Clinton received 177 votes.

the things he supports are definitely what we believe in that are essential. Since I've been voting he's the most specific on what he would do on taking care of major issues."

Gayle Woodhouse of Emporia cast her vote for Cruz as well. This was the first time Woodhouse had participated in a caucus.

"We need to win, and we can't afford to let it go to the democrats this year," Woodhouse said.

By the end of the caucus republicans had claimed Cruz as their big winner in Lyon County. Cruz

won with 433 votes. Trump had 263 votes, Rubio had 197 votes and John Kasich ended with 149 votes. There was a total of 1,147 votes cast, the largest amount to ever participate in the Lyon County Republican caucus.

Democrat caucus

The Democrat caucus was held at Emporia High School. Rather than private ballot the democrats lined up for their candidate and were counted. Former senator Jerry Karr said this was the largest caucus

he has seen.

"I chaired and organized the 2008 caucus," Karr said. "We were out at the Best Western and it was standing room only with about 200 people...This is a great turnout, I would have guessed about half of this number wise. The diversity we have here today too is great."

Representatives for both Hilary Clinton and Bernie Sanders had an opportunity to speak in favor of the candidates. Supporters for both can-

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MARCHING FOURTH

Lady Hornets win 4th straight MIAA Tourney

By CORBIN MCGUIRE
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KANSAS CITY, MO. — Wherever Kelly Moten and Kathryn Flott go, a piece — specifically a small sliver of nylon — of their postseason accomplishments usually travels with them.

The two added another traveling memento to their collection Sunday, as Emporia State's women secured the program's fourth straight MIAA Tournament title with an 80-66 victory over No. 16 Pittsburg State in Municipal Auditorium.

"I tie it on my book bag and just carry it around everywhere," Flott said in the postgame press conference.

"I got a spare change (container) at home that I just toss them in," ESU head coach Jory Collins said of his spot for each small piece of net, but he didn't downplay what his team just accomplished by any means.

ESU became only the second team in MIAA history to win the tournament as a four seed, matching its own accomplishment from 2013. The Lady Hornets also became the first team since 2010 to win the tournament without a four-year senior and matched the MIAA's record for most tournament titles won in a row.

Not to mention the fact that ESU knocked off arguably the hottest team in the country, ending Pitt State's 15-game win streak.

"This team from the beginning has been really together and is pretty close-knit. They get along terrific and I think want to play hard for each other," Collins said. "I told them that this is going to go in a book and somebody 15 years from now is going to look at that and ask you if you

played on one of those teams, and that's something you can be proud of.

"We know it's a nice accomplishment, but we take these things one game at a time, one tournament at a time, and this one, for this team, is special."

Moten and Flott each finished with 17 points, leading the team with six assists and 13 rebounds, respectively. Both have been on the team for the four straight MIAA Tournament titles, though redshirts and injuries kept them from being on the floor for all of them.

"It's a special time," Flott, the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, said. "This is what you work all summer, all preseason for, and it pays off."

Sandra Ngoie added 14 points on 5 of 11 from the floor, joining Moten and Flott on the MIAA All-Tournament Team. The senior transfer bolstered an already tough-to-stop frontcourt for the Lady Hornets,

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MATTHEW HICKS/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Emporia State's women won the program's fourth MIAA Tournament title in a row Sunday with an 80-66 win over Pittsburg State. The Lady Hornets tied the MIAA's record for most tournament titles won in a row.

