

s track team 2nd, girls 5th at GB Invitational. See Page 7.

Bend Tribune

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DOLE AT HOME — Bob Dole speaks to old Russell natives today. — (photo by Chuck Smith)

Bob Dole returns to hometownBy CHUCK SMITH
Editor

RUSSELL — Fifty years ago today Sen. Bob Dole was left barely alive, riddled by bullets from a Nazi machine gun in Italy. It was the people of Russell who paid for multiple surgeries that saved the young officer's life. And today, on that anniversary, Dole returned home to ask the people of Russell and Kansas to help him again.

Following a week in which Dole campaigned in 10 states, his pace slowed slightly during the past couple of days for his trip home. In return for the visit, Dole was honored twice by the city.

A huge limestone marker was unveiled this morning. It commemorates Dole's physical sacrifice in World War II. He also had a street named after him, it was announced today.

The presidential candidate was obviously moved by the gesture and he looked back to his early learning and support in this small town.

"Russell is like anybody else's home town. We all come from different places, but it's great to go home," he said. And it was in that home town that Dole received the training and teaching that molded him for national leadership, he said.

"We came home today because I wanted to say thank you," he said. "I can just think of hundreds and hundreds of good things that have happened to me and my family in this town."

It was here that he learned honesty,

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Dole returns to Russell for campaign

(Cont. from page one)
integrity, respect for family and country. Those are attributes that America could use, once again, he said. "I know America is the greatest country on the face of the Earth and I want to keep it this way."

Dole said anyone who doubts this nation's greatness needs only to work with people from the former Soviet Union "with tears in their eyes and tears running down their cheeks" who say "we want to be like America."

The senator said this is his time to be president. "It feels different this time around."

Dole joked that when he ran in 1980, not even the residents of Russell were aware that he was in the race. In 1988, things started well. "I was president of New Hampshire," but the race still went sour.

Now, with the changes in Con-

gress, Dole believes his time has come. And he was willing to wait. "I never give up, never give up, never give up."

Besides, Dole noted, the support is still there, even though it has changed with the years.

Waving to old friends in the audience, Dole recalled his early days in politics, running the circuit in a very different way than would be accepted now. "We had a great time in those early campaigns, serving Dole pineapple juice."

Many of those people were here today to wish their hometown boy well, including classmates who held sign festooned with American flags and designating the Class of '41.

The people of Russell remember Bob Dole. The candidate was presented a wooden box today, filled with \$7,000 in campaign contributions — reminiscent of the time,

50 years ago, when a cigar box filled with contributions, paid for a young officer's medical bills as he fought for life.

Fred Johnson,
Topeka Editor 295-1181
Steve Swartz,
State Editor 295-1194

Topeka/Kansas

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THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

Almost everyone in Russell showed support for DoleBy JAN LANDON
The Capital-Journal

RUSSELL — Josh Creamer brought his younger brother's stuffed Barney to Friday morning's pancake breakfast here honoring Sen. Bob Dole.

Josh, 12, was carrying Barney — the character who hosts a wildly popular children's show on public television — in protest of Dole's proposed cut of federal funding for public broadcasting.

If he had a chance, Josh said, he would tell the Republican presidential candidate about his mom working for Smoky Hills Public Television in Bunker Hill, just east of Russell.

Do you like Bob Dole, Josh was asked.

"He's going to make my mom lose her job," Josh said, just as Dole started his comments to the crowd in front of the Russell Veterans of Foreign Wars Lodge. "I guess that answers that."

Unlike Josh, the vast majority of people on hand for Dole's visit to his hometown of Russell were gushing with pride.

Mari Becker and her mother from Osborne grabbed seats directly in front of the podium where Dole was going to speak. They had arrived at 7 a.m. at the VFW and staked their claim at the table, not seeming to mind the strong breezes that chilled the crowd.

They didn't take the time to eat breakfast. Being cold and hungry was worth it, Mari Becker said.

"He is my role model," she said. "He has endured so much in his life, but it never stopped him."

If Dole asked Mari Becker for campaign advice it would be: "Watch the hatchet remarks you're known for."

Don Shorock of Great Bend carried a sign that on one side read, "Dole this time" and on the other said, "Bob Dole Please."

"It uses a word I've never seen on a political sign — please," Shorock said.

"It's an outdoor Kansas sign. It doesn't catch the wind or block the view. I'm short and it goes high."

Shorock's advice to Dole would be: "You're kissing the butt of the right-wingers too much."

Judy Dumler Jenkins and Fred Hyer of Olathe, who proudly categorize themselves in the "religious right," would offer the opposite advice.

"Stay pro-life, stay pro-U.S., stay flat tax, stay small federal government," Jenkins said she would tell Dole.

Jenkins and Hyer were in the line of people waiting for pancakes and sausage that stretched out of the VFW front door.

The same vendor who had sold buttons Monday in Topeka at Dole's official announcement of his third run for the presidency was just outside the front door of the VFW. T-shirts and hats were also being sold, as members of the media swarmed over local citizens like sharks in a feeding frenzy.

No one complained about standing in line, which moved rapidly as people chatted or strained to see if Dole would walk their way.

Inside, The Pancake Man — Jim Kuper of Council Bluffs, Iowa — dazzled the diners with his flying flapjacks. Russell High School cheer-



— Thad Allton/The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole was the center of attention Friday during a pancake breakfast at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Lodge in his hometown of Russell.

leaders and Boy Scouts helped serve the food and clear tables.

"It's exciting, because not a lot happens in Russell," said Krissy Williams, a 17-year-old junior.

She said Dole's visit was the most exciting thing to happen in Russell in a long time. There was a bomb scare in town a few weeks ago, but other than that the Dole visit was pretty big.

Adam Irwin and John Dumler III, both 12-year-old sixth-graders and

members of Boy Scout Troop 118, said their advice to Dole would be to keep his word. If he's elected he should reduce taxes and supply more jobs, they said.

Frances Starbuck of Great Bend has volunteered for Dole campaigns since 1974. Does she think this time will be the time?

"I sure hope so," Starbuck said. "He's surely qualified. I'd like to see Colin Powell be his vice presidential candidate."

Agnes Stephen of Bogue was one of the crowd's biggest Dole devotees. She described Dole as one of the most loved political figures all over the world.

"We'd go any where Bob Dole needed," Stephen said. "If all of the U.S. knew Bob Dole the way people who have worked with him over the years know him he'd just have to snap his fingers and be elected."

Several members of Dole's Russell High School class of 1941 were on hand

at the celebration. Dole mentioned their signs during his talk to the crowd.

"Yeah, he's going to be president," said Adolph Riesig of Hays, who carried a class of 1941 sign. "He knows the value of a dollar and he knows how to work."

And Riesig's advice to his old classmate?

"Emphasize the morality of our country," he said. "Emphasize the strengths we have and stay out of foreign involvement."