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## SATURDAY

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### Dole's refrain: 'Never give up'

By KRISTEN L. HAYS  
The Capital-Journal

**R**USSELL — The real work is just beginning on Bob Dole's third run for the White House, but the GOP front-runner's optimism appeared strong as he declared to his hometown friends and family on Friday, "It feels different this time around."

On the campaign trail of



**Bob DOLE**

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"It just seems to me it's out there," he said. "Never give up. Never give up." Those three words might be the centerpiece of a tenacious and persistent character that has let Dole again grasp at

what was beyond his reach in unsuccessful runs in 1980 and 1988. While he didn't come close to securing the GOP nomination in those years, this time the 71-year-old Senate majority leader is at the front of the Republican pack in both the polls and national media exposure.

He basked in fervent support from family and friends in Russell on Friday at a "welcome home" community pancake breakfast at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. Friday was the first day in several that Dole, his wife, Elizabeth; and his daughter, Robin, spent in one place.

Dole officially announced his candidacy in Topeka on Monday. He embarked on a whirlwind announcement tour that took him to 11 cities in 10 states in four days, ending Thursday in Russell.

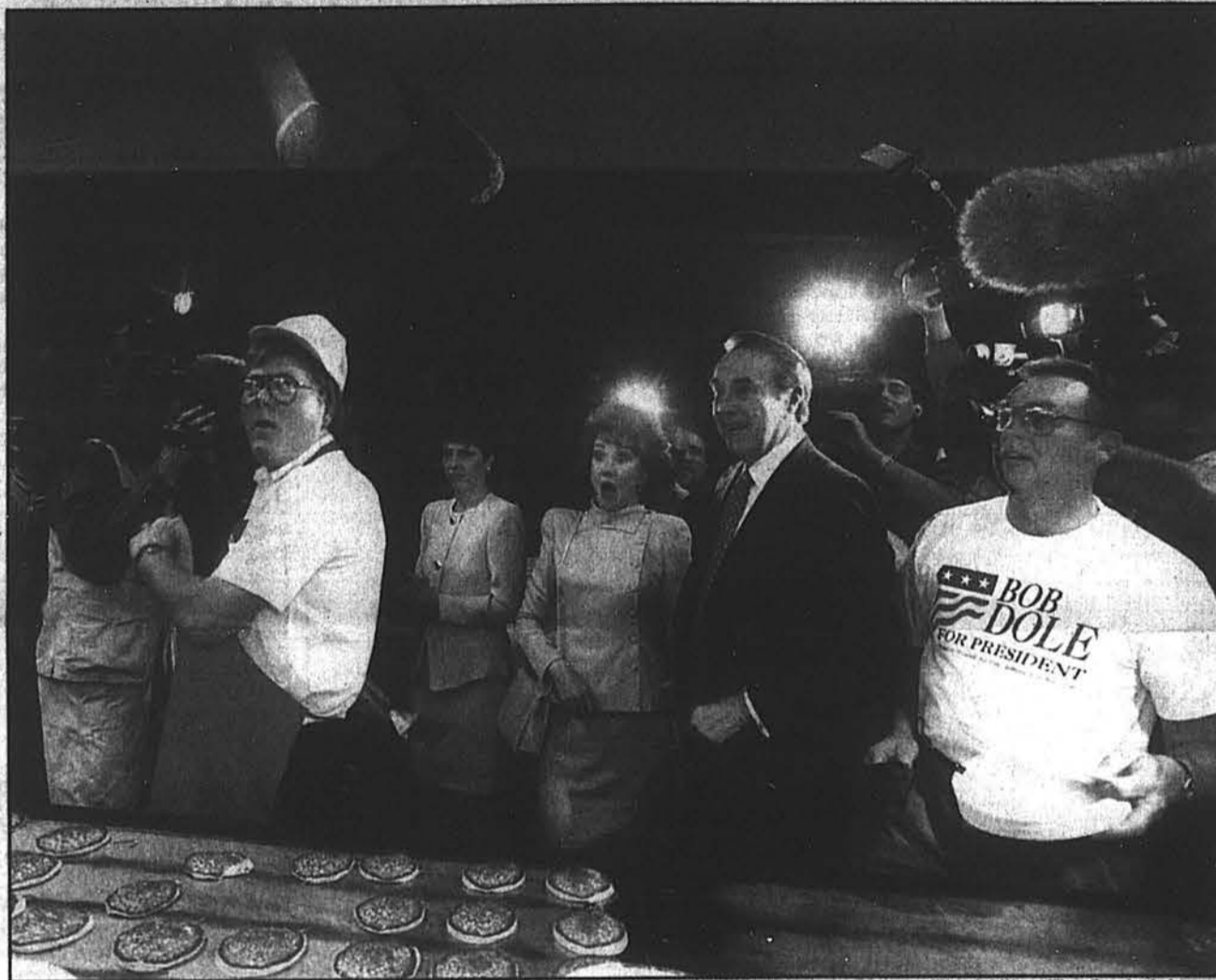
He raised \$3 million for his campaign during the tour, which included stops in states with crucial caucuses and primaries that make or break presidential candidates. Those states were New Hampshire, New York, Iowa, Ohio, Colorado, Texas, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Dole's home state of Kansas.

Within 48 hours of his arrival home, Russell residents compiled another \$7,000 to add to the pot.

"We have a lot of strength in the 10 states we've been in," Dole said. "We have a lot of work to do. We've only been at this nine weeks."

That work includes fleshing out an agenda "and our, quote, vision for America," he said.

Friday was a personal milestone for Dole. Fifty years ago on April 14, 1945, he was a 21-year-old U.S. Army



—Thad Allton/The Capital-Journal

Bob and Elizabeth Dole watched "The Pancake Man," Jim Kuper of Council Bluffs, Iowa, do his thing at a pancake feed Friday morning at the Russell Veterans of Foreign Wars post. Friday was especially poignant for Dole, because 50 years ago on April 14, 1945, he was seriously wounded in combat in Italy during World War II.



The Doles waved to the crowd that assembled prior to the senator's campaign speech.

lieutenant in Italy during World War II. Enemy gunfire ripped through his right arm and shoulder, leaving it virtually useless.

When a skinny, wounded Dole returned home from the war, he needed multiple operations to regain use of his left arm and hand. Russell residents raised the needed money to pay for the medical procedures by passing a cigar box around town to collect donations.

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Old and young alike were among the 5,000 people who turned out Friday in Russell to hear Sen. Bob Dole speak about his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. Supporters presented the Senate majority leader with \$7,000 to spend toward his campaign.



#### Campaign notebook

**Feeding frenzy** — Pancake and sausage eaters seemed amazed and a little perplexed at the media who swarmed like mosquitoes in summer around Bob and Elizabeth Dole as they entered the VFW lodge in Russell on Friday.

It was the definition of pack journalism as print and broadcast journalists elbowed each other and backed into tables and chairs to get a shot of the Doles being served breakfast and eating.

One local diner shook her head and whispered to her neighbor at the table, "They're just awful aren't they?"

Even some of the journalists seemed a little surprised.

"Oh my God," said a reporter with a tag that said the Los Angeles Times. "It's too early for this. It's 1995."

**A secret behind the energy** — For those who think Bob Dole is too old to be president: The 71-year-old politician made it through a candidacy announcement tour that took him to 11 cities in 10 states in four days. He emerged with more energy than much younger members of his campaign staff.

Lisa Myers, an NBC news reporter, said in Russell on Friday, "I cover him all the time, and you'd never know the age difference between him and Phil Gramm."

On Friday, though, Dole told Russell supporters he had a secret behind the energy.

"I got eight hours' sleep last night," he said.

"I don't know whether it's the Kansas tumbleweeds," said his 73-year-old sister, Gloria Nelson. "I call it inner drive. He's just

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In front of a 5,000-strong crowd Friday, former Russell newspaper publisher Russell Townsley presented a large wooden box containing the \$7,000 in remembrance of that cigar box.

The VFW also presented Dole with a limestone plaque commemorating the anniversary of his wounding.

Dole said he doesn't believe in polls, though polls have pushed him in front of other GOP presidential contenders. He considers all those contenders — including ultra-conservative Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas and social moderate California Gov. Pete Wilson — as friends.

"I wish them all the best of luck," Dole said. "The more horses the better — but I don't think all nine horses will finish this race."

### Campaign notebook

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got a lot of pep."

**Future footage** — Dole's time in his hometown this week let him rest up from the tour, make news with his small town mid-America roots, and capture that flavor on film. Deputy campaign manager Bill Lacy said a television crew has been in Russell for several days to tape footage with and without Dole "for future use," possibly in campaign commercials for television.

**An autograph hound** — "I'm not a reporter, I just want an autograph!" exclaimed 9-year-old Russell resident Kelly Eosker as he tried to worm his way toward Dole through masses of people and media in the town's VFW hall on Friday. With a little help, he got the signature he wanted.

"I'm going to start an autograph collection," he declared. He has one other autograph — that of a poetry writer — but Kelly couldn't remember the poet's name.

**A love of politics** — Dole said Friday he didn't go into politics to make money — after raising \$3 million for his campaign during his weeklong presidential candidacy announcement tour.

Nevertheless, he noted his main reasons for entering politics as a Kansas legislator while in college, Russell county attorney, Congress in 1960 and the Senate since 1968: "I love politics," he said to no one's surprise. "I like people."

Dole will end his visit home today after taping "Meet the Press" at Ruppenthal Middle School in Russell this morning. Once taping is concluded, he and his campaign staff will head back to Washington.