



Weather
Corner



Tonight...Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 19. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light snow after midnight. Lows in the lower 20s.

Thursday...Much colder. Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of light snow. Highs around 30. Thursday night...Mostly cloudy. Colder. A 20 percent chance of light snow in the evening. Lows around 11.

Friday and Friday night...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Lows around 15.

Saturday and Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 40s. Lows around 20.

Sunday . . . Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s.

Sunday's low, high: 12, 27
Saturday's low, high: 10, 50
Friday's low, high: 21, 42

Megan Allen of Brewster was one of many to take advantage of Pioneer Meorial Library's annual "Booklover's Sale" held Saturday in the basement of the library.



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Norton City Council offers paint to homeowners

By **VERONICA MONIER**
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The Norton City Council is all about painting the town.

City Code Inspector Jeff Wolf said Wednesday that the "Paint the Town" program would allow homeowners who met income requirements to receive vouchers for up to \$250 worth of paint, in order to paint the outside of their homes.

He said he made a few changes to the program's guidelines, including adding that it is only for the exterior and homeowners are only eligible once every five years, and changing all paint colors to say a variety of colors.

The cost to the city is being capped at \$2,500, he said.

Councilman Jerry Jones said he had a gentleman come to him with a reasonable complaint — that the money for this is coming out of the city's general fund and tax dollars are being used to pay for it. Mr. Jones said it was okay for the first year, but that maybe they should look into grants to pay for it in the future.

Mr. Wolf said he had spoken with the four paint suppliers in town, who he had given bid packages. He said he was including the paint used by Parks and Public Safety departments in the bids as well so that they could get a bet-

ter rate by buying it in bulk. He said the supplier who had the best bid would be where the vouchers were good for.

However, he said, this doesn't include things like paint brushes, rollers and other supplies and that people could buy those where ever they wanted. He also said the city was not responsible for the set up, painting or clean-up — that was the responsibility of the homeowner.

As for how many homeowners could do this, he said he was looking more at the money cap than saying only 10 people could do it this first year. Some houses, he said, will take less paint and so

will get a smaller voucher. Others will take the full \$250 to paint, he said.

"I hope to get as many people as possible interested in this," he said.

As for the cost of the paint, he said they are looking at about \$20 per gallon with \$22.50 a gallon being the highest cost.

The council implemented the program for city homeowners.

In other business, the council:
• Heard from Mr. Jones that he was glad to have two people running for each of the open council seats. Mr. Jones commended Wally Burton, a candidate for the open Ward III seat, for coming to

the last two meetings. He said he felt the people running needed to know what was going on before they were elected and so should come to the meetings.

• Asked the Public Safety Committee to check on where the Municipal Court reports were.

• Heard from Kim Wicker with the Downtown Restoration Committee about projects the committee hopes to begin working on, including curb and gutter, street lighting and store fronts. The council suggested that the committee come up with a plan of action on what it wanted to do and when it wanted to do it.

In GOP leading state, Dems had bigger cause in Kansas

TOPEKA (AP) — Republicans easily outnumber Democrats among Kansas voters, and both parties usually assume the GOP nominee won't have much trouble carrying the state in a presidential race. No Democrat has won since 1964.

Democrats had their presidential caucuses Tuesday night when, some of them grumbled, night-shift workers wouldn't be able to participate. Republicans picked Saturday morning, late enough that anyone could sleep in a little.

Even the mercurial Kansas weather favored the GOP. Democrats braved packed snow on tricky roads, blowing snow in the air and wintry winds. Republicans had a clear and — for winter, anyway — balmy day.

Officials in both parties talked about the large crowds they would draw and the excitement over competitive presidential races. But Democrats drew about 37,000 people to their caucuses, while Republicans attracted about 20,000.

It was a disparity that Democrats, long used to being outnumbered, couldn't help but note — and perhaps gloat over a little.

"Certainly, we would have liked to have had our caucus on a night with clear skies and dry pavement," said Mike Gaughan, the state Democratic Party's executive director. "The Republicans had that advantage and still came in about half as many people."

Republicans are expressing satisfaction with their turnout. Christian Morgan, the state GOP's executive director, said no one knew

what to expect Saturday. The GOP prepared for as many as 35,000 voters but realistically expected between 10,000 and 20,000, he said.

Neither party has had a competitive caucus in Kansas in at least 20 years.

"We had no idea," Morgan acknowledged. "It was a shot in the dark."

The two parties' caucus days

had far different tones, as well.

Democrats faced questions about how well they'd prepared because their crowds overwhelmed some sites, and prospective voters waited in long lines in cold weather. There weren't enough chairs in some packed halls, and crowds supporting Barack Obama and rival Hillary Rodham Clinton chanted slogans back and forth.

Republicans had overflow

crowds in some venues too, but they moved quietly and swiftly to adjacent rooms. Lines moved efficiently.

Traditionally, higher numbers in GOP contests is a given in Kansas. Nearly 761,000 voters are registered Republicans. There are about 438,000 Democrats, and even the number of unaffiliated voters is a little higher than that.

But no presidential candidate in

either party put as much effort into the state as Obama, who won the Democratic caucuses easily.

Mike Huckabee, the easy winner of the GOP caucus, mobilized

volunteers and abortion opponents, Obama's campaign had 20 paid staffers in Kansas. Obama also had the endorsement of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

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