



Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline (above) spoke with Norton County residents about justice and sentencing of felons on Saturday. State Sen. Stan Clark (below) talked about bills and problems in the senate. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



# Democrats hold caucuses; Republicans select delegates

**By BRANDON GAY and VERONICA MONIER**  
So that Kansas can play a role in presidential politics, Republicans and Democrats will gather to select delegates to national conventions.  
The state is going back to the caucus system after the state Legislature canceled the presidential primary to save money for the second consecutive presidential election. The estimated price tag for a primary is about \$1.75 million.  
Kansas Democrats will divide into 50 Local Unit Conventions to begin their caucus. Bob Strevey, state committeeman for the Democratic party, said a series of caucuses will be held to determine who will be going to the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

The first caucus, which is based on Kansas Senatorial Districts, will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building in Colby. The doors will open at noon for registration. The caucus is open to any registered Democrat in the 40th Senate District. Democrats need to be registered to vote by Saturday or can register at the convention.  
Mr. Strevey said at the March caucuses, 22 delegates will be chosen to go to the Congressional District Caucuses, which will be held in April. Delegates at the Congressional District Caucuses will choose 41 delegates to go to the parties national convention. Other delegates will also be chosen at the state convention, which will also be held in April.  
“These caucuses are designed to

strictly choose delegates to go to the national convention,” he said.  
“I hope we get some people to come to the March caucus in Colby to get involved in the process. I know it’s a sacrifice in time and effort, but it’s worth it. We’re going to be picking the next leader of the country.”  
Kansas Republicans will not be having caucuses, said State Committeeman Doug Sebelius. He said a committeeman and a committeewoman from the area have been chosen to go to the national convention, along with other delegates from the state.  
This year will be pretty straightforward for the Republicans. Mr. Sebelius said he didn’t think there were any other Republican presidential candidates who would be running.

## Food Check-Out Day celebrated

**By PATSY MADDY, Norton County Farm Bureau**  
Food in America is affordable, thanks in large part to America’s productive farmers and ranchers. Food Check-Out Day celebrates the bounty of America’s farms and ranches, which provide food at affordable prices.  
The average American devotes just 10 percent of his or her income for food. The average American will have earned enough to pay for his or her family’s annual food supply in about 40 days.  
This year we commemorated this on Feb. 11 with grocery stores and Norton County Farm Bureau co-sponsoring four \$50 gift certificates.  
Winners were picked at random at participating stores. They were Kami Sansom, Densmore, at Country Corner in Lenora; Barb Ballinger, Norton, at Jamboree Foods in Norton; Kim Georgeson, Norton, at Shop and Save in

Norton; and Gayle Alexander, Almena, at Almena Market.  
As we celebrate the efficiency and productivity of America’s farmers and ranchers, we should note that farmers and ranchers are going through difficult economic times.  
Escalating costs are threatening the fabric of the family farm. Prices at the supermarket certainly

don’t reflect the historically low commodity prices producers have received. Farmers and ranchers receive only 10 cents out of every \$1 spent on food. The rest goes for costs beyond the farm — wages and materials for production, processing, marketing, transportation and distribution. By contrast, in 1980, farmers and ranchers received 31 cents.

## Fire burns acres near Lenora

Firemen had a lot to handle Saturday evening as a grass fire raged just east of Lenora.  
Lenora Fire Chief Terry Peterson said a controlled burn from earlier in the week rekindled. The fire burned an area about two miles long, estimated at between 500 and 600 acres.  
It took the Lenora Fire Department, the Norton County Rural

Fire Department, and the Graham County Fire Department nearly six hours to put it out, he said.  
Chief Peterson said a small part of the golf course was burnt, but mostly it was pasture land belonging to three property owners.  
“Thanks to the Norton Rural and Graham County departments for their assistance,” he said.

## Lawmakers visit Norton

Residents of Norton had the chance to ask questions when State Sen. Stan Clark, Rep. John Faber, and Attorney General Phill Kline came to town Saturday afternoon.  
County Commissioner Leroy Lang wanted to know what was going on with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ budget and Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas.  
“We don’t want to lose our homes here,” he said. “Losing them would affect a lot of things in the local economy, but most of all would be the loss of 35 full and part-time jobs.”  
Sen. Clark said a subcommittee in the Senate Ways and Means Committee would be taking a good look at it.  
“Many people have contacted me about this,” he said. “I think history has shown that John and I vote to fund existing programs. We will do what we can.”  
Joe Ballinger said it didn’t make a lot of sense to shut down a \$1 million business to save \$60,000.  
Jon Lofgreen asked Mr. Kline if there was any new information on the Brady Grain situation. Mr. Kline said he couldn’t comment on it at that time.  
Sen. Clark also talked about the state’s finances and education. He said a health savings account bill

passed last year would allow both singles to set aside \$1,000 and families to set aside \$3,000 a year for health expenses.  
Like a retirement fund, the money wouldn’t be taxed.  
Rep. Faber talked about plans and bills that were in the legislature. He said a concealed-carry plan for guns passed the House and was going to the Senate. This plan, he said, is very restrictive. However, the governor has said she will veto it.  
He said some of the other things which are going or have gone through the house were an amendment on gay marriage, and animal identification program, an abortion clinic standards bill, an education plan and a transportation plan.  
Mr. Kline spoke about the need

to teach absolute right and wrong, not relative right and wrong, and some problems he has with activist judges.  
He said people should take a look at how we elect or select judges so they can’t abuse their offices.  
He also defended his actions on underage sex.  
“I want to know when a 12-year-old is pregnant so we can find out who did it and prosecute that person,” he said. “There are predators everywhere.”  
Mr. Kline said Kansas’ sentencing guidelines are weak and need to be changed.  
“We’re actually encouraging criminals to keep committing crimes,” he said. “We’re sending the wrong message and we need to change that.”

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