

PHOTO BY L. HENDERSON

RCS Interim Principal Sam Kennington is proud of the new lobby floor, which was painted by Person County artist George (Bucky) Buchanan.

## Iowa's Caucus reliable indicator of presidential nominees

BY HARRISON JONES

If historical trends continue, either Mitt Romney, Ron Paul or Rick Santorum will be the Republican nominee for president in 2012. The Iowa Caucus helps determine the party's presidential nominee.

The top three Republican and Democratic candidates of the Iowa Caucus, since its inception in the 1970s to the last election in 2008, have gone on to win their party's national nomination and to participate in the general election. If this trend continues, it would make Romney, Santorum or Paul the Republican nominee.

With Romney beating Santorum by just eight votes, 30,015 to 30,007, on Jan. 3, the winner has no clear advantage, according to CNN. Political commentators are suggesting that Romney will emerge the Republican nominee since his campaign focused not just on Iowa, but the whole country, while Santorum's campaign focused solely on Iowa.

Santorum supporters argue that Romney support groups outspent Santorum support groups 10 to one on television ads, according to ABC. With Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann's dropping out of the race, it is likely that her socially conservative voters will transition their votes to Santorum.

For many elections the Iowa

Caucus has been considered the predictor of the future Democratic and Republican nominees; yet, just how good is the Iowa Caucus as an indicator for either party?

According to iowacaucus.biz, the Caucus is the factor that decides the Iowa delegates that are sent to the national convention to vote for their party's nominee, yet that is where the similarities between the parties' Caucuses end.

From a local perspective, North Carolina Rep. W.A. Winkie Wilkins (D-Person) said, "The Iowa caucus is a novel way of candidate selection, in that most states have gone to a preference primary."

According to USA Today, after the Republicans take a straw poll by secret ballot, wherein one person equals one vote, the results are then sent to the state headquarters and released to the public. Then, in a similar fashion to the Electoral College, the delegates are chosen. The popular vote does not officially control which delegates are sent to the national convention, but is supposed to influence the choice of delegates.

According to iowacaucus.biz, there will be a total of 41 delegates sent from Iowa to the Republican National Convention this year. Since 1976, George W. Bush, Bob Dole, and Gerald Ford have been the only Republicans

to win the Iowa Caucus and the national nomination without being unopposed.

The Democrats in Iowa operate their Caucus in a completely different fashion. They meet and separate into groups of support for the candidates of their choice. The voters will then be given a chance to speak and decide if they wish to change groups. Any candidate who receives less than 15 percent of the vote will be disqualified, according to iowacaucus.biz.

Those who had supported the disqualified candidates are then allowed to join another group and the results are tallied. The results then go to the next process, in which the delegates elected for that district and the candidates are sorted out again.

For four delegates, 15 percent of the vote is needed; for two delegates, 25 percent of the vote is needed and for one delegate 50 percent of the vote is needed.

These results are sent to the county level where any candidate with less than 15 percent is disqualified. After that, the same process is completed at the district level and then at the state headquarters, where 56 delegates will be appointed to represent Iowa at the national convention.

Since 1972, seven out of 10 Democratic Iowa Caucus winners have been the national nominee.

## Paint job leaves RCS students, staff 'floored'

BY L. HENDERSON

RCS students and staff had the surprise of their lives waiting for them upon returning to the school after winter break.

Waiting for them was a bulldog with teeth bared and eyes glazed. What it actually was is the new painting done by local artist George "Bucky" Buchanan.

The history of the floor is almost as important as the floor itself, and it has as many different stories as the old mill building.

Interim Principal Sam Kennington related the story of the

floor. He said that he had an office in the Partnership for Children building to start off with. He hired Mrs. Ann Wrenn as his first employee, followed by other staff. All of this took place in March of 2006. After that point, time flew by and school started that fall. After that, there was never time or money to fix the floors.

Kennington is no longer the principal at RCS, but he has finally fulfilled his dream of decorating the floor. Buchanan promised that he could finish the project of painting the floor over winter break, and even came up with the designs. The

first thing that one sees upon entering the front door is the full pride of RCS in the school crest, hence the bulldog.

The other design is a mathematically inspired spiral known as the Fibonacci Spiral.

"Consisting of a mathematical sequence of measurements, laid out in a block pattern, they always make a perfect spiral," explained math and science wiz and teacher Mike Csysz.

The floor is not complete, however. Only the lobby was painted over the break. Buchanan plans to finish the project by painting the downstairs hallway floor.

## Sinkhole work turns up surprises

BY ANDERSON CLAYTON

The work for the Roxboro Community School (RCS) "sinkhole issue" is finally finished.

Vice Principal Greg Hamilton said, "The job went well except for the unexpected change in construction."

When the workers were digging they realized the pipes underground were cracked further back than was expected. There was a stream, which was a runoff from the lake that was drained to build the Roxboro Cotton Mill under the piping, which in turn was washing everything out.

The workers on the site had to dig out to where they had previously repaired two years ago. The work was twice as much effort as had been expected.

Hamilton said, "The sinkhole was caused by cracks in a pipe that was put in when the school was first built; we were lucky enough that Jimmy Lewis was able to get it fixed."



PHOTO BY L. HENDERSON

Sinkhole repair work by Jimmy Lewis and Sons turned up a few surprises, according to RCS Vice Principal Greg Hamilton.

The workers have put in new piping that goes from one end of the parking lot to the other. If the problem does not reoccur and the gravel settles in correctly, they will go back when school ends and put down concrete.



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