

CRUZ IN COLUMBUS



Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz and his daughters Catherine, left, and Caroline stop for ice cream at Zaharakos Ice Cream Parlor during a campaign stop Monday in Columbus.

Mike Wolann | The Republic

SCOOPING UP SUPPORT

Presidential candidate makes campaign stop in Columbus

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Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz courted voters the old-fashioned way — in an old-fashioned ice cream parlor in Columbus. The Texas senator spent an hour Monday afternoon dishing up smiles, handshakes and thank-yous to earn support for Indiana’s May 3 primary.

His daughters Caroline and Catherine savored the moment, too, sitting on stools at the Zaharkos counter and snacking on scoops of ice cream.

But not all things about the candidate’s visit were sugary and sweet.

Moments after Cruz stepped off his large, black campaign bus, looking into a large crowd outside the resaurant on

Washington Street, Kathy Heil of Elizabeth — a small town in Harrison County — let Cruz know she was unhappy about the delegate strategy some Republicans are using to prevent Republican candidate Donald Trump from winning the party’s nomination outright through state primaries.

Heil said she was unhappy that fellow GOP candidate Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Cruz appeared to be collaborating to work against Trump rather than letting the voters decide the winner.

Cruz and Kasich announced terms of an unprecedented agreement late Sunday night to coordinate primary strategies in three of the 15 remaining states.

Kasich will step away in next Tuesday’s contest in Indiana — a state in which the primary winner earns all the delegates — to let Cruz provide a single Republican option to Trump. In return, Cruz will switch roles with Kasich in subsequent GOP contests May 17 in Oregon and June 7 in New Mexico.

“You’re fighting your fight on the wrong end,” Heil told Cruz.

The candidate listened and remained calm, then told Heil that if she had been confronting Trump about an issue that she would have been yelled at.

As Cruz moved on, he told that crowd, “That’s the way it is with civil discourse, you don’t insult them.”

While others who opposed Cruz displayed either official Trump signs or (continued on next page)



CAMPAIGN QUICK TAKES

Tony Moravec, owner of Zaharkos Ice Cream Parlor at 329 Washington St., in downtown Columbus, said he hasn't decided which Republican presidential candidate he will vote for. But when asked if his restaurant would host an event for GOP candidate Ted Cruz, Moravec said he would gladly oblige.

"I'm a supporter of Republicans in general. I lean Republican. When somebody asks me to do something for the Republican Party, I try to accept," Moravec said.

Bartholomew County Republican Party Chairman Barb Hackman said she received a call Friday from Cruz's campaign about the desire to have a meet-and-greet event in Columbus. She said a person with his campaign who knew of Columbus preferred Zaharkos as the location.

"He said Zaharkos is known throughout the state and is a historic place," Hackman said.

She called Moravec on Saturday morning about the request. Originally, the event was to be Thursday, but Hackman said she received a call Sunday evening that it had been rescheduled for Monday afternoon.

Moravec said he called in a few extra restaurant staffers and four or five administrative employees from his other businesses, Blairex Laboratories and Applied Laboratories, to help with a crowd expected to reach about 300 people.

Cruz was the first presidential candidate that Zaharkos hosted, Moravec said. However, it did host a stop by Republican Mike Pence — a Columbus native — during his successful 2012 campaign for governor.

Blue First, Then Red

Debra Slone leaned back to survey her handiwork and asked, does the blue go first and then red? Or the other way?



Slone, who does design work for Zaharkos, was using chalk to create a welcome for Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz in the wooden frame

that sits outside the restaurant doors just after 11 a.m. Monday. She decided to incorporate his slogan "TrusTED" with the words "Welcome Ted Cruz" and some stars across the bottom.



homemade messages, the Texas senator had an easier time with most of the others he met.

Columbus resident, John Dougherty, who served as a Navy corpsman in the 1960s, was among the crowd that greeted Cruz outside Zaharkos, shook the candidate's hand and told him that he was glad Cruz was supportive of the military.

Dougherty said afterward that he likes how Cruz doesn't seem to be separating people into groups but rather views everyone as Americans.

"I'd like to see Americans go back to

being Americans and not get broken up," he said.

Inside the restaurant, Columbus resident Deborah Kleinschmidt got a few moments of Cruz's time to express her concerns about what the next commander in chief should do if he or she starts a military campaign.

Kleinschmidt is the mother of Marine Sgt. Jeremy R. McQueary, a 2002 Columbus East graduate who died Feb. 18, 2010, in Afghanistan. McQueary, 27, was killed by shrapnel from an improvised explosive device.



“I don’t want to see another president come in that starts an operation and doesn’t finish it,” she said after their meeting.

Kleinschmidt said she felt that did not happen in Afghanistan, and said so to Cruz.

She offered him a free copy of a cookbook, “Recipies and Remembrances of Our Fallen Heroes,” that she has been selling to support several miliary organizations. Instead, he paid her \$20 for the \$10 cookbook.

Kleinschmidt aaid she had already decided to vote for Cruz, but wanted to meet him in person anyway.

Rachel Guglielmo, of Bloomington, came to Zaharakos in hopes of talking to Cruz about gun sense in America. She got a couple minutes with the candidate, explaining that the organization she was representing — Moms Demand Action — supports responsible gun ownership that is consistent with the Second Amendment.

“He said he completely supports that,” Guglielmo said.

Cruz’s stop in Columbus was part of a campaign he has mounted in the Hoosier state. Last week Cruz met privately with Gov. Mike Pence, a Columbus native, and

appeared at the GOP Spring Dinner, where Pence was the keynote speaker.

On Monday, he started in Borden, and



after leaving Columbus was schedule to make stops in Greenwood and Franklin.

Zaharakos owner Tony Moravec, who agreed to let his restaurant serve as a political stop for Cruz’s campaign, said he was pleased at how it went.

“It was great seeing so many children here, learning why he came to town and what for,” Moravec said, noting that his 11-year old grandson, Zane Moravec, was among them.

CAMPAIGN QUICK TAKES



Taking Orders

Zaharakos employee Wilma Hare has worked at the iconic soda fountain since 2009 and predicted the afternoon would be quite busy with the visit of GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz.

She said a family member had told her that if she got a chance to speak to the candidate, instead of taking his order she should give the candidate an order about what is needed in our country — more money for schools, and more benefits for the military, police and firefighters. “And more money for schools,” she repeated.

Day 5 on the Job

Michael Villa, 19, who lives in Jennings County, was walking briskly to Zaharakos at about 11:30a.m. Monday, heading in on his fifth day of employment there. “I just got called in,” he said.

He learned on the way that GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz would be among hundreds expected Monday afternoon for a candidate meet-and-greet.

When asked what he might say to the candidate if he was the assigned server, he said he would tell the candidate “good luck” and congratulations.

Protesters

While the majority of the crowd of about 300 people who turned out for Ted Cruz’s visit to Columbus Monday cheered on the presidential candidate, a few local residents stood against the Texas senator.

Leah Jackman-Wheitner and her daughter, Lexi Jackman-Wheitner, were two of about a dozen protesters who stood outside of Zaharakos to speak out against Cruz’s campaign promises.

With protest signs sharing message such as “Hoosiers against hate,” the Jackman-Wheitners and others voiced their concerns of Cruz’s conservative beliefs they say will move the country backward.

“He’s not to be trusted,” Lexi Jackman-Wheitner said. “He does not repsect women’s bodies. He does not repsect the lesbian, gay, bisexual movement. He supports discrimination.”