

Meeting held to explain food coop

By Mary Holle

Over 55 people attended the High Plains Food Cooperative producer workshop held in Atwood recently.

Food producers from Colorado, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Texas and around Kansas learned about the start-up date of a cooperative that will serve customers in the front range of Colorado...most specifically the Denver area.

A locally grown meal prepared by Jeff and Alice Hill of the Aberdeen Steakhouse kicked off the workshop.

Jo Hagney of St. Francis, co-chairman of the Steering Committee organizing the cooperative, announced the website was launched last week. HighPlainsFood.org has created a lot of enthusiasm, Mrs. Hagney said.

"We need producers getting on board, as consumers have been nagging at us as to when this is going to happen," she said

Producer, consumer and producer/consumer memberships were available for a one-time membership fee of \$100, Mrs. Hagney explained. After the first 150 memberships, an annual fee of \$20 will be charged in addition to the \$100 one-time fee.

Workshop participants heard from Kim Barker about the successful Oklahoma Food Cooperative and from Alan Birkenfeld of PaiDom Meats, Inc., who has a successful grass-fed livestock operation.

"There are consumers out there

that want wholesome, quality foods," Ms. Barker said. "We've found that the majority of our people who really care about their food are young mothers with children.

"Denver is a huge market, much larger than Oklahoma City," he continued. "I hope you-all seriously consider this."

Susann Mikkelsen of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, the organization that has provided technical and financial support for the co-op, said she gets calls daily about the food co-op project.

"Anything you can bring to the front range, we can get rid of it for you," she said.

Elli Behr of Micro Business Development, Inc., of Denver explained the logistics of the co-op, including the marketing strategy, business plan, transportation and distribution plans.

Chris Sramek, Rawlins County Economic Development director, explained how to register and use the site with a hands-on demonstration at the Atwood Library.

Mr. Sramek said that eight producers signed on to provide products to the cooperative at the meeting. Five more had signed up by the following Tuesday.

"I was very pleased with the participation and interest in the workshop," he said. "Anyone interested in participating in the cooperative can check out the website."



RELAY FOR LIFE HELPERS Keely Loyd (scooping ice) and Bailee Stang (holding glass) were busy at the Pizza Hut providing good service and hoping for tips to help for cancer research

Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

Volunteers raise money

Cancer Relay for Life Committee members volunteered to wait tables, help with preparation and clean up at the Pizza Hut on Saturday.

Sporting their Relay for Life T-shirts and found helping were Dara Loyd, Keely Loyd, Robyn Raile, Gloria Bracelin and her granddaughter, Bailee Stang, Eddy Schultz, Sherry Schultz,

Susie Walz, Mary Ruth Burkett and Dee Wilson.

Barb Brown, manager of the Pizza Hut, volunteered to give all the tips received and a percentage of the daily proceeds to the American Cancer Society.

In other news, the County Relay Committee members have a Mini Relay happening at the St. Francis Grade School this week.

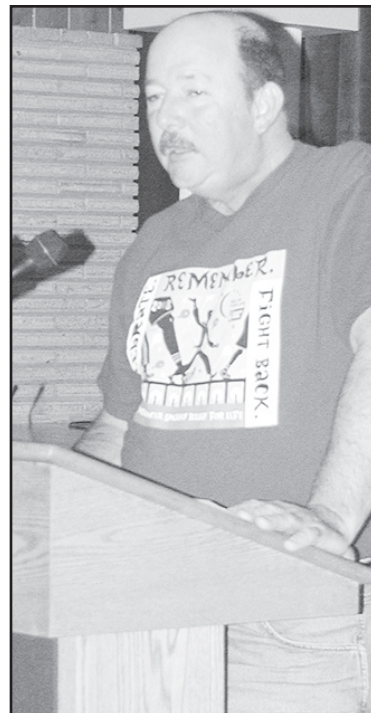
Activities have been planned for the week to help students become more aware of cancer, what causes it and ways to prevent it.

At the kick off on Monday, each class selected a team name and will begin collecting coins for the "Cancer Can." Brent Slagle, a cancer survivor, spoke to the high school students in the afternoon.

Each day during the week has something special planned with Friday being Tally Day and team awards being presented.

Relay is planned for June

This year the event is planned for Friday, June 6, at Sawhill Park. Many teams will have one of their team members walking around the park at all times between 7 p.m. on Friday and 7 a.m. on Saturday. They will raise the funds pledged for research for a cure for cancer.



CANCER survivor Brent Slagle speaks at the high school on Monday during Mini Relay Week.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



VOLUNTEER GLORIA BRACELIN is serving Marvin Miller at the Pizza Hut.

Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

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Book Review

Book review from St. Francis Public Library
Lethal Justice
 By Fern Michaels

Alexis was a successful broker whose career was on the rise. But that was before she was wrongly imprisoned for fraud. Suddenly her life was destroyed: convicted and thrown into prison for a year while the true criminals, Arden Gillespie and Roland Sullivan, spent the profits from the scam on themselves.

It is time for the next revenge mission of the Sisterhood - a vigilante organization whose aim is to avenge crimes which were not punished by the legal system. The Sisterhood need the aid of an old friend, Anna Ryland de Silva, to succeed with their plan. But she has been a recluse since the tragic death of her family years ago. Can the women persuade Anna that it is worth helping them to nail Alexis's fraudsters? It is a risky assignment and they are all aware there is a high price to pay if they are found out.

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