

# Teen to run for children

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

If you get winded running up a flight of stairs, you might think he's crazy, but a St. Francis teen plans to run over 70 miles to raise money for kids with cancer and heart problems.

Robert James Herman III, 15, befriended kids at Children's Hospital in Denver while he was fighting for his life. Now that he is better, he wants to do something to help them and raise awareness of what children with health problems go through and what they are capable of.

Robbie says he plans to run from the park at the Cheyenne County Courthouse in St. Francis to Gullick Park by the Sherman County Courthouse and then back to St. Francis on Wednesday, June 4.

He's looking for some runners to join him, at least part of the way, and for sponsorships and donations. Call him at (785) 332-2543 or send donations to 320 Webster, St. Francis, Kan. 67756.

When he was in the fifth grade, he said, he went to a Boy Scout camp in Kiowa, where he found a tick on his stomach and was bitten by a mosquito. After he got home, said his mother Jeanie Herman, he got really sick.

He started complaining he had a headache, she said, and he had never had one before, so she took him to the emergency room at Cheyenne County Hospital. She said they told her to take him home, give him a couple of aspirin and come back if he's not better in the morning. Since he couldn't even hold his head up, she felt it was more serious than that, so she brought him to Goodland Regional Medical Center.

When he had a 104-degree fever and was vomiting, she said, and they couldn't get his fever to go down, she took him to the hospital in St. Francis again and got the same advice. She brought him to Goodland, and he was eventually diagnosed with West Nile Virus and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (which is transmitted by ticks.)

He also had a brain tumor and ended up having nine surgeries, Mrs. Herman said, the final one to put a shunt in to keep fluid from building up in the brain. Each time he had surgery, she said, it took six months to recover, and they didn't shave his head for surgery but instead, held his hair down with grease, which takes a long time to remove.

But she's just glad her son is still alive. She calls him a miracle kid.

Doctors said the tumor had been growing since he was born, Mrs. Herman said, and just hadn't been noticed before, but they don't know what caused it. Tumors can be aggravated by headaches and high fevers, she said, so the illnesses probably made it grow faster. The steroids he had to take didn't help either, she said; he really ballooned up, so much that friends were afraid of him until they saw who he was. He went into the hospital weighing 130 pounds, she said, and came out weighing 210.

When Robbie was prepped for his next-to-last surgery at Children's, his mother said, a boy came in who had been shot in the face, and doctors asked if they could delay Robbie's surgery to operate on him. They were able to save his face, she said, and he will be here to support Robbie's run.

Robbie said he has been training for his fundraiser by running up to eight miles at a time. Doctors have cleared him for the run, his mother said, and his coach knows he can do it.

He has the willpower, she said; he would do anything for the kids.

People don't realize some of those kids will never run or walk



ROBBIE HERMAN prepares to run 70 miles for children with cancer.

again, Robbie said, adding that he wants people to know that someone cares about them.

He also wants to show people that kids with medical problems can do a lot of things — they just need to do it slower than others.

Runners can join Robbie at several points along the route, including Wheeler, the county line, Fred and Jeanie Schields' farm north of Goodland, the sand pit and Jack Armstrong's farm along K-27. Mrs. Herman said they hope to have an escort from the highway past Renner Field (airport) and down to the park.

Robbie will walk some of the route and stop at several points for water or sports drinks and energy bars.

The family distributed flyers around Goodland and St. Francis and sent them out across the country seeking support for the run. Those who aren't willing or able to run are welcome to show up along the route to cheer him on, his mother said.

Robbie's father, who worked for Silver Crest Farm 7 miles east and 2 south of St. Francis, has chronic pulmonary obstructive disease and lung disease, Mrs. Herman said, and will mark his 15th year with the disease at the end of June. Doctors have told him he only has 5 percent of his lungs left, she said, and the arteries in his heart are 95 percent blocked.

"They don't know what's keeping him alive," she said, "but I know — he wants to see his son graduate."

He will be behind Robbie in a car with a sign that says, "Caution — Runner."

Robbie's sister, a lawyer in Louisiana, has a little girl, their mother said, and his brother, a truck driver, lives in Quinter with his wife. Robbie says he wants to be a highway patrol trooper, Mrs. Herman said, adding that people tease her that Robbie will pull over his brother, who will then need to call their sister for help.

She said they have one runner planning to join Robbie, and some of the coaches from St. Francis may join in as well. The Sports Shoppe in Colby is sponsoring him by providing shoes, she said.

*Wedding Registry*

**Lori Beth Faulkender and Cale Rieger**

*They have selected  
Noritake: Colorwave  
graphite Stoneware & Stemware  
Flatware: Onieda Prose*

**Stuart's Jewelry**  
Free Wrap & Delivery  
Gift Certificates Available  
785-332-2333  
111 E. Washington • St. Francis

## Retirement reception

A come-and-go retirement reception honoring Al Hatch is being held Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hanston State Bank. You are welcome to attend.

## City Council

The St. Francis City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the city hall.

## Board of Education

The St. Francis Board of Education will meet at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 12.

## Fair board

The Cheyenne County Fair Board will meet on Thursday, June 5.

## Library Art Gallery

Kate's Hats will be on display in the Art Gallery of the St. Francis Public Library until June 30. The hats belonged to former St. Francis resident, Kate Gienger.

## Cancer Relay for Life Information

Survivors Night for the Relay for Life will be at 5:30 p.m., tonight, (Thursday), at the Equity meeting room. Refreshments will be served and survivors can pick up their T-shirts at that time.

All survivors please come and get ready to do the Survivor's Lap at the Relay, which will be held at Sawhill Park at 7:00 p.m. Friday night, June 6. Contact Susie Walz at 785-332-3486 for any questions.

## Barn workshop

The free Kansas Barn Alliance workshop, "Old Barn-New Ideas" will be held at the Stan Carman farm on Saturday. Activities begin at 10 a.m. Robert Metzger, timber frame specialist, will speak at the morning session. The Cheyenne County Historical Society will serve lunch at noon. The afternoon "Idea Session" begins at 1. To register, call 785 332 3569.

## Clown comes to the Village

The Cripple and Merriweather Circus is coming to St. Francis on Friday, June 13. A preview will be held with a clown arriving in St. Francis at the Good Samaritan Village at 9:30 a.m. There is no charge and all children are welcome to come to the Village. The clown will be found in the lounge.

## Join Hands

Join Hands, bringing youth and older people together to make the community a better place, will begin at 5:30 p.m. today (Thursday). The event will begin at the Shrine Shelter in the city park and will end with a picnic provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans at the River Walk. Everyone is encouraged to join in with other high school students, 4-H'ers, Scouts, and Lion Club members.

## Volleyball camp

Lady Indian volleyball camp for grades nine through 12 will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on June 9; and 7 to 9 p.m. June 10-12. Future Lady Indian Camp for girls in grades 4-8, will be held from to 9 to 10:30 a.m. June 9-12. There is no charge.

## Baseball Sign up

Its time for the Recreation baseball to begin. There is still time to sign up.

## Chief Roman Nose Rendezvous

The Lloyd Flick Memorial Shoot will be held at the Beecher Island Battleground June 7-8. Awards will be given in all events. Black Powder or Pyrodex and Round Ball only. Iron sites with no scopes. Primitive attire preferred but not required. Free primitive camping are available on the site. For additional information contact: Bill Carpenter 970-354-7468.

## Quilt given at Relay for Life

This year, a quilt will be given away at the Cheyenne County Relay For Life walk which has been moved from August to Friday, June 6, at Sawhill Park, St. Francis.

In an effort to help raise money to fight cancer, The Common Thread Quilt Guild, has made a quilt with any proceeds made going to the Relay walk.

The quilt is on display at the United Methodist Thrift Store. People

# It is time for Relay for Life

The Cheyenne County Cancer Relay for Life is rapidly approaching. It is set for Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7, at Sawhill Park. The activities begin 7 p.m.

Survivor's Nite will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, at the Equity meeting room. All survivors are invited to come and have refreshments with the committee and to pick up their T-shirt to wear at the Survivor's lap scheduled first thing (7 p.m.) on May 5 at Sawhill Park.

"Please plan to join other survivors at the Chamber of Commerce Cookout Relay evening for a free dinner at 6 p.m. before walking or riding the Survivor's Lap," said Gloria Bracelin, chairman.

All team captains and those individuals who have sold luminarias, please come to Bank Night at 6:30 p.m. at the Equity meeting room on Thursday. This is the time to deposit all funds collected for the Relay for Life.

## Locks of Love

Several individuals will be having their hair cut at the Relay. The hair will be donated to the Locks of Love project which sends the hair to be made into wigs for cancer survivors.

The hair should be at least 10-inches long. Those who have not signed up should contact Denise Andrist at Girl Friends and Guys Too, 785-332-3393 or Leshia Hilt at 785-332-2940.

## Luminaria Ceremony

One of the meaningful portions of the night will be the Luminaria Ceremony which will start about 10 p.m. Lined all along the sidewalks and interior walks of Sawhill Park will be white bags with candles in them. The candle-

are urged to come check out the quilt and see how they might become its owner. It will be given away at the June Relay.

## Relay for Life

The Relay for Life will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 6 at Sawhill Park. Team members will walk until 7 a.m. Saturday, June 7, to raise the funds pledged for research for a cure for cancer. If interested in forming a team, call Gloria Bracelin, 785-332-2757, or Betty Petersen, 785-332-8990.

## Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 5 at the county clerk's office. You may also contact the Veteran's Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 785-462-3572.

## Recovery Today/Narcotics Anonymous

Recovery Today group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. on Sunday nights at the United Methodist Educational Building. Call (785) 332-6542 or 8607 for more

information.

## Sainty Serenity Seekers/Alcoholics Anonymous

Sainty Serenity Seekers open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous is held at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday evening at the United Methodist Education Building at 104 W. Webster, St. Francis. Call (785) 332-6542 for more information

## Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7 day-a-week services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Weekly support groups are available for women and children within the northwest Kansas area. For information or if you are in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

## Correction

The Herald has been informed that Gavin Smull received a \$1,000 Alice Gillispie scholarship instead of the \$500 Walter and Lucille Stephenson Memorial Scholarship printed in the May 22 issue of the newspaper.

lit bags are in honor of someone who survives cancer and in memory of a loved one who lost their battle to cancer.

To purchase a luminaria, contact Mrs. Bracelin, 785-332-2757; Betty Loudon, 785-332-2347; Keely Loyd, 785-332-2438; or Betty Petersen, 785-332-8990.

## Own a quilt

A Cancer Quilt has been made for the Relay. It is on display this week at Bankwest and tickets may be purchased there for the opportunity to own it. The quilt was made by Common Thread Quilt Club. The members are ladies from the county and the quilt was spearheaded by Dorothy Smestad of Sainty Stitches.

## Baskets auctioned

Businesses, organizations and individuals have put together baskets with a theme. The baskets will be auctioned off at the Relay.

"The auction has become a popular event," said Mrs. Bracelin. "People enjoy creating the baskets and others enjoy the opportunity to take one home — all the time, raising money to help fight cancer."

The baskets are on display at the Methodist Thrift Store on Main Street.

## Come on down!

"We hope everyone will come down to the park June 6," said Betty Loudon, one of the committee members. "There will be an auction, entertainment, a disc jockey, barbecue, the Shrine Candy Wagon and lots of activities to enjoy."

"We have the most beautiful historic park to have our Relay in," said Mrs. Bracelin. "The people of the county have always supported the Relay and we are hoping everyone will come down."

**SHOWTIME: 8:00 p.m. 1 hr. 38 min.**

**What Happens in Vegas**

May 30, 31 & June 1 Comedy

Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Lake Bell, Dennis Farina

Rating: PG-13 for some sexual and crude content, and language, including a drug reference.

**CHEYENNE THEATER** St. Francis, KS  
785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$3 All Others: \$5

**Cheyenne County Relay for Life**

Friday, June 6  
Sawhill Park, St. Francis  
**St. Francis Chamber**

will be having a **BBQ at 6:30 p.m.**  
(Free-will Donation)  
**Survivor Walk at 7 p.m.**

**7:30 p.m. — Entertainment in the Band Shell followed by a moving Luminary Service**

Drinks can be purchased at the Shriners' Candy Wagon

All Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society

**CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL** 210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS  
785-332-2104

*Relay for Life baskets will be on display as follows:*

**Cheyenne County Hospital**  
May 28th - 29th

**United Methodist Thrift Store**  
May 30th - 31st

**Hometown Market in Bird City**  
June 2nd - 3rd

**All bids are to be turned in by noon June 4th.**

**You Are Invited to Attend**

**KAN STEP Emergency Building Dedication**

Conducted by the  
**Grand Lodge of Kansas Masons**

**Saturday, May 31, 2008**  
2:00 pm

**An Open House will follow**

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**LS-Z71, 4x4, Automatic**  
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