



THE BRACELIN team had 51 walkers participate during the Relay for Life. The Relay started Friday night and ended early Saturday morning.

Cancer Relay For Life — a big success

Residents of Cheyenne County and their families and friends made a giant step toward a cure for cancer on Friday when they participated in the ninth Cheyenne County Relay for Life.

Teams and many other people came together during this year's relay to raise in excess of \$18,000. The final tally will be announced later as money is still coming in.

The Silver Teams brought in over \$3,000. These teams were Forever In Blue Jeansw (Schlepp team) and The Bracelin Bunch. The hospital's team had a total of over \$600.

Money raised during the Relay helps fund the American Cancer Society's research, education, advocacy and service programs. The Society is the largest non-profit supporter of new cancer research and the largest voluntary health organization fighting cancer in the country.

"We appreciate all the support we received from each of the teams, as well as from sponsors, the committee, and the public," said Gloria Bracelin, chairman. "We are especially grateful to all of the many volunteers and their families for all their hard work to make this event happen."

Relay for Life is a family oriented event where participants enjoy the camaraderie while also raising funds to support activities of the American Cancer Society. Participants camped out and when they were not taking their turn walking around Sawhill Park, they took part in fun activities. The Relay also raises awareness about cancer by honoring cancer survivors.

The St. Francis Chamber of Commerce, with Sondra Bracelin and her team, served barbecue that had been prepared by Roger Jensen and Travis Jensen. The Cheyenne Shrine Club had their Candy Wagon in the park, and served drinks and other goodies. All proceeds from both organizations were donated to the Relay. The Lions Club also made breakfast burritos, and donated all proceeds to the Relay.

At 7 p.m., Mrs. Bracelin, welcomed everyone to Sawhill Park. She introduced Lauren Zwegardt, who sang the National Anthem. She then introduced Pastor Jeff Landers, from the First Christian Church, who offered the invocation. Kenny Bracelin and Isreal Nipps carried the Survivor's Banner to get the event started. The Survivor's Lap allows Cheyenne County cancer survivors to take a lap around the park to celebrate their progress in defeating cancer. A "people mover" was donated by the Good Samaritan Village to transport those who could not walk the whole lap.

The second lap is dedicated to the Caregiver of the Survivor, and the family and friends join the survivors for that lap. The third lap was the Team Lap with all team members making a lap. Someone from each team then walked around the park all night and into the dawn to raise money for the cure of cancer.

The start finish line was marked by two new banner poles, donated

by Ross Manufacturing, with "Celebrate - Remember and Fight" back banners, donated by Kenny and Gloria Bracelin, hanging on each. The balloon arch was donated by Greg and Susie Walz, Walz Welding. Corporate sponsors donated money and their services.

"Please thank the sponsors for their support," said Betty Petersen, corporate chairman. "We would not be so successful in our campaign without the generosity of these people and their companies."

After the three laps, activities began in the band shell. Jennifer Van Eaton, community management development of the American Cancer Society, from Colby, introduced herself and welcomed everyone. This was her third year to help plan and participate in the county's Relay. She then introduced the local committee and thanked them for their many hours of service toward putting on the Relay.

The entertainment included Don Love, three teams from the Dance Ranch, and the All-Night music was provided by Darren Kannady of Goodland. This music was donated to the Relay.

Three cancer survivors gave talks about how they discovered their cancer, what was done, and warned everyone present to be watchful of body changes, and get in early for checkups. The speakers were Geneva Northrup, Pat Crabtree, and Keely Lloyd.

The annual auction of donated theme baskets was done by Betty and Skip Petersen, and their daughter, Robin. A good crowd was on hand to help raise money for the Relay. During the entertainment Denise Andrist, Leisha Hilt, and Crystal Ludowese cut nine people's hair to be donated for wigs for cancer patients. This is a wonderful way to share something personal with those who lose their own hair in treatments.

At 9:45, dusk, the Luminaria Ceremony began. While the hundreds of luminarias were lit all around Sawhill Park and the band shell, Mrs. Petersen and Betty Loudon read the names of those people whom luminarias had been purchased. One list was "in honor of" survivors, and one list was "in memory" of loved ones who had lost their battle to cancer. The Marino family of Goodell Greenhouse, donated the use of their flower carts so that the volunteers could place luminarias around the park. The lumber yard and contractors donated wood blocks that were placed in the sacks to keep them from tipping over.

At select times after midnight, as they came across the start finish, walkers were given a chance to sign up for prizes to be given away. Video Kingdom donated a portable DVD player with 7-inch screen. This was won by Sherri Stang who registered at 4 a.m. Duffle bags, donated by Kenny Bracelin farm, were won by Trista Smull, Cade Bracelin, and Teresa Trumbo. Shalyn Zwegardt won a radio headset.

A quilt, made by the Common Thread Quilt Guild Ladies, was



CHAMBER BARBECUE — Sondra Bracelin, Dougie Ross, Donna Northrup, Marla Ross and Kari Gilliland served Angie, Kevin and Joshua Berens and others. Below, caregivers joined the survivors.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick



won by Jolee Jamison, a cancer survivor.

Throughout the night from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., activities planned by Dara Loyd and Holly Keller were taking place. Human bingo, 3-on-3 basketball and dodgeball.

Cheyenne Bowl donated pizza for the Relay and delivered it at midnight.

Many fundraising events took place throughout the year, including the committee members staffing the Pizza Hut one Saturday, sales of daffodils, and of course, the crazy pink Flamingos that mysteriously appeared in yards this spring.

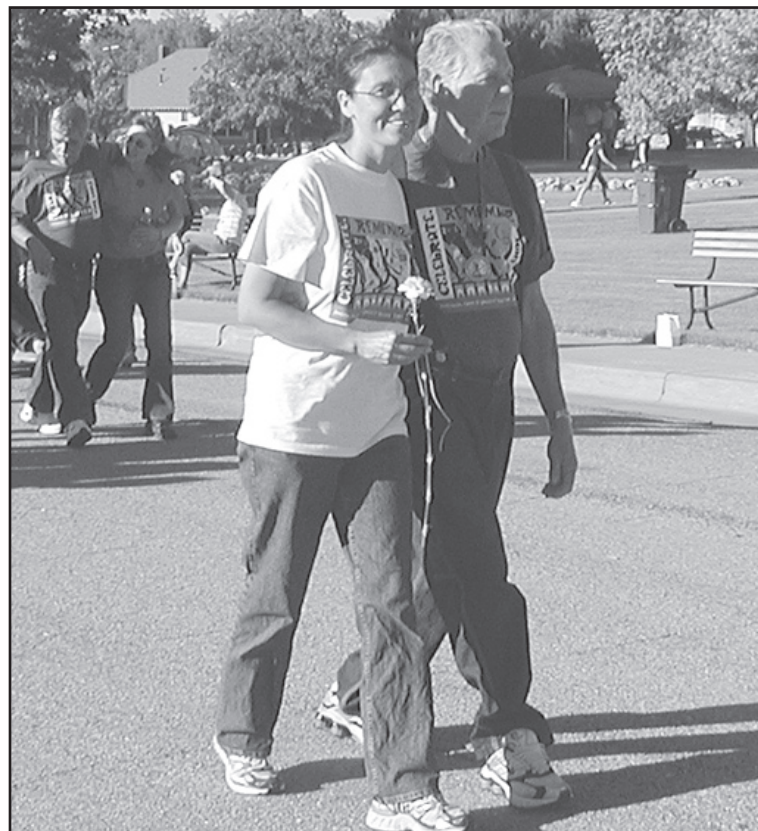
The Kenny Bracelin family had a fundraiser in April. The Schlepp Family (Forever In Blue Jeans) had many fundraisers throughout the year, one being a

drawing for a handmade denim quilt that was given away at the Relay.

This year the committee voted to change the time of year and night for Relay, so be alert again, so we can look forward to another great Relay in June 2009.

"We think we have the most caring community, and the most gorgeous park to hold a Relay in, so thanks again to all who participated in any way," said Sherry Schultz, co-Luminaria chairman.

The Cheyenne County Relay for Life Committee includes: Gloria Bracelin, Sherry Schultz, Betty Loudon, Dara Loyd, Keely Loyd, Betty Petersen, Robyn Raile, Dee Wilson, Leisha Hilt, Susie Walz, Carol Ross, Kristi Guthmiller, Marsha Zimelman and Teri Berkgen.



WALKING — Tema Trumbo and her father, ????? walk around the park for hours.