

POSTER CHILD is what Dr. Mark Brunvard is what he called Krista Pummer at the Rocky Mountain Cancer Center held on Sept. 14.

BEATS

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Her mother said she was alone when she received the sad news.

At that time, she was 98 percent full of leukemic cells.

The doctors started the first dose of chemotherapy that night. She had what the doctors called, "aggressive chemo" and she was in the hospital until August. There was a week break in the chemo and she was able to come home for a short period.

When she went back for the second round of chemo, she stayed at Brent's Place, an apartment for cancer patients. This time she was an outpatient.

She had eight bone biopsies as this was the only sure way the doctors could tell how the chemo was working. The last session in September wiped out her entire immune system. Now she was back in the hospital in isolation. If she were to get any kind of bug or disease, she would not be able to fight it off.

She started radiation therapy in October.

Having a stem cell transplant has its risks including "Graft vs Host" disease. This is when the person's body rejects the transplant and they can bleed to death.

I was scared, Ms. Pummer said, and I didn't know what to do. Then she had a visitor. An 83-year-old man, who had the transplant, talked to her. She knew if she was going to beat the cancer and come back to her kids, she had to have the transplant.

The stem cell transplant was made on Oct. 5. A week later on Oct. 12, she had heart surgery to repair the hole.

She had been told that she would probably be very ill after the transplant but, she wasn't sick at all. In fact, she talked to her mother to tell her that she was eating.

Ms. Pummer's doctor, Mark Brunvard, said she was his "poster child," — that her positive attitude was one of the things that had pulled her through.

"I owe my recovery to God, the doctors, the stem cell donor and all the people who said prayers," she said. "Mom, Dad and my kids were the ones who kept me going."

Ms. Pummer said it took awhile for the cells to build but she was able to come home right before Christmas and she had 98 percent donor cells (in other words, she was cancer free).

"It was the best Christmas present we could have had," Mrs. Gamblin said.

There were ups and downs, highs and lows during the 7-month illness.

"The hardest thing was being away from my kids," she said. "I would go through the chemo again if I didn't have to ever be away from them."

"I had trouble (keeping a positive attitude) when she lost her hair," Mrs. Gamblin said. Leukemia not only is hard on the family but also includes the family, both mentally and emotionally."

Today, Ms. Pummer's youngest daughter still worries about her being sick again and leaving them.

On Sept. 14, Ms. Pummer's 35th birthday, the Rocky Mountain Cancer Center held a Cancer Survival Reunion and she was able to celebrate being cancer free. It was a joyous day for her and her family. It was also a sad day because some of the people she had known during her time at the hospital had died or were unable to attend.

Ms. Pummer is at home in Goodland with daughters, Davada, 11, and Britney, 7. Jonathan, who is 14, attends school in St. Francis. She plans to organize a "Blood Cancer

Walk," and is eager to talk to groups, organizations and individuals about leukemia, how it is detected and the treatment. She will also be a spokesperson for Rocky Mountain Cancer Center and maybe she, like the 83-year-old man, can give reassurance to other cancer patients.

The odds of the cancer returning are slim and after three years, there is very little chance.

"I will have conquered it!" she said.

Her doctor has not released her to go back to work so she is spending quality time with her family. She has a passion for stock car racing. She built her car and was a track official in August.

Last year, she was able to make one round at the race in Goodland. This year, she has raced all year. She was presented with an orange trophy at the last race at the Thomas County Speedway in Colby for being a cancer survivor. The orange signifies the type of cancer she had.

This summer, she built an orange bird bath in her yard out of pieces of stock car as a reminder of the cancer she had and the races she has to look forward to.

To contact Ms. Pummer with questions or to arrange a speaking engagement, call her at 785-899-4179.

GYM

Continued from Page 1

Monthly property tax	
\$50,000 home	\$2.99
\$75,000	\$4.49
\$100,000	\$5.99
\$150,000	\$8.98
Daily property tax	
\$50,000 home	\$.10
\$75,000	\$.15
\$100,000	\$.20
\$150,000	\$.30

Commercial property Annual property tax	
\$50,000	\$78.13
\$75,000	\$117.19
\$100,000	\$156.25
\$150,000	\$234.38
\$200,000	\$312.50

Monthly property tax	
\$50,000	\$6.51
\$75,000	\$9.77
\$100,000	\$13.02
\$150,000	\$19.53
\$200,000	\$26.04

Daily property tax	
\$50,000	\$.21
\$75,000	\$.32
\$100,000	\$.43
\$150,000	\$.64
\$200,000	\$.86

Agricultural property Annual property tax	
Dry crop land (median use value-\$90/acre)	
160 acres	\$27.00
640 acres	\$108.00

Irrigated land (median use value-\$150/acre)	
160 acres	\$45.00
640 acres	\$180.00

Grassland (median use value-\$16/acre)	
160 acres	\$4.80
640 acres	\$19.20

Annual cost per acre	
Dry crop land	\$.17
Irrigated land	\$.28
Grassland	\$.03

Monthly property tax	
Dry crop land	
160 acres	\$2.25
640 acres	\$9.00

Irrigated land	
160 acres	\$3.75
640 acres	\$15.00

Grassland	
160 acres	\$.40
640 acres	\$1.60

Register to vote

Those who have not registered to vote, have changed their name and/or address, need to check with the election officer, Terry Miller, at the clerk's office in the courthouse. The last day to register to vote is 15 days before the election or on Oct. 20.

CLEANUP

Continued from Page 1

problem is a cosmetic issue. The cement is fine however, due to freezing weather before the building was erected, it has cause some slight flaking. The council will check the cost of putting a sealer on it.

Police report

Chief of police Shane Guggenmos gave his report. Officer Kent Allard will be attending the academy for the next two weeks.

Chief Guggenmos also said they have been very busy this past week, but didn't mention any activity that was going on.

Building permits

Building permits were issued to:

- Pat Lamb to tear down and move a fence.
- Barb Ewing to run cement.

Airport report

Attorney Mike Day presented a

— Book Review —

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

The Gambling Man

By Kent Conwell

"You got a choice. Hang as a horse thief or teach our school kids."

That was the decision facing Mage Casebolt, a decision that made him wish he had never disembarked the riverboat at New Orleans.

Bound for San Francisco to join his brothers in a gambling emporium, Mage's journey halts abruptly in Valley Springs when he is framed for horse stealing.

The teaching job is unpleasant enough, but then a cholera epidemic quarantines the town, saddling him with an old freed slave, twelve boisterous schoolchildren who make a practice of running teachers out of town, and the local postmistress who detests the idea of a gambler playing the part of schoolmaster.

Then the rustlers hit, and Mage faces the task of reining them in with his little contingent of misfits. He quickly realizes that mixing kids, guns, dynamite, and rattlesnakes can make life mighty exciting, and uncertain.

Quit Claim form to be signed by Mayor Scott Schultz This was for the land that had been owned by the city, but held the airport. This will now be considered county property.

The county had been in a 50-year lease with the city in year's past.

Rodney Bracelin, councilman, reported that the property that was thought to be in the flight path is not, so no property will have to be moved.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7, in the city hall on Washington Street.



MOLDING CLAY — Art class always has projects going under the instruction of Mary Beikman. Cody Sherlock, left, and Zach Zwegardt are busy making something. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Keeping pumpkins longer

Nowadays, pumpkin displays go up at stores, stands and markets before Labor Day. So, shoppers have to decide whether buying Halloween pumpkins several weeks early is OK to do or rather foolish.

Kansas State University's Research and Extension horticulturists say the pumpkins that last longest are:

- Fully mature. You can test for this by trying to pierce the rind

with your thumbnail. If that's easy, the pumpkin is too young to harvest. If it's hard, the pumpkin is ripe.

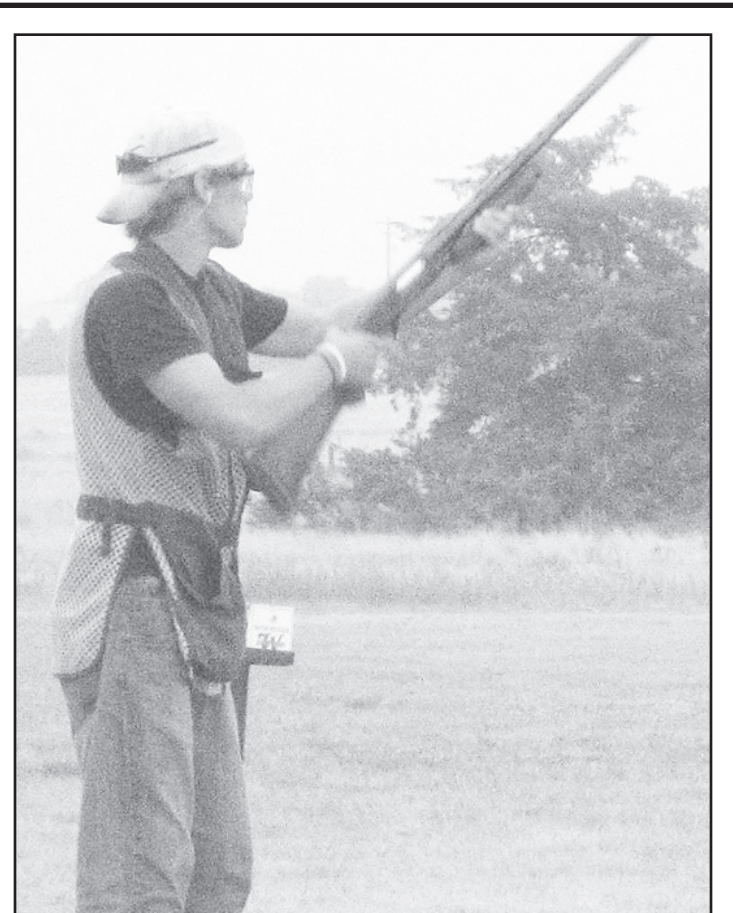
Then try picking the pumpkin up (but not by its stem!). Fully ripe pumpkins almost seem too heavy for their size

- Soft spot- and blemish-free. Bumps and hard "pimples," on the other hand, have no impact on how quickly pumpkins lose quality. As with pumpkin shape and rind color, they're just how some varieties grow.

- Stemmed. Outdoor pumpkins, in particular, need a stem to avoid having a water-collecting, spoilage-promoting depression on top. So, don't chance breaking that stem off by carrying a pumpkin around by its "handle." Stem color is no longer a clue to maturity — almost all stems now are green. But, a "ripe" stem will be too dry to leak sap.

- Dry and cool - indoors or out. Harvested pumpkins don't like to be wet. That's why gardeners in the early 1900s stored their harvest in the attic, rather than the damp basement. Remember, though, that cool doesn't mean cold. Pumpkins start to degrade at temperatures below 50 degrees. They can become garbage overnight if they freeze.

- Whole. Carved jack-o-lanterns rarely last more than a week. To extend a jack-o-lantern's life, paint the face.



TREVOR REED has qualified for the State Shotgun Competition in Newton on Oct. 11.

Photo courtesy of the Extension Office

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