

## Relay raises money for research



Thousands of dollars were raised to fight cancer on Friday as walkers and others participated in the Cheyenne County Relay for Life event at Sawhill Park, St. Francis.

"The 2010 American Cancer Relay for Life was a huge success," said Pat Rose, chairman of the Relay.

A large crowd attended the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce barbecue in the park. The meat had been cooked by Doug Ross and served by the Andrist family. The Cheyenne Shrine Club added to the festivities by having their candy wagon close by selling drinks and cotton candy. Proceeds from each were donated to the Relay.

One of the highlights of the evening was the release of over 200 purple and white balloons by local children. The balloons were to symbolize all of the survivors of cancer and they sailed upward into the blue sky with all the hopes and prayers for a true cure for cancer.

The opening ceremonies followed with the Girl Scouts providing the flag ceremony, the National Anthem and a prayer offered by Pastor David Butler, St. Francis Community Church.

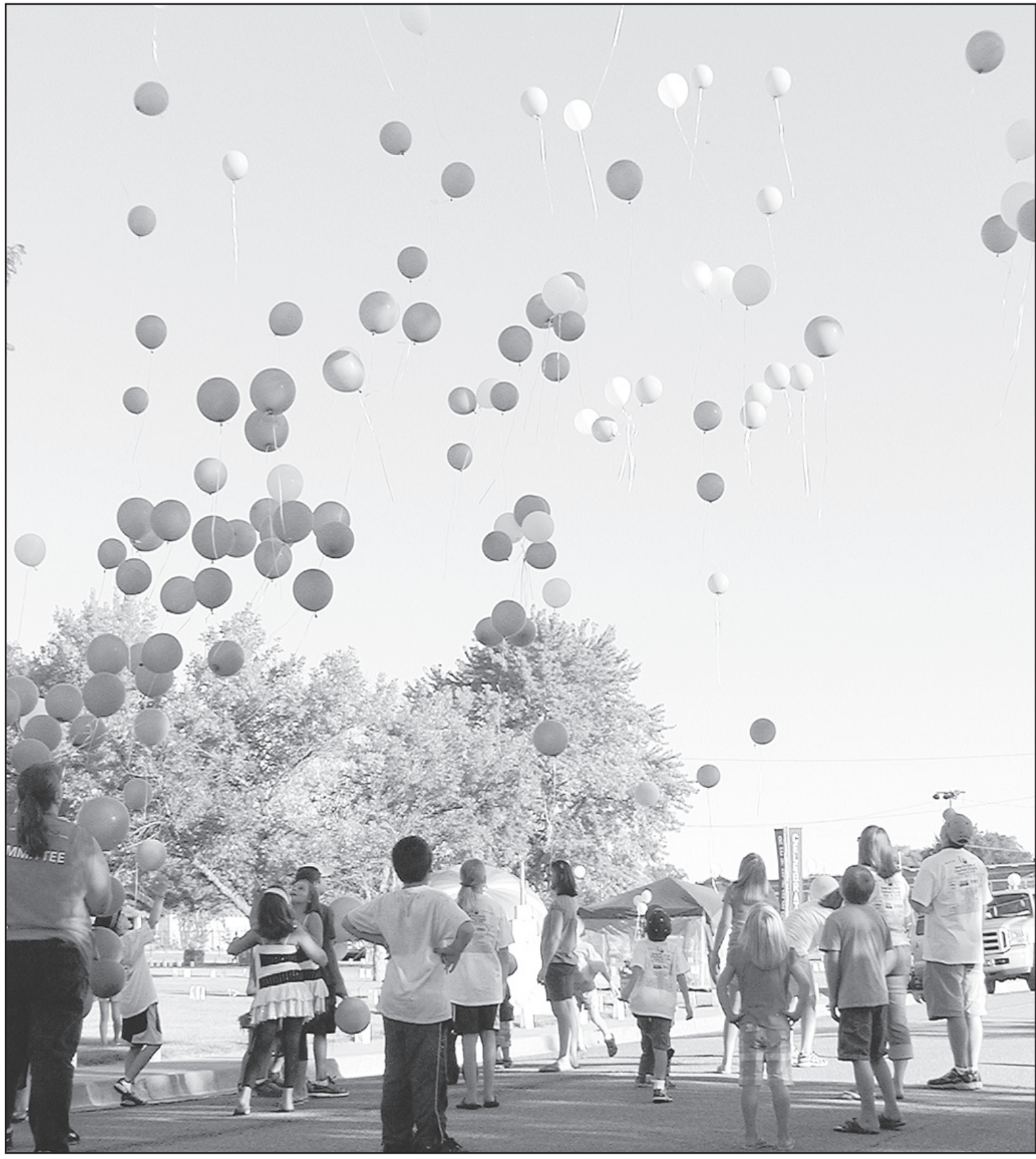
The survivor's lap was led by Kip Wiese, Sandy Frisbie and Rex Murray carrying the large banner of "Celebrate, remember and fight back." Over 50 survivors, either walked or were driven in the Good Samaritan Village's people mover, pulled by Ron Loudon on his antique tractor.

The next lap was for the survivors and their caregivers, then each was given a lovely cake with their name, date of diagnosis and type of cancer. These symbolized that "Happy Birthday is a victory song," which was the theme of the 2010 Relays. The Relay teams then took the field and continued to have at least one member of each team walk around the park all night. This symbolizes the awful dark journey through midnight and dark hours, then as the dawn approaches, so does hope and victory from cancer.

Dana Rose and Toni Keller provided games and entertainment for the teams during the night. Each team also had their own games and some still sold items and food, earning additional money to be donated to Relay for Life. Through the evening, music was provided by Randy Smestead, keeping the teams entertained and walking with a beat.

The entertainment in the park started just after the survivor's lap. Teresa Porter and her Dance Ranch students performed several dances, and the last set of performers were the high school girls performing a modern dance to "I Walk For Hope." Their costumes were pink and the finale was a large pink scarf, which they tossed up in the air and made the wonderful pink symbol for breast cancer as it came down.

Tracy Neitzel introduced her



OVER 200 PURPLE AND WHITE balloons were released at the Relay for Life activities held Friday night and into the morning on Saturday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Commissioners schedule budget hearing on Tuesday

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

On Tuesday, the Cheyenne County Commissioners have scheduled the budget hearing for 9 a.m.

This has been one of the most difficult budgets we have dealt with, said Andy Beikman, commissioner.

Earlier in the year, the commissioners discovered there had been a \$340,000 mistake in calculating natural gas taxes. This money had been figured into the budget and, all of a sudden, the county was short. Many expenditures were cut from office supplies to road graders.

Due to lowered natural gas

prices and decreased production, the state assessed valuation on gas production decreased by \$9 million.

The commissioners will be approving 82.550 mills or a budget of \$4,736,524 at the budget hearing. This is \$132,899 higher than two years ago, or an average increase of \$66,500 each year.

Terry Miller, county clerk, had figures obtained from the Kansas Property Valuation Department website. He compared Cheyenne County to 25 counties about the same size.

As of 2010, Cheyenne County had the fourth lowest operating budget; the third lowest amount of tax needed to run the budget and

the second lowest mill levy needed to fund the budget and out of the 25 counties, Cheyenne County was the fourth lowest in tax per capita.

Plugging Cheyenne County's 2011 proposed budget expenditures increase into the 25 county comparison, Mr. Miller pointed out the county would still be the sixth lowest in expenditures per county and sixth lowest budget submitted. This even after the county lost so much in valuation.

In the last 10 years, the county has been in the bottom seven of the 105 counties in expenditures.

Following are the figures to compare how Cheyenne County

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## Mobile unit demonstrated

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

Mike Callicrate recently had a mobile slaughter house at his facility, Callicrate Feed Yard, south of St. Francis. The mobile facility is a demonstration project for a number of interested parties and media representatives.

The 53-foot semi trailer, built by Flat River Corporation of Columbus, Neb., will be capable of traveling to farms and ranches. It has the ability to hold up to 30 carcasses for cooling. An experienced butcher could process eight to 10 cattle per day in the slaughter area. The unit is completely self contained, and amazingly clean.

"We were able to watch the processing of several hogs, in the course of a few hours," said Chuck Krebs, coordinator for the Cheyenne County Development Corporation.

"Our animals will be slaughtered where they are instead of traveling 200 miles to market," said Mr. Callicrate. "This reduces stress, which should improve meat quality, while improving humane treatment."

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THE MOBILE UNIT can hold up to 30 carcasses. At Callicrate Feed Yard, butchers had just finished taking care of this animal.



MEDIA PEOPLE were watching the slaughter process.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



MANY SUNFLOWERS are at their peak and within a few weeks they will have turned to a dried, ugly brown.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien