



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Ready for first grade



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Jodie Touslee and her daughter, Elizabeth, visited with (left) Rhonda Kropp, secretary at Colby Grade School, during enrollment Tuesday in the high school commons area. Elizabeth enrolled in first grade, her mother said. School officials said as many as 600 families were involved in the enrollment process and the estimated count for the 2004-05 school year is at 1,000 students.

New student enrollment was held today at each individual building. Anyone who missed enrollment should contact either Colby Grade School, 460-5100; Middle School, 460-5200 or High School, 460-5300, prior to the first day of school on Thursday, Aug. 19. For other general questions, call the administration building at 460-5000.

## Relay For Life still searching for more teams

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

With just over a week away from Thomas County's largest slumber party, *Relay For Life*, teams are still needed, said Carla Sharp, chairing this year's event.

Now in its eleventh year, the *Relay For Life* event begins at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20, concluding at 7 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, at Dennen Field, she said.

"Colby has hosted this event for more than a decade, contributing nearly \$200,000 toward lifesaving programs and the ultimate goal of finding a cure for cancer," said Bob Coleman, in charge of corporate sponsorships this year.

Coleman, who has been on the American Cancer Society's *Relay For Life* committee for nine years, said he continues to volunteer because a cure for cancer is so desperately needed.

Each year the "Cancer Survivor Victory Lap," honors those cancer survivors who are winning the battle, he said.

"When those survivors make that victory lap, it shows me that the donations are helping to find a cure," Coleman said.

Anyone who has survived cancer Regarding the number of teams, Sharp said, there are seven groups signed up.

"We had originally hoped for 15 teams this year, but realistically the committee would be happy to have 10 teams," she said.

Businesses, groups, organizations, government entities or individuals can form a team, she said.

Ideally, a team should consist of 10 to 12 people since every team is required to have a "walker" on the track at all times during the 12-hour period, she said.

Since the committee would like to have as many teams join the event as possible, Sharp said the deadline has been extended until Wednesday, Aug. 18.

In addition to the victory lap, which kicks off the event, there is also a luminary lighting ceremony from 9 to 10 p.m. on Friday, she said.

"This ceremony honors those who either are continuing their own personal battle with cancer or those

**“ Colby has hosted this event for more than a decade, contributing nearly \$200,000 toward lifesaving programs and the ultimate goal of finding a cure for cancer.”**

Bob Coleman  
*Relay For Life* committee

who have lost the fight," she said.

During that hour, the names of those honorees will be announced.

For those who would like to have the name of a loved one honored during the one-hour ceremony, Sharp asks that they call her or Coleman and for a donation, a luminary for that person will be lit.

Throughout the 12-hour event, Sharp said there will be music provided by Andrew Breese and Karen Higerd, both members of the Community Awareness Team. Food, games and other entertainment will also be highlighted throughout the night and into the morning hours.

People who have survived cancer and are interested in participating in the victory lap at 7 p.m., should call Sharp at either 460-7451 or 460-4881 or Coleman at 462-2724. Anyone planning to walk the first lap will also receive a free T-shirt.

Others wanting to form a team are asked to call Sharp, who will give them a donation packet and information about being a team.

All other questions can be directed to both Sharp or Coleman.

"*Relay For Life*," said Sharp, "brings the progress against cancer to the forefront and *Relay For Life* brings together friends, families, businesses, hospitals, schools, churches and more — all with the goal of supporting a cure for cancer — please plan to attend or help with a donation."

## 4-H livestock auction nets over \$90,000

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

One of the major highlights each year at the Thomas County Fair is the annual 4-H Livestock Auction and this year more than \$90,000 was raised to benefit youth animal projects.

The event this year was held Friday at the fairgrounds with more than 100 business representatives or individuals attending to buy one or more animals.

In addition to the buyers, more than 60 youth from all the area 4-H clubs sold either market beef, hog

or lamb, along with yearling market bucket calves at the auction. In total, over 100 animals were auctioned off, said Joe Leibbrandt, Thomas County extension agent.

"The average price per pound on steer at the sale was \$1.36, hogs at \$2.21 per pound and sheep at \$1.91 per pound," he said, "and this is higher than in past years."

Participants from the Brewster Prairie Gem Club included Quintin and Rose Bear, Michael and Stephenie Eicher, Amy and Ashley Carpenter, Audrey and Kasey Hoyt, Kayla Ryan, Avery and Whitney

Schultz, Andrew and Miranda Starns, Baylee Westover, and Wyatt Werth.

Abilene Hustlers from Rexford included Hannah and Keagan Strange, Brandon and Ashley Standa, Bailey, Emily and Shelby Terrell, Bailey Herron, Andy Huelsman, Scott Johnston, Brandon and Joshua Mazanec, Chase, D.J. and Lane Rietcheck, Rocque Russell, Brady and Tatym Rundel, Case and Colton Rundel, and Justin and Kelsey Shields.

The Colby group, Solomon Valley, included Amy, Dana, Brenda,

and Sally Wilson, Connor and Tiffany Wilson, Quinnlyn and Quade Woofter, Chance and Jena Cranston, Nichelle Erskine, Amanda Fromholtz, Clint and Shawna Goossen, Lissa, Raya and Trent Mazanec, and Lindsey and Robin Wilson.

The Gem 4-H Club members participating were Clay and Lucas Phillips of Selden and Jeremy and Katera Harter of the Abilene Hustlers and Colby Comets.

Buyers, sellers and grand and reserve grand champions will appear in a later edition of the *Free Press*.

## Seminar in Colby focuses on sexual assault

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Law enforcement officials, health care providers and other interested individuals are learning more about how to deal with sexual assault in their communities at a training seminar at Colby Community College this week.

A "Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team" education course, being taught by Diana Schunn, a sexual assault nurse examiner and sexual assault response team manager with Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita and the director of the Kansas Sexual Assault Network, got underway Monday and continues through Friday.

Members of the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and Colby Police Department are among the law enforcement officials undergoing

training. C.D. Hopper, an investigator with the sheriff's office, and deputy Jane McDougal are also attending the training session.

Hopper said he's never taken the sexual assault response team training before but said the class has been very good and the instructors are "excellent."

He said he hopes the training leads to the establishment of a response team in the community.

He was also happy to see so many people attending.

"I'm really pleased with the turnout," he said.

McDougal said she's glad for the chance to get the medical and law enforcement communities to work together.

"I think it's great training," she said.

Gary Shull, an investigator with the Colby Police Department, said

part of the goal of the local training is to get an advocate more involved in Colby.

"I want to see how we can better integrate the advocate," Shull said, adding in the past most sexual assault cases in the community have usually involved just the hospital and police.

"It's been very informative," Shull said.

He said many of the people at the training session are nurses from as far away as North Platte, Neb. and also police officers from Oakley and Goodland. Tuesday morning, the group learned about mandatory reporting, or who has to report.

"It means if your mind's gone there, you've got your level of suspicion," instructor Schunn said.

She said licensed health care professionals are required by law to make a report to Social and Reha-

bitative Services and if they're not open, to call law enforcement and then notify SRS as soon as possible.

Schunn said it's a good idea to do both and a failure to report in Kansas is a class B misdemeanor.

She said there's usually confusion over the legal age of consent in Kansas, which is 16 years of age. She said if a child is under 16 and there's a suspicion of abuse or if they're between the ages of 16- to 18-years-old and there's been illegal activity, it is required by law to be reported.

She said the age limit was set because under 16, a child isn't legally old enough or capable enough to give their own consent.

"We are in a unique nursing role," she said, adding a nurse's role in that situation is to be a neutral fact-finder and that an advocate is the one providing emotional support.

**Colby  
Winona  
Russell Springs**

**A comfortable outlook**

**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy early in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the 50s. Light winds. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

**Thursday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 70s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the 50s. Southeast winds around 5 mph.

**Friday...**Partly cloudy. Highs around 80. South winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.

**The numbers**  
Tuesday's high, 79  
Low this morning, 53  
Records for Aug. 11, 109 in 1935 and 46 in 1931  
Year ago today, 87 and 64  
Precipitation past 48 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.62  
August total, 0.75  
Soil temperature, 64

**The sources:**  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.  
Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

**Water use**  
• Aug. 9 = 2.810 million gallons.

**Water advisories**  
• **Water Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.  
• **Water Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.  
• **Water Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

## Briefly

### Leadership applications wanted

The Quest and Leadership Thomas County application forms have been sent to those nominated, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators. The Quest is the informational piece which explains the program. It has also been sent to the executive officers of some of the larger organizations in Thomas County who may also nominate their employees. The sessions will be held the third Wednesdays beginning in October and running through April. For those who did not receive an application form and are interested in the program, stop by the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and pick up a form. Applications are due Friday, Aug. 20 with the class being announced Sept. 17. For questions, call 460-3401.

### Blood donations needed for drive

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at the Colby Community Building. For information on donating blood or to schedule an appointment to donate, call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or visit [www.redcross.org/br/centralplains](http://www.redcross.org/br/centralplains). In addition, volunteers are still needed. If interested, call (785) 462-2082.

### 'Sneak Peak' at Colby Grade School

Colby Grade School will be open on Wednesday, Aug. 18 from 5-6 p.m. for students to meet their teachers and tour the classrooms, said Terrell Harrison, principal. For questions, call 460-5100.

