



COLBY FREE PRESS



ABOVE: Thomas County cancer survivors took a victory lap around the track at Dennen Field to kick off the annual American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" Friday night. Nine teams walked all night and raised more than \$10,000 for



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

cancer research, which surpassed last year's amount. ABOVE RIGHT: Deztiny Shea, 3, the youngest cancer survivor at the event, enjoyed the festivities. She is the daughter of Magnum and Krista Shea of Colby.

Colby's 'Relay for Life' raises \$10,000 plus

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Despite problems during the planning stages, this past weekend's annual American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" in Colby raised more than \$10,000 and there is still some money expected to come in, said Carla Sharp, chairperson.

Nine teams helped raise the sum that surpassed last year's event. They were a 4-H club, the Community Awareness Team, Colby Schools Technology Student Association, Colby Lions Club, Trinity Lutheran Church, Colby United Methodist Church, Citizens Medical Center, Dillon's and Keith Corbett and family.

Last year's "Relay for Life" brought in just over \$9,000 for cancer research, she said. "We're really happy because we had a lot of obstacles," she said. "It was a tough year this year (getting everything done in time)." Sharp became the chair for the event after Chuck Dempewolf stepped down earlier this year after

being diagnosed with cancer. Sharp said she was new and had never organized the event before, but had help from Dempewolf, Cheryl Schwarz, who organized last year's "Relay," the Hays relay coordinator and others. She said they also had trouble finding a DJ for the event, but two students from the Community

Awareness Team — Andrew Breese and Karen Higerd — stepped up and stayed up all night to keep things moving. Sharp said she appreciated all the help and is glad the relay went well. "It turned out fine," she said. "I'm really proud of everyone involved."

'Rally for the Kansas Family' mixed with issues, politics

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

It was a family affair at the "Rally for the Kansas Family" held Saturday night at the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky was there, along with brother-in-law Tim Peterson, candidate for the 40th District Senate seat, who sponsored the event — and three others around the area. Polansky talked briefly about agricultural issues. Polansky said there are important issues facing the legislature this year. He said for the first time in its history, the state will be experiencing a shift from a rural legislature

to an urban legislature because more representatives are from urban areas. "They should recognize and we recognize that rural Kansas and agriculture are not doing well economically," he said. Polansky also talked about Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' Rural Life Task Force. He said the governor put the task force in place to see what direction rural Kansas might be headed in the future.



A. Polansky

One example of the group's work are biofuels and other value-added Kansas products. Polansky said there are many creative Kansans who make food, crafts and other products but they might have problems with finding ways to market and sell their wares. He said helping them find retailers and other ideas are being looked at. "That's some of the positive things coming out of this process," Polansky said, adding ag terrorism is another issue he's working on. Another issue of concern is the wheat sprouting that took place during this year's harvest. Because of a mix-up over sampling

techniques, Polansky said insurance companies don't want to give farmers the full amount of the indemnity payments owed. Instead of sampling individual trucks, composite samples were made instead, and that's causing the problems, Polansky said. He also gave a plug for Peterson, who also spoke at the event. Peterson said he's enjoying the race but it's tough work. He said more people need to vote and participate in government because many people have given their lives to give people those rights. Peterson said he's a "socially conservative Democrat" and the issues he sees as key

are health care, the economy, agriculture, insurance and education, all of which are concerns to Kansas families. He said families can't be expected to want to settle in the area or stay if communities don't have those things. He said his purpose isn't to get bogged down on issues like gay marriage but instead focus on issues that can actually be dealt with and have an impact. "This campaign will probably come down to gays, God and guns," Peterson said. He said the key to the campaign is to get people to accentuate the positives of the area instead of thinking about the negatives all the time.

Colby
Ludell
Jennings

Expect readings to reflect August

Tonight...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 5 to 10 mph. **Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs around 90. North winds 5 to 15 mph. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the southeast after midnight. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts shifting to the north 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. **Wednesday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

The numbers
Sunday's high, 89
Low this morning, 59
Records for Aug. 23, 106 in 1943 and 41 in 1964
Year ago today, 97 and 64
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
August total, 1.23
Soil temperature, 78

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. 20-21-22 = 2.437 million gallons (daily average).

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.

School eligibility standards again discussed

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Activity eligibility was on the agenda at Monday's Colby school board meeting. Board president Stan Molstad wanted to discuss the eligibility requirements and wanted to know if there was any chance the bar could be raised. He brought up the possibility of raising the eligibility from passing five classes to passing all. "What's wrong with that?" he asked. Board member John Cranston said a problem in one class would hold a student out of all their activities. "We have higher standards than the state does," he said. "We need to offer the best education available to these kids."

Board member Gerry Fulwider said he could see the motivation to want students to do better as a positive thing but looking from the other side of the issue, he said it could be seen as trying to weed out the kids at the bottom. But he did say if the bar is raised, 98 percent of students will rise to the new level. Board member Tracy Rogers said they're getting into micromanaging and the issue should be left to the people who know the students best. He also asked if the coaches watch the grades of the players on their teams. Activities Director Jeff Quenzer said keeping track of athlete vs. non-athlete grades could be done over the course of the school year. The board also heard reports from the principals.

High school Principal Brian Kraus said 344 students are enrolled and the number could go up or down slightly before the end of the week. Enrollment is about what it was expected to be. Kraus said it was expected to be low but is actually a little higher than anticipated. He said they held the first faculty meetings on Monday and he's excited about the group of teachers coming in this year. "We've got a lot of good things in planning," Kraus said, adding all the necessary teachers and paraprofessionals have been hired. At the middle school, Principal Rob Ross said 268 students is the projected enrollment for the new school year, with 97 eighth graders, 85 sixth graders and 89 seventh graders. Enrollment is up four stu-

dents from last year, when 264 students were enrolled. Ross added they also have the largest eighth grade class enrolled in several years. "We're pretty pleased about that," he said. Ross also said the school day will be starting out differently than before. Students will start out their day with 20 minutes of reading. Grade school Principal Terrel Harrison said the grade school has 375 students enrolled, up from 362 last year. She said there are also 59 kindergartners divided into three classes, two with 20 students and one with 19. Harrison said they were expecting approximately 50 and are still expecting some last-minute enrollments before the end of the week.

Briefly

Vets clinic site discussion scheduled

Friday will be an important meeting day at Goodland and Phil Finley, Colby, is urging a carload of Legion veterans from Colby to be on hand. "It would be helpful," Finley said. He said the meeting at the VFW Post at 824 Main, Goodland, will feature the Regional VA Administrator, regarding the location of a possible veterans clinic. In another matter, Finley said that on Sept. 29, the Colby American Legion Post 363 will host Tom Cadmus, National Legion Commander, at a 3:15 p.m. coffee. Cadmus will be on his tour of the state of Kansas.

Gem Lions Club hog roast set

The Gem Lions Club is holding its annual hog roast from 5-8 p.m. on

Wednesday at the Gem Community Building. The event includes bluegrass, folk and country music, a horse shoe throwing tournament, lots of good food and visiting. Free will donations will be asked and the net proceeds will be used for community betterment. The club also will be collecting used eye glasses and hearing aids for recycling.

Scouts seek vendors for October event

Two Girl Scout Troops in Colby (Troops 162 and 167) are looking for vendors for the Craft-a-ganza Craft fair scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23. The craft fair will be held in the community building and all proceeds will go toward trip expenses throughout the year. For information, call Jan Barnum, one of the coordinators, 462-6503.

Bids held off on store

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Plans for a new Super Wal-Mart store are still a go, but construction bids are not expected to go out until spring of 2005, city officials said. From the information the city now has, Wal-Mart representatives involved in the project have indicated the new facility will open around January of 2006, said Doug Lewis, the city's building official. Initially, Wal-Mart officials said construction on the new facility would be completed by October of 2005. However, with street improvements necessary to Willow and Franklin Avenues, as well as adding sewer main and other lines, store officials decided to change start dates for store construction in order to accommodate those projects. At a previous council meeting, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, Wal-Mart officials and the city entered into an agreement whereby the city would pay about \$447,595 of the street cost and Wal-Mart would pay \$413,165 or 48 percent of the street costs. Additionally, Wal-Mart representatives agreed to pay 100 percent of the paving costs on both sides of the property where the new store is to be located just west of Franklin Avenue from Bourquin's Old Depot and RV Park. They also agreed to pay the entire cost of the 8" sewer main from the west edge of the new location, looping the perimeter with 8" water lines, Armstrong said last week.

