

Colby youth planning relief efforts

Students at Colby Middle School are doing their part to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Linda Haas, sixth grade language arts and journalism teacher, said the students are taking part in "Project Backpack" as well as planning a benefit dodgeball tournament.

"This relief effort started when I had a class of journalism students who wanted desperately to do something for Katrina victims," she said.

"We brainstormed ideas and came up with a benefit dodgeball tournament for students here at the middle school."

That same night, she went home and saw on the news four girls from Washington, D.C. who started Project Backpack.



Colby Middle School eighth grader Keesa Wright donated a backpack on Thursday for Project Backpack to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Students can help by filling a new or used backpack with school supplies, books, small toys, coloring books, crayons or other items.

They can even donate items that can be used to fill the packs.

"I thought the idea was a fabulous one and took it back to my students who also felt like it was what they were looking for," Haas said. "I have talked with many other teachers who have

also had students express an interest in helping."

She said at Colby High School, journalism teacher Donna Henry and her class and the school's service club are also helping with the effort.

"We decided to involve all Colby kids in this effort," Haas said.

They have set a goal of 500 backpacks and will be sent off the first week of October. The packs or

items can be dropped off at Colby Grade School, Colby Middle School office, Colby High School office, Puddle Duck Preschool, Dillon's or Dollar General.

The middle school dodgeball tournament will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28 in the elementary school gym.

The tournament is being sponsored by the middle school journalism class.

Teams will be coed and will be made up of three girls and three boys and the entry fee is \$3 per person. Student spectators are asked to donate an item for Project Backpack as admittance.

The winning team will compete against an all-star teacher team. Parents and other family members are encouraged to attend.

Enrollment increases slightly at universities

TOPEKA (AP)—Enrollment at state universities increased only slightly this fall, and most of the jump came at Fort Hays State University, which has the lowest tuition rate of the six schools.

The Kansas Board of Regents released figures Thursday showing the enrollment at all schools was 88,817, an increase of 547, or 0.6 percent, from fall 2004.

Of the 547 students, 519 were at Fort Hays, which had 9,019 students and posted the biggest percentage increase at 6.1 percent. Its in-state undergraduate tuition was \$1,527 for the fall semester.

On-campus students numbered 4,534, a drop of 189 from last fall.

One reason for the overall increase was the number of distance-learning students.

Enrollment in the Virtual College increased 708 to 4,485, making Fort Hays the leader in distance learning, which totaled 10,948 students for

the six schools.

Leading the state in enrollment was the University of Kansas with 29,624, which includes 2,690 students at its medical center in Kansas City, Kan., for a 0.1 percent increase over last year.

That university had the highest tuition rate, \$2,706 for in-state undergraduates.

The second-highest enrollment was at Kansas State University with 23,182 students, an increase of 0.1 percent.

The only school to lose enrollment was Wichita State with 14,076, a 1.6 percent drop.

Emporia State had 6,288 students for a 1.5 percent increase, and Pittsburg State's enrollment increased 1.4 percent to 6,628.

The number of Kansas residents enrolled at the six schools decreased by 110 to 67,409, while the number of nonresidents increased by 657 to 21,408.

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