

# Volunteers meet to help injured youth

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

There are times in all of our lives when we need help, and for one high school girl who recently underwent knee surgery, that's exactly what a Colby coach, some of her fellow teammates and other adults are doing.

Ivy Ramsey, a junior this year at Colby High School, had surgery last week to repair an anterior cruciate ligament, better known as an ACL, said Tom Beckman, Colby High School head girls basketball coach and one of the coordinators of the effort to help Ramsey with medical expenses.

Along with the adults volunteering to organize fundraising events to defray the thousands of dollars in medical costs incurred from surgery and subsequent rehabilitation, Beckman said, he also sees this as a humanitarian experience for the girls on the team.

"It's a good idea to involve them in helping people who need help now," he said, "because someday it might be any one of them that will need something."

Consequently, as the entire group continues to come up with ideas to raise money for Ramsey, the young athletes are learning more about the ability to give and receive.

The group named the drive, The Ivy Ramsey Surgery and Rehabilitation Fund, with their first major fundraising event on Thursday at the



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Tom Beckman and Kim Wolf of Colby talked to other volunteers Monday night at the Colby United Methodist Church about plans for raising money to help a young high school girl, born and raised in Colby, with medical expenses she incurred from recent knee surgery.

annual sidewalk sale in downtown Colby.

Beckman, along with about 20 other people, went over final preparations Monday night for a basketball activity at the sidewalk sale that would include making three-point and free throw shots from various distances and deciding on prizes.

Within the near future, the group plans to meet again and consider other activities that would help Ramsey, who has no insurance for this type of injury.

Beckman and the other volunteers see the fund drive as a way to help a

friend who needs to be concentrating on getting her strength back.

"Ivy had surgery on Thursday, July 25, in Wichita," he said, "and is now in rehabilitation with total recovery time taking as long as six months."

Although Ramsey is an athlete, the injury she sustained can happen to anyone., Beckman said.

It could occur by falling off the curb and twisting the ligament in just the right way to tear the ACL or in Ramsey's situation, it happened while she was going for a rebound during summer basketball in mid-June and was hit

by two other players.

For those interested in donating monetarily toward the fund, the organizers are asking that they contact Sheila Krehbiel at Sunflower Bank; Sondra Stephens at Farmers and Merchants Bank; Harold Sulzman at Peoples State Bank; Allisha Moore at The Bank; Les Brown at First National Bank; Diane Werth at BankWest; or Amy McCarty at the branch bank of Farmers and Merchants in the Dillons Grocery Store.

Any contributions would be appreciated, group members said.

# Majority leader loses to Kassebaum

TOPEKA (AP) — Voters delivered a mixed message to legislators, sending some incumbents packing and bringing a familiar name closer toward returning to Kansas politics.

Bill Kassebaum, a third-generation politician, scored perhaps the biggest victory Tuesday in defeating House Majority Leader Shari Weber in the Republican primary.

Kassebaum, the son of former U.S. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker and grandson of former Gov. Alf Landon, defeated Weber with 52 percent of the vote in final, unofficial results. Kassebaum, of Burdick, faces Democrat Susan Mulryan of Dwight for the 68th District in the Nov. 5 general election.

"People were a little frustrated how the legislative session ended this year," the young Kassebaum said. "Even over the last two years, people felt a change might do some good."

Weber, of Herington, was seen as vulnerable because of her reluctance to support tax increases to shore up the state budget during the 2002 legislative

session. She eventually voted to raise \$252 million in new revenue.

Weber was not the only incumbent to be defeated.

Republican Cindy Hermes of Topeka lost her primary in the 51st District to Mike Burgess, 62 to 38 percent, while GOP conservatives Mary Pilcher Cook of Shawnee lost to Cindy Neighbor of Shawnee and Karen DiVita-Johnson of Overland Park lost to Jim Yonally, also of Overland Park. Yonally is a lobbyist, pollster and former legislator.

One Democratic incumbent lost. Assistant House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney of Greensburg defeated freshman Alan Goering of Medicine Lodge, 57 percent to 43 percent.

The two were placed in the same district when legislators redrew House districts to reflect shifts in population during the 1990s.

Speaker Pro Tem Clay Aurand stood to be the only member of the House Republican leadership to survive. Aurand, of Courtland, was defeating Ernest McClain by a 2-to-1 margin.

# Break-in at polling place doesn't stop work

SALINA, Kan. (AP) — Frances Langshaw has seen a lot of things in her 30 years as an election worker, but Tuesday was a first for her.

When Langshaw and her crew arrived at the VFW Post in Salina about 6:30 a.m. to prepare for voters, they were kept out by a worker who had discovered an overnight break-in.

Police took over the building as a crime scene, sending Langshaw and her crew into the parking lot until the investigation was completed about four hours later.

Langshaw didn't let the inconvenience stop her or potential voters. She pulled her station wagon into the parking lot put the poll books and registration information on the hood and opened the tail gate so the cargo area could be used as a voting booth.

Ballots were left in their plastic wrapping and placed in the front seat,



so they wouldn't blow away. The back seat was designated as a second voting booth. And it was all arranged well in advance of the 7 a.m. opening time.

"If I hadn't had a station wagon, it would have been a little more difficult to figure out," Langshaw said.

Langshaw placed "Vote here" signs near the driveway, then put another in the car window. As voters arrived, she waved them over.

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