



COLBY FREE PRESS



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Michele Werth of Brewster; Brittany, Sheila, and Heather Plummer, all of Winona; and Nancy Rundel of Colby (behind) all par-

ticipated in the cancer survivor walk. **BELOW:** Luminaries honor those who have cancer or who have died from cancer.

Relay for Life another success; \$15,000 raised

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

More than 160 people participated in the “largest slumber party” in Kansas on Friday night while they walked the night away at *Relay for Life* at Dennon Field in Colby.

Cheryl Schwarz, event coordinator, said the relay was an outstanding success and more than 60 people who have beat cancer participated in the survivor walk.

This year 16 teams from all around the area participated in the 12-hour walk which was held from 7 p.m. on Friday to 7 a.m. on Saturday.

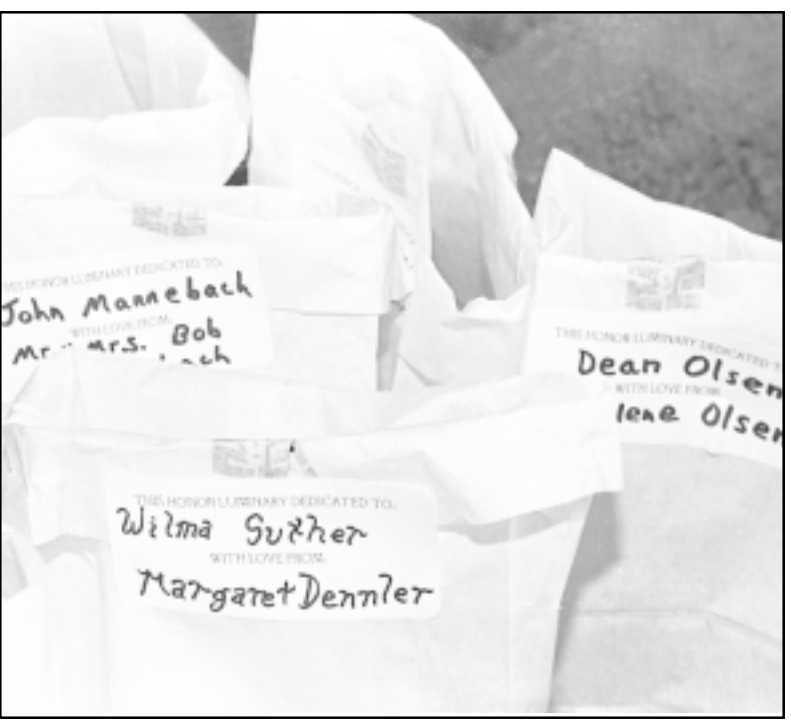
Schwarz said that the final total

has yet to be tallied, but approximately \$15,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society for purposes of research, treatment and prevention.

Throughout the night, walkers were entertained by several groups including the Colby Tae Kwon-do group; dancers from Cheryl Schwarz Dance Studios; the Colby High School Dance Team; and Colby Police Officer, Bob Herron and his K-9 partner, Capone.

“I want to thank all of our corporate sponsors, the people who helped during the event, and the committee, Schwarz said.

“It was a successful community event.”



WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers
Sunday's high, 89
Low this morning, 57
Year ago today, 89 and 55
Temperature at 11:15 a.m. today, 67
Colby's weekend rainfall, 0.00
Oakley's weekend rainfall, 0.01
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 76
Records for Aug. 19, 105 in 1986 and 45 in 1960

The forecast
Today, becoming partly cloudy, highs near 80. Tonight, a 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, cloudy, lows middle 60s, southwest winds around 15 mph. Tuesday, partly sunny, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs lower 90s, south winds around 15 mph. Tuesday night, partly cloudy and breezy, lows in the lower 60s. Wednesday, partly sunny, a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs in the middle 90s. (*Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.*)

Colby Water Usage
•Aug. 16-17-18 = daily average 2.285 million gallons over the three days

Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

New television series features county

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Colby and Thomas County were selected as the inaugural site for the first episode of a new series on public television that will air Saturday, Aug. 24, beginning at 7 p.m. on cable channel 3.

A special preview presentation of *A Day In the Life of Thomas County* was held Friday night to give volunteers and sponsors a chance to see the nearly complete program.

“The *Our Town* series is a great way for us to highlight the wonderful and unique characteristics of different communities within the area we serve,” said Kristy Nyp, director of

communications and marketing for Smoky Hills Public Television.

Captured on film for this debut production, volunteer video camera operators in Colby and Thomas County filmed unique places in Rexford, Brewster, Levant, Gem, Mingo and Colby.

Television viewers will see lots of familiar faces and some maybe not so familiar from these areas, she said.

In most instances, the volunteers also served as narrators covering the early history of Colby and Thomas County and pioneers of modern technology, from longtime commercial establishments to enterprising new ventures, Nyp said. In addition, she

said, the station plans to produce two or three episodes of the series each year so viewers throughout central and western Kansas can see more of the region they call home.

“It’s another way for us to really emphasize the amazing things going on right here in this part of the state, which is part of our mission as a local station,” Nyp said.

Partners of the new program include the Colby Free Press, Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, F & M Bank of Colby, Colby Community College, Commercial Sign Co., Farm Bureau Financial Services, KXXX/KQLS and in party by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, she said.

Pat Roberts says Thomas County in disaster area

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press

Fifty-eight counties in Kansas, including Thomas, have been declared federal disaster areas due the severe drought, Sen. Pat Roberts announced in Wichita last Friday.

“I am pleased the USDA has taken this step to aid Kansas producers that are suffering,” e said. “We still have more work to do.”

Todd Barrows, with the Consolidated Farm Service Agency in Colby, said, “Hopefully, it’s a start....This will allow area producers to apply for low-interest loans.”

Gov. Bill Graves sent a letter in June requesting 48 counties be declared disaster areas due to the drought, and Roberts said the rest of the Kansas Congressional delegation sent supporting letters.

There are 40 Kansas counties designated as primary disaster areas and 18 as contiguous disaster counties, Roberts said. Family-sized farm operators in primary and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency provided eligibility requirements are met, he said.

“Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of the actual production or physical losses, to a maximum of \$500,000,” Roberts said. “Loans for crop, livestock, and non-real estate losses must be repaid within 1-7 years depending on individual circumstances. The current annual interest

rates for emergency loans is 3.75 percent”

Altogether, said Barrows, around 1,700 producers in Thomas County will be affected by this program.

Barrows said that the year 2000 was the last time Thomas County had been declared a disaster area. That was because of storm damages that occurred that year.

The following is a list of primary and contiguous disaster counties:

Primary: Barber, Cheyenne, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kearney, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Meade, Morton, Norton, Osborne, Pawnee, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Russell, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Trego, Wallace, Wichita. **Contiguous Counties:** Barton, Clark, Cloud, Ellis, Harper, Haskell, Kingman, Kiowa, McPherson, Mitchell, Ness, Ottawa, Pratt, Republic, Rice, Rush, Saline, Stafford.

“This is a good first step in bringing significant relief,” Roberts said. “I have also requested the USDA suspend the 25 percent reduction in CRP rental payments for all producers using their own CRP ground. Allowing some producers to donate hay off the CRP while others must take rental reductions is simply leading to a gaming of the system and frustrating producers throughout the Great Plains.”

Tax error creates havoc

MANHATTAN (AP) — A mistake that caused the property value of a home near Kansas State University to be inflated by \$200 million has baffled even state experts and left local governments scrambling to refigure their budgets.

Riley County Appraiser Sam Schmidt’s staff uncovered the error last week while preparing for next year’s valuations. The staff found the valuation on a single \$59,500 property east of the university inadvertently had been changed to \$200,059,000.

The tax bill was never sent out, but Manhattan, Riley County and the local school district based their budget cal-

culations on the erroneous valuation, which created a 6.5 percent overstatement of the value of property in the county.

Now, all three will probably have to figure out how to fix an overall shortfall that’s likely to reach at least \$2.3 million.

No one knows how the mistake occurred, though Schmidt has speculated it may have been a keystroke error. Once the mistake was made, Schmidt said, it would have been easy to lose among roughly 40,000 entries for property values.

The city’s shortfall is \$968,000, while Riley County’s is \$781,814.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

John Njagi, producer and director with Smoky Hills, talked to Jada Johnson, one of the video camera volunteers Friday night.

Briefly

Deadline on workshop extended

The Thomas County Community Foundation is sponsoring a special workshop on Tuesday featuring Vaughn Henry, who is one of the nation’s leading experts in the design and administration of charitable remainder trusts, said Becky Donelan, director of the foundation. The first session is geared toward professional advisors from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., with the second session toward non-profit organizations from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The third session will be more general and begins at 7 p.m. The evening session will not require registration. If interested in registering for the morning or afternoon workshop, call Donelan at 465-9152.

College board meets today

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colby Community College will be held today at 5 p.m. in the board room of the Thomas Hall administration building. Items of business include: approval of college farm bill; a change in the board meeting date; discussion of the statewide economic survey board; water usage; and resignations.

Hunter education course slated

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Colby volunteer instructors and the Colby Recreation Department are sponsoring a hunter education course.

The course will be held at the Colby Community Building on Tuesday, Aug. 27, and Thursday, Aug. 29, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. “Students must attend all sessions,” said Benny Young, with the Wildlife and Parks Department. In addition, anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must take and pass a hunter education course before they can hunt in Kansas. Students must also pre-enroll at the Pirate’s Den at Southwind Plaza, Colby. For information, call 462-6631, 462-7602 or 462-3367.

Mosquito spraying continues

The City of Colby crews continue to spray for mosquitoes for the remainder of the summer and anyone who would like to be notified when crews will be in their area can call Jo Strange, executive secretary to the city manager, at 462-4410.

Thumbs Up!

- ✓Larry Berg — on your appointment to the Kansas Humanities Council.
- ✓Don & Irmajean Barta — welcome and enjoy your new community. Don is the new principal at Colby High School.
- ✓“Relay for Life” Organizers — another super event!
- ✓Sherry & Larry McDonald — on your new business venture.
- ✓Hanna Bethell — good luck with your teaching assignment in Vienna.
- ✓Colby Community College Students — welcome to the new, and glad to have you back to the old.
- ✓Denise & Darren Burrows — congratulations!
- ✓All Faculty & Staff — in and around Thomas County, enjoy the new school year.
- (Call us at 462-3963 to submit a name or names for inclusion in this weekly salute.)

