A special message of hope on the 10th annual *Relay for Life* event . . . by Dana Dempewolf

recognized when Chuck and I were devastated to learn that the terrible pain our oldest son Devlin was experiencing during the summer between his second and third grade year was a very large tumor on his spinal cord.

How could this be possible? He was only 8 years old and had always been happy and healthy. Why would this terrible disease, known as cancer, affect our child?

Over the next few months, which included a 12-hour surgery to remove the tumor and 6 weeks of daily radiation treatment in which, Devlin and Dana had to live in an apartment in Denver at the outrageous cost of \$900 for the six weeks, we learned an entirely new language.

Our conversations at home and, during our doctors appointments in Denver, were now about how to keep Devlin healthy. How many rads he would have to have administered during the radiation treatment and again "How will we get through this terrible situation?"

Well we did get through it and on Dec. 18, 1992 on Dana's 32nd birthday, we walked out of the hospital. As our friends and the people in our community got word of our situation and the huge toll this was taking on us financially, fundraising

soup suppers and other events were held to help us out with some of our now very large medical bills. During one of the events sponsored by the Lutheran Church in late 1993, and chaired by our very dear and close friend Susan Focke,

we became acquainted with Louise

Louise read in the paper about Devlin's situation and at that time was a paid staff member for the American Cancer Society. She con-

Berndt.

tacted Susan in an effort to get information to our family regarding services available to families who are receiving any type of cancer treatment.

Our family was told that if we would have contacted the American Cancer Society during Devlin's radiation treatment, we could have stayed in a motel during the week for a much-reduced rate and could have also received money to help with our medical trips. A simple form that is filled out and signed by our doctor was all that was required. This along with numerous other services including counseling and vital information to help not only Devlin cope with this but also the entire family

We felt like we had been punched in the stomach with this new information. Why didn't more people know about these services? As we are trying to grasp this new knowledge, Chuck asked What can be done to make sure that more people in Northwest Kansas get this information during a time when they so desperately need help?"

Louise told us of a brand new fund raising event sponsored by the American Cancer Society called the "Relay for

If we would be willing to get an event like this going in Thomas County she felt that would go a long way to getting the word out about the benefits cancer victims can receive through the American Cancer Society. We weren't sure that we knew the right people to contact but with the help of Louise Berndt and Susan Focke surely we could come up with something. We just needed to find someone to chair this event and a committee of around 10 people to get this off the ground. Chuck and I spent many hours on the phone and visiting with family and friends to see if anyone would help us out. We weren't getting the response we thought we would, everyone that we felt would do a good job at this was already busy with other commit-

While on the phone one day at work with the president of Martin Tractor, who at the time was Janet Martin McKinney, Chuck explained this fund raising event to her. Janet's response was ecstatic. She had just finished serving on the Shawnee County American Cancer Society board as a member of the Relay for Life fundraising event. Janet suggested Chuck take on the role of chairperson and make a difference in the ives of cancer victims in this area. Chuck's response was "Oh, there is no way that I am the type of person that could get this off the ground.'

Janet assured Chuck that he certainly was just the person for this job. His positive attitude regarding his son Devlin's diagnosis was admirable at best and he knew the community and the contacts. needed to help him with this event. Chuck came home that evening in late June of 1994 and explained to Dana and the kids that he wanted to do this event as a fund raising effort and would like the family to help. At first I was hesitant, we still had so far to go with Devlin, I was still apprehensive about how this could be done before the end of August and did we have the time to put into something like this? Chuck just simply did not want another family that had been touched by this devastating disease to "fall through the cracks as we had and not receive the much needed assis-

That was 11 years ago and, Chuck Dempewolf along with his wife, Dana, and their children Devlin, Brett and Carleigh have been involved as committee members and volunteers ever since. This has been a huge part of our lives and Chuck was so proud of his accomplishments with this organization. The American Cancer Society also saw in Chuck the leadership capabilities he possessed and asked him to put on training events for other counties in this area. Chuck was asked to help with other sub-committees implementing new ideas and projects for the state division of the American Cancer Society. His biggest goal along with raising much needed funds for research and education of cancer through the Relay for Life was that the community would come together on one night to fight together, cry together as families and friends and have fun during one of the biggest slumber parties of the year.

We have been touched deeply by the friendships we have made over the years through this event. The Relay for Life has helped our family grow emotionally and spiritually by recognizing that this disease afflicts so many people every day. That first event was just five teams, and raised approximately \$5,000. Over the last 10 years we have seen this event grow, some years not as much as other years, but the main goal of having fun has always been at the core of the event.

How ironic that during the year of the tenth annual Relay for Life in Thomas County we would again get devastating news. This time Chuck was the victim, it was bladder cancer. There was that "C" word again — what were we going to do? Chuck just simply would not have the time or the strength according to his doctors to help out with the 10th annual Relay for Life. Since its inception in 1994, this would be the first year that Chuck would not be an integral part of the committee since chemotherapy was to begin in early August, followed by radiation and surgery.

Chuck was scared at the thought of this new diagnosis, but was also concerned about the committee of his close friends and fellow cancer victims that would have to hopefully carry on this event without his help.

Well, the committee did carry on last year and little did we know at the time that Chuck would walk his final cancer survivors lap at the 2004 Relay for Life. He was feeling so awful from the effects of the chemotherapy and on the day of

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Dana and Devlin Dempewolf, Colby, accepted a \$500 donation from Danny Lockhart and Grego Haas of Martin Tractor for the 10th annual Thomas County Relay for Life.

the event last year he lost the last few wisps of hair on his head, but he was determined to be a part of the event somehow. His intent was to go out for the survivors walk and then come home to rest. Well, sometime around midnight after the luminary service had concluded and he had spent many hours visiting with friends and others, Chuck finally decided to call it a night and went

Please keep these thoughts in mind when you are asked to give to this year's event. Just think what it means to a family that has been diagnosed and is fighting this disease or has had a member lost to the effects of cancer and the treatment to hear their loved ones name read during the luminary service.

If you cannot donate monetarily, please search your soul and evaluate vour time that can be given to this fun and wonderful event. Get up and get involved in any way you can, by corporate

sponsorship, being a team captain or team member or serving in some capacity on the Relay for Life com-

Help us to keep this event going in Thomas County and the surrounding areas in memory of someone who gave so much of himself to this cause. If you need more information feel free to contact Tina Kersenbrock or Carla Sharp. Help us to honor those fighting cancer at present or remember the friends and family members that are no longer with us. This is a celebration that people of all ages can become a part of, if you have never experienced this event come out and enjoy the food, fun, games and getting together as a community. If you have taken part in the past years events as a team or just a spectator join us again as we RELAY FOR LIFE.

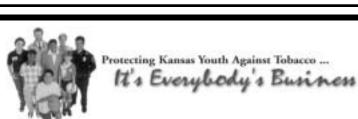


Resource Parents Wanted

Resource parents are outstanding, loving adults, willing to foster or adopt a child or teen, including those with special needs. Resource parents can be single or married, rent or own

their residence, have experience or be new to parenting. Saint Francis benefits and supports include, tax-free compensation, free training, respite/relief care, professional support and crisis services 24/7, a newsletter and much more! Learn more at an informational meeting, the last

Monday of every month, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at The Saint Francis Academy Foster Care Homes office, 155 W. 4th St., Colby. If you could share your heart, open your home, and give hope to a child, please call, 1-866-999-1599 (toll free). EOE



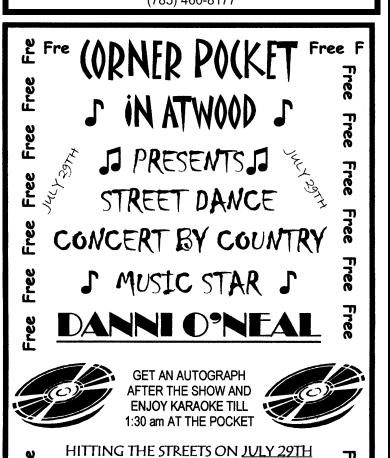
Kansas drivers under the age of 18 are now being issued a driver's license that is vertical and has a green bar under the photo.

Kansas state law prohibits the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products to youth under 18 years of age.

The fine for selling tobacco products to anyone *under 18* is \$1,000. That's in addition to a \$250 fine to the clerk for making the sale. No exceptions!

> Remember, If it's Vertical and Green, They're NOT 18!

Thomas County Interagency Coalition **NWKS Regional Prevention Center** 505 N. Franklin, Suite E @Colby, KS 67701 (785) 460-8177



STARTING AT 8 pm. LOCATED AT 510 MAIN



Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Colby Armory

Schedule of church services

Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September

through May **COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD,** Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. -462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday

School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Colby Armory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, (SBC), Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 p.m. and 9:25-9:40 p.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. September through May; Worship 9:30 a.m. June through Labor Day.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

TEENS FOR CHRIST CONNECTION, Everett Robert, 462-7404, Both middle school and high school program.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Dave Geldmacher, 846-7740; Elmer Schielke, 1st counselor, 462-9022 and Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counselor, 672-4165. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/ YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. http://www.gbgm-umc.org/ colby-umc/

REDEEMING LOVE CHURCH, 345 N. Franklin, Bishop W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Service, Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m., Wednesday RLM Training Center (Bible School), 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

LANDMARK UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, Pastor Doyle Glasscock, 815 West 3rd - 462-3667, Service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.,

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd -460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship a a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: fcccolby@st-tel.net

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Alvin Bruenger, serving interim, East 5th & Country club, 462-3497, Worship, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Worship,10:30 a.m.; Lutheran Hour on KXXX at 10 a.m.; KGCR at 2 p.m. website http://www.trinitycolbyks.org

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 112 Harrison, Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

WINONAMETHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Mr. Bob Leach, Director, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/ Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

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