



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Colby's Relay for Life raises \$22,500



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Cancer survivors took a victory lap around the track at Dennen Field Friday during the "Survivor Walk" at the 11th annual Thomas County American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Teams

walked the track all night and there were other activities including poker, music and games. The event raised more than double the amount brought in during the 2004 relay.



**ABOVE:** Teams blew bubbles during the "Survivor Walk" at Friday's Relay for Life. **BELOW:** Lois Sumner signed a board in memory of the Thomas County American Cancer Society Relay for Life's Chuck Dempewolf.

## Dollar amount expected to increase

**By Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*

This year's Thomas County American Cancer Society Relay for Life was a success.

Everything from the money raised to the number of teams competing was doubled over last year said Carla Sharp, publicity chair.

As of Friday, \$22,581 had been raised, Sharp said, but that will change.

"We still have one team that's putting their money in," she said. "I'm going to have final totals by Wednesday."

Twenty teams competed and 718 luminaries were lit in honor of cancer survivors and victims.

She attributed the increases to having a bigger committee this year. She said having more people involved, which in turn helped create more ideas.

"We had a great committee," Sharp said. "That helped a lot." Besides helping raise money

for cancer research and awareness, the event was dedicated to the memory of Chuck Dempewolf, who founded the event here in the county.

Dempewolf died of cancer earlier this year. Sharp said his presence was felt that evening.

She put out a board with his picture so people could sign and share memories.

Dempewolf's wife, Dana and their children were given a banner before the beginning of the survivor walk, and will be a part of future relays.

Sharp said many of the luminaries were for Dempewolf and during the luminary service, a tribute to him was read.

"His family seemed really pleased," she said. "I thought of Chuck the whole day."

Dempewolf's son, Devlin, was on the organizing committee and other family members helped as well.

"This was spectacular for them,"

Sharp said.

She said the relay is an important event for cancer survivors and their families because it gives them a place each year to celebrate beating the disease or going through that process.

It's also a time to remember those who have died of cancer.

The evening was a family event that featured many activities besides the teams walking the track.

Wild Ride played most of the evening and Sharp said they'll probably come back next year. There were several rounds of Texas Holdem' poker.

The football field was also the site of many simultaneous games.

The relay couldn't have come together without the help of the committee, which consisted of Sharp; co-chair Devlin Dempewolf; recruitment chair James Foster; publicity chair Jeff Grauerholz; sponsor chair Bob Coleman; sponsor co-chair Shirley Coleman; survivor co-chair and activities chair Cheryl

Schwarz; survivor co-chair Vera Sloan; luminary chair Dixie Ekberg; finance chair Marla Wozniak; finance co-chair Karen Parks; logistics chair Keith Corbett and event greeters Margaret and Abbie Kummer.

This year's teams were Dillons, Gem Lions, Citizens Medical, Colby Medical and Surgical Center, Thomas County Interagency Coalition, Family Center for Health Care, Prairie Senior Living Complex, College Drive Assembly, Colby High School Spirit Team, Park Hill of Atwood, Colby United Methodist Church, Dempewolf family, Keith Corbett family, Trinity Lutheran Church, CYO, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Colby Lions Club, Rawlins County Medical Center of Atwood and Colby Wesleyan Church.

Sharp added she wanted to thank the committee, the teams and everyone else who helped make the event a success.



## Army feeds public as token of thanks

**By Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*

Local business got a thank you from Uncle Sam on Thursday.

Staff Sgt. Robert Seymour of the Colby Recruiting Station and Capt. Erik Hinckley of the U.S. Army Recruiting Company in Manhattan hosted a business appreciation lunch. The two served pizza at the new state building that houses Social and Rehabilitation Services and Job Service on South Country Club Drive.

Seymour said it was a thank you for businesses and others for their support and also to talk about programs the Army offers.

He said they had the event at the new building because it was convenient and the conference room there is now available for such functions.

Hinckley said they were also answering people's questions about the Army in general.

"We're telling the Army story," he said.

He compared what they were doing on Thursday, breaking stereotypes and just getting people more familiar with what they do, to the popular reality show "Myt-

hbusters" which dispels popular urban myths.

"I consider that my job," Hinckley said.

The Army has changed, he said, but what people know about it hasn't. People don't have to be bright out of high school to join and the standards to join have changed along with many other things.

People have until right before their 35th birthday to join the Army on active duty, and have until they're 39-years-old to join the Army Reserve. Hinckley said people with prior service can also work toward their retirement.

Seymour and Hinckley also talked about the Army's language program and world-class athlete program, which many people don't know about. Hinckley said the language program trains people to be linguists in languages like Korean, Japanese, Russian, Polish, French, Czech and Slovak.

Hinckley said the athletic program recruits athletes in almost any sport lets them work out of the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. He said the coaches and soldiers in the program have been to Colby before and are al-



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Staff Sgt. Robert Seymour talked with Thayne Rogers during a business appreciation lunch sponsored by the U.S. Army at the new state building on South Country Club Drive.

ways available to come back to talk at the local schools about subjects like winning.

Hinckley said Army recruiting standards have changed because of the Army's need to grow.

Seymour said the service has expanded the pool of people who could be qualified to join.

The Army still needs people of high moral and mental caliber, he said, but the standards are "more realistic now."

Those changes have helped local recruiting efforts.

Hinckley said they just set a record with 43 people signing up last month to join the Army. Those people were from all along the Interstate 70 corridor from Colorado

to Topeka, Seymour said.

"We've put in more people than we did in the 12 months of last year," Hinckley said.

Seymour had four people enlist between the end of July and beginning of August.

Hinckley is responsible for six recruiting stations, including Manhattan, Topeka, Salina, Great Bend, Hays and Colby, which is Seymour's station. Seymour covers 11,000 square miles in northwest Kansas.

Seymour said he was pleased with the event, which was sponsored by the Army.

He said they try to do one of them each quarter during the year. They are planning another in Norton.

## Colby attorney named to state bar foundation

**By Patty Decker**  
*Free Press Editor*

For one Colby attorney, being recently elected as the new president of the Kansas Bar Foundation is an honor.

The foundation notified H. David Starkey earlier this month that he would be serving a one-year term — succeeding Gloria Farha Flentje, Wichita, who completed her term

"For nearly fifty years, the Kansas Bar Foundation has provided assistance to charitable and educational programs which benefit the citizens of Kansas," he said. "Since 2000, the foundation has awarded almost \$950,000 in grants to provide legal services to those who cannot afford them and educational programs in our schools for our children.

Starkey has been an active member of many organizations to include being a member of the Kansas Bar Foundation board of trustees since 1999.

In Colby, Starkey is a partner in the law firm of Starkey and Gatz and practices in the areas of litigation, probate, commercial transactions, business organizations, real estate and estate planning.

He graduated with honors from

Kansas State University, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1969 and his law degree in 1975 from Washburn University School of Law.

He served as the county attorney for Thomas County from 1977-1979 and has served as legal counsel for Colby Community College since 1978.

He also serves as president of the Colby Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the board of zoning appeals, Colby-Thomas County Planning Commission and the city council. Other memberships include the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, Kansas Association of Defense Counsel, and Kansas School Attorneys Association.

Starkey and his wife, Lana, have three children, Matt, Alysia, and Jeff.

The Kansas Bar Foundation, officials said, was founded in 1957. It is the philanthropic arm of the 6,500-member Kansas Bar Association, serving the citizens of Kansas through funding charitable and educational projects that foster the welfare, honor, and integrity of the legal system by improving its accessibility, equality, and uniformity.

