

Heroes of Hope

Things happen for a reason

Editor's note: The following article is the third in a monthly series of 'Heroes of Hope' articles written by area cancer survivors. The purpose of these articles is to raise awareness about cancer while encouraging others to participate in this year's Thomas County Relay for Life event, scheduled Friday, Aug. 17, at Fike Park. For those interested in forming a team or buying a luminary to remember a loved one call Carla Sharp, event chair, at (785) 460-4881.

By Vera Sloan

Cancer Survivor

It's strange how things happen. Then when we look back, it seems that it all happens for a purpose like my discovery of breast cancer.

As I was performing a manicure on a nail client one day in April of 1999, she was telling me about her hectic schedule which included being two places at the same time (one of them being a meeting at the (then) Ramada Inn, presenting a booth for the American Heart Association).

Not knowing what might be expected of me, I volunteered to work at her booth so she could attend to the other part of her schedule which required her to be out of town.

As it turned out, the meeting at the Ramada was sponsored by a health group from Hays and the main topic of discussion was breast cancer.

I listened intently, and when I got home after the meeting, I did a self exam something I was very negligent in doing.

There it was the lump, seemingly small in size, but huge when it comes to "scarey."

The next day, I made an appointment with the doctor and he immediately sent me for a mammogram something I had been putting off for three, yes, three years.

When I got the reading back it was suggested that the spot I'd discovered looked suspicious so my doctor immediately referred me to Dr. Kelly in Hays.

Waiting for the results from the biopsy seemed endless.

The phone call finally came, and



it was confirmed — I did indeed have the "C" word. The diagnosis was "invasive ductile breast cancer." I had faced malignancies before, but they hadn't hit me like this one did.

Brief flashes from an over active imagination overtook me. And then I realized there is more to life than a feeling of pending doom.

I had a supportive family, supportive friends, a great church family and a fantastic doctor and most important in the equation was a trust that God would get me through whatever came my way, no matter what the outcome might be. The flesh was sick, but the spirit was well and I am blessed.

Was I supposed to attend that meeting for a purpose? I think so.

Thank you Lord for the "boot in the behind," and thank you Sherry for needing to be two places at once.

The surgery and recovery was painful and tedious at times, but over all, went well.

The seven weeks of going to work every morning and then driving to Hays every afternoon to receive radiation was tiring but uncomplicated and went by faster than I had anticipated.

The radiation made me blister and peel, but it didn't last too long, and the only side effect is sore ribs where my rib cage was radiated.

The five years of oral chemo went by faster than I had anticipated too. I've been declared cancer free for three years now.

Thank you, Lord for technology. I've had surgery on my face more times than I can count, but do remember how many stitches there has been — sixty-two in all.

Isort of feel that I am walking liv-

ing proof that life goes on even though the diagnosis is "malignant." How long I will be able to do that is not up to me.

A huge thanks to all of you who so willingly volunteered to drive me to Hays when it was getting near the end of the radiation treatment and I was getting weary. Loretta, Jennifer, Rosalie, Mike — you were all a God send to me and I am eternally grateful.

Thank you Dr. Kelly for your professional knowledge and compassion.

Thank you Maurice for simply being there for me. And last but not least thank God for letting me find it when I did!

Thanks to every person in this community who gives of their time and finances to support the Relay for Life.

I am honored to be a part of the Thomas County Relay for Life and especially honored to be able to walk the Survivors' Lap.

Each year I cherish being able to walk with those who like me, have a tear in their eye and can't help but wonder why it is me who is still walking and not some of those dear ones who didn't make it through their struggle.

Although I don't understand, I do trust God to be in control.

I am overwhelmed at what is happening with research in the field of cancer, and truly believe that without organizations such as the American Cancer Society and the local support of the many Relay For Life events held across the nation, we would not have the advances we are having with this dreadful disease.

If there is anyone who hasn't taken the opportunity to participate in the annual Relay for Life, I encourage you to take an hour or two out of your day and celebrate with those who are walking the Survivors Lap, and then walk a couple of laps for someone you know who is either struggling to be a survivor, or for someone you know who didn't make it.

You'll not regret it.

God Bless you all.

Tips offered on door-to-door sales

I was going to discuss how children should handle their elderly parents when they become difficult or the beginning stages of dementia but that was recently discussed in another article.

But some extra things do come to mind, not just how to handle the parent but younger people should think of the same things for themselves. There is always the "what if" for young people too. Later in the year, I will discuss some ideas for the younger generation to think about.

Do phone calls or persons at the door trying to sell you something bother you? Insurance is the one thing that comes to mind. You do not have to buy from these people just to get rid of them. Ask to see their license or permit. Ninety-five percent of those calling on you do not have any type of permit with them.

Ask for their business card and tell them you will check them out, turn around as if you are going to the phone, if they are at your door, and I bet they immediately return to their car and leave.

If a person is trying to sell you insurance, call a local agent and ask if the person or company is legitimate, the agent has the capabilities of finding an answer for you almost immediately, and your local agent can probably offer you the same insurance the salesman may be try-



Rosalie Seemann

Secretary, NW Kansas Area Agency on Aging

● Chat with Rosalie

ing to sell you.

I will be attending the Governor's Conference on Aging on May 2 and May 3. Hopefully I will have new information to pass along to the senior citizens of Thomas County and other counties.

Good news for senior citizens having a problem paying the property taxes on their homestead for the year beginning after Dec. 31, 2007. You will receive more of the property tax back, provided you meet the income and age guidelines.

I will have more of this information available later after the guidelines are available but it does look good. This bill was not a Silver Haired legislative bill but we did support it.

Hopefully the Silver Haired Legislative Omnibus bill for 3 additional Ombudsman will be approved.

The cost to the state for this bill would only be \$150,969 with the federal government kicking in an additional \$60,000. This would be very minimal for all the good it would do. The Governor signed the

bill to not tax social security for Kansas Income Tax on April 19; this should help a lot of Senior Citizens of the State.

Do you have an item you would like for me to discuss in this article? I would love to do research on any thing you would like to hear about. Until next time, stay safe.

As a way to inform older readers about ongoing and changing topics, Rosalie Seemann, secretary of the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, will answer questions or provide information about the agency on a monthly basis.

Editor's note: Readers may submit questions by writing Seemann at: Chat with Rosalie c/o Rosalie Seemann, 426 Hale, Levant, Kan. 67743, or by emailing: rseemann@st-tel.net. The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging is part of a national network of agencies created in 1973 by the Older Americans Act. It is a private, nonprofit organization with the responsibility of administering Older American Act programs in the 18 counties of northwest Kansas.

Son's desire for success strengthens

By Dr. Joyce Brothers

Ask Joyce

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son, who recently graduated from college in a field very different from his father's, which was medicine, is now doing what he wants, what he loves. More than anything, he's always wanted to be at the top of whatever he did. Success is extremely important to him ... at this time in his life, it's much more important than girls or anything else. He's centered. This past year, he's had a wonderful job, but now he's had a better offer with a different company. His dad and his uncle both think this is a bad move. He's not one to listen to others, but this is causing pressure in the family. What should I do? — J.G.

Dear J.G.: Nothing. Your son is an adult, and this should be his

choice. If it's a mistake, he'll find out and may be able to learn from it. Some recent studies have shown that there's no great advantage to staying with the same company, particularly if the person feels frustrated or that the job isn't using all his talents or potential. Boredom is a negative factor and should be sidestepped whenever possible. Those who achieve the greatest success are those who most enjoy their work. If you like what you're doing, you're much more likely to do it well, and that in itself gives satisfaction.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My younger brother and sister can't seem to accept that our parents are now in their late 70s. They're doing pretty well now, but my mom and my dad both have had some serious and costly health problems, which are likely to continue and perhaps get worse.

None of us is exactly wealthy, and there's a generation of our kids to think about, so somebody has to think about this. My siblings and I are not terribly close, and when and if big hospital or nursing-home bills start, I can see feuds and problems arising.

They seem to think I'm cruel and heartless to even think about the future. I love my parents, as do they, but how do we avoid a fight? — A.R.

Dear A.R.: Why not try to find a reputable financial planner, referred by someone you trust but preferably one whom none of you knows personally in order to minimize any possible feelings of jealousy or favoritism? You're wise to anticipate the revival of ancient rivalries with siblings; this can happen in the best, happiest, most adjusted families.

TV LISTINGS

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WEEKDAYS

MAY 1 - MAY 7

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC 4 6	Good Morning Kansas		Good Morning America				Martha		The View		Millionaire	News
KSNK/NBC 3 8	News Cont'd		Today						Live With Regis and Kelly		Paid Program	Paid Program
KBSL/CBS 12 11	News Cont'd		News		The Early Show		The 700 Club		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
K15CG 2	Business	Body Electric	Curious George	Clifford-Red	Dragon Tales	Big Big World	Beren. Bears	Lions	Sesame Street		Teletubies	Barney-Friends
ESPN 28	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Sports-Center	Varied	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Sports-Center	Varied
USA 37	JAG		JAG		Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger		Movie	Varied
TBS 38	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Dawson's Creek		Movie				News-Radio	Cosby Show
WGN 39	Changing	Believer Voice	Hillbilities	Hillbilities	Matlock		Magnum, P.I.		Homicide: Life on the Street		Da Vinci's Inquest	
TNT 40	Angel		Charmed		Charmed		ER		ER		Judging Amy	
DSC 42	Paid Program	Paid Program	Joyce Meyer	Paid Program	How It's Made	How It's Made	Deadliest Catch		MythBusters		How It's Made	How It's Made
A&E 47	The District		24		Crossing Jordan		City Confidential		American Justice		Cold Case Files	
HIST 48	Varied Programs										Modern Marvels	
NICK 55	Danny Phantom	OddParents	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Go Diego	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Backyardigans	Wonder Pets	Dora the Explorer	Go Diego	Blue's Clues
DISN 56	The Wiggles	Higglytown	Einsteins	Mickey Mouse	Handy Manny	Doodlebops	Charlie & Lola	Koala Brothers	The Wiggles	Higglytown	Lilo & Stitch	Little Mermaid
FAM 58	Family Matters	Family Matters	Boy Mts. World	Boy Mts. World	Home Videos	Living the Life	The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls		Full House	Full House
HALL 60	New Morning		The Waltons		The Waltons		Little House on the Prairie		Little House on the Prairie		Touched by an Angel	

WEEKDAYS

MAY 1 - MAY 7

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	
KLBY/ABC (4)(6)	All My Children		One Life to Live		General Hospital		Millionaire	Judge Judy	News	Judge Judy	News	ABC Wild News	
KSNK/NBC (8)(9)	News	Extra	Days of our Lives		Passions		The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	News	NBC News	
KBSL/CBS (12)(11)	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the World Turns		Guiding Light		Dr. Phil		Oprah Winfrey		News	Evening News	
K15CG (2)	Reading Rainbow	Caillou	Varied Programs			Curious George	Cyberchase	Arthur	Maya & Miguel	Postcards	Cliff Pup	Business	
ESPN (28)	Varied Programs			Mike and Mike	1st and 10	Outside-Lines	NFL Live	Rome-Burning	Around the Horn	Interruption	SportsCenter		
USA (37)	Movie Cont'd		Movie		Varied Programs		Movie				Law & Order: Criminal Intent		
TBS (38)	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Yes, Dear	Yes, Dear	King of Queens	King of Queens	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	
WGN (39)	WGN News at Noon		The Greg Behrendt Show		America's Funniest Home Videos		Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Moesha	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Funnies Pets	
TNT (40)	Judging Amy		Law & Order		Law & Order		Charmed		Charmed		Varied Programs		
DSC (42)	A Haunting		Varied Programs		Deadliest Catch		MythBusters		Cash Cab	Cash Cab	How It's Made	How It's Made	
A&E (47)	Cold Case Files		24		Crossing Jordan		City Confidential		American Justice		Cold Case Files		
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels		Varied Programs									Modern Marvels	
NICK (55)	Backyardigans	Max & Ruby	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Jimmy Neutron	OddParents	Avatar-Last Air	TEENick	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	Ned's School	OddParents	
DISN (56)	Timon & Pumbaa	Buzz Light	Whiskers	Proud Family	American Drgn	Kim Possible	Varied Programs				That's-Raven		
FAM (58)	Family Matters	Family Matters	Step by Step	Step by Step	Full House	Full House	Sabrina-Witch	Sabrina-Witch	Gilmore Girls		7th Heaven		
HALL (60)	Matlock		Matlock		Little House on the Prairie		Little House on the Prairie		M*A*S'H	M*A*S'H	M*A*S'H	M*A*S'H	

TUESDAY

MAY 1

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC 4 6	News (N) (CC)	Entertainment	George Lopez	George Lopez	Dancing With the Stars Results Show		Boston Legal Tea and Sympathy (CC)		News (N) (CC)	Nightline (N) (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (CC)	
KSNK/NBC 3 8	News (N)	Wheel of Fortune	Dateline NBC (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (N)		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)		Late Night
KBSL/CBS 12 11	News (N) (CC)	Inside Edition	NCIS In the Dark (N) (CC)		The Unit Freefall (N) (CC)		CSI: NY Raising Shane (CC)		News (N) (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman		Late Late
K15CG 2	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Doctors on Call	Second-Health	The Mormons Themes of modern LDS Church include missionary work. (N)				BBC World	Summer Wine	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)	
ESPN 28	Sports-Center	NFL Live (Live)	SportsCenter Special (Live) (CC)		Contender Challenge		Baseball Tonight (Live)		SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		Fast-break	Baseball Tonight
USA 37	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		Movie: Patch Adams (1999) A doctor truly believes that laughter is the best medicine.				Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU	
TBS 38	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Movie: Murder at 1600 **½ (1997)	
WGN 39	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		Funnies Pets	Funnies Pets	Funnies Pets	Funnies Pets	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Sex and the City	Scrubs (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Becker (CC)
TNT 40	Law & Order Blaze (CC) (DVS)		NBA Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA. (Live)						NBA Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)			
DSC 42	Deadliest Catch Pain and Paybacks		Deadliest Catch Cheating Death		Deadliest Catch Being Sea Salvation		Man vs. Wild Pacific Ocean. (CC)		MythBusters Ninjas. (CC)		Deadliest Catch Cheating Death	
A&E 47	Cold Case Files (CC)		CSI: Miami Xtreme (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Driving Force	Driving Force	To Be Announced		CSI: Miami Xtreme (CC)	
HIST 48	Modern Marvels Tea (CC)		Ancient Discoveries		Ancient Discoveries		Man, Moment, Machine (CC)		Mega Movers Tower Crane (CC)		Ancient Discoveries	
NICK 55	OddParents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	Funny Mom	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	Roseanne	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	
DISN 56	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	Movie: Up, Up and Away (2000) <i>Michael J. Pagan</i> . (CC)			That's-Raven	Life With Derek	Phil of Future	Zack & Cody	That's-Raven	Hannah Montana	Kim Possible
FAM 58	Smallville Phoenix (Part 2 of 2) (CC)		Movie: Bicentennial Man ** (1999, Science Fiction) A robot begins a two-century journey toward humanity. <i>Robin Williams</i> .						The 700 Club (CC)		Falcon Beach Tidal (CC)	
HALL 60	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Movie: See Jane Date **½ (2003, Romance-Comedy) <i>Charisma Carpenter</i> .				Movie: The Lockett ** (2002, Drama) <i>Vanessa Redgrave, Chad Willett</i> . (CC)			