

12 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

Friday

May 11, 2007

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Volume 118, Number 76  
Serving Thomas County since 1888

## Generosity all boxed up but nowhere to go

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The outpouring of generosity for the people of Greensburg following last week's tornado, is overwhelming and, while appreciated, is becoming a problem in itself. "Relief workers and others volunteers at Greensburg are inundated with items, but there are not enough people to sort the truckloads of products arriving daily," said Sherry White, branch manager, Thomas County American Red Cross Chapter in Colby.

"There are also not enough places to store items and even if there were enough helpers, the recipients have no place to put anything since their homes are gone."

White said she wanted to make sure



White

**“Most of the people in Greensburg do not have homes, jobs, or cars and are living in a shelter. Cash donations would help families move into a temporary rental house or help them in other ways.”**

Sherry White,  
Thomas County Red Cross

people understood how much their gifts mean to the families of Greensburg — it's just that the flood of clothes, food, personal items and more have caused an overload with officials asking people to stop sending any more.

"That's not to say the needs will not change in the next few months," she said.

Right now, the biggest demand is for number 10 commercial-size cans of food; individually-wrapped snacks, such as

cheese and crackers or granola bars; paper towels; toilet paper; heavy work gloves (not rubber or lightweight); individual packets of creamers and sugars; sunscreen and lip balm.

"Many of these products are to help the volunteers or feed large groups of people," she said.

Money is also a necessity at this time. "Most of the people in Greensburg do not have homes, jobs, or cars and are living in

a shelter.

"Cash donations would help families move into a temporary rental house or help them in other ways," she said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is planning to have trailers delivered this weekend, but with no water, sewer or electrical services, it will be three to four weeks before temporary housing can be used.

In addition to needing money, Lisa Molstad, administrator of the Thomas County Health Department said today the state's health and environment agency and the Bureau of Consumer Health issued a request for gel hand-sanitizer and antimicrobial wipes.

"These will be used by food workers and volunteers at the recovery sites where run-



Engel

ning water is not available," she said.

With the shift in what items are now being accepted, White and Molstad also said the delivery process has changed too.

For those wanting to donate the sanitizer wipes, a collection drive is planned from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the health department, 350 S. Range Avenue, (north entrance) in Colby.

"Donations will be shipped to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for immediate use in the recovery effort," she said. For questions, call Molstad at (785) 460-4596.

Individuals or groups wanting to contribute money, can mail checks to the Kansas Disaster Fund, c/o Thomas County Red Cross, 350 S. Range, Suite 8, Colby, Kan., 67701 or stop by their office.

To consider donating the larger canned goods, other items, or how to assist in transporting products to Greensburg, call Jim Engel, Thomas County Emergency Management director at 460-4516, for the best options.

## Greensburg mayor looks to the future

GREENSBURG (AP) — Looking over the shambles that is now Greensburg, Mayor Lonnie McCollum envisions an educational center with a small Imax theater built at the site of this town's claim to fame, the world's largest hand-dug well.

School Superintendent Darin Headrick hopes for modern school facilities rising from the ruins of aging school buildings that badly needed renovation even before a tornado destroyed more than 90 percent of the town, killing nine people and injuring scores of others.

Community leaders are striving to instill hope in a grieving population, as residents bury their dead and sift through the remains of their homes. But before the rebuilding can begin, the city faces the massive task of removing tons of debris and restoring basic utility services.

With the search for victims over, the enormity of the cleanup effort in Greensburg consumes recovery efforts.

Debris removal is a priority. Easements must be cleared so water, power and gas can be restored before residents can live in the mobile homes and trailers that have already begun to arrive.

Emergency management officials estimated 961 homes in Kiowa County were destroyed and an additional 105 received so much damage as to be uninhabitable. An additional 67 had minor damage. Also destroyed were 67 mobile homes. Some 110 businesses also were demolished, while 24 others had minor damage.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, crews removed 579 truckloads of debris, said Dan Wells, district environmental administrator for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.



**LEFT:** Uptown Style cosmetologist Lindsay Hemel got Maegan Seifried ready for a haircut Thursday. Maegan was donating her



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

hair to Locks of Love, which makes hair pieces for children with cancer. **RIGHT:** Maegan showed off the 18 inches of hair.

## Donation is a cut above the rest

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Maegan Seifried, 8, of Colby is carrying a little less weight around today. She donated some of her hair Thursday to Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is a Florida-based organization that makes

hair pieces for children who have cancer or other diseases. Maegan's hair was 32 inches long before it was cut and she donated 18 inches of it to the organization.

Maegan had her hair cut at Uptown Style Salon and Day Spa. Her mother, Laurel Alexander, did the honors.

"It has been growing since Mae-

gan was a baby, and she has only had her hair trimmed, not cut, before now. She thought it would be neat to help a child with cancer," Laurel said.

Laurel donated hair two years ago.

Maegan was happy to have shorter hair, and said it felt good to finally lose her long braid.

Lindsay Hemel, cosmetologist, said they get several hair donations a year, mainly from children.

The hair must be natural — no chemical treatments or artificial color.

Hemel said they will be sending of a box of donations this week.

## More to celebrate Sunday than just Mother's Day

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Mother's Day is a special day. But this year, for one Colby mom, it will be a little more unique.

Jean Mazanec's daughter, Danyelle, will celebrate her 15th birthday Sunday which is Mother's Day.

"It will be really fantastic because I remember when we got her," Jean said. "She's adopted from China."

Jean said she and her husband, Jerome, went to China 14 years ago to pick up Danyelle, who was almost 1-year-old at the time.

"China had just opened up," she said. "We took that advantage. We were one of the first ones over there."

The Mazanecs did not get to pick their child, but she was chosen for them by the Chinese government. They went through an attorney to adopt her.

They adopted because they were not able to have children of their

own. The Mazanecs have another child, Caleb, who is 10. He was adopted.

They wanted a daughter, and were happy with Danyelle. They also named her, but had to legally change her name because her original name was in Chinese.

She remembers what it was like when she first held Danyelle in her arms, which "a fantastic feeling," she said.

Jean observed Danyelle had long fingers, and would probably be a piano player, which she has become.

Danyelle is happy about her birthday falling on Mother's Day this year. It has in the past, also.

"It's really cool this year to share something with my mom on the same day, considering it's my birthday," she said. "She's the best mom I could ask for and I'm glad it turned out this way."

They haven't decided how they will celebrate this special day.

Danyelle is finishing her freshman year at Heartland Christian School. She plays basketball and volleyball for the Crusaders.

Jean said Danyelle enjoys time with friends, but also time with her. She said her daughter is a good person.

"She's the kindest person I've ever met," Jean said. "She's so gentle and concerned about others." They spend time together watching television, scrapbooking and, a recent endeavor, Jean is teaching Danyelle to cook.

Travel is another favorite for mother and daughter. Her parents have planned on taking Danyelle to China around her junior year. She wants to learn more about the country, and her parents want to go back to the orphanage.

They also hope to possibly find out more about Danyelle's birth mother, who hid from the Communist government while she was pregnant. The country has a one-



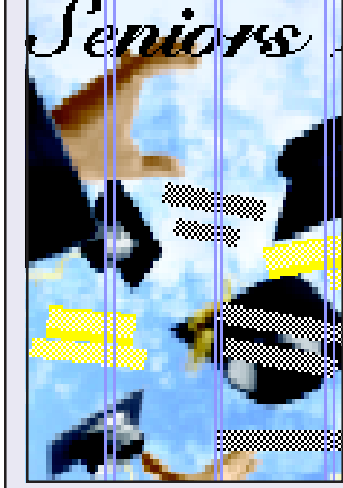
TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Jean Mazanec, left, and daughter Danyelle

child law it strictly enforces to help limit population growth.

China has a population of more than one billion people.

"I would like to meet her someday and tell her how much I appreciate her and she's my hero," Jean said.



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