

Relay for Life fights back against cancer



Cancer survivors (above, left to right) Kenneth Corke, Dee Miller, Mike Yarger pushing his mother Norma Jean Yarger, Judy Withers, Arlo Hansen and Dale Stephens took a lap around the room at the Northwest Kansas Technical School as part of the opening ceremonies on Friday for the Sherman County Relay for Life. The American flag (top right) was presented by three members of the Kansas National Guard unit from Goodland including Sgt. Mark Reasoner (right) assisted by Spec. Kody Sanchez (left) and Pfc. Samuel Cole carrying the flag. During the evening Elvis (below) made an appearance and many of the younger kids used cell phones to record photos of the 'King.' The fund raising goal was \$42,000 (below right) and Bill Stoick of Super 8 Motel and Cindi Yarger, a team captain looked at the thermometer and the estimated total raised was more than \$48,000.

Photos by Tom Betz and Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



Survivors tell about experiences

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to make it." McCants said he was part of "team prostate" because all his golf partners have had prostate surgery in recent years.

"I think this is tougher on the family than the patient," he said, and thanked his wife Brenda for all her work.

"I have had lots of support from the community," he said, "and that makes you humble. You find out you don't have the control you thought you had."

"This relay is a wonderful thing and I have looked forward to it every year. Our area seems to have a high incidence of cancer."

McCants closed by saying he was proud of all those who were wearing the purple shirt that showed they had fought a battle with cancer and were survivors.

Later in the evening Ron Barkley spoke about his experiences this year.

Barkley said he finished his radiation therapy on Thursday in Hays and was proud to be at the relay.

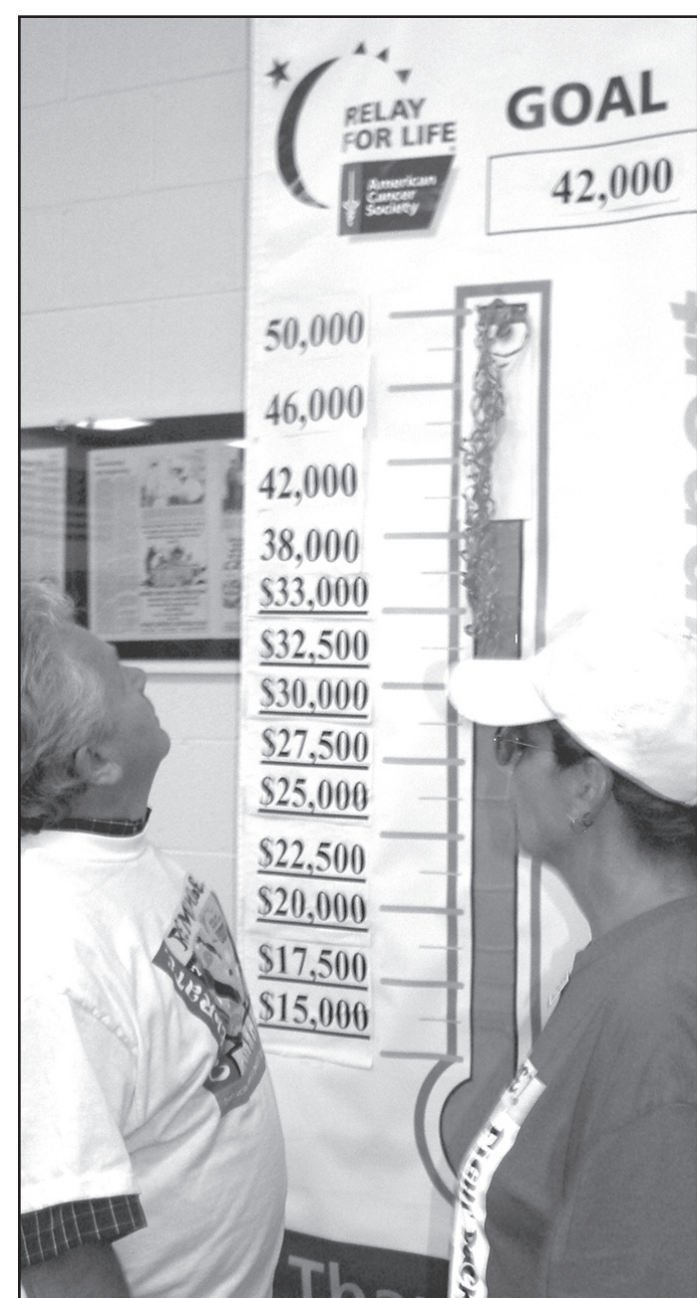
"I look at those wearing a different shirt, a purple shirt, and I know I am wearing one with pride," he said. "I fought back, and I did it my way."

He said the toughest phone call was one he got in May when the doctor told him "you have cancer."

He said when he told his wife, Betty, she said, "We'll have to do what we need to do to get through it."

Part of the support Barkley received was from his Teachers for Life team who he said had raised more than \$2,500 for the American Cancer Society. He said the team was made up of former teachers, relatives of his and former students.

"We have to have hope," he said, "and the Relay for Life is part of that."



Larry and Taylor McLemore sang songs during the Relay for Life on Friday.



Members of the Circle and Square group from St. Francis performed musical selections as a band, chorus and dancing during the Relay for Life program on Friday.