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Woman battles cancer, sky high treatment costs

By Merlyn Robinson

Diagnosed this past May as a victim of leukemia, Carol Ann Rea, Hermiston, hopes to find a compatible bone marrow donor. But she will need \$185 thousand dollars for medical expenses involved in a traumatic and lengthy hospital confinement for a bone marrow transplant.

Leukemia, a cancer that destroys blood cells, has been unbeatable in the past. Victims have had no recourse but to wait for the inevitable to happen. But since 1986, doctors have successfully completed bone marrow transplants that have given these type of patients a chance to fight for their lives and win. Alternative methods previously using only radiation and chemotherapy, merely alleviated the disease.

To date, over 18 thousand bone marrow transplants have been successfully performed. And the success rate for being cured has increased from less than 15 percent for being cured without a transplant to 45-80 percent with a transplant.

"I don't really have a choice. And I'm determined to beat this thing," Rea said. Like others, she said, "I never thought this would happen to me. We've always been a healthy family. I've never been hospitalized except for the births of our two daughters."

Fortunately Rea was diagnosed in the early stage of leukemia through a blood test while she routinely sought medical help for an arthritic condition of her knees. However she has been told that the disease could progress to the acute stage at any time. Since then, there have been trips to a specialist and a visit to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research



Carol Ann Rea

Center in Seattle where transplants are performed. And along with the anxiety, it was a disappointment to learn that family members are not able to provide a bone marrow donor match.

A beautician, Rea continues to work full time, with no visible evidence except for tiring easily, that would give clues as to what has gone awry.

Rea, the daughter of Kenneth and Leila Palmer, was born and raised on her parent's farm between Lexington and Ione. She graduated from Ione High School after growing up and doing "the normal things," she said. School, 4-H, dances and sports were apart of that lifestyle. She attended beauty college in Pendleton and has worked as a hair stylist for 27 years.

In 1963 she married Dallas Rea and they have lived in the Hermiston area for 17 years. Their two daughters are Dyan Rea, Hermiston and Janell Hasenbank, Adams. And the Reas have one grandchild.

"I've always been a private per-

son. And we both have been self sufficient, so it's not easy to accept help," Rea said. However Rea and her husband, a truck driver, are both self-employed and have no health insurance. But they have determinedly proceeded with an unrelated bone marrow donor search through the National Marrow Donor Program.

Prepayment of \$1,100 was necessary to start this search, but, according to the statistics, total donor search costs can average about \$10 thousand dollars. And too, once a donor is located, average marrow procurement costs average about \$16 thousand. And patients are asked to pay all costs prior to a transplant.

The National Marrow Donor Program has about 50 thousand available donors, but statistics show that the chance of finding an unrelated donor match is about 1 in 20 thousand. And so the goal of the program is to have about 100 thousand available donors, as the center says it is important to have the tissue typings of as many potential donors on file as possible to increase the chances that a match will be found.

Oregon is now initiating a bone marrow typing program in conjunction with the Red Cross blood drawings. Preliminary typing can be obtained which classifies people according to the markers on the surface of their white blood cells.

Friends and relatives of the Reas have initiated fund raising to help with Carol Ann's medical expenses. Donations should be sent to the Trinity Lutheran Church, 485 W. Locust Avenue, Hermiston. Instructions as to the specified purpose of a tax-deductible donation should be written separately.

The Heppner

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Schools concerts Dec. 19, 21



Heppner Junior High School band members, lead by director Bob Isted, serenade Heppner downtown shoppers with Christmas

music Tuesday, Dec. 12. Wind and cold temperatures made for a cool open air concert.

The Heppner Junior High and High School winter concert featuring and the band and singing groups from grades 5-12 will be held Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the

Heppner High School gym. The band is under the direction of Bob Isted and the choirs are lead by Kitty Bredemeier.

The Elementary School concert

for grades K-4 is planned for Thursday, Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary School multipurpose room under the direction of Kitty Bredemeier.

Carnival date set Feb. 17

The Heppner Elementary School Parents Club has scheduled Saturday, Feb. 17, as the date for the school carnival, says club president Joyce Hughes.

Anyone who would like to help with the carnival should contact Joyce or Carol Williams.

The next meeting will be Wed., Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at the elementary school. Anyone interested in continuing the club should attend. Hughes is resigning as president and Karla Waterland will be stepping down as treasurer.

Children enjoy lunch with Santa

Around 45 children attended "Lunch with Santa" held Sunday, Dec. 10 by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Every year the chamber entertains area children with a visit from Santa, a lunch of hot dogs and a movie so that the children's parents may spend the afternoon shopping in downtown Heppner.

Chairman for this year's lunch was David Sykes. He was assisted by LoRayne Bowman, Joyce Hughes and April Sykes. Santa's helper was Bruce Bergstrom. The lunch was held at the Heppner Elks Club.

Man dies from apparent self inflicted wound

A Baker man died Dec. 4 at the Kinzua reload site in what is believed to be a suicide, according to Morrow County District Attorney Jeff Wallace.

Rick Leon Adams, 38, of Baker died between 6 and 7 a.m. of an apparent self-inflicted wound. The

reload site is approximately 30 miles south of Heppner on Highway 207 in Morrow County. Adams was employed by E & T Carter Logging, Inc., Baker.

Wallace said there were no signs of foul play and the matter is being treated as a suicide.

Bank honored by Livestock Growers



First Interstate Bank Manager Harley Sager (left) accepts a plaque from Livestock Growers president Ned Clark in appreciation for 25 years of service.

The Heppner Branch of the First Interstate Bank was honored Dec. 8 at the Morrow Co. Livestock Growers annual meeting.

For 25 years the bank has clerked at the Morrow Co. Fair 4-H and FFA livestock sale, which is sponsored by the Livestock Growers.

The Livestock Growers showed their appreciation Friday night by presenting the bank a plaque.

"We started clerking in 1964," said First Interstate Bank Manager Harley Sager. "We do all the calculations...it takes all of our staff."

Rill elected OSGA president

William Rill, Heppner, was elected president of the Oregon Sheep Growers Association at their

94th annual convention held Saturday, Dec. 2 at Pendleton.

Rill succeeds John Isenhart, Myrtle Point.

Alumni proceeds benefit local youth

Money raised from the Heppner Alumni basketball tournament has been used for many benefits to young people in the community.

Last year over \$1600 was distributed for youth sports, including \$500 to Colt Basketball for uniforms, \$500 to the little league, \$250 for Babe Ruth baseball and \$350 towards youth soccer. In all \$2300 was raised during last years tournament.

This year's alumni tournament gets underway Dec. 29, 30 and 31, with the championship game set for Sunday night at 7:00 p.m.

Other activities during the tournament weekend include a dinner at the

Elks Lodge Friday, Dec. 29 starting at 5:30 p.m. Introduction of the teams will be at 6 p.m.

Tacos and homemade desserts will be available in the cafeteria at the high school all day Saturday with proceeds going to benefit Carol Ann Rea.

Tournament organizer Stuart Dick says team captains must return rosters to him by Dec. 20 in order to get the programs printed.

Dick also said more over 40 non-graduates are needed for slow break teams. Anyone who is not a graduate of Heppner high school and over 40 and a resident of Morrow County should contact Harley Sager.

Fair and Rodeo Court help Santa



Princess Stacie Henry, Queen Judy Jepsen, Princesses Dana Flanagan and Tricia Coe

Santa's helpers (Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Court members) were discovered delivering cradles and dolls to the Neighborhood Center this last week.

The girls will be selling homemade candies and baked products at Gardner's Men's Wear on Sunday Dec. 17, from 1-4 p.m. A drawing for a Black Hills Gold ring will be held at that time. Anyone who would like to purchase tickets, should call: Stacie Henry, Boardman, 481-6188; Dana Flanagan, Irigon, 922-5363; Tricia Coe, Heppner 676-9851 or Judy Jepsen, Ione 422-7180.

Court members say they appreciate the support of everyone who has purchased tickets or donated to their garage sale.

Businesses open Sunday

Heppner businesses will be open again this Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. for Christmas shopping convenience.

Craft and bake sale tables will be set up in some of the stores downtown this Sunday.

MCGG plans open house

The Morrow County Grain Growers will hold a Christmas open house this Friday, Dec. 15. Hot

cidar and cookies, baked by the cooking and delight 4-H club will be available. Everyone is welcome.

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Wright wins \$1000 lottery ticket

Pat Wright of Lexington is the winner of a \$1,000 scratch-off lottery ticket.

Wright says she had the ticket for awhile, but just scratched it off on Dec. 7. She says she has sent a registered letter to the state to claim her earnings.

"I hope I get it before

Christmas," Wright said. She said she plans to use the winnings for a trip to Reno or Winnemucca over the New Year's holiday.

Market Report

Complements of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

	Dec. 5 - 11		
	High	Low	Prec
Tues.	54	38	.0
Weds.	54	32	.0
Thurs.	56	34	.03
Fri.	59	35	.0
Sat.	46	28	.0
Sun.	41	21	.0
Mon.	43	21	.0

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Soft White	
Dec.	\$4.63/4.64
Jan.	\$4.65
Feb.	\$4.66
March	\$4.67
Barley	
Dec.	\$115 T
Jan.	\$115 T
Feb.	\$115 T
Pik	\$97 %
New Crop	\$4.10