

## Race/ from page 1

The goal of every woman, man, boy and girl who took part in Vermillion's second annual race is simple. All hope that breast cancer will someday be talked about in the past tense; that it will never be a threat to young girls like Emma and Erica as they reach adulthood.

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement.

Today, Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find cures. Thanks to events like Sunday's race in Vermillion, approximately \$1.3 billion has been invested to fulfill Brinker's promise to her sister.

The race has the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. The Susan G. Komen for the Cure is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity as determined by the Internal Revenue Code, operating under the Charter of the organization, headquartered in Dallas, TX. Since its inception in 1982 the Komen Foundation and its affiliate network have raised \$750 million for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment.

The goal of Sunday's race was to raise \$75,000. Less than an hour after the last person crossed the finish line in the DakotaDome, organizers announced that funds had already reached approximately \$58,000, and were still climbing.

When Jill Roberts crossed the finish line, she, like other cancer survivors who participated, had a medallion hung around her neck by one of the event's many volunteers. The race gave Jill an

opportunity to honor her mother, who recently succumbed to breast cancer, and poignantly reflect on the consequences this same disease has forced upon her.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer the end of the July," she said. "I had a double mastectomy on Aug. 14, and they removed 17 of my lymph nodes, four of which contained cancer."

Cancer was found just in her right breast. She opted for the double mastectomy because of her family history. "That was my choice."

She recently "hit a bump in the road" in her battle against the disease. "Now one of my lymph nodes is swollen and it (cancer) has spread into that lymph node. So now I'm kind of up in the air as to what my treatment will be — either chemo or the hormonal therapy."

Jill was scheduled to have more chemotherapy, but doctors canceled that when the additional cancer was discovered. Her next visit to her doctor, where she will learn what future course of treatment she will endure, was scheduled the day after the race, Monday, in Sioux Falls.

"My doctor and a panel of other doctors will review my case at 4 p.m. They will call me Monday night, and I will find out what my next step forward will be. It could be chemo, it could be hormonal therapy. It could be radiation, also. I'm a strong woman, and I'll get through this. "Today has been very emotional," Jill said. "It's hard not having my mother here, but to see all of these people — I can't describe it. I makes you feel good to see so many people here, but it's also sad to think that this many people have been struck with this disease."

The South Dakota affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure was established in 2005. To date, the affiliate has given more than

\$500,000 to the people of South Dakota to fulfill unmet breast health needs across the state.

"You have taken steps to make a difference in everyone's lives," Betty Meyer, president of the South Dakota affiliate, said during a brief award program following the race. "Seventy five percent of the dollars that we raise stay in our state, and we give out grants across the state to help pay for mammogram screenings, for treatment, and for therapy. Last year we gave out more than \$200,000 in grants."

The remaining 25 percent of the funds raised goes directly back to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. "That is used for the groundbreaking research that is being accomplished, and is needed so desperately ... I couldn't be prouder to be a member of this wonderful organization, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking steps to make a difference in our South Dakota sisters' lives."

Ellen Grimlie of Sioux Falls was overcome with emotion as she was recognized as the breast cancer survivor who clocked the best time in Sunday's race for the cure.

Her appearance is deceiving. She wore a pink bandana around her head, and her scalp sports a very light crop of hair. Her treatment, however, ended years ago.

"I got cancer four years ago, and went through treatment, and I'm cured," she said while preparing to leave the DakotaDome with her husband, Terry, following Sunday's ceremony. "My oncologist says, 'As long as you don't have a pain, you're fine.'"

"But my hair did not grow back which is totally not normal, but there's nothing wrong with me other than I look like my dad. Most of the time I wear a wig because people think I'm sick. But I feel good," she said with growing enthusiasm.

Her survival can be credited not only to breakthroughs in cancer treatment, but also her husband.

"I think it's important to note that Terry found the lump before I did," she said. "It's important to be looking for those things, whether it's the female or the male in the relationship."

Ellen decided to have doctors perform a double mastectomy as part of her treatment. "It was a tiny lump, but there were actually two, and it was stage three. My mammogram was scheduled for about six weeks after we found the lump. If we had waited ... there could have been more of them."

Her experience points out how breast cancer can strike any woman. "I did all of the right things all of my life — ran, exercised, ate right, and no history in my family, but I'm a female," Ellen said. "It (cancer) rains on everybody, but I'm a survivor, and I'm so touched. I had no idea that this presentation would happen to me today."

Over 2,700 people participated in Sunday's race. Last year, just over 2,000 racers were involved in the inaugural event in Vermillion.

"We are definitely getting bigger and better," said Colette Abbott, Vermillion, chair of the Komen South Dakota Race for the Cure. "We've had lots more people. We had people here from Sturgis, Rapid City, Spearfish, Brookings. They came from all ends of the state."

The money that is raised to support cancer research and provide needed services to women is a well-recognized goal of the race. There's a secondary aspect of the event that Colette finds equally, if not more, important.

"It's the support that the people get from each other," she said. "We have all kinds of age levels, we have people who have survived cancer for both short times



Twin sisters Emma and Erica Murphy smile and wave Sunday morning in the DakotaDome as they cross the finish line of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure perched on the shoulders of their father, Eric Murphy. Eric and his wife, Donna, participated in the race to support their friend, Jill Roberts, who was diagnosed with breast cancer this summer. (Photo by David Lias)

and long periods of time, and this is so important to so many family members."

As Colette spoke, volunteers had begun gathering up the chairs and taking down booths that had been set up on the DakotaDome floor.

"The work that people put into this is just fantastic," she said. "Before we know it, everything that needs to happen just gets done. It's amazing."

The race, Colette said, wouldn't be a growing success without the help of not only the local com-

mittee that organizes the event, but also the entire Vermillion community.

"It's unbelievable. The city of Vermillion went above and beyond in every aspect of this," she said. "And the university is phenomenal. We're allowed to have the use of this wonderful facility, the DakotaDome, and so many great people."

The local committee, Colette said, will meet with city officials soon to start planning for the next race for the cure, which will be held in Vermillion Oct. 10, 2010.

## ROTC/ from page 1

leadership skills."

Primarily the South Dakota Army National Guard uses the Austin Training Area.

"We will spend from today (Sept. 25) until Sunday afternoon down there," Martin said.

As he spoke, the distinct sound of the Blackhawk helicopter could be heard as it approached its landing area in a grassy open area of the campus, located north of where construction will soon begin on USD's new wellness center.

On board was an elite cargo — university administrators and other faculty — who were given a firsthand opportunity to experience a ride in the military aircraft, and learn more about the ROTC training program.

"It was fun to see the training ground," USD President James Abbott said shortly after he and other university faculty returned to campus and exited the helicopter, "which is somewhere between here and Jefferson. Following the river is always fun."

He also enjoyed the unique perspective of campus activity that easily could be seen from the air.

"I really enjoyed looking at the apartments on the way back," Abbott said, referring to the Coyote Village student housing currently being constructed near the DakotaDome. "Seeing them from the air was great."

The ride in the Blackhawk was a unique learning experience for the university faculty.



The powerful Blackhawk helicopter takes off from a grassy area near Highway 50 on the USD campus, ferrying ROTC cadets to the Austin Training Area by the Missouri River near Elk Point. (Photo by David Lias)

"I think they (the military science personnel) wanted to show us what they do, and give us a better understanding of how our military science students work and learn," Abbott said.

Air travel is a routine part of the president's job, but he's never taken to the sky in such a unique manner.

"You have two guys hanging out the window on either side of you," he said. "I suppose where the machine guns would be. I was really impressed by the amount of redundant equipment. It seems to have so many safety features, and I was also intrigued by the electronic logbook. One of the pilots was logging in everything that they do,

I suppose. You really don't realize how complicated one of these things are."

Military protocol may have been followed to the letter, but that didn't stop a bit of fun from being introduced to the USD administrators during their ride.

"I did notice one of the pilots had written on the back of his helmet, 'Don't scream at me; I'm scared, too,'" Abbott said. "We didn't scream; it was a very smooth flight. These pilots are very experienced."

The helicopter is based at Camp Rapid of the South Dakota Army National Guard, located in Rapid City. It took off from its base earlier that day, and in a span of approximately two hours, crossed the state to land on the USD campus.

"This is the first time we've actually had a helicopter come in for one of the training exercises," Martin said. "There may have been one here 15 years ago; it was so long ago that no one around here can remember for sure."

"It (the helicopter) just brings an extra element to the training," he said. "It's something the cadets don't get to do every day — in some cases, maybe never. It exposes them to not only a unique piece of Army equipment, but also another realm of the Army. Many people don't realize that the Army has just as many aircraft, and in some cases more aircraft than the Air Force does. This brings a little bit more of an adventure factor to the training."

Thirty cadets and six instructors were involved in last week's training exercises, including Shiloh McGruder of Highmore. McGruder, a junior at USD, has been active in the ROTC since 2007.

"I'm in the National Guard, too. This year is my fifth in the Guard," he said.

Last Friday marked just a portion of the training received recently by the ROTC cadets. In recent weeks, they've been introduced to combat water survival testing in the DakotaDome swimming pool, and basic rifle marksmanship classes at the rifle range near the Vermillion airport.

"What we're doing now really focuses on land navigation," McGruder said. "The terrain at the training area is very similar to what we will be exposed to when some us will take a leadership assessment training course at Ft. Lewis, WA. There is dense vegetation, some areas are hard to walk through, and we will be doing night navigation twice and day navigation once."

Cadets were also conducted missions and were introduced to other situational exercises while on the training grounds. McGruder was grateful to have the Blackhawk helicopter

as part of last week's training.

"It's kind of intimidating," he said. "It's so big and really, so illustrious. When you finally get in there and buckle up and it takes off, the only thing that goes through your mind is 'This is awesome. This is absolutely wonderful.'"

Nearly everything about Friday's training was a new experience for ROTC cadet Private Shelby Harkness, a freshman at USD from Hawarden, IA. "This is my first time doing anything like this," she said, admitting she was feeling a bit apprehensive, while at same growing in confidence as she learns new things. "I really like doing labs like this. We get to ride in the helicopter, two weekends ago we shot guns, and I've never shot a gun before. I did pretty well. I like doing things that are new and gives me a learning experience."

"I would recommend this program to anyone," Harkness said.

**21st Annual Watertown Farm Toy & Doll Show**  
Sun., Oct. 11, 2009 • 9am - 4pm  
Coddington County Expo Building  
1910 W. Kemp Avenue  
Watertown, SD  
Use South Entrance

- Old & New Farm Toys
- Dolls & Trucks
- Framed Prints
- NASCAR Collectible Cars
- Mahogany Models & Display Cases

For information call 605-886-3589

**Nurse Service Coordinator**

Full-time Service Coordinator (RN pref'd). Duties include evaluation of prospective tenants; preparing individual service plans (promoting wellness); monitoring program administered drugs, ensuring physician orders are current; assessing & documenting the status of each tenant, & training staff. Please visit our Assisted Living Facility for more info. Comp wages/benefits.

WEL-Life at Elk Point, 600 E. Lincoln St., Elk Point, SD 57025.  
Apply in person or Fax to Cheryl, 605-356-2704.  
Call: 605-356-2622, E-mail: hrdept@lanisnet.com

EOE

Reach over 795,000 readers with a 2x2 ad!

**2x2** Display Ad Network

An ad this size in 131 South Dakota newspapers! Call for details...

Call your local paper or 1-800-658-3697

**Immediate Position Available**

Are you committed to the growth and promotion of Vermillion and its businesses?

The Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company is seeking a qualified, professional candidate for the position of Administrative Assistant.

The Administrative Assistant must have an administrative background, strong computer skills, and must be highly detail oriented. Primary duties will include managing all administrative functions in a small, yet busy office. This person will be responsible for the first impression of the office so a winning attitude and outgoing personality are a must.

Please provide a letter of interest, resume and references to the attention of the Executive Director, Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company, 116 Market Street, Suite 103, Vermillion, SD 57069 or email to steveh@vermillionchamber.com

Interviews to begin immediately!

VERMILLION

**Basement Walls Bowed? Foundation Settling? Wet Basement?**

• Multiple Solutions & Financing Available • Free Estimates

800-392-3389  
**BLACKBURN BASEMENT SYSTEMS**  
www.blackburnbasementrepair.com

**Vermillion Branch Manager**

CorTrust Bank, a locally owned community bank, is looking for an experienced Branch Manager to lead our team in Vermillion. This key position will require agriculture, commercial & consumer lending experience as well as previous bank management experience.

Further experience in compliance, loan analysis, communication and team work is also required. The right person who has leadership skills, a positive attitude and is community minded will go far in this work environment.

For the right person, CorTrust Bank offers an excellent compensation package including: generous salary, ESOP/401K and immediate accruing PTO. CorTrust Bank is a \$600 million dollar full service financial institution with multiple locations in South Dakota and Minnesota.

If you believe you are the right person, please send your resume in confidence to:

CorTrust Bank, ATTN: LP  
PO Box 9106 Yankton, SD 57078

**CorTrust Bank**  
www.cortrustbank.com