

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Pink will be the color to wear tonight (Thursday) at the home varsity girls' and boys' basketball games as Chase County hosts Perkins County.

It's a new service project of the Imperial FFA chapter, which is working with the FFA chapter at Perkins County in the joint fund-raiser for local cancer patients.

Imperial FFA Advisor Jeremy Vlasin said the two FFA chapters have been selling special "Pink Out" T-shirts since December's holiday tournament.

They are encouraging fans to purchase a T-shirt and wear it to Thursday's games in Imperial. Proceeds from the T-shirts sales in Chase County, as well as donations from local businesses, will go to the Chase County Community Hospital Foundation.

Vlasin said the funds will be used by cancer patients at the local hospital for travel expenses related to their cancer treatments, such as gas and hotel costs.

Funds raised by the Perkins County FFA chapter will help purchase a new mammogram machine for the hospital in Grant.

Vlasin said they'd like the Longhorn gym to be full of fans wearing the pink shirts Thursday night.

They will be on sale that evening, but people can also purchase them each day leading up to this Thursday's contests.

FFA students selling the shirts will be available at the school from 7:30 to 8 a.m. and from 12:15 to about 1 p.m. each day.

People can also call the office and ask for Vlasin or Advisor Jason Speck, or just stop by the school's ag room, he said.

A table will be set up tonight (Thursday) during the JV games and through halftime of the boys' varsity game, Vlasin added.

Or, people can also purchase them at the hospital.

Fans won't be the only ones wearing pink Thursday night.

The varsity boys' and girls' teams from both schools have special pink jerseys to wear, the coaches from both teams will be in pink and the referees may even be using pink whistles, Vlasin said.

Special price on some shirts

Shirts with the Jan. 13, 2011 "Pink Out" date are selling for \$10 each.

However, an early batch of the shirts were misprinted with a Jan. 13, 2010 date, so those are being sold for \$6 each, Vlasin noted.

The shirts with the correct date are expected to be here by Thursday's game, Vlasin said. The FFA members are taking names of those wanting the correctly-dated shirt, and they should be able to pick them up before the games this week.

Those not minding the 2010 date can pay the lower price and receive them now, he added.