



Accent

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

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Bike tour to raise awareness of rare cancer

Staff Reports
April 8, 2003

Liddy Shriver is coming home to Lafayette to take part in Cycle Zydeco. She will be one of about 300 cyclists from 34 states to take part in the 200-mile bike tour to be held April 10 through 13 to call attention to a cancer known as Ewing's sarcoma.

The 36-year-old alumna of Edgar Martin Elementary and Acadiana High School, now living in New Jersey, will be one of the crowd during the race, but she stands out in one important way: Shriver has Ewing's sarcoma.

It began nine years ago with a tumor behind her knee.

Despite surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, the cancer has spread to Shriver's lungs. Difficulty breathing will eventually force her to give up the sport she loves, but until then, she said, she plans to continue to participate in bike tours to help raise funds for sarcoma research.

Ewing's sarcoma is rare in adults, with about 25 cases each year in the United States. About 250 American children are diagnosed with the disease each year. It is one of about 50 sarcomas, tumors that affect connective tissue, such as fat, blood vessels, nerves and bones. Because most research is limited to children's sarcoma, treatment for young adults is often ineffective. The death rate for adults is relatively high, according to event organizers.


Cycle Zydeco will not only benefit Ewing's sarcoma research, said Gerald Breaux, executive director of the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Center.

The tour begins in Lafayette, then will wind through Breaux Bridge, St. Martinville, Arnaudville, Port Barre, Washington, Mamou, Eunice and Grand Coteau. Some of the highlights will include stops at Mulate's, Washinton's Steamboat Restaurant, Fred's Lounge in Mamou and Eunice's Liberty Theater.

This is the second year for the Cycle Zydeco event ,which has attracted national attention. It has been included in a list of "Budget Biking in North America," in "Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel."

All funds raised by Team Sarcoma, go directly to the Dr. Mary Louise Keohan Sarcoma Research Fund at Columbia University's Health Sciences, which funds laboratory

Lafayette Weather



Temp: **65** °F
Hi: **81** °F
Lo: **70** °F

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We're in for a long process of occupation and nation-building

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research and clinical trials at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center. Team Sarcoma consists of Shriver, her husband, Tom, her parents, former Lafayette residents Bruce and Beverly Shriver, her brother, Mark, her nephew, Daniel and friends Rich Graves and John Griffin.

Organizers are planning another cycling tour to be held later this year in Denmark to spread awareness of Ewing's sarcoma.

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