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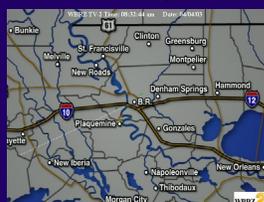
Friday, April 4, 2003

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2theadvocate > People > Cancer patient leads team of riders in Lafayette's Cycle Zydeco 04/04/03

The PEOPLE

Cancer patient leads team of riders in Lafayette's Cycle Zydeco

By **LAURIE SMITH ANDERSON**
 landerson@theadvocate.com
 Advocate staff writer

Liddy Shriver started riding a bicycle nine years ago to relieve the leg pain from what was later diagnosed as a rare form of cancer.

Today, she's participating in organized bike rides to raise awareness and money for research on Ewing's sarcoma. A former Lafayette resident who now lives in New Jersey, Shriver, 36, and her family will return to Acadiana next week to participate as "Team Sarcoma" in Cycle Zydeco.

"My life was normal until nine years ago when I became aware of a pain in my foot," said Shriver, who is a graduate of Acadiana High School. "After years of nighttime nerve pain, a tumor was found behind my knee and an incisional biopsy showed the tumor was Ewing's sarcoma."

Also known as primitive neuroectodermal tumor, Ewing's sarcoma is a cancer that occurs in adolescents and young adults, according to information from St. Jude Children's Research Center. Small tumors form in the bone or soft tissue, most commonly in the arms, legs, pelvis or chest wall.

Treatment generally consists of chemotherapy and surgery or radiation. Shriver has undergone chemotherapy twice, radiation and surgery. However, the cancer has spread to her lungs and is not responding to chemotherapy. She has also participated in one clinical trial and is approved to participate in another to test new drugs.

Clinical trials for what have been classified as "childhood cancers" have traditionally excluded young adults over the age of 21, though that is beginning to change, Shriver said.



Photo provided by Liddy Shriver
 Liddy Shriver trains for the upcoming Cycle Zydeco in Lafayette, where her Team Sarcoma will ride to raise funds for cancer research.

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4 dr, auto, CD,
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spd,...](#)
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Most of the research on Ewing's sarcoma has been done on children and results don't always apply to adults. The lack of adult clinical trials has resulted in a higher fatality rate for adults with the disease because there isn't much data to help oncologists know what treatments will work, she said.

"I'm pretty aggressive in promoting clinical trials and urging patients to participate in them," she said. "They may not benefit the individual directly but will improve treatment in the long run for future patients."

As her disease progresses, Shriver will have increased difficulty breathing, which will hinder her cycling abilities. Before that happens, she wants to take several long bike rides as part of her campaign to raise public awareness of sarcoma.

Shriver and seven family members and friends have been training to participate in Cycle Zydeco April 10-13 in Lafayette. "Team Sarcoma" is seeking donations from private individuals,

5 See CANCER, Page 2C

businesses and organizations to participate in the four-day, 200-mile south Louisiana bike tour.

Anyone interested in participating as a rider on the team or making a donation can visit the Web site: <http://www.theshrivers.us/la--bike--tour.htm> or e-mail Shriver at: liddy@theshrivers.us.

"We're very excited about coming back to Louisiana," said Bruce Shriver, Liddy's father who was a professor at USL (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette) for 12 years. "Lafayette was a wonderful place to raise a family, and we've maintained close ties with the area."

Liddy Shriver, her husband, parents, brother, nephew and two friends make up Team Sarcoma. She said she is hoping they can raise \$25,000 with proceeds going to fund laboratory research and clinical trials at the Dr. Mary Louise Keohan Sarcoma Research Fund at Columbia University's Health Sciences.

Team Sarcoma is also organizing a similar bike tour this summer to Denmark, where the Shriver family also lived for a period of time. Again, Liddy Shriver said she hopes to raise \$25,000 with proceeds going to the Sarcoma Foundation of America.

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