

# Relay for Life – the Stories

By Sherry Matney

This was the night, at the Leon High School football field, where no one felt conspicuous wearing a turban or even not wearing one and showing a bald head. This was the night when these survivors were honored and shown respect for the battle they are currently fighting.

According to The American Cancer Society, one of every three people in the USA will be diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime. Every 2.5 minutes a woman is told that she has breast cancer.

Leslie Pate is a 34-year-old single mom with three school-aged children. She works as a teacher's aid at Leon Schools and was recently diagnosed with cancer. She has completed her second chemo treatment.

Jane Cooper has lived in

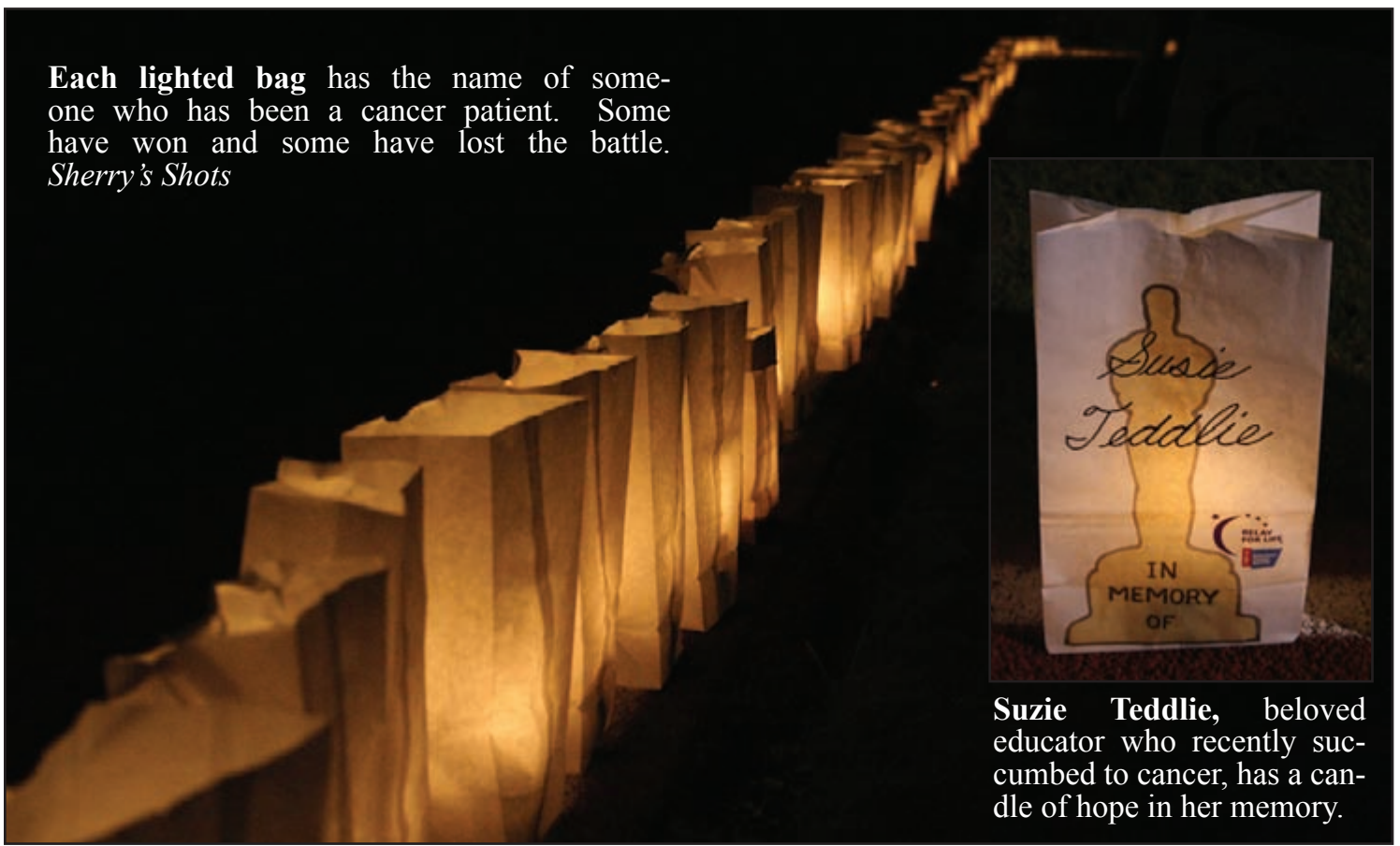
Buffalo since 1986. She was diagnosed in November and has just finished her chemo treatments. She is beginning to feel better.

There were several members of the Oakwood team who were wearing pink t-shirts in memory of "my son", "my husband" and "my dad". The person being remembered was Sammy Lipsey, for whom the Oakwood High School gym is named. Sammy was the son of Bubba and Jo Lipsey and died from pancreatic cancer at the age of 46. He was married to Vicki for almost 25 years and had three children: Jamie, Julie and Jordan. His dad, mom, wife and two daughters were at the event Friday night.

The Lipseys' next door neighbor of more than 50 years is Winnie Hodges who is

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Each lighted bag has the name of someone who has been a cancer patient. Some have won and some have lost the battle. Sherry's Shots



Suzie Teddlie, beloved educator who recently succumbed to cancer, has a candle of hope in her memory.

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Ash and rubble are all that remain of the beautiful "Hickory Ridge" ranch home. Sherry's Shots

## Devastating fire destroys Russell Community home

By Sherry Matney

Late on Wednesday afternoon Centerville Fire Department received a 9-1-1 call advising them of a fire on CR 289 in the Russell Community off FM 1511. The Flo VFD was dispatched at 5:15 p.m. and soon firefighters and trucks from Jewett and Buffalo were at the scene with Leona VFD on standby.

Earlier that afternoon Chuck and Deborah Keepers had left for a long-anticipated vacation to the Dakotas. They had left their home and ranch with two teenage girls whose duty was to care for the dogs and miniature horses which belong to the Keepers.

The Keepers made it as far as Oklahoma City when they received a call from neighbor Debbie Clanton that their home had burned to the ground. The girls were out of the fire safely but their old black lab was lost in the flames.

According to Clanton, the Keepers had arranged for the girls to house sit and had taken a couple of days to show them the procedures for caring for the animals. The Keepers have 28 head of miniature horses and two dogs.

Apparently, shortly after the Keepers left for their trip, one of the girls decided to fry some green tomatoes. A grease fire was ignited and the girls panicked, not knowing what to do. One of them drove Mr. Keepers' car to a neighbors' house and called

9-1-1. However, by the time the fire trucks were on site the structure was completely in flames.

Clanton had driven over to Hickory Ridge, the name of the Keepers' ranch, to check on the girls and be sure the animals were okay. When she arrived the fire trucks were on site and the house was almost totally destroyed. The girls were hysterical.

The Keepers moved to this area five years ago and built their ranch house to their particular tastes. The cedar floors can be replaced but family keepsakes are priceless and irreplaceable.

Clanton said "I can't be sure that they will rebuild, but I think they will. One neighbor has already said they would donate granite for their counter tops when they do."

## Comptroller Combs Distributes \$441 Million in Local Sales Tax

(AUSTIN)—Texas Comptroller Susan Combs today announced that the state collected \$1.77 billion in sales tax revenue in May, a 5.2 percent decrease com-

pared to May 2008.

"Weakness throughout most sectors of the economy resulted in a significant decrease in May sales tax collections," Combs said. "While

year-to-date sales tax revenue is up 0.5 percent for state fiscal 2009, further declines are expected this year."

Combs sent cities, counties, transit systems and spe-

cial purpose taxing districts \$441.1 million in June local sales tax allocations, down 3.9 percent compared to last

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Leon County	Current Rate	Net Payment	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2008 Payments To Date	2007 Payments To Date	% Change
Buffalo	1.500%	52,239.34	64,115.04	-18.52%	398,917.62	371,129.73	7.48%
Centerville	1.500%	22,359.20	18,968.56	17.87%	135,249.36	128,397.21	5.33%
Jewett	1.500%	18,739.13	14,293.50	31.10%	158,084.46	105,706.92	49.54%
Leona	1.000%	434.17	724.06	-40.03%	3,945.42	4,937.58	-20.09%
Marquez	* 1.500%	4,970.76	6,944.47	-28.42%	41,938.34	24,323.91	72.41%
Normangee	* 1.250%	6,770.42	3,912.95	73.02%	45,631.21	31,355.70	45.52%
Oakwood	1.000%	2,333.56	1,793.10	30.14%	16,984.49	15,682.27	8.30%
County Total		107,846.58	110,751.68	-2.62%	800,750.90	681,533.32	17.49%



Kenneth Millican of Centerville prepares to load the new pistol at Woody's #2 in Centerville. Millican is the #1 BarBQue cook at Woody's. Dudley Woods, owner of Woody's, is very proud of his new promotional item and invites everyone to come by and take a look at the biggest gun in Leon County. photo by Mac Shadix

## Oakwood City Council holds regular meeting

By Melissa Missildine

At its regular monthly meeting, the Oakwood City Council discussed the need to replace the filter media in the well located on Main Street.

**Mayor Vicki Stroud and the city council members unanimously voted to search out several bids for this project which they hope to have completed as soon as possible.**

The current system is working satisfactorily but, as with all filtration systems, must be replaced on a regularly scheduled basis to ensure that it is working at its best.

Other items discussed were updating the employee

sick day policy, the mowing schedule of grown up lots in the area, and the capping of an unused section of the city water line. In closed session, the council discussed personnel matters and the continued pursuit of a permanent Chief of Police.

Recently, there have been several much-needed changes to the city of Oakwood. There are newly black-topped streets in the neighborhood behind the volunteer fire department and the Oakwood City Hall is currently undergoing a face lift. The covered awning and new signage are in place and you can already see the beginning stages of the painting process. Both the members of the council and the community of Oakwood look forward to the progression of these projects.

## Whole lotta shakin' going on...

by Vanessa Goodwyn

Earthquake activity here in Texas is something we seldom hear about, but there have been multiple recent reports of small quakes in North Texas. The seismic activity is monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey offices.

Last month a small quake centered in an undeveloped part of North Arlington.

It registered 3.3 on the Richter Scale, and was felt mainly in Bedford, Euless and Irving. Smaller aftershocks were felt in the afternoon, but none as strong as the original. DFW airport and the Trinity Railway Express acknowledged the quake, but stated the tremor had no impact on transportation services.

On Tuesday, June 2, a 2.8-magnitude quake hit the North Texas town of Cleburne, 40 miles south of Fort Worth. Then, less than a week later, two more tremors were reported in that same area. Calls began to come in to the Cleburne police on Sunday, June 7, just before 6 p.m., and the USGS confirmed the quakes, the larger of which registered 2.6-magnitude. It was felt in Cleburne, Rio Vista, Bedford and Grandview, but there were no reports of damage or injuries.

A CBS News 11 report quoted a UT Dallas Geosciences professor, Dr. John Ferguson, as stating that natural gas drilling could be the cause of the quakes. According to Dr. Ferguson, "It's possible the induced seismicity is associated with gas production. This wouldn't be unexpected by earthquake seismologists."

Cleburne experienced a fourth quake on Tuesday. It registered 2.6 and city officials called an emergency

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