

Leonard's American Bank leading Relay for Life team

Written by By Ava Barlow, Staff Writer

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Feb. 10, 2011 - The American Bank of Texas Leonard branch is spearheading a Relay for Life team leading up to the big event on May 20 and 21 at Warrior Stadium in Bonham. Part of the responsibility of heading up a team is organizing fundraisers, with all funds going to the American Cancer Society for cancer research. The other part is organizing a team that will walk in the Relay for Life event that begins at 7 p.m. and lasts to 7 a.m. The Leonard team has deemed themselves The Leonard Fighters and they would like to offer an open invitation to cancer survivors, those currently on treatment, caregivers or interested persons to participate in this event.

Bank employee and team captain Brandi Treadway shared several fundraising ideas that will take place in the next 104 days leading up to the event. Watch Out for the Skunk is one of the fundraisers. Out of the blue, a small stuffed skunk, may appear on your desk or work area, and you will have to pay to have it removed and may pay an extra amount to make sure it does not return. All fees paid will go to the American Bank of Texas relay team.

American Bank has for several years had employees pay a fee for any day they wished to wear blue jeans on the job. Fridays were designated relay days but any day an employee showed up to work with jeans, they paid the blue jean fee. Treadway hopes other businesses in town will impose this stipulation on their employees as well, all in good fun, and raise money for cancer research.

Moons and stars will be sold at American Bank of Texas in Leonard and will be placed in the window for customers to view. For \$1, the purchaser may write the name of a cancer survivor on the star, or use it as a way to remember somebody who had died from cancer. The bank will have the stars on display.

Leonard will also have a Cancer Awareness Day where everyone is encouraged to wear purple to show support for the event and everyone who wears purple pays \$1. The date will be publicized for this event when set.

Leonard will also raise funds through the Flush Out Cancer event. A purple toilet will be placed in a resident's yard and they must make a donation to have it removed. Fees are \$5 to have it removed, \$10 to name the next person to receive it and \$20 to buy potty insurance to have it removed and not come back. The purple toilet will appear in the first yard on March 1

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and this fundraiser will run until there is no place else to send it, possibly to the end of May. Call Treadway at American Bank to have it removed, placed in someone's yard, or to buy potty insurance.

Organizers have also talked about scheduling a supper and bake sale, and volunteers will be needed to assist in organizing and cooking for these events. The relay team members also plan to each walk in honor of a person who is fighting or has fought cancer, and are looking for people to adopt. Names are needed to make this work.

A meeting has been set for Tuesday, Feb. 15, at noon in the American Bank of Texas in Leonard. The meeting is for anyone interested in helping with Relay for Life by organizing a fundraiser, participating on the relay team, or having questions or suggestions.

Call Treadway at American Bank of Texas 903-813-5940 to volunteer to help, to walk on the relay team, to make a donation, to name a skunk or toilet recipient or to suggest another means of fundraising. Also call if you are a survivor, are currently on treatment or have someone to place on the memory list. All donations are welcome.

Online registration is also available at www.relayforlife.org/bonhamtx. From the home page, follow these instructions: click on sign up, click on join a team, search for The Leonard Fighters, look for Team Captain Brandi Treadway, click on join at right, select team member, fill out three screens of information, and click complete registration at the end.