

Battles

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30,000 children and adults in the United States. The disease affects the lungs and digestive system.

A defective gene and its protein product cause the body to produce a unusually thick and sticky mucus. The mucus clogs lungs may lead to life-threatening lung infections. The mucus also obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food.

Looking at Evan, you couldn't tell that he's facing such challenges. Heather Bell, Evans mom said that her son is extremely healthy.

"Every three months we go see the doctor at the children's hospital in Dallas," Heather said. "They make Evan blow in a tube to test his lung function. He still has over 100 percent."

Heather also explained that the nurses are often surprised and impressed by his size. Evan has grown well over the normal height and weight of a child with CF.

Typical symptoms of CF are persistent coughing, at times with phlegm; frequent lung infections; wheezing; shortness of breath; poor growth and weight gain in spite of a good appetite.

Heather said her family has been blessed with good insurance that helps with the costly medicines that Evan needs.

That, along with a good diet and special care especially in the winter months, is what attributes to his good health.

Heather said many children are not as fortunate in health or insurance coverage and it's apparent in the waiting room of the children's hospital.

The CF Foundations statistics report that 1,000 new patients are diagnosed each

year. More than 70 percent are diagnosed before age two.

Evan was 18 months when his mom received the news.

"I was on the phone with my best friend from college - who's a nurse - we were talking about Evan who had an ongoing cough and other symptoms she recognized," Heather said. "My friend said that I have him tested for CF.

"When we got off the phone I looked up CF and knew she was right."

Not long after the diagnosis was confirmed.

"It was very scary and I was upset at first," Heather said. "But when I got home to see my baby nothing had changed - he's still the same boy."

Heather calmed herself by thinking back to a friendship she had in high school.

"My friend had CF and she did everything I did. She wasn't held back by it," Heather said.

Evan doesn't seem held back by CF either. He participated in basketball last year and hopes to return to playing soccer this year.

The exercise is good for strengthening his lungs as well.

Evan also has a growing collection of Webkins, a plush pet that comes with a secret code to be entered in the Webkins Web site to create and care for a virtual version of the pet.

Evan cares for his Webkins pets like many other kids his age, though he'll admit to feeling different time to time.

"I wish I was like other kids," Evan said, "I don't like taking medicine."

Though there is not yet a cure the CF Foundation motto is "adding tomorrows to every day" and the CF Foundation's benefit walk, Great Strides motto is "taking steps to cure Cystic Fibrosis."

As it appears each is true, in the 1950's few children with CF lived to attend elementary school and now the predicted median age of survival is 38-years-old.

"Evan asked the other day, 'Mom am I going to die first?'" Heather said. "No you're going to bury me I answered."

Though each is a painful thought Heather said it's likely now.

"We have eternity - and this life is short - and it may have pain in it," Heather said. "But we are looking forward to eternity together."

The CF Foundation claims Great Strides is one of the country's most effective and efficient fund raising efforts. Since it's birth in 1989 the walk has raised more than \$180 million to support vital research and care programs of the CF Foundation.

This year Great Strides has set a national fund raising goal of \$36 million. Sept. 29, 2007 the Great Strides walk will be in Tyler at Bergfeld Park.

Check in will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the walk will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Heather is chairing the event and said that along with the walk through the Azalea District, there will be a clown, train ride and other festivities.

All of Evan's family will be there to participate as Evan's father, Conrad Bell, has his own team of walkers. Evans older brother Ethan and older sister Erin will be in attendance to show their support.

"We'd love to have people come out to walk or make a donation," Heather said. "We welcome every bit of help."

To find more information on Cystic Fibroses, register for the walk or make a donation you may visit the CF Foundations Web site at www.cff.org/great_strides.

Cherokee County Dems hold annual fall banquet

The Cherokee County Democratic Club held its Fall Banquet and Silent Auction, Saturday, Sept. 8 on the campus of Lon Morris College, in the Community Room of the Wilson Administration Building in Jacksonville.

"Texas Democrats are more energized than ever, and like most Americans, are ready for change." Texas Democratic Party Chair Boyd Richie, the dinner's main speaker said.

Local Democratic office holders from Cherokee County, including Texas State Repr. Chuck Hopson, and other candidates were in attendance at the sold out dinner.

State and local democratic officers and club members from Cherokee, Anderson, Hopkins, Smith and Polk counties also attended.

Gov. Howard Dean, Chair of the Democratic National Committee, sent a recorded DVD message, which spoke of Democratic values of quality education and health care and the hard work of Representative Chuck Hopson for the people of East Texas.

Presidential candidates, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator John Edwards and Senator Barack Obama sent messages, which were read to the crowd. All three presidential candidates spoke to the future of our communities and



From left are Texas Democratic Party Chair, Boyd Richie and State Representative Chuck Hopson.

country. Hillary Clinton wrote, " ... working together, we will restore the promise of America."

The message from John Edwards said, " ... with bold ideas and courage and conviction we can bring big change to our country."

Barack Obama said, " ... All of you are at the forefront of our Party's efforts to reject the politics of cynicism and rededicate this country to the spirit of progress and hope."

Public Notice

Bullard ISD will hold a public hearing on the FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) rating for the district. The hearing will be held at the Bullard ISD Administration building October 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

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Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Bullard will receive bids for the construction and installation of the 2007 Water System Improvements Project until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at City of Bullard, City Hall, 114 S. Phillips(P. O. Box 107), Bullard, Texas 75757. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at City Hall, 114 S. Phillips, Bullard, Texas.

Bids are invited for work as follows:

- Install approximately:
 - o 2591 LF - 12" DR-18 PVC (AWWA C-900)
 - o 2935 LF - 8" DR-18 PVC (AWWA C-900)
 - o 117 LF - 6" DR-18 PVC (AWWA C-900)
 - o 200 LF - Dry Bore
 - o 135 LF - Wet Bore

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at the office of CAPCO ENGINEERING, INC., 109 W. Front St., Suite 212, Tyler, Texas 75702; (903) 531-9670.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained from the Engineer by payment of \$50.00 each set of documents so obtained. Each such payment will not be refunded.

A Bid Bond in the amount of 5% of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Bullard or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

The City of Bullard reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Bullard for a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

Date: September 22, 2007 City of Bullard September 29, 2007

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