

Pink Heals Tour Coming to Ponca City With Local Firefighter



THE LINEUP of pink vehicles seen on the Pink Heals Tour even includes a pink Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Contest To Give Mammogram Funds a Much-Needed Boost

The Healthy Woman Program at Ponca City Medical Center is looking for a little extra support for breast cancer awareness as it kicks off its first Decorated Bra Event in conjunction with the Pink Heals Tour coming to Ponca City this month.

The contest encourages participants to decorate a bra to promote breast cancer awareness. Any bra size and type is eligible, said Cathy Cole with the Healthy Woman Program.

"You can even create and decorate a bra out of other materials, such as clay, pipe cleaners, feathers, wood and metal, for example," she said.

Each entry must have a title. Entries will be judged for originality and creative use of materials, overall design execution, workmanship and a title appropriate to the finished bra.

"Please be tactful and sensitive when creating your decorated bra," Cole said. "We reserve the right to refuse any entry not deemed appropriate."

Bras will be judged by cancer survivors selected by the Healthy Woman Advisory Board.

Ponca City News Lifestyles Editor Carey Head challenges others to come up with creative entries. She said she plans to decorate a bra with the theme of "Getting Checked."

Head said her entry will include a variety of items including gingham checked fabric, checkers, bank checks and check marks.

The entry fee is \$5 per bra and there is no limit on the number of entries per person.

Money from the fees will be deposited to the Community Health Foundation and will be used to pay for mammograms for women from Ponca City and the surrounding area who cannot afford to pay for their mammograms.

Entries will be accepted through Oct. 26 and can be brought to the Healthy Woman Conference Center at Ponca City Medical Center.

On Oct. 27, they will be displayed from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Marland Mansion.



CHILDREN WEARING pink fire helmets meet the Pink Heals fire trucks. The children attend a daycare in St. Petersburg, Fla.



PEOPLE OF all ages greet the pink fire trucks on the Pink Heals Tour. This girl met the tour in Manhasset, N.Y.



THE PINK Heals Tour made a stop at the Firefighters Museum in Manhasset, N.Y.



CROWDS OF MEN in Hickory, N.C., met the Pink Heals Tour in support of women with cancer. Ponca City's John Rhyne, who retired as a fireman and Emergency Medical Services Division Chief in June 2010, joined the tour this year as a driver.

'Keepers of the Ribbon' Plan To Make Extended Appearance

Editor's Note: See the Oct. 2 Lifestyles Section of The Ponca City News for Lifestyles Editor Carey Head's interview with Ponca City's retired firefighter John Rhyne.

John Rhyne is having the time of his life helping cancer patients celebrate theirs.

The retired Ponca City fireman joined the Pink Heals Tour Sept. 9 at Plattsburgh, N.Y. and its brigade of pink fire trucks driven by volunteer firemen in pink bunker gear.

In the past month he has lived a whirlwind of smiles, tears, hugs and handshakes from the thousands of people that turn out to greet them in each town they cross.

The Pink Heals Tour is the creation of Dave Graybill, former professional athlete and recently retired Arizona fireman. In a fire truck painted pink and wearing pink bunker, or turnout, gear, Graybill began driv-

ing across the United States to "carry the signatures of very special people, mostly women, some men and a few children" in a message to all who have not fought this cancer battle yet.

Their message? Troops are rallied, we stand beside you, we care enough to wear pink to honor you, and protect and stand up to anything that might harm our women and children at all costs.

Since Rhyne joined the tour, the pink fire trucks and their volunteer drivers have taken this message to Montreal, Canada, and then down through the Eastern Seaboard. They've wound their way through Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia in less than 20 days.

Ponca City will be an extended stop on the

national tour. According to Cathy Cole, local Pink Heals Tour coordinator, four pink fire trucks and a crew of eight firefighters are due to arrive in Ponca City the evening of Oct. 26 with their two days of public appearances Oct. 27 and 28.

Cole said she is especially excited about the extended stay — unique for the busy tour that tries to make stops in at least one town each day. She knows from last year's event the impact the sight of the pink fire trucks and pink-geared firefighters have on those touched by cancer.

Graybill will be the featured speaker at the Breast Cancer Awareness Banquet. The event is sponsored by Ponca City Medical Center's Healthy Woman Program and Soroptimist International of Ponca City. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 27 at Northeast Baptist Church. Tickets are \$15 each and can be reserved by calling

765-0529 or via email, cathy_cole@chs.net.

While the tour is here, the public is encouraged to meet the firefighters during their appearance at the Marland Mansion. The tour also will visit Ponca City High School to honor students whose families are touched by cancer.

Home delivery of flowers to those fighting cancer, as well as a visit to Ponca City Medical Center, are planned. A complete schedule of events will be available soon.

In advance of the tour stop, Healthy Woman Program is selling T-shirts for \$15 each. T-shirts are available at the Healthy Woman conference center in the Specialty Services building on the hospital campus. Proceeds will pay for mammograms for area women unable to afford them. Everyone is encouraged to wear the T-shirts during the Pink Heals Tour stop and help "Paint Ponca Pink."

Tulsa Turning Pink, Too, With Week Filled With Awareness Events

TULSA — Turn Tulsa Pink is taking over Tulsa Oct. 22-29.

This movement is part of the Pink Heals Tour International — a countrywide effort to honor and support all the women and children in local communities, businesses, and families who have battled or lost their battle to cancer.

"As the only city in the nation to have four different pink emergency vehicles, we have been overwhelmed by the support of the community. We are looking forward to a week full of events and for Tulsa to show its true color, Pink," says Judi Grove, chairwoman for Turn Tulsa Pink.

As a focus act of love through pink, Turn Tulsa Pink is currently working with multiple businesses, organi-

From Roller Derby to Fashion Shows, Pink Rules

zations, churches and schools in Tulsa County to show their support of this great cause by "turning" features of their organizations pink.

Turn Tulsa Pink is also working with 10 local nonprofits who provide help and support for women and children with cancer.

Through these efforts, Turn Tulsa Pink is raising awareness and funds for these organizations. They are American Cancer Society, Anna's Bells Ovarian Cancer Support Group, Breast Impressions, Cancer Sucks, National Cervical Cancer

Coalition of Oklahoma, The Oklahoma Family Network, Oklahoma Project Women, Random Acts of Purpose, Soulful Survivors and Young Survivors Coalition Tulsa.

Events are planned throughout the week of Oct. 22-29 to celebrate the lives of those who have survived and remember those who died.

Among the many events scheduled that week are a car and bike show at the Admiral Twin Drive In; Steel Rage Pro Wrestling at the Tulsa Convention Center and the Green Country Roller Girls vs. Dallas Derby Devils at the

Tulsa Convention Center, all on Oct. 22.

Oct. 23 is "Wear Pink to Worship Day" and Tulsa Zoo Pink Family Day.

There also will be a memorial to those who have lost their battle with cancer and to honor those who survived at ONEOK Field.

Even pets will get in on the celebration on Oct. 24 with "Yappy Hour" at Posh Pup. Pink Zumba, a benefit for soulful survivors will be held at LaFortune Community Center.

On Oct. 25, Kang's Tae Kwon-Do will have a "Kick

Cancer Break A Thon block party at Secret Gardens Candle Company.

The American Cancer Society will have a "Make a Sundae" benefit and open house at noon Oct. 26.

A "Must Stash Fashion Show and Benefit" for Turn Tulsa Pink will be at 7 p.m. in the Philtower Lobby.

Musicians join the fun Oct. 27 with the Tulsa Camerata Opening Night performance of "Bold Combinations" in Pink at All Souls Unitarian Church.

Pink A Palooza, Chicks Sing Out Against Cancer, will be at

Cain's Ballroom. Performers will include Janae, Rebecca Ungerman, Kelly Lynn Baxter, The Ruskettes and Branjae and the All Stars.

Survivors will strut their stuff in a fashion show and luncheon at 11 a.m. Oct. 28 at the Golf Club of Oklahoma.

The week wraps up Oct. 29 with the "Power of Pink" in the Boo Ha Ha Parade, the Tulsa Cares Enough to Wear Pink Brookside Annual Parade.

All the pink emergency vehicles in Tulsa will be part of the parade.

The final event will be a Thank You Tulsa party at OU Tulsa Learning Center.

For more information about Turn Tulsa Pink, visit www.turntulsapink.org.