



Truckers raise funds for cancer research



The sun was shining in Charlotte County last Oct. 8 even though the clouds were gray and rain drenched the area the entire day. The sunshine came from people coming together to fight cancer.

The 16th annual Truckers Parade Against Cancer rolled on despite the inclement weather. A total of 196 trucks participated and carried 263 banners in honor and in memory of loved ones. The event raised \$96,500 for American Cancer Society research against a disease that touches everyone.

Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) had trucks in the parade, driven by employees Ashley Tuck, Wayne Paulett and Luke Storey. The Cooperative also funded the event T-shirts.

Parade founder and organizer Sheila Jones was excited and touched by the number of truckers who participated to show their support for cancer patients and survivors, and the number of spectators who came out for the truck drivers. Jones said as she later looked at the pictures taken that day, she saw lots of smiles, despite the continuous rain.

Huddled under large tents, the crowd listened to music, enjoyed a chicken and barbecue lunch, ate Brunswick stew, bid on auction items and participated in fundraisers. At about 3 p.m., drivers climbed into their rigs and started the parade from Phenix to Charlotte Court House, Drakes Branch and Keyville.

Since starting, the event has raised more than \$800,000 for the American Cancer Society.

The 2017 Truckers Parade Against Cancer will be held Oct. 14.

— Mark Thomas



Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) employees (L-R) Ashley Tuck, Wayne Paulett and Luke Storey wait to drive in last fall's Truckers Parade Against Cancer.

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