

# LOCAL EXTRA



WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 1, 2011

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## PROMENADE MALL GOES TO DOGS

Four-legged furry friends are coming to Promenade Temecula this month for the "Dog

## A long march against cancer

**CORONA:** Two women who have lost several family members to the disease are passionate in their fight.

BY JERRY SOIFER  
SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Colleen Cain and Stephanie Hoy are waging war against cancer. Their zeal to raise money to find a cure is boundless. They have lost 11 family members to the disease. The hurt from the cancer-caused death of Bill Cain, Colleen's hus-

### INLAND PEOPLE

**WHO:** Colleen Cain, Stephanie Hoy

**RESIDENCE:** Corona

**AGES:** 57, 36

**NOTABLE:** Dedicated to eradicating cancer because of 11 deaths from the disease in their family.

band and Hoy's stepfather, still brings them to tears 7½ years after his passing. "I hate cancer with a passion,"

Hoy said. "It's not fair. There are so many diseases that you can cure."

Hoy and Cain will lead their team of 20, Poppa's Pit Crew, at Corona's Relay for Life at Santana Regional Park on June 11-12. The team won the spirit award at last year's Relay for Life. The team is named for Bill Cain, who ran a hobby shop that specialized in radio-control boats. This year, the team's seventh year participating in the relay, will bring their total money raised to \$50,000.

SEE **CANCER/C3**



JERRY SOIFER/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE  
Stephanie Hoy holds a plaque with a photo of her late stepfather and Colleen Cain holds a trophy.

## CANCER

CONTINUED FROM C1

Hoy will walk 24 hours straight from the start of the relay to the end.

"Cancer doesn't quit," said Hoy. "Why should we?"

Hoy walks barefooted, which caught the attention of retired Corona fire Capt. Richard Hernandez, a member of the relay committee.

"We nicknamed her the barefoot girl," said Hernandez. "She said she was walking in memory of (Bill Cain). We asked her to be part of the luminary ceremony (in memory of cancer victims) the next year. She did such a superb job, she had us in tears."

Because of Cain's death, Hoy, the mother of four teen daughters, has changed the direction of her life. She is spending \$29,000 from grants and loans to go to college to become a hospice nurse.

Hoy, 36, said she was inspired to pursue the career by the people who treated Cain and other family members who died from cancer.

"It was my dream to pay back the wonderful care that our family members

received in their final days," Hoy said.

Bill Cain treated Hoy as if she was his own daughter.

"He would drop anything to help us," Hoy said. "You would never know he was our stepdad. He was the one I would always go to. He would put me on his lap. He gave me a big hug and cheered me up."

Colleen Cain, 57, a certified public accountant, was staggered by the swiftness with which pancreatic cancer claimed her husband's life. He passed away four weeks after receiving the diagnosis.

"It was like being hit by a freight train," Cain said. "We didn't have time to process our options. We didn't have time to plan."

For the final week of his life, he was in a cancer-induced coma. On Nov. 14, 2003, Colleen's 50th birthday, he woke up, turned to his wife and said, "I love you."

He died three days later.

"It was compassionate for Bill," said Colleen. "He didn't have to go through a long disease process."

Colleen was torn between her own despair and her desire to help others.

She started a nonprofit

organization to raise funds and awareness for pancreatic cancer victims.

"Pancreatic cancer is the deadliest of the cancers," Colleen said. "There is no early detection. Families going through this don't have the time or the resources to battle this disease. I wanted to help families in the future so they know their options."

Cain has worked as a general contractor. She's been an entrepreneur. She graduated from the University of Phoenix within a year of her husband's death and now runs a CPA firm.

"I have never been afraid to take chances," Cain said. "If I see a need somewhere, I'm the type of person who looks for options to fill those needs. I've always been a self-starter."

The Relay for Life team is composed of family members, friends and clients of Cain's CPA firm.

Cain, Hoy and their team prepared for the 2011 Relay by putting on the Bark for Life, a walk with dogs, in south Corona on May 21. More than 300 people participated, with 140 dogs registered. They raised \$10,500.

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