

National eyes on Walnut Grove

ABC News films story on local woman

By Brian Arrington

May 1, 2011



Carol Witcher, of Walnut Grove, was interviewed by ABC News correspondent Steve Osunsami last month for a story about her dog detecting her breast cancer. The story aired on 'ABC News with Diane Sawyer' Monday. Brian Arrington

WALNUT GROVE — Floyd Henry was ready for his closeup.

The bulky four-legged boxer, and his owner Carol Witcher, of Walnut Grove, were featured on "ABC News with Diane Sawyer" after producers saw their story in The Walton Tribune.

The story detailed how Floyd Henry found cancer in Witcher's right breast three years ago and how Witcher's doctors are convinced dogs can actually detect cancer. Witcher has been taking part in breath studies, which doctors are advancing cancer detection methods.

When ABC producers saw the story, The Tribune put them in contact with Witcher.

Earlier this month Witcher's lawn was a makeshift television studio where a soundman, cameraman, producer and reporter Steve Osunsami met with Witcher and, of course, Floyd Henry.

"It's the uniqueness of the possibility of dogs being able to detect sickness," said ABC producer Harvey Goldberg when asked why he was there to document Witcher's story. "Who knows what dogs can be trained to do?"

Witcher had been calling Floyd Henry by another name the week before the shooting - — "Star."

"Oh, he knows something's up," Witcher said. "I've been telling him — he's all excited. He has his kerchief on. He knows something's going on."

While the crew set up, Floyd Henry was nose-to-window, watching the action on the lawn. Witcher waited on the porch.

"I guess I'm somewhat overwhelmed," she said. "I'm pleased people will get to realize the close relationship between humans and the animals who live with them. I hope it encourages others."