

Relay For Life to celebrate 'Decades of Hope' Friday

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Phillips County will host its 12th annual Relay For Life event Friday-Saturday, June 7-8 at the Haxtun baseball field to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

During the night, relay team members and cancer survivors will honor those who have lost the fight to the disease as well as celebrate those who have emerged victorious in their battle with cancer by completing hundreds of laps around the track.

Jeff Plumb, Rod Workman and Star 92.3 will handle emcee responsibilities for the event.

The evening will get started with a welcome from event chair Abby Henry. The opening ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. with the theme being "Decades of Hope."

Teams will dress and decorate their campsites in accordance with the decade their team represents.

Kelli Lightsey of Haxtun will share her story of fighting cancer at 6:15 p.m. Lightsey battled breast cancer and has been in remission for four months.

A survivors lap is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Cancer survivors will take the first lap around the track to celebrate overcoming cancer while also acting as inspiration for those currently afflicted with the illness.

A dinner will be provided by The Dutch Oven of Haxtun and R&B Catering of Holyoke at 7 p.m. While the dinner is open to the public, those who are not cancer survivors or on a team are encouraged to make a donation.

The luminaria will be lit with a ceremony planned to begin at 9 p.m. From 9-10 p.m. participants will partake in silent laps to remember those who have lost the battle with cancer, to support

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those still fighting and to honor those who have faced cancer in the past.

Luminaria can be purchased next to the stage at the baseball field.

Several activities and games will also be offered throughout the night including "Minute to Win It" games, Wii hour on a blow-up television screen, Mr. Relay and a Relay Idol contest.

A best food of the decade competition will also take place from 7-11:30 p.m. Keeping in line with the theme, teams will enter a dish that best represents their decade. Donation jars will be placed by each entry and the winner will be the one who receives the most money.

Drawings for a number of prizes will also be available to those who camp out throughout the night.

During the Wednesday, May 29 Bank Night, \$19,000 was collected from participating teams. There are currently 18 teams and 205 people already registered for the event.

Money for Relay For Life will be collected until midnight.

The event will come to an end with the closing ceremony at 7 a.m.

During the 2012 Relay For Life, Phillips County raised nearly \$30,000 with proceeds going toward cancer research.

Those who have yet to sign up to participate can do so up until the start of the event.

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To sign up, purchase luminaria before the event or for questions regarding volunteering or sponsorship for Relay, contact Abby Henry at 970-580-8980 or visit phillipscountyrelay.org .

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