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# Batesville Daily Guard

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# Relay for Life kicks off efforts

By Nick Nesler, Guard Photo Editor

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Nick Nesler

Senator Jack Critcher speaks at Monday's Relay For Life Kick off ceremony.

New committee chairman Shannon Hix expressed his excitement about the upcoming year at the Independence County Relay for Life Kickoff dinner held at Elizabeth's Monday night.

“I can’t wait for this year to get going; hopefully we’ll be able to introduce a lot of people to the relay,” Hix said.

This year’s relay will be held at the Batesville Speedway starting at noon June 9.

Also on June 10, the speedway will donate half the proceeds from ticket sales to the Relay for Life cause.

Those in attendance also heard from Sen. Jack Critcher, whose sister died from cancer. Critcher shared with the group stories of his sister and his feelings about her death. Critcher’s sister had two bouts with the disease before it claimed her life.

“Seeing her go through what she went through ... She was such a sweet person, she was a special person,” Critcher said. “To see her lay in that pain. There’s nothing like it. I hate that disease.”

Hix, who is also a cancer survivor, encouraged the group gathered at the event to work hard to raise money because it helps to fund research that could one day stop the disease.

“I’m going to win my battle there’s no doubt, but it’s only possible because of the money raised,” Hix said.

The group also viewed a video detailing a young woman’s fight with cancer and the impact that Relay for Life had upon her own life. The video showed how her friends put together a team in her honor while she was going through treatments and how she got involved when she became able.

Also a luminaria ceremony was held in honor of survivors and those who died from the disease.

Relay for Life is a fund-raising activity for the American Cancer Society. The event is billed as a night of hope and provides businesses and community members a chance to build camaraderie.

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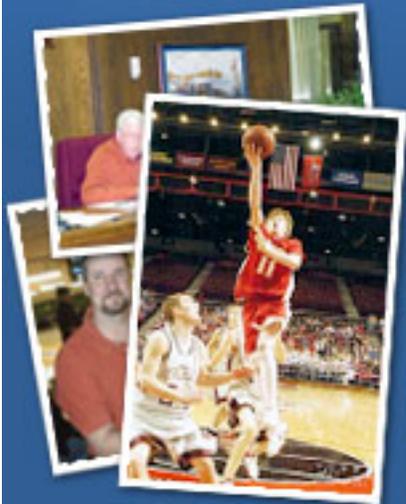
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