

Milton Relay aiming for nearly \$100,000

Sunny skies greeted walkers Friday

BY JEFF SHAFFER
Staff writer

MILTON — Once again, hundreds of local folks are stepping it up in the battle against cancer.

The Milton Relay For Life kicked off Friday afternoon and continues until 1 p.m. today. If you're reading this and at the Milton Area High School's Alumni Field — keep up the great work!

This annual main event of the American Cancer Society has become a staple in a number of communities. The Milton community has already raised more than \$1 million over its first 10 years. The goal this year is to raise an additional \$95,000. As of start-time Friday, \$16,790 was collected, but chairman Dale Kriner said a majority of the money would be counted over the night hours of the 24-hour event.

This Relay can bring a lot of excitement, but sadly it's been subdued in the early on, according to Kriner, because of a loss of one of the event's key cogs.

Joyce Stahl, who had battled cancer herself, passed away unexpectedly on March 31. She was 68.

"She was so actively involved," Kriner said.

Without a doubt, the chairman expected the evening's

luminary walk to be extra special for those remembering Stahl. Many others will be remembered as well, many of whom have died in the past year, he added.

Being at the Relay, "people come and remember why they are here.

"We're fighting for a cure, fighting back," Kriner said. "People could sit back, but with all the advancements there are even more reasons to fight back, and educate."

Among the first teams at the Relay was the Warrior Run Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Team. Three years ago, the national FCCLA partnered with Relay For Life for a benefit, but the local FCCLA has decided to keep at it.

The event is important to the group advisor, Deb Waughen, whose husband, Tom, is a cancer survivor not once, but twice — after battles 13 and eight years ago. However, he shows no more signs of the disease.

The Miller Cousins Team was also there. Hilda Morgan, of Milton, has a son, Daniel, who's battled cancer, but has

Gomez, of Milton, said there are many other family members they are supporting.

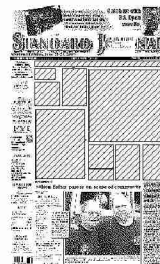
Forecasted rain was expected to do little to dampen the spirits of the walkers, Kriner said. Folks will walk regardless.

"Five years ago there was a monsoon," he said, recalling a particularly soggy 24 hours. "So, we've become immune to it."

Look for additional coverage from the Milton Relay For Life in Monday's edition of Standard Journal.

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been doing well now for 18 months. Hilda's cousin, Sue





Jeff Shaffer/Standard Journal

SUPPORT TEAM — Talented singer Equila Phelps, of Lewisburg, soothed and energized walkers Friday as they made their way around the track at Alumni Field.



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READY TO RELAY — This group takes a break, for a photo, while setting up their colorful tent at the Milton Relay For Life. Together they are the Warrior Run Family Career and Community Leaders of America (**FCCLA**) Team. From left, in front, are Levi Geyer, a junior and co-captain; Paige Nicholas, a senior and co-captain; Tonia Sores, junior; Devin Nicholas, freshman. Back, Jackie Clemens, freshman; Deb Waughen, group advisor; Michelle Waughen, a junior, representing the Montgomery FCCLA; Bobby Hoover, a Montgomery FCCLA alumni; Alexis Siedel, freshman; and Gianna Reynolds, freshman.



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HATS OFF TO THOSE WHO WALK — From left, Hilda Morgan, of Milton; J.D. Nickey, 6, of West Virginia; and Sue Gomez, of Milton; representing The Miller Cousins Team, take their beginning laps at the Milton Relay For Life. This year's theme is 'Hats.'