

### Contributed by Erin Goddard

With a voice that resonates powerfully, Mitch Osborn has left an unforgettable mark on those who have had the privilege to cross paths with him. Many will remember his voice that rose above crowds to guide and inspire from the courtside; others will know him from what he taught as an educator; and still others will think of his high energy in the rapid calling at an auction.

On June 9th, Mitch's voice will fill the Harlan Square as the 2023 Relay For Life Honorary Survivor.

A graduate of Walnut Iowa High School in 1980, Mitch went on to receive his Agricultural Education Degree. He married his high school sweetheart, Nancy, and started his teaching in 1984 at Elk Horn/Kimballton where a head coach position for boys basketball fell into his lap. Mitch took on that task and all that followed with an unmatched energy and passion. From 1990-97, Mitch taught and worked to become the elementary and high school principal at Pomeroy/Palmer where he was also the athletic director and boys basketball coach. While his career grew, so did his family. Mitch and Nancy had three sons, Joel, Kevin, and Zach.

In 1997, he and his young family moved to Harlan. Mitch said, "[I] taught vocational agriculture, was FFA advisor my first

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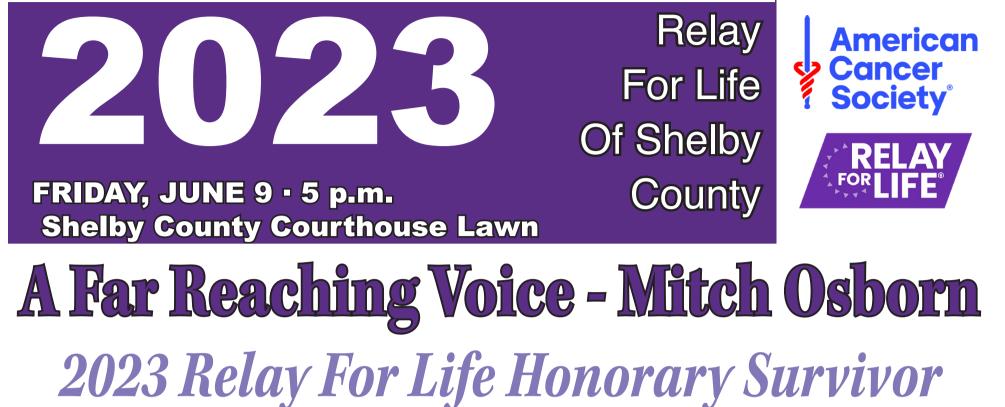
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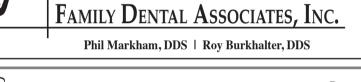
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to celebrate progress and continue the search for a cure. Celebrating Survivors. We Deliver **Promoting Prevention.** Identifying Resources. Raising Awareness. 755-2262 • Downtown Harlan Please join the Please join us on Shelby County Relay For Life RELAY Harlan's Historic Square Teams as they FOR LIFE give a final Friday, June 9. push toward the fundraising goal, and celebrate the



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Colleen's Dream Foundation is a non-profit organization created by Nicole Cundiff and her husband, former Harlanite Billy Cundiff, in the quest to fund research of ovarian cancer.

#### Together ...

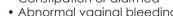
- we can bring attention to the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer. - we can fund research leading to comprehensive & accurate early detection of this deadly disease.

#### **Ovarian Cancer Symptoms**

- Back Pain
- Swollen/bloated abdomen
- Pressure/pain in the abdomen
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding

Signs and symptoms are subtle and vague, and no standardized early detection procedure currently exists. Yearly pap tests can detect cervical cancer, but NOI ovarian cancer. If these symptoms persist for a couple of weeks, see a physician, preferably a gynecologist.

• Feeling full quickly





lives of former

cancer fighters.

and current

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Priya Nadine Hucka loved her grandmother, Nadine Kenkel, whose life was cut short by ovarian cancer. Nadine was a powerful advocate for women's health, especially creating awareness of ovarian cancer. In 2014 Nadine was the guest speaker at Relay For Life.

Photograph by Leah Marie Photography







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# 2023 Honorary Survivor Mitch Osborn

### Osborn from front

suddenly changed, and yet it did not. Mitch continued to do what he loved, as a flood of support rallied behind him from every facet of his life, built out of love and gratitude to a beacon in the community.

"They did six rounds of chemotherapy... Then I got checked in for a stem cell transplant...April 6th, 2015. They harvested my own stem cells, and put them back in. I was in the hospital for 18 days. They did chemo, [drove my] immune system down to zero, and put the stem cells back in," Mitch explained.

His cancer went into remission, but one and a half years later, a polyp was found in a routine colonoscopy.

"They said there was a 30% chance that [radiation] would work, and I said- That was better than zero!.. So we did 18 rounds of radiation... And it worked!" Mitch said.

Nancy said, "Nothing really happened until [he] got sick in 2021, and that's when [he was] diagnosed with multiple myeloma."

Nothing could slow Mitch down, not retirement, not a pandemic, and not even a diagnosis of cancer. It would take a serious case of pneumonia, which led to a discovery of another type of cancer to pull a reluctant Mitch from an important auction and get admitted to the ER in afib. It would take more complications with pneumonia to steal Mitch off the courts.

"Just this last December. I missed four basket-

ball games. I have never missed a game- ever. Even when I was doing chemotherapy...had an IV in my arm, and I coached," Mitch said.

Mitch does monthly infusions as he continues to manage the "complicated case" of cancers he lives with, as Nancy describes it. He continues to coach, auctioneer, and travel nearly every weekend to attend the sports activities in which his children and grandchildren take part in.

Mitch and Nancy have participated in the Relay For Life events since it first emerged in the county. Their team "Sold on a Cure" includes many of their auction crew who become active voices to spread awareness and raise funds.

Mitch says for why he relays, "Research is the key...if I would have had my cancer... just probably seven years before [my diagnosis], I wouldn't be here... The advances they've made have been unbelievable. And so if you can just keep ahead of it... "I have had people call, and they'll say- I don't know if I want to go through with all of that. And I'll say- Yeah, you do because here's what happened after I was diagnosed. We had one grandson. And all other seven of them have come since I was



Nancy and Mitch Osborn

diagnosed... I would have missed all of that."

Come to experience and support the famed coach and man who seems to do it all. A pie auction will follow immediately after the speech, expertly auctioneered by none other than Mitch Osborn.

This year will be Mitch's 40th year of coaching. Some of his common sayings have fallen on the ears of thousands, and his message rings deeply as someone who has lived through it to tell.

"Not everything is going to be a bowl of cherries...There's going to be some peaks and valleys. We have to try to keep our valleys as short as possible, and we are going to climb that mountain and just keep climbing." -Coach Osborn



## **Relay For Life Brings Fun Fundraisers to Shelby County**

#### *Contributed by Erin Goddard*

How long does it take for a team of four to complete a 300 piece puzzle, drink a 12 pack of beer, and eat a large pizza? At the PodunK Bar and Grill in Panama May 21st, it took participants just 34 minutes.

The "You Gotta Be Kidney Me" team brought a Pizza Puzzle Beer event to Shelby County for the first time with a great turn out and everyone saying what a fun experience and great fundraiser. The Relay For Life of Shelby County team "You Gotta Be Kidney Me" formed when Joe Miller, of Portsmouth, was diagnosed in 2021 with kidney cancer, and family and friends rallied around him. Joe completed about six months of chemotherapy, followed up with a surgery.

"My dad is doing great! He has followup appointments every 3 months and so far everything has been good," Amanda Miller, daughter of Joe and team organizer, is happy to report.

The team worked with Kayla Weihs pizzas," Amanda praised. and Josh and Brian Weihs, owners of the PodunK Bar and Grill in Panama to organize the event. Many followers of the bar turned out to the event in support of the cause and a fun time.

The money brought in from the event was split half with the winning team, while the other half went towards the American Cancer Society. During the afternoon, a 50/50 raffle was also possible, and the winner of the drawing had kidney issues himself.

"We are planning on doing another pizza, puzzle, beer event in the near future. so keep a lookout! We will be doing a 500 piece puzzle to give everyone a little more of a challenge. The event will be held at PodunK Bar and Grill in Panama; they were truly amazing at helping us plan and organize the event, and we couldn't have pulled it off without them. Also, shoutout to Pizza Ranch for giving us a deal on the

Shelby county has a \$80,000 goal for raising money towards the American Cancer Society, which goes towards grants like those funding Dr. Rebecca Dodd at Iowa University and other research labs responsible for new treatments. Keep an eye out for more fundraisers put on by Relay For Life teams as they continue to come up with fun ways to raise awareness and funds for this important cause. With the creative planning and brainstorming of the Relay teams, there are more great experiences on the horizon.





# **RELAY FOR LIFE 2023** MYRTUE Medical Center

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# Sold on a Cure Team

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Proud to be a sponsor of Shelby County Relay For Life!

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Shelby County Relay For Life, Friday, June 9, 2023

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Monday - Saturday: 8 am -9 pm; Closed Sundays

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Pie Auction!

The Relay For Life event will feature something new this year- a Pie Auction. It will follow the survivor ceremony and speech of the 2023 Relay For Life Honorary Survivor and Auctioneer Extraordinaire, Mitch Osborn at 6:30 pm.

We are appreciative of any donations of pies and/or cakes to be auctioned off at the event. Coolers will be available for storage and are asked to be dropped off the afternoon of the event June 9th on the square across from Pizza Ranch.

Arrangements for earlier drop off can be made. Please contact Emily Barrett for arrangements or questions at 402-740-0864.

Registering any donations for the auction with Emily by June 7th will land the donated items on an official auction roster, identifying the pies and donors.

Thanks in advance for the support in donating or bidding on this sweet and exciting event of the evening.









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2023 Relay For Life Line Up

*Contributed by Erin Goddard* The Relay For Life Main Event on Harlan's Historic Square this Friday will truly be a night to come together, to be a community of support and recognize that EVERY STEP BRINGS HOPE.

Every dollar donated can add up to be part of a grant that researchers and doctors need to fund their research. Every mile driven by volunteers brings a person that much closer to completion of their treatment. Every caring hand can help and support in building a strong community of hope.

This year, we recognize Mitch Osborn as the 2023 Relay For Life Honorary Survivor. He brings a perfect fundraiser to look forward to, as he will lead in a Pie Auction that will follow his speech.

Pie auction! Kids' corner. Music entertainment. Luminarias to light up the night. Community and camaraderie. There are so many things that make this a one of a kind, special event meaningful and important for a hugely significant cause that demands support.

5:00- The night starts out with the opening ceremony. Katelyn Feldman will sing the National Anthem. She sang as a high school student and is now coming back to Harlan as the new elementary music teacher.

5:30 - Teams and sponsors are recognized.

6:00 - Our Survivor and Caregiver lap is a very emotional and meaningful moment, as the journey for our survivors can be symbolized in this lap.

The crowd standing and cheering our survivors on can be a lifting experience. "The Survivor's lap is an emotional one. I think it was more emotional when my mom went around. She had

a walker. For some people, doing that lap is tough," said Mitch Osborn.

We ask everyone to gather at the new Perception Photography Studio (across from Bauers) at 5:50. Survivors who have not registered yet, or received their shirts can get them at the Survivor table on the south east corner of the square. They MUST register to get a shirt either online: www.relayforlife. org/shelbycountyia, by calling the 1-800-227-2345 or on paper at the event.

6:15 - Mitch Osborn will be the speaker of the evening as the 2023 Relay For Life Honorary Survivor. After his

speech, he will auction off pies for the Relay For Life Pie Auction.

7:15 - 8:30 - Harlan's Got Talent will take center stage. Calling all talent! Please call Megan Sorensen at 515-333-9890 to be a part of the show.

8:30 - The Luminaria ceremony lights up the night for a breath-taking moment.. Luminaria fill the courthouse steps and light the walkways in honor of loved ones lost and those who fight their





cancer today.

The Kids' Zone with Stars and Bars inflatable will be set up for the night, sponsored by Miller Fuel and Oil.

Concessions will run from 5:00 run by the Dazzling Diva's. Harlan's Tropical Sno will provide a sweet treat.

This night will be filled with fun and celebration, as we recognize the community we have that steps up to fight in the battle against cancer.

**EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE.** Please support Shelby County Relay For Life events.

*No tiaras needed for the Dazzling Divas - that's for sure.* We work as a team to help find a cure.

Cancer takes no holidays and knows no seasons.

*The Dazzling Divas* keep fighting, and here are some reasons:

• So researchers can find better treatments



without delay

- To give hope to survivors for each healthy day
- So no more families have to watch loved ones pass away

This is why we Relay.

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# Road to Recovery: Every Step Brings Hope

#### Contributed by Erin Goddard

"You gotta have faith. You gotta have great medicine and doctors. You gotta have a positive attitude and the support of your family and friends. If you have those things, it just helps so much. It does," Mitch Osborn reflected on his battle with cancer and the Relay For Life community.

Support can be the arm that holds someone up with their cancer diagnosis, but there are those who do not have that crucial support system in place. The Nebraska Medicine Buffett Cancer Center offers cutting edge treatments and provides life-saving services for patients throughout the country. Those 50 miles to the Nebraska Medicine Center and 50 miles back to Harlan, however, may be the breaking point on top of a cancer diagnosis that stops someone from seeking the treatment they need.

The American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program establishes a community of support to make care accessible for all.

Deb McCarthey, of Avoca, is a volunteer who helped in the infancy of the program. "It is an opportunity to give back, and it is needed a lot. I'm always amazed at the gratitude of how much it helps. They are so appreciative," Deb said of the experience, who is a volunteer in this and many programs after her daughter Meighan McCarthy Johansen (29) passed from her fight against cancer.

Bev Bruck and Allen Bruck, of Panama, are an inseparable team in the fight against cancer. The couple knows the drive to the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, as it has become routine for Allen's own treatments. Allen, better known as Punk, has lived with cancer for 20 years. "You just know how some people don't have the help...Some people don't even know that this program is available to them." Bev said.

The program needs help. With new diagnoses that sometimes require daily treatments, there is strength in numbers to make this important program sustainable by spreading the miles across volunteers.

To be a "trained driver" certain legal requirements must be met, but the training has been designed to be convenient with a Volunteer Care Coordinator who works with trainees through the steps. The course includes three 20 minute sections to complete. With the background checks and the submissions of driver's license and car insurance cards, the whole process takes about two weeks with the Volunteer Care Coordinator there to assist at every step of the way. 11 • HARLAN TRIBUNE · TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023



Bev and Allen Bruck

Bev said, "The training was very easy. Suzie is so good and patient. She and her father-in-law, Punk, and I got on the computer in the library one day, and we did it right there."

"The training is all video, and 'follow directions'. You will also be trained on the app, so you can see rides available, and claim them as they fit into your schedule," Suzie Mages explained.

Please consider this lifesaving service. This year we celebrate the theme "Every step brings hope." Every mile also brings hope and builds up the community of support that is so needed. Please, give Suzie Magges a call today at 712-579-1878 and ask about the Road to Recovery program. You can also call 1-800-227-2345 or log onto cancer.org/drive to get started today.

"For MANY of the patients we help transport, we are the only way they are able to get the treatment they need to fight cancer. Some don't have caregivers, and some do who either need a break, or are not comfortable driving to the city. The friendships gained are priceless and do so much for both the patients and drivers," said Suzie.

Thanks to those who take the time to put in the miles of support on this road that should never be traveled alone.

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## **RELAY FOR** LIFE LINE UP

· 5 p.m. — Opening Ceremony · 5:30 — Teams and Sponsors Recognition 6 p.m. — Survivor and Caregiver Lap (Participants are asked to gather at Perception Photography Studio (across from Bauers at 5:50. Those who have not registered or received their shirts can get them at the Survivor Table on the south east corner of the square. They must be registered to get a shirt either online www.relayforlife.org/shelbycoia, by calling 800-227-2345 or on paper at the event.)

· 6:15 p.m. — 2023 Relay For Life Honorary Survivor Mitch Osborn speaks. Following speech, he will auction off pies for the pie auction · 8:30 p.m. — Luminaria Ceremony

### ADDITIONAL **INFORMATION &** ACTIVITIES

Dazzling Diva's will be serving concessions beginning at 5 p.m. · Harlan's Tropical Sno will be providing sweet treats. ·Kids Zone will be open from 5-7 with Stars and Bars inflatable sponsored by Miller Fuel and Oil. ·Harlan's Got Talent will take center stage from 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Calling all talent! Please contact Megan Sorensen at 515-333-9890 to be a part of the show.

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American Cancer





FRIDAY **JUNE 9TH 2023** 5-10 PM HARLAN DOWNTOWN SQUARE



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