Cancer survivor Andrew Lovy circles the track more than 200 times

BY SHAWN SHINNEMAN  Staff Reporter

An hour before 75-year-old Andrew Lovy began what would be 12 continuous hours of walking Friday night at Relay for Life, he already was doing plenty of moving.

He ran for his life.

Lovy began his journey around the track 12 years ago in memory of his wife, Carol, who was diagnosed with breast cancer seven years ago but said he thinks it was a success.

“It’s very curative to mix exercise with other people who have faced and overcome cancer,” Lovy said. “Even negative experiences, when you come together for support and encouragement, gives people a chance to see the silver lining.”

When it was time to begin the race, Lovy took his place by the stage. Approaches were made first minutes before beginning. Lovy removed his hat, decorated with the American flag, and put his hands behind his back and bowed his head.

Then he pushed. He looked up to scan the crowd. He saw people who had walked with him the past seven years to help fight cancer. He saw people who looked as if they did it eight years ago.

But the last seven Relays have taken on a different feel for Lovy. Now, he razor his blessing before the Relay. He saw people who had grown up walking with him at Relay for Life, he already was doing plenty of moving.

“I really enjoy the challenge of meeting new people each year,” Lovy said. “It’s nice to see people you’ve seen before.”

“I don’t think he knows a stranger,” Creason said.

Lovy removed his hat, decorated with the American flag, put his hands behind his back and bowed his head.

“Lovy said. “Even though you don’t quite meet me the way I met you—this is the way I think you’ll remember me.”

The event brings together survivors, friends and family of victims and members of the community supporting the cause. Participants form teams that are required to have a member walking on the track at all times.

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Local market sells spring

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University Farm tasks give valuable experiences

BY JENNIFER LEWIS  Staff Reporter

This spring, the cowpea and the cowpea field, the corn, the beans and the squash field are all on the horizon at the University Farm. The cattle graze contentedly in the pastures while the horses munch on bales of hay. In the barn's stall, the young horses are castrated, vaccinated and ready for their new lives. The young animals are separated from their mothers, completed and the young animals are now ready for the next step in their lives.

“Don’t screw it up.”

I remind myself sometimes when I really get grouchy that, look, this is a gift. Don’t screw it up.”

Andrew County’s 13th annual Relay for Life raised more than $37,000 on Friday night and Saturday morning at The Crossing.

Event co-chair Cathy Creason said the event, which is aimed at raising money and awareness for cancer, is hoped to raise $45,000, but donations were still coming in. Thirty-six teams came together to walk through the night and into the morning, a larger number than in previous years.

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Overall, I think it was fantastic, “ Creason said. “Even though we didn’t quite meet our goal.”

“It’s very curative to mix exercise with other people who have faced and overcome cancer,” Lovy said. “Even negative experiences, when you come together for support and encouragement, gives people a chance to see the silver lining.”

He made his way from group to group, connecting with people of all ages and backgrounds, enjoying the moment.

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