

Sisters woman saved by TIA

On Monday, September 19, 46-year-old Sisters resident Rhonda Funk suddenly began stumbling over her words during a lunch meeting with a client. She found herself putting the back of the words to the front of the words, saying things out of order, and had words coming out that she didn't even want to say.

Frustrated, she stopped and look at her client and asked, "Am I even making sense?"

Little did she know, Funk was suffering a transient ischemic attack (TIA), which according to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is often labeled "mini-stroke," more accurately characterized as a "warning stroke" — a warning you should take very seriously.

"Don't overlook the signals your body sends," says Funk, "and don't fall into ... thinking you are too young or too healthy."

Fortunately, her client, Bend resident Nita Belles (human trafficking expert and founder of In Our Backyard), the mother of Resident Volunteer Andy Belles at the

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District, was pretty savvy about the nature of the events taking place.

"She immediately opened up her computer and searched tests you can perform to see if someone might be having a stroke," said Funk. "She had me put my arms above my head, roll my tongue, say certain words, and to be honest, I thought she was crazy! I even laughed and said that I was passing all her stupid tests and insisted there was no way I was having a stroke!"

For a good 30 minutes, Funk continued to mix up her words. However, still frustrated that she felt fine and clearly knew what was going on around her, Funk declined the urgings of Belles to call 911.

"I am pretty strong-willed. But, after about an hour and a half, even I began to wonder what was happening," Funk explained. "As I walked to my car I called my husband Willie, still struggling to get my words out correctly. He immediately left work, and I went home to lay down realizing that a dull headache was forming across the back of my

head."

Funk then made a post on Facebook to her friends canceling a live health-coaching event she was going to be having the next hour, explaining to her friends that she had a 'little episode' at lunch which affected her speech. It was then that dozens more people urged her to get the emergency room immediately. That urging pushed her to call her doctor's office who asked her to get to the Fire Department, Urgent Care, or the ER.

"It's sad when you start to make your decisions by how much each one will cost," says Funk, whose family has been uninsured for several months due to the shift of providers available to Deschutes County and Oregon residents, along with the grossly increased costs to pay for premiums. "I literally was trying to decide where to go for care according to what would impact our finances the least. I had a feeling I should go straight to the ER, but we choose Urgent Care" — where they didn't even ask her name after hearing of her symptoms, instead pointing her straight to the

emergency room.

Once there, the doctor told Funk that she could be having a migraine event, however, he was not willing to risk her future on it—and urged Funk to get an MRI. Within the hour, the images revealed a 33mm mass lodged deep in the left side of her brain that was nearly 10-times larger than the average aneurysm, (normally 3-7 mm, roughly the size of a pea, Funk's aneurysm was about an inch wide).

Doctor's believed at first this could have been something Funk was born with, until they learned of a large infection she had suffered in 2010 from a simple razor nick under her arm that formed overnight into a massive staph infection.

"A baseball-sized infection had formed under my arm which was a super scary and painful infection," explains Funk. "It is that infection doctors now believe sent staph raging through my system, which likes to hide in the valves of your heart. The most-likely cause of my aneurysm is that a piece of that infection broke off from my heart, lodged into a vein in

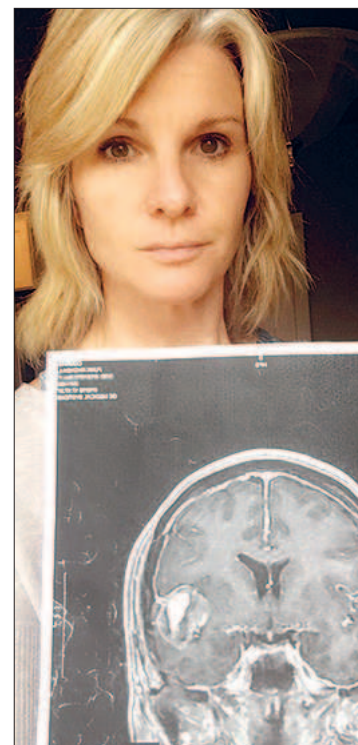


PHOTO PROVIDED

Rhonda Funk was surprised by the result of tests.

my head, and abscessed. It has been growing and forming for over six years.

"I have been a ticking time bomb and didn't even know it until two weeks ago. I can't imagine what would have happened if I hadn't gone to the emergency room that day. I am praising God for the warning sign."

On Tuesday, September 27, on their 19th wedding anniversary, the Funks

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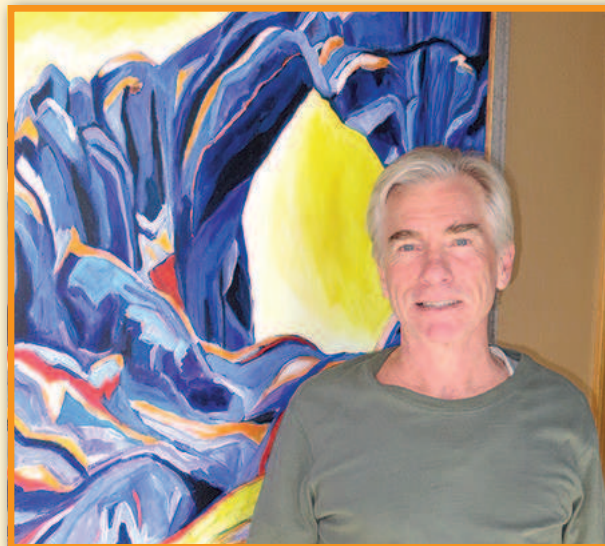
Sisters Acupuncture

For 20 years, Greg Wieland has been helping folks in Sisters live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Many, many people have benefitted from his insight into the root causes of what is making them get sick or feel run down, tired, and just not at their best.

Acupuncture remains a centerpiece of his practice, but over the years Greg has evolved a high level of capability in nutritional counseling and treatment of dysbiosis of the gut that can create so many of the ailments that plague us.

The gut is often referred to as the "second brain," and when things aren't right with it, dysfunction can manifest not only as stomach discomfort, but in a wide range of ailments of the whole body.

Greg Wieland is intimately familiar with the means of improving function and wellness through



practices of Eastern medicine that, more than simply treating symptoms, help enable the body to truly be well.