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ONE DOLLAR

110 DIE EVERY DAY

Astoria senior stages die-in to raise awareness of metastatic breast cancer



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Libby Di Bartolomeo, a senior at Astoria High School and one of the organizers of the die-in, asks for a moment of silence.

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Cancer victims lined the floor of Astoria High School's commons Tuesday evening. Ninety people of all ages were divided in two rows and assigned a number for their chests.

Student Libby Di Bartolomeo organized the sizable display for her senior project, but still fell 20 short of the estimated 110 people who die in the U.S. every day of metastatic breast cancer. Di Bartolomeo said the difficulty in finding enough volunteers to play dead was a testament in itself to the impact of the fatal, yet often overlooked, final stage for breast cancer patients.

As many people do, Di Bartolomeo has a familial connection to breast cancer. Her uncle Denny Adams was one of the actors lying down Tuesday. Holding back tears, Di Bartolomeo spoke of Adams' late wife and her aunt, Judy Adams, who died three years ago of the disease.

"It's the very least I could do with the lives she touched," Di Bartolomeo said.

Metavivor

Di Bartolomeo has been collecting donations at the high school and local businesses for Metavivor (www.metavivor.org), a nonprofit



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

LEFT: Participants lay on the floor as part of a die-in for metastatic breast cancer at Astoria High School Tuesday. The die-in symbolizes the number of people that die every day from metastatic breast cancer. **RIGHT:** Libby Di Bartolomeo hugs her uncle, Denny Adams, of Knappa, after the die-in. Di Bartolomeo's aunt and Adams' wife, Judy Adams, died of metastatic breast cancer in October 2012. Bartolomeo said her aunt was one of the reasons behind choosing to host the die-in for metastatic breast cancer.

created by people with metastatic breast cancer to advocate on behalf of more stage 4 research and a viable cure.

Thirty percent of breast cancer patients have the disease metastasize and move into other organs, becoming terminal. An estimated 110 Americans and 1,430 people worldwide die each day of metastatic breast cancer. But according to the Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance, only 7 percent of breast cancer fundraising, which peaks

each October during the pink-tinged National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, goes toward metastatic-focused breast cancer research.

"We have to start talking about it," Di Bartolomeo said. "As human beings, we don't like to talk about things that are hard."

The die-in was the culmination of Di Bartolomeo's senior project, but her efforts continue, with donation jars on campus and at local businesses such as Fultano's, Dairy Queen and the Short Stop Food

Mart. She is also accepting checks payable to Metavivor through her father's office: Di Bartolomeo Law Office at 1139 Exchange St. in Astoria, 97103.

An estimated 155,000 Americans live with metastatic breast cancer, often calling themselves "metsters." One of those people is Di Bartolomeo's adviser on the project, Laura Snyder, a former bookstore owner, triathlete and school board

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New docs are in town

OHSU provides stability to local emergency room

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Oregon Health & Science University has taken over staffing at Columbia Memorial Hospital's emergency care.

The hospital's contract with North Coast Emergency Physicians, which had provided staffing for more than 20 years, ended Sept. 30, and OHSU's doctors took over the next day.

The hospital's leaders stressed the change in ER operators wasn't about quality, but rather about OHSU's ability to recruit physicians.

"The real decision around that was the leader of the physicians group saying he was stepping back," Trece Gurrad, the vice president of clinical services.

"We kept it going as long as we could," the former director of the doctor's group, Dr. Larry Zagata,

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Fired Port manager wants to add Raichl to lawsuit

Herman's suit alleges chairman did not protect whistleblower

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

John Raichl, chairman of the Port of Astoria Commission, could be the newest defendant added to a lawsuit filed earlier this year by fired Port Facilities Manager Tami Herman.

Last week, Herman's lawyer, Anne Foster, filed a motion for an amended complaint seeking to add Raichl to the list of defendants. The amended complaint also seeks to add a second post-employment retaliation claim, alleging Commissioner Bill Hunsinger yelled an obscenity at Herman last month at an intersection in downtown Astoria.

Herman and the Port's former finance manager, Colleen Browne, were fired from the Port in November, shortly after Executive Director Jim Knight was hired. Both filed separate but similar lawsuits in February against the Port and Michael Weston, the Port's director of business, development and operations, while leaving open up to 10 spots to add additional defendants if necessary.

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John Raichl

Latest Seaside lodging plan is for the birds

Can a chicken tractor make city hens more palatable?

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — A local resident believes there is a way to allow hens inside city limits without the smell, noise and neighborhood disputes.

Jennifer Barrett, owner of Hens' Lodging Inc., petitioned Seaside City Council to amend the city's chicken ban to make an allowance for hens, provided they are contained in chick-

en tractors or similar structures.

The tractor is a bottomless, movable chicken "run" and nesting construction designed for a few hens. "Incorporating this concept into the ordinance will solve any and all problems that may have been faced by the city," she said at the Sept. 28 council meeting.

A city ordinance regulating nuisances states residents cannot keep poultry — as well as livestock, bees and other animals, except household pets — within city limits, unless authorized by the City Council for educational or entertainment purposes. The ordinance has been on the books "since he

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Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

Jennifer Barrett, owner of Hens' Lodging Inc., petitions the Seaside City Council to allow hens to keep hens within city limits, an activity banned under the city's nuisance ordinance. Barrett advocates for the city to incorporate chicken tractors, or other movable, bottomless structures, suitable for about four chickens, into the ordinance.

