

# Die-in: 'No other cancer is taken less seriously'

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member who now describes herself as a full-time patient living with HER2-positive breast cancer.

## Pink to black

Snyder discovered the die-in during Living Beyond Breast Cancer's annual metastatic breast cancer conference in April, where 110 people "died" on the floor of the Loews Philadelphia Hotel. She thought it would be a good senior project for a passionate student to take on. Di Bartolomeo obliged and has been spreading the word about metastatic breast cancer since school started this fall.

Snyder said the conference also led to the formation of MET UP, an activist group of metastatic patients committed to taking metastatic breast cancer more seriously, finding a cure and opposing the sexualization or exploitation of breast cancer.

"No other cancer is taken less seriously," Snyder said of



Die-in participants line the floors of the cafeteria at Astoria High School.

breast cancer, describing the Save the Ta-Tas Foundation, dogs wearing pink bras with balloon boobs and her own surgeon in 2012 telling her breast was the best kind of cancer to get.

The Susan G. Komen Foundation has raised awareness about a once taboo subject, Snyder said, but it has become a marketing juggernaut and part of an overly rosy view of

breast cancer. That view is true for the 70 percent of people who have their breast cancer cured before it metastasizes, she said, but not for the other 30 percent like her.

# Doctors: ER takes up to 1,200 patients a year

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said, adding it was increasingly difficult to find doctors to come to Astoria. "I hope we took care of the community well. I think we did."

Zagata, who is still working at the hospital, said he and hospital CEO Erik Thorsen started looking into the change a couple of years ago, first reaching out to Legacy Emmanuel and later to OHSU.

Coordinating the staffing for university is Anthony Ferroggiaro, assistant professor in OHSU's department of emergency medicine and medical director of Columbia Memorial's emergency department.

"The volume that we see right now that we need at times two providers to see patients and initiate patients," Ferroggiaro said. "There are often three to four nurses in the ER throughout the day."

OHSU has hired three physicians, so far. The goal, Thorsen said, is to have six full-time doctors dedicated to Astoria, along with part-timers to cover time off.

## Emergency room

The hospital's ER is a Level IV trauma center, providing advanced trauma life support and staffing at least one doctor and nurse practitioner throughout the day. Thorsen estimated the ER takes in between 1,000 and 1,200 patients a year. Zagata estimated at least half of those patients are eventually transferred to



Dr. Larry Zagata shows an exam room in the emergency room area of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Tuesday.

higher-level trauma centers, mostly in Portland.

Zagata said the single biggest source of trauma patients is from motor vehicle accidents, adding the ER sees patients off cruise ships and a lot of logging accidents. Columbia Memorial also takes trauma patients from the coverage area of Providence Seaside, which is not equipped as a trauma center.

Thorsen said the patient loads at the ER and in the hospital's urgent care center have been increasing. He credited the Affordable Care Act, more Medicaid coverage and a local shortage of primary care providers seeing Medicaid and Medicare patients, whose government insurance provides a lower reimbursement.

"We prefer to work 11 shifts of 12 hours per month," Ferroggiaro said. "There are doctors who work more or less, it also depends on the

level of illness of the patients in the department.

"It's easier if they have bruises or colds," he said. "We have oncology (cancer) patients and cardiology patients who can become quite ill. It can take special focus and is oftentimes more taxing on the patient."

The hospital's cardiology clinic, a partnership with OHSU, started seeing patients in late 2010, and the CMH Cancer Clinic, another partnership, started in late 2011.

## Proving ground

Thorsen said Columbia Memorial Hospital is the first rural emergency medicine department staffing OHSU has taken over, another in the line of groundbreaking partnerships between the two hospitals that stretch back to telemedicine in 2010.

Next year, the hospital will expand its ER and start hosting second-year emergency

medical residents, state-licensed doctors working under supervision as they build a specific focus on ERs.

"Hopefully they'll be open to working with us, if they haven't practiced or lived here before," Gurrad said.

Thorsen said these partnerships are calculated risks because of the investment in infrastructure, employees and the time it takes to build up patient bases for specialty treatments.

"It's a wonderful partnership for CMH, and our community is able to receive care locally that they were otherwise leaving the community for," Thorsen said. "I could not recruit cardiologists and oncologists to live and work in Astoria without the partnership we have with OHSU."

# Lawsuit: Two claim Raichl revealed their identities without their permission

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Weston was appointed interim executive director in September 2013, after director Hank Bynaker resigned, and held the position until Knight was hired. Both lawsuits accused Weston of abusing his interim authority for personal gain.

The suits include claims against the Port and Weston of whistleblower retaliation, aiding and abetting retaliation, unauthorized disclosure of a whistleblower's identity, breach of employment contract, defamation of character and post-employment retaliation.

Browne's case has been settled, with a 60-day notice of dismissal announced last month. The Port must respond to Herman's latest amended complaint by Oct. 26.

Details of Browne's settlement were not available. The Port's lawyer, Ron Downs of the Special Districts Association of Oregon, could not be reached for comment.

## Raichl's involvement

The suits allege Browne and Herman met with Raichl last summer and were promised protection from retaliation in exchange for speaking openly about complaints against Weston. But the two claim their identities were revealed by Raichl without their permission, and that he repeatedly did nothing to stop reported retaliation against them.

Raichl had the Local Government Personnel Institute, a human resources adviser, investigate complaints against Weston. The report, released in August 2014, sustained allegations that Weston broke hiring

rules, was untruthful to the Port Commission, engaged in deceptive contract modifications and unethically took a tenant's abandoned property for his personal use.

Herman's amended complaint alleges that while Weston was given several private meetings to tell his side of the story, she was never informed of the report being released until she read about it in The Daily Astorian, which obtained a copy in May after a prolonged public records request.

"At the beginning of August (2014), Weston asked Commissioner Raichl to help with all decisions relating to the firing of Ms. Browne and plaintiff," Herman's amended complaint said. "Based on information and belief, since that time, Commissioner Raichl approved each and every decision relating to plaintiff's employment at the Port."

## Hunsinger's outburst

In a second claim of post-employment retaliation, Herman's amended complaint alleges she was downtown with co-workers waiting to cross an intersection when she noticed Hunsinger idling in a vehicle at a traffic light.

Herman alleges Hunsinger yelled out "You're a piece of s---" to her in front of her co-workers.

"Aside from acting like a juvenile, Hunsinger's verbal assault was meant to scare plaintiff as well as deter and/or punish plaintiff for having pursued her legal rights," the complaint said.

Foster said she has not tried to add Hunsinger as a defendant, as he is only a part of one claim, whereas Raichl was involved at multiple points.

# Seaside: Chickens are allowed in Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart and Cannon Beach

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can remember." City Manager Mark Winstanley said.

Citizens have brought requests to the city asking for a change that would allow chickens, but nothing came of them, Winstanley said.

Chickens are allowed in other jurisdictions along the coast, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart and Cannon Beach.

## The problem with chickens

Among the existing problems, Barrett cited ground and aerial predators, from dogs and cats to hawks and eagles; chickens roosting in neighbors' yards; chickens damaging landscaping; chickens wandering in streets; neighbors being bothered by the stench from droppings in coops or the noise; and attracting rats, raccoons or other rodents with open containers of food and water.

Chicken tractors could help solve these problems while still allowing residents to keep chickens as pets or a source of nutrition, Barrett said. Chicken tractors contain the hens and

are impenetrable, protecting chickens from predators. Barrett proposed only allowing hens, which addresses the noise problem.

The structures are bottomless, so droppings fall to the ground, and hens scratch them into the, tilling and fertilizing soil. Upon moving the tractor to the next area, the ground under the tractor is ready to plant, if so desired, Barrett said. Because they are safe from predators and have semi-free range — within the confines of the movable coop — the chickens tend to be happier.

"They are free to do what they enjoy," she said.

## Testing the idea

Through her company, Barrett would like to place two tractors within city limits to experiment and demonstrate the use of the chicken tractor concept. One tractor would be placed at the Seaside American Legion Post 99 park area, where the Seaside Farmers Market occurs. The American Legion agreed to the idea, as long as the city approves. The second location would be at the Railroad Park Communi-

ty Garden near U.S. Highway 101.

The chicken tractor concept, Barrett told councilors, "will make it possible for citizens of Seaside to enjoy chickens."

Additionally, it may encourage more people to use their yard space for growing gardens. Communities should focus on "the idea of feeding each other and feeding ourselves," she said.

Her company, Hens' Lodging Inc., is a wholesale distributor of chicken tractors and similar movable coops. Whether people purchase structures from her, another distributor or build them personally, she advocates their use.

"The concept is the best way to have chickens in your backyard," she said. "There are just so many pluses about it."

The council members did not discuss the ordinance or Barrett's petition at the meeting after her presentation. Unless the council requests an ordinance change or decides to further the conversation, it will not be discussed at a future meeting, Winstanley said.

"At this point, no one has said anything to me," he said.

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