

A RUN FOR ALL OF US

# Relay For Life brings communities together

## 'Marilyn's Red Hot Chili Peppers' to recall beloved resident

By Eve Marx  
For Seaside Signal

Marilyn Halbrook will be leading the 2017 Relay for Life of Clatsop County if not in body in spirit. As in-memoriam grand marshal at the July 8 event, Halbrook, a former Seaside resident who lost her long battle with cancer in 2016, will be remembered by family with a team in her memory.



Marilyn Halbrook

"Her family is coming from all over to celebrate and honor Marilyn at this year's relay," said Laura Parvi, the event chairwoman. The opening ceremony pays homage to Halbrook's fight. On July 8-9, at Astoria High School, Relay For Life of Clatsop County 2017 takes place as part of the internationally recognized Relay



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lights honor those who have struggled with cancer.

For Life, the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Relays For Life are staffed and coordinated by volunteers in more than 5,200 communities in 27 countries. These events bring communities together to remember lost loved ones, honor cancer survivors, and raise money for the American Cancer Society. This year's theme is "Who is your superhero?"

"Your superhero could be your mom you lost to cancer, your Dad who is fighting the battle, or maybe your superhero is Batman," Parvi said. "It doesn't matter who your superhero is, we want to celebrate them all at this years relay." Clatsop County's Relay For Life was started in 1994 by Parvi's father-in-law, Kay Bredleau.

"Kay was part of a prostate cancer support group when he was approached by the American Cancer Society about starting the Relay in Clatsop County," Parvi said. "Kay was passionate about helping others, and as a prostate cancer survivor, he did not want his children or grandchildren to go through what he and his wife, Evelyn did."

Parvi got involved with Relay in 1994. Halbrook, a cancer survivor, joined in 2000.

"We got to know each other," Parvi said. "She was so vibrant and outgoing and funny and she always gave her whole heart to the relay."

Two years ago Halbrook was at the relay wearing a crown and a purple boa, Parvi recalled. "Last year was the first year she couldn't participate. She always worked with survivors; even when she was going through chemo, she was always at the meetings and so engaged."

Halbrook died Dec. 1, with the request at her death the people give to the Relay. Her great-niece, Ashtyn Routh, is in charge of a team called Marilyn's Red Hot Chili Peppers, raising money in her memory.

"We chose that name for our team because Marilyn always made chili for our family on the eve of all our holidays and big events," Routh said. "Marilyn was our family matriarch. She always took on the big jobs. She didn't like small plate things. She liked big plates." Parvi is a cancer survivor herself. "Surgery fixed mine," she said. "I'm a nurse at Columbia Memorial Hospital. I see the effects cancer and chemo and radiation have not just on the person but their entire family."

To sign up for a team, call 503-440-3497 or 503-298-8943.

## Gearhart supports sanctuary cities

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

Officials declared Gearhart a "welcoming city" at the City Council's March meeting.

Resolution No. 933 declaring Gearhart a welcoming city was first presented at the February meeting, came after Lorain "wanted to ensure that Gearhart was a welcoming city to all," City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

The measure is independent of similar resolutions, including those of Astoria, Seaside or Cannon Beach.

"I believe we are a welcoming community that celebrates its citizens, models American core values and exemplifies belief in basic human right," Lorain said in February. "That being said, I would like to ask for help from the City Council to show our community that we as a council believe similarly."

City staff drafted the resolution for the March meeting.

The resolution affirms support "for other cities and counties in the Pacific Northwest who have de-

clared themselves sanctuary cities."

Gearhart embraces its tradition of "welcoming all people, regardless of gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, race, sexual orientation or language," states the resolution.

The one-page document affirms equal rights and a core value of nondiscrimination "by fostering a welcoming community for all people, regardless of gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, race, sexual orientation or language."

In the resolution, Gearhart encourages business groups, civic groups, other government agencies and residents to join in a community and region-wide effort to support the economic and cultural benefits that come from celebrating diversity.

At the March meeting, Gearhart resident Tom Thies said the city should "already" be a welcoming city and expressed concern that support for sanctuary cities may affect federal funding.

The resolution won unanimous endorsement by councilors and was signed by Mayor Matt Brown.

## 5K run and walk race returns to Seaside

The city of Seaside and Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District are partnering up for the second year in a row this spring. The Seaside Dash to Safety, a 5K run and walk will headline activities on Saturday, May 6, aimed at getting out to play while also raising awareness for emergency preparedness.

The single 5K race will begin at 9 a.m. at the Seaside Cove. Punctuating the morning jaunt will be the Seaside Family Safety Fair that takes place at the finish line at Seaside Heights Elementary School. The safety fair, an all-ages, adult and family

planning event, was moved from the Seaside Firehouse in 2016 in effort to offer more activities in a bigger environment.

The 5K will begin at the Seaside Cove, take runners along Ocean Vista Drive and up the Seaside Promenade to the Turnaround. From there, runners will head east along Broadway until they reach Wahanna Road. The final stretch will travel south along Wahanna to Spruce Drive and finally finish at Seaside Heights.

To keep the emergency preparedness theme at the forefront of participants'

minds, the race will officially begin with the Tsunami Warning System acting as the official starter. Race timing company Eclectic Edge will be on hand, as will countless sponsors and partners to support the 9 a.m. start time.

The Safety Fair will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and feature a bike rodeo for kids, as well as a car seat clinic sponsored by Safe Kids. Information vendors focused on safety include fire, ambulance and water safety education, pedestrian safety, a child I.D. clinic as well as information on north coast parenting and poison safety.

Plans are also being made to have fire trucks, an armored car and Warrenton-based Life Flight's helicopter on hand. Seaside Fire and Rescue plans to serve free hot dogs to all attendees. As has been the case in past safety fairs, numerous prizes will be given away, including a drawing for two youth bikes.

Registration is available through seasideOR.com and Sunset Empire. Race packets can be picked up the day of at Seaside Heights starting at 8 a.m. Shuttle service will be provided from the Heights to the Seaside Cove beginning at 8:30 a.m.

## Golf Ball Drop helps kids

Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific presents their 10th annual Golf Ball Drop at the Astoria Golf and Country Club, Saturday, May 13.

11 a.m. to noon is a free kids golf ball clinic and putting contest. The helicopter drop takes place at 12:15 p.m. A barbecue begins at 11

a.m.; admission is \$5 per person. Kids under 5 eat for free. A bicycle and gift raffle will be held.

Tickets must be purchased in advanced and are for sale at Holly McHone Jewelry in Astoria and from assistance league members.

For more information visit [www.assistanceleaguecp.com](http://www.assistanceleaguecp.com).

## Housing authority to meet

The regular board meeting of the Northwest Oregon Housing Authority will be held on May 4 at the Owens Adair

Apartments, 1508 Exchange St., Astoria, at 10 a.m. For agenda items, please call NOHA at 503-861-0119, ext. 112.

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