

Cancer: Relay for Life unites community

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American Cancer Society in his corner made the fight easier. Thanks to efforts like Relay for Life, he was able to fight back and take charge of his health, he said.

"It's really hard to explain how it feels being out here," said Lastinger. "Knowing all these people had the same kind of struggle, it's an emotional thing. It's good knowing we have this kind of support."

His granddaughter, Erin Bryant, wrote Lastinger's name on the wall, taking a moment to reflect on the occasion. Cancer has embedded itself into her family, not just through her grandfather but also through an uncle who died from pancreatic cancer four years ago.

"Cancer has just always been around us," said Bryant. "It's a common thing and it affects everybody."

Event co-chair Cory Bosarger knows that first hand. He is intimately knowledgeable about the disease and the strength needed to fight it.

After being diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease at age 24, Bosarger today stands tall and proclaims he has been cancer-free for 14 years.

"It was such a shock at so young to have cancer," he said. "I was a healthy guy, but all the same, cancer didn't care."

As the survivors lap got underway, Bosarger watched as more than 300 people filled the track. Young, old and in-between walked side by side, each step a symbol that they

had triumphed over the disease.

Looking at the faces of the survivors, Bosarger had a hard time finding the words to express his feelings.

"It's pretty humbling," he said. "I just feel like I am blessed to be here. I look around at this event and I see all these people who are also blessed and beat cancer."

More than just being about funds and awareness, Relay for Life is about gaining knowledge on how to win a battle with cancer, said Angela Kibiko, an outreach educator with the Glynn County American Cancer Society.

Traditionally, Relay for Life centers on celebrating individuals who have overcome cancer, as well as remembering those who lost their struggle. This year, the event added a new angle: Fight Back.

A pledge for better health was taken during the night, with participants signing cards vowing to be their own health advocate.

There was a time when a cancer diagnosis was equal to a death sentence, but it's just not that way anymore, Kibiko said. Patients have options and individuals have more knowledge on how to prevent the disease.

"People don't talk about fighting back, but they need to," she said. "Knowledge is power. This year, it is about standing up for your health and being proactive."

"If there ever comes a day when I get fired from my job because we don't have any more cancer, that will be the happiest day of my whole life."

Whales: 19 fatal collisions since 1986

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Harbor pilots meeting with Kingston in 2006 said the 10 knot speed limit — about 11.5 mph — would put ships and the lives of their crews in peril. Higher speeds are necessary to check the effect of wind and tide on the huge vessels, the pilots said.

"The pilots have been working with NOAA for many years on this and have made a pretty big compelling case both on the ship speed, the tide and the wind," Kingston said. "I don't understand why they are trying to move forward with this because you do have a lot of human safety concerns."

"I do not think NOAA has done all the homework that needs to be done. There is no evidence that says these ships are hurting whales."

For now, it may be a moot point anyway. U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., publicly

voiced dismay, frustration and anger last week over what he considers interference from the White House. He said documents calling for a speed limit are being held because of questions by the administration and the office of Vice President Dick Cheney.

Waxman accused the White House of raising "baseless objections" to findings by government scientists who for years have been studying the dangers posed to the whale by commercial shipping.

"The North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critical endangered species on Earth," Waxman wrote the White House Office of Management and Budget, demanding to know why the regulation was being held up.

The Marine Fisheries Service, which enforces the Endangered Species Act for marine species, sent the final regulation to the Office of Management and

Budget for review in February 2007.

Officials at the White House Council of Economic Advisers question the reliability of the scientific analysis of the relationship of ship speed and injury to whales, saying "it may not be as strong as a relationship as is suggested in published papers."

NOAA responded that the White House was using "biased" analysis and said in a memo: "The basic facts remain that there is a direct relationship between speed and death/serious injury" to the whales.

Since 1986, at least 19 right whales have been killed in fatal collisions, researchers claim.

Bill Gillespie, Kingston's Democratic challenger in the Nov. 4 general election, has his own opinion.

"I strongly think we need to enforce the Endangered Species Act and accept the studies and recommendations of the federal Marine Fisheries Service and

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration," Gillespie said. "The 10 knot speed limit in areas where the whale is known to inhabit is the best means at this time to stop boat-strike killings."

"The whales are at a critical point of no return if the fatal collisions don't dramatically decrease."

In the near future, sonar positioning buoys will give more precise, real-time information to ships on the location of the whales, he said.

Gillespie said it's not surprising that the White House is stalling action.

"The White House and especially the Vice President's Office have a pattern in interfering with governmental scientists studies when they don't like the results, whether it be in climate change, monitoring toxic chemicals, or protecting endangered species," Gillespie said.

Angelou celebrating 80th birthday in Atlanta

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Maya Angelou may be 80, but she doesn't party like it.

The author-poet-dancer-singer-activist will celebrate her birthday in Atlanta Sunday with a star-studded gala including a red carpet and a celebrity guest list. The soiree will benefit a YMCA teen center bearing her name.

It's her third birthday party since she turned 80 on April 4.

"I feel very young," Angelou said in a phone interview from her home in Winston-Salem, N.C., this week. "My knees have gone to hell in a bucket from arthritis and so forth. But other than that, I feel really grand."

Longtime friend Andrew

Young — a civil rights icon and former Atlanta mayor and U.S. ambassador — and his family organized the celebration.

"We had talked with her about helping her celebrate her birthday here in Atlanta because she's done so much for us through the years," Young said.

The guest list includes actor Chris Tucker, performer India.Arie, musician and activist Harry Belafonte and Bernice King, daughter of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Filmmaker Tyler Perry and actress Lynn Whitfield will host. Ticket prices range from \$100 to \$500.

A few weeks ago, talk show host Oprah Winfrey threw Angelou a celebration in Palm Beach, Fla.

Traffic: Problems are few

Continued from 1A

the roundabout slowed down when they saw other cars approaching the yield lane.

"There is a degree of discomfort for some drivers because it is new," said Doering. "It's going to take a lot of getting used to."

He said county police will be on-hand all weekend to monitor the traffic and encourage safe driving.

"I want to make sure there is a visible police presence because when people see a cop they are more attentive than they would otherwise be," Doering said.

Rick Martin was amazed by how smoothly drivers handled the roundabout. His company, Southern Curb and Concrete, Inc., is the contractor in charge of the project.

Martin stood with Doering at

the center of the roundabout and watched cars dart by.

"I thought it would be really congested, but so far it hasn't been," Martin said.



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United Way of Coastal Georgia is pleased to announce how your dollars have been invested in our community to make the most impact. Funding allocations received in 2007 for 2008 distribution were determined through an extensive process. A twenty eight member Community Investment Committee chaired by Mike Maloy and Katherine Thurber reviewed agency applications. The Committee's recommendations were then approved by the United Way Board of Directors chaired by Charles Rinkevich. Mr. Rinkevich thanked the committee for their time and the careful attention given in making these funding decisions.	
Programs	Allocations/Designations
Creating a Brighter Future for Youth	
Boy Scouts	\$ 45,000.00
Boys & Girls Club	140,000.00
Girl Scouts	23,000.00
Special Olympics	20,000.00
Total	\$ 228,000.00
Personal Crisis & Disaster Response	
American Red Cross	\$ 110,000.00
Glynn County Crisis Center(Amity House)	63,600.00
Golden Isles Children Advocacy Center	20,000.00
The Salvation Army	44,650.00
Second Harvest	6,000.00
Total	\$ 244,250.00
Building Individual and Family Self Sufficiency	
Latin American Resource Center	\$ 14,000.00
SHARE DEAR VOC	24,000.00
STAR Foundation	15,000.00
Total	\$ 53,000.00
Improving the Quality of Life for Seniors	
Alzheimer's of Glynn/Brunswick	\$ 10,000.00
SHARE Elder Day Care	22,500.00
Senior Transportation	24,000.00
Total	\$ 56,500.00
Improving Early Childhood	
First Step	\$ 15,000.00
Healthy Families	42,500.00
Ferst Foundation	11,000.00
YWCA	35,000.00
Total	\$ 103,500.00
Promoting Wellness & Increasing Access to Health Care	
SHARE Speech and Hearing	\$ 92,000.00
CMAP	52,000.00
Total	\$ 144,000.00
Donor Restricted Designations	
Total	\$349,726.68
Other United Ways	
Total	\$ 6,033.04
In Kind Donations	
Total	\$ 20, 401.59
FEES	
Uncollectable Reserves	\$ 44,045.25
United Way America Dues	14,681.00
Management, Fundraising, Program Services	293,614.00
Total	\$ 352,340.25
GRANTS :	
Total	\$ 78,000.0
2007 Aggregate Total	\$ 1,570,247.00

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