

Rare Cancer Kills Charlie's Angel, Cont'd.

Continued from A1

The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be "5,290 new cases of anal cancer and 710 deaths from anal cancer in 2009". Women are more likely to get the disease than men, because they don't get as many colonoscopies as men. Men are more likely to get a colon check up as way to check their prostate. The cancer is also mostly found in adults 35 or older, and especially those in their 60's.

"Anal cancer is a rare malignancy that starts in the anus—the opening at the end of the rectum," says WebMD. Although the cancer starts in the

anus, it can work its way up until it shuts down large body parts like the intestines. In many cases this cancer causes anal tumors, which also partake in the body's shutdown, states the American Cancer Society.

Many anal cancer cases can be found and treated early, according to the American Cancer Society. This is because doctors are able to find the cancer easily. Doctors can detect anal cancer based on symptoms, such as "bleeding or itching around the anus; pain in the anal area; or swollen lymph nodes in the anal or groin area," reports the American Cancer Society. This cancer is curable, but as you can see from Farrah



Farrah Fawcett's star covered in gifts from mourners on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, 6/26/09
Photo credit pixelparfait via flickr.com

Fawcett, it can come back.

There are many risk factors for this cancer, such as being infected with the human

papilloma virus (HPV), smoking, and a depressed immune system. It is believed that anal cancer can be caused by HPV-16, which is spread through sex, according to the American Cancer Society. Anal sex can be a risk for anyone under 30, especially women. Smoking, on the other hand, can cause cancer-causing chemicals to get into your bloodstream and trigger the cancer. Finally having a weak immune system makes it harder to fight off anal cancer. Someone can have a weakened immune system following an organ transplant, suffer from AIDS, or have to take many medicines to control their immune system.

To treat anal cancer patients get radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and surgery (most of the time to remove tumors).

Ellis, continued

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"If you are off by one second, you could be fired," says Ellis. "Being organized is your life line to this job."

She sits behind her desk with very expensive tools and equipment where she monitors the station's TV cameras. She also keeps track of the TV station's four different channels. There is a screen on her desk that was updated because of the new digital TV, which has the airing times of the shows and the block times that come on before

another show.

With the new digital TV system, everything is much more organized, says Ellis, which makes her job much easier.

However, there are still challenges to her job. There are only two workers for the master control, and they must split the day and night shifts. In addition, there is no break for lunch. Cheryl must stay in her station unless handling personal business.

But, after all that hard TV watching all day, Ellis states that the reward is a salary that is about \$60,000 to \$93,000 a year.



Cheryl Ellis working behind her desk at HEC-TV.

Jackson, continued

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The ICD monitors your heart beat and will send a high energy shock to your heart when an irregular beat occurs that may lead to cardiac arrest.

A heart attack occurs when a coronary artery, which brings blood to the heart, is blocked, states Richard N. Fogoros, M.D. He's a former professor of medicine, and a longtime practitioner, researcher and author in the fields of cardiology and cardiac electrophysiology. The blockage to the heart prevents valuable oxygen to a portion of the heart, which damages heart muscle.

Heart attacks are the leading killer of men and women in the United States,

killing about 550,000 people each year, says HRS. The people most at risk are men over the age 45 and women over 55, says NHLBI. Cardiac arrest can also happen during a heart attack.

For most of us, it is not important to distinguish between cardiac arrest or a heart attack if someone suddenly shows signs of trouble. Immediately call 9-1-1, says NHLBI. In an emergency, either CPR or an automated external defibrillator (AED) can help get the heart going. An AED machine sends an electric shock to your heart to try and re-establish a normal heart beat.

YES STAFF PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Longtime YES staff member Brandon Byrd (pictured left) attempts to welcome one of the newest members of the YES family, a rescued box turtle adopted from the St. Louis Herpetological Society named Cindy (pictured right.)

THE SciJourney

Regional Coverage

Volume I, July 3rd, 2009

WORLD EXCLUSIVES

WHAT THE HECK IS SCIJOURNER?



The SciJourn component teens hard at work preparing the SciJourney for publication.

New Newspaper Funded by National Science Foundation

Ariel Stavri

SciJourney is the new science newspaper and online website (scijourney.org) of original stories written by Saint Louis area high school students. It is edited and produced by teens in the Saint Louis Science Center's Youth Exploring Science (YES) program.

SciJourn's activities are funded by the National Foundation (NSF) for four years. NSF is a federal agency formed by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science.

The goal of the grant is to see if students who work as real science journalists will gain increased science literacy skills.

The SciJourn editorial group at YES currently consists of eight teens and four supervisors.

The SciJourn grant also works with Saint Louis area high school science and English teachers, who have written their own science stories.

Why is the newspaper being edited by teens in the YES program? Well, according to the head of the SciJourn grant, Joseph L. Polman, a professor at University of Missouri at Saint Louis in the College of Education, it began when he conducted research with YES in summer 2006. He worked with YES head Diane Miller, and said that he found it to be a great program. According to Polman, SciJourn is an effort "to transform education from the way it's been to something better."

Rare Cancer Kills Famous Charlie's Angel

Adeola Adewale

She was a famous actress best known for her role as TV's Charlie's Angel. She first became well known in 1976 as a pin-up model and fashion icon. Her iconic hairstyle, worn by women around the world, is

today known as the Farrah Fawcett Flip.

Fawcett was diagnosed with anal cancer in 2006. Although her rare cancer was detected early, it was fatal because her treated cancer came back even worse. Her battle with

the disease captured national headlines; a fight that ended with her death on June 25.

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Interview with HEC-TV's Cheryl Ellis

Desire'e Redus

Could you see yourself having a high paying career where you can dress casually? Cheryl Ellis from HEC-TV could.

Ellis has been an employee with HEC-TV (Higher Education Channel Television)—St. Louis's education, arts, and culture station—for 8 years, but has been working in the field for 25 years.

She actually started her TV career as a secretary. Ellis then became interested in the behind-the-scenes work of a TV station. So, when a position opened up, she moved to the production room. After working there for a while, she was given responsibility for handling the station's master control "I saw that you could wear jeans and a t-shirt, I said, 'hey I wanna do this!'"

Her job consists of monitoring all the shows and making sure everything is running on time and in place. It is a challenging position.

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Michael Jackson: Heart Attack or Cardiac Arrest?

Damonte Johnson

Cardiac arrest was the coroner's announcement following the tragic death of music legend Michael Jackson on June 25. Many people believe that meant a heart attack, but going into cardiac arrest is something different.

Cardiac arrest is a problem with the beat of the heart, and is known as an arrhythmia, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) website. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute is the one of the premier medical research facilities in the world.

There are multiple forms of arrhythmias. For example, the heart can beat too fast,



Michael Jackson, 1998.

Photo credit Alan Light via flickr.com

tachycardia, or too slow, bradycardia. The heart can also beat in random forms.

All forms of arrhythmia don't make the heart go into cardiac arrest. However, having a heart attack greatly increases your

chances of going into cardiac arrest. Around 75% of people who die from cardiac arrest also suffered a previous heart attack, states the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), an international leader in science, education and support on cardiac arrhythmia for patients and professionals. According to HRS, an estimated 325,000 people die each year from cardiac arrest. This means that every two minutes someone in America dies from cardiac arrest.

The best prevention for anyone at high risk for cardiac arrest is to get an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), which is a machine that goes under the skin, says HRS.

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