

MILTON INDEPENDENT

Thursday, October 10, 2019

A head start to talk about cancer

Jones raises \$8k for Strides after diagnosis



JULIE JONES

By **TOM BENTON**
Independent Staff

Julie Jones said she raised “a couple hundred dollars” for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer when she started fundraising for the awareness walk in late August.

That encouraged her to raise her fundraising goal.

“I thought, ‘I may shoot for the moon, and I’ll say ... two thousand dollars,’” Jones remembered.

Then Jones’ team raised \$2,000. So they increased their fundraising goal to \$5,000.

As of press time, Jones and her team have raised \$8,000. Their current fundraising goal is \$20,000.

The Strides walk is Sunday, Oct. 13, at Veterans Memorial Park on Dorset Street in South Burlington.

This will be the 13th annual Strides walk, which the American Cancer Society organizes to raise breast cancer awareness.

Participants can run or walk a 5K lap. They can also walk one mile, or do yoga.

Jones said organizers try to design an inclusive event, based on the knowledge that anyone grappling with cancer has a different reaction to treatment.

Jones herself is now undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Doctors diagnosed her in late July after a routine mammogram discovered a 1.88-millimeter tumor on the backside of her breast, in a place close to her chest wall a self-examination would not find.

Jones said her doctor compared the discovery to a lightning strike. Jones is a generally healthy 47-year-old without a family history of breast

Julie Jones with her conversation-starting head art on display.

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It’s the great pumpkin, Milton Rec!

By **AVALON ASHLEY**
Independent Staff

Four enormous pumpkins boxed it out for first place at the Milton Farmers Market last Thursday evening, with a 220 pounder taking home the Great Pumpkin title. Christian Dymond won first place with his vibrant orange gourd, Macy MacBeth claimed second place with a 189 pound pumpkin, Leila MacBeth placed third at 149 pounds, and Charlotte Rose placed fourth at 86 pounds.

The Milton Recreation Department has been organizing the Great Pumpkin Contest since 2014. Awards are given to the first, second, third and fourth largest pumpkins. A cardinal rule for pumpkin growers is to grow a gourd with supple,

unbroken skin. This means no cracks or holes—insect, rodent or otherwise—to ensure no cheating.

Growers have been known to use quirky techniques to increase the sizes of their pumpkins and speed up growth. Part of the method includes picking off smaller pumpkins around the prized pumpkin as it grows, in order to allocate as much growing power towards the great pumpkin as possible. The trick is choosing the right one.

Other methods include burying the vine except for the area near the pumpkin in question, so the vine grows roots. Some pitch tents over their pumpkins to decrease the chance of skin cracking; others place space heaters in their garden to prolong growing

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Christian Dymond won first place at the Great Pumpkin contest with a 220 pound pumpkin.