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Learn the risks and symptoms of this common cancer. Q & A, D4

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:
COLON CANCER

APRIL 2: WORLD AUTISM DAY

Speaking for Christian

Bob and Suzanne Wright: Turning big-media power into a global attack on autism.

By **Lois Cahall**
Special to The Palm Beach Post

Bob Wright has been named one of the 100 most influential leaders in business by CNBC, a network he helped create, and his résumé is impressive: chairman and CEO of NBC Universal and vice chairman and executive officer of GE.

But all the money and power in the world can't change this fact: Autism affects 1 in 88 children. One in 54 are boys. And one of those boys is Bob Wright's grandson, Christian.

In spite of all his business success, Wright's legacy might end up being a crusader for worldwide autism awareness.

He and his wife, Suzanne, are the voices and co-founders of Autism Speaks.

And it's time to listen ... It was 2004. Bob and Suzanne, who spend the winter in Palm Beach, were typical doting grandparents of Christian, their first grandchild, born in August of 2002.

"Christian had walked early, talked early, but then something was wrong," explains Suzanne.

Their affectionate and interactive toddler suddenly began to change.

"Initially it was subtle, and then it was obvious and dramatic," she says.

The child withdrew from life, going silent, spiraling down. Imagine a happy, word-babbling toddler going from many words to only a few, throwing temper tantrums and flopping his hands. "Where there had once



Part-time Palm Beachers Suzanne and Bob Wright co-founded Autism Speaks in 2006 after they discovered that their grandson, Christian Hildebrand, now 12, had autism. CONTRIBUTED

been smiles and affection for grandma there was now silence," Suzanne says. She was horrified. "It was like a kidnapping."

But when Suzanne and her daughter Katie, Christian's

mother, took him to the pediatrician, "they told me 'don't worry. You've changed homes and there's another new baby in the house now. Boys typically behave that way ... they regress.'"

APRIL 2: WORLD AUTISM DAY

On April 2, more than 8,400 buildings will turn blue, bathing the world in gentle light for World Autism Day.

Bob Wright says: "Seven continents, 101 countries, 1,300 cities, 8,400 landmarks and buildings. That's a global movement! The blue lights, spread around the world in darkness, tell millions of people they are not alone. Christian ... is the light I think of every day ..."

Light it up blue, Palm Beach: On Thursday at 7 p.m., the Royal Park Bridge will be bathed in blue light to raise awareness for autism. Check out the Autism Speaks Palm Beach Facebook page for more information.

At first Bob and Suzanne kept quiet as the family came to grips with their personal life amid Bob's big media world.

Then they decided to take action. By 2006, the Wrights had formed Autism Speaks – a national campaign that has since gone worldwide.

The couple takes a Ying and Yang approach: Bob's focus is on legal challenges and

Autism continued on D6



Steve Dorfman
Boomer Health

Drug offers new hope

Cleveland Clinic Florida is participating in Alzheimer's study.

With every passing year, increasing numbers of baby boomers move into the demographic – 65 and older – that puts them in the cross hairs of Alzheimer's disease.

And, not surprisingly, our senior-citizen-heavy state has one of the highest concentrations of Alzheimer's patients in the nation.

"Florida is home to nearly 10 percent of the estimated 5.2 million individuals in the U.S. who suffer from Alzheimer's disease," says Cleveland Clinic Florida neurologist Dr. Nestor Galvez.

With Alzheimer's being the sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S. (approximately 500,000 annually), the fear in the health care community is that the number will skyrocket in the coming decades.

Some Alzheimer's advocacy organizations project that, by 2030 (when all boomers are 65 and older), more than 7 million Americans will be diagnosed with the disease. The extrapolated figure more than doubles to 16 million by 2050.

That's why Galvez and his colleagues at Cleveland Clinic Florida are partaking in a new, long-term, nationwide clinical trial designed to test the efficacy of using an FDA-approved diabetes drug to prevent Alzheimer's.

And they need your help.

Boomers continued on D5



Coming April 1: Read more about brain health in Healthy Living magazine

THEATER

'Book of Mormon,' 'Pippin' coming to Kravis

The award-winning musicals part of lineup for Broadway series.

By **Hap Erstein**
Special to The Palm Beach Post

If you measure the quality of a Broadway show in Tony Awards, then the 2014-2015 Kravis on Broadway season announced today looks packed with entertainment value. Of the six shows in the subscription series – all of them musicals – there are two Best Musical winners, includ-

ing the season anchor, the nine-time Tony-winning "The Book of Mormon," and two Best Revival winners.

The Kravis's seventh season of in-house road show presentations begins with "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella" (Nov. 11-16), a song-filled, family-friendly, special effects-laden stage version of the familiar fairy tale, based on the show's Broadway debut in 2013.

It is followed by the decidedly un-family-friendly,

Kravis continued on D6



The classic fairy tale "Cinderella," transformed by songs and special effects, will be staged Nov. 11-16 as part of the Kravis on Broadway series. CONTRIBUTED

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