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THE LOCAL SCENE **SPORTS**
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013

A WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF THE POST-CRESCENT

'1-2-3 Sean Johnson!'

Baseball team dedicates season, championship to teammate fighting cancer

By **Jen Zettel**
Post-Crescent Media

NEEENAH — There are moments in sports where wins seem destined by some outside force, and their meaning goes beyond a trophy.

One such game stood between the Bergstrom Bad Boys Junior Little League team and a championship Aug. 4.

The group of 9- and 10-year-olds battled through the losers' bracket to win three straight tournament games, and should have taken the field to warm-up before facing the undefeated State Farm Insurance team.

The Bergstrom Bad Boys huddled around a minivan behind the outfield wall instead. A teammate most of them had never met sat in the car to keep warm; a team-



Sean Johnson, 9, of Neenah plays a video game while hanging out at his home. Sean had osteosarcoma, a tumor in his right leg that doctors at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee removed. He will be receiving a prosthetic leg in October. DAN POWERS/POST-CRESCENT MEDIA

WATCH THE VIDEO

Hear Sean and his family talk about his journey online at postcrescent.com.

mate they dedicated their season to.

Nine-year-old Sean Johnson was diagnosed in March with osteosarcoma, a tumor embedded in bone. Parents Erin and Don signed the bright, smiling boy up for Junior Little League before a trip to the doctor turned their lives upside down.

Sean underwent surgery in June at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee to remove the tumor, named Throwg. Throwg nestled himself in Sean's right leg, and doctors removed part of Sean's leg along with Throwg.

Through it all, Sean stays positive. His mom, Erin, said the only time he cried was when he found out he'd lose part of his leg, and even then he saw the

silver lining.

"The doctors told him it wouldn't be his whole leg, but a portion. From then on he accepted what was going to happen with this rotationplasty before his dad and I did," Erin said.

"Sean has fully embraced what happened to him. He's never said, 'Why me?' It's al-

See **CANCER**, Page 4

Neenah delays vote on sober-server law

Tavern owners decry over-regulation

By **Duke Behnke**
Post-Crescent Media

NEEENAH — Facing heavy criticism from tavern owners last Wednesday, the Common Council postponed its decision whether to enact a law to prohibit bartenders from serving while intoxicated.

The council sent the proposed sober-server ordinance back to the Public Services and Safety Committee for reconsideration in September.

Alderman Christopher Kunz had no issue with delaying the vote for a month, as requested by tavern owners, but he saw no need for more debate by the committee that already supported the ordinance on a 4-1 vote.

"We've whittled this down to one thing or the other," Kunz said. "There's not much left to discuss."

As currently drafted, the ordinance would empower police to cite bartenders if they have a blood-alcohol content of 0.08 percent or more.

Police Chief Kevin Wilkinson said the ordinance would help the city hold bartenders accountable for their behavior. In a fight at Chief's tavern last fall, police had no grounds to cite the bartender

for intoxication because the city has no law against it.

Ricky Jacquart, president of the Winnebago County Tavern League, thinks the ordinance is unnecessary and amounts to over-regulation. He said the fight at Chief's was an isolated event and questioned why the tavern industry was being singled out from other sectors of the service industry.

"You could be working behind the counter at McDonald's lit like a Christmas tree," Jacquart said, "and if your manager doesn't care, guess what? There's no law against that in the city of Neenah."

Jacquart said if Neenah adopts the sober-server law, bartenders no longer would call police for trouble at their tavern "because they are afraid that they are going to be breathalyzed."

Marty DeCoster, owner of Plan B tavern in Kaukauna, said more time was needed to evaluate the ordinance.

"If it does get through, it's going to be an example for other cities to possibly look at," DeCoster said.

Only four Wisconsin communities — Madison, La Crosse, Jackson and Kenosha — have sober-server ordinances.

— *Duke Behnke: 920-729-6622, ext. 32, or dbehnke@postcrescent.com; on Twitter @DukeBehnke*



Elliott Pershing of Neenah throws hoops at pumpkins during the 2012 YouthGo Children's Day Annual Haunted House in Neenah. Paul Zilles worked as a volunteer at the event during Make a Difference Day. RON PAGE/POST-CRESCENT MEDIA

Fox Cities pitch in for a worthy cause

Companies urge employees, families to give back on Make a Difference Day

By **Jen Zettel**
Post-Crescent Media

Fox Cities companies, non-profit organizations and residents have made an annual commitment to Make a Difference Day. But their willingness to help goes beyond giving back to the community. It also has turned into a special family

event.

Held annually on the fourth Saturday in October, Make a Difference Day gives people of all ages an opportunity to do valuable — and rewarding — volunteer work.

For example, ThedaCare staff members and their fam-

See **CAUSE**, Page 4

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Chloe Tabbert of Menasha gets her face painted by Brianda Hickey, a Key Club volunteer from Neenah High School, during Make A Difference Day at the YouthGo Children's Day Annual Haunted House in Neenah.

RON PAGE/POST-CRESCENT MEDIA

Cause

Continued from Page 1

ilies often make blankets through Project Linus, said Jean Blaney, ThedaCare community health coordinator.

Project Linus accepts volunteers of all ages, which means children make blankets for peers who are diagnosed with serious illnesses or who are fighting other domestic challenges. About 40 people represent ThedaCare as part of the effort.

ThedaCare connects employees to volunteer activities year-round, but Make a Difference Day provides a unique atmosphere and a variety of outlets for community service.

"It's just a really great community day to get folks out," Blaney said.

"Once an employee gets out there and gives their time, the feeling they get of knowing that they helped someone and the people that they've met in doing this — you hear over and over again that they got more than they gave," she added.

Kimberly-Clark Corp. employees first took part in Make a Difference Day more than a decade ago, and will continue the tradition this year, said Cheryl Brooks, community relations specialist. A total of 125 people — both employees and their families — volunteered in 2012.

"Our employees are steeped in the traditions and activities of our community, and as a company we actively support doing the right thing for our neighbors," Brooks said.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will get involved with the event for the first time this year, and

GET INVOLVED

» Contact the Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin at 920-832-9360 to volunteer on Make a Difference Day
 » Companies and other large groups should call by Sept. 15

the family component factored heavily into the decision, said Jenni Eickelberg, senior community relations specialist.

Many Thrivent employees give back year-round, but can't always include their children. Exposure to community service at a young age will hopefully help youth stay involved in their communities throughout their lives, Eickelberg said.

"Not only can we join with others throughout the community, but we can encourage employees to volunteer with their families and pass the volunteer bug onto their kids," Eickelberg said.

The Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin is in the process of confirming projects for Make a Difference Day and will continue to seek more as the number of volunteers rises, said Julia Drobeck, executive director.

Those who want to volunteer can contact the Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin at 920-832-9360. Large groups and companies should call by Sept. 15.

Make a Difference Day was started more than two decades ago by USA Weekend Magazine, in partnership with HandsOn Network. Gannett, the parent company of Post-Crescent Media, owns the magazine.

— Jen Zettel:
 920-729-6622, ext. 33, or
 jzettel@postcrescent.com; on
 Twitter @jenzettel

Cancer

Continued from Page 1

ways, "When can I get my new leg? I want to be a kid."

In the coming months Sean will be fitted for a prosthetic leg and finish chemotherapy treatment.

Sean's illness kept him from playing for the Bergstrom Bad Boys, but the team's coaches kept in touch, updating the Johnsons on their season.

While not physically present, Sean was never far from the players' minds, coach Shawn Carver said. After huddles the group chose between chants of "1-2-3 Bergstrom Bad Boys!" and "1-2-3 Sean Johnson!"

Carver hoped the Johnsons would make it to a few games, but with Sean's chemotherapy schedule, it didn't work out — until Aug. 4, behind an outfield wall.

Erin still tears up when she describes Sean's encounter with the team.

"Sean was so happy, just all smiles," Erin said. "He loved it. He thought it was the neatest thing. They gave him a ball signed by everyone and a jersey. It was



Don Johnson (left) of Neenah keeps a close eye on his son Sean, 9, as he uses crutches to enter the living room area of their home. Sean had a tumor in his right leg removed.

DAN POWERS/POST-CRESCENT MEDIA

a really special thing they did for him."

The Bergstrom Bad Boys came back from a 2-5 start during the regular season to finish second. They lost their first game of the tournament, only to battle through to the championship ... and win.

Carver knew at the beginning of the season his players had the potential to win it all. What he couldn't have predicted was the impact a 9-year-old fighting cancer would have on his teammates.

"We won the final

HOW TO HELP

A Treasures in the Trunk Sale will be held Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in Neenah to raise money for the Johnson family. The event is described as "a garage sale minus the garage" because participants sell their wares from the trunks of their vehicles. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match up to \$1,500 for the family.

game in the bottom of the last inning with one out and our No. 8 hitter at the plate," Carver said. "It was the best day I had in baseball.

"When they walk away from this season, they won't remember

the trophy they chuck in a box somewhere. They'll remember how they helped their friend."

— Jen Zettel:
 920-729-6622, ext. 33, or
 jzettel@postcrescent.com; on
 Twitter @jenzettel

Donation comes as Menasha marks 30 years as a 'Tree City'

Post-Crescent Media

MENASHA — A \$15,000 donation from CN will allow the city to continue building on its 30 years as a Tree City and will benefit its urban forestry program.

The donation from the CN Stronger Communities Fund, along with volunteer labor, will enable the planting of 240 trees throughout the city.

Earlier this year, Menasha marked its 30-year Tree City milestone by announcing that Menasha's electric utility had received Tree Line certification and the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley had achieved Tree Campus status. The donation will commemorate the anniversary with plantings of groups of 30 trees in each aldermanic district. Planting locations include Lopas, Milwaukee, De Pere, Tayco, Melissa and Broad streets and Lucerne Drive and Villa Way. Each grouping will be planted by volunteers

from the community. Menasha's current street trees provide nearly \$300,000 in benefits each year to the community. CN's gift will increase diversity of the city's tree inventory, helping protect its investment from disease.

Dedication of the first tree took place Aug. 8 in Smith Park near the Wisconsin Central Caboose. The first group of 30 trees were planted along Lopas Street following the dedication.

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**Neenah Joint School District
 Registration Schedule**

Classes begin Tuesday, September 3, 2013 for all students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Registration

Elementary: Families of new elementary students who were not enrolled in the Neenah public school system last spring may stop in at the Administration Building at 410 S. Commercial Street or call the Neenah Joint School District central registration phone number at 751-6800, ext. 108. Parents of students new to the Neenah Joint School District are requested to bring at the time of registration the child's birth certificate and proof of residency.

Middle Schools: Information regarding registration will be mailed in early August to all pre-registered students. Please call the middle school if the student has moved during the summer months or the information has not been received. New students must bring (or have sent) an up-to-date transcript of grades and credits including standardized test scores and a current immunization record and complete an enrollment form available on the district web site or any district building. The buildings are open Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. -11:50 a.m. and 12:50 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Registration
 8/20 – Tuesday – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Shattuck/Horace Mann
 8/21 – Wednesday – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Shattuck/Horace Mann

High School: Information regarding registration was mailed to all pre-registered students on August 1, 2013. Please call the high school if the student has moved during the summer months or the information has not been received. New high school students who were not enrolled in the Neenah public schools last spring may register at Neenah High School as soon as possible. Please call 751-6900, ext. 110, to make an appointment for registration. New students must bring (or have sent) an up-to-date transcript of grades and credits including standardized test scores and a current immunization record and complete an enrollment form available on the district web site or any district building. The building is open Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration
 8/12 – Monday – 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Grade 12
 8/13 – Tuesday – 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Grade 11
 8/14 – Wednesday – 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Grade 10
 8/15 – Thursday – 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Grade 9 and 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – All Grades
 8/16 – Friday – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Late Registration/All Grades

Transfer and New Student Orientation
 8/23 – Friday – 10:00 a.m. – Room 424 (Conant Little Theater)

Parent Orientation for NHS Freshman Rockets
 8/20 – Tuesday – 6:00 p.m. – Pickard Auditorium

Transportation

Information regarding transportation schedules will be mailed directly to the home address of students who are eligible for transportation.

Lunch Program

Lunch program services will begin on Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

Student Fees	Full Price	Fees Reduced Price*
Preschool	\$ 25.00	\$ 10.00
Elementary (K-5)	40.00	16.00
Middle School (6-8)	45.00	18.00
High School (9-12)	50.00	20.00

* For those students eligible to receive reduced price hot lunches.

Activity Participation Fee (6-8)
 \$30.00 per sport or competition
 \$60.00 maximum per student
 \$120.00 maximum per family

Activity Participation Fee (9-12)
 \$50.00 per sport or competition
 \$100.00 maximum per student
 \$200.00 maximum per family

Note: Maximum of \$320 per family for Activity participation if the family has students in both Neenah High School and the middle schools.

Activity participation includes all athletics and any other activity that involves competition and/or judging (Chess Club, Debate, Forensics, Powerlifting, Drama, Act II, Vintage, Bowling Club). These fees are in addition to the optional yearbook and activity ticket fees and the course fees outlined in the Course Description and Registration Guide. Students participating in Drama as a member of the Tech Crew only will not be charged a participation fee.

For the following activities only, a participation fee of \$20.00 will be charged: DECA, Math Team, Science Olympiad.

In compliance with Neenah Joint School District Board Policy 527.4, the following is published: Information such as name, address, name of parent or legal guardian, date and place of birth, telephone listing, dates of attendance, major field of study, height and weight of members of athletic teams, year in school, school of attendance, awards, and participation in official activities or sports of students shall be considered public information and may be released to appropriate persons and media in accordance with Board of Education policy unless the parents or adult students refuse the release, in writing, of their own initiation.

The Neenah Joint School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

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