

Sectional champs

Wood Memorial captures sectional title.

Soup supper

Beadle Bunch Relay for Life team host soup supper. 6A

Indiana lawmakers

pay tribute to former first lady Nancy Reagan. 2A

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Photo provided.

After three months and more than 1,000 man hours the Jeep was complete. The parts and accessories alone were \$10,000, donated to the organization from their sponsors.

Teen battling cancer gets his Jeep tricked out

QUICHE MATCHEN

Staff writer

OAKLAND CITY—One Oakland City teen got the surprise of his life when he saw his Jeep get a face lift. Last year, 19-year-old Sam Bean was diagnosed with an extremely rare cancer that turned his life upside down. Just before Bean got sick, his blue Jeep Cherokee broke down and he didn't get a chance to get it fixed. Evansville Area Jeepers, a group Bean was a part of, made it their mission to cheer up the teen by tricking out his jeep. The organization also held car shows and other fundraisers for Bean's medical expenses. They created a hash tag for others to join the movement called "Sammy Strong."

EAJ President Ryan Sermersheim said he heard about Bean's illness and decided they wanted to help him through this tough time.

"We just took an idea and ran with it," he said. "It became a much bigger build than it was originally."

After three months and more than 1,000 man hours the Jeep was complete. The parts and accessories alone were \$10,000, donated to the organization from their sponsors.

Sermersheim said Bean didn't know they had his Jeep, and they convinced him to come look at some used tires as a cover for the big unveiling party.

They turned off the lights and unveiled the his new Jeep.

"He was speechless and in total shock," Sermersheim said.

"This was our way of giving back to him."

Bean's mother Angie said Bean was shell-shocked and didn't believe it was his Jeep. The Jeep got a new paint job, Pittsburgh Steelers logos (Bean's favorite team), new tires and other upgrades.

"He was very excited," she said. "It was just amazing they gave him a little normal back."

She said they had a family event where they went mudding in the new Jeep and Bean had a great time.

It was a welcome change from the past months of health challenges.

Bean's father Joe said last February, Bean's stomach swelled and he became very ill.

His mother said Bean's stomach had 17 pounds of fluid. After numerous tests, Bean was flown out to Riley Children's Hospital, where he was diagnosed with desmoplastic small round cell



Photo provided.

Sam Bean, 19, stands beside his jeep prior to Evansville Area Jeepers giving his jeep a facelift. The organization made it their mission to cheer up the teen by tricking out his jeep. The organization also held car shows and other fundraisers for Bean's medical expenses.

tumor, a rare cancer only found in men ages 18 to 25.

"He had dreams and aspirations until he got sick," Bean said.

Bean started chemotherapy at MD Anderson Cancer Center, which specializes in rare cancer, in Houston, Texas.

"It's been a roller coaster," he said. "Sam's a special case."

Last October, Bean had a 15 hour surgery to remove 1,183 tumors from his abdominal cavity. He also had a few organs removed.

After the surgery, they

stayed in Texas for a month to recover.

Now, Bean is completely disease free.

His father said the doctors won't say he's cancer-free until he's disease free for five years.

Bean is home schooled and will graduate this year.

He will continue chemotherapy at a lower dosage as a precaution.

"He's still in recovery," his father said. "It's still a slow road, but it's getting better."

Email quiche@pdclarion.com

1 shot, 2 arrested in foiled drug deal near historic site

Wire and staff reports

EVANSVILLE— Police say a botched drug deal near the Angel Mounds state historic site in Evansville culminated with the arrest of two people and the shooting of a third.

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that a man was shot in the arm and chest in a parking lot near the archaeological site.

Twenty-year-old Michael Lynn Alexander Jr. of Princeton and 22-year-old Kendra Corralen Pritchett, of Evansville, were arrested after an Interstate 69 traffic stop by state troopers in connection with the shooting.

The shooting occurred around 4 p.m. on Saturday when Alexander met the victim, Dalton Chase Faughn, of Carmi, Illinois, after agreeing to sell him drugs.

Police said Alexander's intention was to shoot a friend of Faughn, who he suspected of previously burglarizing his home and who he believed would be with Faughn.

Faughn attempted to leave after the drug transaction did not occur, but Alexander shot him three times in the left arm and chest with a revolver as he attempted to get into his friends truck.

Two bullets also struck the truck shattering the windows of the vehicle.

Pritchett then drove Alexander away from the scene in a silver Ford Crown Victoria sedan.

A description of the getaway car was given to police by a friend of Faughn who drove him to the hospital.

An Indiana State Trooper pulled Pritchett over on I-69 and she fled after initially stopping, leading to a chase involving Evansville police that resulted in a head-on collision with a van on Morgan Avenue.

The driver of the van was reported injured.

Pritchett allegedly threw out narcotics and a revolver during the pursuit with the trooper and EPD which were later recovered.

Alexander was taken into custody at the scene. Pritchett was taken to the hospital before she was arrested by Indiana State Police.

Both Alexander and Pritchett are in the Vanderburgh County Jail on various charges.

It was immediately unclear if they have attorneys.

Faughn was hospitalized with what police called life-threatening injuries.



Alexander



Pritchett

Somerville man arrested after police pursuit

Staff Report

GIBSON CO—A Somerville man was arrested early Friday morning after a police pursuit.

According to a news release from the Gibson County Sheriff's Office, at 4 a.m. Friday morning a deputy attempted to stop Brandon

Egdorf, 28, of Somerville, for a licensing issue on the vehicle's registered owner.

When the officer turned on his emergency lights on CR 1200 East near CR 450 South, the vehicle began to flee at a high rate of speed.

The officer pursued the vehicle into Pike County where the chase ended near a residence on SR 61.

The deputy detected the smell of alcohol coming from Egdorf and attempted to conduct a DUI investigation, but Egdorf refused all tests.

He was then transported to Gibson County Jail and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, refusal, resisting law enforcement fleeing in a vehicle and reckless driving.

Egdorf has since posted a \$750 bond.



Egdorf

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