

SPORTS
WELL ENOUGH TO LOSE

Humber, White Sox fall to Nationals

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THE LA PORTE COUNTY
HERALD-ARGUS



Lauren Lindeman competes Saturday in the Footapalooza Barefoot Waterskiing tournament on Silver Lake.

Photos by Bob Wellinski

A New Beginning

Habitat for Humanity unveils new home in Michigan City

By Deborah Sederberg
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — As if April Underwood weren't already feeling like a queen in her new Habitat for Humanity home, someone brought her daughter a fluffy pink princess tiara.

Underwood, the mother of three children — Austin George, 10, a fifth-grader, Christian Jackson, 3, who will be in preschool, and Heaven Jackson, 4, who will be in kindergarten, all at Knapp Elementary School — are ready to move into their three-bedroom home, with a living/dining room and a sizable kitchen, plus a laundry area in the bathroom. And according to Jan Koss, a La Porte County master gardener, "It has plenty of closet space."

The project, built by women under Habitat for Humanity of La Porte County's supervision, is an ivory house at Seventh Street and Willard Avenue and marks the 39th house the 25-year-old Habitat organization has constructed. It was dedicated during a ceremony on Sunday. Two more homes, in the 200 block of Willard Avenue, are under construction.

"Habitat contracted for the kind of work that requires a license, such as plumbing," Koss said.

Also, Deutscher Construction, owned by Sue Deutscher, volunteered some time, and some of those people were men.

"But for the actual building," she said, "it was an all-women volunteer group."

One of the volunteers is a licensed electrician.

Three pedestals constructed of historic Michigan City paving bricks with limestone caps mark the site of Underwood's new home. The city, which has been working closely with Habitat through its Neighborhood Revitalization Grant, donated the bricks, while Deutscher Construction LLC, owned by Sue Deutscher, donated the labor and Old Fort Building Supply donated the

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Foot race

Barefoot skiers compete in Rolling Prairie Footapalooza

By Matt Fritz
Staff writer
1-866-362-2167 Ext. 13887
mfritz@heraldargus.com

ROLLING PRAIRIE — "It's a time where ordinary guys like me can ski against world champions," said Dan Tanis of Illinois, one of the many people visiting Rolling Prairie on Saturday to participate in Footapalooza.

The first competition of the World Barefoot Center's Figure Eight Series, Footapalooza pitted barefoot water skiers from Florida, Tennessee, Wisconsin and other areas of the country against each other in an event geared to attract all levels of participants.

And it even attracted Keith St. Onge, two-time world barefoot water skiing champion and 11-time overall national champion in the sport. He also holds a world record in slalom (by crossing a wake 26 times in 30 seconds) and a pending world record in the trick portion of the competition. Then there was 2010 National Champion Marc Donahue, who holds a world record in figure eight competition by completing 5 1/4 laps.

But Tanis, who skis only a few times a year and has now reached his

"It's kind of like NASCAR except there's a crash every lap."

Dan Tanis, a Footapalooza competitor

43rd birthday, said this event allows him to test his mettle against the best in the sport.

"So it's any man against any man and any woman against any woman," he said.

Or any age. Competitors at the event ranged in age from 17 (Tanis's son Aaron) to 71.

Don Simon of Harriman, Tennessee, who's been a veteran of the sport for 33 years, said it's fun to compete against the young and old. And he's got quite a bit of experience.

He's jumped 60 feet off of 76 Fall in Lake Cumberland, Ky., during one of his skiing expeditions, snapping his



JJ Link pilots the boat in the Footapalooza Barefoot Waterskiing tournament.

skiing rope while hitting bottom.

Then he's run over a 2-by-4, a bottle and a dead fish, and got 150 stitches on the bottom of his foot after colliding with a log, and still hasn't quit. Now 71 years old, he said he can't let go of his passion for the sport.

"I've hit just about everything they put in the water," he said, "and some

things they don't."

But he wasn't the only one who suffered injuries. Tanis said he's got two reconstructed shoulders, one dislocated shoulder, degenerated disks and a banged and chipped elbow from his time in the sport.

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Ride for Kids benefits brain tumor research group

By Brianne Eichman
Staff writer
1-866-362-2167 Ext. 13870
beichman@heraldargus.com

LA PORTE — Lucas Moore, 13, is more than excited to join his father Rob in the Ride for Kids in South Bend, which will help raise money for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Research Foundation.

Lucas' goal is "to help kids like me get better so they don't have to go through this stuff that I have to go through," he said.

Since Lucas was 3, he and his family have been battling a brain tumor called cranio-pharyngioma. Lucas has had four major surgeries and three smaller surgeries to help control the cysts.

"He was good for five years, and we thought he was done with the whole tumor," said his mother, Lisa Moore.

Then he had a re-occurrence last summer. We went to New York this time, and he had surgery and radiation."

Through it all, Lucas finds strength and support in his life as he is thankful for "my family, and everybody around me," he said.

Lucas, who also has two siblings — Jake, 10 and Ashlan, 15 — has been raising money over the past few years for the PBTF.

"I've raised over \$5,000 every year," he said.

Lucas has a website where he encourages people to donate money to the PBTF.

The PBTF offers videos, pamphlets and information, and provide a nurse who works full-time for the foundation and is there to answer questions for families and guide them to the right place.

The Northern Indiana Ride



Submitted photo

Lucas Moore, 13 (right) with his brother Jake, 10, stand in front of the motorcycle that will go to the Ride for Kids.

for Kids strictly raises money for this foundation.

"There are 40 different rides across the country," said Ford, "It started 27 years ago as a way to raise funds when a couple realized that a friend

had lost a child, and there was no research going on for the kids' tumors. They decided to start with a motorcycle fundraiser."

Last year, all the rides across the country raised \$4.5 mil-

lion for research. They hope to raise just as much this year.

"I found out the first year that I got involved what families have to go through so it's real important for us to find a cure for this," said Ford.

The motorcyclists will begin their 50-mile ride in St. Joseph County on July 10 in Pinhook Park and will travel through La Porte County. Registration is 8 to 9:45 a.m. Eastern and the ride begins at 10 a.m. A Celebration of Life Ceremony will follow the ride.

For more information about the event, call Task Force Leader Georgia Ford at (219) 324-6081 or visit www.IndianaRideforKids.org.

Donate at www.firstgiving.com/lucas-moore or send checks payable to PBTF c/o Lucas Moore, 719 Monroe St., La Porte, IN 46350 or to the PBTF.

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