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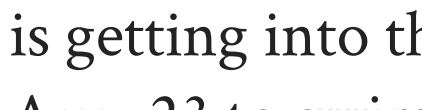
**MONDAY MEETING: Get to know Leslev Ouesada**

## Teens, police lauded for saving man's life



**BUY PHOTO** **HIDE CAPTION**  
 Wilbur 'Wib' Bear, center, poses with the lifeguards and police officers who saved his life. From left, Stephen Herman, Jesse Herman, Jeremy Lynch, Bear, Officer Mike Knechtel and Officer Eric Kamoie. - Lauren McLane/The Record Herald

**By Lauren McLane**  
 Posted Oct 1, 2008 at 12:01 AM  
 Updated Jul 27, 2012 at 5:51 AM



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The last thing Wilbur "Wib" Bear, 83, remembers is getting into the pool at Moss Spring Swim Club Aug. 23 to swim laps.

The next thing he knew, he was lying in a hospital bed, being told by doctors that he had had a massive cardiac event and would need surgery. He ended up spending "three weeks and one day" in the hospital and now has four stents in the arteries of his heart, he said.

He is alive thanks to the quick response of three local teenagers and two officers from the Greencastle Police Department.

The lifesavers received plaques from Medic 2 and thanks from Bear during a ceremony Tuesday at the pool.

### The incident

Jesse Herman, 17, Stephen Herman, 15, and Jeremy Lynch, 18, all of Greencastle, were on duty at the pool the day Bear collapsed.

"Mr. Bear was doing laps and he suddenly stopped and was just coasting. I had a feeling something was wrong. He started sinking and I jumped off my chair and called his name. He didn't answer, so I went in after him. I pulled him to the side and two of the members, Mr. (Brian) Kirkpatrick and Mrs. (Gwenda) Ingreem, helped me get him out," Jeremy said.

Stephen, who was manning the phones, heard someone call for extra lifeguards.

"Jesse grabbed his (CPR) mask and ran out," said Stephen, who continued to both field and make phone calls.

Jesse began CPR, assisted by member Brian Davidson, a registered nurse. As Stephen called 911, the dispatcher broadcast a cardiac event, sending Medic 203, Rescue Hose Co.'s ambulance and Greencastle police screaming to the scene.

Officers Mike Knechtel and Eric Kamoie arrived simultaneously, Knechtel said. In his squad car, he had an automatic external defibrillator, or AED device, that the department had acquired July 1 through a grant.

"We arrived to find them performing active CPR," Knechtel said. The police applied the AED's patches, and the machine took a reading.

"It said shock advised," Knechtel said.

They cleared everyone away from the patient and administered the electric jolt.

"That's the scary part. When it does (shock them), they jump," he said.

After the shock, the rescuers resumed CPR as the machine continued to monitor Bear. The machine started monitoring for a pulse, "which was when we knew we had a conversion" from cardiac arrest, Knechtel said.

### 'Good parenting'

Bear, who suffered two heart attacks in one day in 1980, said, "it's a good thing it happened here rather than at home alone."

He has been a widower for four years and lives alone, although his daughter, Sandy Bear, recently moved back to Greencastle to be near him.

"Back then, there was no therapy to recover from a heart attack. My 'help-get-better' was walking. I try to walk four miles a day," said Bear, who has returned to that routine.

He is thankful "for all these nice young boys who were able to help me. It comes from good parenting."

Mark Herman, father to Jesse and Stephen, said he is "extremely proud" of his sons. "I'm proud to be part of a community where people jump in to help."

Jeremy's mother, Jean Lynch, said she is most proud her son kept his cool and acted on his training.

The boys said that although they were initially nervous, their training kicked in and they just did what they had to do.

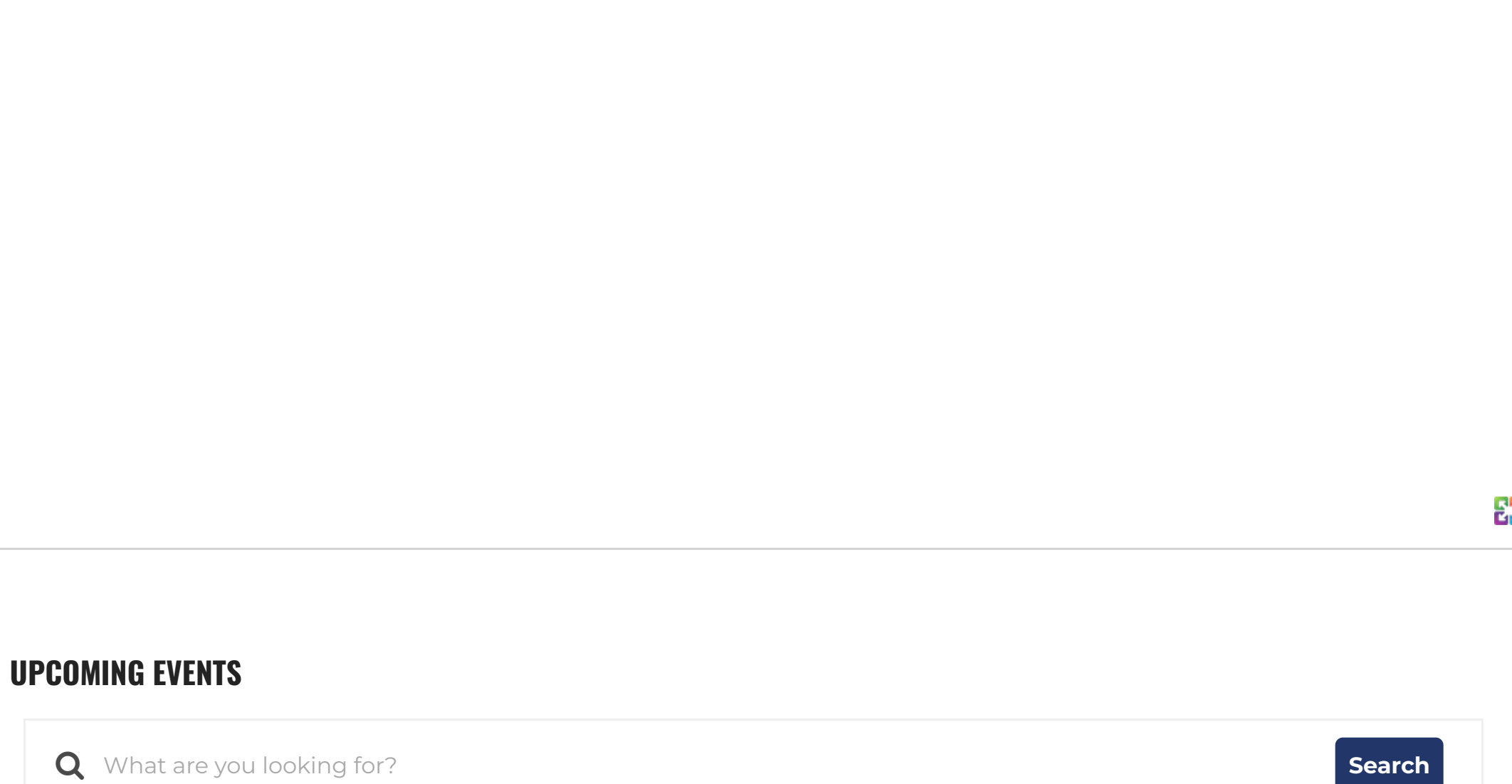
"And somebody grabbed my dentures," Bear quipped.

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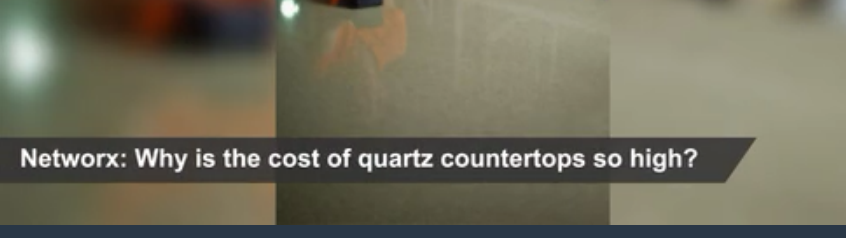
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