

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Oral Cancer Survivor to Speak to 3,000 Area Students**  
*30-Year-Old Former Spit Tobacco User Had Jaw Removed to Save Life*

**Who:** Gruen Von Behrens, a 30-year-old national speaker and former spit tobacco user, will discuss his experiences with oral cancer and plastic surgery with 3,000 middle and high school students across the Fox Valley March 10-14. Von Behrens endured 35 surgeries that removed his jaw and part of his tongue and disfigured his neck and face. He started using spit tobacco at age 13 and was diagnosed with cancer at age 17.

**What:** Von Behrens will share his adverse experiences using spit tobacco. Students may be available to media to share their impressions of Von Behrens' remarks.

**Why:** In Brown County alone, 15 percent of all deaths—about 240 every year—result from smoking and chewing tobacco, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. That leads to \$94 million in healthcare expenses, a portion of which is paid by Medicaid taxpayer dollars. About 100,000 Wisconsin residents use smokeless tobacco products, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Tobacco directly leads to approximately 440,000 deaths in the United States and 8,000 in Wisconsin each year--more deaths than AIDS, murders, suicides, drugs, alcohol and motor vehicle accidents combined. The 2007 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed that 7.7 percent (12.9 percent male, 2.3 percent female) of Wisconsin students in grades 9-12 used chewing tobacco in the previous month. That's down from 2005, when 8.4 percent (14.4 percent male, 2.0 percent female) reported using it.

**Where & When:**

**Gruen Von Behrens' Speaking Schedule**

March 10th	March 11th	March 12th	March 13th	March 14th
8:45 -9:45 a.m. Westfield Auditorium 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades 200 students	8:00-9:00 a.m. Edison Middle Auditorium 6 <sup>th</sup> grade 400 students	8:00-9:00 a.m. Little Chute 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades 300 students	8:15-9:15 a.m. Shiocton 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades 175 students	8:00-9:00 a.m. Plainfield (Tri County Schools) 6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> grade 175 students
10:30-11:30 a.m. Montello Gym 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades 175 students	10:30-11:30 a.m. East De Pere	11:00 - noon Manawa	10:15-11:30 a.m. Hortonville 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> grades 565 students	11:00-11:50 Wild Rose 6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> grades 190 students
2:00-3:00 p.m. Hilbert 7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades 275 students	2:00-3:14 p.m. Princeton MS/HS Gymnasium 200 students	2:00-3:00 p.m. New London HS	2:00-3:00 p.m. Reedsville 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades 125 students	Depart for Home