

## Drums Take McKnight Across United States

Justin McKnight, 19, of Springfield, Ore., is a graduate of Thurston High School in Springfield, class of 2004.

Justin started playing drums at the young age of 10. From there, he has played in every school band from middle school to the high school marching band (where he was a four-year letterman).

Not limited to concert bands, Justin has even performed for the high school choir and drama department. He has received numerous awards for his talent and ability to play, write, and read music, as well as many awards recognizing his hard work and commitment to the many programs with which he has been associated.

He currently is enrolled in his second year at Lane Community College/University of Oregon School of Music. He just finished his second year as a member of the Oregon Marching Band.

Justin also enjoys performing in drum and bugle corps during the summer with the Oregon Crusaders. He has completed two tours with them. The first year with the Crusaders was a short Northwest tour and last summer they went all the way to the World Championships in Boston, Mass.

The corps finished fourth overall and the drumline finished with a top-three ranking – this after 26 competitions in 36 days traveling in charter buses through 22 states, sleeping in gyms, and competing against 176 other corps from all over the world.

His latest journey was to the Holiday Bowl in San Diego, Calif. It was his first bowl game experience and the Oregon Marching Band even won the Battle of the Bands against Oklahoma. We hope there will be many more bowl games in his future.

Justin's parents are Punky McKnight (Karuk) and Joseph McKnight (Siletz), both of Springfield. His grandparents



Justin McKnight

are Clarice McKnight, and Al and Donna Merrill, all of Springfield.

The list of cities the Oregon Crusaders performed/competed in this past summer includes Woodburn and Hillsboro, Ore.; Seattle (Husky Stadium) and Spokane, Wash.; Boise, Idaho; Denver, Colo.; Casper, Wyo.; Garden City and Salina, Kan.; Lincoln, Neb.; multiple shows in Wisconsin; Alton, Ill.; Dubuque, Iowa; St. Louis, Mo.; Little Rock, Ark.; Jacksonville, Tenn.; Atlanta, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Providence, R.I.; Baltimore, Md.; Bridgeport, Conn.; and Boston.



More than 40 different kinds of freshly made donuts, Spanish jelly rolls, apple empanadas, biscuits and gravy, nachos, Big Train chai, strawberry jet tea, caramel frappe, cookies, and assorted muffins are available at tribal member-owned Regalado Family Donuts, 289 E. Ellendale Ave., Suite 410, in Dallas, Ore; 503-623-9535.

## My Search for the Afterlife

### Book Explores the Real Communications Between Father and Deceased Son

DES MOINES, Wash. – Many feel that when a loved one dies, they are lost to them forever or at least until they reach the next world, if there is one.

After the tragic death of his son, Sean, Dennis Spalding set out on a mission to prove there is life after death and that spirits can be reached. Their new book, *My Search for the Afterlife: A Trail of Clues* (available through AuthorHouse), "uniquely authored from beyond the grave and co-authored in this world," chronicles their journey to communicate beyond death.

Dennis' son Travis drew the cover art for the book and his wife, Wanda, provided the photography. Both are Siletz Tribal members.

"This story focuses on my struggles from the deep abyss of despair and desolation to a point of being able to live once again. My spiritual, not religious, development begins to become a stronger presence in my life," says Dennis.

The book is a father's journey into the mysteries of the afterlife in search of his son. Not a science fiction novel, *My Search for the Afterlife* is based on hard facts and working theories that Dennis developed in his quest to both heal his wounds and regain contact with his son.

Through the help of a renowned medium, Suzanne Northrop, Dennis is able to establish contact with Sean. He explains how a few days later he stumbled upon a number theory, which he feels helps his son and other spirits "validate the messages" they send across worlds.

With Northrop's help, Dennis was able to nurture this psychic connection

and maintain contact with Sean. The book explains how the number theory helped lead him deeper into the spiritual realm and continue on his quest for more answers. The result of these strange wanderings into the world beyond life only strengthens faith and offers comfort to those ailing from the loss of friends and family.

"Our message is simple – your loved ones are all around you on a daily basis. You don't always need a medium or psychic in your life to communicate with them. They see what you're doing, and they know what you're thinking," says Dennis. "All you have to do is talk to them. It's their job to make you aware they're around. It's your job to find out how they're trying to communicate this awareness."

Dennis has used his experiences gleaned from other cultures during his travels, from the voodoo and black magic of Trinidad to the spiritual cleansing and healing of the Nez Percé tribe of the Pacific Northwest, to help him communicate with his son, Sean, who died in a car accident at age 24.

Dennis currently lives in Washington state, where he continues to mine the afterlife for answers. *My Search for the Afterlife* is his first book and he already is working on the second, *Messages from the Next World: His Signature*.

For more information, visit his Web site at [www.sean39s-corner.com](http://www.sean39s-corner.com).

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William DePoe leads the grand entry at the University of Washington's winter pow-wow, carrying the eagle staff.