

Local earns Eagle Scout rank at age 14

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Illinois Valley High School student Brian Bemis earned his Eagle Scout ranking on November 23, 2010.

To celebrate Bemis' achievement of the highest Scout award available, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 880 and the Crater Lake Council facilitated the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony Saturday, March 12 inside the Kerby Belt building.

Most Eagle Scouts, according to BSA statistics, are around 17 years old when they reach that level. Bemis was ahead of the game, achieving that level as a 14-year-old high school freshman.

According to his father, Steven Bemis, Brian started participating actively in scouting in third grade. He's earned 32 merit badges and plans to earn "many more," Steven said.

Besides completing the lower levels, would-be Eagle Scouts must organize and carry out a project benefiting their local community. Brian's project was a suspension bridge for the Girl Scouts' hiking trail at Camp Ruth Hyde near Grants Pass.

"An [Eagle Scout project] must be created, planned and supervised by the Eagle Scout

candidate," Steven Bemis wrote. "The Boy Scout is responsible for finding volunteers and arranging funding for his project."

Bemis coordinated with a number of groups, including Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington, the Cave Junction Rotary Club, Three Rivers Community Hospital and other residents with engineering and similar backgrounds to help construct the bridge.

On Saturday, friends and family came to watch Bemis take the official Eagle Scout oath as led by city councilmen and scout Dan Fiske. Pastor Jack Brown gave an opening blessing and closing prayer, and Scoutmaster Roy Barto awarded Bemis with the Eagle rank.

Brian Bemis also thanked his sister Heather for her support and gave recognition to past leaders of Troop 880. Local student Celilo Nordal, also Troop 880 senior patrol leader, called the ceremony to order and dismissed.

Boy Scout Troop 880 is sponsored by the Cave Junction American Legion Hall. Several local residents are scouts and a few also achieved Eagle status. According to BSA statistics, only four out of every 100 scouts become Eagles.

Outside of Boy Scouts, Steven and Brian's mother Lynsta said Brian was inducted to the Junior National Honors Society while at Lorna Byrne Middle School, and is continuing into the National Honors Society in high school.



Brian Bemis takes his oath for the Eagle Scout on Saturday, March 12.

(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Brian thanks his sister, Heather, during the Court of Honor Ceremony in the Kerby Belt Building.

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&
Recycle

EVENTS CALENDAR

Blue Grass Music by
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Saturday, March 19th
5:00pm to 8:00pm

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Across

1. Audacity
5. Bill of fare
7. Diplomatic representative of the Pope
10. Beverage made by steeping leaves in water
12. Requirement
13. Preponderate
15. Lifts and moves heavy objects
16. Cruise
17. Scallion
20. Pigeon sound
22. Self-importance
24. Consumed
25. Aura
27. Decoy
29. Urge on
33. Belonging to the past
35. Cut
36. Apply
37. Assign
38. A cleansing agent
39. Ottoman

Down

1. A vast treeless plain in the arctic
2. Eyeglass
3. An Indian side dish
4. Abominable snowman
5. Sovereign
6. Exclamation of contempt
8. Mongrel
9. Possess
11. Heron
14. Voracious snakelike marine or freshwater fish
16. Roman sun god
18. Consume
19. Tomato sauce
21. Desert sanctuary
23. Blur
26. Prefer
28. Absorb
30. Fisherman's tool
31. Construct
32. A small drink
33. Embrace
34. Helot

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Crossword Solution on Page B-2

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