

Memory of scout honored

Boys Scouts of America present 'Spirit of the Eagle' honor to Indra

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Daniel Indra was a good big brother, doing everything with his younger brother, Liam. He loved sports, video games, and especially activities with his Cub Scout pack.

The 8-year-old was about to start a new year in the program when he suffered a tragic accident.



Daniel Indra

In September, Daniel was helping renovate a barn on his grandparents' property in Monmouth when he fell through a hole in the second story floor and later died of his injuries.

On May 11, the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America awarded Daniel with the Spirit of the Eagle Award, a posthumous recognition of an active Scout younger than 21 who dies of illness or accident.

"I thought it was really neat. He really liked scouting and we always wanted him to achieve all that he could in Scouts and obviously he didn't have a chance to go as far as he could," said Daniel's father, Nicholas Indra. "It really recognized what he could have been."

Indra said the highest rank a Scout can achieve is Eagle Scout, so as the name implies, Spirit of the Eagle is like an honorary Eagle ranking.

"We didn't really know about it until somebody at the (Cub Scout) pack mentioned it to us," Indra said following the May 11 award ceremony at St. Philip Catholic Church in Dallas. "It was a great way to remember him. I think it's really great that the scouts developed this honor."



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Indra

Items commemorating Daniel Indra were set up as part of the "Spirit of the Eagle" award presentation that took place at St. Philip Catholic Church in Dallas on May 11.

Daniel, who had just started third grade at Monmouth Elementary School, was excited about scouting — and liked to share the experience with others.

He had already earned a "recruiter badge" for successfully encouraging his friends to join the Scouts, Indra said — and he could have done so much more.

Spirit of the Eagle honors that.

"This award is bestowed by the National Court of Honor as part of the celebration of life of this young person," reads the official award application. "It recognizes the joy, happiness, and life-fulfilling experiences the Scouting program made in this person's life."

Indra said the award is just another example of the overwhelming support his family has received from the Scouts and the community since their son's death.

In the months since, in Daniel's honor, Indra and his wife, Alissa, have tried to give back.

It might be small things — like donating books Daniel liked to his school's library — or because Daniel was an organ donor, life-altering gifts. Four people received organs from Daniel.

Indra said he's now focused on developing a business that he hopes will help families facing the same situation his did when looking

for an urn to hold Daniel's ashes.

He said finding one appropriate for a child proved impossible because they were all designed for adults.

Indra has created a prototype "Lego-man" urn with a 3-D printer and hopes to gain permission from the company to sell it.

"It's something we hope to offer to other families," he said.

Indra is in the process of raising money to buy the commercial-grade printer needed if the idea does grow into a small business.

He said since the accident, his family's life has been hectic with finding ways keep Daniel's memory alive.

But that, in a way, has been healing.

"We all miss him a lot," Indra said of his son. "But at least there is a few good things that came out of it. We just try to focus on that."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Welcome home soldiers on Friday

DALLAS — More than 900 Oregon Army National Guard soldiers from Oregon have been returning from deployments all over the world and Dallas is looking to give those from Polk County a warm welcome.

The Dallas Area of Chamber of Commerce is organizing a homecoming event Friday at noon on Main Street, inviting all citizens to join in the show of support. Those wanting to participate are asked to line Main Street holding flags and signs.

Soldiers and families of those returning home are asked to meet at the former Arctic Circle parking lot at 11:45 a.m. to be escorted down Main Street.

After the procession, soldiers and their families will stop at the Polk County Courthouse lawn to receive thanks from the community.

The event is to "make sure all these men and women coming home are welcomed and thanked for their service," said Chelsea Metcalfe, the executive director of the chamber.

For more information, Chelsea at chelsea@dallasoregon.org or 503-623-2564.

Ag tech innovation group to gather

INDEPENDENCE — The Technology Association of Oregon will host the Independence Agriculture Technology Innovation Hub from 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday at Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St.

Using Monmouth-Independence Networks (MINET) and the ecosystem, the workshop is meant to help develop and apply agricultural technology. With participation from farmers and engineers, people will look at how to use Polk County's rural areas as test beds to create new, low-cost technology to deal with wind, weather, water, crop sorting and communication.

The event is sponsored by INTEL and the city of Independence, as well as Technology Association of Oregon, Oregon Institute of Technology, Western Oregon University and the South Metro science, technology, engineering, math partnership.

To register for the event: www.techoregon.org.

Accident in Dallas disrupts power

DALLAS — A Dallas man was arrested Saturday on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving after the truck he was driving crashed into a power pole.

The accident happened in the 500 block of Main Street in Dallas near the Academy Building at about 2 p.m., according to Dallas police.

Witnesses to the accident say the pickup truck driven by Milton S. Wenstrom, 60, drifted off the roadway and struck a power pole, shearing it off and cutting power in the area. Dallas Lt. Jerry Mott said Wenstrom then tried to back out from underneath the pole.

Police arrested Wenstrom on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and second-degree criminal mischief as a result of the accident.

24 hour Service Pick up & Drop Off

Squirrels Taxi Service Inc.

Get Home Safe. Call Your D.D...

Merlin D. Berkey (971) 240-1208



Monmouth Engaged is a community-wide visioning process sponsored by the City of Monmouth. **The goal is to set a road map for the future with input from those who live, work and play in our community.**



Share a Pizza and Your Vision— You're Invited!

Drop in with your friends and family for a free slice of pizza at Yeasty Beasty on **Wednesday, May 27 anytime from 4-6 p.m.**

Let the City of Monmouth know what Your Vision is for the future.



167 Main Street West, Monmouth, OR
(503) 837-1222
www.yeastybeasty.com

ENTER YOUR NAME IN THE DRAWING FOR A PRIZE!

Complete this survey and you will become eligible for a drawing to receive a \$25 Yeasty Beasty gift card.

Please take a few minutes now to complete the community survey.



Complete the survey and mail or drop off:
**City Hall, 151 Main St W
Monmouth, OR, 97361
Attention: Monmouth Engaged**

OR



Take the survey online:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/MonmouthEngaged



SCAN TO GO TO

1 What makes Monmouth special?

(Check all that apply)

- Small town character / friendly
- College town
- Wine region
- Self-sufficient
- Affordable
- Another thing: _____

2 What do you think is missing?

3 Let's imagine:

The City of Monmouth has just discovered a historic document from one of Monmouth's pioneer families that provides a legacy gift of millions of dollars! The sole condition is that it must be spent in the next five years on City projects or programs.

What would be your three top priorities for spending this newly discovered gift?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4 What best describes you?

(Check all that apply)

- Monmouth resident
- Monmouth business owner/operator
- Live / work outside Monmouth
- WOU student

5 Name and email:

