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Boy lives on through others

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Alissa Indra takes solace in knowing her son, Daniel, lives on in four other people.

Daniel Indra was just 8 years old when he died in a tragic accident in 2014, but in death saved others through organ donation.

"When we lost Daniel, it was a way for us — at least for me — it was a way for me to still have him be here with us. He's a hero to four other people. Two of them were children," said Alissa, who designated herself as a donor at age 15. "One of them has his heart, and just the thought of knowing that his heart is beating in somebody else, that that piece of him is still alive, it's really helpful and healing."

Two others, a 65-year-old woman and a 64-year-old man, received his kidneys.

His liver went to an 8-month-old girl. The boy who received his heart was just 13 years old at the time.

"It's healing to me to know that those families didn't have to go through the grief that we did because we were there to give," she said.

Halloween is Daniel's birthday, so Alissa, her husband, Nick Indra, and son, Liam, handed out information about organ donation while trick-or-treating.

They gave out door hangers about nonprofit Donate Life Northwest, an organization that works to promote donation of organs, eyes and other tissues.

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'KIT' AND KABOODLE

Dallas youth takes national crown in rabbit breeding

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Emily Roberts was already thinking about next year.

Emily, a senior at Dallas High School, was attending the youth banquet near the end of the American Rabbit Breeders Association's national convention in October. She had yet to hear her name called as a top five winner in the youth royalty competition categories and was losing hope that she would place in the overall contest.

The ARBA youth royalty competition tests young rabbit breeders and showers in five categories: judging, breed identification, application (16 essay questions scored before the convention), a 200-question exam, and an in-person interview.

Depending on their age, youth can be named lord or lady, prince or princess, duke or duchess, king or queen. The latter two are for the oldest competitors.

"This is my senior year. This is the year where I was like, it would be really cool to win this year," Emily said, recalling what was going through her head at the time.

After she didn't place in the top five in judging or breed identification contest, she, and her mother, Jennifer Roberts, were thinking ahead to 2017.

"I had completely written her off," Jennifer said.

Next year is the last Emily could compete, but it wouldn't be ideal because she will be attending college — majoring in pre-med — and wouldn't have the same amount of time to prepare.

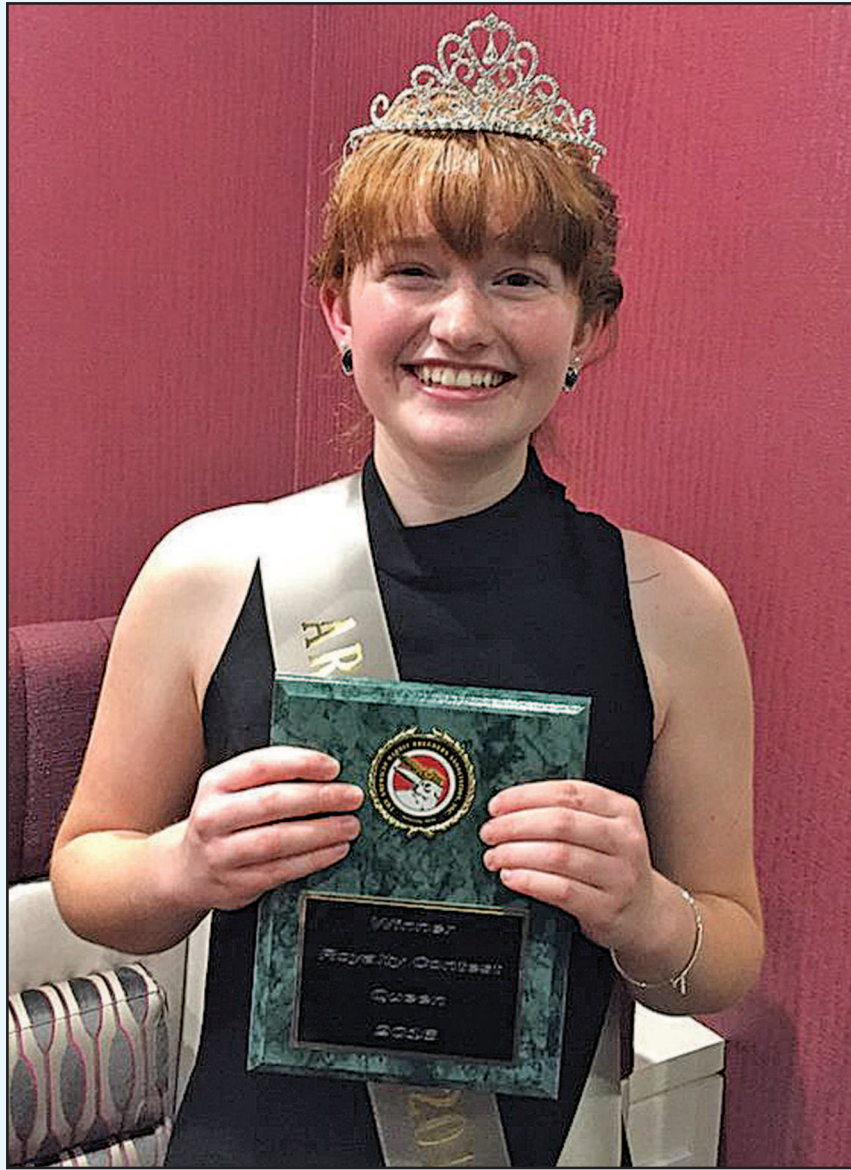
As the runners up were named, Emily began narrowing down who was left to take top honors.

The first runner-up was someone from Washington she knew to be on the top of her game.

"So I'm looking around thinking, 'Oh I wonder who won?'" she said.

Finally, the announcer arrived at the moment the whole room was waiting for: The naming of the queen.

The announcement went: "And from Oregon"



JENNIFER ROBERTS/Itemizer-Observer

Emily Roberts was named queen at the American Rabbit Breeders Association's national convention in October.

Jennifer said the room suddenly fell silent. She believes that's because the Oregon contingent is viewed as competitive, but still an underdog to teams from California, Washington and Indiana.

Emily was running through her teammates trying to figure out who won when the announcer said, "Emily Roberts."

"My jaw dropped," Emily said, grinning.

"Basically in the end, she didn't place individually, but all her scores were solid," Jennifer said, explaining how her daughter won.

She earned a perfect score on her application and performed well in the interview and exam portions.

Her judging and breed identification scores were just outside the top five, Jennifer said.

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IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Dallas football to host Eagle Point on Friday.

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FALLS CITY

Mayor looks to tackle code enforcement issues.

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INDEPENDENCE

Same as it Never Was offers unique treasures.

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MONMOUTH

Western names new members to the Board of Trustees.

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SPORTS

Dallas cross-country runner Trevor Cross qualifies for state.

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EDUCATION

Eola Hills Charter School settles into new home.

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Ballots due Tuesday for general election

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Ballots are due by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8. They may be mailed, or put in a drop box around the county:

- Polk County Courthouse, east side: 24-hours.
- Falls City Wagner Community Library, 111 N. Main St.: Tuesday-Thursday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Election Day, noon to 8 p.m.
- Grand Ronde, Governance Center Building G, 9615 Grand Ronde Road: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Election Day, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Independence City Hall, 555 S. Main St.: 24-hour drop site in the front lobby.
- Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Election Day, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Western Oregon University, Werner University Center, 345 N. Monmouth Ave.: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Election Day, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- West Salem Roth's Market, 1130 Wallace Road NW: Sunday-Saturday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Election Day, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fall is in the air — and on the ground



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Leaves provide color in the trees and on the ground at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK



wed

Hone your spelling skills at Scrabble with Betty at the Independence Public Library — prizes available. 1 p.m. Free.



Rain
Hi: 62
Lo: 49

thu

Get help with homework while having fun with others at Homework, Hoops and Hotdogs, at the Dallas LDS church. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free.



Partly sunny
Hi: 62
Lo: 48

fri

Join West Valley Hospital volunteers for a "Books R Fun" book sale at the Salem Health West Valley Hospital. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Partly sunny
Hi: 63
Lo: 51

sat

Not all clowns are scary. Head to Calmlee's Bookstore and be entertained by Cooki the Clown for the store's birthday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free.



Showers
Hi: 57
Lo: 48

sun

Daylight Saving Time ends this morning at 1:59 a.m. Turn your clocks back an hour before you go to bed Saturday.



Cloudy
Hi: 56
Lo: 48

mon

Come jam out with the Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra. All skill levels are welcome. 6:30 p.m. \$25 monthly fee.



Partly sunny
Hi: 58
Lo: 48

tue

Today's the day: Election Day. Let your voice be heard and get your ballot to a drop box before 8 p.m. 8 p.m. Free.



Showers
Hi: 57
Lo: 49