

Daniel: Organ donations keep memory alive



Photo courtesy of Nick Indra/for Itemizer-Observer

The family of Daniel Indra honored his memory on Halloween, his birthday, by raising awareness about organ donation.

Continued from Page 1A

Nick said, at first, he wasn't happy with the suggestion from his wife that they give permission for Daniel to donate to others. He knew people — adults — could put a donor notification on their driver's license, but had never considered having to make decisions on behalf of his son.

Nick said the thought of doctors "taking him apart" didn't sit well with him until he started thinking about how his son could help others. When he found out it was possible to hear from recipients, he agreed.

"I think it was a really good decision," he said.

Nick and Alissa got in contact with the 65-year-old woman who received one of Daniel's kidneys. The gift meant the end of twice-weekly dialysis treatments while trying to care for her

Alzheimer's -stricken husband, Nick said.

"Now she doesn't have to worry about herself; she can focus on him," he said. "So as much as I would love to trade Daniel and have him back, at least we got to hear how he changed her life."

A big part of the couple's Halloween night mission is to get families to talk about what they want to happen. Alissa said when she decided to become a donor at 15, she didn't tell her parents, but she should have.

"I really want to encourage parents to talk about it," she said, adding the decision she and Nick had to make at the hospital was stressful. "It wasn't the time to sit and talk about it."

She added that people are never too old or sick to donate. Even people who have a history of substance abuse can donate,

Did you know?

- In the United States, people are waiting for more than 130,000 organs for transplant.
 - One organ donor can save eight lives.
 - One eye and tissue donor can heal more than 50 people.
 - On average, 22 people die each day waiting for transplants.
 - You can donate blood, bone marrow, one kidney and a portion of a lung or liver while alive.
- For more information about becoming a donor: www.donatelifenw.org; 1-800-452-1369.

even if it's just for research. "They will be able to use something," she said.

Rabbits: Dallas youth takes top prize

Continued from Page 1A

Given the amount of time Emily has spent raising and learning about rabbits, that she won top honors in the nation shouldn't be a shock. Emily has been working with rabbits since elementary school. She and Jennifer have logged countless miles, by air and road, traveling to conventions and other competitions over the years.

Emily has no shortage of things to say about her Himalayan bunnies, nor is she lacking enthusiasm for her hobby. She studies almost obsessively.

"Hundreds and hundreds of hours that she studies — and that's what it takes to win," Jennifer said.

Emily isn't shy about consulting experts either.

"One thing that I've done is talk to judges, work under them," she said. "You go to shows and you go through all the rabbits there and try to identify all the varieties and talk to breeders."

Her depth of knowledge and experience was tested in another way during the convention as she took 12 Hi-

malayan rabbits and nine cavies (guinea pigs) to compete in the youth shows.

She had four top-five finishes, including best in senior black buck. Her bunnies earned best black Himalayan display and tied for best Himalayan lilac display. Emily was named 10th in the nation for youth Himalayan breeders.

"That's the highlight of the convention," she said. "You get to see all of your friends, and you get to meet people

from across the nation."

Emily said the royalty contest is a "perk," but one that gives young breeders something more to achieve than best of breed or best in show.

"ARBA has a really strong youth program, and the royalty program is the way for the organization to encourage youth to learn about rabbits more and to continue with their projects," she said.

It's worked for her. The five years after high school will be packed with a double

major in pre-med and Spanish, but Emily doesn't want to get too far away from rabbits. She's contemplating returning to the national convention to compete in individual contests for her final year — and then pursue even more achievements.

"It's also a little bit sad to win queen because it's like the end of a journey," she said. "But it's also the start of another, because I want to get my judge's license in a couple of years."

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Republic Services Leaf Collection in Dallas

City of Dallas
2016 Leaf Collection Guide

2016 Collection Dates:
Saturday Nov 12/Sunday Nov 13
Saturday Dec 17/Sunday Dec 18

The City of Dallas recognizes the need for fall leaf pick-up. We are excited that Republic Services is continuing to provide this service to citizens of Dallas.

It is important not to rake leaves into City streets until just before the collection events. Leaves raked into the street can cause drainage and flooding problems by clogging gutters and storm sewers, and can blow onto neighboring properties. Residents will be asked to remove leaves if they are raked into the street outside of scheduled pick-up times.

Leaf Disposal

The City of Dallas officials recommend that residents dispose of leaves in the following ways:

- Use them as mulch in your landscaping
- Place them in your yard debris bin
- Use any of the leaf only drop-off locations from October 15 thru December 31 (no other yard debris).

The locations are as follows:

- 1) The parking lot adjacent to Lyle Softball Fields
- 2) SW Allgood near the gate to the Parks Office
- 3) The east end of Hankel Street

- Place leaves in the streets just before collection dates

Keep in Mind:

- ✓ Leaves should be raked into the street in long rows, parallel to the curb, and at least 12 inches away from the curb.
- ✓ Avoid blocking the roadway, driveways, and bike lanes.
- ✓ Keep piles away from and clear any blocked storm drains.
- ✓ Place only leaves and no other trimmings, brush, grass, or other debris in the street.

Questions? Call Republic Services @ 541.754.0444
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