

Eight-year-old boy granted wish to be Yosemite ranger

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — An eight-year-old Florida boy with a life-threatening illness has achieved his wish of becoming an honorary ranger at Yosemite National Park.

Park ranger and spokesman Scott Gediman said Gabriel Lawan-Ying of Gainesville, Florida put in a full day of work at the park, putting out a wildland fire and saving an injured hiker in a simulated search-and-rescue operation and helping the Yosemite medical team carry the patient to a waiting helicopter.

Gabriel's wish, arranged with the help of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, was witnessed by about 300 spectators, including more than 50 park rangers in dress uniforms.

"Yosemite National Park was honored to host this wish today with Gabriel and his family," Gediman said. "We put a tremendous amount of time and



effort into making his experience meaningful."

In a ceremony presided over by U.S. magistrate judge Michael Seng and Yosemite National Park superintendent Don

Neubacher, Gabriel received an honorary park ranger badge and credentials along with a plaque and a flag that was flown over Yosemite Valley.

Yosemite, which encompasses



HONORARY RANGER. Gabriel Lawan-Ying (left photo, on right) raises his arm while being presented his Honorary National Park Ranger badge by U.S. magistrate judge Michael Seng, center, and Yosemite National Park superintendent Don Neubacher, left, during a presentation in Yosemite National Park in California. Eight-year-old Lawan-Ying worked a full day at the park, putting out a wildland fire (right photo) and saving an injured hiker in a simulated search-and-rescue operation as part of a wish arranged with the help of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. (AP Photo/National Park Service)

nearly 1,200 square miles of national parks. wilderness and is visited by millions of people each year, is for protection by President Lincoln in 1864.

Donations pour in for Seattle campus-shooting hero

By Manuel Valdes
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Thousands of dollars have been donated to honor the student credited with thwarting a shooting at a small Seattle university.

Jon Meis and other students stopped the gunman at Seattle Pacific University. Meis has been credited with pepper-spraying and pinning the gunman while he was reloading his shotgun in the lobby of the building where the shooting happened.

Soon after Meis was identified, praise began to pour out on social media sites. Someone found Meis' wedding registry, and people quickly bought out most of the wish list.

That's when ESPN sports radio producer Jessamyn McIntyre got the idea to begin a GoFundMe site for Meis and his fiancée's honeymoon and future. The site quickly went viral.

McIntyre said she hasn't had direct contact with the Meis family, who has asked for privacy. But she has left them her contact information.

On the donations page, people praised Meis. One person posted, "Only one word needed: Inspiring," to go with a \$20 donation.

A 26-year-old suspect was charged after the shooting that left a 19-year-old man dead and two other young people wounded. The quick action by Meis likely saved lives, police said.

Another solemn fundraiser has also been launched to cover the funeral costs of Paul Lee, the 19-year-old student from Portland, Oregon, killed in the shooting. Lee was a graduate of Westview High School.

Seattle Pacific University alumnus Michael Hasegawa-Yun started the page on GiveForward.com and quickly surpassed the original \$5,000 goal. He has since expanded the fundraising to also financially help other students who were injured.

"I just felt like I wanted to help out," Hasegawa-Yun said, adding that he hasn't had direct contact with Lee's family yet, but one of his friends does. "I just figured they wanted their privacy."

The GiveForward page for Paul Lee is <<http://bit.ly/1oIGnqX>> and the GoFundMe page for Jon Meis is <www.gofundme.com/9zzc58?preview=1>.

Marine debris season ends as bikini season begins

By Chad Garland
The Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — A recent change in the winds could signal an end to a spike in marine trash on Oregon and Washington beaches.

Federal researchers say this year's soggy spring probably drove a noticeable uptick in flotsam along the west coast, including the northern tip of California.

That's debris from the tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011 combined with the usual trash and wreckage from closer to home.

Researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmos-

pheric Administration say an annual transition from wet winter lows to dry summer highs has brought the warmer, northwesterly winds that push debris-laden surface water back out to sea.

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