

Hermiston boy in bike crash out of coma

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Zeddrik Cota, the 12-year-old Hermiston boy who landed in intensive care after a bike crash, is awake and moving around.

Nick Gutierrez, a close family friend of the Cotas, said Zeddrik had a few weeks of rehab ahead of him

and was drinking all of his food through a straw right now because of his injuries, but he was "still happy" and ready to go on more adventures once his body will let him.

"He's a tough kid," Gutierrez wrote in a Facebook message.

Zeddrik was riding his bicycle around the Campus

Life skate park near Hermiston High School on June 14, according to his family, when he did not see a drop-off and "fell off the deep end face-first to the pavement below," according to Facebook post by his father Oscar Cota.

He was transported via Life Flight to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Port-

land, where he was placed in a medically-induced coma for a few days due to swelling in his brain.

Gutierrez said Zeddrik's father Oscar wanted to convey his thanks to the community for all of their support, including neighbors watering the family's yard while they are in Portland and a GoFundMe page set

up to help the family with medical expenses. He also wanted to say thank you to Umatilla County Fire District 1's paramedics and firefighters for their quick response and care of Zeddrik while Life Flight was on its way. He credits the "power of prayer" for helping Zeddrik pull through too.

The family also hopes

that safety improvements for the skate park will be looked at, and said Zeddrik was wearing a helmet and being supervised by his father when the accident happened.

Zeddrik, 12, formerly attended Rocky Heights Elementary School and plans to attend Sandstone Middle School in the fall.



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