

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'When you aren't earthbound'

BY TANI JOHNSON

I'd like to share a poem about my uncle, Michael Jorgenson, who lived on the west end of North Applegate Road until he died this year at the age of 74. I wrote the poem for my grandma, about her son:

*Your perception is not my truth
Empathy is beyond even you
I've protected him since he was conceived
I fought to hold onto what I wanted to believe
I want to hug to kiss to see
The part of me that is you is now out of reach
No one soul can contribute what was you and me
Reflecting what was my truth
Desperate to feel something new
Be someone whole
This person I see I don't even know
Me without you, out of control
Stuck in my head because my heart is broke
Inside out upside down
My world is dark grey without you around
You were my light
Now I struggle to find
A path to take when you aren't earthbound
My heart aches but I know we'll meet again
In heaven you await
My first son
My love until
The End.*

Tani Johnson
Applegate

Area AAUW chapter celebrates 75th anniversary

BY KATHLEEN RAMIREZ

Hello from AAUW!

This year the Grants Pass Branch of AAUW (Association of American



University Women) will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Throughout those years our branch has organized fundraising and other community activities such as the Frog O'Faire, Girls Rock!, Kitchen Tour, and our annual garage sale. Our fundraising activities raise money for scholarships for Rogue Community College students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). This year seven students were awarded scholarships.

The Grants Pass Branch of AAUW, one of 23 in Oregon, is a community of more than 80 members who support gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Other area chapters are located in Medford and Ashland. When you join AAUW, you are part of an active group of women and men who are dedicated to improving the lives of families in our local, state, and national communities. This quarter we are collecting items to donate to the Foster Kids Program and the Women's Crisis Support Team.

Along the way to achieving our goals, we also enjoy various interest groups that help bind our community

and enhance friendships. These monthly groups consist of a varied collection of interests such as book groups, art and crafts, wine and dine appreciation, needlework, beadwork, bridge, theater and movie going, and so much more.

We conduct monthly meetings at the Fruitdale Grange and host a variety of interesting speakers. In January, Grants Pass Mayor Sara Bristol will speak on "Politics: Women Making a Difference." Kate Lasky, the Josephine Community Library director, will speak at our February meeting.

Please join us at one of our monthly meetings at the Fruitdale Grange and get to know us. Our Holiday Brunch is being held at the Grants Pass Golf Club Restaurant on Saturday, December 4. You can find information on membership and all our activities on our website at grantspass-or.aauw.net or Facebook page at Facebook.com/AAUWGrantsPassBranch.

Kathleen Ramirez
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Free anti-overdose drugs available

Free distribution of life-saving overdose medication and HIV tests is set for 10:30 am to 1:30 pm Sunday, December 5, at the Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road, in Williams. Park in the parking lot and take a short walk to the center, which is at the end of the gated driveway.

Volunteers from the nonprofit group Rogue Harm Reduction will offer free doses of naloxone to take home, along with instructions for use. They'll also give out free fentanyl test strips, take-home HIV tests, and condoms and lube.

Free overdose response training takes about 20 minutes. Walk-ins are welcome.

Please wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

Rogue Harm Reduction, a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective, promotes community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use disorders and other community health concerns. The events are held the first Sunday of each month.

For more information, email rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

We want your letters!
Email to gater@applegater.org.

Located at 12800 Williams Hwy. in the Applegate Valley on the 238 Hwy. between the Provolt Store & Water Gap Rd.

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Opinion pieces. Limited to 500 words; no images. Opinion pieces submitted by the same person will not be run consecutively. Responses to previously published opinion pieces will not be published. Must include publishable contact information (phone number and/or email address).

Letters. Limited to 200 words; must be signed, with a full street address or PO Box and phone number. Only the writer's name and hometown will be published.

Anonymous letters and opinion pieces, reprinted articles, press releases, and political campaign articles will not be published. Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published. All submissions will be edited for grammar and length.

Email opinion pieces and letters to gater@applegater.org or mail to Applegater, Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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