

**SB1032 Testimony in favor by Kim Braasch.**



Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham and members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Labor and Business. My name is Kim Braasch and I am testifying in favor of SB1032. I am Joleen's Aunt and I requested this public interest bill to curtail future disasters.

Joleen was an exceptional child and woman by any standards. She achieved at the highest level throughout public school and university, all A's, all the time. She earned a full ride Ford scholarship to any university. She had just married in August the man she called her best friend and by the 10th of October she was killed by a young man her own age who had, only five minutes earlier, abused Duster and then lost consciousness while driving his car past her on her bicycle.

With three teenage siblings and a working, single mother, I was amazed and impressed when I saw Joleen doing homework in the corner of a crowded apartment while noisy family drama went on around her. Joleen and I were close, I was her mentor and friend. She sent me many cards and letters throughout her life, with drawings, collages, poetry and folded paper crafts, anything to show she cared.

# Chemeketan

Vol. 77/No. 10

October, 2004



Photo: Kim Braasch

Joleen Braasch (Kim's 10 year old niece), guest Dave Nichols, Rod Graves and daughter Sonya Graves, and Sue Kettles at Billy Jones Lake on recent Wallowas backpack. In the pot are 11 freshly caught fish, ready to poach.

## **NOMINEES FOR 2005 CHEMEKETAN COUNCIL**

JOANNE DEMAY, STEVE DOUGHERTY, HERB FECKER, DON GALLAGHER, KEITH GARLINGHOUSE-INCUMBENT, JANA HOFER-INCUMBENT, PAULA HYATT, GLORIA PETRIE, JOHN SAVAGE-INCUMBENT, DORALD STOLZ, VIVIENNE TORGESON, BILL WYLIE-INCUMBENT

*LOOK FOR YOUR BALLOT IN THE MAIL BY OCTOBER 10. THE VICE PRESIDENT MUST RECEIVE COMPLETED BALLOTS BY 5 PM, OCT. 31. VOTE!*

The *Chemeketans* are a group united in a common interest in outdoor activities. Application for membership may be made after completion of two qualifying trips with the club. For information, contact any member of the Executive Council.

*We backpacked into the Wallowas with the Salem Chemeketan's when she was 10.*

Joleen had a beautiful voice and was encouraged by her choir instructors and many friends to pursue a singing career. She decided against it because she didn't want to compete or get ahead, but rather just enjoy singing. She was wise beyond her years. As the picture below shows, she was dearly loved at the Book Bin where she was a lively spirit among many introverted coworkers. Some of them spoke at her memorial, and like others who spoke, from her grade school, junior high, high school and Western Oregon University, as well as Salem Cherry City Roller Derby and Weddle Elementary, emphasized how she had reached out to them and changed their lives with her personalized, caring involvement with them, full of warmth, sincerity and vivacity.



***Mother, Tammy, widower, George, in front of Salem Book Bin year-long window memorial.***

When I heard from my sister what had happened to her daughter, how a Duster keyboard cleaner had caused the driver of a car to pass out and hit her and kill her, I can't find words to say how I felt. She had been riding her bike home south on Cherry Avenue, up the hill from Home Depot, after a full work day at Weddle Elementary School. Her tech skills were valued in the library and for helping youngsters and their families set up their computers at home during Covid. I immediately investigated the Duster scene online and discovered that in Warrenton, a small coastal town near me, there were over 50 cans of Duster in stock. Many more than required for keyboard cleaning. I also

learned of Families Against Inhalant Abuse and realized this is a nationwide tragedy unfolding constantly. My heart goes out to families of people killed by inhaling Duster and the families of those imprisoned for inadvertently killing someone after inhaling Duster.

If there had been a law like we are proposing when Joleen was riding home that day, it would have been a different story, she would have made it home.

