



Teen donates to 'Locks of Love'

Ruby Guenther, 17, a junior at Hood River Valley High School, donated 12-inches of her hair on Dec. 29, 2014, to Locks of Love.

Guenther's hair was cut by Patricia Martin at Gorge Style Salon on 13th St., Hood River, because the stylist "had worked with Locks of Love in the past so she knew how to put my hair in pony-tails and prepare it to have inches taken off," Guenther said.

She was inspired by older brother Nick, who has also donated hair to Locks of Love. Guenther, a company dancer at Columbia



Submitted photo
Ruby Guenther

Gorge Dance Academy, was especially pleased that Locks of Love will make wigs free of charge if a fam-

ily cannot afford one.

"This experience was really eye opening and fun due to helping kids and giving back," she said.

Locks of Love is a nonprofit organization that turns donated hair into wigs for children who have lost their hair due to long-term hair loss due to medical diagnosis and treatment. Locks of Love is a yearly participant at the Columbia Gorge Relay For Life event, where a variety of participants step up for a hair cut to support people who have experienced hair loss due to chemotherapy.



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

CUB SCOUT CAKES: Damian Solozano listens as auctioneer Greg Borton cajoles a \$200 winning bid for Damian's first-place cake, while Scoutmaster Alex Marquez looks on. The eight-member Pack 378 created cakes for its annual auction at Odell Methodist Church Wednesday, raising about \$2,000. In second and third in the Lego-themed contest were Austin Marquez and Seth Millan.

Walker sisters win art, essay awards from Sons and Daughters of Pioneers

Sisters Abby and Johanna Walker have won the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers (SDOP) 2015 Junior Awards in their respective age groups, announced SDOP Junior Award Committee Chair Maryjane Davey earlier this month.

They are the daughters of Eric and Trisha Walker of Odell.

Abby, 15, is a sophomore at Hood River Valley High School. Johanna, 10, is in fourth grade at Mid Valley Elementary. Both are Junior Members of the SDOP and will receive their respective awards at the annual banquet Feb. 15 in Clackamas, Ore.

Abby won in the grade 9-12 category with an essay titled "What Being an Oregon Pio-

neer Descendent Means to Me," earning a cash prize of \$200. Johanna won in the grade 1-4 category with an art project depicting a scene from the migration to Oregon, earning a \$50 prize.

Johanna's work is at left; Abby's essay will be published in full in the Jan. 28 edition. It begins this way: "Starting in the early 1840s, whispers of a new territory rich with opportunity were beginning to reach the ears of those living in the east. Its name was Oregon, and it promised a fresh start for whomever dared make the journey west. It was the start of a mass exodus. Brave settlers craving better lives took their fates into their own hands, packed what they could into covered wagons, and left their old lives behind. They knew what they sought would be dangerous to obtain, and that many would not survive. But they were determined to fulfill their dreams, or to die trying."

"My ancestor Catherine Abbott was one of them. At the age of 10 she left her home of Council Bluff, Iowa, and began the treacherous journey west."

The girls researched their winning entries by interviewing family members and online sources. They have been to a number of Oregon Trail landmarks.

Applicants had to be Junior Members in good standing with SDOP. Winning entries had to follow a number of contest guidelines.

The Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers is a nonprofit pioneer heritage association that was organized and incorporated on June 13, 1901. All direct-line descendants of pioneers who arrived and settled



Submitted photos

ABBY, LEFT, and Johanna Walker, at home.



JOHANNA WALKER'S winning art entry depicted a scene from the pioneer migration to Oregon.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

KIDS SOUP candidates get to talk directly to audience members about their projects.

Kids' events to plan for in February

■ **Feb. 20 — Second annual Aporkalypse Now**, 6 p.m. at Springhouse Cellars. A benefit for Helping Hands Against Violence pitting local chefs against each other in judged bacon recipes. Entertainment includes a bacon eating contest.

■ **Feb. 21 — Third annual Father-Daughter Dance**, 6-8 p.m., Hood River Elks Lodge, sponsored by Gorge Young Life. \$30 per couple, \$10 for each additional daughter; tickets at Shortt Supply.

■ **Feb. 26 — Kids Gorge Soup**, 6 p.m., Celilo Restaurant. Eat a soup

meal and hear young people pitch their business or community project ideas for a chance at the "grubstake." The deadline for Gorge Soup for Kids is Feb. 9. Young people starting a business or community project may vie for cash awards at the Feb. 26 soup dinner. Buy tickets at brownpapertickets.com/event/888297.

Applications can be found on Gorge Soup's website: gorge-soup.wordpress.com.

Applications must be handwritten, mailed, and posted marked by Feb. 9.



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