

SUPPORT from page 1A

true for at-risk youth, as socialization takes place primarily as we grow up, and is built on trust and support from parents and other involved adults.

Twenty-three days after celebrating his 18th birthday on March 6, Adam chose death by suicide by using a gun stored at his home. His younger brother and sister were home at the time of his death, both of whom are still trying to come to grips with the tragedy.

Jaime believes the lack of contact with peers and role models, in addition to the constant physical threats and abuse he witnessed growing up, changed the caring boy she knew into a troubled and — at times — angry young man.

“Adam chose the wrong path more than once. But since he moved here to

Florence, he was working on his anger management issues and he was clean,” Jaime said. “He wasn’t using drugs and he was trying to finish school as soon as possible because he — and all my children — missed a year when they were taken by their father.”

Her memories of the final few hours of Adam’s life were naturally painful for her to relate, but Jaime said she is able to glean at least some measure of peace from her last words with her son, which were positive and loving.

“The last thing he said to me was ‘I got you mom. Don’t worry, I got you mom,’” she said. “I wasn’t feeling well and was lying in bed. He brought the TV from the other room so I could watch it. He checked on me one more time ...



MARK BRENNNA/SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence chapter of Disabled American Veterans dedicated the flagpole at Clawson’s Wheelhouse on April 5.

and two hours later he was gone. There was no warning. He was doing a lot better these days. I just don’t know what happened.”

Amy Clawson, co-owner of Clawson’s Wheelhouse, has been coordinating the efforts to help Jaime deal with the economic impact of the death and with the emotional toll as well.

“Our customers, especially our local vets, have

been amazing,” Clawson said. “They wanted to help Jaime and, so far, have raised more than \$1,500 to help with expenses.”

Many of the veterans are longtime clientele of the establishment, and know Jaime from her work there.

“Jaime is such a nice person and her kids are great. I know she is so appreciative of the money raised and with the additional money donated to make sure she could pay for the cremation, which was more than she expected,” Clawson said.

Unfortunately, with the limited number of operating hours and customers due to COVID-19 restrictions, Jaime had been unable to save money for emergencies over the past

year. She was also unsure when she will be able to return to work full time as she helps navigate her children through dealing with their brother’s death.

In addition, there’s a leaky roof that needs replacing and, without a full-time income, bills have begun to pile up — all of which have only added to the emotional load Jaime is currently bearing.

“I am so appreciative of all the kindness we have been shown. The vets have been great, they are like family, and Amy has done everything she could to help,” Jaime said. “I just really want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers, and I plan on going back to work full time just as soon as I can.”

Jerry Hernandez is one of the leaders of the Florence Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). His organization is at the forefront of supporting not only vets but others in Florence visited by trouble and loss.

“Amy has been so great to our vets,” he said. “She lets us have our meetings [at the Wheelhouse] and put out all of our information and hats and stuff.

And Jaime is such a sweet gal. We just felt that we could help them in this time of sadness.”

Hernandez added that the group is going to see what other ways it can help, including with the roof repair.

“We are trying to figure out how we can help with that,” he said.

A number of veterans got involved in a conversation about loss and death during an event being held simultaneously at Clawson’s on Monday — the unveiling of a new flagpole situated in front of the eatery. People can now see the American and Missing In Action flags flying alongside the highway.

The raising of the two flags this past Monday, and collection of donations during the event, combined for an emotional moment for Clawson and the veterans who had assembled. There was a sense that the flag raising was, in a way, a tribute to Adam as well as the veterans being honored.

Donations are continuing to be accepted at Clawson’s Wheelhouse, 820 Highway 101 (at the intersection of Highway 128 and Highway 101) to help the Price family.

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