

Raising awareness for Relay for Life

It's a silly, whimsical stunt with a serious purpose.

Keith Dietrich, who raises funds for Relay for Life, dropped off a purple portapotty at Village Interiors last week. The staff there had a few options: Drop \$10 in the toilet and Keith would take the visually ... striking ... device away. For \$20, he would send it along to a recommended friend. For \$30, Village Interiors salesperson Anita Bardizian could ensure that the purple toilet would never, ever come back.

Bardizian took a risk — she dropped a 20, foregoing the insurance. And she sent the toilet along to Sweeney Plumbing.

The whole thing is kind of a big joke — but it's got significant meaning behind it. The idea is to make more people in Sisters aware of their connection to Redmond-Sisters Relay for Life. The Relay, which takes place in cities across America, is the largest fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. It's set this year at Obsidian Middle School in Redmond on July 8.

Walkers take turns around the track over a 24-hour



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Anita Bardizian drops a bill in the toilet as her colleague Sonia Garcia, American Cancer Society Community Manager Lisa Bacon, and fundraiser extraordinaire Keith Dietrich look on.

period to “Crush Cancer” with pledge donations. There is also a candlelight ceremony, a remembrance of loved ones lost to the disease, and a celebration of cancer survivors.

Lisa Bacon, community manager for the American

Cancer Society, said that participation from Sisters has been light and they are trying to raise awareness and participation in the region-wide event.

For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/redmondsistersor.

FIRES: Two fires in two days kept crews busy in Sisters

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According to Sisters Fire Chief Roger Johnson, 21 firefighters from the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District, Cloverdale Fire District and Black Butte Ranch Fire District responded to the fire. An off-duty Black Butte Ranch Police officer also responded to the incident.

First-arriving firefighters found a home with fire on the roof and along the ground near the foundation of the home. Firefighters extinguished the fire and used saws to access burning wooden structural members in the floor system. No damage estimate was available at press time but Chief Johnson reported that the home did suffer significant smoke damage throughout, along with damage to the roof and floor system.

The fire appeared to be caused from heat from a wood stove chimney igniting the wooden shingle roof. It is possible that the source of the heat could have been a chimney fire that spread sparks and heat onto the roofing

and ground on the side of the structure, chief Johnson reported.

“It was very fortunate that the occupants discovered the fire when they did,” chief Johnson said. “The fire was burning into the floor system of the home and would have made it difficult to evacuate safely in a short period of time.”

On Monday morning at about 9 a.m., a neighbor reported a fire in a house on Sagebrush Lane east of Sisters. According to Cloverdale Fire District Chief Thad Olsen, the fire was in the kitchen and living room when firefighters arrived. Quick action prevented significant structural involvement.

Chief Olsen estimated about \$50,000 in damage to the rooms and contents and noted that the entire house took smoke damage. He estimated about \$40,000 in damage to the building.

The cause of that fire remains under investigation.

Chief Olsen noted that Cloverdale volunteers train with Sisters regularly and the cooperative training is paying off.

“We appreciate the cooperation we have with Sisters district,” he said. “It made for a successful operation.”

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