

Veterans group receives Fullhart Insurance changes hands

A local nonprofit outfitter that serves veterans has a new piece of gear. It's not a truck or a boat or a fly rod or a rifle: it's an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), which could provide vital life-saving service out in the backcountry.

Warfighter Outfitters of Sisters received the AED through the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District's AED grant program. The goal of the grant program is to maximize the survival rate from incidents of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). One of the best ways to do that, the fire district asserts, is to have as many AEDs as possible deployed throughout our Fire District.

Warfighter Outfitters is a nonprofit guide and outfitter providing service to the nation's veterans on hunting, fishing and engagement trips. The excursions include anywhere from two to more than 30 veterans on a trip. The organization is 100 percent volunteer-based and the trips are funded entirely by donations.

The Fire District grant program covers up to \$250 in funds toward the purchase of an AED. Because Warfighter

Outfitters operates on donations only, they needed the full amount of the AED cost covered. The proposal came before the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association Board at their January meeting, and they approved the expenditure of Association funds to cover the remaining portion.

Brett Miller, founder of Warfighter Outfitters said, "With the remote nature of our offerings and the generations of veterans we serve, this AED will not only provide crucial, timely, lifesaving support to anyone on the river or in the woods, but will also provide peace of mind to all those on our trips and those around us on the river. This device is not only available to our veterans, but also the community that will be using the same water or land that we are on, and we always have many veterans who are very well trained with the devices."

Fire Chief Roger Johnson added, "We are honored to provide this lifesaving support to veterans who have sacrificed so much for all of us."

For more information about the District's AED grant program, call 541-549-0771.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Larry Stuker, left, along with fire Chief Roger Johnson, presented an automatic external defibrillator to Brett Miller of Warfighter Outfitters.

Bisnett Insurance Inc. has announced the acquisition of Fullhart Insurance in Sisters.

The new company will initially be known as Fullhart Insurance, a division of Bisnett Insurance. Bisnett Insurance will retain all employees of Fullhart Insurance. According to Bisnett, those employees "are one of the key reasons for the acquisition."

During the transition, Don Fullhart and Betsy Furlott will stay involved with the company as board members. Betsy will also continue on as a consultant. Fullhart Insurance has locations in Tigard, Sisters, Waldport, and Reedsport.

"Don and I are so pleased to announce this new phase of our company. Our clients and colleagues will be

excited about the change because it offers them more insurance options and resources. Bisnett Insurance brings a lot to the range of services we now offer our clients," said Fullhart Insurance owner Betsy Furlott. "It's a very good fit."

Roger Bisnett, Kent Bergstedt, Keith Blackerby, and Stephen Bisnett own Bisnett Insurance Inc. with licensed agents in Oregon, Idaho, and Arizona. Roger and Linda Bisnett started the agency in Pendleton in 1980. Since then, the company has experienced steady growth, acquiring 14 agencies. Bisnett now has Oregon offices in Baker City, Milton-Freewater, John Day, Pendleton, Hood River, Lake Oswego, Tigard, Sisters, Reedsport, and Waldport.

The agency also has locations in Sun Valley, Idaho and Scottsdale, Arizona. Bisnett Insurance now employs more than 50 people, most of them full-time licensed agents.

"We've admired our friends at Fullhart Insurance for many years," said Kent Bergstedt, president of Bisnett Insurance. "Our company has always had a focus on bringing quality people, resources and quality insurance solutions to the communities we serve. We're looking forward to what we believe will be a winning combination."

"Betsy and Don are second-generation owners who put their clients first. Their team's high level of integrity has made the agency one of the best in our state."

Cascade Sotheby's grows in Sisters

Cascade Sotheby's International Realty has acquired Metolius Property Sales, effective immediately.

According to Cascade Sotheby's, the acquisition creates an even bigger presence in the community, securing 20 percent of the Sisters real estate market. Cascade Sotheby's also notes that the organization "welcomes the talent of 12 top-performing new brokers to the Cascade team."

"As always, our strategy is to look for acquisitions that fit our growth trajectory and that most importantly bring a great team with the intelligence and integrity that mirror the way Cascade Sotheby's does business," said Michael Kosmin, chief operating officer, Cascade Sotheby's International

Realty. "Metolius founder Jeff Jones has built an incredibly productive team, secured some of the finest listings in the region, and has just done a superb job of building an enviable partner for our brokerage."

Metolius principal broker, Jeff Jones, founded Metolius Property Sales in 2009 with the intent of providing homeowners and prospective buyers with a customer-focused,

individualized real estate experience.

"I've been honored to have a great team of people to work, with and I'm very proud of the culture we've built together at Metolius. I'm confident that Cascade Sotheby's will only expand on that," said Jones.

Cascade Sotheby's International Realty reports that it exceeded \$1.3 billion in closed sales in 2017.




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All guides and board members are disabled veterans. There are no paid employees. Warfighter Outfitters is 100% volunteer-based and only spends donor dollars on basic operating costs of fuel and food. All operating costs are funded by donor dollars.

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