

Sisters Habitat lobbies state on housing

Representatives from Sisters Habitat for Humanity were in Salem last week to attend the rally launch of Habitat for Humanity's new Cost of Home campaign and to advocate for funding for affordable housing. Executive Director Sharlene Weed, Board President Chuck Harper, and Board Member Roger Fairfield joined Habitat supporters from across Oregon at the Capitol to publicly commit to work with affordable housing colleagues and elected officials at the local and state level.

The rally was part of a nationwide launch of Habitat for Humanity International's Cost of Home Campaign — a five-year advocacy campaign to mobilize volunteers, community members and Habitat staff to find solutions and create policies that will advance access to safe, affordable homes.

According to Shannon Vilhauer, executive director of Habitat Oregon, Habitat supporters are committing to four key policy areas: increasing the supply and preservation of homes, optimizing land use for affordable housing, promoting equitable and inclusive access to credit and developing communities of opportunity.

At the rally, Senator Tim Knopp, R – Bend, won a good-spirited hammering contest against Senator

Shemia Fagan, D-Portland. Senator Fagan told the gathering that "We are fighting for the Oregonians that are fighting for the stability of an ordinary life."

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, D-Portland, the chair of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing, gave the Sisters Habitat team a tour of the House chambers and her office, and later walked them to their local Representative Bonham's office for a discussion about a couple housing bills that are still in play this session.

"It was a fun day advocating for affordable housing in Oregon. We are thankful for Rep. Keny-Guyer's leadership and for taking the time to show us around the Capitol," said Sisters Habitat President, Chuck Harper.

For more information about the Cost of Home campaign visit www.habitat.org/costofhome. Anyone interested in volunteering with Sisters Habitat for Humanity can attend a volunteer orientation session on the first or third Wednesday of each month at noon at the Habitat offices, 141 W. Main Ave. Please call 541-549-1193 to register. For information about Habitat's home-repair program or purchasing a Habitat home, you can visit www.sistershabitat.org to review the Home Repair and Homeownership Guidelines.

Man rescued on North Sister

A 21-year-old man fell while hiking and skiing on North Sister on Monday, June 10, and required air rescue.

Deschutes County Sheriff's office reported that a call came in at about 10:21 a.m. to 9-1-1 dispatch from Robert Kalmbach of Eugene, who reported he had injured himself while hiking/skiing North Sister and needed assistance.

Kalmbach and his friend, Michael Martin, also 21, had set out earlier in the morning from the Pole Creek Trailhead with a plan to summit North Sister and then ski back to the trailhead. Kalmbach reported he and Martin made it to within 200 feet of the North Sister summit, which reaches 10,085 feet, when he fell and slid partway down the mountain's east slope.

Kalmbach injured himself during the fall and was unable to continue on his own.

9-1-1 Dispatch was able to provide Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputies with accurate coordinates of Kalmbach and Martin's location through the 9-1-1 call,



PHOTO COURTESY DCSO

A Deschutes County SAR team took an injured 21-year-old man off North Sister a week ago.

placing them approximately 5.5 miles from the Pole Creek Trailhead.

AirLink assisted by flying Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue volunteers to a point approximately 800 feet below Kalmbach and Martin. Five additional DCSO SAR volunteers responded to the Pole Creek Trailhead. While the first two DCSO SAR volunteers made their way up the slope to Kalmbach, AirLink responded to the Pole Creek Trailhead and picked up two additional SAR volunteers to fly in.

The four DCSO SAR volunteers, consisting of mountain rescue and medical team members, arrived at Kalmbach's location at approximately 1:46 p.m.

Kalmbach was stabilized as much as possible, packaged into a rescue sled made for snow travel and lowered down to the awaiting AirLink helicopter. AirLink then transported Kalmbach to St. Charles Hospital in Bend with non-life-threatening injuries. DCSO SAR Volunteers then assisted Martin back to the Pole Creek Trailhead.

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