Activist, author, justice system expert Maloney dies at 55

by Cheryl McDermott & Bend Weekly

55-year old Dennis M. Maloney, a well-respected community activist, noted author, justice system expert, and Bend resident died Tuesday evening after suffering a medical emergency and crashing his vehicle in southeast Bend.

Dennis M. Maloney passes away at the age of 55 â€“ Photo provided by Deschutes County

Maloney was traveling at a slow rate of speed on SE Reed Market Road near SE Paiute Way when he lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a natural rock wall, Bend Policeâ€™s Lt. John Gautney reported.

Officers arrived on scene about 7:10 p.m. to find the victim unconscious inside his locked vehicle, and broke the window to gain access.

Officers determined Maloney was having what was described as a â€œmedical emergencyâ€• and began administering CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), in addition to using an AED (automatic external defibrillator) in an effort to restore a natural heart rhythm, the lieutenant said.

Upon arrival of emergency medical technicians from Bend Fire and Rescue, Maloney was transported to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend where he later died.

â€œInvestigation indicates that the victimâ€™s death does not appear to have been caused as a result of the crashâ€•, said Lt. Gautney, â€œbut the crash a result of his medical emergency.â€•

Maloney served as the President of Community Justice Associates, according to information provided by Deschutes County Public Communications Coordinator Anna Johnson.

The following information is available on Maloneyâ€™s biography posted on his companyâ€™s web site:

Maloney was a professional faculty member at Oregon State University in Bend, and Associate Director of the Cascades Center for Community Governance.

He had over 30 years of experience in corrections and community corrections. For 16 years he served as the Director of the Deschutes County Department of Community Justice of Oregon, where he initiated a variety of juvenile and adult corrections programs that gained national attention. He served as Juvenile Court Director from 1986-85, Community Corrections Director from 1990-99, and Community Justice Director from 1999-2001.

He authored two books, one on the subject of probation that is the most widely distributed journal in the history of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and published over 30 articles.

Over the past decade Maloney provided technical assistance to all 50 states. Nearly 30 states have revamped their entire juvenile justice system based on his writings on the Balanced Approach to Juvenile Justice. The U.S. Department of State has distributed his writings to over 250 countries and his work is now being utilized worldwide as a foundation for justice system reform. In March of 2004, Maloney addressed the House of Lords in London, England on justice reform strategies forthe United Kingdom.Maloney has been honored with several awards including the Sam Houston State Award for the Nation's Outstanding Publication on Community Corrections. In 1998, the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recognized him as one of five citizens who have had the most positive influence on the nation's juvenile justice system. In the year 2000, the Deschutes County Community YouthInvestment Program, a program designed by Dennis, was honored as one of the top 25 innovations in American government. The Portland Trailblazers named him as one of ten Oregon Superstars.Most important to Maloney, according to his biography on his web site, was the privilege of being a father to his five daughters. In addition to his children, he is survived by his wife, Nancy, a local physician.

Upon hearing of Maloneyâ€™s death, Representative Greg Walden made the following statement: "Central Oregon has lost another of its finest public servants. Denny Maloney inspired us all to do more to help those in need -- especially our youth -- to improve the quality of life for all citizens, and to keep a positive attitude while going about our work."

"I, like many, have lost a friend and trusted counselor. My prayers are with his family during this most difficult time of loss. We will all miss his wisdom and his wit, his enthusiasm and his ability."

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