

Walden meets two Medford men honored for role in Kim family rescue

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Congressman Greg Walden met yesterday with Eric Fuqua and Noah Pugsley, both of Medford, who were in the capital to receive the VITA Wireless Samaritan Award for their efforts to help locate the Kim family in Siskiyou National Forest in December 2006.

A description of Fuqua and Pugsley's efforts from the VITA website follows:

Congressman Walden met with Eric Fuqua and Noah Pugsley who received an award for their role in the Kim family rescue. In December 2006, Eric Fuqua, an engineer for Edge Wireless read a news article stating that James and Kati Kim and their two young children had been missing for several days somewhere in southwestern Oregon. As a wireless engineer, Mr. Fuqua thought that the Kims might have used their cell phones in the area on his company's southwest Oregon network, which would provide clues about their location. Mr. Fuqua alerted officials to this possibility, and also enlisted his co-worker, Noah Pugsley, to help.

Mr. Pugsley spent several hours the next day searching through computerized wireless records trying to find a match to the Kim's cell phone numbers. Mr. Fuqua and Mr. Pugsley analyzed the data, double checked their conclusions and told law enforcement, with a high degree of certainty, that the Kims had been in a small section of Josephine County the previous week. This information helped narrow the search from multiple counties in Oregon and California to a much smaller area. Mr. Fuqua spent the next day working directly with the search and rescue team helping them understand the records and maps he provided, which in turn helped rescuers determine the location of the Kim's stranded car. Although Mr. Kim died trying to save his family, Kati Kim and her two children were rescued the next day, thanks in part to the efforts of Mr. Fuqua and Mr. Pugsley.

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