



Blitz Build for Catalyst

Non-profit Chosen for Winter Break Community Service Project

Volunteers within the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management have been preparing for the Catalyst Blitz Build for their Winter Break Traditional Community Service Project. The blitz build will take place Jan. 16–24, with approximately 150 volunteers constructing the first two units of a five-unit transitional housing project for Catalyst's Center for Victims of Domestic Violence.

Before Thanksgiving, student volunteers from Construction Management prepared the slabs, and students from the Concrete Industry Management program poured the concrete for the two units so that it will be cured and ready for construction by Jan. 16.

During the week before the blitz build, student volunteers will prefabricate the walls at the University Farm, under the guidance of Jim O'Bannon and David Shirah, who are the primary faculty advisors on the project. (Last year, the sheds that were built for Concow fire victims were also prefabricated at the farm, so the leaders and volunteers have experience in this part of the project.)

Students, professors, and community supporters have been working for months on the blitz build (which includes remodeling work completed already at the Torres Shelter). Torres Shelter had limited funds to build out

much needed family sleeping rooms, offices and storage, so CSU Chico stepped up to take care the complete project over four three day weekends. The project would normally have been scheduled for the school's traditional Winter Break project but time was of the essence.

Three local contractors have met Monday mornings at 6:30 AM with construction management professor

Above: A crew of students from Construction Management works on preparing slab for concrete at the new Catalyst site.

O'Bannon, and then again, later in the day with the student project managers. Gage Crysler, Modern Building, Pat Conroy, Conroy

Construction Inc., and Howard Slater, Slater and Son, Inc. have donated hundreds of hours of their time to work side-by-side with students and provided much need resources.

During the blitz, 80 additional volunteers from the Nutrition Center will prepare food for the crews. They will be facilitating the food preparation off-site at the university and be transporting and serving three meals a day at the site.

Dan Dickson, a senior graduating in December, is the student project manager. This is the second year he has been involved, acting as media liaison for the Concow building project last year. "This is

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real-world experience," said Dickson. "It is what the field of Construction Management is all about—managing multiple departments, agencies, and construction firms and delivering a high-quality project on time."

In addition to contributions of time, money, and materials from local builders and businesses, the project is supported by the Chico Redevelopment Agency, which will help Catalyst with \$550,000 to support the construction of the homes. ~

Students help engineer rebuild



THE ORION • ERIK AGUILAR

REBUILDING PEOPLE'S HOPE Chico State students and faculty help residents remodel the Torres Shelter on Saturday.

Julia Vazquez

STAFF WRITER

Extracurricular activities are not just another perk on some students' resumes. They can be an opportunity for students to help others.

Students now have the chance to help alleviate the homeless problem in Chico.

Volunteers from the College of Engineering and Computer Science and Construction Management have teamed up with the Torres Shelter in Chico to help build spare rooms and offices to create more space and allow room for activities.

In 2009, the Butte County Homeless Continuum of Care released its latest report indicating 60.4 percent of the county's homeless live in Chico and, with the recession, more people who are homeless are using the shelter.

Senior Charity MacDowell, who is involved with the Torres Shelter project said projects such as these make her feel like she is being part of a community.

"It makes me feel like the school experience I am getting is really making a difference," MacDowell said. "All of us here support each other and experiences like these make you good friends."

Some residents of the shelter wanted to be part of that

■ *please see STUDENTS | A6*

STUDENTS help to add more space to Torres Shelter

continued from A1

experience as well.

Ronald Dee Fisher Jr., 27, who is originally from Redding, has been living at the shelter for nearly three months and thought volunteering for the project would show some of his appreciation.

"If it wasn't for this place, I'd be sleeping on the sidewalk," he said.

Being homeless is all about survival and unfortunately you end up doing things you don't want to do, Fisher said.

"I don't want to do that any more," he said. "If you're trying to get your life together this is a

good, structured place."

Projects such as these take the time and effort of students who want to give back to the community.

Senior Brittany Heinle helped with the office management and paperwork, but wanted to make sure she was involved in the hands-on aspect because this project is helping multiple people.

"I knew by doing this project that we were going to help people who are homeless," Heinle said. "To be honest, I would rather spend my weekends doing community service knowing that it is going to benefit others than

going to the next party."

Brad Montgomery became the executive director of the Torres Shelter in Chico on May 11 and said there were some things lacking at the shelter, including extra space for activities.

The Torres Shelter can accommodate up to 120 people and has been serving more people than ever because of the economy. After the remodel the numbers will go up.

"We wanted to create a productive environment with activities," Montgomery said.

Being productive is how people who are homeless can get their self-esteem, self-respect

and dignity back, he said.

"Those things are crucial to help them be able to leave the shelter and not have to come back," said Montgomery.

He thinks it is amazing what the students can do in a day.

There is no way the shelter could have done this without the support of the students, he said.

"It's an opportunity for them to give back to the community and I hope that's a principle they continue on throughout their career doing this type of work," Montgomery said.

*Julia Vazquez can be reached at
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Forever grateful

Surprise visitor showers Chico State students with thanks

By HEATHER HACKING

Staff Writer

CHICO — Walter Goodwin had hugs for everyone Friday when he met with some of the Chico State University students who helped rebuild his family home in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina flattened neighborhoods in the Lower 9th Ward.

Nearly two years ago, students worked for a week to rebuild the home of Goodwin's mother, Ollie, who had lived in her house for more

than 50 years. With the help of the students, she was able to return home before she died.

The visit last week by Goodwin was a complete surprise to the campus community when he called Wednesday and said he was in town.

University officials invited him to the College of Engineering Christmas party Wednesday night.

Goodwin told the Enterprise-Record he knew classes were still in session and did not want anyone to make a fuss about his visit, thus the

surprise.

"When you left, I said I would come to Chico to thank you personally," Goodwin told a gathering of about 20 students and a few faculty Friday.

Several of the team leaders from current volunteer projects were also at the get-together, giving them a chance to hear how grateful Goodwin and others in his community are for the hard work.

Goodwin's mother's house was

■ See GOODWIN, 7A



Jason Halley/Staff Photo

Chico State University professor David Shirah (left) laughs with Walter Goodwin (center) and Tanya Komas after Goodwin surprised them and other faculty with an unannounced visit to the College of Engineering Christmas party Wednesday night on campus.

New dean: Partnerships open doors for everyone

By LAURA URSENY
Business Editor

CHICO — Partnerships such as the recent house-building effort between Chico State University, Catalyst Domestic Violence Services, the city and local construction professionals are ones that Michael Ward wants to promote.

Opportunities that bring partners and resources to the table are beneficial for students and the community, according to the new dean of the Chico State University College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management.

In Catalyst's case, the college stepped up with more than 100 volunteer construction management students willing to lay concrete and swing a hammer to make two small houses that will shelter victims and their children.

It was real experience for the students, and a boon to the non-profit organization. The city contributed funding, and local contractors like Gage Chrysler, Pat Conroy and Howard Slater pitched in.

Ward is open to those kinds of partnerships.

An engineering educator for more than 28 years and 22 years at Chico State, Ward stepped into the dean's role after long-

BACKGROUND: Michael Ward came to Chico 22 years ago as a professor of mechanical engineering in Chico State University's College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management.

WHAT'S NEW: After serving as associate dean of the college and interim dean twice, Ward was named dean last year.

WHAT'S NEXT: He sees partnerships with the local community and local businesses as an avenue to benefit the college, its students and its faculty, not to mention a powerful resource for businesses to tap.

time dean Ken Derucher retired.

Ward had been interim dean of the department from 1992 to 1994, and then 2008-09 after Derucher left, as well as associate dean of the college from 2001 to 2008.

So when the dean's chair was offered, Ward accepted.

Ward has a lot on his plate, from trying to attract new faculty to ensuring the college and students' reputations in the business and technology industries, while giving his graduates their best chance for a good career launch.



Jason Halley/Staff Photo

Dean Michael Ward of Chico State University's College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management (left) congratulates construction management professor David Shirah on the student-built homes for Catalyst Domestic Violence Services during a recent ceremony. Chico State Provost Sandra Flake adds her congratulations.

In general, students and graduates in his college would like to have a local job, he said.

"The big national companies aren't hiring. They're laying off. So for one of our students to get a job here is great."

Local businesses are encour-

aged to attend job fairs, where students or graduates can find out what's available and start figuring out how to network. Alternatively, businesses can find skilled students ready for work, and with a support structure from the university.

Ward believes bridging the gap between education and career through these kinds of partnerships benefits everyone.

Ward encourages local businesses to call him with ideas for

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Victims of violence get a hand

Shelter to benefit from university's 'winter build'

By **TONI SCOTT**

Staff Writer

CHICO — A longtime dream of Catalyst Domestic Violence Services is finally coming to fruition, with the help of Chico State's College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management and the city of Chico.

Chico State students and staff recently selected Catalyst as the beneficiary of the school's annual winter break community service project, and as such, will build two transitional homes for local victims of domestic violence.

In the past, students have built houses for victims of Hurricane Katrina and last year constructed a dozen sheds in the fire-ravaged community of Concow, providing wildfire survivors a place to store

■ See CATALYST, 8A

'Galileo'
to share
discoveries

Catalyst takes possession of two student-built cottages

By STEVE SCHOONOVER

City Editor

CHICO — Two cottages that sprang up in a little over a week will soon be providing safe havens for families victimized by domestic violence.

Catalyst Domestic Violence Services took possession of the keys to the homes during a celebratory barbecue Sunday that praised the 140 Chico State University students who built the houses, those who guided them, and the community partners that made it happen.

The 840-square-foot houses have craftsman-style touches on the exterior,

with a large front porch. Each has two bedrooms, a bath, and an open living area with a kitchen and dining space. They're furnished, in a sparse, efficient style.

And on Jan. 15 there were just building slabs where the completed houses stand today.

The Catalyst Blitz Build has been in the works since August, said Christina Pantera, student project coordinator, but except for the pouring of the slabs, the construction was completed in two weeks.

Starting Jan. 11, students from the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management

gathered at the University Farm to begin prefabricating the parts of the houses.

On Jan. 15, on-site construction began, with students working 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for nine days. The houses were completed late Saturday.

And the weather didn't cooperate. Construction management senior Charity MacDowell pointed out the particular challenges posed by Wednesday, when the gusty wind forced partial dismantling of a large tent at the site to keep it from blowing away.

"I'm so exhausted, but they're beau-

■ See HOMES, 9A

Watch the work

Videos of the Catalyst Blitz Build have been posted on YouTube and can be accessed through Chico State University's home page: www.csuchico.edu/

On the right side of the page, under Announcements, click on "Watch Video Updates."

A fascinating time-lapse video of the construction that was shown during Sunday's celebration should be posted by this evening, according to Rich Virtolli with the university's Academic Technologies Department.



Ty Barbour/Staff Photos

This photo taken Sunday inside one of the student-built houses shows the kitchen and an open living area.

HOMES

From 1A

tiful," she said, emphasizing the homes' pending LEED gold certification.

"It was a labor of love."

The winter break project has become a tradition for the construction management students. For two years, they traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Last year, they helped fire victims in Concow. This year — and for the next couple of years, thanks to city funding — Catalyst is the beneficiary.

Sunday as the students wandered through the homes, the pride of their effort was apparent, as was their delight in the end result.

"To finally see it done is really good," said construction management senior Chad Golden. "Amazing," he added. "Surreal."

"It feels great to contribute something like this to the community."

That contribution was lauded during the brief key-passing ceremony by speakers that included Pantera, University President Paul Zingg, and Chico City Manager Dave Burkland. "Without you, this



Catalyst Executive Director Anastacia Snyder (left) accepts the keys to the homes from student project coordinator Christina Pantera on Sunday.

project never would have happened," said Burkland.

The partnerships that made it possible were also highlighted, including funding in part by the city of Chico, with additional money provided by the Chico Association of Realtors and the Earl Foor Foundation, which is based in Chico.

Also singled out for praise was an advisory board of Gage Chrysler from Modern Building, Pat Conroy of Conroy Construction and Howard Slater of Slater and Son; and

the guidance of Construction Management professors Jim O'Bannon and David Shirah.

Catalyst Executive Director Anastacia Snyder was moved to tears when she accepted the keys from Pantera. "You've created a place for change," she told the students. "We thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

City Editor Steve Schoonover can be reached at 896-7750 or sschoonover@chicoer.com.



Contributed photo by Michael Democker/Times-Picayune

Walter Goodwin wheels his mother, 100-year-old Ollie Goodwin, out of the "barge house" to a dedication ceremony in the driveway of the Lower 9th Ward home in New Orleans on July 19, 2008.

Relief efforts set model for Chico State

Staff Reports

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused devastation to central Florida, Texas and Louisiana, the worst being in New Orleans, where the levee system failed.

More than 1,800 people died.

Terry Battle of the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management at Chico State University is an adviser for student volunteers. She said students approached her after the hurricane and asked how they could help.

Students raised money for tools and transportation.

Building materials were provided by groups including Habitat for Humanity, Common Ground Relief and the St. Bernard Project, she said.

In the winter of 2006, 23 students raised \$30,000 and traveled to work on

cleanup efforts.

The second year, 55 students raised \$70,000 and made the trip, this time working to rebuild. In January 2008, 115 students raised \$100,000, and worked on projects including the Goodwin family home.

David Shirah, of the Department of Construction Management, said the New Orleans trips helped develop a model of community service for the university that is now being used on projects closer to home.

In January 2009, students built sheds in Concow for people who had lost their homes, with help from local construction companies.

This winter about 200 students will also be working to build two homes in nine days for Chico's Catalyst Domestic Violence Services, Battle said. Again, local construction companies will be contributing.

building the house in 1947 and it was completed in 1948. His father purposely built it up high, and when his parents moved in, there was no lower floor.

When Hurricane Betsy hit the New Orleans area in 1965, 10 families came to the home and were later taken to safety on boats, he said.

There is still a lot of work to be done in the neighborhoods. "People are still struggling," he said, but there is hope.

"Not because of the governments, but because of people like you."

"Talk about hammers and nails — the biggest thing you guys left us with was love," he said. "You just wanted to make a difference and I want you to know you did."

Staff writer Heather Hacking can be reached at 896-7758 or hhacking@chicoer.com.

ChicoER.com

Winter blitz: Building begins on homes for Butte County victims of domestic violence

By TONI SCOTT - Staff Writer

Posted: 01/12/2010 12:00:00 AM PST

CHICO — The sound of buzzing saws and pounding hammers at the Chico State University Farm Monday afternoon marked more than just the beginning of construction, it represented what will soon become a fresh start for local victims of domestic violence.

Approximately 50 Chico State students began prefabrication work Monday morning, kicking off a community service project that will provide Catalyst Domestic Violence Services with two 840-square foot houses in Chico.

The homes will serve as transitional living for victims of domestic violence and will be constructed alongside the organization's soon-to-be-open shelter, which is also currently under construction.

As students looked over plans, carried in lumber and set to work on framing the walls of the homes, Christina Pantera, student project manager, said Monday served as the culmination of months of planning and preparation.

The walls of the home are set to be raised Saturday.

"Today is the first day we get to see things come to life," Pantera said. "We've been working and planning for some time and today is the first major step we've made in building these homes."

The project, which has been dubbed the Catalyst

Blitz Build, is the latest College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management winter build project.

In 2006, 2007 and 2008, students cleaned up the wreckage left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, building homes in New Orleans for hurricane victims. Last January, more than 100 students constructed storage sheds for survivors of the Concow Fire and in October a group of students helped to remodel a Torres Shelter dormitory.

Pantera said she was touched that this year's crop of volunteers — which will ultimately amount to about 140 students — were willing to sacrifice their winter break to participate in the project, noting that there are several industry partners working alongside students.

One of these partners includes the Northwest Lineman College in Oroville, which sent 64 students to the job site last week, as well as Monday, to install utility poles for the homes.

Campus director Mike Hennessey said his students are continually encouraged to participate in community service work, adding that the Catalyst project provided the Oroville students with valuable experience in the power delivery industry.

"It allowed us to do something good and incorporate a learning activity for the students," Hennessey said. "They got to go out and experience firsthand what it's like to be in the field."

Also crediting the project for providing invaluable experience, recent Chico State construction management graduate Ryan Shirah said he has gained tools through his volunteer service that surpasses the lessons he learned in the classroom.

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Shirah built homes in New Orleans and said he volunteered for the Catalyst Blitz Build because the previous projects were so "rewarding."

He will begin full-time work with Turner Construction in February and said his time spent giving back will set him forward in the construction industry.

"Through these projects I've learned about teamwork and communication," Shirah said. "There are just certain skills you can't learn from a textbook."

Pantera said student volunteers will also benefit from a variety of hour-long workshops Friday that will be presented by representatives in the construction industry. Instruction will include roofing, plumbing and various other skill sets.

But more than simply educating construction management students, Professor Jim O'Bannon said the Catalyst Blitz Build is uniting the community.

O'Bannon, who is helping to oversee the Catalyst Blitz Build, said this year's project has seen the most involvement from other colleges within Chico State, noting that student volunteers range from mechanical engineering majors to those studying nutrition.

The project itself has been funded in part by the city of Chico Redevelopment Agency and guidance has been provided by local construction experts, including Gage Chrysler of Modern Building, Inc., Pat Conroy of Conroy Construction and Howard Slater of Slater and Son, Inc.

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community is giving back to it, adding that with a project to complete in their own backyard the Chico State volunteers are able to make a local difference with a far-reaching impact.

"It's wonderful for students to learn to give on their own home ground," O'Bannon said. "But the real advantage this year is that we've been able to bring together more departments at the university through this and have more of the university and community involved. We're not only doing a community service project, we're bringing the whole community together."

Staff writer Toni Scott can be reached at 896-7767 or tscott@chicoer.com.

General manager *Community Building Institute* The Bluffhouse General manager, in Chico, which runs a 10-unit townhome complex on a 20-acre site, is seeking a building and marketing director for its members.

Construction manager *Hillside Apartments* Hillside Apartments, a student housing facility, is seeking a construction manager to oversee the building and maintenance of a new residence hall for female students with sophomore or higher standing availability.

"We need an experienced general contractor with extensive experience in the industry," the announcement said. "They will need to demonstrate what it takes to meet the tight timeline."

Administrative assistant *Community Building Institute* The Bluffhouse General manager, in Chico, is seeking a part-time administrative assistant to help manage the day-to-day operations of the organization. The position requires a minimum of one year of administrative experience.

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Building begins on homes for local victims of domestic violence

By TONI SCOTT
Staff Writer

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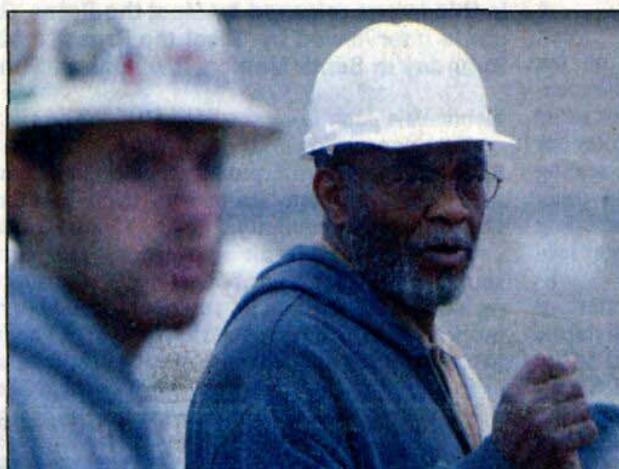
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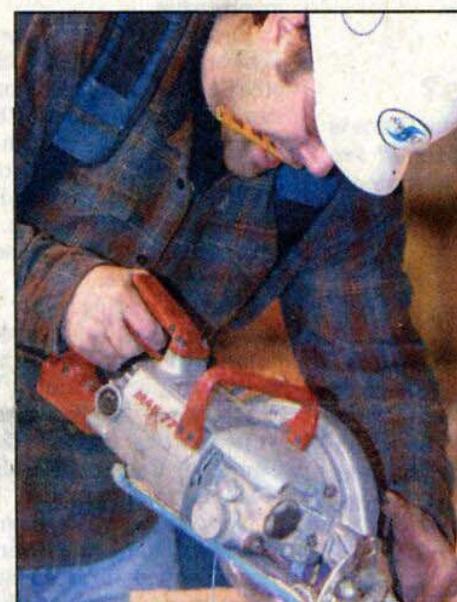
Bill Husa/Staff Photos

Chico State University student Brittany Heinle drives a nail in a prefab wall.



ABOVE: Chico State University professor Jim O'Bannon (right) works with students at the University Farm site.

RIGHT: Billy Kieren uses a circular saw during



HOMES: Catalyst project

From 1A

day served as the culmination of months of planning and preparation.

The walls of the home are set to be raised Saturday.

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BILL HSUA/STAFF PHOTO

Chico State University students begin prefabrication work Monday on two Chico homes that will be constructed next week for Catalyst Domestic Violence Services as part of the university's winter community project, dubbed Catalyst Blitz.

studying nutrition.

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HOMES

From 1A

winter breaks to volunteer their time to the project, following a tradition of service that first began when a group of College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management students built homes for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

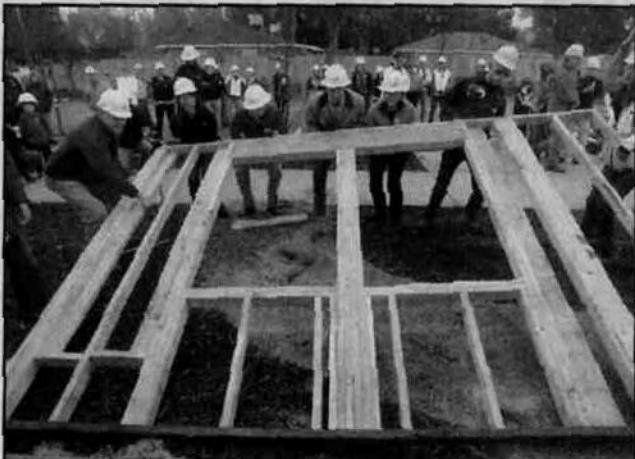
Yet while the project has been largely student-led, a wall-raising ceremony Saturday morning reminded attendees that the homes are a true community effort.

Addressing the crowd, Mayor Ann Schwab said the student volunteers are "literally building community" through their work, noting that the university has involved a number of entities through the project.

The homes have been funded in part by the city of Chico, with additional funding provided by the Chico Association of Realtors and the Earl Foor Foundation, which is based in Chico.

Members of the local construction industry have provided guidance on the project, volunteers have ranged from members of the Chico Noon Rotary Club to students of the Oroville Northwest Lineman College, and time and equipment has been donated by a number of local businesses, including Cleanrite-Buildrite.

Other colleges within Chico State have even



Jason Halley/Staff Photo

Community members raise a wall Saturday on a home for the Catalyst Blitz Build project.

jumped on board, with the College of Business working to furnish the homes and nutrition students preparing and serving three meals a day to the students completing construction.

California State University Trustee Bob Linscheid said community collaboration has defined the Catalyst Blitz Build and said the partnerships formed through the effort are ultimately what defines the city.

Although the students will be unable to interact with the domestic violence victims who will eventually live in the homes, Anastacia Snyder, Catalyst executive director, said the work will still be appreciated by the hundreds of future residents the houses will boast, saying the personal impact of a safe place to call home will be immeasurable.

"You are all contributing to a very life-changing project for them," she said.

With project construction expected to be completed by next Sunday, Christina Pantera, student project coordinator, said students will be working around the clock to ensure the homes will be ready before the start of the spring semester.

Two shifts of 40 students each will be hammering away from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for the next week, with students actually beginning their work a day earlier than expected in hopes of beating the wet weather in the north state's forecast.

But even if rain dampens some of their progress, City Manager Dave Burkland said the students have already accomplished a significant feat that makes him proud to call Chico home.

"For me to have these organizations come together, it really proves what a great community this is," Burkland said.

AMERICA, WE
GET ALONG

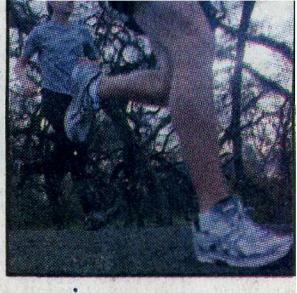
WEEKEND, Inside

BARIATRIC PATIENTS
GET NEW RECIPES

RUNNERS HELP
YOUTH CENTER

▶ STYLE, 3B

▶ LOCAL, 3A



SUNDAY \$1

SUNDAY • January 17, 2010

ENTERPRISE RECORD

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Jason Halley/Staff Photo

Billy Kieren assembles wall framing Saturday for Catalyst Blitz Build, which includes the construction of two transitional living homes for victims of domestic violence. For a photo gallery, visit chicoer.com/multimedia.

Catalyst project connects Chico

By TONI SCOTT

Staff Writer

CHICO — With dozens of hands helping to raise a single wall, the collaboration of the Chico community was exemplified Saturday morning as Chico State University students continued construction on two homes for Catalyst

Domestic Violence Services.

The project, known as the Catalyst Blitz Build, includes the construction of two transitional living homes for victims of domestic violence and is an effort that has united Catalyst, the university, the local construction industry and the greater community at large.

Surrounded by a group of city and

county officials, university staff and Catalyst employees, about 40 Chico State students were hard at work Saturday morning, rushing to complete the homes that will stand adjacent to the organization's new south Chico shelter.

The students have all sacrificed their

demolition
thousands
following

AKE, 8A

■ See HOMES, 7A

Chico State raises the roof on Ivy



THE ORION • MARK ROJAS
QUICK BREAK Chico State Construction Management students raise the roof on a new home as part of the Catalyst Blitz Build winter service project, which ended on Sunday.

Almendra Carpizo
STAFF WRITER

A wall-raising ceremony held Jan. 16 officially kicked off the Catalyst Blitz Build, a winter break service project for construction management students at Chico State to build two homes in nine days.

Students from the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management spent Jan. 16-24 building two 840-square-foot homes for Catalyst Domestic Violence Services, said senior Christina Pantera, student leader and construction management major.

The homes have two bedrooms and one bath and will serve as transitional houses for victims of domestic violence.

Members of Chico State and the community, including Mayor Ann Schwab, Chico State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sandra Flake, Catalyst Executive Director Anastacia Snyder and City Manager David Burkland were present to help raise the wall of one of the homes.

"What builds a community are the folks that live here, so I see students as a real part of the community," Schwab said. "Although they may only be here four years, they are a huge factor for our community."

Originally, Catalyst wanted to put another administration building on the site where the houses are being built, Pantera said. However, the students approached Catalyst

■ please see CONSTRUCTION | A7

CATALYST: Two transitional homes will be built for victims

From 1A

their belongings as they work to rebuild their homes.

This year's project will include the construction of two cottages the nonprofit domestic violence services organization will operate as transitional living homes.

Anastacia Snyder, executive director for Catalyst, said she's "thrilled" about the project, noting that providing safe housing for clients has been a long-term goal of Catalyst.

"It's incredible and it's really realizing one of our dreams," Snyder said.

The 840-square-foot cottages will be built near the organization's 28-bed temporary shelter facility currently under construction on Ivy Street, with both projects expected to be finished by the end of January.

The cottage residents will likely come from the adjacent shelter, Snyder said, or through the organization's counseling program, with residents allowed to live in the homes for up to 18 months.

While living in the homes, the residents will be provided individual counseling, have access to support groups and will be offered employment skills training.

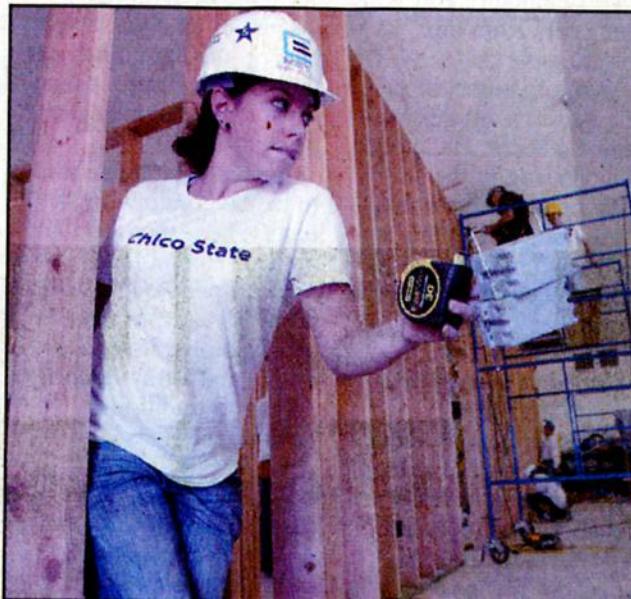
"The whole idea is helping victims of domestic violence work towards self-sufficiency and building life skills," Snyder said.

The residents won't be the only individuals learning life skills through the homes. Speaking from underneath a yellow hard hat at a different community service project Friday, construction management student Christina Pantera said the project will also provide university students "real-world experience" in their future professions.

"Especially for construction management majors, this is putting what we learn in the classroom into effect," Pantera said.

Pantera will be one of two student project managers to lead the Catalyst Blitz Build, saying Friday that approximately 170 Chico State students from a variety of majors have already signed up to help build the homes.

In addition, Pantera said the university's nutrition stu-



Bill Husa/Staff Photo

Chico State University construction management student Mary Milazzo installs electrical boxes as part of a project at the Torres Community Shelter on Friday.

dents have offered to provide meals to those on the construction site throughout their week of work, and students in a business management class are working to get the homes fully furnished.

"We are crossing into all majors at the school," Pantera said. "This is not just engineering or construction management students anymore."

The project is also crossing over into the hands of the city, with the Chico Redevelopment Agency planning to provide Catalyst with \$550,000 to help support the construction of the homes.

Sherry Morgado, city housing and neighborhood services director, said the city is required by state law to

apportion a certain amount of funding to develop affordable housing within Chico.

Morgado said transitional homes such as the Catalyst cottages are considered affordable housing and are in high demand locally.

"Transitional housing is a big need in our community," Morgado said. "It's one of our most tremendous needs."

Morgado said with the transitional living homes and the shelter in place, victims of domestic violence will have the chance to "stabilize" their lives and put themselves in a position to be more successful when venturing out on their own.

She also said with local residents having greater access to safe and stable homes, there will be less demand on city resources.

"If people are in a stable living environment, they aren't going to be prone to access emergency and law enforcement officials at the same rate," Morgado said. "Emergency services will be less impacted."

Pantera said helping local victims find a secure place to call home is exactly why Catalyst was chosen as the college's winter project.

Surrounded by the buzz of saws and the pounding of hammers at the Torres Community Shelter Friday, where Chico State students are remodeling a dormitory room, Pantera said students have rallied around the Catalyst community service project and are excited to be providing their talents locally.

Noting that several projects were vying to be chosen by the college for the winter build program, Pantera said Catalyst was the best fit for the university, uniting the college, community and Catalyst under one cause.

"Catalyst is the project that we thought would impact the most lives and really get us connected with our community here in Chico," Pantera said. "Hopefully this will be a great spot for someone to start up their life again."

Staff writer Toni Scott can be reached at 896-7767 or tscott@chicoer.com.

Police: Mom shoots her sons

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A woman shot her two young sons Saturday, killing a 5-year-old boy and critically wounding his 1-year-old brother, police said.

DRILL: Helicopters used in practice

From 1A

James Marshall, a pilot with Enloe Medical Center who flew a Bell OH-58

ding's gained during the action could better prepare private citizens for disas-

Thursday, January 7, 2010

Enterprise-Record/Mercury-Register

Opinions

Who could turn this situation around are making no effort to do so, in spite of all our outcries. Everyone on the City Council should be made to visit the shelter and witness firsthand the awful conditions that prevail on a daily basis.

Building a new state-of-the-art shelter should be the very first thing on the City Council's New Year's agenda. They could make a wonderful difference to the lives of these animals, and we could applaud them for doing something so right.

— Barbara J. Jensen, Chico

Ruth Smith was an inspiration

On Dec. 22, we lost a global humanitarian when 92-year-old Ruth V. Smith left us. Ruth spoke at least 25 languages. She was a pilot and had actually helped in the search for Amelia Earhart. As a sharpshooter, she held an Olympic medal, and for you old movie buffs that remember the sharpshooting in the movie "Red River Valley," that was Ruth too.

So many talents were bundled into this small and compassionate woman, which made her an asset to the United Nations Aid Agencies. I guess today she would be called a first responder. When a world crisis occurred, she was sent in on the team that made initial contact with the host government, assessed the aid needs and arranged for rapid deployment of vital assets. The African crises were the hardest, seeing the children suffering.

I remember fondly when she returned from one trip, and I expressed concern for her health. "What about clean water?" She patted my hand and smiled, "You only drink the beer."

During World War II parents had horrific deci-

Many pitch in for Torres Shelter

Lately the Torres Community Shelter has seen a significant increase in the number of people sheltered each night. We are now consistently serving more than 80 people per night when not too long ago we were averaging less than 50 per night.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the construction management students from Chico State University, we can now accommodate more families in their own private rooms. We have increased from two family rooms initially to five family rooms today because of the students' volunteered labor. Program instructors/advisers David Shirah and Jim O'Bannon were able to coordinate efforts of more than 60 of their students to add much-needed rooms within our existing shelter to allow more family privacy, a quiet resource/study room and a multi-use room for meetings and health care screenings.

Howard Slater of Slater and Son should also be recognized for again stepping up to help the shelter, donating his time to manage the project as the contractor of record. We would also like to thank the following subcontractors, most of whom donated a portion of their labor and/or materials to demonstrate their support: Agri Electric, Eagle Security, Pacific Com, Towne Carpet, Partition Specialists, Harrison Drywall, Jesse Heating and Air, Diamond M Fire Protection, Builders Door & Windows and Chico Insulation.

On behalf of the Chico Community Shelter Partnership board of directors, which runs the Torres Community Shelter, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone involved.

— Sheryl McWatters, Chico