## Sisters salutes...

Jackie, Jim, Ethan and Trish Erickson wrote: As many of you know, Jim Erickson suffered a heart attack that put him in full cardiac arrest on Sunday December 21. He was airlifted to St. Charles. His prognosis was not good.

But we are now happy to report after two weeks of intensive care and a little miracle, Jim will be moving to Pilot Butte Rehab for a couple of weeks and then home. This would not have been possible without a whole slew of people. We can't even begin to thank the many, many people who made this possible. But here's a statement: Sisters/ Camp Sherman paramedics you rock! The Deschutes County Sheriffs Department is a pretty awesome group. On the way to hospital we

passed the ambulance and deputies at the first pull-off, transferring Jim to AirLink. How the AirLink pilot was able to land at the pull-off in full dark is beyond me.

The ER doctors and the ICU nurses are incredible people who answered all of our questions no matter how lame. We would also like to thank all our family and friends who kept in touch and passed information along to others so we could stay by Jim's side.

Most important, thank you everyone for your prayers and good thoughts you sent Jim's way. They worked! He has a long road of recovery ahead of him, but knowing we live in a community that cares so much makes it that much

Thank you so much.

## **Community reaches out to help family**

The Sisters community can help provide financial support for medical expenses being incurred by Sisters resident Jim Erickson and his wife, Jackie, through the online fundraising site GiveForward.com.

On Sunday, December 21, Erickson suffered a massive heart attack that put him in full cardiac arrest. He was airlifted to St. Charles Medical Center. Because Jim had been without oxygen for at least 10 minutes when his daughter, Trish, found him, his family was told to prepare for the worst

The family received what they consider their Christmas miracle when Jim survived and began the slow process of recovery. He remains in the hospital undergoing therapy for short-term memory loss and cardiac rehabilitation.

The family is now dealing with the pressure of uninsured medical expenses combined with a lack of income for many months to come as Jim continues his recovery.

The Erickson family has faced hardship in the past when they lost most of their family possessions in the Rooster Rock Fire in 2010. Just as the Sisters community rallied to provide assistance to the Ericksons then, friends have established the GiveForward.com fund to give them the support they need now.

Jackie is known to many in the community as

a long-time Stitchin' Post employee, acclaimed quilter, teacher and caring friend. Jim is employed at Ray's Food Place and works at Habitat for Humanity in Sisters.

"Jackie is the kind of person who is always there supporting everyone else," said Melinda Witt. "Whether it's donating quilts for fundraising auctions including my daughter's Miss Rodeo Oregon fundraising quilt, decorating Ducks and Beaverthemed Christmas trees for Hospice, providing quilts and baskets for the My Own Two Hands art auction, helping to sew graduation quilts ... the list goes on and on. It is so easy to just want to do whatever it takes to give and help her family get through this difficult time."

"Jackie and the Erickson family mean so much to this community," adds Jeri Fouts. "In addition to all she does for Quilt Show, Jackie has been one of the mainstays of Starry Nights, and the Ericksons have all been great volunteers. This is a family that gives selflessly and has been there to help so many people and causes in our town. I know that Sisters will

return their kindness by helping them now in this time of need."

Those wishing to help Jackie and her family, may visit www.giveforward.com and enter "Jim Erickson" in the search window. Fundraising Team Captain and close friend Jeanne Sellgren has set a goal of \$25,000 in donations.

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— Jeri Fouts

Another opportunity to support the family is by purchasing quilt raffle tickets \$5 each or \$20 for 5 for a red and white quilt sewn by Melinda Witt. The quilt is on display at the Sisters Chamber of Commerce. Drawing to be held on Valentine's Day.

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with Fries and a Drink

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190 E. Cascade Ave., Sisters

## More DUII arrests over holiday

Oregon State Police troopers reported an uptick in the number of DUII arrests made over this New Year's holiday period, December 31, 2014, at 6 p.m., to January 1, 2015, at 11:59 p.m.

During the 2014-2015 holiday period troopers arrested

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Consultation

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37 drivers for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, up from 2013, when troopers arrested 29 impaired drivers.

Troopers responded to 35 crashes this year, two of which involved one or more fatalities.









