

# Sen. Ted Ferrioli appointed to regional power council

By RICHARD HANNERS  
EO Media Group

A major shakeup is in the works for Oregon Senate District 30. Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, was recently appointed to represent Oregon on the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Council. His appointment must be confirmed by the Senate Rules Committee, which will take up the appointment Nov. 13-15.

Ferrioli told the *Blue Mountain Eagle* he wants to see the security of the regional power grid enhanced to protect it from cyberattacks and even an electromagnetic-pulse attack by North Korea.

"Power distribution systems are a favorite target," he said. "The Pacific Northwest has long known a sense of peace and security."

He also cited his work on the Senate's Natural Resources Subcommittee protecting steelhead

and salmon. "We can't have any species go extinct on our watch," he emphasized.

Ferrioli said he's not a climate change denier.

"The question of anthropogenic impacts is like asking how many angels can fit on the head of a pin," he said. "What difference does it make? The fact is that adding carbon to the environment has been a concern of Oregonians for a decade."

Ferrioli noted that the regional power council has focused on carbon reduction by way of conservation, which he characterized as the "cheapest solution."

**Political musical chairs**  
If confirmed by the senate, Ferrioli will submit his resignation and a 30-day window will open for his replacement, according to the Oregon Legislative Counsel. Republican precinct committees in his district will submit the names

of three to five candidates to the county courts or commissions in his district. The commissioners will then choose Ferrioli's replacement, with the votes apportioned by the total number of electors in each county.

Senate District 30 is the state's largest, encompassing 36,000 square miles, including six counties and parts of five more.

Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, whose House district includes Grant County, told the *Eagle* he's interested in filling Ferrioli's position. If appointed, Bentz would need to run for election in 2018 to finish Ferrioli's four-year term.

Replacing Bentz in the House would involve a similar process. Grant County Judge Scott Myers described it as "political musical chairs."

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown appointed Ferrioli and Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin, to the regional power council in October. Both have served in the Senate since 1997.

Established by federal law in

1980, the power council is made up of two gubernatorial appointees each from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, backed by a full-time staff. Oregon council member serve three year terms, with appointees limited to three consecutive terms.

Funded by the Bonneville Power Administration, the council helps develop strategies aimed at balancing the needs of power production and conservation with fish and wildlife protections. Council members are considered to be full-time state public officials.

**A Senate legacy**  
Ferrioli moved to John Day in 1994 to become executive director of Malheur Timber Operators Inc., retiring in 2010 to a ranch near Mt. Vernon. He was elected to the state Senate in 1996 and is serving his fifth term.

Ferrioli has served as chairman or vice chairman of legislative committees dealing with natural resources, stream restoration and species recovery, water and land use, revenue and rules.

He also served on the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council and the Commission on Indian Services.

**Looking ahead to the council**  
Regional power issues can be complex, and Ferrioli said he'll rely on his predecessors and the power council's professional staff to handle the learning curve.

Outgoing council members from Oregon include Henry Lorenzen, a farmer and attorney from Pendleton, and Bill Bradbury, a former state senator and Oregon Secretary of State.

Ferrioli noted that Gov. Brown had made a wise choice in appointing a Republican and a Democrat to the power council.

"There's symmetry to the choice," he said. "Sen. Devlin is more of an expert on budgets, and I have extensive experience with natural resource issues."

Ferrioli said he supports regulation of power markets.

"Unregulated energy leads to Enron-type companies — energy buccaneers," he said.



Ferrioli



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Chris Dacus holds a K2 meter close to a headstone as his wife, Ashlee, watches at Foster Cemetery outside of Stanfield.

## PARANORMAL: Spirit activity highest particularly between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m.

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The team employs research and electronic equipment on their quests, including digital audio recorders, a full-spectrum camera and electromagnetic fields detectors.

"We have more than enough to detect anything," Durkee said.

The patrol has a Facebook page and a number for people to call if they have a haunting or other experience they want to report or is troublesome.

"Our purpose is to help people, families in need, anyone with these problems," Chris Dacus said.

They have a few places lined up for investigations and are open to more. Chris Dacus, a manager at the Pendleton Walmart, said they work at their own expense, but the group accepts donations. They are also considering adding another member and would open their investigations to non-members so people can witness for themselves what can happen on a case. Particularly between about 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., Chris Dacus said, when spirit activity is highest.

You can find out more about the Paranormal Soul Patrol on Facebook. And you can contact the team at 541-969-7754.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Chris Dacus holds a K2 meter, an electromagnetic field meter, one of many tools used in paranormal investigations. Allegedly, spirits can manipulate the electromagnetic field in an area and this meter can detect those fluctuations.

## National security leaders say war authority sufficient

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top U.S. national security officials on Monday warned congressional Republicans and Democrats demanding a new war authorization that existing laws governing combat operations against terrorist groups are legally sufficient and that repealing them prematurely could signal the United States is backing away from the fight.

During testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis urged Congress to tread carefully. If lawmakers are compelled to replace the post-Sept. 11, 2001, laws, the two secretaries cautioned them against imposing restrictions and conditions on American military forces that allow their enemies "to seize the initiative."

Tillerson and Mattis said President Donald Trump doesn't have permission

from Congress to attack North Korea, but they indicated the U.S. Constitution gives him that power in certain circumstances where U.S. citizens and national security interests are being imminently threatened.

The response troubled several Democrats who have expressed concerns over Trump's confrontational statements toward North Korea and its budding arsenal of nuclear weapons. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., asked if the act of possessing a nuclear weapon capable of striking the U.S. qualified as an imminent threat, but both witnesses declined to answer.

"Secretaries Tillerson and Mattis's responses to my questions about the Administration's war powers in North Korea were very worrying," Murphy said. "The fact is, no president has unlimited power to start a war without congressional approval."

Murphy and several other

Democrats are planning to introduce legislation that would prohibit Trump from starting a pre-emptive war against North Korea, absent an imminent threat or without express authorization from Congress.

The testimony from Tillerson and Mattis came as the deadly ambush in Niger earlier this month is igniting a push among many lawmakers to update the legal parameters for combat operations overseas.

Roughly 800 U.S. service members are in Niger as part of a French-led mission to defeat the extremists in West Africa. There are hundreds more American forces in other African countries.

The bulk of the nearly three-hour hearing centered on arcane but crucial laws known as authorization for use of military force. One, to fight al-Qaida, was approved a week after the Sept. 11 attacks.

## TREE: 'Friday was the worst day of my life'

Continued from 1A

"Ivy's a single mom," said Irene Zaragoza, who set up the page with a goal of \$5,000. "She's not working now, she had to take time off."

Zaragoza said things are looking better than they were the first few days.

"She was really fighting for her life," Zaragoza said. "Ivy said it's a long tunnel, but there's a light at the end of it."

Coons agreed.

"Friday was the worst night of my life," she said.

Coons said she does not know much about how the accident happened.

"I don't know whose house it was, I don't even know who gave the report," she said.

She said she found out when she was at work, and one of her daughter's friends sent her a message telling her she needed to come to the emergency room.

According to Umatilla County Undersheriff

Jim Littlefield, property owners in the 2000 block of Northwest 11th Street were cleaning up their land around 1 p.m. Friday, and there was an old shed supporting a tree with rotten roots.

Littlefield said when the people on the property tried to remove the shed, the tree gave way and fell on Larson.

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### OUT OF THE VAULT:

Historical Vignettes from the East Oregonian

By Renee Struthers

A second look at the first draft of Umatilla County's history, from stories of crime and punishment to natural disasters to the odd and absurd.

EAST OREGONIAN

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