

# CTUIR gift to Oregon Senate GOP leader created ethical quandary

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM — Ted Ferrioli, the Senate Republican leader in Oregon until he stepped down in January, was presented with a beautiful wool blanket by leaders of Indian tribes as a parting gift, throwing him into an ethical quandary.

The issue confronting Ferrioli, who represented a huge swath of eastern Oregon covering canyonlands, mountains and high desert with cowboys, loggers and Native Americans among his constituents, is detailed in an Oregon Government Ethics Commission report.

It's buried under a 129-page investigation of a case against former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber in which his girlfriend was paid tens of thousands of dollars for work she allegedly leveraged when she was Oregon's first lady.

Struggling over what to do with a blanket with a price tag of \$249 is small beans in comparison, but it shows how — as political scandals emerge with dismaying regularity in Washington and around the country — many public servants try to walk a fine line. And it illustrates the scope of issues the seven-member ethics commission — established in 1974 by a statewide referendum — and its staff are tasked with dealing with.

"We don't just do state employees, we do all levels of government in Oregon, so that's every city council, every special district out there, fire board, whatever," Executive Director Ron Bersin told The Associated Press during a break in a recent meeting.

Ferrioli left the state Senate at the turn of the year after being appointed by Gov. Kate Brown to a regional organization that develops and maintains a regional conservation and electric power plan and a program to protect fish and wildlife.

In recognition of bills he had sponsored on behalf of Indians, the board of directors of Confederated Tribes



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky

**In this Feb. 15 photo, former Oregon Sen. Republican leader Ted Ferrioli examines a Pendleton blanket in the state Capitol that had been sent to him by the board of directors of Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation. After asking the state ethics commission if he could accept the blanket, given in recognition of work Ferrioli had done on behalf of Indian tribes, and considering various options, he decided to present it for display in a room in the Capitol.**

of Umatilla Reservation sent Ferrioli a plush wool Pendleton blanket with a Native-American-inspired design. Among the bills: One which prohibits individuals from possessing Native American artifacts looted from burials or archaeological sites, Ferrioli said. Another bill he sponsored recognized tribal police as Oregon law enforcement officers with all the accompanying rights and responsibilities.

But the blanket exceeded the \$50 limit on gifts a public official can receive from someone during a calendar year, plunging Ferrioli into an ethical dilemma. As a former member of the Senate rules committee, he knows the rules better than most people, Bersin noted.

Two days after receiving the blanket, he emailed Bersin on Jan. 2, asking advice on how to proceed, saying "receipt of this item puts me in a potentially awkward position."

Accepting it, he wrote, might violate ethics regulations, but returning it "might

constitute an insult." "As you know, the bestowing of gifts is a deeply rooted part of Native American Culture, in meaning, far greater than the material value of the item given," Ferrioli wrote.

He noted, though, that if he divided \$29 by nine, the value of the gift, per giver, would be only \$27.67. What, Ferrioli asked, should he do: Return the gift, accept it on a per-giver basis, accept it on behalf of a third party, or take some other action?

Bersin wrote back that if tribal funds bought the blanket, then there is just one giver and Ferrioli couldn't accept it if the tribes might have an economic interest in Ferrioli's decision-making as a public official. But if the nine members used their personal funds, he could keep it. Noting that returning the blanket could be problematic, Bersin suggested donating it.

Ferrioli decided to donate it to the Senate, where it will be hung on a wall in a room dedicated to historical items.

On Feb. 15, Ferrioli traveled back to the Capitol to receive accolades alongside another recently departed lawmaker on the Senate floor. Ferrioli has a concealed weapons permit and says he carried a pistol in the Capitol for more than 20 years, but this time he left it behind because a new law prohibits it. As senators spoke fondly of Ferrioli, the blanket was close by, ready to be formally handed over to Senate Secretary Lori Brocker.

After the speeches, and back-slapping and handshakes as lawmakers ate cake and drank punch outside the Senate chamber, a man with an erect posture and hair streaming down his back walked up to Ferrioli and handed him a box.

In it was another Pendleton blanket. This one was from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Ferrioli graciously accepted it. But he isn't keeping this one either.

On advice of ethics commission, it will be retained permanently by the Senate, Ferrioli said.

## BRIEFLY

### Oregon senator wants making threats against schools a felony

SALEM (AP) — Amid a spate of threats of attacks at schools following a Feb. 14 massacre in a Florida high school, a lawmaker in Oregon has introduced an amendment making it a felony to make such a threat in the state, even if it's not carried out.

Sen. Tim Knopp, a Republican from the Central Oregon town of Bend where a 16-year-old was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct for allegedly threatening to shoot students at a high school, introduced the amendment Monday.

Knopp said Oregon's district attorneys are constrained by current law that allows misdemeanor charges and that fails to take into account the unique nature of threats against schools and other public gathering places.

### Judge keeps five charges against FBI agent accused of lying

PORTLAND (AP) — A federal judge declined to dismiss any charges against an FBI agent accused of lying about firing two shots at a key figure in the takeover of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports U.S. District Judge Robert Jones said Monday that the defense motion to dismiss four of the five counts against FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita was premature.

Investigators said Astarita failed to disclose that he fired errant shots at Robert "Lavoy" Finicum, spokesman for a group that occupied the refuge in early 2016. Oregon State Police fatally shot Finicum at the same roadblock.

Astarita's lawyers said there is one alleged lie, so there should only be one count.

Prosecutor Gary Sussman countered that five counts are appropriate because Astarita lied to three supervisory FBI agents and in two interviews with Oregon State Police detectives. Astarita has pleaded not guilty.

### Oregon legislature sends homeless removal bill to Governor

SALEM (AP) — Oregon legislators have sent a proposal to Governor Kate Brown that would allow the state's largest city to coordinate with the Department of Transportation to remove homeless encampments.

After the House approved the bill last week, the Senate approved it unanimously Monday, sending it to the governor for her signature.

Under the measure, Portland and the state Department of Transportation would be allowed to join forces in removing homeless encampments. Proponents said removing the encampments is complicated when they spread across city and state lands, which are often adjacent, such as around overpasses and pedestrian trails.

Advocates for the homeless were skeptical that broad language in the bill could be used in Portland to simply speed removals.

## Corrections

Barb Gibbs is a licensed practical nurse. An incorrect accreditation was used in the article "Save a life by questioning, persuading and referring" on Page 1A, Feb. 23.

A meeting between Columbia Development Authority representative and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees was Wednesday, Feb. 21. An incorrect date was used in the article "Tribal board to look at cultural sites on former depot land" on Page 8A, Feb. 24.

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
44° 32°	48° 38°	44° 30°	42° 25°	42° 27°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST  
49° 33° 51° 40° 51° 32° 47° 28° 47° 28°

### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH 43° LOW 25°

Normals 50° 31°

Records 71° (1926) 0° (1993)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.02"

Month to date 0.74"

Normal month to date 1.05"

Year to date 2.33"

Last year to date 3.71"

Normal year to date 2.43"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH 46° LOW 23°

Normals 52° 30°

Records 71° (1932) 5° (2011)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace

Month to date 0.51"

Normal month to date 0.89"

Year to date 1.61"

Last year to date 3.38"

Normal year to date 2.17"

#### SUN AND MOON

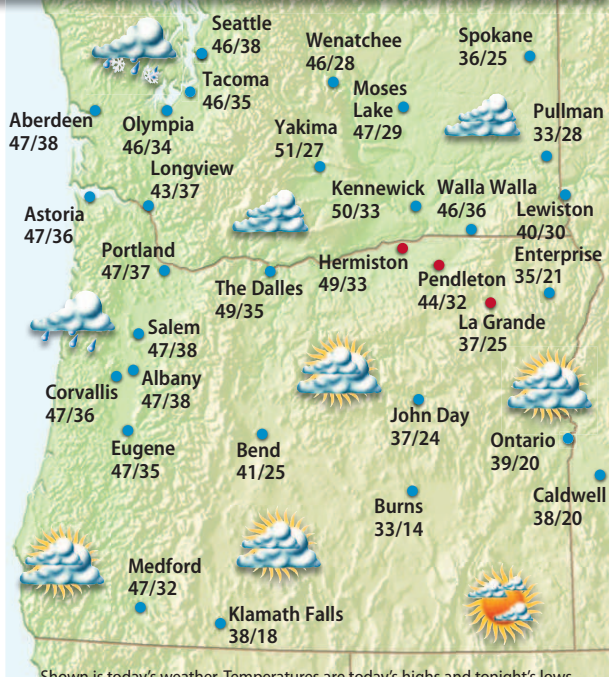
Sunrise today 6:38 a.m.

Sunset tonight 5:39 p.m.

Moonrise today 3:07 p.m.

Moonset today 5:13 a.m.

Full Mar 1 Last Mar 9 New Mar 17 First Mar 24



### REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today; a little rain across the north. Partially clearing and cold tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy and cold today, but increasing cloudiness in the south.

Western Washington: Cloudy today with a touch of rain. Plenty of clouds tonight. Rain tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Cloudy today; a snow shower near the Idaho border and in the mountains.

Cascades: Cloudy today. A bit of snow across the north; a flurry in central parts.

Northern California: Partly sunny today; frigid in the interior mountains.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	47	36	r	47	35	r
Baker City	34	17	c	37	30	c
Bend	41	25	c	43	31	r
Brookings	51	40	c	48	37	r
Burns	33	14	c	37	26	sn
Enterprise	35	21	c	38	30	c
Eugene	47	35	c	47	35	r
Heppner	42	31	c	45	37	c
Hermiston	49	33	c	51	40	c
John Day	37	24	c	42	36	c
Klamath Falls	38	18	pc	41	27	r
La Grande	37	25	c	39	32	c
Meacham	36	24	c	38	32	c
Medford	47	32	c	49	36	r
Newport	46	39	r	47	36	r
North Bend	49	40	c	50	37	r
Ontario	39	20	pc	43	34	c
Pasco	50	30	c	52	38	c
Pendleton	44	32	c	48	38	c
Portland	47	37	r	48	36	r
Redmond	43	22	c	46	30	r
Salem	47	38	c	48	36	r
Spokane	36	25	c	39	32	sn
Ukiah	36	24	c	39	32	sn
Vancouver	44	37	r	46	36	r
Walla Walla	46	36	c	49	41	c
Yakima	51	27	c	49	33	r

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	47	29	c	50	28	pc
Hong Kong	71	67	c	74	67	pc
Jerusalem	55	43	sh	59	43	c
London	34	24	sf	32	26	sf
Mexico City	76	52	pc	78	52	c
Moscow	6	-7	s	5	-3	c
Paris	29	19	s	32	28	pc
Rome	40	23	s	44	37	c
Seoul	48	34	pc	48	33	r
Sydney	76	64	pc	84	71	s
Tokyo	52	42	pc	56	46	c

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 10-20	SSW 6-12
Pendleton	SW 8-16	S 7-14

### UV INDEX TODAY

1	1	1	1	1	0
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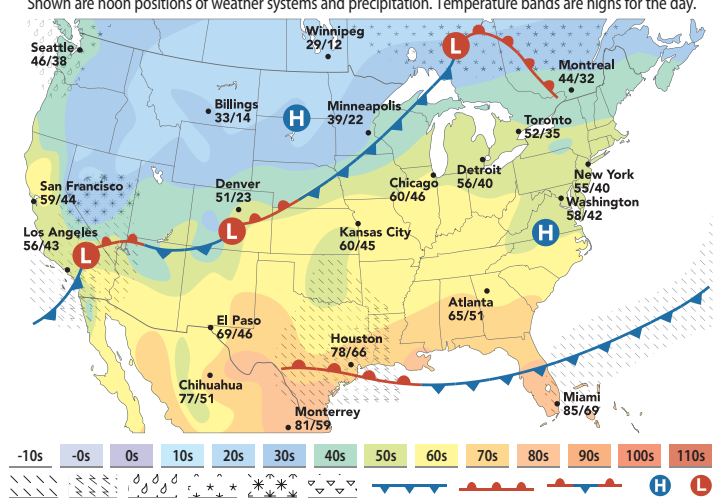
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



showers t-storms rain flurries snow ice cold front warm front stationary high low

National Summary: Rain and storms will gather over the South Central states today. Rain and mountain snow will fall in Southern California and Nevada, as well as western Washington. Showers will dot the Florida Peninsula.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 90° in Immokalee, Fla. Low -21° in Crested Butte, Colo.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.			Today			Wed.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	61	32	s	45	28	c	Louisville	64	49	pc	60	53	r
Atlanta	65	51	pc	65	58	r	Memphis	69	55	pc	68	53	r
Atlanta City	51	38	s	54	42	pc	Miami	65	69	sh	63	68	pc
Baltimore	56	36	s	56	42	pc	Millwaukee	54	43	pc	45	34	c
Billings	33	14	s	34	15	c	Minneapolis	39	22	c	40	24	c
Birmingham	70	53	pc	70	61	r	Nashville	68	52	pc	65	55	r
Boise	33	17	pc	39	34	c	New Orleans	80	67	t	88	69	c
Boston	51	39	s	56	41	pc	New York City	55	40	s	56	40	pc
Charleston, SC	69	49	s	72	63	r	Oklahoma City	54	49	sh	65	31	r
Chicago	62	40	s	54	47	sh	Omaha	55	27	pc	40	25	i
Chicago	60	46	pc	53	35	c	Philadelphia	56	37	s	56	43	pc
Cleveland	56	41	s	56	39	sh	Phoenix	68	43	pc	61	43	pc
Dallas	65	60	t	71	45	t	Portland, ME	46	35	s	52	36	pc
Denver	51	23</											