

# A tree of thanks



Contributed photo  
Leslie Barnett of the Long Creek Lodge decorated this tree in honor of veterans, military personnel, emergency medical responders, firefighters and police. 'They should know how much we appreciate them,' she said.

# Ferrioli honored by state associations

Blue Mountain Eagle

State Sen. Ted Ferrioli of John Day was honored by two state associations this month.

Ferrioli was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Legislator of the Year Award by the Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living.

Wasco Electric Cooperative Board President Ron Holmes presented the lifetime achievement award, according to a press release.

"I am honored to accept this award from ORECA," said Ferrioli. "Being the voice for rural Oregonians



Ted Ferrioli

has been my privilege."

Ferrioli will begin serving on the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council Jan. 16. He is leaving the state Senate after 20 years of service.

The Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living presented the 2017 Betha Kagayama Legislator of the Year Award to Ferrioli "for his extraordinary advocacy and leadership in government on behalf of the Independent Living Movement and the thousands of men, women and young peo-

ple with physical, mental and sensory disabilities in the state of Oregon," according to a press release from the association.

Throughout his tenure as a state legislator, Ferrioli was a staunch supporter of programs that empower people with disabilities in Oregon. In the 2017 session, he supported legislation to fund childhood screening for vision and hearing impairment, to require additional training for professionals in suicide risk assessment and treatment, to provide services for adolescents experiencing a mental health crisis and to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities who require an organ transplant.

# Hospital givers bring winter warmth to area youths

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Staffers at Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day shared the season's spirit of giving, donating enough warm winter clothing for 130 Grant County school children.

Blue Mountain Home Health and Hospice and community members were also in on the project, donating coats, gloves, scarves and warm hats.

Dorothy Piazza, the hospital's executive assistant to the CEO, said human resources director Kerri Fulton came up with the idea.

The winter clothing drive began Nov. 27, and Fulton delivered the bundles of warmth Thursday, Dec. 14, to the area schools.

Piazza said the response from school officials was positive.

"They were very appreciative," she said, adding one of



Contributed photo  
Blue Mountain Hospital staff sort out winter clothing to distribute to Grant County school children.

several emails they received was from Long Creek Superintendent/Principal Del Dykstra who thanked them for organizing a worthwhile cause.

Additional clothing was

reserved for the children who recently survived a Prairie City house fire.

Piazza said the goal was to distribute the clothing before Christmas.

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