

Yesterday six individuals with three pickups and three flatbed trailers made the trek to Longview and picked up some great surplus goods for our Veterans. These came available very quickly and the trip was put together in a matter of days once all the logistics were in place. This was originally a shipment from the DOD for a military stand down but there were some timing problems and the two semi's that delivered the goods had to be diverted to Longview and two giant storage lockers were rented. I was in on the ground floor of this and stuck my foot in the door and said that we would be happy to take several loads off their hands to distribute to our Vet's. So yesterday Charles Benedict, Charles Frost, Dick Goedker, Percy Littlejohn, Larry Topping and me took off for Longview and brought back over 20 pallets of goods to be distributed here in the county. When we returned Tom Wilson and ER Pat Gardner were there to help unload. Today we are going to take inventory of what we have as Exalted Ruler Pat Gardner has loaned us storage space. Once Inventory is taken we will have a display of what is available for the Veterans here at the Lodge and there will also be a display at the American Legion Post. We can't store everything here but will be able to get goods into town once orders are placed. I want to specifically thank Elizabeth Johnston, Washington State Elks Veterans Chair, her son Jake and Rhonda Sandretto from Kelso-Longview who coordinated the fork lift that was necessary for the move. Also Carl's Towing out of Longview provided at no charge the forklift and operator for this fairly large scale move. Carl's has helped out many times over the years donating goods and services and without them, the move would have been absolutely impossible. So please check out the goods when you are at the Legion or Elks in the coming weeks. There will be warm weather clothing, boots, sleeping bags, fleece tops, back packs and other items of interest. Remember, these items are to be distributed to our Veterans.

Thanks to everyone who helped: Joe Basil, Lodge Secretary