

Opinion / Politics

— EDITORIAL —

Complaints about Walden's absence seem fishy

It's interesting to us, the sudden post-inauguration rash of protests, letters to the editor and complaints across our Congressional District (CD2), including Baker County, alleging that Rep. Greg Walden has been an absentee elected official.

We also find it interesting that a web site was launched suggesting just such a rash of complaints by George Soros-funded www.indivisibleguide.com.

Walden has established offices across our District, staffed to field calls, emails and visits, and these offices report that hired protestors—not constituents—come out in droves during protest activities to tie up the phone lines so that actual constituents really can't communicate as needed. They're the telephonic equivalent of hecklers. Apparently these folks are attempting to create the situation for which they then complain.

CD2 is the largest Congressional District in Oregon, composed of 20 counties. Walden makes the plane ride back and forth from Washington D.C. to one county or another in his District nearly every week—a lot of frequent flier miles!

Below are his visits—and this list probably isn't comprehensive—of the in-person visits to our county and those surrounding us just over the past few years. While we don't always agree with how Walden has voted—though usually we do—we strongly agree that an 80% friend is not a 20% enemy, as Ronald Reagan put it.

Walden's presence in his District, however, is certainly not an area in which we see any criticism warranted. The numbers speak for themselves.

Baker:

1. February 10, 2017 – Meeting with Chaves Consulting Call Center
2. June 20, 2016 – Baker City Town Hall
3. July 16, 2016 – Miner's Jubilee Parade
4. January 19, 2015 – Baker County Commissioners Meeting
5. February 21, 2015 – Baker City Town Hall
6. September 15, 2015 – Baker City Wildfire Town Hall
7. April 25, 2014 – Baker County Lincoln Day Dinner
8. April 26, 2014 – Baker City Town Hall
9. November 2, 2014 – Baker City Town Hall
10. February 20, 2013 – Baker City Town Hall
11. May 24, 2013 – Synergy Data Center Tour
12. June 21, 2013 – Oregon Cattlemen's Association 100th Anniversary Dinner
13. November 7, 2013 – Meeting with veterans advocates of ORE/IDA
14. February 21, 2012 – Baker City Town Hall
15. July 13, 2012 – Rock Creek Power Plant Tour
16. September 5, 2012 – Memorial Service for Specialist Mabry Anders

Malheur:

1. February 21, 2017 – Ontario Town Hall, tour of snow damage in Ontario
2. April 3, 2016 – Jordan Valley Town Hall
3. July 16, 2016 – Ontario Agriculture Town Hall
4. January 16, 2015 – Ontario Town Hall
5. February 18, 2015 – Malheur County Onion Growers Meeting
6. September 15, 2015 – Malheur County Wildfire Town Hall
7. April 26, 2014 – Malheur County Veterans Town Hall
8. November 2, 2014 – Ontario Town Hall
9. February 21, 2013 – Ontario Town Hall
10. April 24, 2013 – Nyssa Town Hall
11. June 21, 2013 – Malheur County Onion Growers Food Safety Meeting
12. November 7, 2013 – Ontario OSU Extension Food Safety Meeting
13. February 22, 2012 – Nyssa Town Hall
14. July 13, 2012 – Malheur Agriculture Leaders Meeting

Union:

1. February 21, 2017 – La Grande Rotary
2. February 16, 2016 – Union County Town Hall
3. June 20, 2016 – La Grande Veterans Meeting
4. October 21, 2016 – EOU Veterans Program Meeting
5. January 18, 2015 – La Grande Town Hall
6. September 15, 2015 – Eastern Oregon Counties Association Forestry Meeting
7. March 16, 2014 – Elgin Town Hall
8. August 7, 2014 – Union County Chamber of Commerce Roundtable
9. January 26, 2013 – La Grande Town Hall
10. May 24, 2013 – La Grande Health Care Providers Meeting
11. November 8, 2013 – Union County Veterans Coffee Meeting
12. February 21, 2012 – Barreto Manufacturing Tour
13. March 23, 2012 – Elgin Town Hall
14. July 13, 2012 – La Grande Chamber of Commerce Roundtable

Wallowa:

1. October 21, 2016 – Enterprise Veterans Lunch
2. April 2, 2016 – Enterprise Town Hall Dinner
3. January 18, 2015 – Enterprise Town Hall
4. September 15, 2015 – Wallowa County Town Hall
5. November 14, 2015 – Wallowa Hospital Foundation Dinner
6. March 14, 2014 – Wallowa County Lincoln Day Dinner
7. August 8, 2014 – Enterprise Town Hall
8. January 27, 2013 – Enterprise Town Hall and Wallowa County Chamber Banquet
9. July 27, 2013 – Chief Joseph Days Rodeo
10. March 23, 2012 – Enterprise Town Hall
11. July 13, 2012 – Wallowa Forest Service Compound Conveyance Act Event

Finally, the last angle we've heard from the "Walden is never here" crowd is that well, maybe he was here, but they were simply unaware of his visits, that they just weren't publicized. For them, we recommend a subscription to a local newspaper.

—The Baker County Press Editorial Board

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— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

Mental health should not still carry a stigma

To the Editor:

In reference to the letters to the editor about mental illness. The first thing is to know, it is not contagious. I am bi-polar and have been for many years. I was able to have a job, enjoy my family, go shopping and out for dinner on vacations, and be in a marriage of 35 years etc.

It is a treatable condition and I find it very sad that in our world today the subject is still considered taboo. Aren't there many more problems in the world today? Mental illness is an illness like diabetes, arthritis, heart conditions—and other organ problems. We are approachable and more than willing to educate you.

Suzette Polley
Baker City

For Rep. Earl Blumenauer

To the Editor:

This is in response to information contained in another newspaper concerning Representative Earl Blumenauer's intended preparation for possible impeachment of President Trump.

I would suggest to Rep. B. that those who live in glass houses should be very cautious regarding the throwing of stones! His political house appears to be about 90 percent glass.

The U.S. Constitution, the one Rep. B. wants to amend is also the one that he has sworn to obey in the exercise of his duties in government. Therein lies his glass house.

The July 16, 2016 issue of the New

American lists all members of congress and how they voted on each of ten measures involving constitutional issues. Rep. B. got only one correct. And yet he proposes to impeach president Trump as mentally unstable for keeping his campaign promises.

Admittedly, keeping a promise is very uncommon in the political world of today, but not a true indication of mental problems. Wouldn't it be great if more politicians had that problem after being elected today?

There is a bright side to Representative Blumenauer's proposal. It brings to light the problem we have in the current political world. The vast majority of persons elected to congress take an oath before God and man to uphold the Constitution, the law of the land, when they have no intention of doing so.

How can we believe any thing they say? There appears to be a strong political, business movement attempting to discredit our new president before he can destroy their illicit profit establishment. One must wonder whether Representative Blumenauer's early attack on President Trump is part of that effort.

President Trump was elected according to the law of the land. He has an obligation to attempt to accomplish what he campaigned to accomplish. Those who attempt to prevent his achieving this, by force, no matter who they are need to be held accountable. All seated politicians face reelection, as will Mr. Blumenauer.

Jasper Coombes
Baker City

Cattlemen to assist ranchers due to fires

Submitted by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association

It is with heavy hearts that we continue to witness the mass destruction and devastation caused by wildfires that continue to rage across the Southern Plains, affecting ranching families in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. Not only have these ranchers lost beloved horses, full herds of magnificent beef cattle, but many have lost family members while trying to save their homes and livelihood from these fires.

We ask Oregon ranchers to come together and support their fellow ranching families in this time of need.

If you would like to donate to the wildfire relief for the Southern Plains,

please go to our Stewardship Fund at orcattle.com/products-page/donations/donation-oregon-cattlemens-stewardship-fund/ and include the memo "Southern Wildfire Relief." Funds raised will be given to a wildfire relief fund effort.

The surviving cattle and ranching families are in desperate need of essentials like hay and fencing. If you would like to make a donation of fencing, material, hay, trucking or time, please email OCA Communications Director, Katie Schrock, at katie.schrock@orcattle.com. We are working hard to build a relief effort team and would appreciate any assistance we can get.

"The Oregon Cattlemen's Association takes serious efforts in helping not only

their own members but also our fellow ranchers across the country in times of crisis. Please consider making a donation to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association's Stewardship Fund for the Southern Wildfire Relief donation efforts," said Jerome Rosa, the Executive Director of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Help OCA help these ranching families and their livestock!

About The Oregon Cattlemen's Association

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association was founded in 1913 and works to promote environmentally and socially sound industry practices, improve and strengthen the economics of the industry, and protect its industry communities and private property rights.

Subscribe today! See page 9 for how!

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The Baker County Press

PO Box 567
Baker City, Ore. 97814

Open Monday-Thursday for calls
9 AM - 4 PM
Open 24/7 for emails

Phone: 541.519.0572

TheBakerCountyPress.com

Kerry McQuisten, Publisher
Editor@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Wendee Morrissey, Advertising and Sales
Wendee@TheBakerCountyPress.com

David Conn, Advertising and Sales
David@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Published weekly every Friday.
Subscription rates per year are \$29.95 all areas, e-mail delivery. \$39.95 print issue, home delivery, Baker City city limits only. \$49.95 print issue, mail delivery, outside Baker City city limits only.
Payment in advance.

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President Donald Trump

202.456.1414
202.456.2461 fax
Whitehouse.gov/contact

US Sen. Jeff Merkley

503.326.3386
503.326.2900 fax
Merkley.Senate.gov

US Sen. Ron Wyden

541.962.7691
Wyden.Senate.gov

US Rep. Greg Walden

541.624.2400
541.624.2402 fax
Walden.House.gov

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

503.378.3111
Governor.Oregon.gov

State Rep. Cliff Bentz

503.986.1460

State Sen. Ted Ferrioli

541.490.6528

Baker County Commissioners Bill Harvey; Mark Bennett; Bruce Nichols

541.523.8200
541.523.8201