

# Even in hometown, constituents rip into Republican lawmaker

## Walden faces tough crowds

By ALAM FRAM  
Associated Press

HOOD RIVER — In the auditorium of his old middle school just blocks from where he still lives, the congressman who is a lead author of the stalled House Republican health care bill was treated like the villain in a class play.

It didn't matter that U.S. Rep. Greg Walden was on a first-name basis with many of the roughly 800 attendees. Or that Democrats like Gov. Kate Brown call him congenial and bright. Or that Walden was just re-elected to a 10th House term with 72 percent of the vote in a safely Republican eastern Oregon district. Or that he is chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Walden, 60, encountered the same angry buzz saw at town meetings last week that has greeted his Republican colleagues at similar sessions and prompted others to not even bother holding them. President Donald Trump and his party's policies on health care, immigration, the environment, the arts and Syria have whipped up Democratic voters and liberal organizers while dividing Republicans as well, and they're letting GOP lawmakers know it.

"Connie, I tried to answer you," Walden, standing alone

on stage in a blue blazer and plaid shirt, pleaded to Connie Burton over resounding boos. Her children played with Walden's when they were little, but the 63-year-old Burton was now demanding that the lawmaker oppose Trump's voiding of rules blocking harmful emissions.

"Yes or no," the audience yelled when Walden answered indirectly.

Chosen to ask a question, one man in the balcony said, "You seem a like a pro-war politician. Have you encouraged your son to join the Marines?" A woman said, "We are absolutely disgusted that you led a committee to take away" peoples' health care, before loud cheers drowed her out.

"I care about health care. I know you don't think that," an exasperated Walden said at one point.

## Friendlier in Prineville

Walden's reception was far friendlier in more GOP-leaning Prineville, set among grazing land over 100 miles to the south. There were far fewer interruptions, though from the bleachers of the Crook County High School gym, 72-year-old Republican Steve Johnson yelled that Walden should "quit dancing around down there" and produce results in Congress.

But in Hood River, which despite its name is on the banks of the majestic Columbia River, and in Bend, the dis-



Stephanie Yao Long/The Oregonian  
People react as U.S. Rep. Greg Walden speaks at a town hall meeting in The Dalles on Wednesday.

trict's liberal hub at the foot of the Cascades, huge crowds pressed Walden in two-hour encounters heavy on boisterous interruptions and catcalls.

"People are fired up, and I know that and I respect that," Walden said in an interview. He said that as the sole Republican in Oregon's congressional delegation, "I am the place they can come and vent."

Congress is on a two-week recess that comes with Trump and the GOP health care bill faring dimly in polls, and Walden was often defensive about both. Republicans hope to resuscitate the health care measure and tackle budget, tax and infrastructure legislation, but public reaction — measured partly by town halls like

these — will help determine their success.

## Repeal Obamacare

The Republican measure now in legislative limbo would have largely repealed former President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, including its tax penalties on people who didn't purchase coverage and expansion of Medicaid, which provides coverage for the poor. Walden stressed parts of that statute that he would keep: its ban on lifetime coverage limits and a requirement that insurers cover even the most ill, costly consumers.

"We're going to protect people like you," he told Kim Schmith, 50, of Madras, who described her costly battle

against breast cancer and said, "I am no longer uninsurable, and I want to be insured."

Walden said Republicans want to improve competition at a time when insurers are fleeing many insurance markets. He said that as the GOP tries to revive its bill, he believes its tax credits will be increased for poor people. Those proposed subsidies have drawn opposition from all sides as too skimpy for low earners.

Walden's role as a helmsman of the GOP drive to repeal Obama's law puts him in an odd political situation back home.

As a state legislator in the 1990s, he promoted health care innovations such as rating the cost and effectiveness of medical procedures that are credited with saving Oregon huge sums of money. Now in Congress, he represents a Democratic-run state that's embraced Obama's overhaul and adopted its expansion of Medicaid.

"The Republican health care proposal is a disservice to Oregonians and their access to health care," Brown, the governor, said in an interview. A one-time colleague of Walden in the Legislature, she said the GOP bill runs "counter to Oregon values." She predicted "political consequences" for Republicans.

## Twenty counties

Walden won all 20 of his district's counties last November and did better than Trump

in all but one, so he may have little reason to worry. But clearly, there's a big constituency for Obama's law in Oregon.

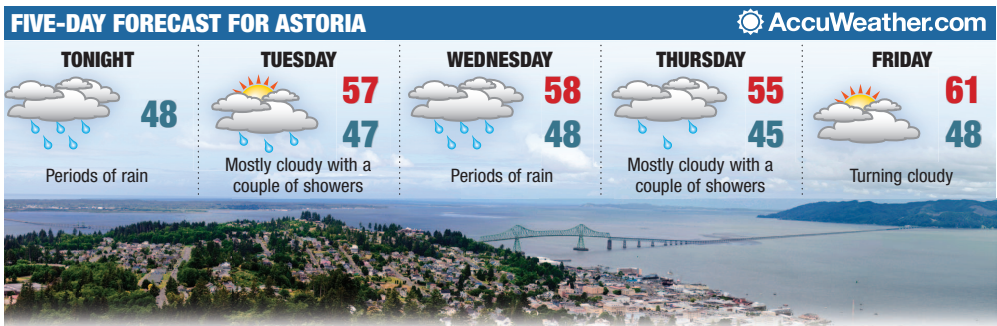
Nearly one-fourth of Oregon's 4 million residents are on Medicaid, well above the national 20 percent average. That includes about 380,000 in the expanded Medicaid program Obama created to cover people earning modestly above the federal poverty level, an expansion that the GOP bill would phase out.

Walden notes that Oregon faces an \$882 million Medicaid shortfall this year, partly because federal payments under Obama's statute are declining.

About 130,000 other Oregonians have bought policies on the online insurance exchange Obama established, with most getting federal subsidies. Overall, state figures show the proportion of uninsured Oregonians dropped from 17 percent before the law's full 2014 implementation to 5 percent currently.

Walden's district, which encompasses over two-thirds of Oregon and is larger than 23 states, has taken full advantage of the law. With much of the district poorer than Oregon's coastal region, 240,000 of its residents receive Medicaid. In six of its 20 counties, more than 3 in 10 are beneficiaries.

Associated Press writer Andrew Selsky in Bend contributed to this report.

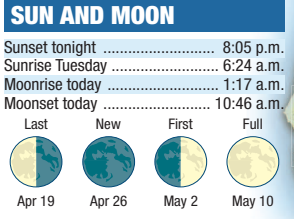


### ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday.

**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 66°/43°  
Normal high/low ..... 56°/41°  
Record high ..... 80° in 1947  
Record low ..... 32° in 1982

**Precipitation**  
Sunday ..... Trace  
Month to date ..... 4.80"  
Normal month to date ..... 3.04"  
Year to date ..... 37.13"  
Normal year to date ..... 27.88"



### UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Hercules will be emerging into the eastern evening sky before midnight.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

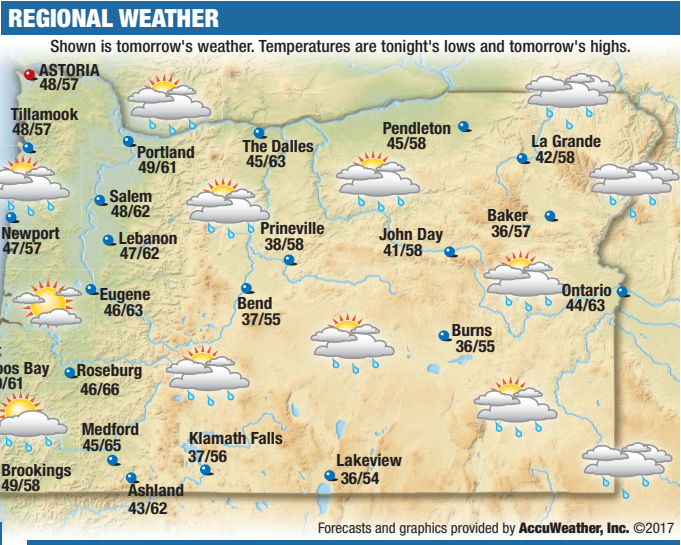
### TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
6:00 a.m.	7.6 ft.	12:21 a.m.	3.4 ft.
8:13 p.m.	6.4 ft.	1:13 p.m.	1.1 ft.

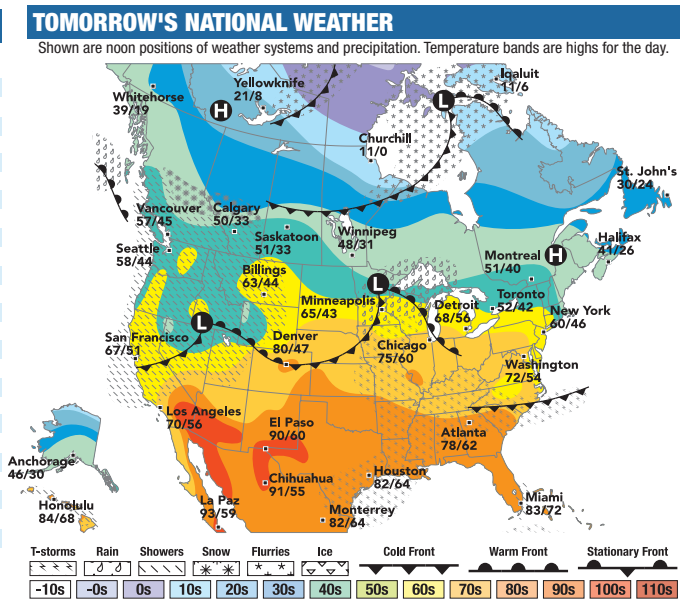
### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.	W
Atlanta	82 63 t	78 62 c	
Boston	72 42 s	49 38 pc	
Chicago	72 43 s	75 60 pc	
Denver	78 44 c	80 47 pc	
Des Moines	73 53 pc	71 55 t	
Detroit	70 43 s	68 56 pc	
El Paso	89 58 s	90 60 s	
Fairbanks	38 14 s	41 20 s	
Honolulu	83 70 pc	84 68 pc	
Indianapolis	71 48 s	76 62 pc	
Kansas City	71 56 c	78 64 t	
Las Vegas	83 66 pc	84 62 pc	
Los Angeles	74 59 pc	70 56 c	
Memphis	78 64 t	80 64 c	
Miami	83 72 sh	83 72 pc	
Nashville	78 62 t	78 62 t	
New Orleans	79 65 t	81 64 pc	
New York	72 48 s	60 46 pc	
Oklahoma City	74 59 c	82 62 pc	
Philadelphia	74 49 r	65 47 pc	
St. Louis	73 56 c	80 64 c	
Salt Lake City	66 50 c	62 45 sh	
San Francisco	65 54 sh	67 51 c	
Seattle	58 48 r	58 44 c	
Washington, DC	74 56 r	72 54 pc	



### REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.	W	City	Today	Tues.	W
Baker City	56 36 c	57 29 sh		Olympia	56 46 r	57 39 sh	
Bend	52 37 c	55 32 c		Pendleton	61 45 c	58 38 sh	
Brookings	55 48 r	57 46 sh		Portland	57 49 c	61 43 sh	
Eugene	58 46 sh	63 40 c		Roseburg	60 46 r	66 43 pc	
Ilwaco	54 49 r	55 48 sh		Salem	58 48 sh	62 42 sh	
Klamath Falls	54 37 c	56 32 c		Seaside	55 49 r	56 48 sh	
Medford	63 45 r	65 41 pc		Spokane	56 43 sh	58 37 sh	
Newberg	56 48 sh	61 41 sh		Springfield	58 46 sh	63 41 sh	
Newport	55 47 r	57 45 sh		Vancouver	57 49 sh	60 44 sh	
North Bend	58 49 r	61 47 sh		Yakima	65 40 c	65 35 pc	



# Educators rounding up kindergartners

The Daily Astorian

Local educators are holding kindergarten roundups later this month to meet the incoming Class of 2030 in advance of next school year.

Parents and guardians of children turning 5 years old before Sept. 1 need to attend the roundups to register and

prepare children for classes in the fall.

Roundups will be at Seaside Heights Elementary School at 3 p.m. April 25; John Jacob Astor Elementary School at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. April 27; Hilda Lahti Elementary at 9:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. April 27; Gearhart Elementary School at 3:00 p.m. April 27; Warrenton Grade

School at 6 p.m. April 27 and Jewell School at 4 p.m. May 4.

At the roundups, students and parents can meet kindergarten teachers, principals and other staff, tour schools and receive a "Class of 2030" T-shirt.

Parents should bring their children's birth certificates and immunization records. Staff can help obtain copies of either.

# Campbell holds meet and greet

The Daily Astorian

Jim Campbell, who is running for re-election as Port of Astoria Commissioner, Position 1, hosts a meet the candidate event from 5 to 7 p.m.

The event is in the Columbia House Party Room, Columbia House Condominiums, 1 Third St. N.E. The public is welcome, and refreshments are provided.

For information call Friends of Jim Campbell 17 at 503-861-9832.

# ON THE RECORD

## DUII

• At 9:16 p.m. Saturday, Jordyn Danielle Goldberg, 19, of Astoria, was arrested by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office on Nimitz Drive in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• At 12:52 a.m. Sunday, Janessa Wright, 22, of Astoria, was arrested by the Astoria Police Department at 95 West Marine Drive for DUII. Her blood alcohol content was 0.21 percent.

# DEATH

April 13, 2017  
WADDELL, William Lee, 65, of Warrenton, died

in Nehalem. Waud's Funeral Home in Tillamook is in charge of the arrangements.

# PUBLIC MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
**Knappa School Board**, 5:30 p.m., Knappa High School, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.  
**Astoria City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.  
**Jewell School Board**, 6 p.m. budget committee meeting, 7:30 p.m., Jewell School library, 83874 Oregon Highway 103.

**Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council**, 4 to 5:30 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430.  
**Warrenton City Commission**, 5:30 p.m., work session on capital improvement projects, City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.  
**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m., 1810 S. Franklin, Seaside.  
**Shoreline Sanitary District Board**, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.  
**Seaside Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**TUESDAY**  
**Cannon Beach Public Works Committee**, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.  
**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, 4 p.m., 1225 Ave. A, Seaside.

# LOTTERIES

**OREGON**  
**Sunday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 6-5-2-3  
4 p.m.: 0-7-4-5  
7 p.m.: 0-2-7-5  
10 p.m.: 0-9-0-1  
**Saturday's Megabucks:** 5-22-28-42-43-44  
Estimated jackpot: \$4 million  
**Saturday's Powerball:** 5-22-26-45-61, Powerball: 13  
Estimated jackpot: \$80 million  
**Saturday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 0-7-1-0  
4 p.m.: 2-9-2-0  
7 p.m.: 0-2-6-6  
10 p.m.: 7-9-4-0  
**Friday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 1489  
4 p.m.: 1564  
7 p.m.: 0397  
10 p.m.: 1062  
**Friday's Mega Millions:** 5-10-55-60-73, Mega Ball: 12  
Estimated jackpot: \$37 million

**WASHINGTON**  
**Sunday's Daily Game:** 4-0-8  
**Sunday's Keno:** 01-03-08-10-15-16-18-23-27-28-29-35-44-58-62-68-73-74-78-80  
**Sunday's Match 4:** 04-08-19-22  
**Saturday's Daily Game:** 7-7-8  
**Saturday's Hit 5:** 12-16-18-24-36  
Estimated jackpot: \$140,000  
**Saturday's Keno:** 12-13-19-25-27-28-31-41-43-45-48-60-63-64-66-69-75-76-77-79  
**Saturday's Lotto:** 01-05-08-16-23-38  
Estimated jackpot: \$4.9 million  
**Saturday's Match 4:** 01-04-20-22  
**Friday's Daily Game:** 9-0-8  
**Friday's Keno:** 04-06-22-27-29-32-34-37-43-44-45-47-48-52-56-59-61-65-72-77  
**Friday's Match 4:** 05-11-12-24

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