

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## Tip of the hat, kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to the hundreds of volunteers who planned, set up, performed in and then, thankfully, cleaned up after the Pendleton Round-Up.

In a brief survey of the rodeo attendees this year, we found several who had never been before. They were thoroughly impressed by the show and surrounding festivities. Others spoke about their first trip to the Round-Up, and we found many of them haven't missed a year since.

Creating that kind of experience is hard work, from the arena to downtown to the businesses working extra hours to make the visit extra special.

For those of us who live in this town, it can be easy to take the Round-Up for granted 51 weeks out of the year. But the work that goes on behind the scenes is a Herculean effort.

As those in the know say, there's 356 days until Round-Up. There's

work to be done.

A kick in the pants to U.S. Rep. Greg Walden for offering such a paltry debate, on a Friday night, in front of no live audience, in his quest for an 11th term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As voters and viewers, it's hard to feel grateful for a single 30-minute time slot, which will air from a Bend television studio as Friday night football games kick off.

Even in the smallest district in the U.S. it would be hard to fit the most pressing topics into that small of a window. In a district as large as the 2nd Congressional, we'll feel lucky if we get more than a few sound bites.

Walden's opponent, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, has suggested three debates, including one in our corner of the state. At very least, we'd like to see the two spar for 90 minutes at the Bend debate.

A tip of the hat to the Pendleton City Council for standing firm on



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Koby Radley of Montpelier, Louisiana, flies head first off OLS Tubs Nickle Package for no score in the bull riding finals on Saturday at the Pendleton Round-Up.

the most recent deal it had made with housing developer Saj Jivanjee.

The council in the past has been willing to extend new offers each time Jivanjee has asked, including delaying loan repayment and restructuring terms of the original deal. And each time Jivanjee has said the changes are critical to keep work moving on the Pendleton Heights project.

But allowing these kinds of deals to

morph at a developer's whim is a bad precedent, and we're pleased to see the council put its foot down on the latest iteration.

It's also telling that Jivanjee has asked to receive duplicate incentives to any given to other developers in town, including property tax deferral and land donation. He seems intent to push the city as far as it will go at each turn.

### YOUR VIEWS

#### Why is Greg Walden avoiding us?

I follow Greg Walden pretty closely. I think it is the duty of any citizen to know what their elected officials are doing. I like to look at his Twitter account every now and then. One thing that has been coming up lately is the air quality of the state in the wake of nasty wildfires. This is certainly a topic worth discussion. He usually says something to the effect of "When I talk to Oregonians they say this ..." I find this phrase very interesting coming from Mr. Walden for one particular reason. When does he ever talk to Oregonians?

A little context as to why I am upset with Mr. Walden. Last year he helped write a health care bill that would have taken care away from millions of Americans — one of whom was my father. My father was a teacher for many years and had good insurance through his job. But he was diagnosed with cancer and his doctor told him that he could no longer work. No job, no insurance. Ten thousand dollars a month for chemo. My father got on Obamacare and it made his last few months livable. When the Republican Party came to take my father's insurance away, he called Rep. Suzanne Bonamici and she talked to him personally. I called Greg Walden. He never called back. Why would he? I'm a constituent. He doesn't talk to constituents.

He has been stonewalling Oregonians for the last year and a half. He hasn't held a public town hall in over 500 days. What is he afraid of exactly? Why doesn't he want to talk to us?

It could be that he wanted to take away our health care. Since 20 percent of Oregonians in our district use the Affordable Care Act, that might be a sore point. It could be that he has refused to condemn Donald Trump on anything from children in cages, to his most recent tweet denying that 3,000 American citizens died in Puerto Rico.

Perhaps he'll prove me wrong. Perhaps he'll change his tune and start working for us. Perhaps he'll break away from Donald Trump and the Republican agenda of corruption and stealing our medicine. I do think that there is a good person deep inside Greg Walden.

But he's clearly not here now. Vote for

Jamie McLeod-Skinner in November.  
Aaron Rouska  
Hermiston

#### Buehler won't find pot of gold if elected governor

There is a television ad running in support of Knute Buehler talking about how the graduation rate for Oregon students is very poor and how Kate Brown is responsible. What Dr. Buehler fails to remember is that his friends Lon Parks, Don McIntire and Bill Sizemore have gotten legislation voted in that has basically put a stranglehold on spending for anything in Oregon.

Had Dr. Buehler sat in on the same meeting as I did with actuarials (number crunchers) in 1990 when I was running for the House from District 57 he would have heard exactly what would happen if Ballot Measure 5 was passed. We were told what would happen and you are now seeing police departments running on skeleton crews, fire departments understaffed and school districts wondering how they are going to find enough money to keep class sizes down. We were told that if Ballot Measure 5 was passed it would hurt rural Oregon first and they were right; then came Ballot Measures 47 and 50 and that made matters worse.

Folks, Dr. Buehler is living in a delusional world if he thinks there is money to do everything he is proposing. I've known Kate Brown, and she sat in the same meeting as I did and heard what the numbers guys told us, and she campaigned against passage of Ballot Measure 5 as I did — and alas, it passed.

The solution to Oregon's financial problems isn't voting in Knute Buehler, it's keeping Kate Brown and getting rid of ballot measures 47 and 50. Dr. Buehler fails to remember that not only did Oregonians vote in both those initiatives but the EPA also has made unfunded mandates that Oregon has to comply with or face the consequences all at the expense of the Oregonians that Dr. Buehler hopes will elect him as governor.

Folks, don't get snookered into voting for Knute Buehler for governor thinking that there is a pot of gold somewhere that will pay for his pipe dreams.

Barbara Ann Wright-Dunagan  
Pendleton



### LIMEY PASTOR

## Adoption and birth from above

I write this on the eve of my mother's birthday. I was adopted at the age of six weeks by Gwenda Mary Brown, my new adopted mother, and Gilbert Brown, my new adopted father. My birth mother, a young girl called Marilyn Dobbs, and an unknown father were needed to bring me to my new parents' doorstep. My mother, Gwenda (now passed), was born on September 20.

I only found out that I was adopted when I was about 12 years old. It was a shock, as if I was being suddenly dislocated to Mars. After this I still loved the only parents I had known as much as ever, but I felt enormously that I had somehow been gifted with an inheritance that wasn't honestly mine.

My cousin Alan, as I found out much later on, had also been adopted. When I talked about this with him in his 30s — calling him in New York where he had moved and become a writer of detective stories — he asked me if I was a good adoptee or a bad adoptee.

He had made a study of this. Some adoptees, according to Alan, feel that they have to prove to the whole world that there really is no connection with their adopted parents, and act out — thus, the bad adoptee. One of my friends at high school had become a bad adoptee and had robbed a bank. His parents had run the local scout troops.

My own path, I hoped, had been opposite. I first went to school to become a teacher when I was in my early 20s. I then became a technology guy for some of the big companies. In my waning years I hope I have tried to be a really good adoptee — and have become both a pastor and a chaplain, albeit limey all the way.



COLIN BROWN  
Faith

I also think that it drew me closer to God, the heavenly father, Abba — and feel as close to him as I possibly could to any human father. I feel my father continues to draw me closer and closer. I know that this drawing is the most powerful love; what father who loves does not want his children to be close in spirit? What child does not love back a loving parent, being magnetized with that force,

not fearful of making mistakes but truly wanting to be like the one who drew us into fullness of life?

Male and female he created us. We are all sons and daughters of the living God. I truly want to be like my father from above, with the gift of my parents from here with all their normal holiness and kindness. We are imaged by those from whom we receive instruction and love.

When I think of my former church in Eastern Oregon, and consider my friends there, I feel my heart glowing like a hot coal. Every church is like the heart of a fire, and its congregation members are like the hot coals breathing and glowing. I think of them warmly, each one, and the children I think must be growing fast and expanding into the God-shaped promise of adulthood.

I feel the father's love growing as I think of them, praying for their success, their own futures radiant with the promise that Jesus has provided them, that they are loved, blessed and forgiven, and in the passport that love has provided them, to start their own families soon enough and to go and do likewise, with song and prayer, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Colin Brown is the former pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.

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