

Local & State

DEMOCRATIC SENATOR SAYS HE'LL DECIDE AFTER NOV. 6 ELECTION

Merkley mulls White House run

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

PORTLAND — He's a Democrat, a liberal senator who wants to make Medicare available for all Americans, has pushed bills to stem climate change and is a sharp critic of President Donald Trump. And he's seriously considering a run for the White House.

It's not Vermont's Bernie Sanders. It's Jeff Merkley, a senator whose national profile rose this year when he led opposition to the Trump administration's immigration policy that saw parents forcibly separated from their children.

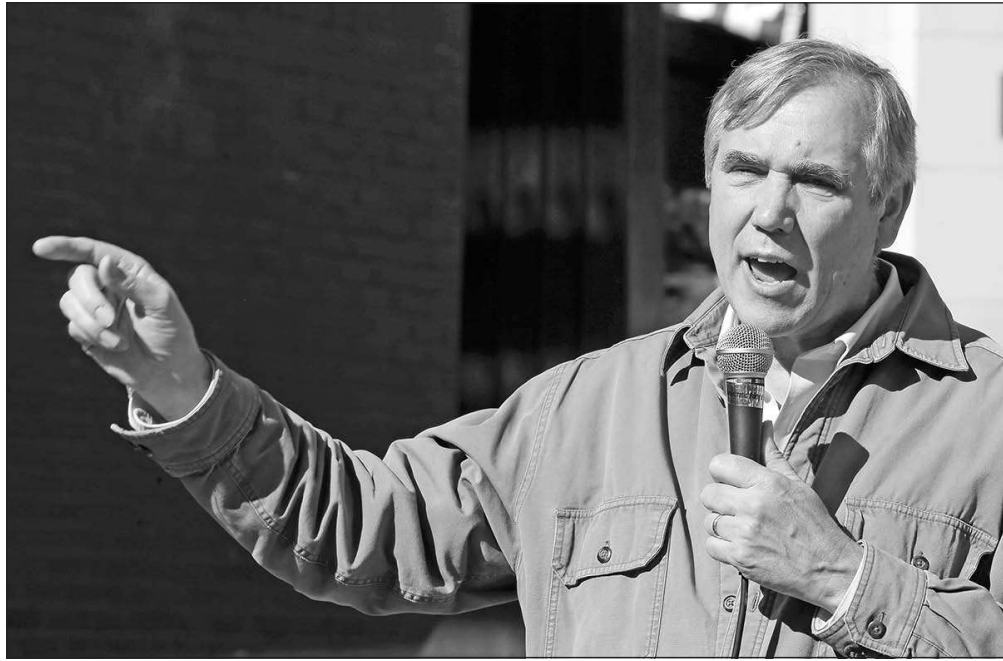
Merkley, in trying to gauge voter interest in a run for the presidency, has already visited Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada, states that have early primaries and caucuses in the presidential sweepstakes.

Merkley said he'll decide whether to run after next week's midterm election.

He didn't have much name recognition nationally until last June, when he tried to enter a federal facility in Texas where immigrant children were being held. An aide videotaped the scene as he was refused entry and police were called. The video quickly went viral with over 1 million views in a day, and was repeated in newscasts across the country.

In October, Merkley introduced legislation to prevent the Trump administration from forcing asylum seekers into interment camps.

"It's just a simple question of human decency and



Don Ryan / Associated Press

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., speaks during a rally in Portland on Oct. 17, 2018. Merkley, a frequent critic of President Donald Trump, is seriously considering a run for the White House.

justice," Merkley said. "We're a nation of immigrants. The vast bulk of us have, somewhere in our ancestry, people who fled religious persecution, or famine, or war."

Merkley said immigrants fleeing persecution were being treated as criminals and are being traumatized. He described the forced separation of children from their parents as "an obscenely dark and evil act."

The administration says the crackdown is necessary to stop illegal immigration.

In his trips to other states Merkley has spoken with people "in their living rooms, their porches their backyards, nearby parks."

"You get together with a bunch of people and you talk about the state of the world," he explained. He discussed

with them issues he has led on, including ending predatory home mortgages; battling "climate chaos" — as he calls climate change; fighting for equality for the LGBT community; and opposing trade agreements that ship Americans' jobs overseas.

"The feedback's been very positive," Merkley said, though he added that maybe the people were just being polite.

His father was a millwright maintaining machines in a plywood mill and in the forest, then did other jobs. Merkley lives in a one-story house in the same blue-collar neighborhood of Portland where he grew up, giving him a humble Jimmy Carter quality.

As a kid, Merkley excelled in math and science. He ap-

plied for college at almost the last minute, being unfamiliar with the process, and was accepted at Stanford and Yale. He chose Stanford for the financial aid.

"It was a stressful couple of years (but) I wanted to prove that the blue-collar kid could keep up with the kids from prep schools, so I had to work a little harder," he said.

His first exposure to national politics began when he interned in Washington, D.C., for Sen. Mark Hatfield, a moderate Republican. He was elected to the Oregon Legislature and then won Hatfield's former Senate seat, in 2008, narrowly defeating the Republican incumbent. He handily won re-election six years later.

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STATE BRIEFING

State Police finish testing backlog of evidence kits from sexual assault cases

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon State Police say they have finished testing a backlog of thousands of evidence kits collected after sexual assaults.

KOIN-TV reported Wednesday that more than 5,000 kits were stored as evidence for years and were discovered in 2015.

New legislation passed in 2016 allowed testing of those kits and a grant paid for more staff at the crime lab and outside testing to allow OSP to complete the work.

There have been three indictments in Multnomah County in unsolved cases from 2006, 2010 and 2011.

And in Lane County, a man was sentenced earlier this year for raping a teenage girl in 2005.

SCHOOLS

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The participation target is set for all students, including those with disabilities. However, many parents don't want to expose their children with disabilities to the pressure of testing, Palmer said. And some parents allow their children to opt out of math testing because of the difficulties they encounter with the subject.

On the other hand, students in the Baker Web Academy's Early College program don't take the tests for lack of interest. They are already taking classes on college campuses, she said. And other Web Academy students have opted out of traditional school programs and also see no reason to take the tests.

To help bolster student interest, Baker Middle School, South Baker and Haines have made an aggressive push toward trying to encourage student participation in a system dubbed "Testing Palooza," Palmer said.

"It's one week of fun activities and a focus on testing," she said. "And then they move on. They get breaks, recreation ... it's one and done.

"It helps kids focus and it's the only time they have to do this — and they get some fun things that help them stay engaged," she said.

Logistics is a problem for using the system at Brooklyn because of the number of students in the building and the way the classrooms are set up, she said.

This year, Baker Middle School was the only building in the district to meet the English/language arts and math participation rates for all students groups.

Palmer said the District also has its own systems for tracking student progress and acknowledges that the Smarter Balanced assessments are just one way to ensure students are moving toward their goals.

Both she and Witty praised the efforts of the teachers and principals who are doing their best in difficult situations to keep Baker students on track.

"Our staff remains committed to providing a quality education for all students by balancing the work on core skill development in reading and mathematics with curriculum that is engaging and tied to real world problems," Witty said. "It is critical to nourish curiosity and problem solving in our students as we prepare them for success in a future career."

MEASURE 103

Voters deciding on banning future taxes on groceries

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon is one of just a handful of states without a sales tax, and voters have repeatedly rejected attempts to add one.

This election, a ballot measure asks voters to enshrine that opposition in the state consti-

tution — at least, when it comes to groceries. Measure 103 would ban lawmakers from imposing any future taxes or fees on the sale or distribution of groceries and non-alcoholic beverages. It would allow taxes on alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana, which is legal in Oregon.

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TIRES

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Baker Valley Mobile Tire also has a rush of business on the first snow day, with 70 to 100 vehicles.

Commercial Tire put studded tires on about 15 vehicles Thursday, more than usual for a fall day before the first snowfall.

Having tires installed takes 10 to 30 minutes depending on the vehicle and whether the studded tires are already mounted on wheels.

Rob Gentili was among the Baker City residents who had studded tires installed on his vehicle Thursday at Lew Brothers.

Gentili, 76, said he has used studded tires for 30 years, and he plans to continue to do so as long as they're legal.

Some states have outlawed studded tires because of the damage they cause to roads.

In the past decade or so more drivers, even in areas such as Baker City where snow and ice are common, have switched from studded tires to snow tires that offer good traction by way of softer rubber compounds and a proliferation of sipes, slices in the tread blocks that create

edges that help grip the road.

Pearce said about half of his customers who use special winter tires have studless snow tires.

Studies have shown that studless snow tires offer similar traction to studded tires, based on how quickly

a vehicle can stop from a certain speed, in most conditions, but studded tires have an advantage on ice or hard-packed snow.

Studless tires have better traction on dry and wet pavement, based on multiple studies.

Temporary Farm Labor: Wilmer Farms, Inc., Goleta, CA, has 12 positions with 3 mo. exp. required as beekeeper with references; raise honeybees to produce honey & maintain colony health through feed supplements, caging queens, install queen cells, assemble hives, harvest combs, transport honey; maintain & repair vehicles, buildings & equip.; long periods of standing, bending & must be able to lift 75#; must obtain driver's license within 30 days of hire with clean MVR; no bee, pollen, or honey related allergies; once hired, workers may be required to take employer paid random drug test; testing positive/failure to comply may result in immediate termination; employer provides free tools, equipment, housing and daily trans; trans & subsistence expenses reimb.; \$13.18/hr, may increase based on exp. w/ possible bonus; may work nights, weekends, holidays and asked but not required to work Sabbath; 75% work period guaranteed from 1/01/19 – 5/15/19. Apply and review ETA790 requirements at nearest OR Workforce Office with JO# 16254521 or call 503-947-1659.

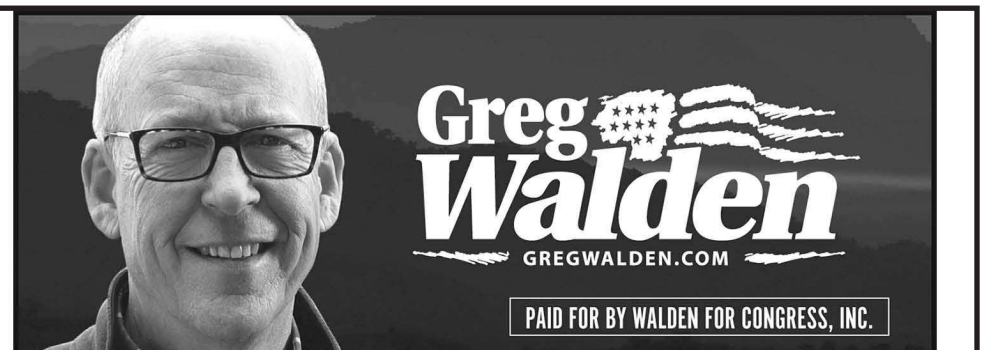
BANK SALE

Saturday, November 3rd
8 AM - 11 AM

22 File Cabinets, 14 Wall Shelves,
12 Desks, 15 Office Chairs, some
furniture, 3 Rugs & More!

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Call Don & Jackie Phillips
541-523-4344 for info



The Bulletin

10/10/18

EDITORIAL

Walden the best choice for 2nd Congressional District.

"Walden is not a flashy politician. Instead, he works hard at his job representing the people of the 2nd Congressional District... He reflects the views of this district well and will continue to do so. He should be re-elected."

Grants Pass Oregon's

Daily Courier

10/14/18

EDITORIAL

Walden deserves another term in Congress.

"Rep. Greg Walden knows exactly what those who have sent him back to Washington 10 consecutive times want from him. They want the 61-year-old Republican to lead on issues that are important to most rural Oregonians, and Walden has done just that. He has pushed the House of Representatives on forest management, fire borrowing, rural internet infrastructure and opioid abuse."

EAST OREGONIAN

10/16/18

EDITORIAL

In the face of change, Walden has earned an 11th term in Congress.

"Walden continues to get work done as he sounds the alarm on wildfire management. We believe his efforts in that field to be critical for Oregon's future, and believe his focus on the impact of smoke is as crucial for us as it is in Southern Oregon... however the rest of the chips may fall we believe he is the best suited to bring our needs to Washington and bring results back to the 2nd District."

✓ Vote Greg Walden for Congress.