

WALDEN

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"I'm asking you to go back and tell Congress we're tired of it. We're tired of altering our lives to survive and pay for all this garbage we are handing out," said Harvey.

He also pointed out that the Republicans had both houses of Congress and could have acted on border security prior to the 2018 election. Harvey's line of questioning ended with a round of applause from the audience.

"It is essential that we get control of the border," Walden said.

He added that while he agrees with strengthening the border, he doesn't agree with precedent that the declaration makes. He also mentioned that the money used for security is coming from military construction projects, but the White House has not specified which ones. He also said that he voted for increased border security funding multiple times recently and only opposed the state of emergency declaration.

"It's sometimes hard to stand up for what you believe are constitutional separations of powers, especially when its your president and you support the cause, but to me the Constitution trumps the cause in this case," said Walden.

Walden's response also garnered a round of applause from the audience.

The Chair of the Baker County Democrats Peter Hall thanked Walden for standing up for the Constitution and voting to overturn the President's declaration, an effort that ultimately didn't succeed.

"There is a right way and a wrong way to do things, a wall isn't the answer, better border security is with better



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

With regard to Social Security, Gretchen Stadler makes a plea to Walden to "protect our investment" for us and future generations.

legal immigration systems," said Hall.

Hall also presented Walden with a proposal for a health care system where everyone would receive a voucher to purchase basic health insurance from any company and if they wanted more complex coverage they would have to pay for it themselves.

Though the cap and trade bill isn't a federal issue, Walden was asked for his thoughts on it. He said he believes it would be disastrous for Eastern Oregon. He prefaced that by saying he hadn't studied aside from what he

has seen in the media.

"On this issue of climate I've staked out a position that says I'm for innovation, I'm for conservation, I'm for adaptation and preparation," said Walden.

Gretchen Stadler asked Walden to promise to protect Medicare and Social Security. Walden said he has done that ever since he started in Congress and will continue to do so.

This was the third of seven town halls Walden attended Friday through Sunday across his district.

Matt McElligott, a member of the Oregon Cattleman's Association, said that Eastern Oregon communities could use Walden's help making sure their voice is heard when developing the next Blue

Mountain Forest Plan. Recently the U.S. Forest Service retracted its record of decision for the plan after community opposition across Eastern Oregon.

"We need to build a stronger partnership between the local communities and the agencies, whether it's here or elsewhere, so it feels more collaborative," said Walden.

At the beginning of the town hall Boy Scout Troop 444 led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and the presentation of the colors. Walden also presented a signed copy of a bill to address the opioid epidemic in the U.S. to Chuck Hoffman, a Baker City physician who had worked with Walden on developing the bill.

"I would like to accept this on behalf of all the other providers and patients and families who are affected by this terrible disease," said Hoffman.

Walden wasn't asked any questions about the Mueller Report, which has been a consistent topic in the national news since it was submitted earlier this month. He also didn't bring it up on his own accord. His website does have a press release addressing the topic. He and every other member of the House voted to demand the full report be made public.



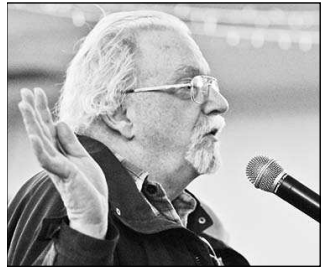
S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

In defense of current immigration practices, Kelsey Eastman says we "need such a bigger world view." When people have to flee their countries, she asks, "what else are they going to do?"



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Grazing on public forest land was one of the issues for Oregon Cattlemen's Association member Matt McElligott.



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Peter Hall advocates for a health care program for everyone.

FFA

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Giff said as a gold award winner, the Baker Chapter will move forward to the national competition. The national convention is set for Oct. 30 to Nov. 2 in



Zack Morrison

Indianapolis.

Sixteen BHS students attended the state convention.

Here are the top individual award winners:

- Quinn Coomer placed second in the Job Interview competition and was an Ag Cooperatives



Ty Morrison

Quiz finalist.

- Zack Morrison placed second in Creed Speaking.
- Ty Morrison was a Job Interview semifinalist and scholarship recipient for the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. this summer.
- Ty Morrison, Ron Bobo and Dallas Hardesty were Ag Marketing finalists.
- Ty Morrison, Ron Bobo,

Brogan Lewis and Justin Eskew were recipients of the Oregon FFA State Degree.

- Zack Morrison placed second in the Architectural Photography competition.

BILL

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The bill had a public hearing in the Senate Committee for Business and General Government and is scheduled to have a work session on April 9.

The commissioners had previously supported two bills in Legislature, SB393 and SB394, both of which are yet to be approved by the

lawmakers.

They are also scheduled to discuss dues for the Eastern Oregon County Association, have a public hearing to discuss the fee schedule for the Food Borne Illness Prevention Program and hear and an update on the

Eagle Valley Fire Station. The Commission will also approve unanticipated funds in the County Health fund, correct the account line for unanticipated funds in the Museum Fund and reappoint three members to the Baker County Weed Board.

BENNETT

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"In that environment you lean on other people, the farmers and loggers. You just don't do it by yourself."

Bennett said life in the

military has been exactly what he expected it to be and compared it to the community where he grew up.

Throughout his career Bennett said he has had many memorable moments, but his time here as a drill sergeant

is one that really stands out.

Bennett, a Baker High School graduate, is the son of Benny Bennett of Baker City and Susan Kaser of Redmond.

Dawn Arden is the Managing Editor for the Guidon in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

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