

Walden introduces legislation to aid vets

Blue Mountain Eagle

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-Oregon) has introduced a new piece of legislation aimed at helping veterans in rural areas receive better health care. Walden introduced the Doctors for Veterans Act early this month.

"This bipartisan legislation is a product of feedback I've heard from veterans themselves and VA officials throughout our district about the difficulties providing veterans in rural Oregon with timely access to quality care," Walden said. "... Especially in rural areas, our veterans are underserved and VA facilities in Oregon face difficult recruiting challenges. This bill will help the VA compete with the private sector for qualified physicians to adequately staff their health centers in underserved areas and bring veterans the care they deserve."

The bill would allow the VA to better recruit medical providers by offering student loan repayment benefits comparable to what is offered in the private sector. It proposes to increase the maximum student loan benefit that the VA can offer through its Education Debt Reduction Program, which could help the VA recruit and retain medical providers.

The legislation intends to address the VA's provider shortage by improving its ability to attract qualified medical providers, and ultimately improve access to quality, timely care for Oregon veterans. The bill provides additional help to rural and underserved VA centers and clinics, where the provider shortages are often more severe due to increased challenges with recruitment and retention.

A separate piece of legislation Walden introduced — the VA Medical Scribes Pilot Act — recently passed the House of Representatives unanimously. This legislation would implement a pilot program for medical scribes at VA facilities, which intends to administratively unburden VA doctors and allow them to see more veterans.

Both the VA Medical Scribes Pilot Act and the Doctors for Veterans Act seek to address issues Walden has heard about during his recent meetings with veterans and officials at the VA SORCC and throughout his district.



The Eagle/Ryland Boggs

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-Oregon) speaks to community members during a town hall meeting in Mt. Vernon earlier this year. Walden recently introduced legislation to help rural veterans receive better health care.

OEA drops tax petition for technical error

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

A technical error has prompted the Oregon Education Association to withdraw a petition for a ballot measure to enact a 0.95 percent sales tax on corporations with annual sales of more than \$5 million.

Initiative Petition 27 created a tax framework for corporations with annual sales of more than or less than \$5 million. However, corporations with sales of exactly \$5 million would have had to pay nothing, due to an error in the initiative's language, said OEA President John Larson.

OEA, the state's largest teachers' union, plans to file paperwork for a new initiative after correcting the proposal's wording.

"We are not abandoning the concept," Larson said.

Petitioners had already collected more than 1,000 signatures at the time of withdrawal Friday, Aug. 4.

The OEA filed paperwork for the tax measure after it became unlikely that state lawmakers would raise new revenue for schools. The teachers' union also backed corporate sales tax Measure 97, which failed in the November 2016 election. Union leaders maintain that Oregon corporations fail to contribute their "fair share" to state tax revenue.

The proposal would levy a 0.95 percent gross receipts tax on corporations with annual sales greater than \$5 million. The initiative's sponsors want all of the revenue to go toward K-12 and higher education.

Another ballot measure proposal by the OEA — Initiative Petition 26 — is still in play. The initiative would eliminate the constitutional requirement to garner a three-fifths majority vote in both chambers of the Legislature to pass new taxes, when educational funding dips under a certain threshold. The threshold is "a sum of money sufficient to ensure the state system of public education meets quality goals established by law."

Airport implementing restrictions for eclipse

Blue Mountain Eagle

To ensure safety, the Grant County Regional Airport will only be allowing fire aviation, medical aviation and pilots with confirmed reservations and prior permission to land Aug. 19 through 5 p.m. Aug. 21.

The airport terminal will be restricted Aug. 21, the day of the eclipse.

Only airport employees and volunteers, local hangar owners, Forest Service airbase employees and contractors and emergency personnel will be allowed access to the airport. For more information, call the airport at 541-575-1151.



Grant County Regional Airport is restricting access to runways and terminals during the weekend of the total solar eclipse, Aug. 19-21.

Eagle file photo

COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Oregon State Police

Arrested Jack Norris Haughton, 44, Bend, for driving under the influence of alcohol on Friday, Aug. 4.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of July 27 to Aug. 2:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 8
- Average inmates: 16
- Bookings: 5
- Releases: 6
- Arrests: 1
- Fingerprints: 3
- Civil papers: 19
- Warrants processed: 1
- Asst./welfare check: 4

Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

Violation of the speed limit: Santo Domingo Vargas Sanbria, 34, Medford, June 27, fined \$200; Gabriel Jackson Helwig, 21, Belleville, Illinois, 65/35 zone, July 8, fined \$260.

Violation of the basic rule: Dalton James Reimers, 21, John Day, 70/55 zone, fined

\$160; Morgan Mae Jensen, 18, Bend, 83/55 zone, July 28, fined \$260.

Exceeding speed limit: Jonathan Aaron Frohnmayer, 45, Eureka, Montana, 52/35 zone, July 10, fined \$135; Sue Marie Robinson, 72, Eugene, 50/35 zone, June 19, fined \$135; Jose Manuel Gutierrez, 34, Eureka, California, 45/35 zone, July 7, fined \$110.

Driving uninsured: Robert James Bryant Jr., 20, Prairie City, June 3, fined \$130; Danela Dawn Lewis, 43, Prairie City, July 8, fined \$130.

Careless driving: Ernest Zuniga, 62, Mt. Vernon, July 9, fined \$370.

Exceeding max weight limit: John Weatherman, 61, Prineville, July 11, fined \$150.

Driving uninsured: Logan William Ortmann, 27, John Day, July 21, fined \$130; Jackson R. Stephenson, 25, Asheville, North Carolina, June 28, fined \$130.

Operate without proper fenders: Jordan Rachelle Dibartolo, 21, Tygh Valley, July 1, fined \$160.

Driving while suspended: Caleb Joe Vielma, 28, Mt.

Vernon, June 6, fined \$435.

Failure to drive within lane: Ben G. Luethe Jr., 73, Mt. Vernon, July 18, fined \$260.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 172 calls during the week of July 31 to Aug. 6. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

• John Day Police Department

July 31: Dispatched to a report of a dispute at America's Best Value Inn. Responded to an accident at the stoplight in John Day.

Aug. 3: Received a report of kids jumping off the Patterson Bridge. Received a report of a month-old shoplifting incident at Suzie Q's.

Aug. 4: Responded to a non-injury hit and run accident in John Day.

Aug. 5: Responded for Grant County Sheriff's Office with Oregon State Police and Burns/Paiute Tribal Police to a report of domestic violence in Canyon City. Responded to a report of abuse in Strawberry Village.

Aug. 6: Received a report of a gunshot wound from the hospital, but no crime had been committed. Arrested a 57-year-old Salem resident for failure to renew sex offender registration and cited him for speeding.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

July 31: Dispatched to a report of a dispute in Canyon City. Took a report of harassment in Mt. Vernon.

Aug. 5: Removed hazard cows from Highway 26 near milepost 198. Arrested a 31-year-old Eugene resident on a warrant after responding to a report of harassment.

Aug. 6: Advised of a report of illegal hunting.

• John Day ambulance

Aug. 1: Responded for a 73-year-old male who was unresponsive.

Aug. 4: Responded with Long Creek ambulance, Long Creek Fire Department and Oregon State Police to a single vehicle accident on Highway 395 North.

Aug. 5: Responded with Long Creek ambulance for a 71-year-old male with a possible heart attack. Responded with Prairie City ambulance

for a 51-year-old man who injured himself getting off a roof.

• Oregon State Police

Aug. 5: Responded to a report of a bull in the highway.

Aug. 6: Received a complaint of a bull on Highway 26 near Belshaw Bridge.

• John Day Public Works

July 31: Responded to a report of a broken water line on Lamford Road.

• Long Creek Fire Department

Aug. 4: Received a report of a tractor fire on Vaughn Road in Fox.

SAVE THE DATE

Benefit Dinner & Raffle
(do not need to be present to win)
for Cory Holland

OCT. 7, 2017

time and location to be announced.

Watch for more details in
upcoming issues of the newspaper

ELTRUM HISTORIC THEATER

1809 First Street • Baker City • (541) 523-5439

BARGAIN MATINEE IN () Adults \$7
ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD TUESDAY

MOVIE SCHEDULE AUGUST 11-17

THE NUT JOB 2 PG
Surly and his friends must stop the mayor from destroying their home to make way for an amusement park.
FRI - THURS (4:20) 7:10 9:35

DETROIT R
The story is centered around the Algiers Motel incident, which occurred in Detroit, Michigan during the racially charged 12th Street Riot of 1967.
Directed by Kathryn Bigelow.
FRI - THURS (4:00) 7:30

DUNKIRK PG-13
Allied soldiers from Belgium, the British Empire and France are surrounded by the German army and evacuated during a fierce battle in World War II.
FRI - WED (4:10) 7:00 9:30
THURSDAY (4:10) 9:30

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

Robbins Farm Equipment

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 3850 10th St. Baker City 541-523-6377 | 62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande 541-963-6577 | 1160 S Egan Burns 541-573-6377 | 86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley 541-576-2160 |
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GOD'S GALAXY

LOOKING TO THE HEAVENS,
KNOWING GOD'S LOVE

Come join us for 3 fun-filled
evenings as we look to the heavens
to see God's handiwork.

Parents are invited to participate in
the adult service.

Who:
Kids grades K-6

Join us:
Thurs Aug 17 ~ 6:00-8:00pm
Sun Aug 20 ~ 5:00-7:30pm
Thurs Aug 24 ~ 6:00-8:00pm

Where:
Living Word Christian Center
Hwy 26, Mt. Vernon
(541) 932-4910

www.livingwordcc.com