

# Walden brings methodical purpose to political work

Oregon may not know it yet, but in 2021, it is going to lose a tremendous amount of influence in Washington, D.C.

That's because long-time federal lawmaker Greg Walden will step down that year from his slot in the U.S. House of Representatives. Walden, 62, announced earlier this week that he will not run for reelection in the huge 2nd Congressional District. That district includes large chunks of Eastern and Southern Oregon — including Grant County.

First elected in 1998, Walden's coveted position will be up for grabs in the next election. It also means that, when Walden departs, 20 years worth of experience and political know-how will go with him.

That isn't a good thing for Oregon, and it is especially bad news for the constituents of his district.

As the only Republican in Oregon's congressional delegation, Walden, for the most part, delivered a type of moderate center-right balance to a field dominated by Democrats. While Walden met criticism from the political fanatics on both sides of the political fence, overall his track record shows he looked out for Eastern Oregon on a consistent basis.

Whoever replaces Walden will face a long road to achieving the kind of influence the Hood

River native built over two decades of work in Congress.

Walden also strived to raise the voice of the rural areas of the state in the federal arena. His successes during his tenure are many and the state — especially the moderate GOP — is going to miss his leadership.

Political voices of reason — the adults in the room, if you will — are sadly missing on the American political stage as of late. The country is bitterly divided along political fault lines where there is a constant grinding of rhetoric and dogma that ignites sparks that burn bright.

Politicians who, for the most part, stick to party alignment yet seek always to find compromise to help the nation and their state seem like a vanishing species. As Walden has pointed out before, that perception is quite correct.

Lots of good work is done in the hallowed halls of Congress by both Democrats and Republicans on a regular basis. But it is the smoldering fire of fanatical doctrine that gets headlines and seems to snake throughout the political collective consciousness like a main circuit cable.

Walden brings a sense of methodical purpose to his political work, and he did a lot for Oregon. Once he leaves the American political stage, he will be sorely missed.



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## SHOOTING THE BREEZE

# The story of the princess

Once upon a time, there was a little princess who lived with her queen mum, the court jester and a couple of stable boys. The little princess loved all things girl, from frilly pink clothes to American Girl dolls. The court jester tried many times to corrupt the poor little princess. He did manage to get her to go fishing, and she loved it. They had many happy fishing trips together. Sadly, he could never convince her to try hunting, try as he might.



Rod Carpenter

As the years passed, the jester began to give up hope. Then the miracle happened. The queen mum drew a deer tag, and the preparations for the hunt began. Trips to the rifle range, gathering necessary clothes and discussing hunt strategy. As the princess listened and watched, she was caught up in the excitement and declared that maybe, just maybe, she would like to try this hunting thing. The possibility of letting the princess actually hunt using the mentor program was briefly discussed and then discarded because she had never fired a gun. It was decided she would



Contributed photo

The queen mum and princess pose for a photo while hunting.

tag along and watch.

The season finally arrived, and it was agreed that the princess could miss one day of charm school to tag along.

After the stable boys were sent on their way, the jester, queen and princess were on their way. The princess was resplendent in her pink sweatshirt and cowgirl boots. As they headed to the hunt area, they jumped some does and a little forked horn buck. They had fun looking the deer over, but the buck needed a couple of years to grow up, so they continued on their way.

At the hunting area, they came up with a game plan and set off on their hike. The princess was a

trooper and kept up no problem. She was quiet and attentive. Unfortunately, no more deer were seen that day. Despite that, the princess announced that she had a great time and would like to try hunting for herself. Music to the ears of the lowly court jester. Plans are already in the works to make that happen.

On a day the little princess couldn't go along, the queen mum managed to take the buck of a lifetime, but that is a story for another day.

Have a great hunting story? Drop us a line at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com.

Rod Carpenter is a husband, father and hunting fool.

## OTHER VIEWS

# Democrats must work with GOP on climate bill

Oregon Republicans most likely understood at the end of the last session that the controversial carbon emission issue wasn't going to go away.

Already, one of the architects of the carbon emission reduction bill that failed during the last session is hard at work crafting a new proposal.

Readers probably remember that Senate Republicans walked out of the 2019 session, a decision that destroyed hopes by Democrats to push their favored carbon emission blueprint into law.

The bill was designed to slash the state's greenhouse gas emissions and generate funds to use on a host of environmental programs.

There is also, apparently, a push by an environmental group to put a carbon emission reduction measure before voters.

Sen. Michael Dembrow,

D-Portland, the lawmaker who led the effort for the carbon emission reduction legislation, is working to simplify a new bill and that should be good news for everyone, especially voters.

That's because the original piece of legislation was a confusing tome that created a host of questions from critics.

A more narrowly tailored piece of legislation is needed because there isn't any doubt — or shouldn't be — that climate change is real and we all need to discover a way to address it.

But we can't develop a solution on the backs of the rural residents of Oregon. Nor barge ahead with a solution that ignores the valid concerns of those of us who live and work and play in the great rural areas of Oregon.

Dembrow and his Democratic supporters on a new carbon emission bill must find a middle ground with Republicans on this issue, and that is going to be a pretty tall order.

The well between the two parties on this issue has, indeed, been poisoned. But that shouldn't mean lawmakers throw up their hands and walk away. This is an important issue, and just because it was bungled in the last session doesn't mean it should be discarded. What must be avoided is another long, drawn-out political battle that ends with the minority party walking away from the capital.

No one is going to say finding a solution will be easy. It won't be. Democracy is a messy business sometimes, and the last session's battles over the carbon reduction initiative clearly reinforce that scenario.

The Democrats staked their legislation success last session on a bill that was essentially a prototype on political overreach. They must work with their political brethren in both the House and Senate to find a viable solution.

—East Oregonian



## WHERE TO WRITE

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  - **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).
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