

Farm and ranch groups endorse Walden

Three of the most influential agriculture groups in Oregon today voiced their support for Congressman Greg Walden to be elected to his fifth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Oregonians for Food and Shelter all pointed to Walden's proven track record in supporting the interests of farmers and ranchers in their endorsement. A third group, the Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL), does not officially endorse candidates, but earlier this year, OWGL honored Walden with their Wheat Advocate of the Year Award, one of only five awards given to Members of Congress annually.

Walden, a native Oregonian who spent his early years on the family's cherry orchard outside of The Dalles, has consistently earned top ratings from farm and ranch groups for his work in the Congress and during his eight years in the state Legislature.

"Greg Walden understands the needs of Oregon farmers and is a tireless advocate on our behalf. Farmers around Oregon, not just in the 2nd Congressional District, owe Walden a debt of gratitude for his efforts.

We're fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant on our side," said Barry Bushue, President of the Oregon Farm Bureau.

Congressman Walden is a leader in the bipartisan effort to modernize and update the 30-year-old Endangered Species Act. After the government cut off water to Klamath Basin farmers in 2001, Walden went to work to make sure future such decisions were based on independent, peer-reviewed science. He has worked in the Congress to find common-sense ways to make the ESA an effective tool for species recovery without wrongly burdening communities and private landowners.

"Oregon ranchers struggle to sustain their business and lifestyle despite the challenges of the marketplace, environmental regulation, and public lands policy. Dealing with all of these issues requires strong allies in powerful positions. Greg Walden is such an ally. He is a forceful advocate for common sense policies that seek to balance the need for conservation with the importance of protecting the rural economy and our way

Ione prepares for homecoming on Oct. 13

Ione Community School is celebrating homecoming this week, with the homecoming sports games being held on Friday, Oct. 13. The varsity volleyball game will begin at 5 p.m., with the varsity football game starting at 7 p.m. The teams will be playing against Sherman County.

The homecoming court will be announced during halftime of the football game. A dance will follow the game, beginning at 9:30 p.m., at the Legion Hall.

of life," said Bob Beck, Chair of Oregon Cattle PAC.

Walden supported critical congressional efforts to help farmers deal with increasing energy costs, which have doubled or tripled in the last four years. Whether it was through his support for comprehensive energy legislation that included provisions to increase production of oil and natural gas, disaster relief, or providing incentives for production of alternative fuels including ethanol and biodiesel, Walden has worked to ease the crush of rapidly-increasing production costs and seek long-term solutions to stabilize energy prices.

"Time and again, Greg Walden is the one person we know will take the lead on issues important to all of rural Oregon. There's no question that the economy of rural Oregon is better than it would be without Walden's leadership. The survival of resource-dependent businesses and the economic activity they produce has been markedly improved because of Walden's work," said Jake Gibbs, Board Chair of Oregonians for Food and Shelter.

Walden, who chairs the Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee, helped write and pass the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, which has cleared the way for thinning forests of excess fuel loads. He also wrote and got the House to approve the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act that would expedite the process to allow the harvest of burned, dead and dying trees after a fire and the replanting of a forest sooner. Both measures are designed to improve forest stewardship and create new jobs in forest communities.

Congressman Walden is currently serving his fourth term representing the people of the Second Congressional District of Oregon, which includes 20 counties in central, southern, and eastern Oregon. He serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as well as the Committee on Resource, where he chairs the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. He was re-elected in 2004 with 72 percent of the vote in a four-person race. He and his wife, Mylene, have owned and operated radio stations in the Columbia Gorge for more than 20 years. Their son, Anthony, is a junior at Hood River Valley High School.

New gazebo installed at Cutsforth Park



The Cutsforth Gazebo, in honor of Orville Cutsforth.

The Cutsforth Gazebo honoring Orville Cutsforth is in place and ready for users. It is located at Cutsforth Park, 22 miles from Heppner on the Blue Mountain Scenic By-Way, also known as Willow Creek Road. The Gazebo with BBQ grills and picnic tables was donated in memory of Orville Cutsforth by the Cutsforth and Kilkenny family. It is located near the Darcy Coil 4-H building and the fishing pond. It is covered and ideal for family reunions, picnics and any kind of get-togethers.

The Public Work Department prepared the site, made walking paths leading to the Gazebo and worked many hours to ensure this was a recreation delight for all users for years to come. Pat Kilkenny, Orville's grandson, donated the money for this project. A dedication ceremony is planned for the spring.

Morrow County Parks is a department of

Sign-up period for EQIP now open

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today that the first sign up period for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Morrow County is open now and will close Nov. 30.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary conservation cost share program. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to install structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Agricultural land may include cropland, grazed land and forest land.

EQIP activities are carried out according to an EQIP plan of operations developed with the producer. Conservation practices such as spring developments, irrigation system upgrades, forest thinning and range seeding are among others that may be eligible for cost sharing.

Local man finds water line leak

A local man helped the city find a major water leak last week.

City Manger David DeMayo said Cecil Barlow of Green Street in Heppner was out walking and noticed a wet spot on the ground around Canon Street near the bridge. Barlow notified the city crew, who found "quite a leak," said DeMayo.

Morrow County Public Works. There are three county parks- Cutsforth, Anson Wright and Morrow County Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park. Reservations can be made at the Public Works office in Lexington through phone- 989-9500, fax- 989-8352 or email- mcparks@co.morrow.or.us. You can also visit the parks' website at www.morrowcountyparks.org.

Anson Wright Park will be closing on Oct. 29 for the season. Cutsforth will be open until Nov. 15 and the OHV Park is open year round. Camping, fishing, picnicking, hiking, wildlife and horse trails are some of the things you can do at Morrow County parks. At the OHV Park there is about 200 miles of trails for off-road motorcycles, quads and four-wheel drive vehicles. All three classes of vehicles are welcome. There are five A-frame cabins that are available to rent.

Incentive payments may also be made to encourage a producer to adopt land management practices such as residue management, direct seeding, conservation crop rotations and irrigation water management. People with a Conservation Security Program contract must be making a significant improvement to their system to be eligible for EQIP incentives.

EQIP applications are accepted throughout the year but cut off dates apply for each funding period. People who applied and were not funded in 2006 should contact NRCS if they are still interested in participating. NRCS evaluates each application using a state and locally developed ranking process to select priority proposals for funding.

For more information, visit NRCS at the USDA Ag Service Center at 430 Heppner/Lexington Highway or call them at 676-5021.

"We appreciate his alertness and calling this to our attention," said DeMayo, who pointed out that the city wants to stop all the leaks it can find on city water lines.

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ESD working to improve student, school safety

After three tragic recent school shootings across the country, the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District (ESD) wants to remind parents and community members that it has several programs in place to make sure local school districts are prepared in the event of an emergency.

"In the wake of three recent school-related shootings in Colorado, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, local school officials are anxious to help assure parents and community members that school districts in Umatilla and Morrow counties are working hard to help improve all aspects of student safety," said George Murdock, ESD superintendent.

The ESD administers the Emergency Response Crisis Management (ERCM) Grant, which helps to provide aid to Umatilla and Morrow county school districts in the form of training and financial assistance to improve security and safety within the schools. The grant is under the guidance of former school superintendent Al Meunier and ESD staff member Tammy Campbell.

The ERCM grant has helped to foster strong partnerships with community partners. Examples of this partnership include emergency planning/review meetings, safety audits of campuses and practicing scenarios through live drills or paper exercises.

The grant also funds the Umatilla-Morrow Safe and Healthy Schools Coalition, which is made up of the 12 school districts in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Head Start Centers, private schools, the Chemical Stockpile and Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) and community agencies in the bi-county area to prepare schools for any type of emergency. The coalition is

Dessert auction to be held for Appletons

The staff of Heppner Elementary and Heppner High School will be hosting a dessert auction for Arnie Appleton, Oct. 20 during halftime of the varsity football game.

Appleton is a veteran

Lexington Neighborhood Watch meeting to be held

Lexington Neighborhood Watch will hold a meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m., at Lexington Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Heppner to host Soils Contest

Heppner will be hosting the Soils Contest/CDE (Career Development Event) on Oct. 12. It will begin at the Extension office and the contest will take place at the Brian Thompson Ranch. FFA chapters from Condon, Pilot Rock, Hermiston, Pendleton, Milton, Athena, Stanfield and Irrigon, will be in attendance.

in the process of planning mock emergency drills at schools this spring.

"The schools in our area have helped to form the Safe and Healthy Schools Coalition and we are proud of the efforts that have been made to help with extensive training programs," Murdock said. "Creating awareness of these issues and constantly being vigilant helps make a difference."

Through the coordination of the ESD, a variety of programs and services have been put into place in local school districts including:

- Crisis Flight Teams
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- Promoting a Regional Response Plan
- Providing National Incident Management Training to schools (MORE)
- Building plan reviews and walk-throughs
- Safe Schools Summit (sent educators and students to Salem for summit)

-Providing Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to schools

-Safe Schools Hotline

-Fosters partnership with community partners

-Student and Parent Education

"Keeping kids safe is a priority with our schools and they work hard to educate students and staff on how to respond to all types of emergencies that can impact the learning environment," Campbell said.

"The Safe and Healthy Schools Coalition has and continues to provide preparedness training to all education staff," Campbell added. "The Coalition will also be providing opportunities for students and their parents to learn how to respond to emergencies with first aid training, practice drills and other activities."

and his wife, Wendy, is a former Heppner teacher who now teaches in Boardman. Arnie has been fighting a battle with cancer.

Ken Grieb will be auctioning off the famous desserts and community support will be greatly appreciated.

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