

**GUEST EDITORIAL  
FROM THE BEND BULLETIN**

## Pot law needs fixed

Oregon's system for tracking medical marijuana is a mess of the state's own making. It will take the Legislature to straighten things out. Doing so should get high priority in the 2019 legislative session.

The Oregon Health Authority, which oversees medical marijuana, has been unable to inspect growers enough to deter those growing weed illegally. In fact, according to an article that appeared in last week's Bulletin, of some 20,000 registered medical marijuana grow sites in the state in 2017, only 58 were inspected. Given those numbers, a would-be illegal grower might well assume the chances of being caught are minuscule.

In a report issued in May, OHA makes no attempt to gloss over its problems keeping up with medical marijuana growers. It does not have enough money to hire enough inspectors to give registration requirements teeth, and its current data systems are not up to the task of keeping up with legislatively ordered licensing requirements.

It's even difficult for law enforcement to know what is a legal grow and what is not. Deschutes County Sheriff Shane Nelson and District Attorney John Hummel have both complained that the state won't provide a list of legal medical grow sites in the county. That means county law enforcement needs to make an individual request for each case.

The Oregon Health Authority says confidentiality provisions in the law prevent them from releasing a list. Medical growers — unless they have medical marijuana licenses of their own — are growing pot for specific individuals. Each of the individuals has had to disclose personal information about themselves and the medical conditions that make them eligible to use medical marijuana. Oregon law prohibits the release of any of that information unless it's been subpoenaed by a law enforcement agency, and without it, law enforcement has no way of knowing what's legal and what is not.

Each of those problems can be fixed. It's the Legislature that doles out money to the OHA, and if it hopes to have the state's medical marijuana laws enforced in any serious way, the agency must be given the money to do so. And lawmakers can no doubt find a way to rewrite existing marijuana law so that law enforcement agencies can obtain lists of growers without unnecessary hassle. Fix the inspections and fix the law.



## Your views

### Vigil: Republicanism has been replaced by Trumpism

To the Editor:  
The corruption and inhumanity of this president have become disgustingly more evident over recent weeks. This is no surprise since it reflects everything he exhibited for years in business and throughout his campaign. Though Trump's ignorance, incompetence and self-serving exceed any other president, this represents exactly what his campaign promised.

What is disturbing, however, is that the Republican Party has abdicated all pretense of being the party of sanity, fiscal responsibility, family values or Lincoln. Caving before each vile and disreputable act committed by this administration, the Republican Party is now

solidly the Trumpist Party. Republicanism is dead, replaced by Trumpism.

Republicans running for the Oregon Legislature must know their banner stands for Trumpist destruction of our environment, economy and health. They must know they support kidnapping children from their parents' arms. Is there no humanity or integrity left?

Trisha Vigil  
Medford

### Journet: It's time to act on gas emissions reduction

To the Editor:  
For several years, a coalition of climate-concerned Oregonians has been encouraging the state Legislature to pass meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reduction legislation that builds on

the voluntary program passed in 2007. Contrary to frequent criticism, climate activists would be delighted if utilities and industry stepped up to the plate and committed to achieving the goals established in 2007.

Sadly, they have failed, and we are falling further behind our agreed emissions reduction trajectory.

It's therefore time to put teeth into the program by passing a bill in 2019 that actually achieves meaningful climate pollution reduction goals.

Republicans in Salem have consistently offered an array of excuses for doing nothing and standing firmly against meaningful action. In November, we have a chance to make sure the delegation from Eastern Oregon in our state house and senate supports meaningful action. Let's support

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only candidates who declare themselves as favoring climate action.

Alan Journet  
Jacksonville

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