

OUR VIEW

Banking bill off to strong start

Oregonians in the marijuana business know all too well the problems that arise when the nation's banking system is unavailable to an industry. So, too, does Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Portland, and his Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act is a step toward preventing those problems.

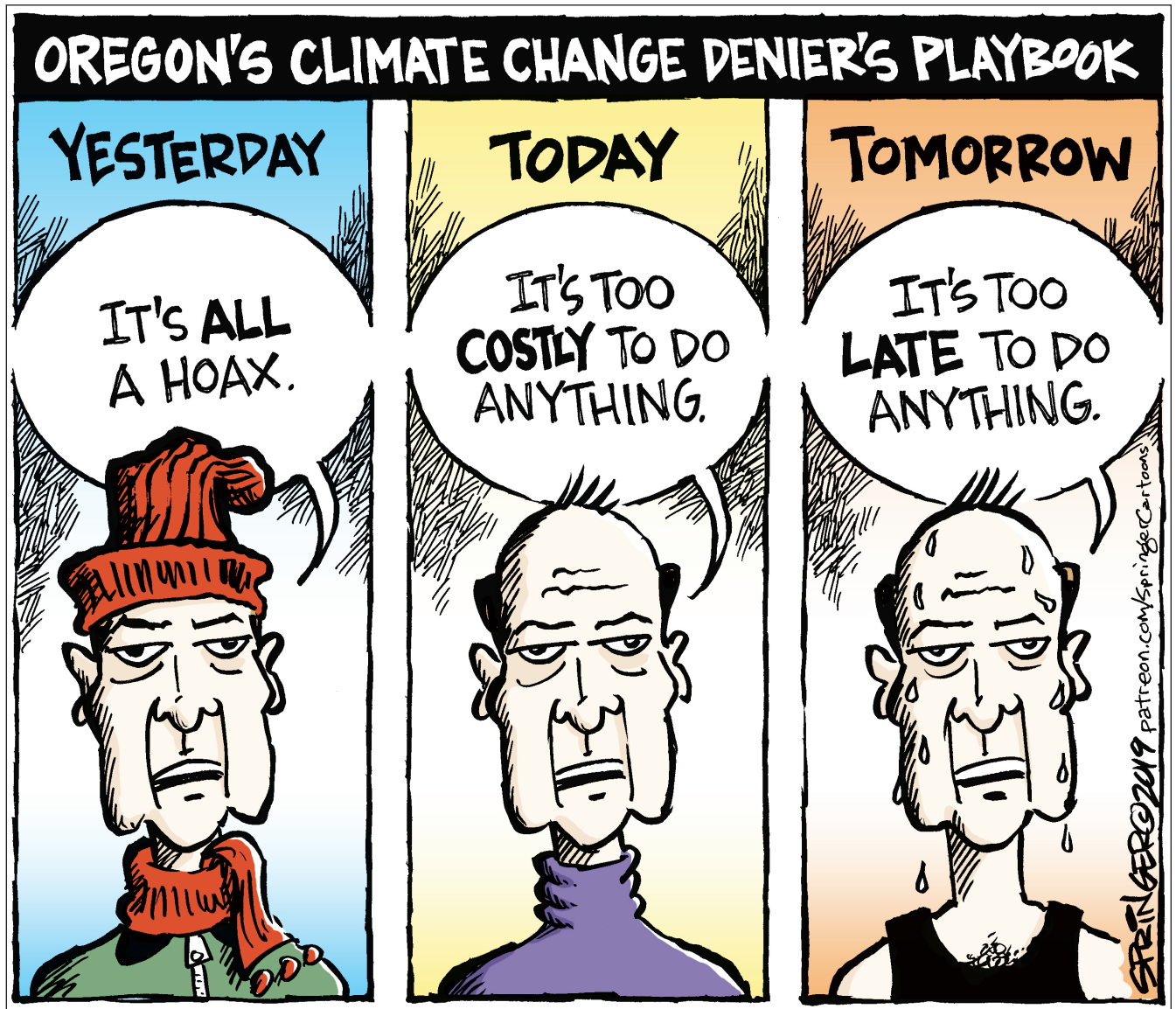
The bill got a major push forward Wednesday when the U.S. House of Representatives approved its version of the measure on a 321-103 vote. Every member of Oregon's House delegation, including Republican Greg Walden of Hood River, voted for the bill.

The measure is aptly named. Because the production and sale of marijuana are illegal under federal law, those in the marijuana business generally cannot take advantage of even the most basic banking procedures. The National Credit Union Administration, meanwhile, has said credit unions may accept marijuana business deposits so long as all banking regulations, including reporting regulations, are met.

Still, the banking limits themselves work to make marijuana a cash-only business, and that creates more problems. Merkley tells a story that makes that clear. He talks about following a cannabis businessman as the latter went to pay his state taxes, and the tale sounds like something out of an old Western movie.

The man loaded his backpack with \$70,000 in \$20 bills, Merkley says, and drove 50 miles to the Oregon Department of Revenue to pay his state taxes. After passing through a variety of security checks, the businessman took his backpack of cash to a heavily guarded room where guards kept their eyes on millions of dollars in similar payments from other Oregon cannabis businesses.

The House and Senate versions of the banking bill are not identical, but if the Senate bill is passed and the two are reconciled and signed by President Trump, banking could become a badly needed reality for the marijuana industry. Getting Senate approval may be an uphill battle. The possibility of that did improve a bit when the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, said he'd allow a vote on the Senate bill. It's enough to keep at least a glimmer of hope alive.



Your views

Hopkins: Still time to see high-energy 'Newsies'

To the Editor:
Many taking in the play "Newsies" at the Elgin Opera House might say that Director Terry Hale had outdone himself again. It's hard to say since "Newsies" has a different style and songs that might be unfamiliar. But the play has to rank at the top for high energy and quality of cast, making this one of the most enjoyable plays I have seen.

Certainly, credit has to be given to Abigail Hale for her spectacular choreography inspired by the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1889 set in New York. The background drops were actually used around the time of dedication of the Elgin Opera House on July 4, 1912.

Playing the lead of Jack Kelly is Liam Bloodgood, whose entire family has shown many theatrical talents throughout the years, and I think his are strong enough to perform at a professional level.

Teaming up with Brixin Walker, the two immediately captured the audience with their beautiful rich voices. Madison Ribich has performed in several plays, and I think this is one of her best roles yet. Caitlin Marshall's strong portrayal of Medda Larkin brings out the colorful life of Medda's theater scene with the backdrop found during Opera House restoration.

The high energy reminds me how old I am getting, and the beautiful voices and outstanding dance scenes remind me I'm getting a little creaky. But the enjoyment is there for any age. If you haven't seen the play, there still might be a chance to get a seat with "Newsies" running through Oct. 5.

Gerald Hopkins
Summerville

Dick: Left attempting a coup in America

To the Editor:
In 2013, Edward Snowden documented proof that Amazon, Apple, Facebook,

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Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, YouTube and other major tech companies were providing the Obama administration (DOJ, FBI, NSA) personal information on American citizens.

These tech companies are considered part of the private sector, however, and Obama-era operatives are now employed and operate in these tech companies working to manipulate public opinion.

For instance Google controls more than 90% of all online searches worldwide. On July 17, Dr. Robert Epstein testified at a Senate Judiciary hearing that "Google algorithms are having a dramatic impact on the thinking, behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, purchases and voting preferences of 2.5 billion people, right now."

Google and tech companies use algorithms, manipulative search engine techniques, to promote their globalist, leftist, anti-American agenda and suppress and undermine American conservative, biblical and constitutional values.

This is part of a coup against the Constitution and sovereignty of the American Republic and the American people orchestrated by traitors that own and control the American press, media, Democratic Party, and some in the Republican Party, and are insidiously planted within all branches of the American government.

This coup has attempted, from the get-go, to overthrow a duly-elected president. The latest evidence of this coup and proof these Democrats could care less about America or Americans is the coming fake press and media orchestrated congressional impeachment mockery.

This is the reason the Democrat, Socialist/Communist left needs to abrogate the Constitution and Bill of Rights, especially the Second Amendment. There is one reason why citizens living under Socialist/Communist/ Islamic governments have no freedom or liberty. They live under the despotic controls of governments that have confiscated their ability to arm and defend themselves.

The globalist Socialist/Communist-controlled Democratic Party in America must confiscate the arms of the American people to complete their attempted coup. They could care less about victims of mass shootings and do nothing to heal the root causes of these tragedies in order to promote their anti-American agenda.

Do not be deceived, America. Stand without compromise for God and country. Every American has a duty to stand unwaveringly for duly-elected President Donald Trump, who stands for our Constitution and godly heritage. In like manner, every American has a responsibility to stand against every enemy, within or without, of our constitutional republic and way of life.

Stuart Dick
Irrigon

Write to us

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