

Ferrioli suggests letting dispensaries sell recreational pot

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Licensed growers and retailers won't be operating when recreational pot becomes legal July 1, so state Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, is working on legislation that would allow Oregon's existing medical marijuana dispensaries to temporarily serve recreational customers and collect taxes on those sales as required by state law.



Ferrioli

Ferrioli's concept would also temporarily allow medical pot growers to obtain licenses to sell their excess weed to dispensaries for resale to recreational purchasers.

The ballot initiative voters passed last fall, Measure 91, legalizes personal possession of marijuana for people ages 21 and older starting in July and calls for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to begin accepting applications for retailers and other businesses by January 2016. Regulators and lawmakers anticipate that due to the workload involved in setting up the

longterm rules for a new system to track, license and tax marijuana businesses, recreational pot retailers might not open until later that year.

That means there will be no legal growers or retailers when the law takes effect.

Ferrioli said the state needs an interim solution for consumers who want to purchase legal pot in July.

"Oregonians are not expecting to have to wait until 2016 to be able to buy retail legal marijuana in Oregon," Ferrioli said. "These growers are out there. They've got products."

Ferrioli is a co-vice chair of the legislative committee working to implement Measure 91. He is also the Senate Republican leader. Ferrioli said he has already discussed the idea with dispensary owners, as well as other leaders on the legislative committee, "and everybody thinks it's a brilliant idea."

Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, and a co-chair of the Joint Committee On Implementing Measure 91, said committee members are "very interested in that idea."

BRIEFLY

Pakistan judge orders former CIA station chief be charged over 2009 drone strike

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani judge on Tuesday ordered that criminal charges be filed against a former CIA lawyer who oversaw its drone program and the one-time chief agency operative in Islamabad over a 2009 strike that killed two people.

Former acting general counsel John A. Rizzo and ex-station chief Jonathan Bank must face charges including murder, conspiracy, terrorism and waging war against Pakistan, Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui of the Islamabad High Court ruled. A court clerk and a lawyer involved in the case, Mirza Shahzad Akbar, confirmed details of the judge's ruling.

Rizzo and Bank could not be immediately reached for comment. The CIA will have no comment, spokesman Chris White told The Associated Press.

The legal action comes as the number of CIA drone strikes in Pakistan has fallen precipitously from their 2010 high, amid signs that the U.S. and Pakistan have been more closely cooperating on counterterrorism issues after years of tensions. It is unclear how the criminal charges will affect that cooperation, even though the defendants will almost certainly never see the inside of a Pakistani courtroom.

The only way the case could go forward is if U.S. officials cooperate with the Pakistani court, which is inconceivable given that the drone strikes were carried out under a program ordered by two successive U.S. presidents.

Iran nuclear deal guards against cheating — but gives Tehran wiggle room

VIENNA (AP) — In selling the Iran nuclear deal to Congress and other skeptics, President Barack Obama said it is built on "unprecedented verification," telling his radio audience over the weekend: "If Iran cheats, the world will know it."

Only time will tell if Obama is right. While Iran could try to push back or cover up, it certainly has little incentive for deceit.

Its negotiators returned home to jubilant crowds hailing the prospect of an end to the crippling economic sanctions that forced Iran to the negotiating table in the first place. On Tuesday, even the chief of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard joined in praising their efforts.

Tehran thus is unlikely to risk the prospect of having the sanctions re-imposed — the penalty for cheating. More likely, Iran will push for every loophole any agreement provides but honor it, and wait out the strict restrictions any deal will impose.

Still, hoping that Iran will toe the line isn't enough. Distrust about its intentions will persist long after the fleeting good vibes generated around the negotiating table by last week's preliminary deal. It was designed to at least temporarily cap such potential Iranian bomb-making nuclear activities.

560 dead, 1,700 wounded in Yemen as workers warn of humanitarian collapse

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — As tons of desperately needed medical supplies await clearance to be flown into Yemen, aid workers warned Tuesday of an unfolding humanitarian crisis, saying at least 560 people, including dozens of children, have been killed, mostly in a Saudi-led air campaign and battles between Shiite rebels and forces loyal to the embattled president.

More than 1,700 people have been wounded and another 100,000 have fled their homes as fighting intensified over the past three weeks, the World Health Organization said.

The Red Cross shipment would be the first to reach Yemen since the start of the Saudi-imposed air blockade. Sitara Jabeen, a Geneva-based spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said a cargo plane with 17 tons of medical supplies was in the Jordanian capital, Amman, awaiting the go-ahead from coalition forces to land in Sanaa, hopefully on Wednesday. Another 35 tons of supplies were also ready for shipment, she said.

"If these medical supplies do not reach Yemen, then unfortunately we are afraid many more people will die," Jabeen said.

She said a surgical team was also awaiting clearance to dock in the embattled Yemeni port of Aden, where heavy fighting Monday left streets littered with bodies.

Rand Paul begins presidential run with litany of woes to fix

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Sen. Rand Paul launched his 2016 presidential campaign Tuesday with a combative challenge both to Washington and his fellow Republicans, cataloguing a lengthy list of what ails America and pledging to "take our country back."

Paul's fiery message, delivered in his home state of Kentucky before he flew to four early-nominating states, was designed to broaden his appeal outside of the typical GOP coalition as well as motivate supporters of his father's two unsuccessful bids for the Republican presidential nomination.

In a 26-minute speech that eviscerated "the Washington machine," he spared neither Republican nor Democrat as he attempted to tap into Americans' deep frustrations with their government.

"I worry that the opportunity and hope are slipping away for our sons and daughters," the tea party favorite said. "As I watch our once-great economy collapse under mounting spending and debt, I think, 'What kind of America will our grandchildren see?'"

He added: "It seems to me that both parties and the entire political system are to blame."

By criticizing fellow Republicans, Paul showed he was ready to run a tough-talking campaign equally at ease criticizing both major parties.

"Big government and debt doubled under a Republican administration," Paul said in a swipe at former President George W. Bush, whose brother, Jeb, is expected to be a Paul rival for the GOP nomination.

He immediately followed up: "And it's now tripling under Barack Obama's watch."

In what well might have been a jab at Jeb Bush and other rivals considered more mainstream, he added: "If we



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., waves as he arrives to announce the start of his presidential campaign, Tuesday at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Ky. Paul launched his 2016 presidential campaign Tuesday with a combative message against both Washington and his fellow Republicans, declaring that "we have come to take our country back."

nominate a candidate who is simply Democrat Lite, what's the point?"

At a splashy kickoff rally, Paul promised a government restrained by the Constitution and beholden no more to special interests.

"I have a message, a message that is loud and clear and does not mince words: We have come to take our country back," he told cheering supporters.

Paul is a fierce critic of Washington, where he is in his first term as a senator but often not in line with his party's leadership. A banner over the stage in Louisville proclaimed: "Defeat the Washington machine. Unleash the American dream."

Paul was clearly most passionate about upending the way Washington works.

"I propose we do something extraordinary," he said. "Let's just spend what comes in."

Cheers erupted when he decried government searches of phones and computer records as a threat to civil liberties. Most Republicans defend the practice as a necessary defense against terrorism.

"I say the phone records of law-abiding citizens are none of their damn business," Paul said of government officials.

Tom Stewart, a 58-year-old resident of London, Kentucky, joined Paul's rally and counted himself a backer.

"I like that he wants less government," Stewart said. "Less spending. Less intrusion. Maybe less intrusion into everybody's rights around the world."

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