Cut defense spending, not safety-net programs

Some changes have been proposed that target Social Security and Medicare. This will be done in a vacuum that does not include serious cuts in so-called "defense" spending. The money we spend on war is out of control. When promoting "trade," we use war as a device. We give grants, loans or discounts to "allies" to encourage them to buy "war toys.

Working people deserve to have the safety net of Social Security and Medicare. Not only have we paid for it, but our parents, grandparents, and ancestors paid for it when they built this country. The wealthy have benefited from the sweat, blood, and tears that we have expended for generations. If we are going to give them tax cuts and other considerations, then it needs to be attached to proven efforts by them to generate jobs.


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Federal government is on rob-the-poor path

Current federal monetary policy reflects an unapologetic affront to senior citizens who fund their personal maintenance cost with savings and interest income. Economically painful indentures and incompetence by Washington politicians and Wall Street bankers wrongly penalize senior citizens, who have fixed retirement income and no opportunity to produce additional cash flow. They can’t spend.

Forcing bank savings interest rates to zero means some senior citizens living at the margins of solvency can no longer earn enough money for food, shelter and personal safety. Meanwhile, political and banking fat cats are living very high on a fat, multi-million dollar hog, while some senior Security cash benefits, while coincidentally causing interest income to crash through the economic floor.

What kind of rob-the-poor predation is this?

-T.J. Schaeffer, Turner

Portland and Eugene don’t control elections

In response to John E. Jones Nov. 7 letter, "Portland and Eugene decide races in Oregon," what part of "one-man-one-vote" didn’t you understand?

This is how democracy works in America (and we all know that people in those cities voted for both parties).

Until livestock get the right to vote, forget the sour grapes and get over it.

Or you could always move to a "red" state like Texas. (Want to bet that Houston, San Antonio and Dallas-Ft. Worth dominate the voting there?)

-Richard A. Horning, Monmouth

Music, yard equipment create noise pollution

Am I the only one who is bothered by the sheer amount of noise pollution in this city? Boom cars go past my house for the last 20 years. I am the only one who is bothered by the sheer amount of noise pollution in this city? Boom cars go past my house for the last 20 years.

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