

OUR VIEW

Shining a light on domestic violence

The fact that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month may have quietly faded into the general white noise of modern American culture — but that would be a shame because more light needs to be shined on this terrible crime now than ever before.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was first created across the nation in 1987, designed to unite people and various organizations to focus on the problem of domestic violence and raise awareness.

The campaign can count its successes, but more needs to be done. Much more.

Statistics often only tell part of a story but when it comes to domestic violence, the numbers are sobering.

- More than 80 million Americans encounter their first taste of intimate partner violence before they turn 18.
- On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner.
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence or stalking.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some type of physical violence by an intimate partner.

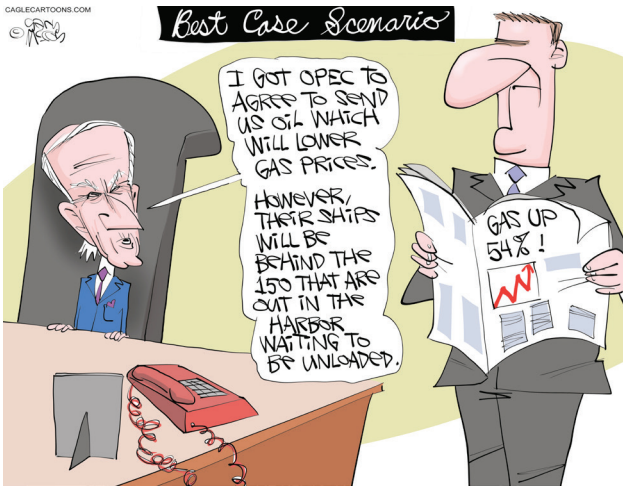
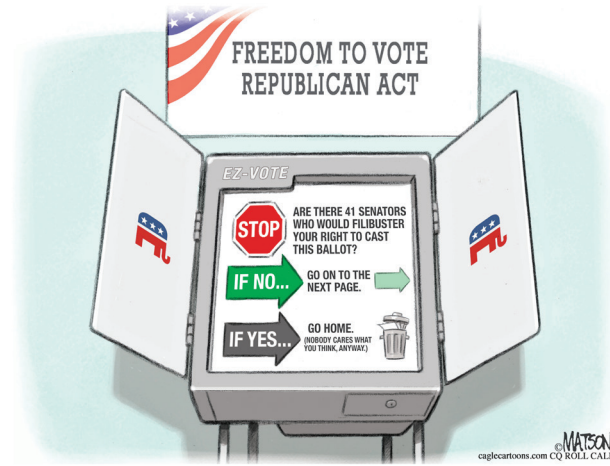
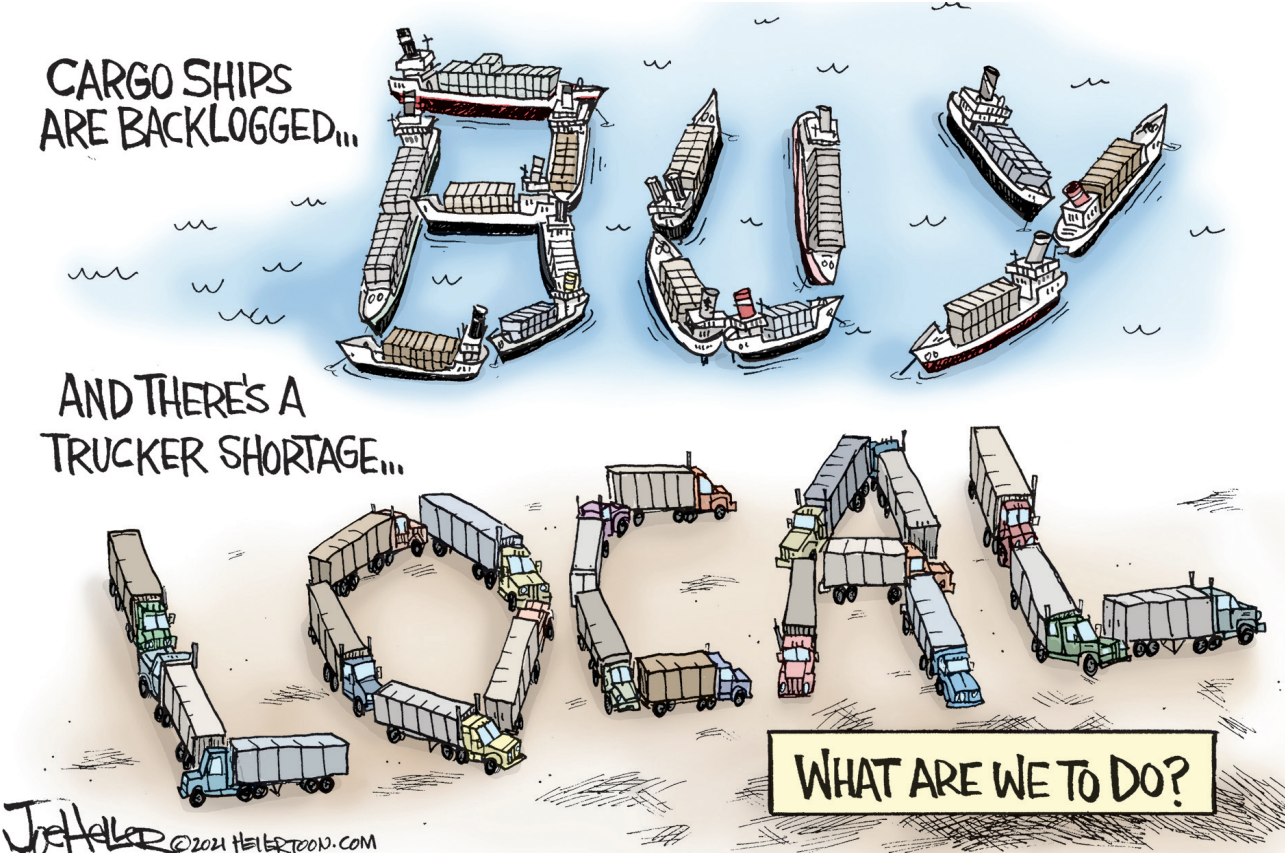
The list could go on with the same discouraging set of numbers that show the crime continues to exist and, in some places, prosper. Domestic violence costs too. According to the CDC, the cost of intimate partner rape, physical assault and stalking exceeds \$5.8 billion each year. Who pays? It depends, but rest assured taxpayers — at some point — must open their wallets.

Domestic violence isn’t a problem for some other place or endured by someone else. It happens everywhere and can predominate in small, rural areas where resources for prevention and recovery are either slim or nonexistent.

We hope that by some small measure Domestic Violence Awareness Month will raise awareness. One of the best ways to defeat such a terrible crime is to shine light on it and get as much information out to the public as possible.

Domestic violence should never happen, but when it does it should never be accepted by a community. That can be a difficult sell sometimes, as we jerk away from what can be perceived as personal business, but it is a truism that runs deep.

We all have a responsibility to combat domestic violence. As a community we must never shut our eyes to the impacts of such crimes and rather be determined to ensure we do everything we can to eradicate it.



LETTERS

Dismissing climate change won't keep it from happening

I wish the climate was not changing. I wish there was no drought causing gigantic wildfires to burn forests, range lands, houses and towns. I wish the polar ice was not melting, causing wildlife to be decimated and raising the ocean levels endangering our coastlines. I wish the ocean temperatures were not becoming too warm to sustain fish and sea creatures. I wish the hurricanes and tornados along the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico were not becoming worse, causing almost total destruction across huge areas. I wish we did not need to be concerned about snowpack in the Wallawas.

I wish millions of refugees around the world were not desperately trying to escape starvation and the ruin of their homelands.

In a conversation last week I expressed concern about the changing climate and was met with the typical put-down: “Oh, well, the climate has always changed ... there was the ice age ...” and “it doesn’t mean that humans are responsible for the changing climate.”

Being a former teacher, I started to explain the scientific facts involved and that the preponderance of scientists say that the changing climate is due to human behavior. But I stopped and went on about my business because I was obviously being ignored.

So I am sad, not because someone will not listen to me, but because too many people refuse to pay attention to scientists. Last week, three scientists in their 80s and 90s were awarded the Nobel Prize in physics. They had spent their lives studying and observing climate change and a variety of scientific disciplines and related their observations to human behavior.

Almost all credible scientists understand and share their knowledge about climate change, agreeing that because some of those issues are caused by human behavior, some can be changed by humans.

There are some changes we can make so that the planet can sustain life beyond 2050. I have made some changes in my personal lifestyle, and I am willing to continue to accept more changes. But it would take everyone to be willing to make changes in their lives, not just a few, for our great grandchildren to have air to breath, clean water to drink and agriculture to sustain life.

Wishing it was not true is not a solution. An unsubstantiated belief that climate change is unreal does not keep it from happening. It is late, but we can save our planet if we get to work. Please do not take my word for it or the word of your local politicians. Read and find out for yourselves.

Evelyn Swart Joseph

River Democracy Act is just another land grab

Sen. Ron Wyden and Sen. Jeff Merkley have co-sponsored the River Democracy Act of 2021 (\$192) bill that has the potential to add 4,700 miles of Oregon waterways to the Wild and Scenic Rivers list. This would be the length of the mighty Mississippi and Missouri combined. Yes, this would be quite a remarkable achievement, but it needs to be asked: “Is this necessary?”

What more protection is needed? Our public lands, which includes these waterways, are protected by numerous government agencies that are aided by countless nongovernment organizations. No project moves forward without an approval stamp from the NGOs (to name just a few: Nature Conservancy, Wild Earth Guardians, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Center for Biological Diversity).

Just recently the Center for Biological Diversity used its weapon of relentless lawsuits to halt a project in the Ochoco National Forest. These extremist NGOs use litigation as a very effective “tool of intimidation.”

Access and utilization of the natural resources our public lands pro-

vide have decreased with the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. We have rode a wave of continued land grabs under the guise of preserving natural conditions.

The River Democracy Act is one of the most abusive overrides we have witnessed, plus it’s an insult to what the “wild and scenic” designation was intended to be: “protection and enhancement of outstanding remarkable values.” Protections exist presently.

D.M. Ballard Baker City

Your higher taxes will pay for Biden's spending spree

“I give you my word as a Biden: If you make under \$400,000 a year, I’ll never raise your taxes 1 cent.” Did Joe Biden lie?

This pledge fails close review and fact-checking by official nonpartisan scorekeepers.

Nearly 6 million taxpayers earning under \$100,000 per year will see their taxes go up in 2023 under Biden’s tax legislation. Hundreds of thousands of families earning under \$20,000 will also take a hit.

By 2027 more than 50% of all families earning \$75,000-\$100,000 will see their taxes increase by \$3 billion.

If Biden had confiscated 100% of the income from everyone earning more than a million dollars a year in 2018, when the economy was flying at full throttle, it wouldn’t cover half of his government expansion.

Currently, the top 10% of high-income Americans earn 48% of all income and pay 71% of all income taxes. The bottom 50% of earners pay 3%. Biden’s expansion of government will require higher taxes on middle-income Americans because his spending spree is paired with the highest tax increases in 50 years — \$2 trillion.

If Biden and his handlers view a trillion dollars as mere chump change, obviously they aren’t working for me. How about you?

Grant Darrow Cove

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THE OBSERVER

An independent newspaper founded in 1896

www.lagrandeobserver.com

Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, Oregon 97801
Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (except postal holidays) by EO Media Group, 911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande, OR 97850 (USPS 299-260)

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La Grande, OR 97850

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