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OUR VIEW

A farewell to old fair grounds

It's the most Umatilla time of the year.

The county fair kicks off today with a parade, and on Tuesday with events and activities at the Umatilla County Fair Grounds in Hermiston. Some events have already started and finished — the Umatilla County Fair has grown just too big to fit in a calendar week.

And it will soon be too big for the old location in downtown Hermiston. Some would argue it has been for years.

Although 2016 was intended to be the first year at the new Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, that project has been constantly beset with mismanagement, missed deadlines and cost overruns. Next year's rodeo is in serious doubt.

But we can worry about next year's fair next year. This is one final show at the downtown Hermiston location, which has hosted fairs for decades.

And successful, popular ones, too. Umatilla County is host of the fifth-most visited fair in Oregon, despite being just the 14th-most populated county. It means we show up and celebrate our county, and the fair board puts on a show that keeps people coming back.

And we haven't gussed it up like in Western Oregon, where county fairs have morphed into food festivals and beer gardens and carnivals of a more urban, interchangeable sort. This is still your classic fair:

agriculture, livestock and craft-centric. And it's all kid-centric, too. It's a place the whole family can have fun attending, and can find something to compete in as well.

Hopefully your submissions are in, your cows and pigs are fat and your horses are well-groomed. It's county fair time, for the last time in downtown Hermiston. And this time we mean it.

Enjoy.

Umatilla is the 14th-most populated county in Oregon, but has the fifth-most visited fair.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

OTHER VIEWS

Corporate tax a tax on everything

The Bend Bulletin

Measure 97 is a bad idea, but there's clever marketing behind it. The most recent is a study produced by Our Oregon and the Oregon Consumer League that reaches a flawed conclusion.

Let's review. Measure 97 is on the November ballot. Our Oregon helped get it there. The measure would create a 2.5 percent tax on the sales of C-corporations exceeding \$25 million, which does not include The Bulletin. It would raise some \$3 billion in taxes per year.

Raising corporate taxes can be popular. It's not like a straightforward tax on Oregonians that would be felt directly, such as a sales tax, an income tax or a property tax. It's a tax on big, impersonal corporations. It's a sneaky tax. The impact of the corporate tax doesn't show up on a sales receipt. It's largely invisible. But who pays?

Corporations are made of people. There are the owners, the managers and the employees. When taxes go up, profits go down and there is less money for the owners, managers and employees. It may not mean people lose jobs, though that could happen. It could very well mean that new people are not hired, new equipment is not purchased, or existing employees don't get raises or improvements in benefits. The corporation could also raise the prices on the goods it sells, passing the cost to the consumer.

Our Oregon paid Portland State economists to do a study of the impacts of Measure 97. Guess what the study said? The tax could increase prices to consumers. The Legislative Revenue Office, a nonpartisan state agency, was less equivocal. It estimated that the increase would be about \$600 more a

year in taxes per Oregonian.

That's bad news for the supporters of Measure 97. Our Oregon and the Oregon Consumer League tried put a better spin on it. They looked at prices of goods sold by national chains in different states. Their study points out that the prices are remarkably similar, despite the differences in tax policy in different states.

"Our study shows that, despite what corporations may say, an increase in state corporate taxes will not translate into higher prices for common, consumer goods," the report concludes. "Measure 97 affects national companies, and national companies use national pricing."

That's a flawed conclusion. You can't take \$3 billion in taxes and not expect a price will be paid.

First of all, Measure 97 does not only affect national companies. It will affect C-Corporations in Oregon with sales of \$25 million or more.

Second and more importantly, some national companies may have national pricing strategies. That doesn't mean that their national or Oregon prices would not be lower if their tax burden were lower or that prices won't increase if Measure 97 passes.

And don't forget all of Measure 97's other flaws — some pointed out by the study that Our Oregon paid for and others by the Legislative Revenue Office's analysis.

Measure 97 socks it to the poor. It's going to have a regressive impact on consumers, meaning it is going to hit the poor the hardest. It could tax some goods over and over again as they move through the production process. It forces businesses to pay whether or not they are making a profit.

Measure 97 is so rich in faults it deserves to fail.

YOUR VIEWS

Round-Up Court should look like 'real women'

I was born in Pendleton and lived there throughout my childhood and I still read the local news at times, especially during the Round-Up season.

I am dismayed that professional pictures of the queen and her court have become so "photoshopped" over the past few seasons. They resemble actors in the "Stepford Wives" movie!

Please don't do that to them; let their individuality show — freckles, smiles,

short and/or curly hair show, uneven teeth, if accurate, dimples, light/darker skin, etc.

TV has enough "Botoxed beauties" on screen for everyone to see. Look at the daily female anchors — they all look the same, same hair style and color (blonde and long!).

I know the Pendleton real cowgirls aren't Botoxed, but their expressions have been "scrubbed" to look like that. Bring back our real women, as I remember them.

Judi Carlisle, San Diego, Calif.



OTHER VIEWS

Trump's enablers will finally have to take a stand

Up through the convention there were all sorts of Republican officeholders who weren't really for Trump, but they weren't really against him. They sort of endorsed him implicitly, while trying to change the subject.

Their bodies squirmed when they were asked about their nominee. They refused to look you straight in the eye. They made little apologetic comments so you would still like them even though they were doing this shameful thing.

They had all sorts of squirrely formulations about why it was OK to ride the Trump train: He can be tamed or surrounded and improved. Sure, he's got some real weaknesses, but he's more or less a normal candidate who is at least better than Hillary.

Over the past few days, Trump has destroyed this middle ground. He's exposed the wet noodle Republicans as suckers, or worse. Trump has shown that he is not a normal candidate. He is a political rampage charging ever more wildly out of control. And no, he cannot be changed.

He cannot be contained because he is psychologically off the chain. With each passing week he displays the classic symptoms of medium-grade mania in more disturbing forms: inflated self-esteem, sleeplessness, impulsivity, aggression and a compulsion to offer advice on subjects he knows nothing about.

His speech patterns are like something straight out of a psychiatric textbook. Manics display something called "flight of ideas." It's a formal thought disorder in which ideas tumble forth through a disordered chain of associations. One word sparks another, which sparks another, and they're off to the races. As one trained psychiatrist said to me, compare Donald Trump's speaking patterns to a Robin Williams monologue, but with insults instead of jokes.

Trump insults Paul Ryan, undermines NATO and raises the specter of nuclear war. Advisers can't control Trump's brain because Trump can't control it himself.

He also cannot be contained because he lacks the inner equipment that makes decent behavior possible. So many of our daily social interactions depend on a basic capacity for empathy. But Trump displays an absence of this quality.

He looks at the grieving mother of a war hero and is unable to recognize her pain. He hears a crying baby and is unable to recognize the infant's emotion or the mother's discomfort. He is told of women being sexually harassed at Fox News and is unable to recognize their trauma.

The same blindness that makes him impervious to global outrage makes it

impossible for him to make empathetic connection. Fear is his only bond.

Some people compare Trump to the great authoritarians of history, but that's wrong. They were generally disciplined men with grandiose plans. Trump is underdeveloped and unregulated.

He is a slave to his own pride, compelled by a childlike impulse to lash out at anything that threatens his fragile identity. He appears to have no ability to experience reverence, which

is the foundation for any capacity to admire or serve anything bigger than self, to want to learn about anything beyond self, to want to know and deeply honor the people around you.

Republicans are not going to be able to help the 70-year-old man-child grow up over the next few months. Nor

are they going to be able to get him to withdraw from the race. A guy who can raise \$82 million mostly in small donations has a passionate niche following.

But they can at least get out of the enabling business. First, they can acknowledge that they are being sucked down a nihilistic whirlpool. Second, they can acknowledge the long-term damage being done to the country and to themselves.

Amid the chaos, all sorts of ugliness is surfacing. See the video of the horrific things shouted at Trump

rallies compiled by *Times* reporters. Moreover, Trump is permanently tainting the names of conservatism and the Republican Party and the many good men and women who have built and served it. As Ben Shapiro writes in *National Review*, "Trump asks something more — your political soul."

Events are going to force Republicans off the fence. For the past many months Republican leaders have been condemning Trump's acts while sticking with Trump the man. Trump is making that position ridiculous and shameful. You either stand with a man whose very essence is an insult to basic decency, or you don't.

Those who don't will have to start building a Republican Party in Exile. They will have to tell the country what they honestly think of Donald Trump. They will have to build a parallel campaign structure that will survive if Trump implodes, a structure of congressional and local candidates. They will have to jointly propose a clear manifesto — five or 10 policies the party in exile ardently supports.

There comes a time when neutrality and laying low become dishonorable. If you're not in revolt, you're in cahoots. When this period and your name are mentioned, decades hence, your grandkids will look away in shame.

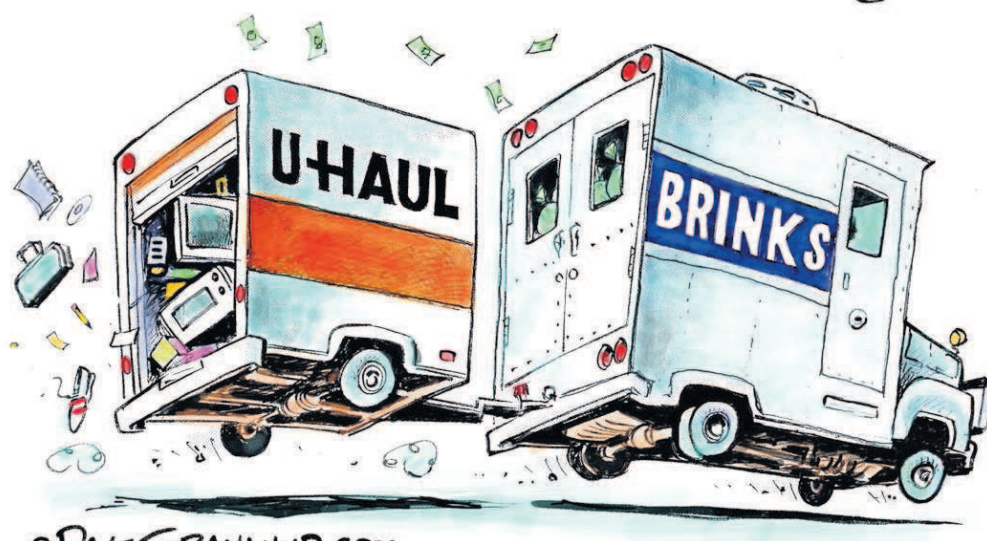
David Brooks became a *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist in September 2003.

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DAVID BROOKS
Comment

How students head off to college...



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