

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

VIEW FROM UPRIVER



Speaking up

WESLEY VOTH
 For the Siuslaw News

radierie of fellow fishers, whether they be human, feathered, furred or finned.

It is a nice break from the political clamor, both on the airways and in print. It renews the mind and restores the soul.

Although I have spoken out about this in the past, I need to say emphatically again that all forms of abuse against persons are intolerable.

By abuse, I mean the painful and coercive exercise of dominance by one or a group over another, whether it be verbal or physical or in any other manner. We must not allow such abuse, ignore it, excuse it or cover it up — all of these permit abuse to perpetuate.

But I have to admit I am personally guilty of all such responses.

I grew up in a family with both a set of violent secrets and a strong code of silence — telling someone outside what happened inside was strongly condemned by my mother and severely punished by my father.

When by some sick skill I managed to deflect the abuse onto a younger sibling, I did not stand up for them. When as the oldest I was left in charge, a pretty frequent occurrence, I typically relied on the methods of control I learned from my parents — to my shame.

So why was the silence so important?

Because we all knew within our hearts that this abuse was wrong. That it wouldn't stand up to the scrutiny and judgment of other relatives, our church, the school, our community.

Its power was staying hidden.

For me, what eventually saved me as a husband and father was the condemnation and zero tolerance of abusive behavior by people I loved and respected, both personally and in print. As an adult I have come to know the joy (and relief) of being part of a loving, open family.

But there are places that cover up forms of abuse with codes of silence other than families, such as: institutions, businesses, departments, offices, locker rooms.

We all have opportunities to stand up — and speak up — against abuse wherever we are.

Who knows how many lives we improve by doing so? Or how many we let down when we say nothing?

LETTERS

Thanks for cleanup

On behalf of the mayor, city council and residents of Dunes City I would like to personally thank the members of the Eugene Dive Club for their tremendous efforts to clean up Woahink Lake on Saturday, Oct. 8. (*Siuslaw News*, Oct. 12)

As you may or may not be aware, Dunes City hosts the Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon on Mother's Day weekend each year. Our competitors in the event, some of whom are Olympic qualifiers, swim in the waters of Woahink Lake. We were absolutely stunned to learn of the amount of debris removed from the lake. It is so sad to believe that people deliberately dump their waste in what is the drinking water source for not only the residents around the lake, but those camping and playing at Honeyman State Park. Certainly greater educational efforts are needed!

We encourage your continued efforts on Woahink and suggest you contact City Hall well ahead of the scheduled time for your next cleanup event at Woahink so we may aid in getting the word out to find additional help in whatever way we can — whether it be to provide more divers (some of our council members are certified) or volunteers to bring boats, trucks and trailers, additional funding to help pay for things or just warm bodies to help float and load the debris.

We applaud your efforts and offer to help at future events.

Jamie Mills
 City Administrator and Recorder
 Dunes City

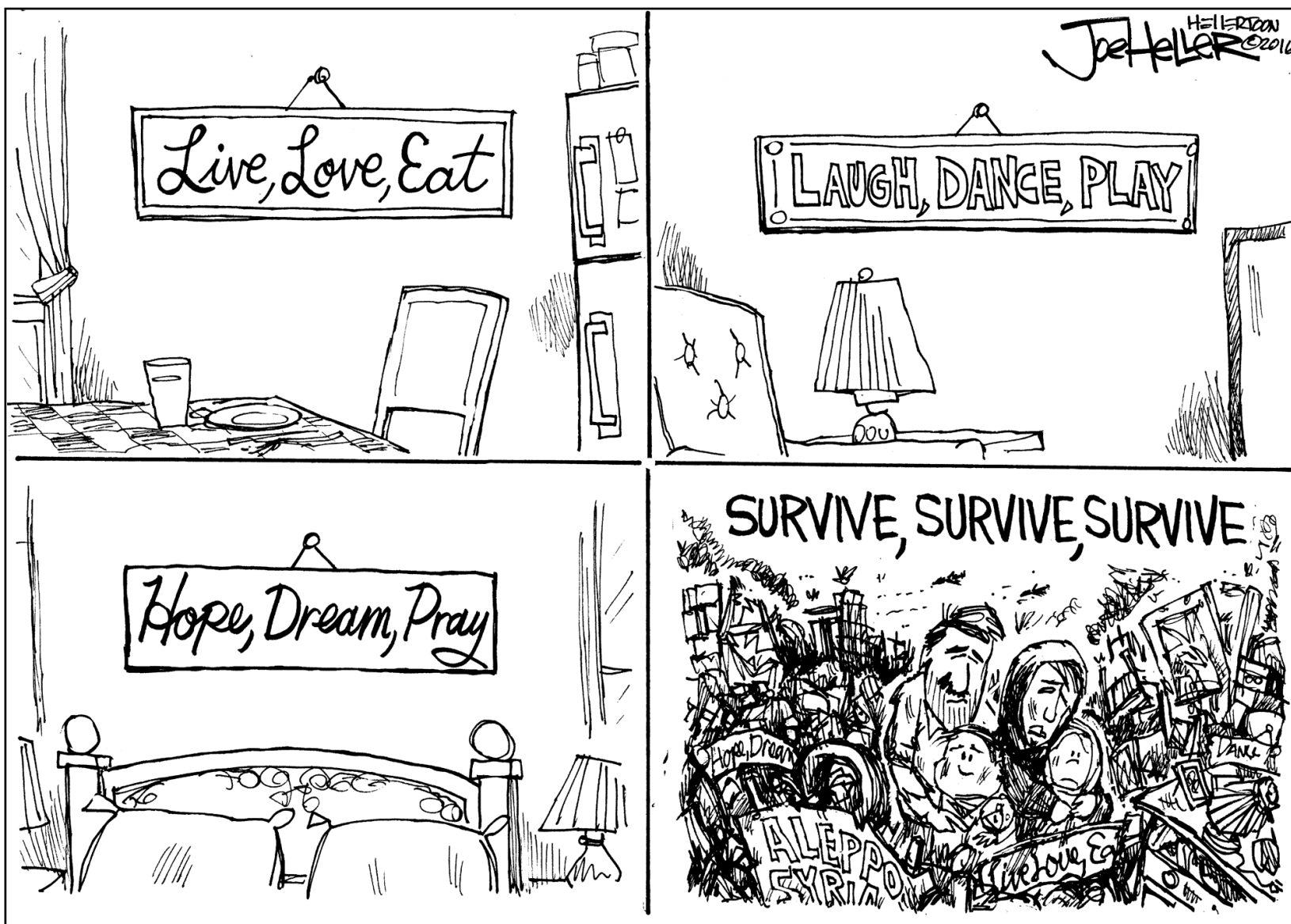
That \$17,175

Prop. 97 isn't difficult to understand: Take 2.5 percent from a corporation's gross profit over \$25 million. If I had to give up 2.5 percent of my business' gross profit to the state of Oregon, (on top of what we already had to pay in taxes), it would amount to close to \$17,175 for the year 2015. That \$17,175 that would go to the state would eliminate the \$12,208 in bonuses we gave to our employees. That \$17,175 would not go to help our granddaughters' college education, or go to business growth and investment for tools, education and training.

That \$17,175 would go to the state to spend as they see fit. There are no limits to what the state can spend it on, contrary to what you may think.

We are told it won't go to pay down the bloated \$22 billion dollar PERS account. Really? I'm not surprised to read editorials that espouse how wonderful it would be to have \$3 billion to spend on our kids, health care, etc. every year; most of those editorials seem to be coming from those who currently benefit from PERS.

Why give more money to anyone or any



organization or government entity whose past performance is less that satisfactory?

Would you expect a raise from your employer if your performance at work was less than satisfactory? As a parent, would you continue to pay for your child's college education if they were failing or not performing satisfactorily?

Why do you think Oregon has lower corporate tax rates? Corporations didn't propose the rates; state leaders proposed rates.

I would think the lower tax rates were to encourage corporations to come to Oregon and invest in tools, supplies, employees and of course to help fill state coffers. By raising corporate tax rates the corporations will either leave, invest less in employee pay, invest less in infrastructure or raise the cost of goods.

It's not difficult to think who will pay the extra taxes. Do you really think corporations will just take it on the chin and suck it up?

No. Tax payers will pay for it.

Help me pay my granddaughters' college education and my employee's bonuses by voting "No."

Dana Rodet
 Westlake

My dad will be taken care of

After 18 months of looking for an assisted

care residence for my chronically-ill veteran father, I had finally found a place for him at the Oregon State Veteran's Home. Within 6 weeks of his placement, I was contacted by administrators at that facility. They told me that I would need to find another home for my father, as they were not prepared to dedicate the resources required for his care. I was despondent. I knew there was nowhere else.

Our friend Rosie Shatkin suggested I contact our State Sen. Arnie Roblan for help. I wrote him an email, explaining our family's situation. His office got back to me within the hour and I was in contact with Senator Roblan by the end of the day. He assured me that everything would be okay — that my dad would be taken care of.

Later that week I received a phone call from the Veteran's Home, ensuring that my father would be cared for as long as he needed it.

I can't explain how much of a relief that was. I'd like to thank Senator Roblan, not just for making sure my father was taken care of, but for giving me my life back. Before this experience, I didn't actually believe that politicians were real human beings who truly wanted to help the people they "represented." Thank you, Arnie, for proving that notion wrong.

Sean Sisson
 Florence

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters or poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

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