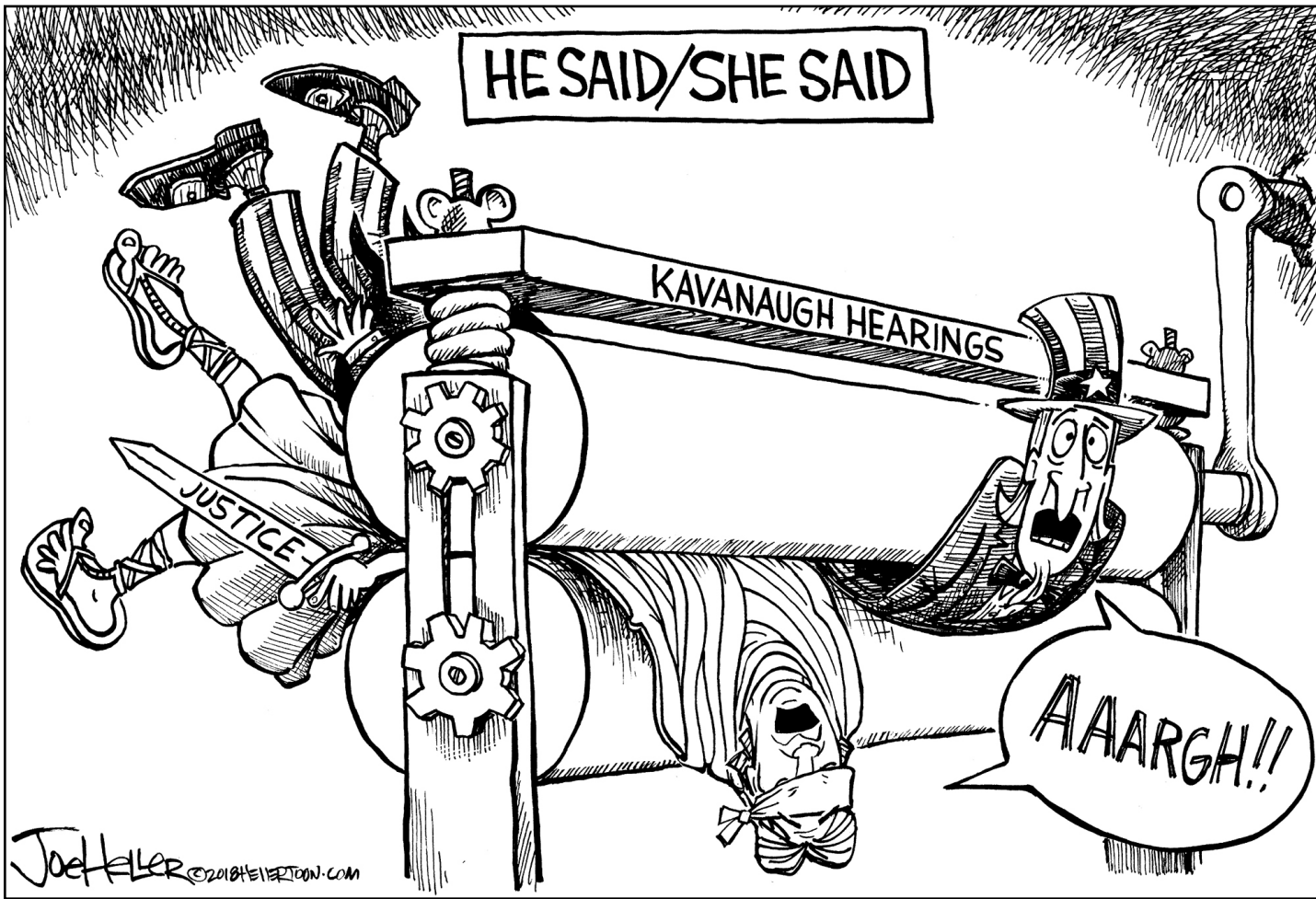


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

Opinion

The First Amendment
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2018 © Siuslaw News

Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

Jenna Bartlett
Ned Hickson
Erik Chalhoub
Susan Gutierrez
Cathy Dietz
Ron Annis
Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Consulting Editor 831-761-7353
echalhoub@register-pajaronian.com
Marketing Director, ext. 326
Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Production Supervisor
Press Manager

DEADLINES:

Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.

Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$76; 6-month in-county, \$52; 10-weeks subscription, \$23; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$99; 6-month out-of-county, \$65; 10-weeks subscription, \$29; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$125; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$71.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. 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.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanism and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

Email letters to:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

WHERE TO WRITE

PRES. DONALD TRUMP The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20500 Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414 FAX: 202-456-2461 TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213 www.whitehouse.gov	U.S. REP. PETER DEFAZIO (4TH DIST.) 2134 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-6416 541-269-2609 541-465-6732 www.defazio.house.gov
OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN 160 State Capitol 900 Court St. Salem, Ore. 97301-4047 Governor's Citizens' Rep. Message Line: 503-378-4582 www.oregon.gov/gov	STATE SEN. ARNIE ROBLAN (DIST. 5) 900 Court St. NE - S-417 Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1705 FAX: 503-986-1080 Email: Sen.ArnRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov
U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN (DIST. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us
U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3753 FAX: 202-228-3997 541-465-6750 www.merkley.senate.gov	WEST LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH 125 E. Eighth St. Eugene, OR 97401 541-682-4203 FAX: 541-682-4616 Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us

Ending abuse requires a commitment to each other



It wasn't until becoming a father that I realized how a childhood of witnessing verbal and physical abuse by the men in my family — specifically, my father and brothers — had impacted me and left wounds which had never truly healed.

I know this because I occasionally saw reflections of my father and brothers in myself as I fought to avoid making the same mistakes with my own children.

As much as we want to tell ourselves we can choose not to take any baggage with us on our journey through life, there is no getting rid of it completely — only a conscious decision to leave it circling on the carousel.

Ultimately, it is always somewhere. Circling. Waiting to be claimed.

This is especially true for young men in their teens and early 20s, when they are defining themselves and establishing their place in what is still a male-dominated culture — all while simultaneously trying to understand the intricacies of communicating with those they love.

Even as a teenager some 35 years ago, I can tell you that

appearing tough and “manly” among your peers while still holding on to the part of you that is thoughtful and caring feels contradictory to what we're taught about being a man.

The stereotypical definition of manhood was in movies, advertising and music: Being a man means being in control.

In charge.
In command.
Of life and our relationships.
Seeking true equilibrium

is even more difficult today because, unlike 35 years ago, the unhealthy stereotypes that define “manhood” are relentlessly perpetuated through social media and the near-constant presence of advertising that sells body wash, music, movie tickets, clothes and video games by depicting what it looks like, sounds like and feels like to “be a man.”

It is baggage our culture has been carrying for generations, repackaged and presented in more ways than ever before.

The fact is, being a real man does mean being in control.

But not of others; it means being in control of yourself enough to understand, acknowledge and accept your strengths as well as your weak-

nesses.

It means never using your strength — physically or verbally — to harm the women in our lives, whether it be your wife, girlfriend, co-worker, mother, daughter or neighbor.

A real man provides protection, safety and acceptance; a weak man dishes out pain, insecurity and denial.

In either case, they are reflections of our inner self. The question is: What kind of reflection do you want to see

that baggage is still out there circling on the carousel.

Tomorrow, Florence will recognize the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month with an End Domestic Violence march presented by SOS, beginning at 12:45 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park on Bay Street.

Whether you are a survivor of domestic abuse or want to show your support for those who are, I hope you will participate — either in the march itself or by showing your support along the sidewalks as the march winds its way through Old Town.

As a culture, each of us must make a commitment to avoid claiming the baggage that perpetuates violence on our families and each other; as a community, we must make a commitment to each other to support — and when necessary speak up for — our friends, family members and neighbors who we suspect may be victims.

Most importantly, to end the cycle of domestic violence, we must be willing to carry on with that commitment well beyond the last, crisp evening of October.

Note: Victims of domestic abuse can call the SOS hotline at 541-997-4444; abusers seeking help can call SOS at 541-997-2816.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

when you look in the mirror each day?

Every year, our local Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) assists literally hundreds of victims of domestic abuse, including 299 in 2017. In addition, SOS provided shelter for 1,358 victims of abuse last year, including 13 victims of sexual assault.

As wonderful as our community is, it isn't immune to domestic violence against women, children and men.

There's no denying that the cultural threads of domestic violence are woven into the fabric of our society.

Though we have made strides in some areas by recognizing and discussing matters of physical and verbal abuse,

END-OF-LIFE CHOICE IS ABOUT COMPASSION

Death is nothing to be afraid of no matter what your belief, we all have to do it. It's not death but the dying that is what I and many others fear — particularly for those suffering for years with debilitating conditions and diseases.

I for one do not want artificial measures keeping me alive past my God-given expiration date. Too much money is made by keeping people alive.

Roughly 37 million baby boomers will turn 65 over the next decade, bringing the percentage of people aged 65 or older to 20 percent — or more than 71 million people by the year 2029. In addition, 42 percent of people who live to the age of 70 will spend time in a nursing home before they die, half of them for two years or more.

Today, 1-in-9 people over age 65 suffer with Alzheimer's. By 2050, the number

of those with Alzheimer's is expected to grow to 13.8 million.

If you include other dementias, neurodegenerative diseases, autoimmune diseases and cancers, the number of people considering an end-of-life decision is going to grow exponentially.

Therefore, something needs to be done about expanding our end-of-life choices and making our end days more comfortable. A survey done a few years back of Oregon hospice and palliative care doctors and workers noted that patients that had their Death with Dignity Provisions in place had a much more comfortable quality of life.

Just the knowledge they had that they would not have to suffer was a great comfort to them and their families.

In 2019, there will be a couple bills in front of the Oregon legislature to expand Oregon's end-of-life choices. Non-profit organizations like End Choices were cre-

ated to educate Oregon citizens on the restrictions of the current death-with-dignity law, advance directives and the need to expand them. I encourage everyone to educate themselves on how they can help make Oregon more compassionate.

—Bruce Yelle
Florence

MORE SKIN IN THE GAME

I believe mothers, daughters and granddaughters of Republicans should be worried. Apparently, allegations of groping or attempted rape are mere badges of manhood — leftovers from youthful exuberance, unworthy of considered scrutiny.

And later, if you're considering a run for President, they are lifestyle ornaments, subject to non-disclosure agreements.

—Kathryn and Rand Dawson
Siltcoos Lake

LETTERS