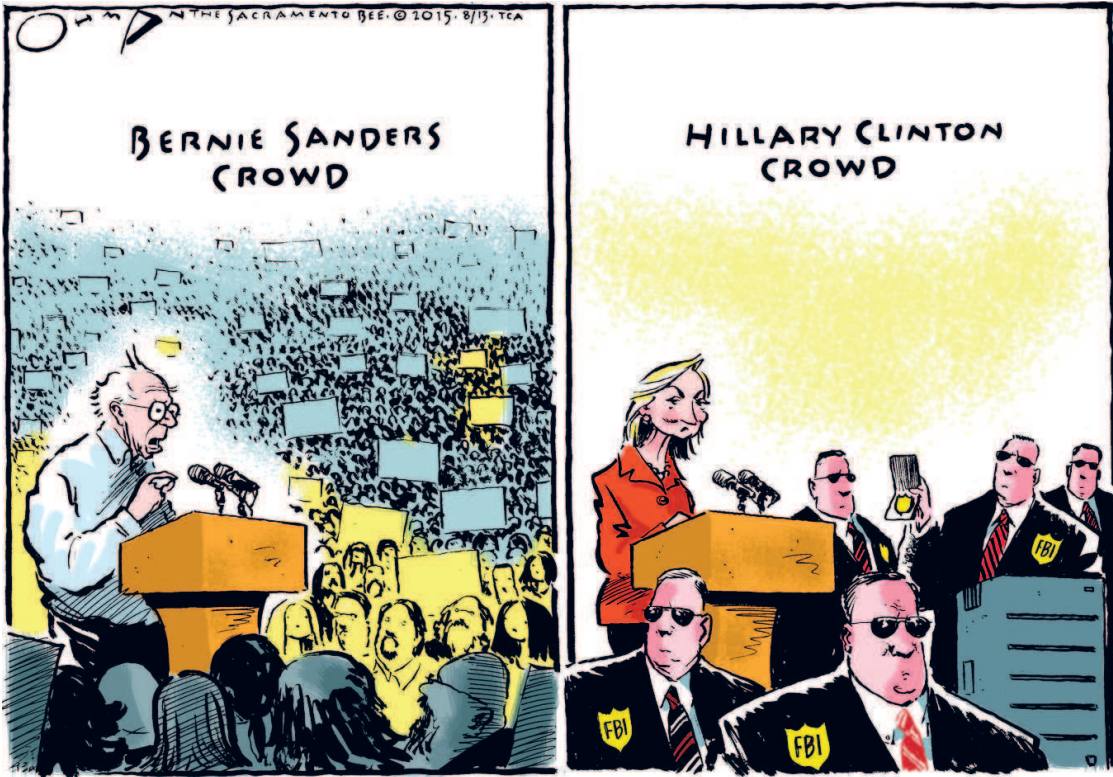


O P I N I O N



Editorial...

## Time to take a step back on paved trail issue

For about three years now, folks in Sisters Country have been riled up in a controversy over a proposed paved trail from Sisters to Black Butte Ranch.

It's time to take a step back and put the issue on the back burner for a while.

Proponents have rallied support for the project and outlined all the community benefits they believe will flow from adding such an amenity. Opponents have made their objections known in detail and offered up proposed alternatives. There is little new to say on the subject.

And, in any case, nothing is going to happen any time soon.

Sisters District Ranger Kristie Miller brought a great deal of clarity to the issue in her discussions with the Sisters City Council at their workshop last week. If there is a proposal made — whether it's the same as before or modified to accommodate objections — and if the Forest Service chooses to

consider it, the paved path project will be run through the ringer in another Forest Service Environmental Assessment. All interested parties will have ample opportunity to weigh in on pros and cons.

And that isn't going to happen in 2015. It may or may not happen in 2016, depending on whether the Forest Service funds an EA. And if they do fund it, the EA will take a year or more to complete.

So here is a very long moment to let the rancor die down and for neighbors to mend fences. There will be ample opportunity for folks to take up their cudgels again when there is a proposal and a process in play.

And, this being Sisters, there are sure to be other issues, other controversies and contretemps to keep folks busy while the Forest Service decides whether or not to fund an EA and put this one back on the front burner.

*Jim Cornelius, Editor*

### Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Patchy smoke 90/50	Sunny 83/43	Sunny 73/35	Sunny 80/39	Sunny 84/47	Sunny 83/na

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**John Kass**

**American Voices**

Hillary Clinton is in the early stages of political sepsis.

Madam Inevitable cut herself with some bad emails. And rather than wash the wound thoroughly with soap that stings, maybe apply a tincture of iodine, she went into deep denial and jammed those fingers in her pockets.

She kept pretending it was nothing, really, and now they're puffy and throbbing and downright uncomfortable, especially for any Democrat who thinks a few months down the road.

Of course the Republicans are enjoying this, even as most of them endure Trump, a man so in love with his own voice that he believes his brain farts are policy.

The other day Trump said he wants to take ISIS' oil wealth. That's the kind of thing Saddam Hussein wanted to do. It would give Vladimir Putin and every other boss the pretext to do the same. You see something, you grab something and say "President Donald did it too." Kuwaiti oil, or land, who knows, just take what you want and watch the world go away.

For now, Hillary's political health is a legitimate issue, centering on those tens of thousands of emails she kept on a private server at her home as she went about her country's business as secretary of state.

After denial and stalling, she finally turned her server over to the FBI. Her critics insist this is a criminal issue. But whether it is or isn't, the damage is political because of one simple, nonpartisan question: Was her private server compromised by foreign intelligence agencies?

Using private servers helped shield her work product from the public and congressional committees trying to find out more about Benghazi. But her paranoia, and her arrogance, could also very well have put her country at risk.

Every day we learn about secure systems being hacked. Most of us can't write or understand code, but that doesn't stop us from reflexively grabbing our wallets when news breaks about hackers hitting a department store or a gas station chain.

We understand that. We know such thieves are out there.

They could be overseas, or sitting a table or two from your iced latte waiting to hack into your checking account. Or, they could be agents of foreign intelligence intent on the servers in the home of Madam Secretary.

And a candidate who puts their own politics over security — especially if that candidate is widely thought by voters to be untrustworthy — has a problem.

Over the weekend in Iowa, she tried to blame the Republicans and everyone but herself. She also tried to turn her email scandal into a joke while talking about her new Snapchat account.

"I love it. I love it," she said. "Those messages disappear all by themselves."

Trying to turn national security into a punch line is a stupid thing to do, especially when the FBI has your server.

The political problem for the Democrats is that she might lose the election. But what if she were to win?

We will have elected an imperial personality who felt entitled to use private email for government business — email that reportedly contained classified information, including discussions on secret drone programs and other matters.

The knife turned a bit the other day as her successor, Secretary of State John Kerry, was interviewed by CBS News about his government email.

Kerry was asked, "Do you think China and/or the Russians are reading your email?"

KERRY: The answer is it is very likely. It is not outside the realm of possibility and we know that they have attacked a number of American interests over the course of the last days.

CBS: It's very likely that your emails are being read?

KERRY: It is a possibility, there's no way for me ... and I certainly write things with that awareness.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, Mrs. Clinton. But it's too late to wash your hands of this.

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