

Quick takes

Farmers market fallout

It is a shame to think that a few merchants speak for the will of the people of Pendleton. Thank you Zimmermans for your courageous stand on one of the many really good things about Pendleton.

— Richard Bertram

I love how everyone is being so supportive of your Pendleton businesses — the ones that are here day in and day out. Half of the vendors that set up for farmers market aren't even from Pendleton!

— Brooke Armstrong

I too am sad that a compromise couldn't have been reached. There are so many reasons to have farmers market on Main Street, so few to the contrary. Many sites have been tried and many more analyzed ... none stacked up.

— Karen Wagner

I'm a business owner on Main Street as well and we don't mind slowing down for a couple hours we love the farmers market and eat the food every week!

— Chris Garcia

I get the business side, but I wish everyone involved could act like adults and sit down and talk about how to make this work for the greater good of Pendleton. A Main Street Farmers Market vibe cannot be duplicated in a park or an empty parking lot.

— Niki Studer Naughton

The only time I shop downtown is when I am there is during the Farmers Market.

— Roz Wenst

One of the great lessons of the Twitter age is that much can be summed up in just a few words. Here are some of this week's takes. Email yours to editor@eastoregonian.com.

County should change its form of government

By G. Glenn Youngman

Many years ago, well respected editor of the *East Oregonian* J.W. Forrester, wrote an insightful weekly column titled *Cabbage and Kings*. In one memorable column, he quoted Lewis Carroll. "The time has come," the walrus said, "to talk of many things: of shoes and ships-and-sealing wax-of cabbage and kings." Mr. Forrester went on to eloquently espouse upon the timeliness to consider changes to local government.

It seems that time has come again, to consider a review of Umatilla County's form of government. In my opinion, Umatilla County should consider limiting the commissioner role to a part-time policy maker and hiring a full-time manager or county executive.

Morrow County Court recently took that courageous step of hiring a county manager. In January 2017, the role of county judge as both policy maker and chief executive of county business will transition to policy maker. Wisely, Morrow County recognized the more complex issues facing government today warranted a change to the County Court structure of the past.

Umatilla County is a home rule charter county. The voters in 1992 passed Home Rule Charter. Certain elected official positions were allowed to finish their term, to be replaced by appointed personnel. The Board of Commissioners and the sheriff were preserved in the charter. In the 1996 general election a charter amendment was on the ballot that would have made the Board of Commissioners part-time policy makers. The elected sheriff position was not part of the ballot measure. The vote failed, leaving in place three full-time commissioners who serve as policy makers

and day-to-day general manager of the county.

With the complexity of issues facing county government today, a case can be made to once again consider amendments to the Umatilla County Home Rule Charter. Specifically, amendments to make the Board of Commissioners part-time policy makers and hiring a professional county executive who would be hired to run the day-to-day operations. Commissioners could then focus on important political and policy matters and the operations could be managed by a full-time professional similar to a city manager.

Complex issues facing the county include mental health programs, increasing homelessness, road and bridge maintenance, public safety communications and water policy to mention a few. Homelessness, for example, if not addressed will become more unmanageable. County roads are vitally important to the economy. The focus was once on maintaining farm to market roads but our economy is much more diverse and road maintenance requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach working with cities and the port to maximize transportation services for diverse industrial sectors.

Public safety communications are vitally important to all public safety agencies. Public safety responders and citizens depend on well-managed, collaborative program. Water is the lifeblood of the

economy and the county should be acting proactively with policy and projects to maximize this essential resource.

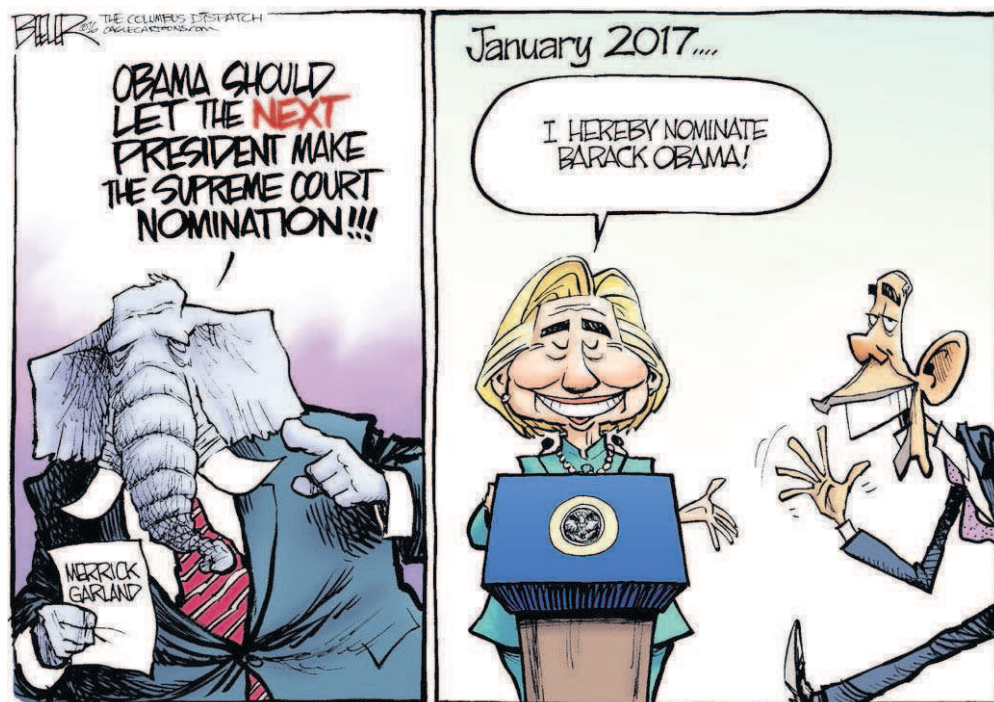
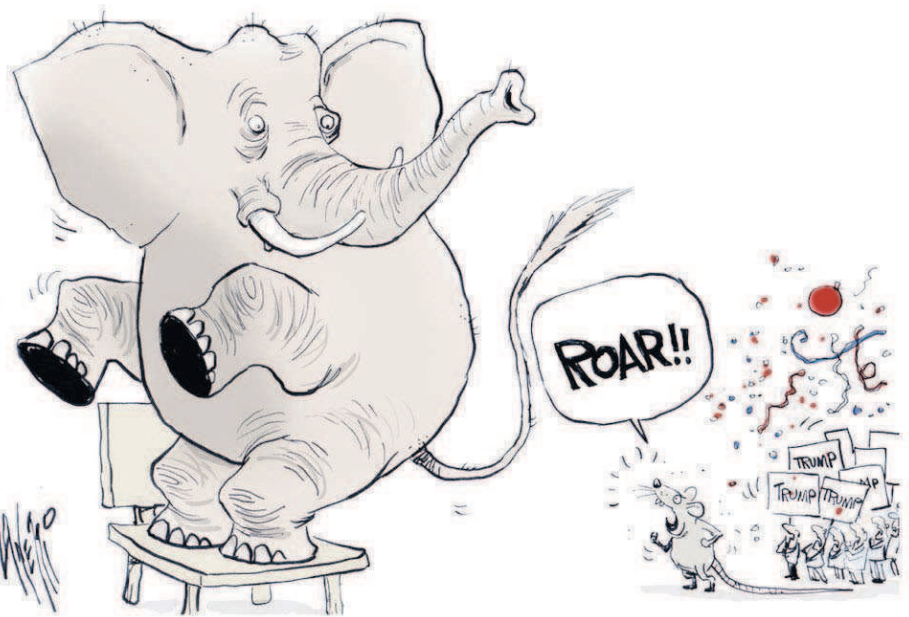
According to the Home Rule Charter, the County Board of Commissioners is required every four years to appoint a Charter Review Committee of not less than five members whose purpose is to review the Home Rule Charter and its operations. The committee may recommend amendments to the charter. Then the Board of Commissioners could place all, or part, or none on the ballot to be voted on in a general election.

I respectfully request the Board of Commissioners appoint a Charter Review Committee to review the Home Rule Charter. The first question the committee should consider is whether or not the commissioners should be part-time policy makers or full-time executives. The next question should be whether or not the county should hire a full-time manager to oversee the day-to-day business of the county.

I served many years as a Umatilla County sheriff's deputy and also as an elected member of Umatilla County Board of Commissioners. Given my unique perspective I believe the current structure of the Board of Commissioners could be changed to better meet the needs of citizens and the county.

G. Glenn Youngman lives in Hermiston.

Umatilla County should consider limiting commissioners to part-time policy makers and hiring a full time county executive.



Assessing, improving museums can help Pendleton prosper

No one or no thing is above honest observation, comment and deliberation. For example, a local journalist wrote about me several years ago: "His presence has the consequence of making people grind their teeth. The mention of his name invokes profanity from people who don't normally cuss and unveiled threats from people who would otherwise appear to be quite docile." It's all true.

Another example: A recent Pendleton resident had, as part of his effort to get to know the area before he moved here, visited one of our local museums. "As I entered, the volunteer seated behind the desk looked up from their phone and told me that the main exhibit changes from time to time. That was it. No enthusiasm, back to the phone they went." My friend moved here anyway, but hasn't recommended anyone visit that museum.

However, that experience could be relived in several other local venues. Which suggests that our museums and such aren't real players in our local life and visitor-based economic development.

Our inventory

Pendleton's museums and related institutions include the Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, Heritage Station Museum, Pendleton Round-Up Hall of Fame, Tamastlikt Cultural Institute and Pendleton Underground Tours.

If Pendleton's museums and related institutions were supported by both the city and Chamber of Commerce, this untapped but fertile resource could easily be transformed into a marketable whole. Because moving beyond occasional visitors like my friend, this new local support would help create a more attractive Pendleton for a variety of visitors, tourists, and travelers — with more valuable overnight stays — while promoting institutional stability by raising daily attendance. And the good news is that because it's a substantive learning process, it's almost fun. Nothing negative about it.

About museum/exhibit assessments

Dating back to the 1960s, museum specialists have known that the practice of formal museum/exhibit evaluations develop more user-friendly, effective exhibitions that communicate important things about the host organization and its purposes, history and activities while creating a stronger base of support that results in increased visitors — the keys to success.

Background

Beginning in April 2014, a specific local initiative evolved from informal discussions with members of the transient room tax



TOM HEBERT
Comment

review committee and leaders of local museums and the Chamber of Commerce. Eventually, a small team working with the city manager — including Vicky Pearce, Bonnie Sager and myself — put together a concept paper and strategies for implementation.

Angie Ong is a staff lecturer at the University of Washington and a nationally respected museum consultant with experience working through Spotlight Impact, LLC, her Seattle-based consulting firm that provides research and evaluation services and support to museums. It conducts workshops and seminars aimed at integrating evaluation into organizational philosophy and building staff capacity and provides project planning and assistance with grants to fund needed changes.

In January 2015, Spotlight Impact submitted a detailed "opportunity assessment" for a reasonable fixed price of \$6,000 that would include pre-visit research and questionnaires, a 3-day site visit for two consultants and their travel expenses, followed by data analysis and reporting.

The stated goal of this study was "not to evaluate specific strengths and weaknesses of any individual institutional partner; but rather to look holistically at the opportunity at hand, identify ways in which each institution can contribute to a comprehensive strategy, and determine the initiative's possibilities and net value to the community."

To fund this project, PARC Resources of Bend agreed to write a proposal to the Ford Family Foundation's grant program asking for \$5,000. If successful, the city's total outlay for the project would be only \$1,600.

But, due to growing scheduling problems, Spotlight Impact had to withdraw from the project in July, but agreed to help if and when the project moved forward. The city manager said that he would continue to press forward, confident it was a worthy effort.

Next steps

Working with local volunteers, the chamber and the city of Pendleton could seek agreement from a majority of the above organizations to participate in this study. In this way, a well-planned, positive-minded visit by professional museum researchers, each institution could contribute to a comprehensive civic strategy of significant economic and cultural value to the community. And they could have fun doing it.

Once such civic collaboration is in hand, the second step would be for the city to develop the grant proposal to the Ford Family Foundation. Completing these two steps would, at last, move this important civic opportunity forward.

No, not Trump, not ever

The voters have spoken. In convincing fashion, Republican voters seem to be selecting Donald Trump as their nominee. And in a democracy, victory has legitimacy to it. Voters are rarely wise but are usually sensible. They understand their own problems. And so deference is generally paid to the candidate who wins.

And deference is being paid. Gov. Rick Scott of Florida is urging Republicans to coalesce around Trump. Pundits are coming out with their "What We Can Learn" commentaries. Those commentaries are built on a hidden respect for the outcome, that this is a rejection of a Republicanism that wasn't working and it points in some better direction.

The question is: Should deference be paid to this victor? Should we bow down to the judgment of these voters?

Well, some respect is in order. Trump voters are a coalition of the dispossessed. They have suffered lost jobs, lost wages, lost dreams. The American system is not working for them, so naturally they are looking for something else.

Moreover, many in the media, especially me, did not understand how they would express their alienation. We expected Trump to fizzle because we were not socially intermingled with his supporters and did not listen carefully enough. For me, it's a lesson that I have to change the way I do my job if I'm going to report accurately on this country.

And yet reality is reality. Donald Trump is epically unprepared to be president. He has no realistic policies, no advisers, no capacity to learn. His vast narcissism makes him a closed fortress. He doesn't know what he doesn't know and he's uninterested in finding out. He insults the office Abraham Lincoln once occupied by running for it with less preparation than most of us would undertake to buy a sofa.

Trump is perhaps the most dishonest person to run for high office in our lifetimes. All politicians stretch the truth, but Trump has an obliviousness to accuracy.

This week, the Politico reporters Daniel Lippman, Darren Samuelsohn and Isaac Arnsdorf fact-checked 4.6 hours of Trump speeches and news conferences. They found more than five dozen untrue statements, or one every five minutes.

"His remarks represent an extraordinary mix of inaccurate claims about domestic and foreign policy and personal and professional boasts that rarely measure up when checked against primary sources," they wrote.

He is a childish man running for a job that requires maturity. He is an insecure

boasting little boy whose desires were somehow arrested at age 12. He surrounds himself with sycophants. "You can always tell when the king is here," Trump's butler told Jason Horowitz in a recent *Times* profile. He brags incessantly about his alleged prowess, like how far he can hit a golf ball. "Do I hit it long? Is Trump strong?" he asks.

In some rare cases, political victors do not deserve our respect. George Wallace won elections, but to endorse those outcomes would be a moral failure.

And so it is with Trump. History is a long record of men like him temporarily rising, stretching back to biblical times. Psalm 73 describes them: "Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. ... They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance."

And yet their success is fragile: "Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. How suddenly they are destroyed."

The psalmist reminds us that the proper thing to do in the face of demagoguery is to go the other way — to make an extra effort to put on decency, graciousness, patience and humility, to seek a purity of heart that is stable and everlasting.

The Republicans who coalesce around Trump are making a political error. They are selling their integrity for a candidate who will probably lose. About 60 percent of Americans disapprove of him, and that number has been steady since he began his campaign.

Worse, there are certain standards more important than one year's election.

Donald Trump is an affront to basic standards of honesty, virtue and citizenship. He pollutes the atmosphere in which our children are raised. He has already shredded the unspoken rules of political civility that make conversation possible. In his savage regime, public life is just a dog-eat-dog war of all against all.

As the founders would have understood, he is a threat to the long and glorious experiment of American self-government. He is precisely the kind of scapegoating, promise-making, fear-driving and deceiving demagogue they feared.

Trump's supporters deserve respect. They are left out of this economy. But Trump himself? No, not Trump, not ever.

David Brooks, *New York Times*