

**EAST OREGONIAN**  
Founded October 16, 1875

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**OUR VIEW**

# Another scary leak at Hanford

"It's an example of a culture at Hanford of 'We don't have problems here. We're doing just fine.' Which is a total lie," former Hanford Nuclear Reservation worker Mike Geffre told KING 5 this week.

Geffre was reacting to news that a supposedly super safe double-walled underground storage tank for highly radioactive waste has a major leak in the space between its inner and outer walls. Geffre warned officials in 2011 about the potential for such an event, but a response was ridiculously slow in coming.

Washington state's Department of Ecology sought to allay public worries, saying there is no sign that sludge created during plutonium production made it past the tank's outer shell into the environment. To its credit, the state has been a more zealous watchdog than other parties involved in Hanford oversight. But its reassurances are starting to ring hollow.

"This is catastrophic," Geffre

told KING 5. "This is probably the biggest event to ever happen in tank farm history. The double shell tanks were supposed to be the saviors of all saviors" as far as keeping waste away from people and the environment. A current Hanford worker said, "The primary tanks weren't designed to stage waste like this for so many years. There's always the question, 'Are the outer shells compromised?'"

Three of Hanford's other double-shell tanks have the same design as the one now in the news.

Millions live downriver from Hanford, starting with us in Umatilla and Morrow counties. As massively expensive as the cleanup has been — around \$40 billion so far, with maybe \$75 billion more in the offing — it will pale in comparison to damages from a major toxin spill into the air and groundwater.

Citizens must use every political and legal tool to impose competent and responsive management on this dreadful fiasco.

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— **Mike Geffre,**  
Former Hanford Nuclear Reservation worker

## Culture corner

For the past four decades, *The Village Voice* alternative New York City newspaper has compiled an annual "Pazz & Jop" music poll measuring hundreds of critics' critiques of the year's albums.

Instead of an academy picking from a small field of finalists, like the Grammys, each critic is given 100 points to assign to what they consider the year's top 10 releases. More than 1,000 albums end up with at least the minimum five points, while the top few on the list garner thousands of points and wide consensus from the critics.

It's an interesting metric for measuring popular art while it's still fresh. Big names like Bob Dylan, Kanye West, Talking Heads and Michael Jackson have all taken the top spot, but so have tUnE-yArDs, LCD

Soundsystem and Animal Collective.

As a fan of both music and critical analysis, I am on a quest to listen to all 440 albums on the 44 years of top 10 lists. Thanks to the advent of digital music I won't have to spend long weekends or thousands of dollars searching record stores or Ebay for the more mainstream offerings. There are some lost gems that I've already started scouting for.

If you'd like to join the quest, check out the full Pazz & Jop lists at [villagevoice.com/pazznjop](http://villagevoice.com/pazznjop). I have a handy spreadsheet of all 440 albums for tracking which ones you own or have listened to, and I have a few dozen CDs and LPs from the list I would be willing to swap for a short time with a fellow traveler.

— *Daniel Wattenburger*

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.

### LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email [editor@eastoregonian.com](mailto:editor@eastoregonian.com).

### Pendleton council's questionable calls

I listened to the city council object to the terms of the proposed lease agreement with Blue Mountain Community College, which gave the college the right to terminate the lease with little notice while the city had no such right. The college vice president explained that when students sign a letter of intent, a two-year program is expected, and Councilperson McDonald personally felt the effect of the cancellation of a program the she was enrolled in with very little notice.

Since the city of Pendleton paid nothing for the property, wouldn't it be more prudent to deed the property directly to the college with the same stipulation that they gave the Round-Up Association with respect to property use?

There is already a city-owned lot available in the same area as well as an abundance of flat industrial city-owned land that the city has failed to develop at and near the airport.

I don't think I would want to be near city hall when the headlines on the front page of the *East Oregonian* read "Pendleton City Council evicts Blue Mountain Community College from baseball field."

Then again, I'm sure the city of

Hermiston would gladly accept the program at the new EOTEC center grounds in the same manner as they continue to improve facilities for the college rodeo program and the campus expansion.

**Water Quality Report:**  
The council approved a new three-year contract to prepare and print the new water quality report. What they failed to report in their post-meeting radio interview is that the contractor is a Bend company, and the cost has ballooned from roughly \$3,500 a year to an open-ended estimate of \$10,000 a year, not to exceed \$30,000 for the length of the program. I believe they explained the increase was for marketing. The public works representative explained that this was a cost saving measure.

**Rick Rohde**  
Pendleton

### Rohde's military service important

As a close friend, I noticed that the *East Oregonian* omitted an important part of Rick Rohde's history: his military service.

Rick was a veteran of Vietnam and both Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He proudly served his country for 24 years in both the active duty Air Force and the Air

Force Reserve. He finished his career as an aircraft loadmaster flying worldwide and retired as a Master Sergeant.

**Bev Cary**  
Pendleton

### Innovative Bailor would shake up politics

This letter is in support of Thomas "Tom" Bailor for Umatilla County Commissioner, Position 3. Tom Bailor has spent considerable time studying Umatilla County politics and the county charter. He is well-informed about issues currently facing the county and, in addition, has innovative ideas that will move the county forward in the future.

Tom lives in Pendleton and teaches in both Pendleton and Hermiston. He has contacts all over the county and will represent all the people of Umatilla County. He works well with people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. Not only does Tom have experience in management, having worked as both a program manager and project coordinator at CTUIR, but he also has the right educational background, with a masters degree in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University.

I urge voters to learn more about Tom Bailor from the Voter's

Pamphlet, which he took the time to submit information to. You can also learn about Tom from his Facebook site.

I believe Tom Bailor will shake up the county establishment at the local level, but in a positive, progressive way.

I would also like to urge the *East Oregonian* to host a candidates' forum so that all interested voters can learn more about the candidates for county and city elections.

**Karen King**  
Pendleton

### Fairley a professional

I support Scott Fairley for Pendleton City Council Ward 2. I have worked with Scott on the Oregon Solutions Housing Team and have served with him on the Pendleton Progress Board. Scott takes a mindful, researched approach to all he does. Scott listens more than he talks and has earned the respect of many, both locally and across the state.

Scott is articulate and professional. As a planning commission chair, Scott has led productive, professional meetings and has genuinely encouraged public input and discussion. Scott is capable of having intelligent conversations with people about

potentially contentious issues and can be trusted to be respectful both during and after the interaction. Scott is smart and has Pendleton at the heart of his work. I would be proud to have Scott represent our community. Scott can be trusted to be a positive, professional, smart voice.

Vote for Scott Fairley, then let's support him when he takes his seat.

**Susan Bower**  
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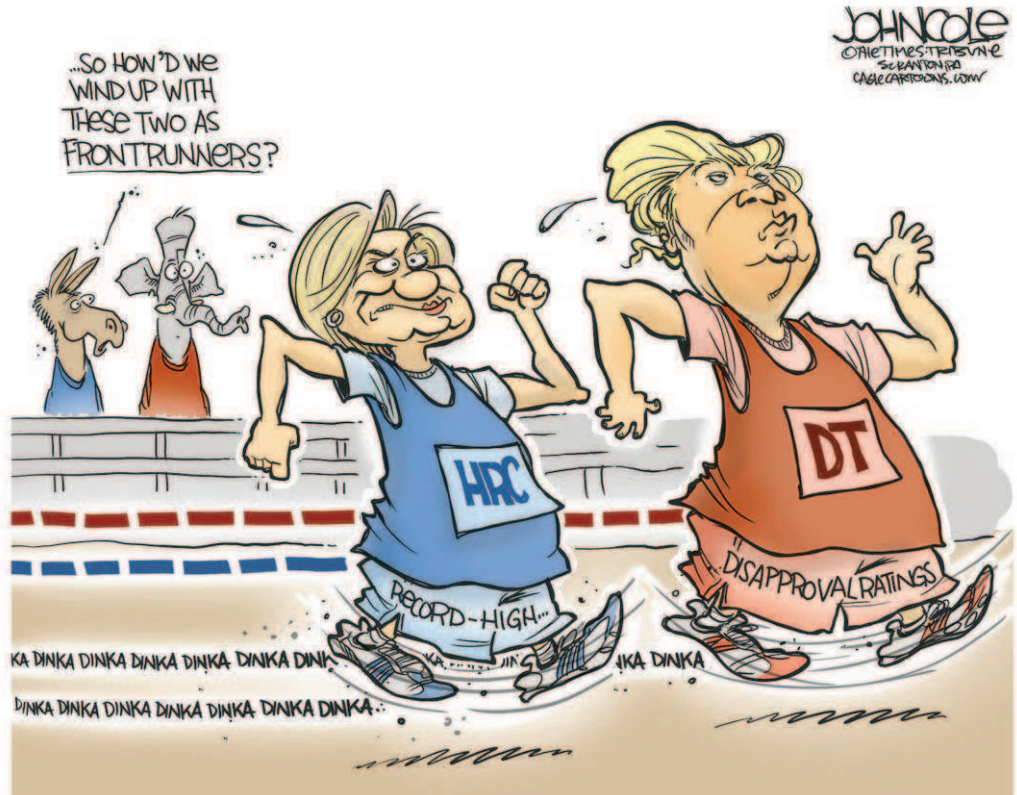
### Primmer a great choice

We were so pleased when Dale Primmer decided to run for Pendleton City Council, Ward 3. And so disappointed that we won't be able to vote for him because we live in another ward. So the next best thing for us is to urge all our friends in Ward 3 to cast a vote for Dale Primmer.

We've often known Dale for many years, have worked with him, and have known him to be smart, a real listener, an excellent teacher, and we have appreciated his intellect, his moral compass, and his sense of humor. He's a great choice for City Council, and we're looking forward to his being a part of the ruling body of the City of Pendleton.

**Bob and MaryAlice Ridgway,**  
Pendleton

### OTHER VIEWS



## Clash of the injured titans

If trends hold and the parties' front-runners become the parties' nominees, November is going to be an epic election: a hobbled titan (Hillary Clinton) versus a mortally wounded one (the real estate developer).

The upcoming contests only buttress the possibility that those two will be the last man and woman standing.

As of Sunday, *The Huffington Post's* Pollster average of polls had the real estate developer leading Ted Cruz by almost 30 percentage points in Connecticut, 19 points in Pennsylvania and 20 points in Maryland. All three states vote on Tuesday. The real estate developer is leading in Rhode Island and Delaware as well — states that also vote on Tuesday — but those states don't have the same volume of polling to make the results as reliable.

That same site had Clinton leading Sen. Bernie Sanders by 26 points in Maryland, 15 points in Pennsylvania and six points in Connecticut. She, too, was leading in Rhode Island and Delaware.

We seem to be watching the prequel to a foregone conclusion.

Now the question is: How would these two candidates square off in a general election?

As *The New York Times* reported last week, Paul Manafort, the real estate developer's new campaign chief, seemed to suggest on a tape obtained by the paper that up until now, the real estate developer's incendiary style was just an act.

This is how the paper reported the contents of the tape:

"Mr. Manafort acknowledged Mr. Trump's deep unpopularity — his 'negatives,' he called them — but invoked Ronald Reagan's initial polling deficit in 1980 to claim Mr. Trump's deficiencies were not permanent. Mr. Reagan's unfavorability in 1980, however, was never as high as that of Mr. Trump now.

"Fixing personality negatives is a lot easier than fixing character negatives," said Mr. Manafort ... "You can't change somebody's character. But you can change the way somebody presents themselves."

"And that, Mr. Manafort said, was in the works."

Will the real demagogue please stand up!

How must all of his supporters feel — the ones following him like wounded puppies because he is their rapid rabble-rouser who "tells it like it is"? Maybe he's just been telling you what he knew you wanted to hear. Maybe he's been playing on your anxieties, insecurities and anger to further his own ambitions. Maybe this has all been an act, a "part he's been playing," and you are the gullible audience who got played.

Maybe you are simply backing a man who has hijacked your passions and your party.

But on the substance, Manafort seems



**CHARLES BLOW**  
Comment

to suggest that his guy, the ultimate branding machine, simply needs one more rebranding, that his problems pale in comparison to those of Clinton, his likely opponent.

Maybe. Maybe not. As *The Wall Street Journal* noted in a recent poll, Clinton's unpopularity — as measured by poll respondents saying that they either have somewhat or very negative feelings toward her — hit a "dubious new record of 56 percent."

The only problem for Republicans, however, is that "an astounding 65 percent" feel that way about the real estate developer, leading the paper to conclude that he and Cruz "may be the only two Republicans who could lose to Hillary Clinton."

Exit polls in New York, where the real estate developer won by massive margins, revealed that even among Republican voters, 22 percent said that they would be scared of his presidency and another 14 percent said they'd be concerned about it.

Only 8 percent of Democrats said they'd be scared of a Clinton presidency, with 25 percent saying they would be concerned about it.

In fact, naturalization applications are on the rise, specifically because Latino immigrants are nervous about the potential presidency of the real estate developer. As *The New York Times* reported last month:

"Overall, naturalization applications increased by 11 percent in the 2015 fiscal year over the year before, and jumped 14 percent during the six months ending in January, according to federal figures. The pace is picking up by the week, advocates say, and they estimate applications could approach one million in 2016, about 200,000 more than the average in recent years."

The article continues: "While naturalizations generally rise during presidential election years, Mr. Trump provided an extra boost this year."

If Clinton lacks enthusiasm among her fans, that lack is likely to be more than made up for by voters' enthusiasm for anyone but the real estate developer.

It's too far from November to make predictions about the outcome of a race. We still have to learn the definitive outcome of each party's nominating process.

There could be a surprise in Clinton's emails or in the real estate developer's taxes — should he ever release them. There also is a tremendous war chest of super PAC money on the sidelines waiting to get into the race, and there's no way to know how that will shape the election.

Nothing is settled and inevitable, but at this point one must say: Advantage Clinton.

Charles M. Blow is *The New York Times's* visual Op-Ed columnist.

### YOUR VIEWS

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