

# EAST OREGONIAN OPINION

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**OUR VIEW**

## New attitude in town

Three relatively new Pendleton city councilors and mayor John Turner spoke with the *East Oregonian* earlier this week.

Jake Cambier had been on the council for a year and a half, while Scott Fairley and Dale Primmer have had their seats as long as Turner — a year on the nose. And while the four men come at the job from different backgrounds and with different goals, each said they appreciate the camaraderie and teamwork of the current council.

And each has high hopes that all those oars pulling in the same direction will bring population growth, economic development and new housing to a city that has struggled with stagnation and chicken-and-egg, cart-and-horse problems that have stifled development. Those hopes aren't for progress down the road — they want to see it this year.

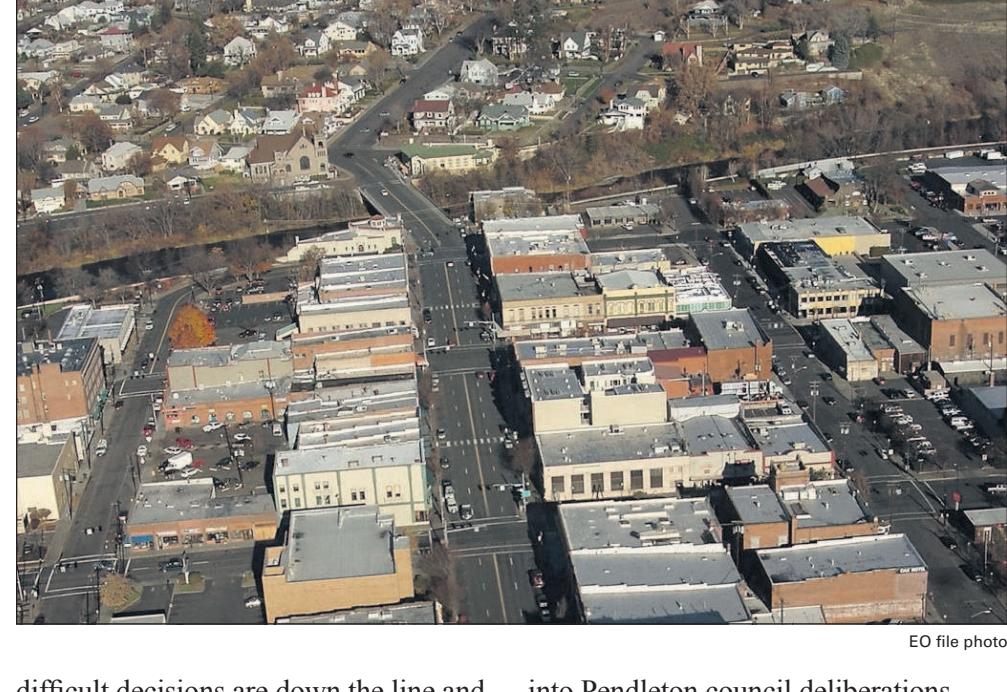
The men are part of a dramatic shift in the council in the last year, a shift that will certainly continue. Current

council president Neil Brown has said he will not run for re-election. Longtime councilor John Brenne is up for re-election, too. If those two seats are filled by new councilors, it will be an almost entire set of new faces than was there in 2016.

When these big changes come to any organization, it can take a while for the dust to settle, for interests to align and newcomers brought up to speed.

That doesn't seem to be the case in Pendleton. An initial goal-setting strategy that included plenty of public input got the council focused on what was most important to most residents. That kicked off a renewed commitment in city administration to the basics of good government: infrastructure upkeep, quality customer service, clear communication and improved relations with organizations that share a common goal.

This is not to say that Pendleton is out of the woods just yet. Important,



EO file photo

difficult decisions are down the line and those votes will likely not be unanimous — the city budget just isn't big enough to fund everything each councilor (and each resident) would like to do.

But we are happy to see that new ideas and fresh vigor have been injected

into Pendleton council deliberations. And it's good to see that new energy has been harnessed in a productive manner.

Since 2018 is the time to see results — to measure success — we're optimistic about what the year has in store for Pendleton.

**YOUR VIEWS**

### Trump inspires people to run against him and defeat him

We, the majority voters of this country, are looking for a few good men and women to serve as our elected governmental representatives. We need the best and brightest people possible to inspire the best and brightest ideas for solving this country's most pressing problems. Those issues will always involve respect for all people and the planet. You do not need to be a plaster saint, but you cannot be a hypocrite who pretends to hold decent, family and worker values but then advocate policies that enrich yourself and harm your constituents. Do not be like Donald Trump.

If you are so corrupt that you must seek the help of foreign adversaries to get elected, then do not run for public office.

If you have a history of laundering money, and have refused to pay your workers, then do not run for public office.

If you will not show your taxes to prove there is no "conflict of interest," then do not run for public office.

If you do not have a basic understanding of our history and constitution, then do not run for public office.

If you have ever bragged about assaulting the opposite sex, then do not run for public office.

If you tried to avoid military service, then do not run for public office.

If you made up spurious accusations about the birthplace of a sitting President, then continued lying to appeal to racists, then do not run for public office.

If you are not mentally stable enough to express your anger appropriately and diplomatically, but instead "tweet" threats to dangerous world leaders, then do not run for public office.

If you are a self-centered egomaniac who believes you, and your family, are above the rule of law, then do not run for public office.

However, if you want to serve the residents and taxpayers, and you possess wisdom, justice, courage, compassion and humility, then we desperately need you. This year will be a turning point. Politics has sunk to such an extreme low that it

cannot continue to decline. Please show up and be counted at one of the hundreds of Anniversary Woman's Marches across the country on Saturday, Jan. 20 and Sunday, Jan. 21. Additionally, this November let's power to the polls.

Dale and Judy Wendt  
Pendleton

### Vote yes on Measure 101

I urge all eligible voters to vote "yes" on Measure 101. We need to fund our share of the cost of Medicaid now, not refer it back to the Legislature for further discussion about the funding. I think the Legislature did a good job of talking with representatives of all of the kinds of organizations that will need to pay the assessment. Most of them agree this needs to be done.

This approach will cost us less than any other available way of getting health care for low income people. Yes, some of us might have preferred that the necessary funds be found by reallocating state income currently assigned to other programs. But none of us want to see the state-funded services we use reduced or eliminated, and someone feels that way about each and every state program. While there is always opportunity for improved efficiency in state services, that isn't going to fund this need.

Keep fighting the good fight to reduce waste of state tax dollars, but get health care for poor families while that is happening. Let's not try to second guess the Legislature. Vote yes on Measure 101.

Lindsay Winsor  
Milton-Freewater

### Quick takes

#### Car crashes into Big Lots

So... it's a drive-thru now? Cool, that'll save me some time.

— Ashley Haapla

What kind of sale were they having?

— Jonathan Hale

**Look where we're at today thanks to artificial intelligence and then factor in how all this could be supercharged.**

Who cares? Well, if you think it's scary what we can now do with artificial intelligence produced by classical binary digital electronic computers built with transistors — like make cars that can drive themselves and software that can write news stories or produce humanlike speech — remember this: These "old" computers still don't have enough memory or processing power to solve what IBM calls "historically intractable problems." Quantum computers, paired with classical computers via the cloud, have the potential to do that in minutes or seconds.

For instance, "while today's supercomputers can simulate ... simple molecules," notes MIT Technology Review, "they quickly become overwhelmed." So chemical modelers — who attempt to come up with new compounds for things like better batteries and lifesaving drugs — "are forced to approximate how an unknown molecule might behave, then test it in the real world to see if it works as expected. The promise of quantum computing is to simplify that process by exactly predicting the structure of a new molecule, and how it will interact with other compounds."

Quantum computers process information, using the capabilities of quantum physics, differently from traditional computers. "Whereas normal computers store information as either a 1 or a 0, quantum computers exploit two phenomena —

**OTHER VIEWS**

## While you were sleeping

Donald Trump poses a huge dilemma for commentators: is to ignore his daily outrages is to normalize his behavior, but to constantly write about them is to stop learning. Like others, I struggle to get this balance right, which is why I pause today to point out some incredible technological changes happening while Trump has kept us focused on him — changes that will pose as big an adaptation challenge to American workers as transitioning from farms to factories once did.

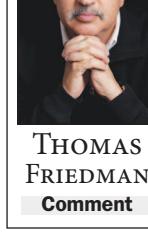
Two and half years ago I was researching a book that included a section on IBM's cognitive computer, "Watson," which had perfected the use of artificial intelligence enough to defeat the two all-time "Jeopardy!" champions. After my IBM hosts had shown me Watson at its Yorktown Heights, New York, lab, they took me through a room where a small group of IBM scientists were experimenting with something futuristic called "quantum computing." They left me thinking this was Star Wars stuff — a galaxy and many years far away.

Last week I visited the same lab, where my hosts showed me the world's first quantum computer that can handle 50 quantum bits, or qubits, which it unveiled in November. They still may need a decade to make this computer powerful enough and reliable enough for groundbreaking industrial applications, but clearly quantum computing has gone from science fiction to nonfiction faster than most anyone expected.

Who cares? Well, if you think it's scary what we can now do with artificial intelligence produced by classical binary digital electronic computers built with transistors — like make cars that can drive themselves and software that can write news stories or produce humanlike speech — remember this: These "old" computers still don't have enough memory or processing power to solve what IBM calls "historically intractable problems." Quantum computers, paired with classical computers via the cloud, have the potential to do that in minutes or seconds.

For instance, "while today's supercomputers can simulate ... simple molecules," notes MIT Technology Review, "they quickly become overwhelmed." So chemical modelers — who attempt to come up with new compounds for things like better batteries and lifesaving drugs — "are forced to approximate how an unknown molecule might behave, then test it in the real world to see if it works as expected. The promise of quantum computing is to simplify that process by exactly predicting the structure of a new molecule, and how it will interact with other compounds."

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THOMAS FRIEDMAN  
Comment

entanglement and superposition — to process information," explains MIT Technology Review. The result is computers that may one day "operate 100,000 times faster than they do today," adds Wired magazine.

Talia Gershon, an IBM researcher, posted a fun video explaining the power of quantum computers to optimize and model problems with an exponential number of variables. She displayed a picture of a table at her wedding set for 10 guests, and posed this question: How many different ways can you seat 10 people? It turns out, she explained, there are "3.6 million ways to arrange 10 people for dinner."

Classical computers don't solve "big" versions of this problem very well at all," she said, like trying to crack sophisticated encrypted codes, where you need to try a massive number of variables, or modeling molecules where you need to account for an exponential number of interactions.

Quantum computers, with their exponential processing power, will be able to crack most encryption without breaking a sweat.

It's just another reason China, the NSA, IBM, Intel and Google are now all racing — full of sweat — to build usable quantum systems.

Look at where we are today thanks to artificial intelligence and then factor in how all this could be supercharged.

they're supplanting — and then factor in how all of this could be supercharged in a decade by quantum computing.

As education-to-work expert Heather McGowan ([www.futureislearning.com](http://www.futureislearning.com)) points out: "In October 2016, Budweiser transported a truckload of beer 120 miles with an empty driver's seat.... In February 2017, Bank of America began testing three 'employee-less' branch locations that offer full-service banking automatically, with access to a human, when necessary, via video teleconference."

It's why IBM's CEO, Ginni Rometty, remarked to me in an interview: "Every job will require some technology, and therefore we'll need to revamp education. The K-12 curriculum is obvious, but it's the adult retraining — lifelong learning systems — that will be even more important."

Each time work gets outsourced or tasks get handed off to a machine, "we must reach up and learn a new skill or in some ways expand our capabilities as humans in order to fully realize our collaborative potential," McGowan said.

Anyway, I didn't mean to distract from the "Trump Reality Show," but I just thought I'd mention that Star Wars technology is coming not only to a theater near you, but to a job near you. We need to be discussing and adapting to its implications as much as we do Trump's tweets.

Thomas Friedman, a *New York Times* columnist, was awarded Pulitzer Prizes for international reporting one for commentary.