

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Wetlands and wet brains, both squishy

The recent announcement that wetlands problems may delay the Hwy. 47 realignment between Beaver Creek and the Nehalem River (*The INDEPENDENT*, Aug. 10, 1994) is distressing to everyone who has worked to eliminate that dangerous stretch of road. Equally distressing, if they weren't so ludicrous, are some of the comments the announcement triggered.

Some people seem to have a mind set that says if there is a problem, any problem, regarding natural resources, it must be the fault of environmentalists. This is a foolish reaction in most instances, but when the people saying it also proudly proclaim themselves to be the "true" environmentalists, it's downright funny to hear them blaming themselves.

In any case, before rushing to blame someone for the delay, it would be wise to first know the subject better. The regulations regarding wetlands that are affecting Hwy. 47, are federal and they were approved by former President George Bush, who is not generally considered a flaming liberal.

Furthermore, the problem will be solved because the regulations also allow for "mitigation." In this case, mitigation will likely be achieved by expanding wetlands in a nearby area, not a very difficult task given the terrain.

The only real question at this time should be to wonder why it took department of transportation employees so much time to even notice the potential problem.

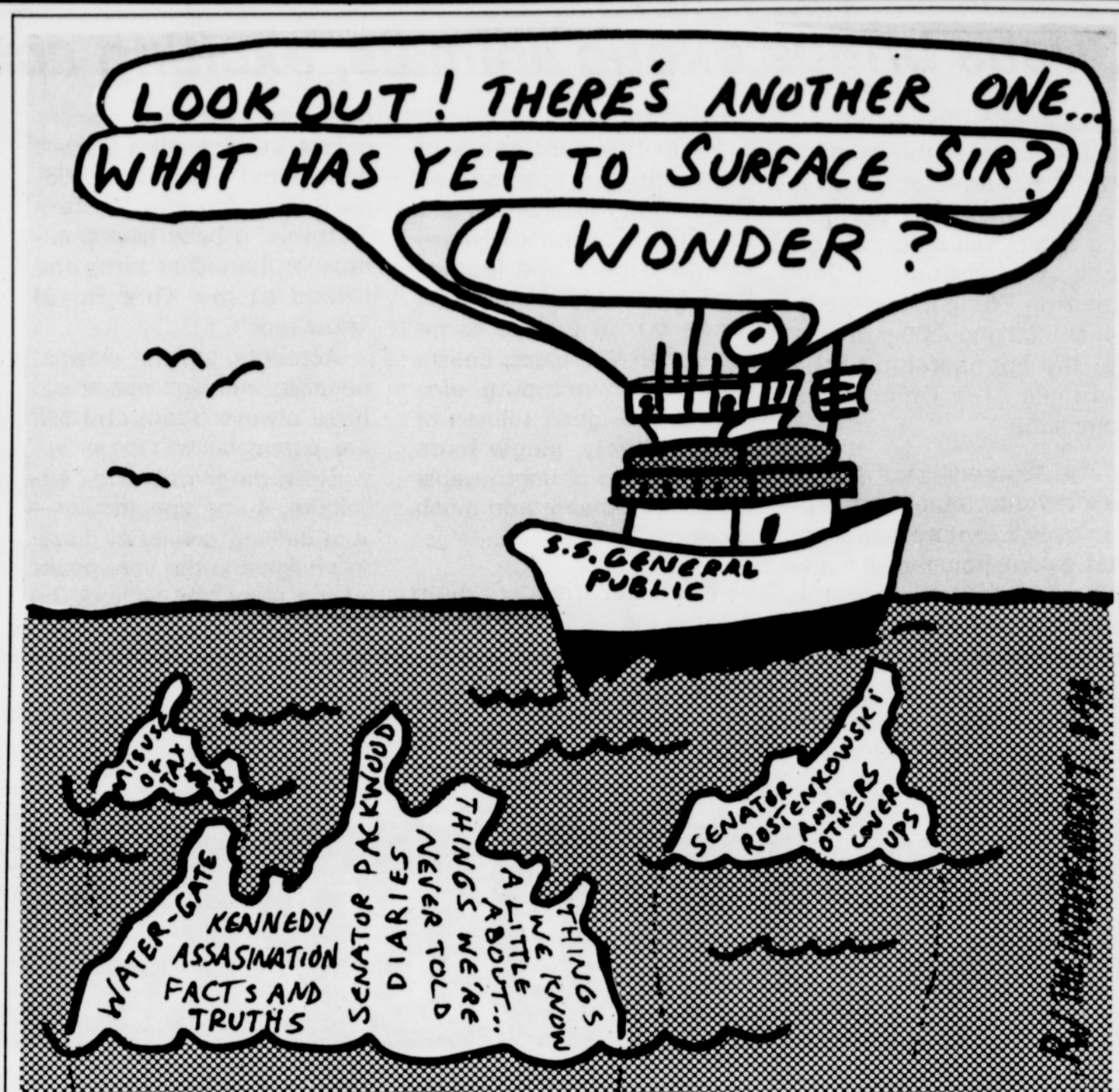
In recent conversation with Location Project Manager Paul Hailey, he said the delay looks like it will be about 2 months, instead of the six months he first projected, because it really is a minor problem. That is good news but, in either case, there will be another winter with treacherous ice on the s-curves and the bridge—the job still isn't done.

Thoughtful donations help small communities

The donation of \$10,000 to small emergency medical service agencies by Cavenham Forest Industries and their parent company, Hanson Industries, was undoubtedly appreciated by the seven recipients (see article on page 4). It should also be appreciated by the people who live, work or travel in those areas because the donations will help many people who aren't connected in any way to the donors.

These well-thought-out donations are really gifts to entire communities. As a small part of two of those communities, we would like to extend a very large thank-you to Cavenham for a gesture that is both neighborly and is a good example of corporate responsibility.

**School is starting soon.
Please drive carefully and
watch for children on the road.**



Letters to the Editor

Many thanks for help at the art show

To the Editor:

For all the work done before, during and after the Jamboree, "Thank you" to Beverly Berkholtz, Jean Ann Borders, Arletta Frace and Jennifer Worthington. Another "Thanks" to the helpers we recruited—Margaret Aldrich, Ruth Ann Brown, Alison Dinger, Edna Hailey, Laurel Jensen, Pat Lloyd, Pam Monnin, Faith Reynolds and the Professionals, Dolly Keenon, Beverly Osborn and LaRee Peters.

My thanks for the many flowers and plants displayed by Beverly Berkholtz and Jean Ann Borders. Also a note of appreciation to anyone who helped and may have been inadvertently omitted.

Our very special "Thank you" to the husbands for all your ideas, muscles and patience and also to our families for your support.

The Vernonia Society of Arts & Crafts sends thanks to all who contributed; we wish to see you again next year.

Sincerely,

**Irene Christensen,
Jamboree Chairman
Vernonia Society
of Arts & Crafts**

Preschool greatly appreciates help

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the following people for all of their hard work and dedication to Vernonia Preschool:

Roger Lindsley, Lisa Hardwick, Clyde & Marilyn Tate-man, Ed Johnson, Linda Graf, Dawn Carr and Judy King for painting the inside of

the preschool building.

Also a very special Thank You to Randy and Kelly Ellison for making and donating our playground equipment and to Lisa Hardwick and Roger Lindsley for all of their time and effort securing the Meyer Memorial Trust grant awarded to Vernonia Preschool.

Sincerely,

**D'Lisa Watts
Vernonia Preschool**

Sheep dog trial was very well handled

To the Editor:

As a handler of a few years and organizer of the Oregon Trail Championship for 10 years, it was my pleasure to compete at the 1st Annual Banks Classic S.D.T. All of the many details were handled as if the organizers had been doing this for a few years.

I look forward to being a part of the 2nd annual Banks Classic S.D.T. Thank you to the MANY people who made this happen.

**Kathy Brunetto
Oregon City**

Bureaucracy slows business growth

To the Editor:

Four and a half years ago my husband and I returned to the U.S. after spending 21 years overseas for his military career. We chose our farm in Oregon to start an agribusiness partly because we perceived Oregon to be a progressive, economically dynamic state intent on fostering small business. Instead we have found a repressive, bureaucratic miasma seriously

rivaling that of any underdeveloped third-world country in which we lived.

We were first "enlightened" on the land use rules and LCDC when we spent months, and quite a bit of money, pursuing the right to have a home on our farm from which to direct farming of our labor-intensive Asian Pear orchard. That ordeal finally concluded when the Linn County Commissioners asked me how they could be assured this was not a hobby. My response was that the resulting 100,000 plus pounds of gourmet fruit would be a bit much for home preserves.

Last year we received a grant from the Oregon Economic Development Department to form a network to produce value-added Asian Pear products. My final report to OEDD included the following:

"The single, most difficult challenge to creating the network, building the facility and establishing a business has been the securing of local, state and federal permits. ... it is confusing, time-consuming, and costly..."

It is my sincere hope that Oregonians deregulate land use and promote an atmosphere in which business can prosper. As it is now, many entrepreneurs are choosing other states to begin their enterprises or are considering, as we are, relocating. Isn't it sad that we drive away the very people who would participate in truly responsible, productive use of our land?

**Sheila D. Ford, President
Gourmet Harvest—
Northwest Specialties
Sweet Home**

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