

# The INDEPENDENT

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## Opinion

### Council needs to look at administrator selection

Being a member of the City Council in any town can be uncomfortable at times. Sometimes what seems to the council member to be right, also seems to many others to be wrong. That appears to be the current situation in Vernonia regarding the hiring of a City Administrator.

After many years of administrators whose performance was, shall we say, often less than stellar, the city now has a competent, professional administrator in Bill Haack. To recap what most Vernonians already know, Haack was hired in a near-emergency situation after the Council's last pick ran through the budget like a teenager with his first pay check.

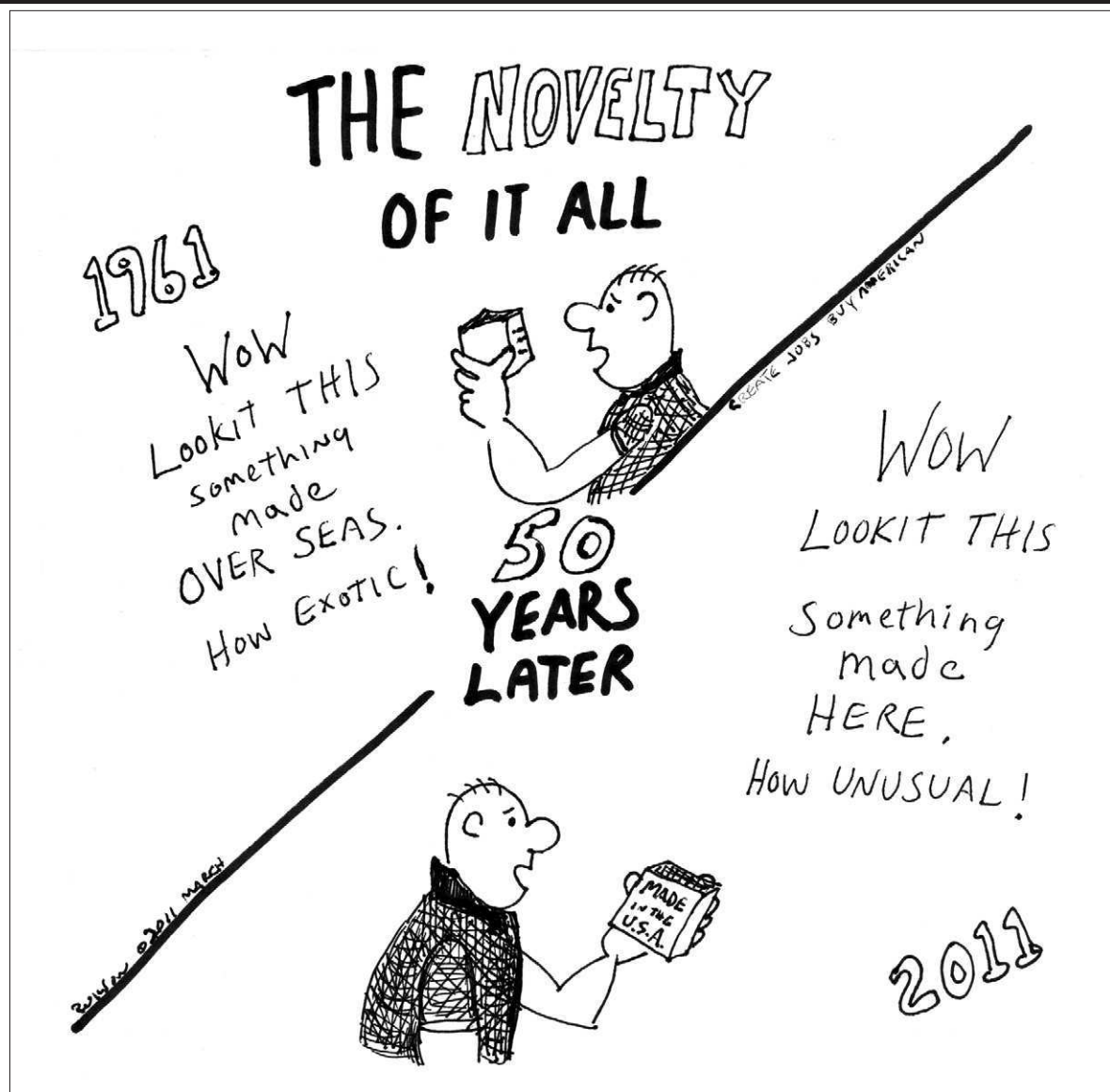
So, what is different about Haack that makes city committee members, city staff, and ordinary citizens comfortable. One big factor is his familiarity with several complex local projects that he was already working with on a part-time basis. Additionally, he researches subjects before deciding how to handle them, answers questions with clear, understandable explanations, and listens to other opinions. He already has good relations with state and county agencies, and he's willing to ask questions about how to best help Vernonia reach its goals.

Haack doesn't want tenure but is willing to stay on for another couple of years; he isn't breaking the bank, and he comes to work regardless of the weather. If he is replaced by someone else, someone unfamiliar with Vernonia's complex problems, the city will fall even farther behind.

Nevertheless, Councilors Kevin Hudson, Willow Burch and Marilyn Nicks want to use some of the city's battered budget to pay the League of Oregon Cities to do a search for a new administrator – even though they are aware that LOC's recent search for another small city turned up only two applicants who would accept the salary offered; neither one was hired. (See Council article on page 4)

The only reason given by the three councilors was "Let's see what's out there." That isn't sufficient.

Council rules allow a member who voted in the majority to move for reconsideration of an action at the same or next regular meeting. This would be much wiser than paying for a tour to "see what's out there."



### Ike Says . . .

By Dale Webb, member  
Nehalem Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League



Recently I discovered a rare treasure in the form of history about the early days of hunting and fishing in our state. The source for the information in this article comes from *The Oregon Sportsman*, which was published monthly by William L. Finley, State Game Warden. The articles I have read spanned the period from 1911 to 1913.

The numbers for license sales were listed by county, and I found that in 1912, Columbia County had sold 538 hunting licenses and 510 fishing licenses at \$1 each. From what I could gather from the articles, there were no elk seasons in this time frame due to the low numbers of elk, and it also can be observed that deer hunting had fallen on tougher times compared to the game observed when white men first appeared in our state. With that said, most of us would have thought the bag limits to be quite liberal. No Doe hunting was allowed, but three "horned" bucks were allowed.

On the fishing side of the picture, the bag limits were, well, quite liberal. The article had the following in regards to bag limits: "The opening season on trout over 6 inches is from April 1st to October 1st. The limit is 75 fish or 50 pounds in any one day. The open season on trout over 10

inches is from November 1st to March 31st of the following year, during which time it is unlawful to have trout in possession under 10 inches in length. The bag limit is 50 fish or 50 pounds in any one day. Bass, crappies, Williamson's white fish, catfish and grayling open season all year with hook and line only. Bag limit 40 pounds in any one day."

Back in those days, predators were strictly viewed as direct competition in propagating usable game for human consumption and were treated as such. Bounty programs were in force both by the state and the counties. The following bounties were paid, by species: The state paid \$20 for a gray or timber wolf, \$15 for a cougar and \$1 for a bobcat. The counties paid \$1.50 for a coyote, \$5 for an adult wolf, \$2.50 for a wolf pup, \$2 for a bobcat-wildcat or lynx and \$10 for each mountain lion, panther or cougar. Trappers could make a good living, since they could collect the bounties from both the counties and the state.

It is interesting to note the distinction between Gray and Timber wolves in these articles, in fact, game officials in those days recognized a separate sub-species of wolves that existed only from the crest of the Cascades to the Willamette Valley, that was called "Canis Gagas" and was viewed as being distinctively different in size and coloration from the Gray wolves. The monthly articles made numerous references to these Timber wolves being encountered by sportsmen and

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