

# READERS' OPEN FORUM

Headlight-Herald - Tillamook, Ore.

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 - Page A9

## How many more must die?

My sympathies and prayers go out to the friends and relatives of Theresa Marie Hurliman for their loss, and to those who tried to help in her rescue. However, I can no longer suppress my anger at others.

How many more must die before our government (at all levels) focuses on infrastructure and community welfare instead of empire building, feather nesting and turf protection.

Our cost for daily necessities keeps rising, disasters and catastrophes freight-train down upon us with increasing ferocity and frequency, and more and more handicaps are thrown in

the way of economic development.

The Federal Emergency management Agency has no money and our roads, bridges, levies, etc., are crumbling because the federal government has spent like a drunken sailor in Iraq, feathering the nests of Halliburton and the like.

The dams at the mouths of our local rivers keep growing because state and federal agencies continue to follow misguided policies instead of implementing practical and simple solutions.

Our local bureaucrats stifle development and obfuscate policy, apparently not seeing and understanding that growth is not a demon in and of itself, but brings money and can be good if achieved in harmony with the community and environs.

The good governance demonstrated by the likes of Mark Labhart, Tim Josi, Johnson, Deborah Boone and Ron Wyden are not enough; we need enlightened leadership and concerned fellowship at all levels.

If Ms. Hurliman's death becomes a rallying cry for those demanding a more caring government, it will not have been in vain.

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