

**The North Coast Citizen
Nehalem, OR, October 10, 2002**

**PROBLEMS MUST BE
RECOGNIZED**

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I'd like to respond to the "Tillamook County Report" in your last edition where a county employee said the unemployment is low and the economy is good in Tillamook County.

Northwest Oregon Regional Partnership stated in their 2002 report, "Clatsop Co., at \$23,800, falls far below the state average of \$32,817. Among the four partnerships only Tillamook Co., at \$21,492, is more economically depressed."

The Oregonian (7/02): "Oregon's bounty beyond the reach of many coastal communities (Tillamook Co.) where minimum wage work is replacing jobs on the coast."

And the final report by Children First this year reported last month "Poverty plagues Oregon kids" where 15% live in poverty and the number is continuing to increase.

I believe if our county leaders don't recognize the problems in Tillamook County, they won't focus on the solutions.

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