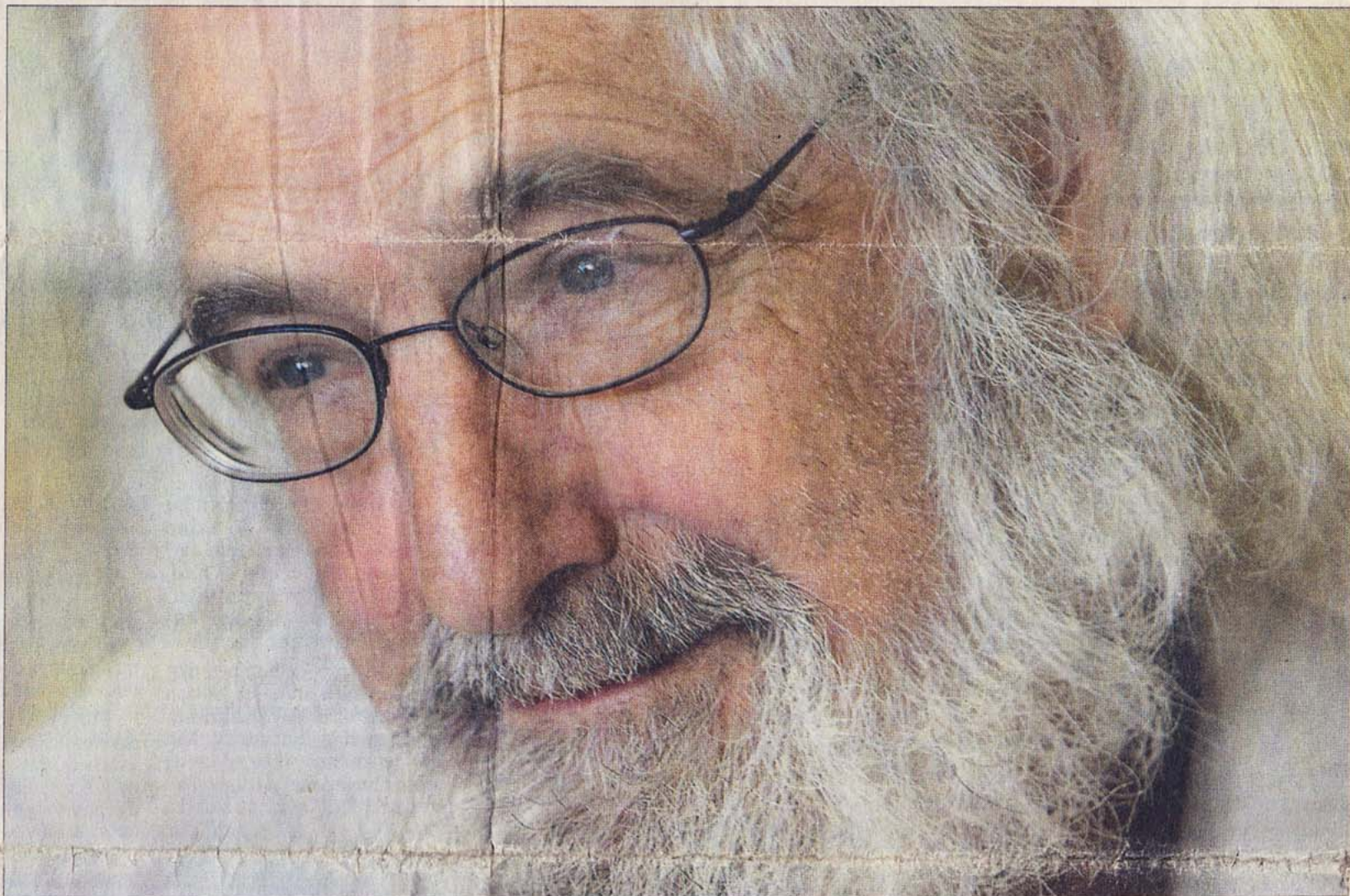


# WINERY OWNER UNCORKS GOOD DEEDS BY THE CASE



STEPHANIE YAO/THE OREGONIAN

Ray Shackelford, soldier, entrepreneur, world traveler and philanthropist: "I did not want to live just a normal life."



Courtesy of RAY SHACKELFORD

By LORI TOBIAS  
THE OREGONIAN

NEHALEM BAY —

**H**e looks like a tanned Santa, idolizes Walt Whitman and keeps three signed photos of George W. Bush above his desk. He owns a winery, picks up strangers the way some folks pick up stray dogs, and says "druggies" ought to be shot.

And sometimes, in the wee hours, the blue-eyed man with the long white hair and full matching beard rises in the dark, climbs in his pickup and just drives.

The story of how Ray Shackelford came to own the Nehalem Bay Winery begins in the same place as many of his tales — with a road trip and a stranger. In this case, that road was U.S. 101 and the stranger was a coastal vintner down on his luck.

In 1991, Shackelford came to Oregon from Texas to bury his father, and he was nursing a case of the blues. Looking for some cheer, he set out for the coast, winding up at Wheeler's River Sea Inn. He took a bar stool next to Pat McCoy, owner of the Nehalem Bay Winery, and listened to McCoy's woe.

"He was telling me how broke he was," says Shackelford. "I got drunk, and he threw out a figure. I gave him \$2,500 and bought in on half the business."

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In one of his many aid efforts, Shackelford unloads bags of rice in Cambodia.