

Letters

Hargis leaves clinic; plans wider service

To the Editor:

To the Wonderful People of Vernonia: I am writing this letter to say thank you for the privilege of providing healthcare to the community of Vernonia over the last four years. I am sad to be leaving as it has been a very positive and meaningful experience for me. I came to the Vernonia Clinic with a strong commitment to the community and to each of you. My intention had been to be here for the long haul and I would not have left if there was any way to avoid it.

Many rural clinics have struggled to survive and Vernonia is lucky to have a clinic with such an amazing history.

The community has been blessed with a small dedicated group of local individuals who have been determined to make sure there is access to quality healthcare. The community board remains strongly involved in this effort today.

I cannot write this letter without acknowledging the true heartbeat and another driving force behind the Vernonia Clinic. Laura Nichols PA-C, a Physician Assistant, is an amazing person who was committed to this clinic and loved her patients. She was a true healer because she saw each patient as a whole person. She treated her patients not only medically, but emotionally and spiritually. I recognize what an honor it was for me to know and work with her. The dedication

and determination of both Laura and the clinic Board demonstrated that rural communities can play a huge role in mobilizing and creating resources at a grass roots level.

We have all been witnesses to the significant changes in medical care and access issues in this country. This health care crisis has created challenges for healthcare providers and patients. We can only hope that the day will come when medicine will reflect a commitment to "patients" again and not just the "bottom line" of corporate interests and insurance companies.

I want to say thank you and that I continue to care deeply about the people of Vernonia. I am working on a project with Jeanette Doherty and a highly

respected organization that will bring needed services to the community in the near future. In the meantime, I will miss seeing each of you and look forward to our paths crossing again. Take care.

**Judith Hargis, PA-C
Cornelius**

Update on winners of Holiday Bucks

To the Editor:

The winner of the third Holiday Bucks drawing, held at the Vernonia Pioneer Museum, was Sharon Parrow.

The last drawing was held at the Town Hall meeting at VMS on December 20. The results: Georgia Baker won \$50; Rob Bowen won \$75; and Wes Winship won the \$100 prize.

Thanks to all for participating in the 2006 Holiday Bucks program. Look for this promotion again next year, brought to you by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce.

**Donna Webb, President
Vernonia Chamber
of Commerce**

PC speech results in cultural decline

To the Editor:

What has this country come to in the current arena where everything has to be Politically Correct (PC)? It has left us in a situation where individuals are afraid to express their own opinion, afraid to correct someone when they are wrong and seldom do we know what people really think or believe.

This last political season has left us in a sea of Political Correctness. Candidates ran advertisements that were not right, fair or correct and others just let them get away with it. "We would hate to write a letter to the editor, it would be as if we are accusing them of lying, even though they are." Why not confront them and hold their feet to the fire of honesty? Because exposing someone for being a liar in the paper might not be seen as PC.

As we discussed the issues on the ballot and of national importance, we heard individuals talk in generalities, not expressing how they really felt or believed. Why, because many of them hold some public job or position, and are afraid that

someone would confuse their "non-PC personal views" with the mushy, non-confrontational and middle of the road response that they are encouraged and or required to voice from their "office."

We live in a country where we do not talk about, or discriminate based on, religion, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability or veteran status. I have no argument that these should not be used as a means of decimation. However, if I have a personal belief that differs from someone else's, in any of the fore mentioned areas, why can't I express it? Why? One possibility is: we live in a world where being Politically Correct is valued more than having a personal opinion and beliefs worth standing up for. A second possibility is: we have become a society that does not have standards or beliefs and "anything goes."

The First Amendment of The Bill of Rights ratified in 1791 allowed for Freedom of Religion, Speech and the Press; Rights of Assembly and Petition. Oddly it does not say that the speech has to be approved or accepted by others. So, why is it that in today's society, we have to be PC? Why can't I discuss my personal beliefs about what "marriage" should look like or how my religious belief differs from the "current debate?" Because, my personal opinion might be viewed as offensive, considered not Politically Correct and to some that's bad.

I might find an overweight person in a crop-top with a belly-piercing offensive, but they still get to go out in public. I might be offended when an individual chose to fly their flag upside down, but they have that choice. Both of these people have the right to express themselves. So, why is verbal expression of individuals so suppressed in our society?

A society that encourages individuals not to express their opinion is a society that will decline. If you look at cultures that have expressed themselves, have discussed and debated their beliefs, their peo-

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Between the Bookends

By Sarah Vandehey, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



Join us for Preschool Story time on Wednesdays at 10:15 am. January themes will be:

January 10: Dynamic Dinos

January 17: On the Move

January 24: Higgelty Piggelty

January 31: Shaggy

Sheep Tales

We hope you had a merry Christmas and will have a safe New Year's Eve!

Some of our newest books include the following:

Christmas Letters by Debbie Macomber. Just in time for Christmas is this romantic comedy about a Christmas letter writer and a child psychologist. He believes that parents should come clean about Santa, and she embellishes other people's lives to sound better in their yearly newsletters. While butting heads, love blooms between the two.

Santa Cruise: A Holiday Mystery at Sea by Mary Higgins and Carol Clark. Mother and daughter join forces for another holiday themed work. Recent lottery winner Alvirah wins a cruise on the maiden voyage of the Royal Mermaid to the Caribbean. But surprises await the passengers as two escaped criminals are on board. Alvirah sleuths amid ghost sightings and attempted murder. Definitely not your typical cruise ship!

For One More Day by Mitch Albom. This novel asks the question "How would you spend one more day with a loved one that you've lost?" The story follows Charley, a man who worshiped his father, who later walked out, and is raised by his mother. He fails his own family when he becomes an alcoholic and abandons them. But just

when he is at rock bottom, he goes back to his old house and finds his deceased mother living there, and she welcomes him home.

Brother Odd by Dean Koontz. Odd Thomas returns seeking a fresh start at an abbey. He finds some peace, but is still haunted by his past and dogged by trouble. It is especially peculiar when an orphan staying at the abbey whispers "loop me in, odd one" in her sleep. This was a favorite phrase of Odd's lost love.

Capital Crimes by Jonathan and Faye Kellerman. Husband and wife team up with a pair of new thrillers. In *My Sister's Keeper: Berkeley* a progressive state representative is killed. Detectives must unravel her secret side to find the killer before there's another hit. In *Music City Breakdown: Nashville* two elite detectives (and former musicians) must solve the murder of a high profile performer with a veiled past.

The Rising Tide by Jeff Shaara. The author tackles World War II in this detailed historical novel. He outlines Hitler's attack and what drew the U.S. into the war. The descriptions of battles in North Africa and Sicily make the reader feel they are experiencing the war first hand. You'll learn more about previously obscure figures, as well as often discussed leaders.

Nature Girl by Carl Hiaasen. A distressed and determined woman seeks to teach a rude telemarketer and his girlfriend a lesson by taking them into Florida's woods. What they don't know is they're being followed by the woman's former employer, and he's being followed by his girlfriend's ex-husband. How will this twisted turmoil turn out?

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12 - 7:00 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 12 - 5:00 p.m.

Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

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