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Letters

Thanks to all; please don't neglect issues

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all those who supported me in my run for mayor. I would also like to congratulate Josette Mitchell for winning the office.

There are a couple of issues I would like to see addressed:

First – our water bill is over double that of the people living in Beaverton.

Second – Hwy 47 has few passing spots and few turnoffs. I would like to see the City of Vernonia work with ODOT to provide more turnoff places. I have hit two deer and have come close to hitting many others so I drive quite slow on this hwy. I know that annoys other drivers who are not afraid of hitting a deer.

**Emil Rode
 Vernonia**

Congratulations to all voters; good choices

To the Editor:

I would first like to thank everyone who went out and voted on November 2nd and made a difference in the future of Vernonia, Oregon, and the USA. I would also like to thank all of you in Vernonia that felt I could help to lead this community to recovery and cast your votes for me.

When I first decided to run for city council it was because I felt that we (Vernonia) needed some new blood and a change of direction. I knew there were going to be some tough decisions that would need to be made, and I wanted to make sure we had the people in place who were willing to make those decisions. Once I went down and registered to run for council and then later saw who was running and the number of people running, I felt much better about everything. I believe that for the first time in a long time, the people of Vernonia had more than the "same old, same old" to choose from and that meant nothing but good things for the community.

Now I would be lying if I said that I wasn't a little disappointed that I didn't win, I mean it's human nature to want to win, and when you have spent a good deal of your life as a competitor and winner, you don't like the taste of defeat. BUT, I

really like the choices the people of Vernonia made. I think we have a new Mayor who can effectively lead the council, and I think the young ladies who were elected to the council seats will do a great job. I had an opportunity to speak to both of them before the elections, and I wanted to vote for both of them. I think they both have the backbone to stand up for their beliefs, and I think they both have nothing but what's best for our community at heart. I also believe they know there are still tough times ahead and know there will be tough choices to be made and are willing to take the heat for making those choices.

It is my belief Vernonia is turning the page and starting a new chapter and I am very excited to see what's in store. At the time I am writing this letter, it is still too early to tell who will be leading our state, but it is my hope Oregonians will remember what happened in the past and why they changed leadership before, and will move in the new direction. We have seen across the nation that people do not like what is happening, and I think the new faces that will be in Washington don't want any of the old crap that has been dished out by either of the parties, and will lead us in a direction that is about the people and the constitution.

I didn't mean to get on a soap box, I was only writing to say thank you to all my supporters and if in the future I see a need for someone to step up, I will do so knowing I have many friends and supporters in the community who believe in me. Thank you once again and congratulations to Mayor Josette Mitchell, Councilor Willow Burch, and Councilor Marilyn Nicks.

**Ernie Smith
 Vernonia**

Voters confirm: No hospital in county

To the Editor:

The People Have Spoken – In a resounding three to one voice the voters in the Columbia Health District have made it very clear through initiative 5-209 on a 10,065 yes to 3,824 no, they do not want the health board to precede any further in their quest to build a hospital on

Millard Road.

After many years of mismanagement by the Columbia Health District it is time for them to stop and in my humble opinion tender their resignations immediately. If and when the board decides to continue to appeal and challenge the will of the people, they will find that the people will hold them accountable. I realize the State and or the Oregon Supreme Court may well get involved in this debacle, however the ball could and should fall directly on the elected County Commissioners in Columbia County. They have the power to stop the insanity by a rouge special district and dissolve the special district completely. In the words of the Columbia Health District and I quote: "The overwhelming voters' approval of the initiative speaks for itself" may very well fall on deaf ears now that these words have come back to haunt them. This whole situation has become bigger than a few hurt egos in this county and may have consequences for the Columbia County Commissioners themselves. I hope the Commissioners do not lose the trust of the voters as the Columbia Health District has.

Now that the voters have taken the ball from the Columbia Health District, we now throw it onto the court of the County Commissioners. They must decide now if they are with the Columbia Health District or with the people, choose well because your future political aspirations my well be decided on the decisions you make on this issue.

**Jamie L. Maygra
 Deer Island**

Is Chanukkah also a Christian holiday?

To the Editor:

Could Chanukkah be a Christian holiday? What does December 25th mean? To most Americans, it means Christmas. To most Christians, it means the birth of the Messiah. But literally it means the 25th day of the tenth month. September means 7th; October means 8th; November means 9th; and December means 10th. The 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th months of our Gregorian/Roman calendar (G/R) roughly correspond to the 7th,

8th, 9th and 10th months of the Biblical calendar (B/C). The correlation is very rough because our G/R calendar is based on the earth's yearly rotation around the sun, whereas the Biblical calendar is based on the moon's monthly rotation around the earth. Each new month starts as the first sliver of the new moon is viewed, right at sundown. The first month of the Biblical year is determined by the ripeness of the barley harvest in Jerusalem. Why barley? I don't know. The Bible says this is God's system.

Many Biblical scholars believe that the Messiah was actually born in the fall, probably during the Feast of Tabernacles. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14a) Tabernacles is a Latin word that means the same as the Hebrew word Sukkoth. In English, it means tents. The Feast of Tabernacles occurs in the 7th month (B/C) for eight days. This year it occurred September 25th through October 2nd (G/R).

I was surprised to find out that our own Pilgrims were actually celebrating this Feast of Tabernacles at the first Thanksgiving and it lasted eight days. Now that would put a few inches on your waistlines! President Lincoln decided that the United States would celebrate Thanksgiving on the last Thursday of November. Canada also celebrates Thanksgiving, but in October.

The Messiah's birth during the Feast of Tabernacles makes sense to me. Joseph and Mary could take care of two requirements in one trip: God's requirement for all Jewish men to make their harvest offering in Jerusalem and Caesar's requirement to register at the town of their birth, Bethlehem. Bethlehem is the birth place of those Jews in the royal line of King David, and it is only

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Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters with personal attacks on private citizens. Preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.