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## Letters

### Keep it going for at least 27 more years!

To the Editor:

I always pick up the latest edition of *The Independent* when I am shopping at Jim's Market. I pretty much read it all and I'm sorry to find that it will only come once a month for awhile!!

I particularly appreciated Noni's views on the Mitt's "Mist-steps" exposed last week! Right On, Noni!!!

We all hope you continue for at least 27 more years!

**John Hiestand  
Forest Grove**

### Will we ever learn to drive responsibly?

To the Editor:

It is a sad commentary on our society that folks are in such a hurry. When are drivers going to respect others and learn to drive responsibly on Hwy. 47?

**Matt Hanson  
Vernonia**

### Don't complain if you aren't paying for it

To the Editor:

To Dee Stevens; Maybe if you owned something, and actually PAID a City of Vernonia water bill, then you'd have the

right to compare it to "rape." Obviously, you know little about either situation.

**Matt Hanson  
Vernonia**

### We must fight so we can enjoy freedom

To the Editor:

Well folks, here we are memorializing another September 11th, 2001 and the horrible events of that day in New York City, the Pentagon, and of course the brave souls on that fateful flight in Pennsylvania.

Now I ask you, what has this country learned from that day eleven years ago? Not much, it would seem!

On September 11th, 2001 this country was outraged that someone or some country had attacked America in such a cowardly, senseless way. We all felt the pain of our brothers and sisters. The country pulled together; the battle cry was out once again, demanding justice for the innocence lives lost!

Our young men and women were called to arms, including members of my own family (male and female), to defend the liberty and freedom we all enjoy in this country. Rights given to us in the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, and some of us still say from "GOD."

We began the endeavor to

chase down the madman that coordinated the attack on September 11th, 2001. However, over the next eleven years, our country's leaders took their eye off the objective and headed in another direction. Because of this decision many more lives were lost and America became embroiled in two wars in the Mid-East...one was to satisfy our need for justice and one was just because our leaders at the time thought it was a good idea. Incidentally, these wars were supported with borrowed money, mostly from countries that could care less about our liberties or our freedoms!

We send billions of dollars (once again, borrowed money) in aid every year to radical governments that claim to be our allies. One of them was the site of an attack on our consulate (in Libya) that took the lives of four Americans, including the ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, and two ex-Navy seals. Where was our leaders' outrage on September 11th, 2012? Are we so divided in this country over our different values and beliefs that we no longer care about American lives lost! How about the welfare of our interests around the globe? Are we so complacent with this leadership that we agree with them that an apolo-

gy to this radical terrorist group that attacked us is the right thing to do! I feel as though we are being conned, don't you?!

In the days following the attack in Libya more countries in the Mid-East joined in with attacks of their own. More lives are being lost, more embassies burned and looted. Our flag has been desecrated and cries of "death to America" are heard. The Pollyanna-ish notion by our leadership that, "This was in response to a video on the internet!" when the overwhelming majority of us had nothing at all to do with the video, is pure Poppy-Cock (at least in my mind). This is a well-organized, premeditated attack on the American way of life and our religious freedoms and values! This all appears, to me, to be the formation of an Anti-American Caliphate in the

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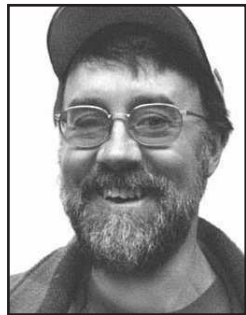
## Policy on Letters

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.

## Ike Says . . .

*By Dale Webb, member  
Nehalem Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League*



Local streams are finally getting down to very low levels. The lower Nehalem Foss gauge was sitting at 98 cfs as I wrote this article, but seems to holding steady. The gauge was ground-true'd September 20th, so the data is sound. The last reading I heard for Rock Creek was around 2 cfs above the start of our stream curtailment criteria. We are probably really close to that trigger point, but with the days getting shorter and cooler at night, the stream

will most likely just flat line until we get some rain.

Many people are not going to like what I am going to report, but it has to be said. The harvest data from last year is now available on ODFW's website and the trend of archery bull elk harvest has continued to climb statewide. Here is some background information for those trying to make any sense of the data that I'm going to present.

In 1996, ODFW implemented a new hunt format for rifle hunters in many of the eastern Oregon units. The driver for this change was the realization that the rifle bull harvest was becoming too high for the amount of elk and also the desire to recruit more mature older bulls into the herds. The mature bull component was a direct outcome of the Starkey Experimental Forest elk enclosure studies. Those studies showed that having older bulls in the herds led to earlier calf drop and larger calves going into

winter, both of these factors are expected to increase calf survival, which in turn will allow increased harvest or expanded herd growth.

To accomplish this goal ODFW implemented a strategy of limiting the amount of any bull rifle tags and, during the same season, a limited amount of spike-only tags was then followed by a spike-only hunt as a second season. The effect of this was to limit the harvest of mature bulls and also limit the success of the spike-only hunters simply because there are a limited amount of these bulls. The offshoot of limiting these hunts was that many rifle hunters would switch over to archery, which was projected to have a 6-8% success rate, which was a good trade since that was similar to the spike-only rifle hunts and far less than the limited mature bull hunts.

At first the plan worked and the mature bull component grew in many of the herds on the eastside, then the dynamics of the bull harvest throughout Oregon began to change. Here is what happened:

In Eastern Oregon in 1996 archers took 651 bull elk with a success rate of around 8%; by 2011 the archery bull harvest was 2,015 bulls, an increase of 209%. Rifle hunters went from a bull harvest in 1996 of 7,666 bulls down to 3,875 bulls in 2011, a decrease of 49.5%. Archery success for bulls climbed to 12.7% while rifle success rates dropped to around 14.5%, so the success gap has nearly closed. Overall, archery hunter numbers increased by 38%; while rifle hunters declined by 53%.

Meanwhile, in western Oregon the same types of results were

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