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Letters

Thanks are due for helping PTA carnival

To the Editor:

To the community: Please accept my heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved with the Vernonia Community PTA Carnival and Haunted House event that was held on Saturday, October 20th. From the people who dedicated themselves to be on a committee many months ago to the legions of cake walk bakers. From the staff at the school who supported our efforts to the many students who took time away from the fun to run a booth. From those willing to work with months of notice to those willing to work at a moment's notice. From all of the parents who shopped and donated for the class baskets to those in the community who made a donation, regardless of having a student but who still care about the success of the school. To everyone who gave the most valuable commodity of all, their time. I thank all of you.

Sincerely,

Susan Ely
Vernonia Community PTA

A grateful family

To the Editor:

The Levenseller family would like to express our profound gratitude for the outpouring of love and support we received from our Vernonia family at the time of our Jacob's passing. Thank you, thank you,

thank you.

Cari Levenseller
and family
Vernonia

Assumption missed by a very long way

To the Editor:

Matt: I and my wife and children moved to Vernonia over 40 years ago.

All five of my children and several grandchildren graduated from VHS.

Since 1971, I have owned and/or held equity in one or more properties in Vernonia, paying taxes and utilities.

At this time, I own a two bedroom home on a half-acre in the fair city of Vernonia.

So you see, Matt, your snide innuendo, that I own nothing, shows your total ignorance of the facts.

As to the use of the term "rape", I can't believe any normal teenager could confuse its use with the "carnal knowl-

Ike Says . . .

From page 2

shows why stream flows are a very important part of the equation when it comes to stream temperatures and the harmful effects to salmonids.

For the rifle elk seasons in the Saddle Mt. unit this year, I expect a slight decrease in bull harvest. Frankly, we were a little too successful last year, just shy of 600 bulls between archers and rifle hunters, which will most likely be a factor this year. I believe archers were fairly successful again this year, but were cut off from the last week of their season due to fire danger. How sig-

edge" application.

When I consider that in no way did your little missive come close to the facts, I feel that henceforth I must view your opinions with an indifference that borders on the supernatural.

Dee Stevens
Vernonia

(Editor's Note: this letter is in response to one printed in our October 3 issue)

P.A. available again

To the Editor:

I just wanted to let the community know that Albert Rodriguez, P.A., who was here in Vernonia at Verdura Family

Wellness, is now practicing at Beaverton Family Medicine. His phone number is 503-213-3800.

Terry Buckner
Vernonia

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.

Happy Thanksgiving

nificantly that reduced harvest remains to be seen. As always, weather during the rifle seasons will be a significant factor.

Have fun out there and always be safe.

Izaak Walton League,

Nehalem Valley Chapter

meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday

at 7:00 p.m.

Call 503-429-7193 for location.

Out of My Mind . . .

by Noni Andersen



The election is over... I hope. Since I wrote this last week, I couldn't be sure that everyone in the Sandy hurricane/flood/blizzard and windstorm area would be able to vote. Voting machines don't work without electricity and, considering our aged power distribution system, we shouldn't be surprised at more frequent, longer outages in much of the U.S.

I'm also hoping that there will be no hanky-panky with the ballots, like the truly incompetent Florida in the 2000 election, or the truly undemocratic decision by five justices that it wasn't necessary to count all the ballots. I also don't know what effect there may have been this year because of the confusion caused by those states that tried to suppress the vote.

It's obvious that the "democracy" we promote to other countries can't be very enticing when so many Americans are trying to sabotage our own system.

In the meantime, I can only feel great sorrow for the people caught by Sandy. The loss of life is tragic, and the pain and an-

guish felt by those who lost their homes and belongings is, unfortunately, something we are familiar with.

My home is now raised above the flood level and, for the first winter in many years, I won't be anxious when the rain and snow threaten our little valley. Except, of course, I'll worry about those who are still in harm's way.

Incidentally, although our last flood was in 2007, it is still mostly FEMA funds that are paying for houses raised this year. FEMA has also been a huge help in relocating our electric co-op and the main substation, as well as our schools. Yes, we still have heavy costs associated with what has been done, and all that remains to be upgraded or moved, but we should have the good sense to be grateful for the help we've received.

Thanksgiving will soon be here, so it's a good time to consider our blessings. We have been helped not only by FEMA, but by our state and county governments, by foundations, corporations, other school districts, private citizens, volunteers from all walks of life, and those extraordinary volunteers from Christian Public Service.

Sandy's victims have no way of knowing how long it will be before they can feel safe, or how much longer it will be before they feel like their lives have been put back together. The crisis may be over, but recovery sometimes feels like it takes forever.