

a letter from the editor....

This past month has surely been a whirlwind for those of us here at Vernonia's Voice. Besides the usual obligations, there were numerous special events and celebrations from the KUPL Fishing Derby and Cycle Oregon to the Stub Stewart Park opening and ground breaking at the Bicycle Skills Park. Throw in July 4th, a birthday (me), home repairs (Evangeline), and a 18-month-old son (Rebecca) -- you can see we've all had our hands full. Oh yes, and we started and distributed a new newspaper!

First, some answers to some questions. Vernonia's Voice is currently a monthly publication. It will be available free-of-charge at all the normal locations around Vernonia, in neighboring communities, and from Astoria to Portland. At this time we will not be mailing it out to every home like we did with the first edition, but we will offer subscriptions for those who would like to have it mailed to them (see coupon this page). We also have an on-line presence with additional photographs, archives, and -- very soon -- online classified ads and advertising. We will continue to grow and change as needs and ideas arise.

We wanted to take time to say thank you to all our advertisers for their support and to everyone else who has expressed their interest and excitement for this new project. There have been so many of you! Complete strangers have stopped us at the parks, in downtown shops or sent short notes via e-mail and post mail -- saying they like the look of the paper, the ads and the photography. Many people told us they read it cover-to-cover. What great compliments! Those positive words of encouragement have been so meaningful. It makes us proud to be part of this community.

I am new to Vernonia. I have been told the unwritten rule is that you need to live here for 20 years before you are accepted as a true Vernonian. Well, I'd like to think maybe that is changing in some small way. My wife Kate and I moved here just over four years ago. Kate works for the Postal Service, which is what brought us to Vernonia. We love being involved in the community from serving on committees to attending public meetings, taking part in leadership training, or volunteering to work on projects. We love walking down the street and stopping to chat with friends or acquaintances even if that means that a quick run to the Sentry for a tomato turns into a 45-minute trip. We love the festivals, the parks, the shops, and all the activity. But mostly we love the people. Oh yes, and the dogs! Kate loves stopping to saying hello to them as she delivers your mail. We have really embraced this place and made it our home.

There are so many wonderful stories to tell in any small town. That was one of the main reasons we all got involved in Vernonia's Voice -- because this community is full of great people, doing great work, with great stories to be told. We have such interesting history here and such an exciting future. The present is pretty darn good too!

Please keep your comments and ideas coming. We welcome your constructive criticism, story ideas, thoughts, and your involvement. As Evan said last month in this space, we want Vernonia's Voice to be a reflection of you, the community of Vernonia. We think we are off to a good start and only hope to improve. We are proud to be Vernonians, and we hope that you can be proud of how we tell your story each and every month.

—Scott Laird



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If you're interested in submitting an article for Vernonia's Voice contact us at: news@vernoniasvoice.com

To advertise, contact us at: ads@vernoniasvoice.com

Thank you!
Evangeline and Scott

Events Calendar

Columbia County Fair and Rodeo, July 19-23, 2007

NPRA Rodeo, Junior Rodeo, 4-H auction, stock car races, live music, carnival, vendor booths, talent show, farm museum, and more. Columbia County fairgrounds.

First Friday, August 3, 2007

Join local merchants from 3-6 p.m. downtown Vernonia as they host art exhibits, music, and food.

Open Mike Night, August 3, 2007

In celebration of 100th anniversary of the Grange Hall, the Vernonia Grange will host "Open Mike Night" from 8-10pm as part of the Jamboree. All types of family friendly music is welcome, and each performer will have 10-20 minutes. Those interested in performing can call (503) 705-2173 you're you can register at 7:30 p.m. the day of the show.

Vernonia Friendship Jamboree, August 3-5, 2007

There's something for everyone at this year's celebration: Children's events, Parade, Cruise-in, Motorcycle Show, Logging show, Black Powder rendezvous, food, music, and much, much more!

Fifth Annual Vernonia Bear Creek 10K/5K Run/Walk Event, August 18, 2007

A 5K Run/Walk encompassing a lap of Vernonia Lake, and a 10K Run that heads south along the Banks/Vernonia Linear Trail. Both routes are flat, fast and wind through tree-lined sections of the trail, providing welcome shade for runners and walkers alike. Benefits Vernonia Cares food bank. For more information, contact Maria Lemay, Race Director at (503) 429-1069.

For more photos, more details & the latest event information, go to www.vernoniasvoice.com



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