

## a letter from the editor....

I know it's not possible to thank everyone who has given so generously of their time, finances and spirit. But I think an attempt needs to be made. We may miss a few this first time around, but will continue to add to our list as the months pass.

To those Vernonia residents who have tirelessly and humbly given of themselves, we thank you. You know who you are, we see you everyday. You are the bright faces that have kept our spirits high. You are the community members that have given countless hours of your time, have lent facilities, or staff to help with the efforts in town – to ensure people had a warm place to stay and meals to eat. We know you are not looking for recognition...but we see you, and we are thankful.

Here in Vernonia there is a palatable heartbeat, there is resiliency in our blood. I believe it's that heartbeat, that genuine spirit that attracts people to Vernonia...making them residents or forever friends.

Many of you may know that I was born and raised here, and after some thirty years away, I have moved back home. This year three of my children will also be making their homes in Vernonia, as well as a passel of grandbabies. No flood has changed their minds. We are a community that you want to come home to, one that attracts the warm spirit and tender-hearted.

This past month our community has been blessed by the generosity, compassion and love of so many kind people, groups, companies and corporations...our thanks go out to you:

Tzu Chi Foundation – Doherty Ford – Parr Lumber – Portland Members of the Neighborhood Emergency Team – City of Portland – Providence – Red Cross – KUPL – McMenamins – Gaston High School – Portland Bureau of Development Services – Intel Corporation and Employees – Oregon State Fire Marshall and Oregon Fire Department Crews – Goodwill – Tersia Robinson – Standard TV and Appliance – Oregon Rally Group – Scappoose School District, staff and students -- Singing Hills Christian Church – Sunrise Christian church – North Plains Jingle Parade organizers – U-Haul – Taft High School students – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – Oregon and Washington Lions Clubs – Albany First Assembly of God – The Catherine Freer Wilderness Company – Janie Wasmann – Bill McMillin – Patty and Don Welborn – KPAM – Keizer Times – Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce – Bonnie L. Hayes Animal Shelter – Powell's Books – Northwest Regional Education Service District – Emmaus Christian School (Cornelius) – Real Life Christian Church of Cornelius – Forest Grove School staff and students – Oregon Department of Corrections and inmates – Coast Farm & Ranch – Rock Creek Kennels – Legacy Clinic – Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital – Yamhill/Carlton school district – Village Baptist Church – Dan Peel – Erin Enberg – Oregon Episcopal School Portland – Shane Kenney – Church of Scientology Disaster Relief Program – Community of Christ Church Portland – Butternut Creek school, Hillsboro – The Air National Guard – Salvation Army.

A special thank you to our Governor, Congressmen, Commissioners, Mayor, City Administrator and Interim City Administrator et al, City Council and Staff, and Vernonia volunteers. Your decisiveness and swift action have been a blessing to this community.

I recently read this in one of the blog entries (from [vernoniafloodinfo.blogspot.com](http://vernoniafloodinfo.blogspot.com))...  
“We are quite fond of Vernonia...”

My response, “We are all quite fond of you too!” Thank you from the bottom of our hearts...thank you for helping my friends and neighbors rebuild their lives. Thank you for making this a season of giving that none of us will soon forget.

Evangeline Doyle  
Co-Publisher and Editor

**Publisher and Managing Editor**  
Evangeline Doyle and Scott Laird

**News Editor**  
Scott Laird  
(503) 367-0098

**Home & Garden Editor**  
Evangeline Doyle  
(503) 317-2632

**Vernonia Schools' Editor**  
Jill Hult  
(503) 928-1800

**Alumni Editor**  
Tammy Vanderzanden

**Copy Editor**  
Evangeline Doyle

**Art Director/Graphic Design**  
Amy Shearer,  
On Madison Studio

**Web Design/Management**  
Amy Shearer,  
On Madison Studio

**Proofreaders**  
Tobie Finzel  
Erika Paleck

**Contributors**  
Mayor Sally Harrison  
P.J. O'Leary  
Chief Mathew Workman

**Photography**  
Chad Doyle  
Evangeline Doyle  
Scott Laird  
Jessie Long

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**Thank you!**  
**Evangeline and Scott**