

from the editor....

Well my fellow Vernonians, do you think Winter is finally over? Is Mother Nature going to finally give it a rest and stop tormenting us?

We've got plenty of outdoor activity ahead of us with First Fridays, the Open-Air Market and of course - Make Vernonia Shine Day. Let's hope the weather turns a corner soon.

We had an excellent turn out last Friday for the First Friday in May event. Lots of great art and local/regional artists on hand to answer questions. We were all entertained by the Strings on Fire ensemble - awesome talent from such young people. The Blue House served up small plates and our own Brett Costley's micro brew! I also heard from a reliable source that they sold out of the homemade bread again at the Open Air Market! All-in-all a very successful evening.

This month will be about change, and not just the weather. We're going to deeply miss Out On A Limb and Buckleberry Cottage's presence downtown (read more about it on page 10). We wish them well in their new business venture; four more reasons for someone to visit Vernonia during the year!

Speaking of saving the date and change...we have a new date for the Fishing Derby, Car Show and Concert, it will now be held June 21.

Big changes will also be underway this month as the City Council reviews the budget committee's recommendation for what will likely be some significant budget cuts for the city. I encourage you to be present at these meetings and learn first-hand what changes are being considered.

On a lighter note, we've made some changes here at Vernonia's Voice with two new columns, "Worth The Trip," and a local artist/creative souls column that will be written by Erika Paleck. The column has yet to be named (learn more about this on page 14). We hope you enjoy them. Our goal is to increase community participation in the paper; we welcome your input and ideas.

Remember - Let's Make Vernonia Shine this Saturday. Grab your gloves - we'll see you downtown Saturday, May 10!

Evangeline Doyle
Co-Editor/Publisher

Publisher and Managing Editor Evangeline Doyle and Scott Laird

News Editor
Scott Laird
(503) 367-0098
scott@vernoniasvoice.com

Assistant Copy Editors
Tobie Finzel
Erika Paleck

Home & Garden Editor
Evangeline Doyle
(503) 317-2632
evangeline@vernoniasvoice.com

Contributors
Coach Diane Benes
Nancy Birch
Brett Costley
Mayor Sally Harrison
P.J. O'Leary
Erika Paleck
Chief Mathew Workman

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

Photography
Evangeline Doyle
Scott Laird

Alumni Editor
Tammy Vanderzanden
(503) 429-8485

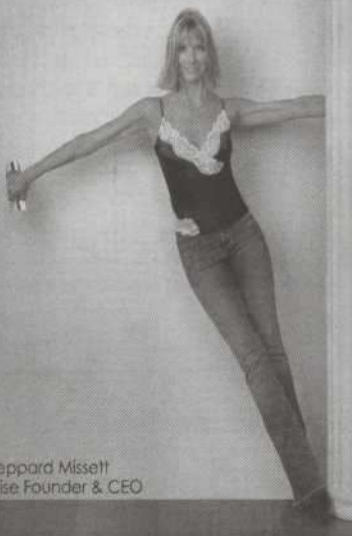
**Art Director/
Graphic Design**
Amy Shearer,
On Madison Studio

Copy Editor
Evangeline Doyle

Web Design/Mgmt
Amy Shearer

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9:30am			J*		J*		J
9:45am		J*		J*		J*	
5:15pm	J	J	J	J	J	J	
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