

from the editor...

In case you hadn't heard, on Election Day, Vernonians voted with a resounding "YES" on School Bond Measure 5-197, and took the first big step towards new schools. First, I want to say congratulations to the Vernonia School Board for the successful passage of this Bond. I for one am looking forward to the day those new schools become reality, and the Board did a great job of getting us on the road towards that goal. I also want to say thank you to all of the School Bond Committee members who volunteered their time and their efforts to run such a successful campaign. It was a huge endeavor and you accomplished it with creativity, professionalism and nerve-- and had fun in the process. A special thank you to Sharon Bernal for chairing the committee. A great job by all-- you have much to be proud of.

We have some other big news here at *Vernonia's Voice*. Starting in January, 2010, we will begin publishing twice a month. For a long time now, readers, advertisers and other supporters have been asking when we could start printing more often. Well, that time has finally arrived! Look for our next edition on Tuesday, January 5th, then a second edition on Tuesday, January 26th. Thereafter, we will publish and distribute *Vernonia's Voice* on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

We hope this means we can be more timely with news, more relevant with information about upcoming events, activities and community gatherings, and provide a more efficient outlet for our advertisers and supporters. We also plan to continue to bring you stories of interest about our community, continue to support local businesses with articles about them, continue to build our relationship with Vernonia schools, continue to report from all your favorite local events, and continue to bring you most of the columns from our local writers. In other words, we plan to continue to reflect the spirit of our community.

Once again, I want to say thank you to all of you who have encouraged and supported the birth and growth of *Vernonia's Voice*, and hope you will continue to support us as we move forward in this next phase of our journey.

As in most cases, when there's good news, it's usually accompanied by some bad news, as is the case here. It is with deep regret that I have to inform our readers that P.J. O'Leary, author of the column "Voices In My Head"-- what has turned out to be our most popular feature each month, is taking a leave of absence. Or a sabbatical. Or an extended vacation. No, this is not a cost-cutting furlough. No, we're not shutting him down for his inappropriate use of bodily functions as comic material. And no, P.J. is not checking himself into the sanitarium for some much needed R and R. Apparently those voices in his head that help supply him with so much of his material each month have just plain clammed up.

P.J. has been with us since our inception and has been enjoyed by most of you. One of the highlights for me each month is when P.J.'s new column shows up in my inbox, and I get a chance to laugh out loud as I read it for the first time.

This month will be P.J.'s last column, at least for now. He has said that, if in the future he feels inspired, he will dust off that keyboard and send his thoughts our way again. Until then, we may try to fill in with other local writers who wish to share their random thoughts and musings about life in Vernonia, or just life in general. But I'm sure I can speak for many of you when I tell P.J. he will definitely be missed. Thanks for the laughs and the insights, P.J.-- it just won't be the same around here without you.

Scott Laird
Editor and Publisher

Correction: In our September 2009 Issue we published a photo on page 27 of the Lawn Mower Races that were held during the 2009 Vernonia Friendship Jamboree. The photo was of a spectacular crash that was captured by Vernonia photographer Justin Larson. Regretably, we published Mr. Larson's photo and did not give him credit. *Vernonia's Voice* would like to apologize to Justin Larson for this error.

VERNONIA'S
voice
reflecting the spirit of our community

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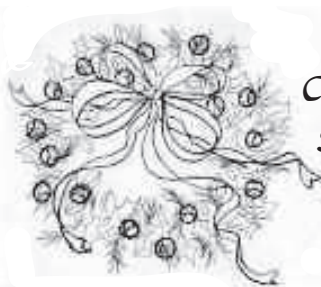
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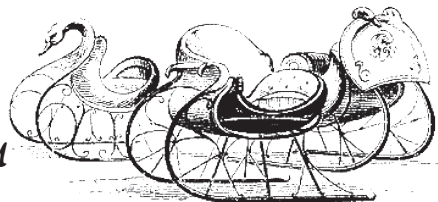
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Come Celebrate... Christmas in Vernonia December 5th-6th



Christmas in the Country Bazaar
Sat & Sun, December 5th & 6th
Vernonia Middle School

Lighted Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 5th
Starts at State Ave., 6:00PM



Christmas Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 5th
Following the Parade, City Hall

Musical Concert, December 5th
204th Army Band
Holiday Songs & Marches
V.H.S. Auditorium, 7PM



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