

from the editor

In the last issue I took time to thank several people for their commitment to our community during the last several months. I was extremely remiss in leaving out two individuals in that column and wanted to take this opportunity to recognize them as well.

Vernonia police officers Mike Conner and Shawn Carnahan have shown extreme dedication to this community over the last half year, working shorthanded through a very difficult period for the Vernonia Police Department. Both Conner and Carnahan were caught in the middle, when a fellow Vernonia officer came under investigation by both the State of Oregon and the City of Vernonia. That officer was placed on paid administrative leave by the city on March 21, 2011, which left Conner and Carnahan as the only active duty officers in Vernonia. With only two officers available, Conner and Carnahan were re-

quired to work extra shifts and be on call constantly. This continued through the termination of the officer on June 27th and beyond—finally ending with the hiring of Brent Thompson on September 6, 2011.

That means Conner and Carnahan worked for over five months, either serving on duty or on call every single day. Talk about going above and beyond the call of duty!

I think that sometimes, in fact I know for sure, that as a community we take for granted our public safety officers. We assume they will always be there watching out for the citizens and be available to step in and help when we need them. We expect them to be there and forget to notice and remember them. I was guilty of this two weeks ago when I left them off my list of people who needed to be recognized and thanked.

I'm not sure if there is an appro-

priate or significant enough way to say how much I appreciate what these two officers have sacrificed over the last five months. By basically putting much of their personal life on hold, and making themselves available, they have shown the utmost in dedication.

The hiring of Thompson will provide some relief for the agency, although he heads off to the Police Academy for four months of training in mid-October. Conner, now serving as Interim Chief of Police is starting the process to hire a fourth officer.

We all owe officers Conner and Carnahan a debt of gratitude for their unwavering commitment to continue serving this community through a very adverse time.

Scott Laird
Editor and Publisher

VERNONIA'S
voice
reflecting the spirit of our community

Publisher and Managing Editor
Scott Laird
503-367-0098
scott@vernoniasvoice.com

Contributors

Chip Bubl
Dr. Carol McIntyre
DeAnna Pearl
Sonia Spackman

Photography

Scott Laird

Want to advertise?
Have an article?

Contact: scott@vernoniasvoice.com

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Vernonia's Voice, LLC
PO Box 55
Vernonia, OR 97064
503-367-0098

www.VernoniasVoice.com

Vernonia Grange Sponsors Photo Contest

The Vernonia Grange has announced that they are sponsoring a Community Photography Contest.

Submissions will be judged in the following categories:

COMMUNITY & FAMILY:

Photos depicting community members, family, and loved ones. Images featuring recreation are acceptable and encouraged.

NATURE & WILDLIFE: Photos depicting the natural world and its wonders.

SIMPLE LIVING & SUSTAINABILITY: Photos depicting activities and ways of life unique to Vernonia, rural living,

country life, and sustainability.

FARMING & AGRICULTURE: Photos depicting gardening, growing, raising animals, and farm life.

The submission deadline is November 30, 2011.

This contest is free and open to everyone who lives or works within 20 miles of Vernonia. Photos must have been taken within the last two years. Only color images will be considered for this contest. Up to ten photos may be submitted per person.

Winners will be announced on the front page of the December 13, 2011 issue of the Vernonia Voice. The

winning photographs will be converted into greeting cards and other print formats for sale at the Grange Country Boutique, to be held mid-December. 100% proceeds from the photographs will be dedicated to community based events and improvements via the Vernonia Grange.

For complete rules and submission guidelines email bbensensteele@gmail.com.



Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-7
Lady's Night Wed 5-12

"STILL BIKER FRIENDLY"

LIVE MUSIC

Oct. 8
Birthday Bash w/
Third Member

Oct. 15
Spin Cycle

Oct. 28
Country Backroads

Gift certificates available

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- Draft beer & mixed drinks
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- Free Wi-fi

Sun - Thurs 11 AM - Midnight • Fri - Sat 11 AM - 2:30 AM
733 Bridge St, Vernonia • 503-429-9999



LIVE MUSIC AT THE BIRKENFELD COUNTRY STORE

7-10 PM SATURDAYS

SAT, 10/1 **"KENNY LEE & THE SUNDOWNERS"** BLUES & SOUTHERN ROCK

SAT, 10/8 **"STEP CHILD"** CLASSIC ROCK

SAT, 10/15 **"THE THIRD MEMBER"** ROCKIN' COUNTRY

SAT, 10/22 **"MOTHER TRUCKER"** CLASSIC ROCK

SAT, 10/29 **HALLOWEEN ROCKTOBER w/ BRUCE SMITH**

MONDAY 10AM-6PM CAFE CLOSED
TUE-WED 10AM-6PM, CAFE 10AM-5PM
THR-FRI 10AM-7PM, CAFE 10AM-6PM
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SUNDAY 10AM-2PM, CAFE 10AM-2PM (OR CALL)


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To learn more, visit us at www.paintcare.org



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 Look for our next issue on October 11th.