

## from the editor

Have you had a chance to check out our new website yet? If not, make sure after you put down this issue of our print edition, you hop online and go to [www.vernoniasvoice.com](http://www.vernoniasvoice.com) and take a look. Though still a work in progress, this new project is really changing how we are bringing Vernonia news to the public.

First of all, I want to take a moment to thank our good friend Ben Fousek for all his energy, time and hard work to bring this project to life. Ben really has a tremendous vision for Vernonia and approached us several years ago about building an interactive website for *Vernonia's Voice*. We were not ready then, but now the time seemed right and with Ben's technical skills and inspiration we have taken the plunge. I can't really say enough about what Ben has done for us throughout this process. We certainly could never have done this without all of Ben's help. Thanks Ben!

We have built a website that allows us to interact with Facebook, so people using that social media format can see updates from us as well as news articles and stories that we post to our website. The new website allows us to release news much sooner than in the past when we had to wait for our next print edition to be published, which was sometimes a two week wait. If something is newsworthy, now we can publish it right away!

When Dean Smith was recently named the new Fire Chief by the VR-SPD Board at the their banquet we were able to publish the news and the break the story the next day, instead of waiting a full two weeks—by then it would have been old news. When the Vernonia Loggers won their second game at the state basketball playoffs, we were able to post the result almost immediately. We will also be able to post obituaries as soon as we receive them, allowing the public to know about upcoming services before they happen. These are just a couple of examples of ways we will now be able to keep the community informed about the news in Vernonia.

The new website has search function capabilities, so from now on you will be able to find past articles that include information you are interested in by searching the site using tag words.

But that's not all. The new website also has a community calendar which allows us to highlight upcoming events, as well as list future events. This is a tool that many people have been looking for in our community for some time. Hopefully this calendar on our site will start to meet this need for our community. We also have an events page which separates out community and school events as well as local entertainment. And if you haven't seen the posterboard calendar option, make sure you check that out. It's visually appeal-

ing and can also keep you in the know!

We will also be doing some fun things like interactive polls so you can know how your neighbors and other Voice readers feel about specific and timely issues in Vernonia. We've provided links to other community resources like the City website, the Vernonia School District and the Chamber of Commerce. Under the "About" menu you can "Contact Us" to submit Letters to the Editor, Birth or Wedding Announcements and more. You can even find the form to order a print subscription for *The Voice*. Eventually we will have all the old pdf files of past issues available for you to view.

And some of the advertisers are now interactive as well. Just click on an ad that you see on our webpage and you will be taken directly to a page sponsored by that advertiser so you can get more information about their business.

So, like us on Facebook, if you haven't already, so you can get current information about Vernonia. And tell your friends. We are currently running a campaign to reach 1,000 likes; when we do we have a random drawing from all our friends and give away a *Vernonia's Voice* prize pack with a bunch of great stuff including a Voice sweatshirt and dinner for two at The Birk and more!

*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](mailto:scott@vernoniasvoice.com)**

### Contributors

Lynn Berry  
Mark Brown  
Dr. Kenneth Cox  
Marc Farmer  
Bill Haack.  
Ms. Luna  
Dr. Carol McIntyre  
Jennifer Moloney  
DeAnna Pearl  
Gayle Rich-Boxman  
Michal Smith  
Christopher Sedlmeyer

### Photography

Scott Laird  
Gayle Rich-Boxman

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been good so far. I like it here."

Officer Brady is married with children and grandchildren. He enjoys riding his motorcycle—he has a 2003 BMW Sports Touring bike. He also loves to cook, especially barbecuing and grilling. He says he really spends most of his spare time with his family and grandchildren.

Officer Matt Brady seems to be a good fit for Vernonia. His past experience working with people, his experience as a trainer, and his ability to make connections make him a real asset to the VPD and the community.

## Meet Your Police

*continued from front page*

Officer Brady brings a lot of training experience to the Vernonia Department. He has relationships with other law enforcement departments in Washington County, in Hillsboro and a brother with the Lake Oswego Police Department. Brady says he was able to tap into those connections to help elevate the training in North Plains and also now in Vernonia. He and his brother recently made a Safe Schools presentation to the Vernonia School District. He was also recently involved with helping to run an Emergency Vehicle Operators Course training at Portland International Raceway, which he has done several times in the past.

Brady says he is really enjoying working in the Vernonia community. "I think a really big part of this job is deal-

ing with people," says Brady. "You have to take people for who they really are, be able to look past outward appearances and what is happening in a certain situation and try to find out what is really going on. I've found that to be really helpful. Especially in a community like this where people are very tight. I need to make the effort and say 'I'm here to help you and how can I do that?'"

Brady says that he recognizes that he is still new here in Vernonia. "It takes time to build relationships," he says. "I know that this is not a sprint, it's a marathon and it takes time to get to know people and the environment. I just have to be patient, especially with myself and let those things happen. It's



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### AT STUB STEWART S.P.

**Saturday, March 24th**

**Signs of the Wild—Junior Ranger Program**  
Join a Park Ranger to discover signs of wildlife in our surrounding woods. Prepare to use all your senses as we explore.  
Dairy Creek Amphitheater — 10-11:00am

**Riding the Rails—Group Bike Ride**  
Cruise the Banks-Vernonia State Trail with a park ranger. Learn about the development of the railroad that connected the two towns in the 1920s and what its value is today. Bikes and HELMETS are not included but some major fun is!  
Stub Stewart Welcome Center — 2-3:00pm

**Sunday, March 25th**

**The Dawning of the Newts—Junior Ranger Program & Guided Hike**  
All newts are salamanders but not all salamanders are newts! Learn about our amphibian friends while we hike to the Beaver Pond.  
Dairy Creek Amphitheater — 10-11:00am

**Close Encounters of the Douglas-fir Kind—Guided Hike**  
It's kind of wild to think that the fir trees around us were all planted by people for a very specific reason. Those reasons have changed now that Oregon State Parks is in charge of them and us Park Rangers would like to tell you why...  
Mountain Dale Cabin Village — 2-3:00pm

**Stub Stewart State Park & the Banks-Vernonia State Trail**  
30380 NW Hwy 47 Buxton, OR 97109  
For more information: Ranger Steve Kruger  
[steve.kruger@state.or.us](mailto:steve.kruger@state.or.us) (503) 324-0606 x223

# All In

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

"STILL BIKER FRIENDLY"

### EVENTS

March 9  
Probable Cause  
March 16  
Texas Hold 'Em  
March 30  
Third Member

*Now Beer & Kegs to go*

- Specialty hamburgers
- Draft beer & mixed drinks
- Pool tables & satellite TV
- Special live music events
- Free Wi-fi

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

## Cedar Side Inn



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**Taco Tuesday**  
from opening until 9 PM  
3 hardshell or 1 softshell \$4.25

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**Prime Rib**  
every second Saturday  
5-9 PM

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**Karaoke**  
every Friday  
9 PM-close

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*Check our Facebook page for daily specials and upcoming events*  
756 Bridge Street, Vernonia 503-429-5841