

Welcome to the World...

Eleanor Lynn Kintz



Announcing the arrival of Eleanor (Elly) Lynn Kintz, born February 22nd, 2013 to parents, Jonathan and Jessica Kintz. Both Jonathan and Jessica are 2006 graduates of Vernonia High School and are currently residing in Corvallis, Oregon. Proud Grandparents are Greg and Beth Kintz, and Keith and Kelly Shaw, all of Vernonia.



VRFPD Board of Directors Candidate Interviews *continued from page 3*

is just finally now starting to give long term goals-where they see the department heading. There is a group of us that have pushing and asking for that from the Board for years. Wanting to know where they see us in three years, in five years, in ten years. We need to have those goals set so we have something to work towards and mold our department to make it better and better serve the community.

Mike Demeter: As I've already said, finding a way to fund our Fire Department and get them the things they need without having to go to the community to get it. Because the stuff they are most in need of is way beyond what the community can afford to put out.

What are some things that you think are going well for the VRFPD? What do you think might need to be changed?

Ben Davis: I think we have a good group of dedicated volunteers. I think we have a good sense of community in Vernonia. We have a good Chief in Dean Smith who is moving forward with his education and his experience while balancing all the different areas where he needs to commit time. I think we are moving in a good direction. We had a

couple rough years with the flood, Chief Epler leaving, with volunteers having to leave because of how they were affected by the flood, and bringing on and training a whole new group of volunteers. We have brought on and trained a new group of officers, started our Explorer Program and a Logistics Program—these are really good things we have been able to put in place over the last five years. Now we are at the point where we can start looking out five, ten and fifteen years instead of focusing on what we need to do to get through the next two years.

Like I said before, I think there are some issues with aging apparatus, which almost every department in the state is facing with budget cutbacks. I think we need to explore creative ways to fund that. I think the issues with the station need to be addressed; we have really pushed the limits of what we can do there and we are really doing a lot with what we have, but I really see some changes that need to happen with that station so we can expand in some ways that would really benefit the community. And as I mentioned before the addition of a part-time training officer to really keep an eye on meeting all the requirements as well as move forward with our current volunteers and exceed the mini-

mum requirements.

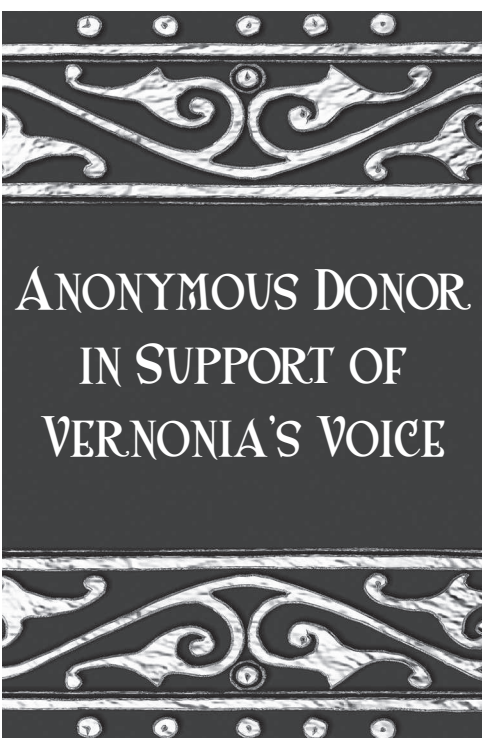
Luke Ellis: I'm glad they finally decided to make Dean Smith the Chief. When they first made Dean Deputy Chief we asked the Board for guidance-where do you see us in three years, where do you see us in five years. They didn't know. We wanted a Chief. We wanted to know what their plan was. I'm tired of the Board not giving a clear or direct answer to the Volunteer Association. Having been a volunteer for so long I think I can speak for the volunteers and the public. There needs to be more guidance. We need a second full time person to act as Training Officer. We need more structure. We need more communication.

Mike Demeter: I think one of the best things is that they finally have someone, Dean Smith, as Chief. I have watched the Department go from basically falling apart to where it is today. It is a very well-run department that, instead of going from month to month wondering how we are going to get things done, now we are at a point where, month to month we have things done and we can look forward, instead of having to look backwards.

The number of volunteers is great! It is so great to see so many people step out and be part of it. They are probably some of the best trained volunteers around. They put in a ton of time.

We need to get them what they need to do their job and protect the community. I'm sure people have seen some of the older engines we have; they are over twenty-five years old. It's actually a very dangerous situations. We are asking these folks to go out and put their lives on the line to protect our property and protect our families. We really need to give them the best equipment we can. That's one place they are really hurting.

There are some things about the way the public perceives the department; things have gotten better in the last few years. I think the public perception of the Fire Department needs to be raised so they understand what these folks are doing for them.



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