

# Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

The idea that, because you dislike someone or something, any wrong that you may do them whether intentional or not, is somehow justified has always baffled me. For example, a youngster who accidentally breaks his neighbors window with a baseball might try to evade responsibility for it by pointing out that the neighbor is just a "mean old man" who dislikes kids. Meaning that he somehow deserved what he got.

I had something similar happen to me recently while walking my dogs. A gentleman was working in his yard and his German Shepherd, who was loose in the yard, decided to run out and introduce himself to my two Schnauzers... it resulted in a lot of noise, but the shepherd wasn't mean, and no real harm was done.

But, for some reason, the dogs owner decided to defend his dogs actions by insulting me personally... I should be more careful where I walk my pets... no one wants my dogs droppings on their lawn (my family and I always clean up after our pets)... I'm "unsociable" and an "outsider" (apparently because I had never introduced myself to him). All of which was intended to prove his assertion that whatever his dog might have done, it was totally justifiable.

None of which is what this letter is about. He loves his pet and I love mine... no surprises there!

It's the assertion he made that I am an outsider here that bothers me. so, I am writing this by way of introducing myself to those of you who do not know me or my family. We are the Hodgson's. We have lived in Vernonia for 11 years now and we rightly consider it to be our home. I've walked past the scene of the altercation described above 1000 times or more. In the summer, my wife and I try to get out and walk 4 or 5 miles on the linear trail at least a few times a week. We attend the local Four Square church, regularly patronize local businesses, and contribute to local activities.

Personally, I am a software engineer and, as such, somewhat of an introvert. I usually work from home, keeping to myself, and out of other peoples business. I was born in New Hampshire, and have lived in several different States. I served in the U.S. Air Force, and spent many years in the desert building and testing military aircraft. I am great with numbers, but lousy with names, and I do not make friends easily.

I love baseball and golf, and often play rounds as a single at the Vernonia Golf Club.

I hope this hasn't bored you too badly. Thanks for reading and God Bless you all!

Daniel Hodgson  
Vernonia

To the volunteers and businesses in Columbia County who helped with "Stuff the Bus,"

Thank you to all of the businesses and volunteers who helped to make the 8<sup>th</sup> annual "Stuff the Bus" event a success. Your generosity with time and donated supplies has made a difference in the lives of many families in Columbia County. We had several new businesses and volunteers participate this year. Your participation made a big difference. One of our St. Helens volunteers reported that some of the participating businesses requested pick up for two to four boxes of school supplies. That is just fantastic!

The donated school supplies help students return to school ready to learn not worried about the lack of school supplies. The school supplies collected stay in the community where they are collected and are disbursed differently in each school district.

The disbursement in St. Helens was held the last Wednesday of August. It was reported that 276 students received supplies. A big thank you to Rosie Amos who has been the lead volunteer in disbursing school supplies for many years at Grace Baptist Church in St. Helens. She announced her retirement for this year. She will be greatly missed.

We haven't heard from the other school districts at this time. However, in the past we have been able to report helping 650 students throughout Columbia County.

Although this event is not able to provide everything a student needs it does help provide several of the required items and this makes a big difference to those families who have a difficult time with all of the back to school necessities.

Want to be a volunteer or have a drop box at your business next year call 503-556-3614 or email uwcc@hotmail.com and we will put you on our list for next year. We begin planning and getting set up in July and collection usually runs the month of August. We can always use more volunteers to help with this. Or you can donate to the Stuff the Bus program to help purchase school supplies for this

community event.

Working together we can make a difference.

Kathy Beck  
Executive Director  
United Way of Columbia County

To the Editor,

A new school-year means the start of another great LoggerBots robotics season. This high school team designs, builds and programs a 120 pound remote controlled robot in 6 weeks and then competes with teams across Oregon, Washington and Idaho as part of the FIRST Robotics Competition. Coming off a tremendous 3rd place finish in last year's regional, we have high hopes and expectations for 2014.

This team would not be possible without the support of our fantastic sponsors which include: Photo Solutions, Ajax Machine, Procraft, Dass Logging, Sharon Bernal, Gwin Logging, Shari's Restaurants, KaptansKraft, and Intel.

The fact that a community our size can compete with the largest schools in the Northwest is a testament to our sponsors as well as our mentoring team consisting of Jack Finzel, Jay Anderson, Mitch and Leslie Seibert, Mike Justice, Don and Susie Rainbolt, Tim Jennings, Jim Buxton, Tim and Michelle Berro, Dan Mullikin and Chris Dass.

Our team will be out in the community this fall showcasing our previous year's creations and explaining more about how the program helps build STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) knowledge by enabling practical application and competition.

Come see us at this year's Salmon Festival and find out what it's like to play catch with a robot.

Jeff Ely  
LoggerBots Robotics team mentor

To the Editor,

My name is Bridger Steward and I recently worked on my Eagle Scout project. For my project I repainted the goal posts at Greenman Field, as well as put a FEMA required flow through system underneath the grandstands.

I'd like to thank the Vernonia Fire Department for donating their time and equipment, to troop 201, as well as friends and family. I'd also like to thank the city and Jeff Birch for donating a cherry picker truck to paint the goal

posts effectively. Another thank you is for Vernonia Hardware for helping us out with our material needs.

Bridger Steward  
Vernonia

To the Editor,

We would like to send our most heartfelt THANK YOU to the community of Vernonia for your incredible support on every level for the Jacob & Angela Fields Family Fundraiser that took place on September 7, 2013. With everyone's generous hearts we were all able to provide over \$5000.00 to the Fields family for medical expenses and funeral costs for the loss of their beloved daughter Lorelei. We unfortunately can't thank everyone personally in fear of leaving someone out, but do know we couldn't have done this without you!!

The spaghetti dinner was a huge success and a special thank you to Vernonia Sentry (Randy & Sharon Parrow), Vernonia Subway (Steve Whiteman) & Emily from Great Harvest Bread in Hillsboro. It was incredible to see so many step up to volunteer helping in the kitchen (cooking, serving, cleaning up), donating goods to provide over 50 amazing raffle baskets, all the bakers who made delicious treats for the bake sale - sponsored by the Vernonia Community PTA and all those who just helped wherever the need was at the time. The Vernonia Freewheelers donated 10 cords of firewood to be raffled off & we know for a fact that those winners will be much warmer this winter.

We have an amazing little town and so many people were able to help a family in a time of difficult tragedy. We thank you from the bottom of hearts & know that the Fields Family appreciates every one of you who helped on all levels.

Kinnell Steward  
Randy Carlton  
Camrin Eyrrick  
Katie Poetter

## HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

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