



Vida McKenzie Community Center v13.3

It's Getting That Time of the Year for the Christmas Bazaar



Gifts for everyone, happy faces all around, Santa for the kids and us, Cakes, Pies, Hotdogs, Chili, Hot Soup, Soda's and hot Coffee for all



**** December 6th *** 9am to 4pm ****



Walter W Wilson, President

Yep, front page says it all. Another fun filled event for the McKenzie Valley folks. The annual (since 2003) Vida Community Center McKenzie Valley Christmas Bazaar on December 6th. The doors will be open for everyone at 9am. For the

early folks we have some early morning munchies, something like donuts or muffins and about a ton of hot coffee to wash them down and help with a little wake up call. If you are not into the early morning munchies, the snack bar will be fully loaded with all the festive favorites: cakes, pies, hotdogs with all the fixing's, chili and some good ole fashion soup.

Last year was a bummer with all snow that was dumped on us a couple days before the Saturday bazaar. We had a great time but due to the heavy snow many of our vendors were unable to drive to Walterville. This year we are back up to a full house of vendors plus a couple of extra tables. Sadly we ran out of table/floor space and have a large list of vendors that are on call if we have a cancellation. It is very exciting that we have been able to attract so much interest, not only from the vendor aspect but each year it seems that the attendance just keeps getting better.

The vendors just keeps getting better. We'll have jams and jellies, crochet items, an assortment of jewelry, painted glass and paintings, soy scents, soap, lavender items, knives, wood works and the



list goes on.

The Late Bloomers Garden Club has been busy creating their holiday swags at the Center. The Center is very please to have our entrance decorated with two of these beauties this year. Thank you Late Bloomers, we love them.

As many of you know, Vern Blumhagen our long time Board Member, Treasurer and one of the original Community Center members when the Center incorporated in 2000 passed away. A funny thing, well not really a funny happened at the November 8th bingo game. At the end of the center row of tables where Vern set since we starting playing bingo at the Center in 2003, someone have placed a chair that had his name tag on it. There was a small vase with flowers and a copy of his obituary. The month before, in October a chair was place at that end of the table and shortly before the games began I overheard someone say, "You can't set there, that's Vern's seat." I looked around and the chair was empty and remained empty for the duration of the games that evening.

A celebration of life was held for Vern on November 25th at the Center. I was honored by a request of the family to MC the service. We packed the room with chairs and still it was standing room only. Several beautiful arrangements of flowers were situated around the room. A large picture board was near the front that contained many pictures of Vern in a variety of events and activities (Lions, Community Center, Neighborhood Watch and several with family members) he was involved with. I open the celebration with a few personal comments about how he was a strong man, silly, wise, (Continue on p3)





Continue from p2: stubborn, supportive, intelligent. I spoke on the many times Vern had told me how much he loved his kids (and grandkids) and how proud he was of what they have accomplished in their lives. Chaplin Eddy Harriod from Hospices spoke a few words. Vern's daughter-in-law Lisa Blumhagen spoke of the hard early years Vern had on the family farm. How his mother died in a house fire when he was eight. Excelling in high school, lettering in 4 sports, Class President three years and graduated Valedictorian and was instrumental in publishing the school's first yearbook, which was present for everyone to see. From there with \$20 in his pocket he started his adult life, Navy, college, working for General Electric, married Marilyn, kids and moved to California to work for North American Rockwell. That's the short version with tons of things in between. California is a whole story in it's self, read the obit in the back of the newsletter for some of the exciting details.

Vern and Marilyn retired in 1987 and settled in Vida to start another stage in their lives. For 27 years Vern was a mover and shaker in our little valley. He made things happen in the Lions, Neighborhood Watch and was a tremendous help in building the Community Center into the position it is today. He pushed for and succeeded in bringing DSL internet service to Goodpasture Road, he lobbied for getting full time lighting on Goodpasture Bridge and now there are lights on the bridge.

Following Lisa's eulogy was an outstanding video of Vern's life put together by his granddaughter MacKenzie Blumhagen. This was followed by over an hour of members of the audience speaking of the good and funny times they had in their years of knowing and working on many projects with Vern.

The McKenzie River Lions handled the creating of the food dishes and kept it flowing for the eighty or so in attendance. A special thanks to Steve Schaefer for helping with setting up chairs and providing an outside fire pit which was enjoyed by many.

A note to me from our friend Linda Schaefer says it all: *"When I first met Vern at a community center meeting, I thought he seemed like a grump. I no*

time I discovered that he had a great sense of humor, a big grin and a laugh that made me laugh too. He was so bright and accomplished, yet so down to earth and ordinary. He put in countless days and hours for this community. Others will fill in, but Vern can never be replaced. Miss him!!"

Vern's son Geoff said it very well, *"Vern was an amazing guy—He had a brilliant, extremely technical mind, but because of his small town, farm upbringing, would enjoy lively conversations with geniuses or dim-wits and have an equally rewarding exchange. He was one of the good ones—yah, sure, you-betcha."*

The family ask that donations to the Vern Blumhagen Memorial Fund be sent to the Vida McKenzie Community Center.

VERN BLUMHAGEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Community Center Board Members at the November meeting agreed to create and fund \$500 annual Vern Blumhagen Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship will be for those students already in college with studies in the science and technology field. Students applying may be required to provide several hours of community support and activity and interviewed by members of the Community Center. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2015.



Your membership is really important to us

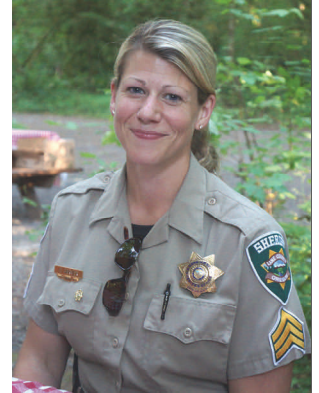


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Travel Safety

The holidays are a special time of year, and many of us travel to be with loved ones.

Below are some tips to help you prepare for a safe trip so you can enjoy your holidays!

Preparing for Your Trip

Stop delivery of mail and newspapers so they don't pile up.

Enlist a trusted neighbor or friend to keep an eye your home. If you trust someone well enough to give them access to your home, they can open and close blinds as well.

Utilize timers for at least two lights in your home to make it look like the house is occupied. You can even use timers to have radios and televisions turn on and off periodically, also making it look like you are home.

Make a list of valuables and their serial numbers. You can find a template to record serial numbers at www.lanesheriff.org. If your items are stolen, the serial numbers are extremely helpful to law enforcement.



Travelling with Money

Carry as little cash as possible. Consider dividing up cash and cards into separate storage places, for example, keep part of your money in a secure wallet and part in a pocket.

Bring 800 numbers for the credit card companies for the cards you bring on your trip in case you need to report the card lost or stolen quickly.

Shred or securely dispose of receipts that have your card number or name on them to prevent identity theft and fraud.

Luggage Tips

Pack a suitcase that is light enough for you to carry with one hand, leaving a free hand for handrails on escalators, stairs, etc. Consider a suitcase with wheels.

Keep ID tags on all of your bags, and make sure the contact information is updated.

Keep your luggage within sight at all times. Never take an offer from a stranger to carry your bags for you.

Airport Helpful Hints

Look up security guidelines for your airport prior to arriving.

Carry medications in their original bottles in one place so they are easy to remove for inspection.

Bring documentation for any medical issues that may need special security clearance, such as an artificial knee or pacemaker that can set off metal detectors.

If you require wheelchair assistance, coordinate with the airport at least two days in advance of your travel.

Pack any liquids in a plastic bag for easy inspection. Check TSA guidelines for allowable sizes and amounts.



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Good Day. Fall is upon us. The kids are back in school, so please drive safely and watch out for school kids and school buses. Backyard burning is now allowed but please check each day to make sure. Your best resources for questions regarding burning is: LRAPA, www.lrapa.org @ (541)736-1056, or McKenzie Fire at (541)896-3311.

As our heaters start getting used for the first time in several months, make sure they are clean and that no combustibles are nearby. Several years ago we had a "room and contents" fire that was caused by an unused mattress being stored too close to a baseboard heater. When it finally became cold enough for the thermostat to turn the heat on, the mattress ignited. I would also suggest making sure your chimneys are clean before use. If you'd like to borrow a chimney sweep brush, come by our headquarters in Leaburg.

Recent Calls. Our call volume continues to hold strong. We have had a surprisingly busy year so far. In the month of September we saw over 70 calls and assisted in the removal of a Kia Sorento from the McKenzie River.

Training. Our latest training drills have been on firefighter safety and survival. We've been working on techniques and strategies to make sure we're as safe as possible plus rescue each other should someone become trapped and/or injured.

Public Education. Do you have concerns or questions about Ebola? Ebola symptoms and means of spreading are much like the common flu. Symptoms include fever, headache, joint/muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach pain. The fire service calls these "flu-like symptoms" and dispatch will let us know if our patient has them. Steps you should take to prevent exposure should include: washing hands with soap often, limit contact with common surfaces that are frequently touched (like door knobs, push bars, hand rails, debit card pin pads, tv remotes, etc), discontinue putting your fingers in your mouth, eyes, or nose (If you must, make sure you have thoroughly washed your hands first), cover coughs and sneezes and insist that others do the same. Don't forget that mortality rates for heart disease, cancer, car accidents, influenza, and diabetes are still far higher than Ebola. In my opinion, if you want to truly stay safe you should: diet, exercise, wash your hands, and drive safely. Please be safe.



Have you heard our sirens and wondered what's happening? Go to our webpage www.mckenziefire.com and click on the "Radio Feed" gadget to listen to our radio traffic.

VERN BLUMHAGEN

1929 - 2014

Vern Allen Blumhagen, 85, passed away peacefully on October 27, 2014 at his home overlooking the McKenzie River, that he so loved, in Vida, OR. He was born on July 18, 1929 in Ronan, Montana to Fred J. and Minnie (Murchison) Blumhagen. Vern's childhood was a poor one, growing up in North Dakota, Oregon and Montana his family worked as migrant farm workers, then settled on a section of family farm in Drake, North Dakota when Vern was 13. He graduated Valedictorian from Drake High School where he was Class President three years, lettered in 4 sports and was instrumental in publishing the school's first yearbook. After high school Vern went out on his own with \$20 in his pocket. He joined the Navy, underage, where he learned electronics. He attended Iowa State University – graduated with honors in 3½ years, while working part-time, with a BS in Electrical Engineering.



Vern's professional life began with 4 years at General Electric in NY and Milwaukee – then through a chance conversation with a former Counselor from Iowa State, he packed up his wife, his 3 year old and new-born sons, and drove off to Southern California where he spent 29 years with a company that started as Autonetics – then North American Aviation – then North American Rockwell – the company was eventually purchased by Boeing. Here, Vern was mainly responsible for a team of 40+ engineers who were tasked with developing guidance systems for missiles. Vern wrote a paper in 1963 that was published in the IEEE magazine titled "Stellar Inertial Navigation Applied to Cruise Vehicles". This paper is still available online. He also won "Engineer of the Year" in 1983 for leading a research project to design and test an inertial navigation system using newly developed ring-laser gyroscopes. He and his family lived in Yorba Linda, CA, during the working years.



Vern, and his wife Marilyn retired in 1987 and began traveling the Pacific Northwest in search of a place to settle down, with the criteria that it be located on a fresh water lake or river. They were fortunate to find the perfect place for Vern on the McKenzie River in Vida, Oregon. He was very active in local organizations during his 27 years in Vida including: The Lions Club, where he was President and held several other leadership positions; Neighborhood Watch, where he was President and Director several years; And the Vida-McKenzie Community Center, where he was a long-time board member and an especially fastidious Treasurer. Vern was also instrumental in having DSL internet services extended to the 5 mile stretch of rural area where he lived, and he, along with his good friend Walt Wilson, fought the tough fight to have full time lighting installed on the Goodpasture Covered Bridge.

Vern married Marilyn Ann Meyers in 1955 in Utica, NY. They were happily married for 59.583 years. Vern is survived by his wife, Marilyn, son Geoff Blumhagen, and his wife Lisa, of Anaheim Hills, CA, daughter Brenda Cook of Anchorage, Alaska, 8 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and one sister, Luella (Blumhagen) Gibbs of Las Cruces, NM. He was preceded in death by his oldest son, Kevin Dale, who died in 1996.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm on Tuesday, Nov. 25th at the Vida-McKenzie Community Center on Thompson Lane, Vida, OR.

Vern was an amazing guy – He had a brilliant, extremely technical mind, but because of his small town, farm upbringing, would enjoy lively conversations with geniuses or dim-wits and have an equally rewarding exchange. He was one of the good ones – yah, sure, you-betcha.

The family request donations to the Vern Blumhagen Memorial Fund be set to the Vida Community Center, PO Box 163, Vida, OR 97488



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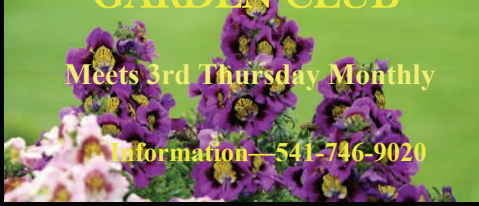
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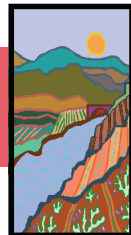
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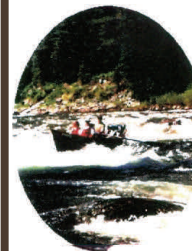
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Thank you,
Walter W. Wilson

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