



## *Vida McKenzie Community Center*

**SUMMER 2010**

**Vol. 9 No. 2**

### **CENTER MEMBERS RE-ELECT CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICER**

When Center President Walter Wilson opened the nominations for Officers, it was quite for a few seconds then a voice from the floor said, "I would like to nominate the current Community Center officers for the next term." The current Officers are, Vern Blumhagen - Treasurer, Laura Olson - Secretary, Dawn Neilsen - Vice President and Walter Wilson - President. With no other nominations and the current Officers agreeing for another term, the nominations were closed and the attending members elected them for another term.

One Board Director position was open to replace Dave Stark who resigned due to business commitments. During his term Dave supported the Center and Dave said that he will continue to help the Center and it's operations whenever possible. Thanks Dave, we look forward to your continued support. Carol Zaharias expressed an interest in the Board position and told Walt to place her name on the ballot. With no other participants, Carol was elected to serve as a Board Director.

### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

The VMCC Board agreed to continue with the low membership fee of \$10.00 for another year, citing the tremendous support the community has given the Center during the fundraising times. Even with the success of the fundraising, the Center still needs the support of members. If you have not sent in your membership form, please take a moment and send it in.

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 10 YEARS**

The annual membership meeting of the Vida McKenzie Community Center corporation was held on Saturday, May 8, 2010. The meeting was called to order



at 10:10am by President Walter Wilson. Walt welcomed those in attendance and our guest speakers which included Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart, retired



Fire Chief Dale Ledyard, Marge Estenson and (cont P4)

**Join us as we celebrate going into our 8th year of Bingo  
at the Vida Community Center on August 7th**

**The Center will pay for your first 2 cards. Payout on games start at \$6.00. Blackout games start at \$75.00. Bonus Ball game starts at \$70.00. See ya in August.**



## Walter Wilson

President, Vida McKenzie Community Center

Spring came and went and we around here could hardly tell the difference. We did have a few days that allowed several members to partake in the annual clean up of the Center.

We got a lot done in a short period of time. Leaves and small branches were cleaned off of the roof, flower beds weeded, trees and branches cut back, windows washed and general housekeeping on the inside. A large brush pile was created from all the cutting that was done. After it was all said and done we sat down for a lunch provide by Ike's Pizza. After being gone for the winter months Rick and Joan McCreery noticed the brush pile a couple of weeks ago and were kind enough to haul it off.

A year and half ago so we started a new bingo game called Bonus Ball Bingo. It's just a regular bingo game but you have to complete your bingo with a designated number. Each month \$5.00 is added to the payout until someone wins. When the prize amount reached \$155.00 we had two winners in April.

I was calling the bingo games that night when the Bonus Ball Game rolled around and when I called "O-72", the sounds of BINGO shattered the si-



lence as Renee Jackson (on the left) and Gerry Aster (right) let everyone know they had just won the bonus ball game. After a fun night and enjoyable night with friends, Renee and Gerry went home with some extra cash.

On another Bingo note, this is the 8th year the Center has been having bingo games. Over the years it has become a place where friends and families meet to have an enjoyable night of fun. Those who have been coming have graciously been bringing pies and cakes for our snack bar fundraising operations. We'll have our usual raffle and lottery tickets and several other items that will be given away.

As noted on the front page, the current slate of officers and board members will continue for another year, with one exception, Carol Zaharias will become one of

the board members. Many of the officers and board members have been in basically the same position since 2000. There has been a few changes over the years but for the most part the continuity of leadership has remained intact. This is good for the organization, but we are rapidly approaching the time when some of us have been leading this organization for many years will need to step aside and bring in new leadership. The door is always open, join in on all the fun.

One of our members and Community Center supporters, Jennifer Sullivan, has re-opened her business in Vida. What used to be the McKenzie Nail Co. now has opened as "The Vida Pamper Parlor". It now features Hair by Martha, Tanning, and Massage by Royal. It's the little gray house with hot pink trim on 126, about 1/4 mile east of Vida Café.

McKenzie River Yoga continues to meet every Tuesday night at 6:30pm. I happened to drop by the other night and was quite impress with the amount of community members that were attending. I'm told you can adapt it to fit your needs. Yoga is a gentle yet powerful form of exercise. Some of the benefits include increased joint mobility, balance, flexibility, energy, circulation, focus, endurance, self awareness, fitness, and general wellness. Additionally, it is said that yoga can decrease cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure, stress, and depression. All of this and I'm told there is more just by attending the class. Emily, the instructor, says the class is open to one and all. She even asked me to join the class that evening. If only a little part of the above would help, I might even drag this old bod to the class. I could sure use some rejuvenation.

On September 8th, Kathy Whitson will bring her knowledge of oil painting to the Community Center in the form of a 3-day oil painting workshop. Kathy is the winner of the McKenzie Arts Festival Poster Contest. More information and the winning picture on page 4.

I end this column with a note of sadness. The Center and our community lost a valuable asset about a month ago. Many of you have probably heard about the tragic boating accident on the Arkansas River in Colorado in which Lon Mills lost his life. It was a harrowing experience for those in the raft that day. We can be truly thankful that Lon's wife, Myrna survived. There's more relating to this tragic event on page 5. The beautiful McKenzie River that flows through our valley runs cold, swift and has already taken a life and it's still very early in the fun days of summer. There is a real reason someone came up with the idea of the "personal floatation device". Too many accidents have already happened along the McKenzie River this season. Please don't become a victim.





## BAREFOOT BANDIT STEALS VEHICLE FROM COMMUNITY CENTER MEMBER

Let the good times roll. Kids have fun running around barefooted and at 17 years old Colton Harris-Moore thought he'd have a little fun when he escaped from a half-way house in Washington State a couple years ago. He must have thought it fun as he was hopping across the county leaving his signature barefoot drawing that lead the law enforcement community to tag him the barefoot bandit.

This kid was smart in some ways in which he alluded capture for over two years. But just plain stupid in thinking he could keep the escapade he was living going on forever. If he would have stopped his crime wave after one or maybe two events, he may have gotten away with. It appears the thrilling life he was living, the fun of creating crimes and leaving a calling card for the police to find was just too much for him to pass up. But the longer he continued his fun, the more people become involved, the greater chance he will end up as in the picture. It does not look like the good times are rolling for him right now. A big policemen on each side of him helping him along and notice the nice blue vest he's sporting, bullet proof and all. And look at those cute little toes on the barefoot bandit. He's not standing as tall as he once was. Don't you just love the silver ankle bracelets he's wearing. I would bet his also got some nice silver handcuff's on also. As the ole saying goes, "If you can't do the time, don't do the crime". I would venture to say that Mr. Colton Harris -Moore is going to be doing some time thanks to the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

His capture on Harbour Island, a small tourist destination off the mainland Eleuthera was like a James Bond movie, only he was not James Bond and he didn't get away this time. It was said that the police shot out the engine on his boat as he was attempting to flee. And now for the rest of the story..... *WW*

### What Are The Odds?

Summer finally arrived in the McKenzie Valley in early July and I took advantage by sitting on the deck reading the newspaper. An article about the "Barefoot Bandit" informed me that he apparently left the Northwest and was currently terrorizing the Midwest. I thought to myself "well that's good; at least he won't be headed this way bothering the good folks along the river".

The weather held, the 4th of July was a delightful evening, and early the morning of the 5th I got a call from Anthony Bain, caretaker of our home in Sandy Point, Abaco, Bahamas.

*"Hi Anthony, good to hear from you, how's things?"*

*"Not so good mon, he stole your car"*

*"What are you talking about, there are four hundred people in Sandy Point, who would steal the car, you've got to be kidding."*

*"I don't know exactly mon, big white guy from Indiana, has a plane. That's what they say."*

I made a few phone calls to the local police in Sandy Point to learn that the "Barefoot Bandit" had stolen a plane in Indiana, somehow flown it to the Bahamas, ran out of fuel about 5 miles from the small village of Sandy Point where he crashed the plane in the mangroves, found one road that leads to Sandy Point, came across our house, broke in and stole the car.

My first reactions were anger, dismay, frustration and a sense of helplessness. As the day wore on, and some perspective was gained, I calmed down and realized the man was on an Island of 9,000 people, one traffic light, and many alert citizens who just don't miss much if there is something, or someone, new to the community.

Two days later I got a call back from Anthony. The police had located the car, parked near the stoplight (fifty miles away), nicely parked, undamaged and ready to be returned. I guess all's well that ends well, but it still rankles me to think that I had a very small part in this jerk's escapades! The other happy ending is that a few days, (and a few stolen boats) later, the Bahamian police actually caught the guy. In the Bahamas, this would amount to the kind of stuff that legends are made of.

*Rick McCreery*

### The end is in sight

On July 21st, he got a free ride back home to the State of Washington, courtesy of the U.S. Marshall's.





## Oil Painting Workshop

by Kathy Whitson

(winner of the McKenzie Arts Festival Poster Contest)

September 8-10, 2010; 9-4:00 PM

Vida McKenzie Community Center

She will be teaching a wooded scene, rocks and stream. You will learn depth in the forest, rushing and gentle water where you see large rocks under water. All levels are welcome, even if no oil painting experience.

The Class will be \$140.00

A deposit of \$70.00 is due by August 1.

Reserve by e-mailing [krwhitson@peak.org](mailto:krwhitson@peak.org), calling 541-563-3633,  
or Call Janet at 541-822-1039



“McKenzie Arts Festival Poster contest winner —  
Workshop will paint a different river scene “

**Meeting:** Lane County Deputy Sheriff David Silano. It was a very interesting first half of the meeting hearing from the guest speakers. Commissioner Stewart talked about the replacement of the Goodpasture Bridge and showed some new roofing material that might replace the current roof of the bridge and several other County topics. Chief Ledyard touched base on what was new at the Fire Department, and the new Fire Chief. Marge Estenson, talked about the history of the McKenzie River Club and leading into the formation of the Vida McKenzie Community Center. Deputy Silano fielded many questions regarding some of the criminal activity around the Vida area in the past few months. Jim Goodpasture presented the group with some interesting topics regarding the current fishing regulations.



And then it was the president of the organizations, Walter Wilson's time to talk. He spoke of the accomplishments the Center had achieved over the past year: Rebuilding of the storage shed, replacing the damaged overhead door,

adding ADA chair height toilets and adding metal bars in the toilets stalls. After many years of looking at the blue cover over the bingo board, it finally got a new face, thanks to Hal Stein. The Center is still working on completing the outside lighting, reworking some of the kitchen cabinets for ease of use and replacing the sound speaker system.

Walt emphasized the great support the Center enjoys from the community as it has allowed the Center to increase the funding for the McKenzie High School scholarship's, the McKenzie Mobile Meals in Leaburg, the McKenzie River Lions and East Lane Veterinary Angel Animal Fund. The Christmas Bazaar and monthly family fun bingo night continues to be the major fundraisers. Several groups continue to use the Center on a regular basis. Over the past year the Center was rented 126 times. Walt said that the membership was currently at 147 and the dues are still only \$10.00 per family.

Walt opened up the elections for officers and board members. The membership was pleased with the current officers and re-elected them.

Somewhere during the meeting a break was taken and everyone enjoyed a piece of the "10th Year Anniversary" cake and some punch and coffee.

Before closing Walt encouraged everyone to become involved with the Center's activities in order to not burn out the many that have been helping out for a long time. The monthly bingo games always needs help to keep them running and the Christmas Bazaar has many tasks that need to be done. In closing Walt thanked those in attendance and the McKenzie Valley community for the great support they have given the Center over the years.

**BINGO NIGHT - 2nd SATURDAY MONTHLY - Doors open 6:15pm—Games at 7:00pm**  
**"we got best food, desserts, good coffee, cold drinks, good friends and games in the valley"**





## ***THE RIVER GIVETH AND THE RIVER TAKETH***

The McKenzie River flows from one end of the McKenzie Valley to the other as it continues on its journey to the sea. It was just a few weeks ago when the Sheriff's Office and Fire Department's were warning the public of the dangers of the river. As this is being written the high murky swift current has passed and the crystal clean cold water that we know as the McKenzie has returned.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Lon and Myrna Mills and a group of friends gather each month for a little social time and dinner as we have done for many years. Lon and Myrna were leaving the following day on their vacation. Each month birthdays are celebrated for any member of our group having a birthday. We offer birthday cards, birthday wishes and sometimes sing the "Happy Birthday" song. Lon was the birthday boy being celebrated for June. He did not live to see his birthday. The warnings about river danger really hit home on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Lon and Myrna, his sister, Wanda, and Wanda's husband, Milton, met in Colorado for a family get together. This vacation time was to include a raft trip down the Arkansas River in the area of Salida, Colorado. The river was running at 1980 cubic feet per second through Salida on Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup> when they put their raft in the water in the vicinity of the Big Bend Recreation Area.

This started a fun leisurely trip down the Arkansas River. About 2 miles northwest of Salida, the raft containing the 2 couples went over a diversion dam in the river throwing all four into the water. Myrna and Wanda were wearing life preservers but Lon and Milton were not. Myrna and Wanda were able to make it to the bank and out of the river on their own.

Their screams for help caught the attention of many along the bank of the river. Calls to 911 brought the local rescue service. The boating accident turned rapidly into a tragedy when Lon and Milton did not surface after going over the diversion dam. A couple miles downriver one of the men was pulled from the river near Riverside Park and the other close by as the river flowed through downtown Salida. Both were given CPR and transported to the local hospital. Lon was airlifted by Flight for Life to St. Anthony Hospital in Denver. Unfortunately, even with heroic efforts by the emergency responders and hospital personnel, Lon did not recover. He passed away early Thursday morning.

My friend Lon was no stranger to a river. He probably had his drift boat or raft on most all of the rivers in Oregon and many other places. He loved getting his boat out on the river working the swirling water as he drifted through the rapids and enjoying a day of fishing. Lon was a man of short stature and was the brunt of many "short" jokes, but he stood tall, like a mighty oak tree. If you hit him with a joke he hit back with two. Lon was my friend and a friend to many in the McKenzie Valley and around the state of Oregon. He may be gone but he will never be forgotten. And now, the tragedy continues as two families try and put their lives back together. I have not met Lon's sister Wanda, but he had spoken of her many times in our social gatherings. I am truly thankful that Myrna and Wanda survived this tragic event.

The rivers continue to flow about their merry way. The water in some places like the McKenzie River and the Arkansas River runs swift, clear and cold. Others look like chocolate pudding as they continue their flow. They roar as the water breaks through the rapids, splash about and sparkle like diamonds in the sunlight. But despite all this beauty, they all have the same silent danger laying just below the surface. They play no favorites. One miscue, a slight error in reading the water and tragedy is upon us who love the excitement of the rivers. Many riding the rapids have been thrown in the water, many have been lucky to survive such an experience and many have not. My friend Lonnie did not survive.



# Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

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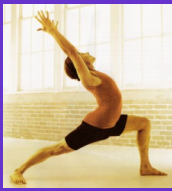
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# Vida McKenzie Community Center Newsletter

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**Join your friends at the  
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**You're Welcome at our Semi-Monthly Meetings the 2nd and 4th Monday of each Month at 6:30 pm at Ike's Lakeside Pizza**

**BINGO**

**Vida Community Center**

**2nd Saturday Monthly**

**Doors open at 6:15—Games begin at 7pm**

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**"Where friends and families meet for a fun time"**

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**BOB WELCH RETURNS**

Bob will be returning to the Center on October 16th, this time he'll be focusing on writing. Some of the topics may include: The story, what to write about? How to begin, and end and writing so that one can form a picture of the events.



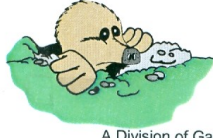
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Quilt and Needle Crafters of the McKenzie Valley. Meets noon to 4pm the first Monday of every month at the Vida Community Center.  
Call Pat at 896-0199 for info.

**VIDA TEXAS HOLD'EM**

It's been called the McKenzie Valley World Series of Poker

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**VIDA McKENZIE COMMUNITY CENTER**

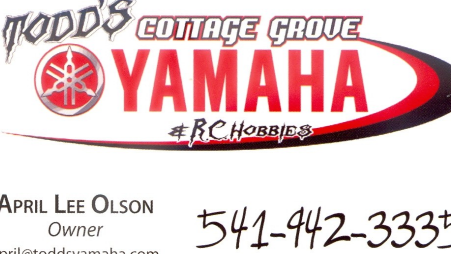
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 **McKenzie River Lions**   
We Serve Present the  
**Leaburg Summer Festival**  
on **JULY 31, 2010**  
BEGINNING AT 9:00 AM  
ON THE MCKENZIE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH GROUNDS AT  
**45061 McKenzie Hwy**

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast, 9 am  
Craft Booths, Music, Raffles, all day  
Smilin' Baby Contest, 11 am  
Bar-B-Que Chicken Dinner, 11 am  
Doggie Parade, 2:30 pm

**Fun for All!**

I Wouldn't Dream of Missing the  
**Leaburg Summer Festival**  
**Doggie Parade**

All Dogs Must be on a  
Leash -- Children Under  
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**SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2010**

Pre-Register at the Information Booth  
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# Smilin' Baby Contest

**Leaburg Summer Festival**  
McKenzie Bible Fellowship Grounds  
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BRING YOUR BABY TO THE MCKENZIE RIVER  
LIONS' LEABURG FESTIVAL SMILIN' BABY CONTEST

**SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2010**  
**11:00 AM – Pre-register at the info booth**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE SWEETEST SMILE  
AND MOST CHARMING BABY ON THE RIVER!

Ribbons and Prizes for the best smile, and other attributes!!

