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VERNONIA'S

voice



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visitors
guide
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reflecting the spirit of our community

volume 1 issue 3

In Loving Memory of Rod McLean

This past month we honored the passing of a great and humble man, Judge Rod McLean. In office since 1995, he had recently started his third term in Columbia County as Justice of the Peace.



Rod was the judge in Vernonia, Clatskanie, and was instrumental in starting a new location opening in St. Helens. He was certified in mediation for

domestic violence, child abuse, mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, civil and workplace violence and divorce.

Judge McLean passed away on September 12. He was just 72.

His passing has been a great loss to our community and others – but even greater still to his family.

The following is proudly submitted by his beloved family...some insight to Rod McLean...AKA: "Honey, Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa, and Blossom Logging."

Rod would deliver bouquets for Sandy, from their flower shop on Bridge Street, on his way home from logging in his crummy (work truck); hence the nickname "Blossom Logging."

He loved family camping and fishing trips or any excuse for large family gatherings. The kids and grandkids loved to spend the night when in town, they'd wake up to his famous biscuits and gravy; although not necessarily loving his 5 a.m. "breakfast is ready" call.

He was well known for his gift for gab and swapping jokes. Rod loved the small town atmosphere of Vernonia where everybody knows everybody. Where a trip to the store for "honey I need these eggs right away," turns into a phone call from wife Sandy, "I needed those eggs an hour ago!"

He expressed strong opinions on certain issues such as, "the spotted owl, and paper not plastic," (just ask some of the local grocery clerks).

He had an unlimited range of knowledge on almost any subject, hence, many would look to him

for advice. This knowledge also led him to the judicial system. One day he came home from his logging job and was looking at the want ads in the Vernonia paper. He saw "Justice of the Peace wanted," and said, "I can do that," and what a great job he did.

Some of the words used to describe Rod: loving, caring, compassionate, wise, sense of humor, respected, and devoted to family and career.

His warm personality and sense of humor left a lasting impression on all who knew and loved him. Even though he is no longer with us, he will always be a part of us.

From the McLean Family...

So many people helped us get through one of the most difficult times of our lives.

We appreciate all of the thoughtfulness of the many cards, delicious meals, beautiful flowers, and the very generous donation and delivery of firewood.

Additionally, we would like to thank everyone who spoke on Rod's behalf at the Celebration of Life service it was very meaningful to our family.

Sincerely,
The McLean family

Schaumburg Benefits a Success

By Scott Laird

Vernonians stepped up to the plate, literally, to help one of their own during three recent fundraisers for local citizen Dean Schaumburg who was critically injured in a logging accident in August.

The first fundraiser was a spaghetti dinner held at the Buckhorn Restaurant on Sunday September 9. The



response was overwhelming, according to Buckhorn owners George and Donna Tice, who donated the use of their restaurant and kitchen facilities. "It was a phenomenal success," said George. "We had over forty volunteers, many who just showed up and said 'I'm here to help; what can I do?' So many people came together to make this a success!"

As many as twenty groups and organizations were involved in the benefit that served over 550 people and raised over \$5,000. Everything was donated, from food and music, to alley space, picnic tables and raffle prizes; all the money raised will benefit Dean's family with their medical expenses.

Donna Tice expressed her thanks to everyone who helped out, noting that the volunteers helped clean up everything afterwards. She also thanked Sergeant Mike Kay as the catalyst for making this event happen.

On Saturday, September 15th, the Lion's Club held a BBQ in the Sentry parking lot, taking advantage of the Community Garage Sale that was taking place that day. Sentry Market donated the hot dogs and buns, while the Lions donated chips and pop. The Lions raised over \$2600 for the cause, and wanted to send out a big thank you to Sentry Market for all their help.

The latest fundraiser, a concert benefit featuring country music singer Jesse Cain, was held Friday, September 21 at Hawkins Park. With attendance estimated at 500, this effort raised over \$5,000 with all proceeds going to Dean's family.

Accounts in the name of Dean Schaumburg have been started at both Wauna Federal Credit Union and the US Bank branches in Vernonia.

A Thank you from the Schaumburg and DeWitt Families

The Family of Dean Schaumburg would like to express our most sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the many recent benefits. The community has been so supportive of Dean and all us in this great time of need. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, organized, participated, and donated- you are way too numerous to name, but are deeply appreciated. Our hearts are overwhelmed.

inside



homecoming
challenge



garden
pumpkin patch



look who's
here