

Alumni pick trio for Vale's Hall of Fame

Honors set for October banquet

By Pat Caldwell
The Enterprise

VALE – A teacher, a local businessman and a longtime area resident will be honored this fall by the Vale Alumni Association.

Lindy Dentinger, Gert Schaffeld De Long and Don Wayne are this year's alumni association honorees.

They will be recognized at the Vale Alumni Association banquet at Four Rivers Cultural Center, Oct. 26.

"I am very honored. I was surprised and didn't expect anything like that," said De Long.

De Long graduated from



Don
Wayne



Gert
De Long



Lindy
Dentinger

Vale High School in 1957 and spent her life in the Vale and Willowcreek area. Gert married Duane De Long in 1958 and eventually became an employee of the then-Willowcreek School District – now the Vale School District – where she worked as a cook for 35 years.

Locally famous for her

cinnamon rolls and homemade bread, she is active in the community and St. Patrick's Catholic Church. A devoted Vale Viking fan, De Long attends prep games on a regular basis.

Wayne moved to Vale in 1958 and attended the Jamison and Willowcreek schools. When Wayne's family moved to Vale,

where he attended Vale High School, he bucked hay bales in the summer and operated the movie projector at the Rex Theater. Wayne is a member of the Vikings first cross country team and participated in tennis and basketball. After high school, Wayne studied at Eastern Oregon College – now Eastern Oregon University in La Grande – where he graduated with a degree in elementary education.

From there, Wayne taught 31 years – 29 of them at Vale High School – and coached sports at the middle school.

Now retired, Wayne and his wife Annette, who raised four daughters, re-

cently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Born in 1928, Lindy Dentinger arrived in Vale with his family in 1933. His father, Stanley, started Dentinger Feed & Seed in 1938 and Lindy and his brother Gale, took over the business in 1968.

Now semi-retired, Lindy Dentinger, 90, handed over management of the store to his children about 15 years ago.

"He has been active in the company, really, as far as 10 years ago. He still comes in but in the last few years he's slowed down," said Lindy's son, Rick Dentinger. Rick Dentinger now runs the store with his sons Mike and Matt and his

sister Pam Hibbits.

In 1943 the feed store moved from its location – where Umpqua Bank is now – to Morton Street. The store remained on Morton Street until 2017, when a fire destroyed the structure. Now Dentinger Feed & Seed is situated in the former Olsen Lumber & Paint Store on Washington Street.

The Oct. 26 event kicks off with a social hour at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For more information and to purchase a ticket, contact Bobbi Buttice at 541-473-3681.

New tip? Contact reporter Pat Caldwell at 541-473-3377 or pat@malheurenterprise.com