

From The North Forty

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I have been receiving some very positive responses from some of you folks, and I thank you ... not only for reading this column, but for enjoying it. I am having fun with it, and if my silly humor offends any of you, let me know and I will tone it down a bit. Maybe because I am new to this area, I see tons of things I would like to know more about, and wish to share those adventures with you. I am presently working on an in-depth story on both Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Departments. When those are completed, I will be doing articles on Trinity Center and Coffee Creek Schools. I have been doing research on all of these stories, and I have to tell you, I am amazed and in awe with what you all have accomplished here. But after meeting so many of you, I should not be a bit surprised.

About one hundred and fifty people attended the Concealed Weapons Permit Class at the Trinity Center Community Church, taught by Roger Chatterton last Friday night. Those of you who are interested were there, and those of you who aren't interested probably couldn't care less about this information. But I just wanted to applaud Roger and Sue for all the work these two do for the community. This is just one example of their dedication. Many hours were put into preparing for this class, and the Chatterton's do not receive one penny for it. The class was very professionally presented, and very informative. Roger gave credit to many of the people who helped him set the class up, but, in true Chatterton class, did not give himself or Sue the "Atta Boys" they deserve. I don't know about you, but I can think of one or two things more fun to do than spending four hours in front of 150 people and teaching a subject that is as important and controversial as this one. Here's a great big "Atta Boy", Roger and Sue.

How long has it been since you tried to write a letter or an article without the help of the computer spell checker? And how often does the spell checker find words you thought were spelled correctly, but were not? I plead guilty. The Spelling Bee at the Trinity Center School last Friday morning showcased the education our students are receiving. All of the eleven students participating in the Bee did so with sophistication, confidence and poise. And they didn't have a Spell Check. It was a pleasure to watch them as each round presented increasing difficult words to spell. Jessica Hamilton, an eighth grade student, earned the first place award for the third year in a row. Richard Miller, another Eighth grader, took second place, and Chaney Councilman, a sixth grader, placed third. The next step for these three young people is the county wide Spelling Bee in Weaverville this Wednesday, January 26. I am looking forward to being there.

A number of my readers are close to or around my age. Dare I say it? Okay, 63. When you approach that mile stone, most of us start to wonder about our memory. I have recently been introduced to that wonderful game, Bunko. I am just a substitute, and every so often I get to play. Last Tuesday was one of those times. My sweetheart and I had spent the day in Redding, getting home just in time to get ready to leave for Bunko, when Sue Chatterton called me and said she was on her way to pick me up. I thought that was pretty darn nice of her, and was out the door as soon as I saw her car lights. Sue was laughing when she told me she had just called Pat Sprick to tell her she was on her way to pick her up. Pat, who is also a substitute Bunko player, said,

“Okay, but where are we going”. When Sue answered, “To Bunko”. Pat said, “I’m not playing Bunko tonight, no one called me. Sue, being afraid she was leaving someone waiting on their porch for a ride, called the Bunko hostess, Gloria Eisen to see who was subbing. Sue told me she was so relieved, with Gloria’s help, to remember it was me that called for a ride. After we quit laughing, I told her “That’s great, but I didn’t call for a ride. You still have a problem”. Sue was adamant that I did call her, citing date and time. Knowing my slipping memory, I thought, “Boy! I’m really losing it,” because I really didn’t remember making that call. We were still laughing when Sue stopped to pick up Geneva Kooble, and related my forgetfulness about calling for a ride. Geneva said, “I know Betty didn’t call. It was me that called for the ride.” It was my turn to be relieved to see it was Sue, one of the youngest of our group who had the memory problem this time. I won two places at Bunko that night, the lowest ever score, and the booby prize for losing the most games. Oh well! It’s a tough job, but someone has to do it.

A few dates to mark on your calendar. The Lions Club will sponsor a Bingo Night at the IOOF Hall, February 12th. Hot dogs and sodas will be sold starting 6:00 P.M., and Bingo will start at 7:00 P.M. Proceeds from this event go into the general fund that the Lions use toward all the wonderful projects I outlined in an earlier column.

On February 19th, Norm and Linda Zeppa will be hosting a party and dance at the IOOF Hall. Bernie Berkowitz and Judy Eaker will put in appearances at the mike, and our local team of Line Dancers will demonstrate their “stuff”. The fee is \$5.00 and it is a BYOB and BYOS (snacks). The music will be varied, ranging from 60’s to country. Sounds like something everyone will enjoy.

I would like to put a plea out to any of you artist among us for your unused standing art easels to use for both Trinity Center and Coffee Creek School. We would like to give the students a realistic feel of the art of painting. I will be happy to drive anywhere to pick them up. You can reach me at 266-3440. By the way, any of you woodworkers out there, this could be a very worthwhile project. Just a thought.

Coffee Creek School Enrichment Team would like to thank the following people for their support on the Christmas raffle that was held at the Christmas Performance; Wynton Resort, Coffee Creek Country Store, Dr. Koby, Donna Watkins, Mari Letcher, Bonnie Groves, Jammi Brinton, North Lake Automotive and Marine, Grooming by Lisa, Subway, Imaginations, Coffee Creek Fire Flies, Suzanne Heinig, Yellow Jacket Café, Jaktri Market, Mary Bowen and Yvonne. The money from this raffle funded a trip for the entire school to Shasta, and other field trips. See what I mean? You folks are awesome!

More on the mangy “Eat Crow” award. I named Bob Abernathy as the latest recipient of the “Crow”. Sorry whoever or wherever you are Bob. The real recipient is Jim Abercrombie. And apparently Jim really did not call his wife a “bloated cow”, but said the bathing suit she was wearing looked like a bloated cow when it filled up with water. That, of course was still bad enough for Jim to be able to keep the “Crow”. I had better be more careful of my stories, or they might create a female mangy crow with its foot in its mouth for me. But not to worry Jim, I am sure there is some other “worthy” husband waiting in the wings to be the next recipient.