

1/31/05

I have a new email address. It is now bettyeyman@tds.net . My telephone number is still 530-3440. If any of you have anything you would like to see in this column, please use whatever method is easiest for you – phone, email or in person.

The Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department's auxiliary, The Fire Crackers, are disappointed they will not be doing the crab feed this year. The time for quality crabs has passed, besides the cost has gone to a point where it would have been difficult to break even. They are planning on having, with the help of Joe Councilman, a Fish Fry in May. Those of you who experienced Joe's Fish Fry at the Christmas Craft Show know what a treat that is. This is a great way for to get out of cooking dinner, have a great social evening, and help the TCVFD.

The Trinity Center Community Church has set their annual Valentines Banquet for Friday, February 11, at 6:00 P.M. at the TCC Church. They are asking a \$6 donation and will serve BBQ Steak and Baked Chicken. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Call Judy Meyer at 266-3838 for ticket information

Don't forget 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.

Okay you bingo lovers. Here's another chance at having the winning bingo card. On February 14, The Trinity Center School Booster Club will present the annual Sweetheart Raffle and Family Bingo Night at the IOOF Hall from 5 to 8. Bring your family to dinner and share a fun evening of bingo. Casper Dogs, Green Salad, Soda, and Popcorn will be sold. There will be great prizes for raffle and bingo winners. The proceeds will benefit the 2006 seventh and eighth grade field trip.

I know we all have our favorite charities, but don't forget every cent the Lions, and the Booster Club for Trinity school and the Enrichment Team for the Coffee Creek school make goes for that particular function. There are no "administration" fees because all the people involved are volunteers trying to make life a whole lot better for our young people.

Speaking of people volunteering to make things a whole lot better, something happened after a last week's column that has really touched my heart. I put out a plea for unused art easels, and suggested it would be a good project for some of our handy wood workers. The first night the column was out, I received a call from a man who lives in Hayfork offering to make some easels.

This man's heart is so pure that he does not want to be identified. Even more to the story, he is a disabled Veteran living on his military disability. He told me he was a Green Beret who received his disabling injury from a parachute jump behind the lines in Desert Storm. He said one of the reasons he was moved to help us with the art easels is because about 4 years ago, he was involved in a horrific car accident just outside of Trinity Center. That near death experience left him with a feeling he was granted more time here on earth because "it was not his time" and he was meant to "serve mankind".

He said the people from the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department and the paramedics did such an outstanding job caring for him, and he has always wanted to do something to say thank-you and a little "payback". Whatever the reason this wonderful courageous man is doing this, I want him to know just how much and how long his generosity will be felt as year after year the students of these two schools benefit from the easels he makes. We could still use a few more, so if you're interested in making a couple or donating an old one, call me. 530 266-3440.

We are all happy for Bridger (Pete) Beverly for being able to retire from the Postal Service while he is such a "baby". I can hardly remember back to age 56, but I know I was no where near retirement. Why to go Bridger.

As happy as we are for Bridger, we are equally as happy that Holly Anderson is stepping up to the helm, and accepting the job of Post Master. I know that she is really going to be missed at Trinity Center School

after 17 years working as Office Manager, and she will not be easy to replace. Holly's position will be handled by the current staff until the end of the year, at which time they will assess the work load needs.

A "Congratulations and We Will Miss You" cake was served to Holly on her last day at school Friday. All of the students were given the same lunch time to allow a time to say their goodbyes. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Congratulations Bridger/Welcome Holly dinner at the IOOF Hall, Sunday, March 13 at 6:00 P.M.

I had the pleasure of attending a Coffee Creek Fire Flies session last Thursday. What a "rush"! There were 10 ladies there, including myself, and I would be proud to claim every one of them as a "best buddy". The atmosphere was electric with their outgoing, caring, and giving personalities. It is astounding how much money is made for the benefit of Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department by these 20 women, including the "snowbirds" that winter in warmer climates. The first year they started, way back in 1982, they made about \$1300. They felt very, very good about that. From July 1, 2004 to January 1, 2005 the Fire Flies contributed \$5,200. I overheard one lady mention she thought that was really fantastic until she saw the figures on the dollar amount needed to run the fire department. I gotta tell you, I think is that still way beyond fantastic.

One of the things the Fire Flies do to raise funds for the fire department is to create a yearly telephone book for the North Trinity Lake area. The three dollar fee for these phone books barely covers the cost of putting them together. So each time you pick one up and pay for it, you are helping the fire department. I know we all feel a whole lot better knowing that our area is covered for disaster, fire, or medical emergencies by such dedicated and capable people. But as the ladies at the Fire Flies meeting pointed out, it cost a "lot" of money to run the department. Let's help out any way we can. One of those ways is paying for the phone books. Watch for more on this wonderful organization of women, and what they do in a later story. Remember, CCVFD does not get taxable funding. Not counting a couple of small grants, the CCVFD is funded by the monies made by the Fire Flies, and donations.

While we are on the subject of CCVFD, and you have your new 2005 calendar, you may want to block of April 9th for their annual Chili Feed and Auction to be held at the CCVFD.

Jim Ratliff is retiring from the US Forest Service, after 37 years in the Weaverville Ranger District. Many of you know Jim from his living in Coffee Creek. The dinner will be Friday, March 12 at the Cedar Stock Resort. Cocktail hour will be from 5:30 to 6:30 and the tickets are \$25 and include dinner, tax, tip, and gift. You may call Marla before March 4 at 623-1771 for information and reservations.