

2/28/05

The party at the IOOF Hall hosted by Norm and Linda Zeppa was a resounding success, even though there were only about 40 people who braved the rainy evening to attend. Between the line dancers, and Bernie, Judy and Norm singing everyone got what they wanted. Norm said the interesting part was that each performer brought their own "following" with them, making an interesting and diverse gathering. He mentioned that there is a lot of talent in our area, and it is fun to see that talent in a party, or "show" like this one. Watch for future parties, and there is a possibility that a group of "Cloggers" will bring their dance routine out for our enjoyment

One of the events Norm would like to do next is to set up a show at the Band Stand in Weaverville. He said it has electrical hook for his equipment, and there would be no charge for those that wish to watch his show. I have always said that living in this area is like turning the clock back to calmer times. Wouldn't it be nice to see a comeback to the good times around the types of Band Stands we saw in the movies of the late 40's and early 50's? Norm would like to see if there would be enough interest to do more shows there and put the Band Stand to good use. The only drawback is the city is asking for million dollar security rider, which he doesn't mind absorbing the cost for this once, but it could become too costly for him to continue paying it each time.

Norm is a very interesting man. A lot of you know him a lot better than I do, and I am sure you know he is the recipient of a heart transplant two years ago. But his story gets even more interesting. Prior to the transplant, Norm had several heart attacks, resulting in at least 3 by-pass surgeries. His heart continued to decline until he only had 7% heart function. At that point he became a full time resident in the hospital for two years, where he was connected to a machine that administered a drug that kept his heart functioning. He had already been on the transplant list for 4 years prior to this. The hope that a heart would be available for Norm was dwindling, and he resolved himself to the fact that he may not be going home. When a donor heart did become available for Norm, he was on the heart recipient list longer than anyone in the United States.

But that wasn't the end of Norm's medical problems. After being released from the hospital with his new heart, he had to return when it was discovered he had an infection. They got that under control and sent him home again when a vein burst, so back to the hospital again. Norm's wife, Linda, was at his bedside right from the start and all the way through his ordeal. He said it was her dedication and support for him that gave him the will and the strength to endure all those years of ill health. Linda is still his best friend and love. And Norm is very thankful for that.

Most of the events here that Norm has sung at have been at no charge. He said he feels it is his way of giving back to a community that he loves, and has shown him such love. He said he was helicoptered out two times, which he accredits for saving his life. Norm's early career had little to do with singing. He worked for the Mervyn's Corporation in Risk Management and Crises Intervention. Part of his job was to conduct internal investigations of problems concerning upper management.

Norm is available for weddings,, memorial services, group gatherings, and fund raisers. He currently sings at the Forrest Café, at fairs and car shows.

The coin collection the students of Trinity Center School held for the victims of the Tsunami netted \$570.40. The money has been sent on to UNICEF for the Tsunami Victims. Great job kids, and great job to all that contributed.

A reminder that the Lions Club Bingo night will be this Saturday at the IOOF Hall. Hot Dogs will be on sale starting at 6:00 p.m., and Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. The Lions Little Reno Night is scheduled for Saturday, March 19.

Welcome back Pat and Dave Forbes. Your friends missed you while you were "snow birding" in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas in your new 36 foot Alpha Motor home equipped with 5 televisions, and two pull

outs, washer/dryer, Micro Wave and Convection Oven. That is my idea of camping. Take all the comforts of home with you..

The tickets for the "Goodbye Bridger, Hello Holly" dinner are all gone. I have never had the pleasure to be involved in a project that everyone was so enthusiastic about. Bridger and Holly, this area loves both of you, and you are both held in very high esteem.

My Sister, Rita, continues to improve from her stroke. She is my personal hero. Even though she was lucky enough to have the best of care, and the best of medical knowledge, it takes a lot of determination and a lot of hard work to bring her body back to what it was prior to the stroke. Her words are completely clear now, and she is walking all over with the aid of a walker. She can lift her left arm up, but still has a long way to go on her left hand. Her Cardiologist told her today that he would see her in his office in two weeks. And she would walk into his office in four weeks. That is short of amazing for a stroke as strong as Rita had. Her entire left side was paralyzed. Way to go Rita. But then you always were a very determined person with a mind of your own.

Rita is going to get the names of the drugs, three of them, that was given to her so that I may do some research and report it to you to store in the back of your minds in case, God forbid, this ever happens to your family.

The Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, the Fire Flies are currently working on their annual Chili Feed and Auction to be held on April 9 at the Coffee Creek Fire Department. The menu will be Chile, Salad, Garlic Bread, drinks and brownies for \$10. There is no charge to participate in the auction. Nor is it necessary to participate in the chili feed. This function is still in the preparation stage, and already has commitments for a patio boat rental worth \$875.00, a trip, TV, Lab dog, and a custom made, one of a kind fly fishing rod. The auctioneer will be Robert Kausen. There will also be a silent auction. Sounds like it will be a lot of fun.

If any of you are interested in joining this wonderful bunch of ladies all that is required of you is your willingness to participate, create, knit or sew, etc. You may call Gloria Jason at 266-3579. Or, you may just show up at the weekly meeting on Thursday mornings at 9:30 at the Coffee Creek Fire Department. The ladies usually end their meeting with lunch at the Forest Café.

Anyone interested in joining Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, the Fire Crackers could call Pat Forbes, at 266-3322, or Joann Mathis, at 286-2217. The early stages of a plan for a fundraiser for the fire department are in the works. Pat and Joann will be meeting this week to map out some details before presenting it at a board meeting