

11/6/05

Sue Chatterton is 60! Ninety-five of her friends and family surprised her to a birthday potluck last Friday night. It was more than a birthday surprise; it was a tribute to Sue ... and to Roger, for all they do for the community through the fire department, church and whatever need crops up (not to mention for our dogs). Others have done as much, but none have done more, and it is done with pure hearts, and willing souls. In our way of showing them how high we hold them in our esteem, money was collected, in lieu of birthday presents, to be used towards a very well deserved vacation. The amount collected was a very good testimonial on how the North Forty feels about the Chatterton's. Even though it was Sue's birthday party, we know who will be going to Hawaii with her. But Roger is going to have to live up to his "mantra" ... "I live for Sue's happiness", because there is a long line of people who would be glad to be a stand-in.

I invited you to The Coffee Creek Community Church for a free Thanksgiving Dinner, and neglected to tell you what day. My apologies. You certainly won't want to miss this. It will be on Sunday, November 20, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you know a person who is unable to come to "dinner", call Bob and Vicki Fesler of Coffee Creek (266-3785). They will be happy to bring "dinner" to them. That Sunday brings an extra treat as the children who attended Kidder Creek Camp will be sharing camp stories and singing camp songs during church services, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Kelli Gant has been one of the people who have been working tirelessly, trying to get high speed broadband coverage in our area to benefit our schools, fire departments and community. She said, "Despite a lot of hard work, a 20-page benefit submission, and 200+ resident and business signatures on a support petition, Trinity Center area residents and Almega Cable were eliminated from the USDA Rural Utilities Services Broadband Access grant process this year. The grant would have funded equipment to bring Internet cable into the area, given free high-speed connections to our fire department, school, and library and funded a community computer center with ten computers for two years. The reason for our application rejection was that the per capital income in the area was "too high." (Those guys in Washington, DC should move to California and experience our cost of living for themselves.)"

Kelli continues, "Cable Internet is 50 times faster access than telephone dialup, you do not need an additional phone line or phone company voice mail service to avoid missed phone calls, more than one person in the household can be online at the same time, and you can stay connected 24 hours a day. This fast connection speed makes it enjoyable to do online banking, generate stock reports, browse weather sites with looping satellite maps, download music, share digital picture, and download software and antivirus updates. Getting broadband into our community is important for our school (student research, student online courses, and teacher education,) health and safety (quick access to safety and security information, training seminars, and medical research,) and economic development."

Kelli points out, "There are not many opportunities here in the North Forty for personal development and employment. Broadband access would allow residents to take online course at colleges, such as Shasta College, start small businesses that can market and sell their goods over the Internet, and allow many residents to work from home. And, as more corporations allow their employees to work remote, young families have the option to move to rural areas and raise their families in the same lifestyle we enjoy. Attracting and keeping young people is critical to the health of a community, both from an economic and safety position. The recent articles in the *Journal* about the lack of volunteers for fire fighting and medical emergency services are just one example why we need to strengthen our full-time community base. But, do not fear, cable Internet

could still be in our future. Almega Cable says that they will purchase the necessary equipment and provide us broadband service, if, at least 50 residents call Almega and sign up for one of their packages – “broadband service only” at \$49.99 a month and “broadband service with cable television at \$69.99 a month. Also, Almega says that they will increase their TV channel lineup from 23 to 50 when the new equipment is installed.”

There are two phone lines into the Eyman household, and Satellite TV. The cost for the extra line for the internet and TDS Internet Service comes to \$51.72. Signing up with Almega Cable for \$49.99 would save us \$1.73 a month, and my sweetheart and I could both be on at the internet at the same time. That’s pretty cool. Okay! So we only need 49 more households.... To sign up for broadband high-speed Internet service or ask a question, please call Almega Cable at 1-877-725-6342.

The Secret Santa’s would like to invite you to participate in bringing Christmas to a child in Coffee Creek and/or Trinity Center area. There are two ways you could choose to participate: 1) Make a cash donation by placing your gift in the cans located at Jaktri, Coffee Creek Country Store, Forest Café, Coffee Creek Ranch, Sasquatch or the Yellow Jacket. Money will be used to buy gifts or purchase the makings of a Christmas dinner. 2) Select an ornament with a gift idea from the Secret Santa trees at the Forest Cafe or the Yellow Jacket Purchase the gift and return it, wrapped with the identifying ornament, to the location where you got the ornament. All donations and gifts need to be in by Saturday, December 10. Please join the fun and give us a hand!

November the 30 will be the deadline for any additions or corrections to the North Trinity Lake Telephone Book. As most of you know, the phone directory is a fund raiser for the CCVFD and a lot of work goes into it to make it happen. With the cost of printing and materials continually rising, the cost of the book must also be raised in order to make the approximate \$1.00 profit on each directory. This years cost will be \$5.00 per book. The white pages alphabetically reflect all the household and local businesses numbers that have been submitted to the CCVFD Auxiliary, Fireflies. The Fireflies do not have access to these numbers unless you submit them. The yellow pages contain ads submitted for publication. All ads must be “art copy ready”. A business card is “art copy ready”, and is only \$20 for the year. A full page add is \$100, a half page add is \$50. There are quarter page ads, but I do not have the fee on that. Corrections and changes should be sent to CCVFD Fireflies, RT 2 Box 3951, Trinity Center CA 96091. There is a form in the back of the 2005 Phone Directory to help you with the information that will be needed.

There will be a Red Cross Disaster Action Team meeting at the Eyman’s home on 190 Lakeview Drive, on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:00 to 9:00. While you are marking your calendar, pencil in an Airport Layout Meeting for Thursday, December the 15 at the IOOF hall. I will confirm this date and have a time in the next North Forty.