

3/8/06

The TCVFD and CCVFD's Auxiliaries Fire Emergency Action Team (FEAT) met at the TCVFD fire house Friday, March 3 for its orientation meeting. Bob Bryant created a PowerPoint presentation explaining why FEAT is necessary for the fire community and community as a whole, and how it will function.

The TCVFD and CCVFD, although separate fire departments, work together as a team, handling all fire/rescue/EMS calls together as well as training together. This partnership was formed, at first, out of necessity to have enough fire personnel to handle an emergency and later because the teams worked seamlessly together; a testament to the leadership from each department, and the training, respect and friendship between the fire fighters. Even with this combined show of force, the teams are, at times, stretched to and beyond their limits; hence, the need for FEAT.

FEAT members will be trained to assist the two departments in such activities as directing traffic and crowd control, evacuation procedures, and much more. Each FEAT member will be fully trained to perform any task they are asked to do. This is a great way for the members of the community who are not able to be physically involved with the fire department to participate in this vital organization. A FEAT member will never be asked to "save a life" or "fight a fire" by direct contact. But to be a FEAT member, you must be a member of one of the two auxiliaries for insurance purposes.

The response to FEAT so far has been an enthusiastic and fantastic show of force, but in this case, more is better. Any questions concerning FEAT may be directed to Joann Mathis, 286-2217 or Gloria Eisan, 266-3399.

Next FEAT meeting will be Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department. That too would be a good time to get all your questions answered.

The TCVFD and CCVFD fire departments are also looking for and accepting qualified applicants for their fire fighting teams. Both fire departments have a zero tolerance for alcohol policy. This does not mean you must swear off alcohol, it means if you have had one drink, you may not report to an accident or fire scene. But if you plan on "indulging", a call-in is requested to pull yourself off the active list for the evening. This is for the safety and well-being of the victims of the emergency, and I respect the departments for this. For any questions about the joining the TCVFD, please call Roger or Sue Chatterton at 266-3677, and inquiries for the CCVFD, please call Jim or Linda Abercrombie at 266-3805

Louise Birch continues to amaze and then sadden us with her one-day good, the next-day not so good recovery. She really enjoys the cards and letters sent to her, and those of you who do not have her address; it is in care of her daughter, Sandy Green, 680 Hidden Valley Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527. If you plan to go visit Louise, a call or a card to her daughter, Sandy would be the best course of action. Sandy tries to fit the visits into a schedule that will not overwhelm Louise on any given day.

The Red Cross Disaster Action Team from Trinity Center/Coffee Creek met at the Weaverville Library Saturday, March 4 for an all day training session on the Red Cross's approach to Disaster Services, Mass Care, Shelter Operations, and Community Services. The classes, led by Mike Bagnod, DAT Coordinator, and Barbara Bagnod, Captain of the Weaverville DAT were a combination video and lecture. The next scheduled class will be Saturday, March 18 for CPR and First Aid Training. These Red Cross Certified classes, if taken by a non-Red Cross Volunteer,

would cost \$50.00. They are Free to Red Cross Volunteers. The DAT is still open to volunteers. If interested please call Betty Eyman at 266-3440.

TCVFD Auxiliary will be meeting on Friday, March 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the TCVFD Fire House to start planning for the upcoming Cinco de Mayo fundraiser where Mexican food will be served. It sounds to me like it is another of those "Can't miss" dates. I will be reporting back on time, place, etc.

The North Forty column's goal is to reach all segments of our communities. I know our community has more than TCVFD, the CCVFD, The Red Hatter's and the Red Cross, and Lions. I am pleading with those in the know about the other things in our midst that people would be interested in. I know we have a garden club and a poetry club, I suspect we have a, book club. And there are newsworthy things happening in our families all the time; a baby being born, a prize or degree being awarded, dad taking the garbage out the first time without being asked. You would be surprised on how much enjoyment others get out of reading about your "joy". PLEASE email me at bettyeyman@tds.net, or call me at 266-3440. If it needs to be done in an interview format, I would be delighted to come to your house for an interview.