

6/7/06

Three students from Trinity Center's Club Live volunteered their time picking up trash around Trinity Center on one recent Friday. The trio, with gloves and bags, left the school at 7:00 a.m. and returned in time for muffins and juice before school began. The three students, Connor Christner, Courtney Christner and Cody Castner were joined by Linda Solven, Club Live Coordinator, and Principal/Teacher Cara Lou Mackay. The kids had great attitudes and had a lot of fun. Connor Christner had the most interesting garbage with his jaw bone of a deer; Courtney Christner found the most valuable garbage with her collection of aluminum cans and plastic, and Cody Castner took first place with the most trash collected. The students said it was fun and they enjoyed giving this great service to the community. We send Kudos to these students who had no problem getting up early to do their part for the community. We give Kudos to Linda Solven and Cara Lou Mackay as well.

The TCVFD will be having its first planning meeting for its annual BBQ Fundraiser, Wednesday night, June 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the fire department. The BBQ, held each 4th of July weekend at the Wyntoon (now KOA) Campgrounds, has "THE BEST" pit roasted Pork and Tri Tips, served with beans, salad, and bread. Dessert, prepared by the ladies of the Coffee Creek Fireflies, will also be available. There will be music provided by the Roadhouse Band, compliments of KOA.

The all volunteer fire department is dependant on fund raisers to be able to buy and maintain equipment that protects all of our lives and property. All of us living this far from hospitals and medical care realize how important our firefighters/EMT's are to us, and a great number of us have had to call on them for help in our emergencies. It is during those times of crises that the high caliber of their training and professionalism is apparent and a blessing. Now would be a good time to mark your calendar for the BBQ on Saturday, July 1st. Food will be served from 1-4 p.m. I will be keeping you posted on plans for the BBQ as they develop.

Some of you may have been an unwitting participant in a recent FEAT (Fire Emergency Action Team) training process where new members were being trained in radio usage and traffic control in front of the fire department. Two FEAT members at a time would take turns directing the traffic as the rest of the members got into their vehicles to become the traffic, circling the block again and again. It could possibly be the most traffic Trinity Center has experienced in those few short blocks at one time. One young boy riding his bicycle through the traffic pattern obviously thought he was in the middle of something very important. His eyes practically filled his entire face as he listened to the instructions from the traffic controllers.

At the next FEAT training, the traffic control trainees were each given a small piece of paper with directions telling them to report to a mock scene. When they got there, they were given instructions on what their jobs were to be at the "Scene". It was a test to see how much we remembered about traffic control, and where the equipment was located on the trucks. I flunked! But Assistant Fire Chief, Roger Chatterton was gentle and kind and did not kick me of the team. He must see a spark of "can do" in me. The top of the class for this training were Pat Forbes and Patty Sprick. Way to go ladies"

Members are still being accepted for FEAT. If you are interested in this extremely important function of our fire fighting department, please call FEAT Commander, Bob Bryant at 286-2270, FEAT Captain, Norm Zeppa at 266-3412, or FEAT Lieutenant, Dave Forbes at 266-3322

The election for June 6 is over, and because my deadline to get this column to the Journal is Monday June 5th, I don't have the outcome yet, but I hope you all voted. Whatever the outcome, the constituents have spoken, and the person(s) they felt would do the best job have been selected. It is our job now to support the new incumbents, and make sure they live up to their campaign promises. It is also our job to make sure they hear what we have to say about the communities needs. It is time for all of us to take a more active roll in our lives, not only in politics and community decisions, but the medical decisions made by our doctors and education given to our children

Robyn Maddux, a long time resident of Trinity Center and member of the TCVFD has completed her studies and is certified with Nor Cal to be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Robyn recently bought a home in Lewiston, and has become a member of the Lewiston Volunteer Fire Department as well as the TCVFD. Congratulations, and both communities are darn lucky to have you, Robyn.

Dr. Glenn Kobe will be offering free classes to become a "First Responder". This class will be open to anyone in the community who wish to learn more about first aid. More about this in next weeks column

Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Fire Departments worked together for several hours last week to rescue a cat that managed to climb some 80 feet up a tree. The owner, a young woman from San Francisco, was camping in the Coffee Creek Camp grounds with the cat, who is said to be a seasoned camper. The lady came into the KOA store with tears in her eyes seeking help as the cat had been in the tree for three days, and no amount of coaching could entice it down. The owner spread a tarp under the tree, padding the rocks, in case the cat should fall asleep and fall off the tree limb. She even slept under the tree, consoling the cat during the night - as it cried all night long. Both fire departments discovered they didn't have a ladder long enough, and the tall spindly pine tree was not safe to climb, so Linda Cunningham and Linda Abercrombie of the CCVFD spearheaded a rescue effort over a 7 hour period that ended happily when Ted Watkins of Watkins Tree Service was called, and with the help of his "Lift Truck" he was able to get the poor cat down unharmed, but very hungry and thirsty.

The vacation for this family was extended two days, and cost \$400 more than they had anticipated. It seems the cat, who was adopted from a cat rescue, found the right owners, but one wonders how many of its lives it used up, and if it will be taken on another camping trip.

The Ninety Nine's, Inc, International Organization of Women Pilots, had a "Fly-In" at the Trinity Center Swett Airport, with 11 airplanes participating and 20 women pilots who had lunch on Pat Forbes deck. A number of our local women belong to this women's pilot association that was founded in 1929 by 99 women pilots, including Amelia Earhart. An entire column could be written about this organization, and the women who created history, as a matter of fact, Kelli Gant did just that. Her essay titled "Women In Aviation" can be accessed on the internet. To mention just a few local members tonight, Pat Forbes, Eleanor Scott, Kelli Gant, all of Trinity Center and Donna Harmon of Weaverville are all active pilots who fly into the deep blue beyond.

Our community thanks the Ninety Nine's for choosing our airport for their fly-in, and we hope to see many more fly-In's in our future.