

North Forty  
By: Bob Bryant (coptrainer@tds.net)

I mentioned a month ago that the Trinity Center and Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Departments are conducting random patrols for illegal campfires. It seems we are finding illegal fires on an average of every other patrol. An interesting characteristic of most of these fires is that they are being attended by groups of young folks who are also drinking. This is a dangerous combination that could easily result in a disaster. The other night two fires were found, one by a USFS patrol and one by TCVFD. These patrols will continue as long as there is a high threat of wildfire.

With the Labor Day weekend just around the corner, there are various activities to report. The Lions Club will be holding their annual Fly-In BBQ on Sunday, September 2nd. The permit for the pit BBQ has been obtained and a great weekend is being planned. Also that weekend, the TCVFD will hold their annual open house on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. The fire department will be offering free hot dogs, chips and drinks as they show off their engines and other equipment. The first fifty children will receive free coloring books and crayons. Hours are 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

In conjunction with the open house, the TCVFD Auxiliary will hold a fund raising "Fire Sale" across from the fire department. The hours of the sale are 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you'd like to help with the fire sale, or if you have something to donate, call Linda Baird (266-3754) or Robin Reilly (266-3302). The Auxiliary is looking for small or large saleable items including small appliances, clothing, books, toys, furniture, etc. If you have items to donate or have questions, call Linda or Robin.

After perusing the goods at the fire sale on Saturday, check out the Ycatapom Inn. It's for sale and will be having an open house. This is a part of Trinity Center history and is a magnificent building.

Good news is always fun to report and I have some real good news. During the summer months one of the favorite pastimes of local folks and visitors alike is having a meal or just an ice cream at the Mini Kat. All summer long we mourned the loss of the Mini Kat at the end of the season. Word had gotten out that this fine establishment had lost its lease and wouldn't be in business, as we know it, next summer. Well, I'm very happy to report that the lease holders have relented and have renewed the lease for next year. Burgers and ice cream for everybody! You better hurry though, the Mini Kat closes after the Labor Day weekend.

I haven't had a chance to fish the lake the past few weeks so I don't have a personal report. I did receive a report from Bernie though. Seems he and Dale went out on Dale's patio boat and caught fish. Bernie reports the smallmouth bass were in a cove south of the Trinity Center marina. They were in the cove trying to get out of the wind and it paid off. Trolling spinners and fishing live bait did the trick on this outing. Stop by and ask Bernie about it. With the water so low, it's hard to know where to fish since all the usual spots are high and dry. Be careful if you're in a boat since there are hazards out there that aren't usually present when the water is higher.

Time is running out to buy your tickets for Dick Hamilton's retirement BBQ. Call Martie Mullen at 266-3451 by September 15 to make your reservations. Reservations are required so enough food and drink can be ordered for everybody. This event will be held at the IOOF Hall on September 22. The \$18.00 price includes BBQ and a gift.