

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

It's my pleasure to stand in for Betty this week as she visits family during the holidays. I hope you're having a great time Betty.

In our small community, friends and family are our focus. In good times and bad, our friends are there for us. When we leave this paradise we are usually off to visit family. If a member of our community suffers a loss, friends are there to help. As you probably know, our community recently lost a good friend. Allen Cheever Wright will be missed.

I received the following message from Virginia Allin who writes; The Secret Santas had a fun time this year with an increase in Santa shoppers, wrappers and donors. It made the season joyful for all as we shopped and then gathered to wrap gifts for 31 children. We very much appreciate the help we got from individuals who took ornaments from the trees at Yellow Jacket, Sasquatch and Forest Cafe, purchased the gifts and returned a wrapped present to Secret Santa. Secret Santa was happy to give Turkey dinner fixins' for several families. Individual and business cash donations were very generous. Once again we appreciated donations from North Lake businesses: Jaktri Market, Coffee Creek Country Store, Lucky's (GLM), North Lake Auto, Sasquatch, Bonanza King Resort and Glenn Koby, M.D. We also received donations of leftover Halloween candy to sweeten the kids' holidays. Our small communities should be very proud of these efforts that involve so many in the spirit of giving. A Huge Thank You to all.

In case you haven't heard or read, 2008 brings with it some new laws you need to be aware of. The most publicized new laws are the laws regarding cell-phone usage. Effective July 1, it will be unlawful to use your hand-held cell-phone while driving unless you're using a hands-free device. If you're a minor, you may not use any cell-phone or texting device while driving, hands-free or not. Check out <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/> for more information regarding these laws.

Other new laws, effective January 1, make it unlawful for a person to smoke a pipe, cigar, or cigarette in a motor vehicle any time a minor is present in the vehicle. Remember, a minor is anyone under the age of 18. The minimum wage will increase to \$8.00 an hour. Another law allows shoppers to cash in gift certificates that have less than \$10 left in value. It's also illegal to sell or use a product that obstructs or impairs the recognition of a license plate by an electronic device operated by police or toll authority, such as a red-light camera.

60 years together! Pastors Fred and Roberta Boring celebrated their anniversary by enjoying a fine dinner with friends at Mike and Sue Mayo's home last week. Mike, quite the cook, served pasta and ribs. Thanks for a great meal Mike and congratulations to Fred and Roberta. What a couple. If you've never had the opportunity to listen to Fred and Roberta talk about their experiences, especially as a young couple, you're missing out on a treat. Fred often weaves these stories into his sermons at Coffee Creek Community Church. Happy Anniversary Fred and Roberta!

Have a Happy and Safe New Year!