

North Forty

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The holidays are over, we got our beautiful blanket of snow, and now it is time to give thanks for what we have, what we were able to do, who we were able to do it for, and who helped make it possible.

The "All Night New Years Eve" party for the youths of the Coffee Creek Church that was held at their new Youth's Center was a huge success. Tina Wood and Josephine Dunham who chaperoned the "well behaved" youths said it was truly "All Night". They started out with 17 with 14 making it an all night, stay awake fun fest. Thanks to the Elders of the Church who donated food and money, Longs Drug Store for a donation of soda's and chips, Ester at the Coffee Creek Country Store for all the movies, and Dave Wood, who made his famous Pizza's that were eaten as soon as they came out of the brand new oven donated by Mary and Barry Bowen. Also, thanks to Tony Capstick and the crew who helped him move the pool table, foosball, TV etc. so the kids could have even more fun.

Kudos' to Joe and Debbie Councilman, along with Linda Solven who provided us with an "All You Can Eat Crab Feed" in December that was put together with only a couple of weeks notice. Joe got the Crab, cooked them and cleaned all of them, and went door to door to sell the left over crab. Debbie was in charge of the Salad and Bread, and Linda took care of the management of the ticket sales, set-up, and greeter. A big thank you to the Community for once again was supporting our schools fundraisers.

Jarrett Solven has left for Iraq on January 6 and will be there for 14 months. His mailing address will be forthcoming. Look for it here and at the post office. Jeremiah Solven is in California going to College on a very prestigious four year scholarship that is awarded only by high recommendations, and outstanding achievements in public service, and personal conduct. Jeremiah will be studying for an Architectural Degree. Linda said she had the entire family home for the holidays.

Robin Riley has sent in an update from on the Gratten Flat area. She said one of their part-timers, Ray Radley and Blondie, decided to give "full time" living in their log cabin a try. "They made it until their waterline froze during the December cold spell". Robin said she never saw two people pack up so fast and head for the flat land. They will be back with the spring thaw. You have to be hardy to live in Gratten Flat all year round, such as Brendan, Liza and Lefty who live in a 29 foot trailer whose heating system is quite unique. Robin said anyone interested in wintering off the grid in a trailer in comfort should seek their expertise.

Robin said, "Mike Boggs and his son know all the tricks to get through all the seasons. He actually had about 30 people from an orphanage in Mexico up for New Years Eve sledding their hearts out. The Reilly's have marked their 20th anniversary of living full time in the woods. This is the first year that Don decided he was sick and very tired of digging the cars out and bought himself a John Deer equipped with a snow plow and has been scooping, scrapping and plowing snow, and enjoying it. If you should happen to see Don in his Expedition, ask him about the big bandage that says "OUCH" attached the tailgate.