

North Forty

by Kelli Gant

The start of the winter season has hit the North Trinity Lake area. Our hills have been dusted with the white stuff and our gardens have retreated into their winter sleep. There are still plenty of activities in town to help pass the time until spring - join the Lions, volunteer at the school, start a gourmet club, help a neighbor with winter tasks, and participate in these upcoming events:

Secret Santa trees are up at Jaktri Market, Coffee Creek Country Store, and KOA. Stop by, select an ornament, and brighten the holiday for children in our community. The Secret Santa can always use cash and checks to buy extra gifts and provide the fixings for holiday meals; and he is in need of turkeys. Please return wrapped gifts by December 9th, with the ornament lightly attached. Contact Virginia Allin for additional details.

Need a part-time job for 10 weeks? The U.S. Census is looking for census takers. A qualifying exam will be given on December 18 at 1:30 at the IOOF Hall. Taker pay is \$11.50/hr, crew leaders get \$13/hr, and travel is 55¢/mile. Census takers can work full or part time and preferably serve in areas where they live.

A Lions Holiday Dinner for seniors over 55 years old will be served on Saturday, December 12 at 6 pm at the IOOF Hall. The dinner is free of charge. The menu includes turkey, ham, all the fixings, and dessert.

The Trinity County Sheriff and TCVFD are collecting teddy bears for children at risk. The bears are used to comfort children during emergencies and interventions. The bears, or other animals, must be soft, cuddly, and child-sized. There will be a collection box at the Lions Senior Dinner or contact the TCVFD.

The Trinity Center School presents "Make This December One to Remember" at the school on Wednesday, December 16 at 6 pm (please note the location change from last year.) The program includes piano solos and class songs and solos sung by the choir kids. The program will end with the audience joining the caroling.

Be sure to check the online calendar (www.northtrinitylake.com) for other community activities and updates.

This is the perfect time of year to reflect on why we are thankful to experience life in the Trinity Lake area -- ours is a peaceful environment where the world's problems seem so far away; we are strong from self sufficiency and are grounded in our environment; here neighbors help each other because it is the right thing to do; and since we are proud of our area, we welcome strangers with smiles and wave to one another as we pass on the road. Living in a rural community is special; let's continue working hard together to keep the North Lake community alive, healthy, and flourishing.

Lynn, Tony, Barry, and I wish you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving.