

North Forty (February 3, 2010)  
By Tony S. Valls (tonyv@tds.net)

We finally have a blanket of snow in the North Trinity Lake area. I've been looking forward to snow all winter. Now that we have it I'm reminded about the downside of living with snow. I received a call from my friend Barry Bowen the other day while I was trying to put some order to my home after the storms. The power outages and surges knocked his computer offline and did a number on his television. He asked if I could fix them.

I swung by later that evening and got his computer back on the Internet. That was a piece of cake. I then investigated his TV in the front room. The TV had video, but no sound. I took a look at the web of wires bursting out from behind his TV, satellite box, stereo and DVD player. I could only scratch my head. I told him I'd be back the next day to tackle this project.

The next day I rolled up my sleeves and dove in. I followed wires. I read labels on plugs (some I understood, some I didn't, the rest I guessed what they could be). I felt like Inspector Clouseau banging my head on a shelf, spilling papers of notes and instructions all over the floor and fumbling with the flashlight.

I swapped wires around, pulled plugs out and plugged them back in. After awhile, I turned everything on, risking electrocution, and played with the wires some more. Suddenly, I had video and sound. I was declared a hero and went home.

Later, that evening, Barry called me back. "Tony, I've got sound on my other two TVs, but no picture." I asked him if they worked before I fixed the TV in the front room. He told me yes. I was completely stumped. So, I told Barry what any other professional would say. "The problem is with the satellite company."

Trinity Center's Booster Club is sponsoring a "Sweetheart Raffle and Family Bingo Night" fundraiser Friday, February 12 at the IOOF Hall. Doors will open at 5 p.m. It will be a fun night filled with Bingo, raffles and cake auctions. Snacks will be available for purchase. Bring your Valentine, your family and friends to support the effort to keep Trinity Center School's music program alive for next year.

Coffee Creek School is tentatively planning a live chess game. This particular game of chess will be played on an outdoor "board" with students, staff, parents and community members being the "pieces." The game, being coordinated by Annie Burke, will need 32 "pieces," plus at least 8 substitutes. The lower age limit will be seven years old, for practical purposes, and there is no upper age limit. The event is planned for sometime in the spring and will be held either on the Coffee Creek ball field or on the tennis court at Coffee Creek School. If there are enough participants this will be a go. Call the school at 266-3344 or email Annie Burke at [aburke@tcoek12.org](mailto:aburke@tcoek12.org).