

6/28/05

By the time you read this, I will FINALLY be back in Trinity Center... back to God's country. It is really a different life here. I still love Santa Rosa, it is beautiful, and my children live here, but it lacks the charm and peacefulness of the great North Forty area. Life seems so much harder here. The panhandlers on the street corners seem to be skinnier and dirtier, and working far later into the evenings than when I was here before. There was recently a string of vandalisms two streets away from my daughter's house where senseless damage was inflicted on cars and homes. One home owner in the middle of the string thought he had escaped the carnage, only to find the top of his new Camry was dented in from someone obviously jumping on it. A recent story in the local Santa Rosa newspaper was lamenting the shortage of police officers and how hard it was to find qualified applicants to recruit. One of the reasons suggested was the cost of living in the area. The median range for homes in Sonoma County has reached \$500,000, and the employment paycheck has not kept up with the cost of living. The police department wishes the gangs had as hard a time recruiting new members as the department does.

We are so lucky to be where we are. Even more lucky to have a group of men and women willing to literally commit the bigger portion of their lives to the fire department, taking training classes, keeping in shape, and being there when we need them in life threatening situations. And remember the TCVFD has a zero tolerance of alcohol, meaning if a fireman has had even one glass of wine, they cannot respond to a call.

This is a good time, and my last chance to encourage you to attend the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Departments annual 4th of July BBQ that is being held Saturday, July 2, at the Wyntoon Resort from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. As I mentioned before, this is a fundraiser for the benefit of the fire departments building fund to add room to the fire house to shelter the necessary life saving equipment. Let's all, as a community, chip in and do our part in keeping our fire department equipped to allow them to do the best job they can do in saving our lives and those of our loved ones. Think of the fun and good eats you will have by doing it.

I have nothing new to report on Crow. But of course I am in Santa Rosa, and there might be something happening in the North Forty area I haven't heard about yet. However, Roger Chatterton and his Task Force keep promising us a breakthrough any day, and their complete faith that Crow is alive and unmolested. This is one more thing we have that Santa Rosa does not have, the ability to laugh and have fun. As I related the sad story of Crow to friends and family here in Santa Rosa, they didn't see the humor. They thought Crow was a real live bird, and thought the perpetrators should be caught and punished to the full extent of the law. Well, we think they should be punished too. But our punishment should be as humorous as Crow's adventure, or misadventure. And when Crow is returned (We can only rely on Chatterton's words that he will be returned) the distraught wives will have a fitting punishment ready for those responsible for all the trauma Crow has been through, not to mention the emotional roller coaster the wives have been through. I guess time will tell.