

9/27/06

The first summer season has ended for our new neighbor, KOA. The change-over from “Wyntoon” to KOA has not been an easy one. It has been a period of learning what works and what does not. Where most KOA campgrounds are “pass through”, Trinity Center (Wyntoon) is a “destination” camp. Families have been coming here for 30 years, and have revisited the same camp site year after year, making friends with the neighboring campers, creating a family reunion atmosphere. Some even married into the families they met at Wyntoon. The first disaster was a glitch in the reservation system, coupled with the low end of the learning curve, where sites that had been reserved by the same family for 30 years were assigned to new campers. Then there was the fire down by the docks, and the freak wind that swooped in and tossed the boats and the slips around like they were dominoes, damaging 20 boats in KOA and tore out an entire arm of slips.

It took some doing to untangle the reservation fiasco, but they did it. They got through the fire, which could have been way worse than it was without the immediate and professional response from the TCVFD and the CCVFD, and they weathered (no pun intended) the freak wind storm. There are still more lessons to learn, and they will, and with the support of the KOA Corporation, they will continue to improve and support the North Forty communities as well as the repeat and first time campers.

And it all begins now. Managers, Rita and Tom Higley, have returned to their Naples Florida KOA and Assistant Managers, Pat and Denny Martin, have stepped up to the plate to continue improving on what the Trinity Lake KOA has to offer. Not too many of you have had the chance to meet Pat yet, as she was usually in the back office doing her bookwork thing. She’ll be spending more time in the front of the store where you will get the chance to meet her and enjoy her friendly personality. More of you have seen Denny working around outside. He usually has a smile on his face and is right there to help in any situation. Now his responsibilities have increased just as his wife, Pat’s has. They are both up to it, and we are lucky to have them.

The first good news is the store campground and cabins will stay open all winter. The second good news is they will be improving and increasing the grocery line, and then there is the possibility of lowering the gas prices.

The Trinity Center Community Church’s guest speaker last Sunday was the Executive Director of the Good News Rescue Mission in Redding, Jim Dahl and his wife Karen. The Rescue Mission provides help for people in need of food or lodging for a short period of time, while they participate in a program to become self supportive. The Dahl’s brought four people who have benefited from this program, and has overcome addictions of one sort or another, and have rebuilt their lives.

The Good News Rescue Mission, located on South Market Street in Redding, (Phone number 530 241-5754) has a food kitchen and a learning center, and welcomes any donation of non-perishable foods, clothing, furniture, or cars. Of course money is always needed.

Hans and Martha Hilleby’s log house on Lakeview Drive, facing the airport runway, now has its giant log beams that span 60 feet across the top level. The crew put on quite a show for those of us lucky enough to watch as the crane picked up the huge beams (probably 2 feet in diameter and 30 feet long) and raise them with such accuracy to the two guys with enough courage to stand on scaffolds and direct the log into its final resting place. Todd, on one end of the building, added a ladder (which looked unstable) to his scaffold to climb high enough to do his job. David on the other end of the building already had his scaffold up so high it would make your nose bleed. They

made it look so easy, while Brad maneuvered a forklift under two of these logs like they were sticks to transport them to the crane. In Trinity Center, we get our entertainment where we can.

The Celebration of Life for our three great ladies, Louise Birch, Cleo Symour and Lib Rymer, held last Sunday packed the pews in the Coffee Creek Community Church with friends and families from Southern California, Oregon, Etna, and our own North Forty Communities. Pastor Fred Boring said, "It was a very upbeat, exciting celebration filled with love and caring". The food table was filled and brimming over with food and desserts. Pastor Boring said no one wanted to leave and many sat around for a couple of hours afterward just laughing and visiting.

Speaking of Pastor Fred. . . He is doing fantastic after he was surgically fitted for a pacemaker last week. He said he was tired of "studying", which is all the work he can do for a couple of weeks. He did not sound too disappointed that he could not carry in the wood, and he thought he would try to stretch his limitation to get him out of doing the dishes... but no luck. Good for you Roberta.

Bobbie Graham has proven once again what a strong "gutsy" woman she is, and she picked the hard way to do it. While fishing alone, with her dog, Bobbie re-baited her fishing hook for one last cast, lost her footing and went down. She heard a "pop" and thought she had broken her fishing pole. She didn't. She broke both bones in her right leg. She knew she saw a car go in to the fishing area, and not go out, so she positioned her good leg under the broken one and scooted on her "rear" to a point she figured her yelling would get some attention. Two fishermen came to her aid, and one brought out his duck tape and a couple of sticks and splinted the leg as the second went to find cell coverage to call 911.

After two ambulance rides, one to Weaverville hospital to determine, Yep, she broke her leg and the second on down to Redding Mercy Hospital where Bobbie had surgery to place a steel plate to secure the bones. She is home recuperating, but has had an additional test of her "gutsy" reputation when she was stung by a bee on her right elbow, which swelled her arm from elbow to wrist. . . another trip to the hospital and by this time she could not close her right eye and the left side of her mouth drooped downwards. After shots of stuff you will have to ask Bobbie about, her face is recovering to the point she can almost blink her eyelid, and her mouth is almost back to normal. Okay Bobbie, you have proved your point.... You ARE a gusty lady. Now, no more mishaps!