

12/05/07



For the second time in the history of the landmark building that housed the Forest Café in Coffee Creek was burning, the first time, in 1981, a small fire was rapidly extinguished, but the second time it was destroyed by the blazing fire. Last Thursday, November 29, at about 3:15 p.m., Coffee Creek VFD and Trinity Center VFD firefighters arrived to the fully engulfed building that had flames that appeared to encircle the building and shoot several feet above the roof. Weaverville FD responded with a water tender, and CalFire sent a pumper.

Fire Chief Roger Chatterton said, “The progress of fighting the fire was hampered by privately owned vehicles parking in such a manner the fire trucks could not reach the burning building, and the fire fighters had to repeatedly move onlookers out of the way for safety reasons. This was a good example of why there is a need for FEAT (Fire Emergency Action Team)”, Trinity County Sheriffs Department responded a unit which then handled spectator management and traffic control.

It took the combined Coffee Creek VFD and Trinity Center VFD 5 hours and 15 minutes to completely extinguish the fire. They used a Thermal Imager to make sure there were no hot spots anywhere in or around the structure. There were no injuries sustained by any firefighter and no equipment was lost or destroyed, and the fire was extinguished quickly enough that there was no structural collapse. However, the building is a total loss and will have to be razed. The call for assistance to the Weaverville Fire Department was canceled, and CalFire mutual aid pumper was placed on stand-by and never put into service as the resources of CCVFD/TCVFD had the fire contained and controlled by the time of mutual aid arrival, proving the worth of both fire departments working and training together.

An employee finished his shift and locked the Café about 1 hour before the fire was reported. The studio apartment above the Café temporarily housed two adults, two children and 3 dogs. The family was away at the time of the fire, and fire fighters were able to get all 3 dogs to safety. However, one of the dogs required resuscitation, but fully recovered.

A fire inspector is expected to arrive this week to determine origin and cause of the fire. Electrical wiring is suspected. It is not clear at this time if the Forest Café will be rebuilt.

The owners, Bill and Chris Outland responded to the fire scene as soon as they were notified, and were very distraught as they watched their business go up in flames. After semi retiring from Amtrak, (Bill as a cook and Chris as a porter), the Outlands bought the business from Smokey Silva a little more than 3 years ago.

The family temporarily staying in the studio apartment above the Café, Richard Bigger and Winter Neely, Jolene Bigger, 6 and Tessa Neely, 9 lost all they owned in the fire. The Red Cross, Coffee Creek Church and the North Forty Community have already started to help the family with blankets, food, dog food, gift certificate to Longs, and money to handle their immediate basic need. They are still in need of clothing, kitchen ware and furniture, and a place to live. The two girls, age 6 and 9, wear children size 7 and 6. Winter wears size 12, and Richard wears extra large shirts and 34" waist and 32" length pants. Winter and Richard's mailing address is HC2 3964, Trinity Center, CA 96091. They will be staying with Bobby and Dana Graham for a few days. For further information on the families needs, please call Bobby Graham at 266-3537 or Mike and Sue Mayo at 266-3802

December is a busy month at Coffee Creek Elementary School. The School Board meets on Wednesday, December 4th, at 4:00 p.m. At this meeting two new board members will be sworn in.

The students from Coffee Creek created a beautiful scale model of the Joss House which is on display at the Highland Art Center in Weaverville. Be sure to go see the entire display and vote for the Joss House! The model with the most votes will win \$500.

The students are preparing for their Christmas Play at the IOOF Hall. The dress rehearsal for the performance will be Friday, December 14th, at 10:30 a.m. The evening performance will be Friday, December 14th, at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to come to one of the performances. If you come to the evening performance, you will be treated to student-made holiday treats! Christmas vacation for Coffee Creek will begin on Saturday, December 22nd. School will resume on January 7th, 2008.

The Secret Santa gifts are due, wrapped and ornament attached, by Monday December 10. Please return them to the location you picked the ornament from. Because the Tree at the Forest Café was destroyed in the fire, please return the gifts selected there to any of the remaining standing trees with a notation it originally came from the Forest Café. This community is so great at making sure our young people are cared for.

Coffee Creek Community Church Pastor Boring is doing much better after suffering a TIA. He has a doctor's appointment Wednesday of this week to keep him "in-line" health wise.

Pastor Fred and his wife, Roberta will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, January 12 at 12 00 p.m. at the IOOF Hall in Trinity Center. EVERYONE is invited, The Boring's are providing the meat, and those who wish could bring a side dish salad or dessert. There will be a three tiered anniversary cake provided. BUT!!!! Fred said **absolutely no gifts!!** He didn't say **No money tree.** so there will be a money tree for those who wish to use it. Roberta said this is going to be a party to beat all parties. Let's help them do that.

Don't miss the Lions annual Senior Christmas Dinner at the IOOF Hall on December 8 starting at 6:00 p.m. This free dinner is offered to all seniors from Coffee Creek, Trinity Center, and Covington Mill. Transportation is available to the IOOF Hall as well as home deliveries for seniors who are either unable to drive, or are home bound. A reservation is required for the

dinner of Ham and Turkey with all the trimmings. We hope you have already called Cindy Ahmann, 266-3504, or Cheryl Mogensen, 266-3216 to do this..

The Coffee Creek Community Church will have their annual Christmas party on Sunday,, December 9 starting at 6:00 p.m. with the decoration of the Christmas Tree, gift exchange, and pot-luck dinner.

The Robyn Renton Chapter of Red Hat Christmas Luncheon has been set for December 17, at 12:00 p.m. at Pat Forbes house. Bring your favorite dish and a gift to share in the riotous “Bandit” gift exchange. This is a Red Hat event to full regalia is required, but this is your chance to be even more colorful with Christmas enhancements.

The Community Service District Board will meet Tuesday December 8, at 7:00 at the IOOF Hall. Please show your support and come to the meeting. There will be no North Trinity Lake Garden Club for the months of December, January and February.

Pancake Breakfast and Christmas tree sales were very successful. The eight graders and their parents would like to thank everyone who supported this event. Without this GREAT community it would not have happened. Please give special thanks to everyone! Also, there are a dozen trees left over. They will be on sale here at the school for a minimum donation of \$20.00 each. First come first serve.