

Community, company rally to aid displaced workers

FROM CATHERINE WESTROPE
WEAVERVILLE

Trinity River Lumber Company is very unique in how it deals with its employees, as is Trinity County with the aid and support shown to all.

My fiancé had started at the mill just over a month before that dreadful fire. We were just starting to get on our feet and the bottom fell out. Not having that check was devastating. Supporting the family has been

difficult at best.

We were counting change trying to figure out what to do next, and I went to the mail and there was a check from the Golden Rule fund. We went straight to Tops Super Foods and bought groceries, and paid on our electric bill, something we were fretting about how to do. Then today we received a meat and grocery pack. I had one chicken and one pound of ground beef left in the refrigerator.

Since he was not there long enough to draw unemployment and I am headed for surgery in Redding in a little over a week, so I cannot work right now, you can scarcely imagine how stressful things are.

I am a student and of course my funding check is all mixed up and so how on earth will we pay the next bill facing us? Things were hard before and we got through it, and we will again. Had it not been for the help of

this community and all the folks at the mill, I would be hand-writing this as I would have no electricity to use this computer. Nor would I be able to attend my online school. Which is our next step toward security.

I will never be able to show my gratitude enough. I am thankful that I moved here not six short years ago, to a community that does not take the attitude, "It's not my problem, I have enough of my own."

Restore funds to Sheriff's Department

FROM STAN STETSON
HAYFORK

In the past 40 years I've seen the Board of Supervisors do a lot of stupid things. The stupidest things have been the result of the state doing something dumb and the supervisors trying to fix it by doing something dumber.

Recent budget cuts have left the Sheriff's Department in dire straits. The state has taken property tax money from the county to balance the state budget. This is money that would be in the general fund to pay for deputies on the street. This loss of funding may result in only three deputies being available to patrol the whole county. This is not a big thing to me, but it concerns me a lot for my mother, my mother-in-law, and the three toddlers who were wandering on Highway 3 alone last week.

We don't have many bank robberies or murders, but we, as citizens, deserve to have deputies available to respond to children in need, domestic violence, search and rescue, crimes in progress and fire evacuations.

Three deputies won't cut it. If the Governor sees fit to give back our property tax money, or float a bond to make funds available to the county, the supervisors should see fit to use these general fund dollars to restore funding for the Sheriff's Department.

The Sheriff's Department always wants more money and has been a thorn in the side of the supervisors. Now is not the time to cut the funding to the point where we have no real law enforcement at all.

Veterans miss out on care

FROM CAROLYN MUNN
HAYFORK

There are some things in the raging medical care debate that have not been told to the public, so let me tell. As a low-income veteran of the Vietnam War, I am supposed to get my medical care for free.

Several years ago, I tripped and fell on my living room floor — the floor I'd asked the county, via the CDBG Program, to help me repair, at a cost of \$840. I was turned down because someone told them I had never worked a day of my life, including the 6½ years I served in uniform.

As a result of my injuries, I needed surgery immediately and I tried to contact the local VA assistance office about transportation to the Redding VA clinic. I had no success. I had to go to Trinity Hospital where I was put back together at a cost of \$13,760. Not one penny was paid by the Veterans Administration because they were not notified of an emergency 24 hours ahead of time. The county ate the \$13,760.

Things have not changed since then: there is no medical transportation in Trinity County for veterans and neither Trinity County nor the Veterans Administration



has made any effort to help veterans get to any VA medical facility. The comment was made that I was looking for limousine service from my front door and I wasn't going to get it, along with a few other insults.

While I do have Medicare, it doesn't pay but 80 percent of hospital surgeries. This means that I have had to give up any hope of ever getting the knee replacements I need; I haven't got the \$3,000 per knee I'd have to pay. The only reason I can walk at all is due to the generosity of the Hayfork community in giving me second-hand walkers for free. VA will not pay for so much as a flu shot outside of a VA facility, no matter how far away or how hard it is to get there.

Medical insurance does not just involve who pays the doctor, it also involves getting to the doctor. As long as I can't get to the knee doctor, I have to do without or stick the county with my bills at taxpayer expense; bills that will be larger later because I didn't see the doctor now.

Stepping up to help pool, kids

FROM JIM FRENCH
WEAVERVILLE LION'S CLUB

The Weaverville Lion's Club would like to thank the following clubs, businesses and individuals for donating to the Lion's Club Pool Subsidy Project.

Donations allowed children to access the new pool facility for only \$1 for most of the summer, dramatically increasing general child pool attendance.

Many thanks go to Weaverville Lion's Club, Weaverville Glass, Joe Price, E Clampus Vitus, Trinity River Lumber Co., Virginia Updegrave, Frank Wall, North Fork Grange, Compassionate Use Assoc. of Trinity County, Ginger Ruiz, Dan and June Malloy, Erikson Consulting/Surveying, Earl and Hazel Hilbert, Dick and Charlene DeRosear, Donham Family Trust, Barbara Holland Chipman, Edmond Bates, Trinity Lake Lions, Bessie Moore, Tops Super Foods, and Weaverville Rotary.

We couldn't have done it without you.

A part of the community

FROM CONNIE JOHNSON
WEAVERVILLE

As a client of Trinity County Behavioral Health, I would like to formally introduce myself to this community. I have lived in Trinity County since 1997. I have a disability, but it is only a small part of who I am.

I have hobbies, some of which include cross stitch, soup making, wire wrapping, crocheting, decoupage, quilting and a few others. Some I have dabbled in, others I am perfecting. I enjoy camping and have gone on a few camping trips. Camping is a wonderful way to spend quality time with family and friends in the wondrous beauty of Trinity County. I have attended Mountain Chapel Assembly of God Church several times in the last two years, and I enjoy reading Christian material at home.

It is great to be accepted in this community — a smile and a kind word are appreciated. I spend a lot of time at Milestones, a client-operated drop-in center, and have taught some classes there in arts and crafts. It is a comfort knowing I can go there and be accepted in a loving environment, where there is always a listening ear. When asked "How are you?" we can honestly answer how we really feel.

I applaud myself for the independence I have achieved, and feel much accomplishment in being able to live in, and maintain my own apartment. With the help of those I associate with at Behavioral Health, I feel I have managed my symptoms quite well. I am motivated to reach goals and be healthy in all aspects.

A great percentage of people with mental health issues have a chemical imbalance in their brains. As with any other medical condition, it can often be helped with medication and/or therapy. In my opinion, people with mental illnesses are stigmatized, often induced by the media. I am sensitive to other people's feelings and needs, and would like to be treated in the same manner.

With love to my fellow Trinity County residents.

Arboreal elegance lost

FROM BARBARA MOORE
LEWISTON

Lollipop trees? I probably won't be around to walk in their shade and there will be a generation with no youthful memories of them, but in 10 to 15 years Weaverville should have all the cost-effective arboreal elegance of a Costco parking lot.

I don't know what's "right" or "best" but do we always have to accept that someone else knows what is best for us? They have the money but isn't it our money?

Thank you Trinity County

FROM TIANNA RUSSELL, OTI, AND MARISA MOORE, OTI
WEAVERVILLE

Thank you Trinity County, for the hospitality we received while staying here for the duration of our occupational therapy internship at Trinity County Behavioral Health Services. We have been overwhelmed by the kindness of the staff and clients; in fact, coming from the city, we were impressed by the friendliness of the entire community. Everyone, from the employees at CVS and Tops to the volunteers at the Golden Age Center was extremely inviting.

An extra thank you to the board of directors of Behavioral Health Services who approved the funding of our internship program, providing us with the opportunity to live and work here in Trinity County. We are appreciative of the many experiences we were afforded to apply and build on our training in occupational therapy; this is due to the generosity of the community, welcoming us into various programs such as Golden Age, Juvenile Hall, Alps View, Trinity Choices and the client drop-in centers in Weaverville and Hayfork.

We are extremely grateful for the supervision we received under Dr. Anne MacRae, PhD, OTR/L, allowing us to experience more than any other internship could offer. A special thank you to the consumers of Horizons and Milestones; we will miss you.

Exploring the riches of Trinity County

FROM JILL RICHARDS
WEAVERVILLE

Thanks to the generosity of the Trinity Trust Summer Youth Program and Trinity County Arts Council, 15 area children enjoyed a two-day event Aug. 22-23 exploring the cultural riches of Trinity County.

This experience would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of the Jake Jackson Museum, Angela's Bead Art, the Lapidary School, Trinity Transit and Standing Bear, native American Cree shaman.

We would like to acknowledge the following people for making this event great fun and educational:

Museum tour guides of the stamp mill and mining exhibits; Bill Bennett and Chuck Wilson.

Trinity Transit; Kitty Wilson labored to provide our transportation at a special price. Dick Duperly steered our bus and was a wonderful support for our afternoon.

Gold Mining Instruction from Lee Bryant and chaperones Mesha McCarthy, Marilyn McCullough, Josh Spagel and Mark Feely kept us safe on the river while panning for gold.

Lapidary experience where children polished and wire wrapped rocks creating treasures; Tom and Tom Bourgoine, Barbara Rapinac and Tim Vergason.

Angela's Bead Art; Angela and Seth Childers consistently give their time and wonderful space for our children and provided materials for producing leather medicine pouches.

Standing Bear and Nakoma enriched us with songs and stories which remind us to be thoughtful and appreciative of all life, even the creepy crawlers. They lead the children through the craft of making medicine pouches to carry small treasures in.

Thank you all.

Hall of Fame Shangri-La

FROM JOHN MCHARGUE
FORTUNA

On Saturday, Oct. 11, I was inducted into the Trinity High School Hall of Fame. It was the fulfillment of a lifetime love of coaching football. I had the best job in the world.

I wish to thank the Hall of Fame doers, headed by Terry Cato.

I wish to thank all of those who supported Wolf football and those who helped me coach.

In particular I want to thank the players who worked so hard and carried me into the Hall of Fame.

I spent seven years teaching and coaching at old Trinity High, it was one of the greatest adventures of my life. After 50 years Weaverville is still Shangri-La.

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LETTERS

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