



Trinity County

Community Coordinator Report

April - June 2010



April 17, 2010 Special Meeting at La Grange Cafe

Present: Wendy Reiss; Pat Zugg; Debbie DeCoito; Greg Otto; Ken Hill; Charlotte Hill; Linda Wright; Dero Forslund; Michael Charlton; Jesse Cox; Duane Heryford; Sharron Heryford; Dusty Yates; Judy Gray;

Purpose: Charlotte Hill has ties with several advocacy groups through her business, Charlotte's Web Solutions, as well as a contributing blogger and author for articles in advocacy bulletins (change.org, etc.) The focus of the meeting was to share Trinity County's needs with Charlotte and for her to utilize her ties to further our voice.



Communication (broadband, cell and land-line phone, etc.)

Access to internet service is concentrated in the Weaverville area. Most areas have no access or limited access through unreliable dial-up service. Within the county's boundaries there are areas that have no phone service. Information used to be available through newspapers and radio. Now government and private entities disseminate information through the internet. Trinity County can be deemed as "no service(s)" instead of "under-served or non-served." With the majority of services being provided through cell phone or internet access, it is imperative that access be provided for public safety, education and information.

Summary

The main needs that were identified are communication, transportation, and water/forest management. Expressing these needs through ties with advocacy groups; legislative groups; and public information will aid in targeting the uneducated population about, not only Trinity County, but all rural counties' needs.

THE TRINITY JOURNAL

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Weaverville, Trinity County, Calif. | 69 cents plus tax

Mill begins reconstruction



Forms have been set and concrete poured at the Trinity River Lumber Co. mill in Weaverville as it begins rebuilding after a devastating September 2009 fire. Officials expect construction to be completed later this year.

PHIL NELSON |
THE TRINITY JOURNAL



Hayfork Smart Center Reopens



The Hayfork Smart Center reopened in May. We are now open in Hayfork every Wednesday.

The first day, only 3 people came in, mostly out of curiosity. By the second Wednesday, 14 people were in asking questions and looking for work. By the third Wednesday, they were waiting at the door for staff to arrive from Weaverville. An average week sees 10-12 visits from job seekers.

Staff are working with 8 Hayfork businesses and recruitment is continuous.

2010 Summer Smart Start



The Summer Smart Start is under way, with 13 enrolled clients and more waiting in the wings. The program gives those individuals ages 18-24 the opportunity to gain useful paid work experience with our local employers.

Currently, there are young adults learning customer service, cashiering, animal husbandry, landscaping, trail preservation, river guiding, and journalism. They are working in businesses in Weaverville, Hayfork, Coffee Creek and Del Loma.

During the 300 hours of training, individuals gain knowledge of expected hygiene, proper dress attire, time management and project management.

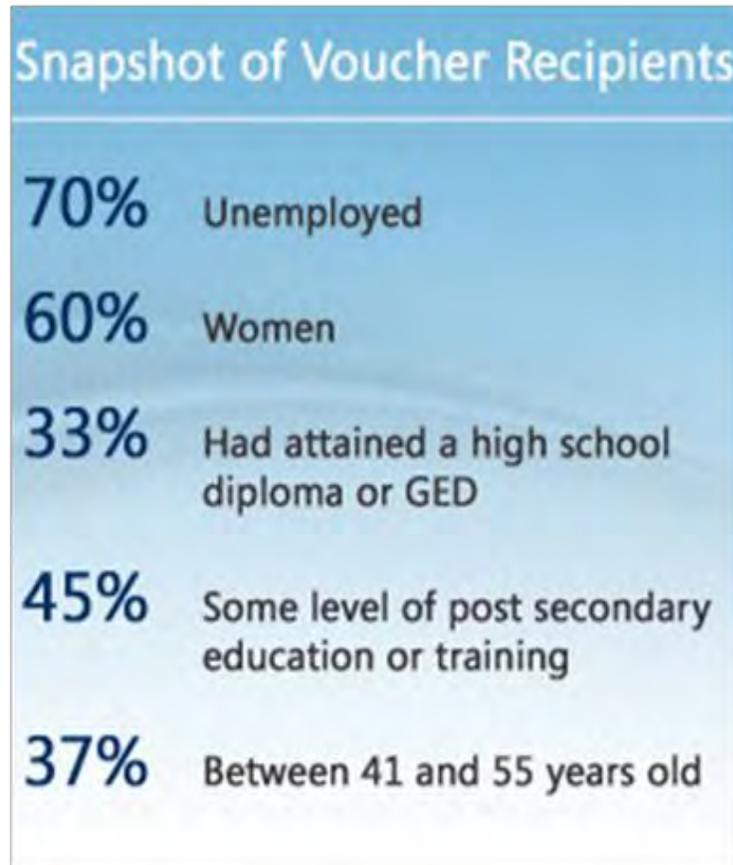
The Trinity County Summer Smart Start program is coordinated by Program Advisor Karen Collins, with all the Weaverville staff assisting as needed. There are still businesses waiting to hire and Smart employees recruiting clients for the program.

Elevate America

Microsoft is committed to strengthening the U.S. economy and increasing global competitiveness by improving access to education and workforce readiness skills required for twenty-first century jobs. To support this commitment and as part of their Unlimited Potential program, Microsoft launched Elevate America. This initiative provides one million vouchers for Microsoft e-learning courses and select certification exams at no cost to recipients. Elevate America will be implemented in cooperation with states across the country as part of an overall effort to help train two million people over the next three years.

The Elevate America vouchers offered individuals the ability to gain new skills in beginner, intermediate and advanced Excel, Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook. For IT professionals, Microsoft offered certification program. Vouchers can be received by visiting a local One Stop.

Trinity County Smart distributed 22 vouchers to visitors of the Hayfork and Weaverville centers to assist them in training. Customers were appreciative of the resources with many requesting several vouchers. Distributed vouchers had an expiration date of June 4, 2010 for activation. Once activated individuals are able to utilize the training program for up to a year from the date of activation.



Contested use permit for Lewiston business still mulled

BY SALLY MORRIS THE TRINITY JOURNAL
June 9, 2010

An appeal of a use permit to relocate a manufacturing business from industrial to rural residential property in Lewiston under the county's home occupation/ cottage industry ordinance was heard last week by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors. However, the board deferred its decision-making to its July 6 meeting to allow time for the county's attorney to review and evaluate the case.

"There are a number of potentially litigious issues here and I want additional time to prepare a response to all that's been submitted," said County Counsel Derek Cole last week during the board's public hearing on the appeal. "I want to make sure this is done properly."

It involves an existing business that manufactures label-cutting machinery owned by Simon Gross of Lewiston. He initially obtained a county Planning Director's use permit in 2007 to move the business from Lewiston's industrial park to his 37 acres of rural residential property where his home is also located.

Proposed is the construction of a 4,900-squarefoot metal shop and office building off the privately owned Wilson Road that Gross shares with six neighbors. The county's home occupation/cottage industry ordinance allows for permits on accessory buildings of up to 10,000 square feet for a wide variety of uses in conjunction with a residence.

Gross applied for an extension on his permit to move forward with his building plans last year and some of the neighbors grew alarmed at the scope of grading they saw occurring. When they contacted the Planning Department, it was discovered that those sharing the private access road had not been notified of the project initially as required in the county ordinance.

A new notice was sent out to all, comments were received and the director's use permit was reissued to Gross. Three of the neighbors joined in an appeal of that decision to the county Planning Commission that ultimately upheld the permit by a 4-1 vote. The commission's decision is now the subject of an appeal to the Board of Supervisors.

The appellants have hired a land use attorney, Susan Hinz of Redding, to represent them and she argued that the county's ordinance is overly permissive and allows for spot zoning.

"This is a proposed relocation of an existing, thriving business from a properly zoned industrial site to a residential site on a shared road," she said, arguing that the county did not do a proper environmental analysis of the potential impacts.

She said it was not until the environmental damage had already been done through extensive grading of decomposed granite soil that the neighboring property owners became aware of the scope of the proposed project.

"Due process was delayed and denied. Now we have the situation of a mud pit through grading and damage done prior to my clients even being informed," she said. She argued that the board needs to overturn the Planning Commission's approval to be consistent with the county general plan and

Lewiston Community Plan that designates ample space for industrial uses "without impacting residential areas where the neighbors have very strong objections."

Speaking on his own behalf, Simon Gross said he has been working with the county Planning Department from the very beginning and has done everything requested of him.

“I haven’t done anything sneaky,” he said, noting his project was approved by the state’s water quality control district for the grading that was done. He added that he did have a mud problem at one point “because of the stop and go orders from the county” that initially awarded the permit and then issued a cease and desist order before the soil compaction was finished.

Gross said he wants to relocate his business to his 37 acres because it makes economic sense “not to be locked into an expensive lease elsewhere” and because he wants to build a more-energy-efficient facility.

The Board of Supervisors also heard from several supporters of the project who said they believe the county should do everything possible to nurture the business and others like it.

“We need these young people here with families who want to contribute to the community. We need to help them build, develop and stay in our county,” said Duane Heryford of Weaverville.

“If this were a hay barn, there’d be no challenge to it and this is better looking than a hay barn,” said Diane Richards of Hayfork.

“If you have an ordinance and someone’s business falls squarely in the middle of it, how can you deny the permit?” said Tom Gannon of Lewiston. “It’s too late to legislate from the bench. They have operated under the terms of that ordinance.”

Trinity County Board of Supervisors, 7/6/2010

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors met to address the appeal of the Planning Commission’s decision to affirm the Planning Director’s decision to re-issue a permit for a Major Home Occupation/Cottage Industry to manufacture a label-cutting machine on a 37-acre rural residential parcel in Lewiston. The Board remanded the issue back to the Planning Commission for further proceedings.

Trinity County Economic Trends

Sheila Stock, Labor Market Consultant from the Employment Development Department, gave a presentation to Smart employees on June 8, 2010. More information is available via the internet at <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>.

Labor Force Overview 2009 Annual Averages

- 5,040 People in the Labor Force
- 4,170 Total Employment
- 870 Unemployed
- Unemployment Rate 17.3%

Current Labor Force and Industry Statistics

May 21, 2010
 Employment Development Department
 Labor Market Information Division
 (916) 262-2162

Trinity County

Industry Employment & Labor Force
 March 2009 Benchmark

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 09	Feb 10	Mar 10 Revised	Apr 10 Prelim	Percent Change	
					Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force (1)	4,960	5,080	5,150	5,040	-2.1%	1.6%
Civilian Employment	4,090	3,940	4,040	4,010	-0.7%	-2.0%
Civilian Unemployment	870	1,130	1,110	1,030	-7.2%	18.4%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	17.5%	22.3%	21.6%	20.4%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	10.6%	12.8%	13.0%	12.3%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	8.6%	10.4%	10.2%	9.5%		
Total, All Industries (2)	2,660	2,540	2,620	2,590	-1.1%	-2.6%
Total Farm	10	20	20	20	0.0%	100.0%
Total Nonfarm	2,650	2,520	2,600	2,570	-1.2%	-3.0%
Total Private	1,250	1,250	1,260	1,280	1.6%	2.4%
Goods Producing	270	260	270	280	3.7%	3.7%
Mining, Logging and Construction	80	60	70	90	28.6%	12.5%
Manufacturing	190	200	200	200	0.0%	5.3%
Service Providing	2,380	2,260	2,340	2,290	-2.1%	-3.8%
Private Service Providing - Residual	140	250	250	200	-20.0%	42.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	320	290	290	300	3.4%	-6.3%
Financial Activities	60	60	60	60	0.0%	0.0%
Educational & Health Services	160	170	170	170	0.0%	6.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	310	230	240	270	12.5%	-12.9%
Government	1,400	1,270	1,340	1,300	-3.0%	-7.1%
Federal Government	190	150	200	180	-10.0%	-5.3%
State & Local Government	1,210	1,120	1,140	1,120	-1.8%	-7.4%

THS wraps up year with farewell to outstanding seniors

WOLFPACK WRAP

BY MAKANI SPEIER-BRITO SPECIAL TO THE TRINITY JOURNAL

The final push of the school year always seems to prolong summer vacation but marks the ending to another whirlwind of a year. These past two months of school at THS were filled with welcoming the incoming freshmen and a farewell to the remarkable and exceptional seniors.

Representatives from the SMART Business Resource Center came onto campus in late May to talk to graduating seniors about the Summer Youth Program. It's a valuable opportunity for seniors who are looking for a job this summer.

The SMART Business Resource Center is working with local businesses willing to train new employees with little to no previous work experience. Only a few positions have been filled so far and eligible young adults ages 18-24, eager to enter the workforce, are needed to fill various positions around Trinity County.

Interested seniors should call SMART at 623-5538 or stop by their office on Glen Road.

Smart Quarterly Meeting

On June 17th, Smart hosted the quarterly community meeting at the LaGrange Café in Weaverville. In attendance were:

- Debbie DeCoito-Smart Center
- Jesse Cox-TEDC & NoRTEC WIB
- Linda Wright- Trinity HHS Director and NoRTEC WIB
- Jeff Morris-Representing Judy Morris Co. Supervisor
- Duane Heryford-TEDC
- Dero Forslund-Trinity County CAO
- Jennifer Ammon-Trinity HHS Employment Services
- Pat Zugg-Trinity County Chamber of Commerce
- Kim Stratton-SCED
- Kelli Gant-TLRA
- Michael Charlton-TEDC
- Judy Gray-Trinity Smart Center



Organization/agency updates were given by those in attendance. Debbie distributed a NoRTEC Diagnostic package and shared the information, asking for feedback when people have absorbed the information. She also offered to bring a NoRTEC representative to the September meeting to discuss the information.

The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Rapid Response

Business	Date	Action	Affected
The Movie Gallery	06/19/2010	Closure	4