



# Trinity County Community Coordinator Report

January - March 2011

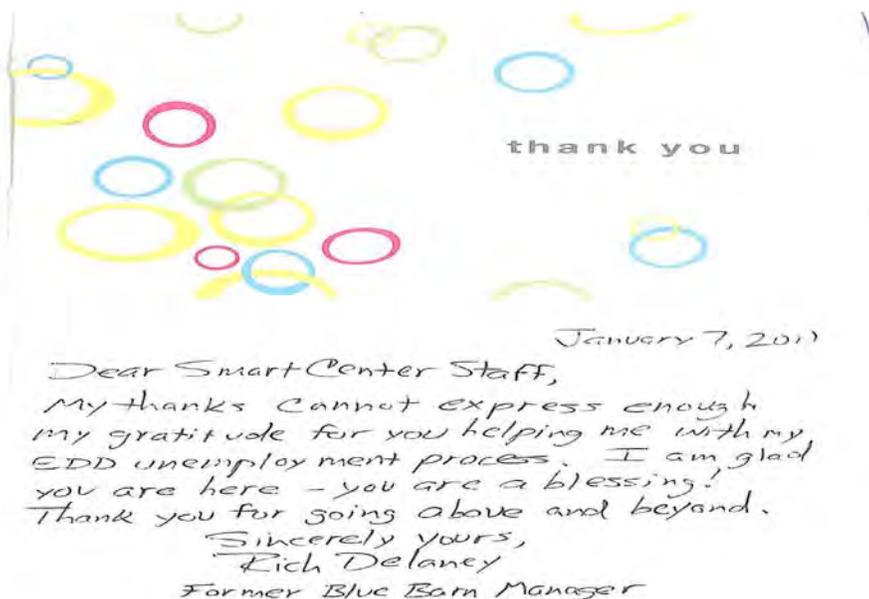


## NEW COUNTY OFFICIALS TAKE OATH



Trinity County Superior Court Judge James Woodward swears in county officials starting new terms in 2011. Being sworn in, from left, are Trinity County Superintendent of Schools Jim French, Sheriff Bruce Haney, District Attorney Michael Harper, Auditor Marilyn Horn, Tax Collector/Treasurer Terri McBrayer, District 4 Superintendent, Debra Owens-Chapman, District 1 Superintendent Judy Pflueger and Clerk Assessor/Recorder Dave Hunt.

## KUDOS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED



# THE TRINITY JOURNAL

Trinity County's Newspaper Since 1856 | Weaverville, California | 530-623-2055

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

## **New business will be sought for incubator**

BY AMY GITTELSOHN , THE TRINITY JOURNAL

The business incubator which now houses Jefferson State Forest Products will soon be vacant, and discussions have begun on how to fill that void.

From the Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork which worked with the county to start the incubator in the first place, Executive Director Nick Goulette said staff anticipates having a leadership role in bringing new business there. He hopes to bring a proposal to the Watershed Center board by the end of the month for them to consider.

Hopefully, he said, other partners can be found to help with the effort. He also expects to work with the county, which owns the building while the Watershed Center owns much of the equipment.

“We do have a community asset there,” Goulette said. “Ideas abound as far as different wood products businesses that could come in.”

He added that it could be another type of business, and he believes those that benefit from low-cost energy would be attracted to the Trinity Public Utilities District's low rates.

Employees at the wood manufacturing plant in Hayfork were stunned just before Christmas by the announcement that the company which bought Jefferson State in 2007, Upstream 21 Corp., will be moving its operations to Grants Pass, Ore., at the end of January.

Founders Jim Jungwirth and Greg Wilson said they sold the business to Upstream 21 with the understanding that it would not be moved, although it was a gentlemen's agreement.

Located in a county-owned incubator building at the Trinity County Fairgrounds on Morgan Hill Road, Jefferson State makes wooden fixtures such as bins for retail stores. At its peak the business employed around 55, but that number has dropped to 28. However, Jungwirth said his understanding was things had picked up and employees were working overtime

Seven of the employees have reportedly been offered jobs at the new location, but only one has accepted.

That's where things are on the Hayfork side of this move. On the other end, the company moving Jefferson State out of Hayfork has applied for financial incentives for bringing the jobs to Oregon, the Grants Pass Daily Courier reported.

With this move Jefferson State will operate at the same location in Grants Pass as Roguewood Furniture, an Upstream 21 subsidiary. About 15 workers will be hired to staff the facility in Oregon, the Courier reported.

The Courier reported that Jefferson State may qualify for financial incentives up to \$50,000 from an Oregon small business program. Also, the paper reported, the company will be located in the Grants Pass Rogue Enterprise Zone, which provides property tax reductions for new capital investments within the zone when employment rises by at least 10 percent. Jefferson State has also applied for a program which could qualify the company for 10 years of corporate income tax exemption on profits earned above the corporate minimum tax, the Courier said.

# Smart Presentation to Trinity County Board of Supervisors

On February 2, 2011, Debbie DeCoito, Smart Program Director and Judy Gray, Supervisor of Trinity County Smart programs attended the Trinity County Board of Supervisors meeting to update the Board on Smart's activities over the past year. Judy gave a power point presentation, highlighting challenges, accomplishments, new partnerships, special grants, and emphasized Smart's commitment to local businesses. In 2010, 1,060 job seekers visited both the Hayfork and Weaverville centers 3,129 times.; 27 youth were

placed in 10 businesses throughout Trinity County with the Summer Youth Program; and 60 clients were placed in 20 businesses. Through internships and work site trainings, 1/3 of Trinity County Resource Conservation District employees got their start through the Smart Business Resource Center. Debbie and Judy answered a multitude of questions from Board members and Supervisor Otto suggested that each member contact Judy and take a tour of the Hayfork or Weaverville Center. Also attending the meeting were WIA Board members Linda Wright, Dwayne Hereford and Jesse Cox.



## Roosevelt Elk Herd in Douglas City

These elk can be seen off Indian Creek Road in Douglas City. There are 46 elk in the herd, with 4 large bulls and 12 yearlings. Many of the cows (females) will calve in the next few months, increasing the herd.



# THE TRINITY JOURNAL

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February 16, 2011

## **Sad day in Hayfork as manufacturer pulls out**

By Amy Gittelsohn

Employees lingered after work at Jefferson State Forest Products on Thursday. They talked about workmanship and working well together, vented about the out-of-state boss who is moving the business and huddled for a Hayfork cheer.

And they got their paychecks—for most, the last they will receive from Jefferson State. It was the final day of production in Hayfork at the business that opened about 15 years ago and garnered nationwide attention as one way to replace timber industry jobs that had been lost.

Located in a county owned incubator building on Morgan Hill Road, the business made wooden fixtures such as bins for retail stores.

The bulk of the layoff came last Thursday, although some were let go earlier as the business wound down and a few are to be kept on a little longer for cleanup.

During a break Thursday, almost all the employees said they do not have another job lined up.

“For most of us it’s going to be unemployment until we find something else,” said Robin Escobido, who started working at Jefferson State six years ago and became production manager.

Some have been through this before.

A former employee of the closed Sierra Pacific Industries mill who has been with Jefferson State since the beginning, Tom Hawkins said he does not know what he’s going to do, but he’s not leaving.

“I’m staying,” Hawkins said. “I have 40 acres.”

Likewise, Nina Strobel said she moved to Hayfork four years ago looking to raise her children in a small community and has family in the area.

“We have a life here.” she said.

About five of the employees were offered jobs at the new location in Grants Pass, Ore., and two have reportedly accepted the offer.

Other made a beeline for the Smart Business Resource Center office in Hayfork.

Others made a beeline for the Smart Business Resource Center office in Hayfork.

“We have been very busy,” said Maria Hill, program adviser at the center.

Hill was pleased to say two business owners approached her expressing interest in hiring a displaced worker after word got out of the closure.

Christina Pierce, owner of Sunshine Gardens & Water Systems, was one of them. She’s hired Maria Dixson, a single mother, with initial funding from the Smart Center.

“I was pretty upset when I heard that was going to close down,” Pierce said. “I’m just delighted that Maria’s coming on board.”

Hill said she is also helping some of the laid off workers with forestry applications, one is being sent to truck-driving school and several are seeking positions at the mill in Weaverville.

Other than that, Hill said many have come in to fill out unemployment applications, and she is helping to tie them in with social service programs.

The former employees remain baffled and upset with the decision by Jefferson State owner Upstream 21 Corp. to move the business to Grants Pass, where the company owns a furniture business.

“It wasn’t put here to move out of Hayfork,” said Gino Wimberly, who has worked at Jefferson State for three years.

Jefferson State founders Jim Jungwirth and Greg Wilson have said they sold the business with the understanding that it would not be moved from Hayfork, although the gentleman’s agreement was not on paper.

Employees find the move out of Hayfork at odds with the statement that

once hung in the office regarding the corporation's commitment to employees and local economies, concluding "Upstream 21 and its family of companies will strengthen local economies, not destroy or abandon them."

Calls from the Journal to Upstream 21 CEO Bryan Redd have not been returned.

There had been downsizing at the plant with the recession, and the business had dropped from 55 employees from the time of the sale a few years ago to 28 when the announcement was made just before Christmas that the business was moving. However, employees felt that things were turning around.



"Sales were picking up," said Russ Drake, an 11 year employee. "We were working a lot of overtime."

"We pretty much became a family here," Escobido said. "We work good together. Our heart went into everything we built." she said.

Production manager Robin Escobido, left, wipes away tears as the employees gather at the end of their last shift.

Philip Sholty and Chuck Grippin assemble bins on the final day of production at Jefferson State Forest Products in Hayfork.



Accountant Teresa Newman hands out final paychecks as Donald Booth looks on.

## Smart Donates to Hayfork VFW

The Weaverville Smart Center donated a copy machine, chairs, and file cabinets to the Hayfork VFW, who are in the process of updating their building, located on Highway 3, just north of town. Pictured below are Larry Spurlin, Commander of Hayfork Post #9546 and Canaan Boswell, VFW Veteran's Service Officer. Canaan works out of both the Weaverville and Hayfork Smart Offices through Operation Welcome Home and EDD. His primary function as Veteran's Service Officer is to assist veterans with connecting with their benefits. According to Canaan, "In the last quarter, we were able to file 4 VA Disability Claims for Veterans of Hayfork."

The Smart Center is happy to have Canaan aboard.



Canaan reported that "we would have had to work with the Veterans on the tailgate of my truck if we didn't have all the office equipment that was donated by the Smart Center and other supportive community organizations."

## Rapid Response

<u>Business</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Affected</u>
76 Gas Station	2/19/2011	Closure	3
Yangtze Chinese Restaurant	2/28/2011	Closure	4
Mountain Marketplace	3/16/2011	Sold/New Owner	2

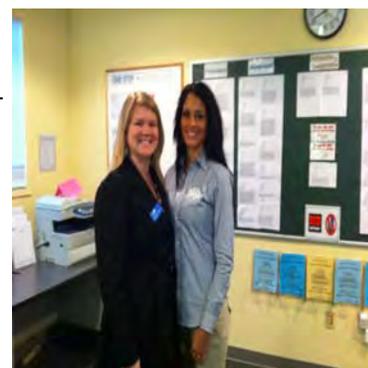


Seventeen employees from the Redding, Weaverville and Hayfork Smart offices attended a luncheon at the Shasta-Trinity Regional Occupational Program campus to learn more about their programs. STROP has a full curriculum of classes for high school students and seven programs available to adult students. They are: Beginning Auto, Advanced Auto, CISCO (Computer Systems/Networking), A+ Certification (Basic Computer Repair), Certified Nurse Assistant, Careers with Children, and the Registered Dental Assistant program. The High School Restaurant Occupations program prepared a wonderful lunch for everyone and instructors discussed their programs. Many questions were asked and answered, by both the Smart staff and the STROP staff.



**United Way**  
**of Northern California**

Victoria Laupua, Agency Relations and Angela Cordell—Donor Relations of United Way of Northern California attended the January, 2011 Stand Up Meeting at the Smart Business Center in Redding to discuss their programs. The United Way “works to bring together the resources of our community, investing our collective time, money, and efforts in effective, results-oriented programs—programs that further what we call the building blocks for a good life: a quality education, a stable income, good health, and secure housing.. “ They serve Trinity County through the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America—Golden Empire Council, Empire Recovery Center, Girls Scouts of Northern California, and the STROP staff.



# THE TRINITY JOURNAL



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March 16, 2011

## **Census: Trinity population up 5.9%**

BY SALLY MORRIS

The U.S. Census Bureau last week released more detailed population and demographic results for California from the 2010 Census, providing the first look at population counts for small, rural areas including ethnic origin, voting age and housing unit data.

It shows that Trinity County's population of 13,786 was up 5.9 percent from the previous 2000 Census, growing by 746 individuals in the past 10 years. Its neighbor to the east, Shasta County, grew by 8.6 percent and to the north, Siskiyou County grew by only 1.4 percent.

Overall, the North State grew more slowly than the rest of California except for Tehama County that gained 13.2 percent and was the only northern county to beat California's overall growth rate of 10 percent.

The results for Trinity County indicate that 18.2 percent of the population is under 18 years of age and it is one of the "whitest" counties in the state with 87.2 percent in that category. The Hispanic population makes up 6.9 percent and Native Americans another 4.7 percent with African American, Asian and Pacific Islander ethnicities comprising only a small fraction of the population.

The 2010 Census conducted last spring counted 8,681 housing units in Trinity County with a 70 percent occupancy rate.

The most populous census tract encompasses the Weaverville area up to the northernmost end of the county including Trinity Center and Coffee Creek. The population count in that area was 4,558 which was a 14.5 percent increase over 10 years ago.

The Hayfork tract extending from Douglas City down to Highway 36 had a

population count of 3,105 which was a 9 percent increase from 10 years ago.

The Lewiston tract which takes in the Trinity Lake area shows a population count of 2,867 which was a decrease of 12.6 percent from 10 years ago. The census tract to the west of Weaverville encompassing downriver communities all the way to Willow Creek had a population count of 2,281 in the 2010 Census which is an increase of 9.8 percent from 10 years ago.

## Join Us For An Open Forum On **Jobs, Economic Development and Sustainable Communities**

Strategizing Policy Needs & Program Delivery for Rural California

**Thursday, March 24, 2011  
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Trinity County Library  
351 Main Street, Weaverville**

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### Who should attend:

- ◆ Local Elected Leaders
- ◆ Tribal Governments
- ◆ Health Care Providers
- ◆ Tourism
- ◆ Local Colleges/Schools
- ◆ Economic Development Corps
- ◆ Business Owners
- ◆ Housing Providers
- ◆ Cooperatives
- ◆ Labor Unions
- ◆ Nonprofit Groups
- ◆ Farmers/Ranchers
- ◆ Energy Providers
- ◆ Agriculture Support Industries

*An invitation is extended to all others who have an interest, concern, or would like to contribute to this forum.*

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

**USDA Rural Development, Northwest California RC&D Council and UC Cooperative Extension invite you to an open forum discussing economic development issues in your county.**

This forum will focus on activities and initiatives that have resulted from USDA Rural Development's *Jobs, Economic Development and Sustainable Communities* report. This report was compiled based on input provided by community leaders, citizens, business owners and organizations from throughout rural California.

Join us to discuss the findings and opportunities identified in the report as well as any new suggestions.

### Forum Agenda

- ◆ Report on accomplishments toward recommendations in the report
- ◆ Ask if there are issues and/or recommendations that need to be added/changed/prioritized
- ◆ Solicit individuals and/or groups to champion action items in the report

A copy of USDA Rural Development's report can be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Reports/CA-JobsReport-Feb10.pdf>



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA  
**Agriculture &  
Natural Resources**



Committed to the future of rural communities.



Wednesday, March 30, 2011

## **Trinity unemployment better, but still high**

By Sally Morris

Trinity County's unemployment rate of 20.3 percent in February is an improvement over last year's high of 22.6 percent for the same month while still ranking among the state's highest, according to preliminary data released last week by the Employment Development Department's Labor Market Information Division. The California unemployment rate dipped to 12.3 percent in February, down from 12.7 percent in January, but is still well above the national average of 9.5 percent. From Trinity County's total labor force numbering 5,180 workers in February, there were 1,050 jobless claims filed with the greatest number — 29.3 percent — from Hayfork. The unemployment rate in Lewiston was 19.9 percent and 12.8 percent in Weaverville. Job losses since January occurred in the area of goods production, but increased a little in government, education and health services. In January, the county's unemployment rate was higher at 21 percent and the labor force was larger, numbering 5,210 workers. The number shrinks as unemployed workers either move away or give up looking for jobs, but the county's labor force has grown since last February's total of 4,940. Since a year ago, jobs have been added here in both federal and state government, private services, goods production and manufacturing. Overall losses continue in the areas of financial, leisure and hospitality services as well as local government.

# Conservation Almanac

## Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Spring 2011

Vol. XIX No. 4

### Message from the District Manager - 2010 Annual Report

Every year about this time I sit down to reflect on the previous year and put my thoughts to words. In business, the saying goes something like, "Success is all about location, location, location." In our world of natural resources conservation and management, success is all about partnerships, partnerships, partnerships. This proved to be very true again in 2010.

As I preview this annual report, I am struck by the diversity of our projects and the wide range of partners contributing to the success of these projects. So, how do I define success? It is not just getting the projects done - it is in helping to create local jobs as well. Our partnership with the Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department to implement community wildfire protection projects is one such example, as is the relationship we have developed with the SMART Business Center to bring aboard new employees for job training. Nearly every district project in 2010 employed individuals who came to us through the SMART Business Center's training programs. On top of that, we found opportunities to team with Fire Storm and keep their Weaverville crew active. Another great example of cooperative partnerships was evidenced at 7 a.m. on October 9 when the Weaverville crew of the California Conservation Corps was on hand to devote the day to helping make the 2010 Salmon Festival a huge success.

This partnership diversity extends to funding as well. The pie charts on page 9 illustrate the wide range of new funding we received. What they don't depict is the beneficial impact the Federal Stimulus funding had on our local economy in 2010. This funding came to us directly through our partnerships with the USFS and BLM in work begun the previous year. It also arrived through the SMART programs and the Trinity River Restoration Program's efforts in 2010 and helped put people to work getting needed projects done.

I recently received copies of original documents pertaining to formation of the Trinity Soil Conservation District dating to 1954. I am struck by the fact that even then, the foundation of the District was centered on partnerships and the realization that neighbors have to help neighbors - something I see each day and in every project described in this annual report.

#### Also In This Issue:

Forest Health - Fuels Reduction.....	2
Watershed Projects .....	3
Native Habitat .....	4
Recreation & Trails .....	5
Administration .....	6
Education & Outreach.....	7
Information Technologies .....	8
Projects & Funding .....	9
TRRP Current Events .....	10-11

# Smart Business Resource and Training

## Smart Business Resource Center

### Computer Skills Workshops

Workshop #1  
Second Thursday of  
each month-1:00-3:00 pm

Workshop #2  
Third Thursday of  
each month-1:00-3:00 pm

Workshop #3  
Fourth Thursday of  
each month-1:00-3:00 pm



The Smart Business Resource Center is the recipient of the National Association of Workforce Centers' 2008 "Standards Based" Award for Excellence in Advancement of a Competitive American Workforce.

Weaverly Smart Center  
40 B Glen Road  
Weaverly, CA 95073  
Phone: 530.623.5538  
Fax: 530.623.2145  
E-mail: [info@smartcenter1.biz](mailto:info@smartcenter1.biz)



#### Workshop #1 – Basic Computer Skills

- Parts of a computer
- How to use the mouse and keyboard
- How to connect to the internet

#### Workshop #2 – Microsoft Word 2007

- Create and save a document
- Format a document
- Use spell checker and other fun features

#### Workshop #3 – Microsoft Excel 2007

- Create a spreadsheet
- Format and manage document
- Working with data and creating charts and graphs

Classes will begin on time and participants will earn a certificate upon completion of each workshop. Classes are free but seating is limited so please pre-register by calling 623-5538.

Employment Development Department and the Smart Business Resource Center present

## Job Search Skills

**Weekly Workshops**  
**Thursdays**  
**8:30-10:30 AM at SMART**  
**40 B Glen Road, Weaverly**

**Don't get left behind. Attend this series of four trainings. You can begin the series at any workshop.**

**It will give you an edge in these competitive economic times.**

Jump start your career

Overcome the hurdles

Get ahead in the race



#### Develop Valuable Workplace Skills

The focus is on skills you will need and use every day in your job search and work life. Discover practical applications that will help you get ahead, come out a winner in today's job market - proven methods that will enhance current job seeking skills, and get the attention you deserve from employers.

Workshop 1: Career Exploration

Workshop 2: Applications, Resumes, & Cover Letters

Workshop 3: Your Personal Commercial

Workshop 4: Interview Preparation



628-5172 or 623-5538



**There is no cost to attend, but registration is required.**

## SOCIAL NETWORKING FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- What is Social Networking?
- Increase business profits through Social Networking
- Enroll your business in a social network site of your choice
- One day seminar + one-on-one assistance at your business

Tuesday, March 29,  
2011 9:00 –  
10:30 a.m.

At the Smart Business  
Resource Center

**LinkedIn**

**YouTube**