Spreading Christmas cheer

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — Cheerleaders at Trinity High School spent the last few days before the holiday break collecting Operation Santa gifts for two local children in need.

Even though she has only been a part of the cheerleading squad for about four months, German exchange student Annika Tschimmel fits right in with the giving spirit.

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Members of Trinity High School cheerleaders combined their efforts to collect gifts for Operation Santa. Two area children will have a brighter Christmas thanks to the efforts of cheerleaders including, from left, Carlyn Alford, Kaylee McCall, Maddie Dabbs, Carly Taylor, Alyssa Tobey and Annika Tschimmel.

Photo by Debbie Hightower

Christmas in Trinity lights up the holidays

BY DANIEL KENNEDY

TRINITY — Holidays are often spent hustling and bustling from store to store, one gathering to another. A joint effort between the City of Trinity and Friends of Trinity, a local civic organization, granted parents and their children a chance earlier this month to take time out from the busy traditions to slow down and enjoy one of theirs. Each year, Trinity hosts a Christmas celebration for residents of the community who assemble in a prominent location near city hall to enjoy the holiday season.

This year, they observed the occasion at Trinity High School, where hundreds of toys were delivered inside the cafeteria for children to pick a new item for their collection. Annette deRuyter, Trinity city clerk, and Councilman Annette de Ruyter, Trinity city clerk, enjoyed taking time out of her holiday season to put a smile on the face of a child.

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Jobless rate continues to increase

BY DANIEL KENNEDY

RANDOLPH COUNTY — The unemployment rate in Randolph County stands at 3.2 percent in October, up from 2.8 percent in September, according to information released by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

The rate decreased nine-tenths of a percent from a year ago. Unemployment rates statewide increased in all of the state’s 100 counties in October, according to the report. Further, all of the state’s 15 metro areas experienced rate increases.

The unemployment rate measures the percentage of employable people in the workforce who are over the age of 16 and who have either lost their jobs or have unsuccessfully sought jobs in the last month and are still actively seeking work.

In the surrounding area, Davidson County’s rate also rose to 3.2 percent in October, up from 2.9 percent in September. Rates in other surrounding counties were 3.5 percent in Guilford; 3.3 percent in Forsyth; 3.4 percent in Forsyth; 3.4 percent in Rowan, and 3.5 percent in Montgomery.

The October rate ranks as the 32nd lowest in the state, leaving Randolph County — which is part of the Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area — among one of the state’s best-employed Tier 2 counties. The number of unemployed in Randolph County stands at 2,189 people. Davidson’s labor force now stands at 68,084.

North Carolina’s statewide, non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in October, which is
I volunteered for the Tyler Bova benefit through selling snacks and drinks, raffle tickets, Bova cheer bows and through helping the news with a segment for their show,” said cheer captain Alyssa Tobey. “It was an amazing experience and I’m glad I got to be a part of it.”

Trinity cheerleaders’ contributions to the benefit raised more than $45,000. “I didn’t know [anything] about Tyler when I came here,” said Tschimmel. “But I’m still really impressed what a community can do to help a person. Our school is doing several things to help him and I am really glad that he could come back.”

“Our Bulldog cheerleaders are pretty awesome,” said Coach Angie Davis. “Not only have they been working hard all year to make sure they are the best squad in the conference, they are always the first to volunteer to help out when needed.”

On one Saturday in October, members of the squad did double shifts to spend the morning working in the concession stand with the booster club at the little league games, followed by an evening session volunteering and cheering at the Growing Ups benefit game.

In addition to other volunteer work, Trinity High cheerleaders routinely donate their time to work with the little league program and middle school and JV cheerleaders. In the spring, they volunteered to help three local elementary schools with their Spring Fling’s and boosted student confidence with a performance at an EOG pep rally.

Trinity Principal Dr. Brian Toth is impressed by the cheerleaders’ ability to balance athletics, community service and academics. “Having a team point grade average of 3.54 demonstrates to our school community that it is possible to maintain academic integrity while simultaneously excelling in extracurricular school activities,” said Toth.

“Trinity High School cheer squad is a very accomplished highly decorated and disciplined squad. Simultaneously, they are the heart and soul of school spirit at our school. They are the most selfless, disciplined and active student group on our campus. They set the standard of student involvement and character at all levels for the rest of our school.”

“Community service is so important because it is an opportunity to leave a mark on your local community,” said Tobey. “Community service is such a rewarding task, that benefits everyone involved. As a cheer squad, we make it a goal to always get involved and to put others before ourselves because we feel it is our duty to give back. In my 20 years of experience in public education, I have not encountered another athletic team or student organization who are more active and devoted to community service than this specific cheer squad,” said Toth. “They do not simply do community service. They live it. These young ladies stay at home buddy, a family buddy, because we feel it is our duty to give back.”

“As a community service it is important to show that you want to help and want to do something for the community,” said Tschimmel. “You can make people happy.”

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