

THE UNION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

FOUNDED IN 1864 TO PRESERVE THE UNION ... ONE AND INSEPARABLE

50 CENTS

WEATHER MAN



H: 90°
L: 59°
See full Weather, A9

Mostly sunny

Best bets for the weekend

Production of 'Greater Tuna' tonight in NC

Written by comedians Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard, "Greater Tuna" is a tall Texas tale of a single hilarious day in Tuna, the third smallest town in the Lone Star State. Show starts at 8:15 p.m. at Off Broadway, 205 Commercial St. in Nevada City. Tickets are \$26. For more information, call (530) 265-8686 or visit www.offbroadstreet.com.

Roamin' Angels Car Show at the fairgrounds

More than 800 classic cars and street hot rods will be on display at the 12th Annual Roamin' Angels Car Show today and tomorrow at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. Vintage cars, from 1972 and older will be competing for more than 60 trophies. Hours today are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$5, kids under 12 are free. Parking is \$5 per car. Located at 11228 McCourtney Road in Grass Valley. For information, call (866) 432-8449 or visit roaminangels.com.

Climbing for a cause

Experience the thrill of a ropes course as part of a fundraiser for children with cancer and their families. All proceeds will be donated to the Okizu Foundation, which provides support, respite, mentoring and recreational programs to families affected by childhood cancer. Located at 10840 Gilmore Way in Grass Valley (in the forest behind Lyman Gilmore Middle School). For more information, call (530) 320-2566 or e-mail beth@okizu.org.

LIVES LIVED

Norine Hugi-Hiscox, 80

Obituaries on Page A6

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VOLUME 146 ISSUE 274



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9.11.2001 Looking back



Associated Press photos

County residents recall 'surreal' scene

BY BRIAN HAMILTON
Staff Writer

From his J.P. Morgan office at 30 West Broadway in New York City, John Gagnon watched as one block to the north workers erected the world's tallest buildings, the World Trade Center's Twin Towers.

Nearly a quarter century later, after moving to an office directly across from the WTC on the Hudson River, Gagnon watched them come down — a horrific vision forever etched in his mind, and the memories of millions of Americans.

Ten years following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the "surreal" scene is still seared into Gagnon's mind.

"It just had such a surreal aspect to it in that it was so hard to believe it was happening," said Gagnon, who moved to the Colfax area with his wife, Barbara, after retiring in 2003.

Some 2,800 miles to the west, as Mary Rosenberg was wrapping up her final week of work at Beale Air Force Base, just west of Nevada County, the

same sight was seen simultaneously on television.

"We all watched on a small screen TV, as the second plane was going into the tower," said Rosenberg, a Penn Valley resident. "It was so surreal, we just couldn't believe this was happening on American soil."

Back in New York, on the upper east-side at 71st Street and York Avenue, Bob Braude was sipping the morning's final cup of coffee and getting geared up for a day on the town with visiting family. He was completely oblivious to what was happening just five miles away.

And then his daughter called from Massachusetts.

"We had no idea what was going on — we're just not TV watchers," said Braude. "She called and asked 'What's happening? Are you guys watching this?' We turned it on and then sat there, glued to the TV all day."

Battling a wildfire blaze back in California, Bruce Puphal and his fellow

See 9/11 A8

Nevada City 9/11 tradition to be amended

BY CHRISTOPHER ROSACKER
Staff Writer

Nine tolls on the Nevada City Fire House bell, followed by 11 more tolls, have rung out over early morning city's streets on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks for last nine years.

The bells have tolled in this manner at the exact moment the first plane struck the first tower, at 5:46 a.m. — as opposed to three hours later at 8:46 a.m., the Pacific Standard Time equivalent.

Then the process has been repeated at 7:28 a.m. — not 10:28 a.m. as it was in New York when the second tower collapsed in 2001.

See TRADITION A8

GV post office standoff Knife-wielding man surrenders peacefully

BY LIZ KELLAR
Staff Writer

A distraught man with two knives held police at bay for several hours Friday morning, forcing the closure of the Grass Valley Post Office and the evacuation of surrounding businesses.

The stand-off ended peacefully, however, after negotiators calmed the man — identified as Sam Smith, of Grass Valley — and convinced him to put his weapons down.

He was taken into custody without incident and transported to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital.

"As soon as he produced (the) knife, we called 911."

— RICK BERESS,
Postmaster

Postal customer Rob Ullom had just pulled up in his truck a little after 8 a.m., hoping to get his mail and then do some hauling work.

Smith and his wife were by the door in a "very heated" confrontation, Ullom said.

"He was about four inches from her face and all I heard her say was, 'I can't believe you broke my cell phone,'" Ullom said. "He stormed off when he saw me, then came back. He was just really angry, out of control."

At some point, Smith allegedly pulled out a knife.

"As soon as he produced (the) knife, we called 911," said postmaster Rick Beress.

Grass Valley Police officers were at the scene within minutes to find Smith sitting on the ground in the parking lot.

"When we arrived, he had a couple of knives," said Sgt. Jason Perry. "He was pretty agitated."

"As the responding officers approached Smith, he stood up and started waving the knives at the officers, yelling at them to shoot him," said Chief John

See STANDOFF A10

Red flag warning: Fire danger high

BY TRINA KLEIST
Staff Writer

An alert for high fire danger has been issued for most of Central California and western Oregon — including the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Dry, hot, gusty winds and expected lightning sparked the National Weather Service's red flag warning, which is in effect for Nevada County from 3 p.m. Friday through 8 p.m. Saturday. The fire danger zone is below 5,000 feet, the service reported.

Unstable winds coming from the north — drying out over Nevada's Great Basin — have county firefighters on edge.

"There's that feel in the air. It's warm and overcast. We're not really sure what's going to happen," Nevada City Fire Chief Sam Goodspeed said Friday.

"People in the county should use caution this weekend ... because of the dry

See WEATHER A10

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