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## One of the few ...



Lou Conter was on the USS Arizona, on Pearl Harbor, on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 1941. Conter is shown at his Alta Sierra home with, among other items, a picture of the ship and a piece of the ship.

### Alta Sierra man part of dwindling group of Pearl Harbor survivors

By Christopher Rosacker  
Staff Writer

More than 70 years after Nevada County resident Lou Conter stood on the deck of the USS Arizona as a Japanese bomb pierced the ship's innards, causing the single deadliest blow during the Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii, the long-serving veteran has returned to the ship.

Conter, 92, is one of nine remaining survivors of the USS Arizona, where 1,177 of the 1,512 crewmen on board were killed — nearly half of the U.S. servicemen killed in action on Dec. 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor.

"That day, the seventh, is not for us. We lived. We came back from the war. We made it out, got married, had children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren," Conter said. "I don't think that day is for



us. That day is for the 2,403 that lost their lives that day."

The pivotal blow to the Arizona blew out the ship's side and conning tower, and much of the superstructure dropped several feet into the ship's wrecked hull, according to the Navy's History and Heritage Command.

"This tipped her foremast forward, giving the wreck its distinctive appearance," the Navy's account reads about the ship that still rests iconically on its side at the site of the attack.

Historians have long debated the factors



Shown is the front page of The Morning Union just after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

compounding the massive explosion that stemmed from a bomb that penetrated next to the Arizona's forward turrets into the ship's bowels. What is known is that the explosion emanated from the vicinity of forward Turret II. Conter, a 20-year-old who was standing near Turrets III and IV, remembers holding onto the railing when the explosion jolted part of the

ship 30 or 40 feet out of the water before it settled back down, only to spend unsung hours saving his compatriots from the inferno.

"There were fires burning, and some men were wanting to jump over the side into the water, but the water was burning, too," Conter recalls. "We helped fight the fire and dove on

**SURVIVOR, A8**

## Industrial space proposed for land near La Barr Meadows Road

By Christopher Rosacker  
Staff Writer

A preliminary idea has been outlined for the kind of development that could arise on a swath of land south of Grass Valley — an area along La Barr Meadows Road touted as the solution to the town's lack of industrial space for growing businesses.

Campus Properties LLC has submitted development plans for a 34-acre, yet-to-be annexed land parcel to the city of Grass Valley's Development Review Committee for its Dec. 10 meeting.

"We have started talking to people, and there is definitely interest out there," said Robert Upton of the San Rafael-based development firm. "We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't believe there was a market for it."

Campus Properties has proposed improvements to La Barr Meadows Road, the creation of two cul-de-sacs with a large open space between them, detention ponds and an interim septic system designed for conversion to a sewer hookup as the city has talked about running pipes to the area, according to paperwork submitted to the city.

"This is just a very conceptual plan," said Tom Last, Grass Valley's economic development director.

"They just want to get some feedback from the city in terms of road improvements and the general layouts, sewers, water and drainage issues for if and when they make a formal application."

The outlined cul-de-sacs would lead to 16 subdivided lots planned for industrial purposes, which Last said would not be that dissimilar from the Whispering Pines business park across town in northeast Grass Valley.

"It's a pre-application review," Upton said, stressing the proposal's infancy. "This gives us a chance to present some preliminary plans to the city before we get into a whole lot of detail. The intention, though, is to go through this process, then submit a formal application."

The project would not be Campus Properties' only high-profile development in Nevada County. Upton and his colleagues are also developing 59 affordable housing units at the Nevada City Tech Center property, located on the 200 block

**INDUSTRIAL, A8**



The Bear River Mill Site on La Barr Meadows Road, south of Grass Valley.

## PG&E lineman becomes holiday hero

By Liz Kellar  
Staff Writer

After observing two beautiful tuxedo cats stuck high atop a high-voltage power pole in her rural neighborhood for two days, Garden Bar Road resident Kate Brennan decided that she had to try to help them.

Brennan suspects the two felines had been chased up the 50-foot pole by a predator, possibly a coyote.

"I called PG&E to see if they did rescues," Brennan said. "The dispatcher I reached must have been a cat lover because she took the cats' plight seriously and said she'd have someone out there right away."

According to Brennan, the PG&E representative told her they wanted to try to rescue the cats before they fell onto the line and

**HERO, A8**



These two cats, stranded on top of a power pole, were rescued by a PG&E lineman.

Weston to call a meeting that would include the fire chief and up to two representatives from each of the departments or districts in Nevada County to discuss future growth and succession planning.

"As I am sure you are aware, several agencies are faced with or are about to face vacancies of their chief officer positions," wrote association president and Nevada City Fire Chief Sam Goodspeed.

"It is the desire of the group to bring all

interested parties together to initiate talks concerning joint operations, management and possibly consolidation."

On Thursday, Weston proposed hosting a preliminary scoping meeting with a smaller group to gauge the level of interest, discuss goals and expectations and identify next steps. In a letter, Weston asked the association to identify members of a possible subcommittee and schedule a meeting.

— The Union staff

## Nevada City warming shelter opens for weekend

By Christopher Rosacker  
Staff Writer

Facing a National Weather Service winter storm warning, Nevada City has allowed a homeless-serving nonprofit to open a warming shelter at the town's Veteran's Building Friday through Sunday nights.

"We're getting our teams ready," said Janice O'Brien, a member of Sierra Roots, the nonprofit to whom the Nevada City Council granted temporary and conditional use of the Veteran's Memorial Building as a cold-weather shelter at a contentious Nov. 20 meeting.

As of press time Friday, temperatures were forecasted to drop to 25 degrees Friday night into Saturday, with 100 percent chance of precipitation and 5 to 9 inches of snow expected, according to the National Weather Service. Temperatures are expected to drop

to as low as 10 degrees Saturday night, with an 80 percent chance of precipitation and 1 to 3 inches of snow possible. Sunday night's low is forecasted at 16 degrees, though the clouds are expected to have dissipated by then.

**For more weather-related stories, see page A7 of today's paper.**

The weekend opening of the warming shelter comes after two days of Nevada City refusing to allow its facilitation at the city-managed, county-owned building located at 415 N. Pine St.

"They are not bad people," O'Brien said of the homeless. "They are cold people and hungry people."

When Nevada City approved the use of the Veteran's Building for a warming shelter during the 2010-11 winter, it established

**SHELTER, A8**

### WEATHER

H: 28°  
L: 9°  
See full forecast, Page A9



Snow

### OBITUARIES

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