



BRITISH OPEN:
GOLFERS TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF "PUSHOVER" COURSE,
MCILROY SHOOTS
RECORD-SETTING
9 UNDER PAR

SPORTS B1



WORD-A-LIVE:
PENN VALLEY CHURCH
PLANS A PRAYER
HOUSE THAT WILL
REMAIN OPEN
24 HOURS A DAY

RELIGION C1

BARGAINS
INSIDE TODAY'S
CLASSIFIEDS

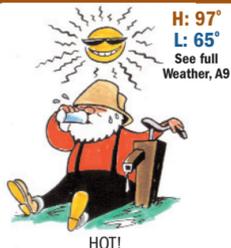
THE UNION

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010

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50 CENTS

WEATHER MAN



H: 97°
L: 65°
See full
Weather, A9

HOT!

Best bets
for tonight



California WorldFest

Maple Creek Presents the 14th annual California WorldFest. Music on eight stages, children's programs, vocal, dance and instrumental workshops, international foods, and crafts. Through Sunday. Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley. (530) 891-4098 or www.WorldFest.net

Swing Fever

Big Band music of the '30s and '40s. Presented by The Center for the Arts. \$25. 8 tonight, 314 West Main St., Grass Valley. (530) 274-8384 or www.TheCenterForTheArts.org



Children's Festival

Renaissance entertainment and crafts for children of all ages. 9 a.m. to noon and 5 to 8 p.m. today, Pioneer Park, Nevada City. (530) 265-2165 or www.TheChildrensFestival.com

Spiritual Cinema Movie Night - "Visions of a Universal Humanity"

Futurist Barbara Marx Hubbard, together with world-renowned physicist Freeman Dyson, biologist Bruce Lipton, scholar Jean Houston and others, presents cutting-edge perspectives on humankind's potential to create a positive future for the Earth. Short discussion follows; popcorn is provided. Love offering accepted. 7 tonight, 119 Florence Ave., Grass Valley. (530) 274-1018 or www.SierraCenter.org

LIVES LIVED

Frank Krivohlavek, 82
Charlotte Bumpus, 95
Dorothy Wymer, 88
Cindy De Micheli, 50
Gregory Smith, 59

Obituaries on Page A5

INDEX

Advice C5
Business B4
Classifieds D1
Comics C4
Lottery A5
Opinions A4
Police blotter A2
Sports B1
Sudoku C2

VOLUME 145 ISSUE 225



Alta Sierra man cheered as liberator more than 60 years after World War II battle



FREEDOM celebration

Alta Sierra's Bill Silbert shows a photo of himself in France with a group of World War II re-enactors. Silbert is the last living officer from Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army, which pushed the Germans out of France in 1944.

BY KYLE MAGIN
Staff Writer

Bill Silbert joined Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army in Normandy, France, in a somewhat unsettling fashion in June 1944, shortly after D-Day.

"I was 19 and only had to shave once a month," said Silbert, an Alta Sierra resident who at the time was a young first lieutenant taking over a platoon from a dead officer.

"I looked like a baby. My staff sergeant came up to me and said, 'Damn I'm glad to see you, lieutenant, you're number five.' That wasn't exactly comforting."

Silbert, 85, survived World War II and in June returned to a

"I couldn't understand why all these kids would cheer to see a bunch of octogenarians stumble around."

— BILL SILBERT

VIDEO AVAILABLE AT
TheUnion.com

hero's welcome in France. As the lone surviving officer from the 3rd Army, Silbert and wife Elsa were flown to eastern France and hon-

ored with a week of ceremonies commemorating the country's liberation from the Nazis.

"The celebrations were so elaborate and heartfelt," Silbert said. "For those people to show such enthusiasm and gratitude after 60-some years was really amazing."

Baptism by fire

Silbert joined the Army in 1942 as an officer because he spent his high school years in upstate New York in the ROTC. When he deployed to France in 1944, he took over a platoon of men hardened by battle on the D-Day landing in early June.

Patton charged the Third Army

See LIBERATOR A8

Grass Valley growth well short of projections

BY KYLE MAGIN
Staff Writer

In 1999 the 20-year outlook for Grass Valley's growth was optimistic, said Mayor Lisa Swarthout.

The city created its current general plan that year, and the commission that wrote the plan projecting the city's growth until 2020 was anticipating heavy expansion over the outline's 20-year lifetime.

"California was growing really quickly, and we were getting huge estimates from the state about how many people we could expect to move to the area," Swarthout said.

The plan estimates a population of 21,000 for Grass Valley in 2020, with population from surrounding neighborhoods like Alta Hill absorbed into city limits and the development of the city's four major special development areas. Grass Valley's population in 1999 was about 9,500, according to the city.

Today, at the plan's midpoint, Grass Valley sits well short of those projections, having added only the Glenbrook Basin and its 500 or so residents while the SDAs remain mostly undeveloped due to a dwindling real estate market.

The Loma Rica Ranch's 450 acres of special development area are the closest to developing over the next few years, while the SouthHill Village (65 acres), Northstar (760 acres) and Kenny

GRASS VALLEY POPULATION

21,000
1999 projection
for 2020
13,000
2006 to 2010

The city grew about one-fifth as fast as it was projected over that time.

See GROWTH A8

Money, candy stolen from Little League snack shack

BY LIZ KELLAR
Staff Writer

Vandals broke into the Grass Valley Little League's snack shack Sunday night, stealing candy and approximately \$250, money that would have gone to support the organization's fall program.

"They broke off a birch tree

and used it to pry open the front window," said league President Kevin McFall, gesturing to the snapped-off stump of the 8-foot-tall tree.

The window was bent, not broken, leading McFall to suspect the thieves were fairly small.

"We've been hosting an all-star tournament, so we were pretty stocked up," McFall said.

"Usually, we don't have that much money on hand."

The vandals also broke the handle off a storage shed behind the snack shack, which houses equipment, and tossed hanging planters of flowers up on the roof.

They stole ring pops,

See THEFT A8



Susan Berger, left, and Dayna Wheeler scoop ice cream for root beer floats at the Grass Valley Little League's Snack Shack Wednesday evening. Shelves that were stripped of candy can be seen in the background.

Photos by The Union
by Liz Kellar

Long journey, sweet ending: NC will purchase Sugarloaf

BY MICHELLE RINDELS
Staff Writer

Sugarloaf Mountain — an iconic hill north of downtown — will soon belong to Nevada City after the owners and city officials settled on a price.

The 30 acres of undeveloped land will cost the city \$450,000 — about \$79,000 coming from county AB 1600 mitigation funds and the rest coming from state Proposition 40 recreational project funds, according to Nevada City Finance Director Catrina Andes.

Atop Sugarloaf, hikers can picnic or stargaze with a bird's-eye view of downtown.

City officials have been eyeing the property for years and negotiating with owners for months to turn the private land into public recreational space. They sealed the deal in closed session Wednesday night.

"The city has wanted to do this for a very long time," Andes said. "We've reached the ultimate goal."

The city will likely sign a contract and open escrow by the

See SUGARLOAF A8

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