



THE UNION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2011

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50 CENTS

WEATHER MAN



H: 75°
L: 47°
See full Weather, A9

Sunny weather continues

Best bets for tonight

SambaDa at Center for the Arts

The eight-piece Santa Cruz-based dance band is a Worldfest favorite, combining samba and salsa with funk and reggae. Show starts at 8 p.m. today at The Center for the Arts, 314 W. Main St. in Grass Valley. For more information, visit TheCenterForTheArts.org.

Final weekend for 'Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' at Foundry

This Tony Award-winning musical comedy is one of Broadway's most buzzed-about hits. Subject matter and language may be unsuitable for children under 12. Show today at 8 p.m., Saturday at 5 and 8 p.m. Miners Foundry, 325 Spring St. in Nevada City. For more information, call (530) 346-3210 or visit www.SierraStages.org.

Local women perform for domestic violence awareness benefit

The Tin House is hosting "A Women's Showcase," featuring seven women singer/songwriters as part of a fundraiser for the local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition throughout the month of October. Today at 8 p.m. Jiamie Pyles brings old school country and bluegrass. Saturday at 8 p.m. Linda McCrae takes the stage with her clawhammer banjo, accordion, porchboard bass and acoustic guitar. For information and reservations, visit tinhousestudio.com.

ChickenBonz play The Center Saturday

As part of The Center for the Arts' Homegrown Music Series, Ludi Hinrich's six-piece ensemble includes the sounds of the Balkans to the blues to post-bop. Show starts at 8 p.m. For more information, visit TheCenterForTheArts.org or www.LudiHinrichs.com

- The Union staff

LIVES LIVED

Wendy Engelking-Kirk, 31
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Airport safety plan questioned

City, business owners ask county to overturn commission's decision

BY TRINA KLEIST
Staff Writer

A county judge has been asked to overturn a decision by a local commission to enlarge the safety zone around the Nevada County Airport, about 2 miles east of Grass Valley.

The petition comes in the wake of the Sept. 21 approval by the Nevada County Airport Land Use Commission of a land use compatibility plan. The plan is intended to both protect the

airport from nearby development that would interfere with operations and protect people in that development from aircraft mishaps.

The new plan supersedes a 1987 plan, imposing a much larger zone of influence around the airport, expanding safety zones where a higher risk of accidents tend to occur, and stricter guidelines for development, including the height of buildings, the number of people allowed per acre and the uses of

properties.

Critics of the plan say it also changes the direction of development policy in the area, just east of Grass Valley city limits.

Those filing the petition against the Airport Land Use Commission include eight people who say their properties are directly affected by the influence area's expansion.

More than 2,900 properties are affected by new, stricter rules. While existing uses are still allowed, the new rules restrict

ON THE WEB

Visit www.TheUnion.com and click on this story to find:
 ■ The petition filed against the Nevada County Airport Land Use Commission
 ■ A map of the airport safety

areas under the 1987 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
 ■ A map of the airport safety areas under the new Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, approved Sept. 21

how a property within the zone could be used in the future.

The legal petition also is being brought by the city of Grass Valley and the developer

of the proposed Loma Rica Ranch project. The city has been interested in annexing the 452-acre property since 1997, and has

See AIRPORT A8



Photo for The Union by John Hart

The Nevada County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team members check in Thursday morning at the command center organized at the county's Rood Center off Highway 49. The team searched for someone shouting for help late Wednesday on the Deer Creek Tribute Trail outside of Nevada City.

Defense moves to dismiss case

Deputy DA argues against move in embezzlement ordeal

BY LIZ KELLAR
Staff Writer

The attorney for a woman accused of embezzling money from the Nevada County Sheriff's Office asked Nevada County Superior Court Judge Candace Heidelberger to dismiss the case Thursday morning.

Yvonne Davada Evans, a former accounting assistant with the sheriff's office, is facing four misdemeanor counts of withholding fines after more than \$13,000 was discovered to be missing from jail funds.

Evans is being prosecuted under her former name, Yvonne Cantrell. She has since remarried, to former Sheriff's Lt. Bill Evans.

"The alleged acts occurred years ago," said Evans' attorney, Greg Klein, asserting it was too late to file charges against her. "Ms. Cantrell told (the sheriff's office) about it in 2009."

According to Klein, the investigation of Evans stems from a tip by her abusive ex-husband, Keith Cantrell. Keith Cantrell had told his ex-wife if she did not take on a certain debt, he would go to the sheriff's office and tell them she had been ripping them off, said Klein, who represented her during the divorce.

"Mr. Cantrell was extorting her," Klein said in court Thursday.

Klein also has suggested the charges are retaliation for filing a sexual harassment complaint against then-Undersheriff Richard Kimball, but he did not bring that up in court Thursday.

Nevada County Deputy District Attorney Jamie Hogenson argued against Klein's motion to dismiss, telling Heidelberger the law allowed for charges to be filed within one year of the discovery of the alleged embezzlement.

See CASE A8

Lost and found

Missing man picked up by ambulance, found at hospital

BY LIZ KELLAR AND CHRISTOPHER ROSACKER
Staff writers

Reports of a man, and possibly a child, screaming for help in the Deer Creek area led to an extensive search Wednesday night and through most of Thursday.

But in the end, one victim — a 57-year-old Nevada City transient with a head injury — reportedly was picked up by an ambulance in the 15000 block of Old Downieville Highway at about 1 p.m. Thursday.

The incident might have been related to a fight at a transient camp, Nevada County's Sheriff's Lt. Shannan Moon said.

"He made his way to the road and

We're obviously suspicious since no one came forward ... They're not being cooperative

- LT. SHANNAN MOON, Nevada County Sheriff

a resident called an ambulance for him," she said. "We're pretty confident he was the subject of our search."

The man, who was not identified, said he fell in the woods near the creek early Thursday morning, and became unconscious for several hours, Moon said.

A transient camp in the search area on Deer Creek was located, and it is believed there was a disturbance at the camp between several men and women Wednesday night, Moon said, adding the investigation is ongoing.

"We're obviously suspicious since no one came forward, and they were all in the same vicinity," she said. "They're not being cooperative."

Moon said the reports of a child calling for help might have been one of the women at the camp.

At least 40 Nevada County Search and Rescue team volunteers scoured the area around Champion Mine Road and the Deer Creek Tribute Trail, based on reports of screams for help coming from the creekbed area.

See MISSING A8

Answers to courthouse questions coming soon

BY CHRISTOPHER ROSACKER
Staff Report

In the face of past and looming budget cuts, a working group tasked with recommending which of the statewide 41 courthouse construction projects are priorities concluded its deliberation Thursday after two days of discussion.

One of those projects is Nevada City's courthouse.

However the group's recommendations to California's Administrative Office of the Courts' Judicial Council will not be made public until Monday,

according to AOC spokeswoman Teresa Ruano,

As to what those recommendations will be, only the group members know.

But Ruano previously told The Union "everything is on the table."

"In my opinion they are faced with a very challenging task," said John Givens, a retired school bus driver who spoke during Wednesday morning's hour-long public commentary at the meeting in San Francisco. Givens said he wondered why the committee would even be

See COURTHOUSE A8

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