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Girl Scouts pitch in



EMILY LAVIN/ELAVIN@THEUNION.COM

Pleasant Valley Elementary School students Jayden Yokom, Baylie Flecksteiner, Aly Mariani, Kylee Hagerman, Sam Eck and Tori Herrera, along with other members of Girl Scout Troop #192, are collecting donations for victims of the Valley and Butte fires.

Troop members moved to help fire victims across Northern California

By Emily Lavin
 Staff Writer

Images of the widespread devastation caused by the Valley Fire burning in Lake, Napa and Sonoma counties and the Butte Fire burning in Amador and Calaveras counties made a strong impression on Jayden Yokom.

The nine-year-old, a fourth-grader at Pleasant Valley Elementary School, cried as she watched television news reports on the fires. She was concerned for the firefighters — including her 22-year-old brother Ryan, who is assigned to the Valley Fire with his Cal Fire unit — and for the fire

Girl Scout Troop #192 is collecting donations for the fire victims. The troop is soliciting items such as sleeping bags and tents, necessities, such as canned food, baby formula and school supplies, and extras, such as gift cards to department stores and restaurants. Smaller items

victims who had lost homes or other possessions.

“I was disappointed and sad and I thought, ‘These people must have been through something big,’” Jayden said.

So Jayden turned to her mother Jamie and asked, “Who can I talk to to see what we can do?”

HOW TO HELP

can be dropped off at the school offices at Pleasant Valley and Williams Ranch elementary schools, Ready Springs School or Vantage Point Charter School during regular school hours. Large-item donations can be made by calling Jamie Yokom at 530-432-6488.

Jayden, a member of Girl Scout Troop #192, started phoning the troop's 12 other members, and the girls quickly organized a plan to collect donations for the fire victims.

The troop is soliciting bigger items, such as sleeping bags and tents, necessities, such as canned food,

baby formula and school supplies, and extras, such as gift cards to department stores and restaurants.

Smaller items can be dropped off at the school offices at Pleasant Valley and Williams Ranch elementary schools, Ready Springs School or Vantage Point Charter School during regular school hours; anyone interested in making a large-item donation can call Jamie Yokom at 530-432-6488 to arrange to have the item picked up.

Though Jayden spearheaded the idea, her fellow girl scouts were equally as enthusiastic about

GIRL SCOUTS, A6

Supes delay on hazardous abatement ordinance

By Alan Riquelmy
 Staff Writer

Questions and confusion over stricter controls used in firefighting efforts led the Nevada County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday to delay amending its hazardous vegetation abatement ordinance.

About 20 people attended a public hearing over suggested changes to the ordinance that, if enacted, would have expanded which parcels must have fuel modifications, which include cutting weeds and grass to 4 inches and pruning “ladder fuels” 10 feet or higher.

The ordinance will return to the board for consideration before the new year.

Most people who spoke during the hearing supported the changes, though questions about portions of the ordinance's phrasing arose.

Sandy Jensen told the board it should have provided more time for the community to examine the changes.

Jensen also tweaked the board about who's responsible for removing tall grass and brush from the side of the road.

“I want to see the county roads done first,” she said.

Supervisor Hank Weston questioned the wording of the ordinance, asking which parcels should be required to have a 50-foot fuel modification area — all parcels or only unimproved ones.

“This isn't ready for prime time,” Weston said of the ordinance.

Larik Butyrin, with the

“Every property owner suffers the same level of burden.”

Don Bessee

Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, said officials should continue to push forward with the ordinance.

Don Bessee, an Alta Sierra Property Owners Association board member, applauded the board's efforts to get property owners to remove fuel for potential fires.

“Every property owner suffers the same level of burden,” he said.

In an unrelated issue the board unanimously approved proceeding with

SUPES, A6

GV council restricts dogs from special events

By Teresa Yinmeng Liu
 Staff Writer

Through a 5-0 vote, the Grass Valley City Council unanimously approved an amendment to Chapter 6.16 of the Grass Valley Municipal Code pertaining to “Restraint of Dogs.”

The new code exempts “other animals” and dogs from special events, meaning anyone who wishes to bring an animal to an event will be required to seek approval from the city and its police department.

The issue of whether to allow dogs at special events was brought up during a city council meeting on Aug. 11.

The ordinance was then

continued so the city could have a chance to gather input on liability if dogs were allowed at such events.

The council discussed the matter during a meeting on Sept. 8, but didn't reach a decision at that time.

In other business, the council announced the approval contract to Central Valley Engineering to repave portions of Brunswick Road.

The company proposed \$458,873.99 to complete the project, which is the lowest bid among the four bidders.

Other bidders included Knife River Construction, which proposed

COUNCIL, A6

DRC OKs new corporation yard

By Teresa Yinmeng Liu
 Staff Writer

The City of Grass Valley Development Review Committee approved an application Tuesday by the Nevada County Facilities Management to build a new corporation yard at 12350 La Barr Meadows Road, clearing the way for the project to continue to Nevada County for additional reviews.

“The old building at the

airport needs an upgrade and a remodel,” said Tom Coburn, facilities program manager of the Nevada County Information and General Services Department. “We chose to relocate to the new site because the location grants it low visibility to Highway 49 and the public. We do have noise issues sometimes when we plow snow. We want to make sure it's not an issue for our neighbors.”

The existing county



corporation yard is located in Loma Rica Industrial Park. The proposed site is nestled in the intersection between La Barr Meadows Road and Highway 49, where it would be built on a slope above the highway.

The topography, location and existing trees in the area would make the building invisible to traffic traveling on the freeway and

La Barr Meadows Road, officials said.

The Nevada County Facilities Management is required to submit a conceptual application for the city to review because the project is within the Grass Valley's sphere of influence. The project will then go to the county for further feedback.

“Our desire is to get through our use permit

DRC, A6

WEATHER

H: 83°
 L: 55°

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Sunny



OBITUARIES

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President Obama declares major disaster in Calif. fire
 MIDDLETOWN, Calif. — President Barack Obama has declared a major disaster in a Northern California wildfire that has destroyed at least 1,200 homes and killed at least three people.

The declaration issued Tuesday for the fire that broke out in Lake County 90 miles north of San Francisco releases federal money for recovery and

cleanup. Residents can apply for grants for home repairs and temporary housing as well as apply for low-cost loans for uninsured property. The devastating wildfire that started Sept. 12 ranks among the state's most destructive. The Lake County sheriff said Tuesday that authorities continue to search for two men reported missing.

— Associated Press

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The Union Circulation: 530-273-9565

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