

# New ambulance arrives for Ranchos

## Staff Reports

A new ambulance purchased with the help of American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to the district by Douglas County commissioners went into service on Wednesday in the Gardnerville Ranchos.

Built by Braun Northwest, in Chehalis, Wash., on a Ford F450 chassis to the standard specification and design developed by district personnel, the unit cost \$230,000.

East Fork Chief Tod Carlini singled out employees Chad Sheldrew and Mason Jackson for their work on the acquisition and specifications, with input from the members.

“Chad and Mason were handed this project some time ago and have been able to see it through from start to finish,” he said. “They did a great job.”

The new ambulance will go into service at Fire Station 7 in the Gardnerville Ranchos, the

district’s busiest.

The district operates four frontline Advanced Life Support Ambulances that cover the 675 square miles in East Fork Township. District ambulances are driven an average 60,000 miles a year. The units are designed to have the patient compartment remounted on new chassis thus saving the cost of the total ambulance build.

The district has applied the practice for the past several years, saving over \$500,000 in ambulance costs.

East Fork Battalion Chief Troy Valenzuela said the district’s ambulances are the most used vehicles in the apparatus fleet.

The district has had to wait over a year for this acquisition due to a lack of chassis availability.

ARPA provided relief funds to state, local, and tribal governments that had been negatively impacted by the coronavirus



EAST FORK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PHOTO

Commission Chairman Mark Gardner, East Fork Fire Protection District Trustees John Bellona and Jacques Etchegoyhen and Commissioner Danny Tarkanian.

pandemic.

Carlini thanked county commissioners for the allocation of funds for not only

the ambulance but also for a complete replacement of its ambulance gurneys and for a wildland fire apparatus

refurbishment project which is also underway and which will be deployed in southern Douglas County once completed.

# Forest Service leases Ruhenstroth fire station

## Staff Reports

The East Fork Fire Protection District is leasing a portion of Ruhenstroth, Fire Station 10, to the U.S. Forest Service.

The Forest Service has been operating out of the Jacks Valley Fire Station Station 15 for years.

The move to Ruhenstroth is necessary to accommodate the relocation of its Fire and Fuels crew to the fire station in Alpine

View on Jacks Valley Road.

An interim lease is designed to allow the Forest Service to make the move now. A longer-term lease will be pursued by both parties. East Fork had a 15-year lease with the BLM several years ago for the Fish Springs Station 9.

“The District and the USFS have had and continue to have a very positive and productive relationship,” East Fork Chief Tod Carlini said.

With the expansion of both personnel and equipment additional room was also needed.

“This is a win-win situation for both the District and Forest Service” Carlini said. “We will be able to place our Fire and Fuels crew in the Jacks Valley area, have better access to the Clear Creek and north of Jacks Valley Road area. The USFS will have larger facility and house additional personnel and equipment year-round.”

The threat of wildland fire is perhaps the biggest concern for the district, Carlini said.

“Having the USFS in the Ruhenstroth area is very advantageous for the District,” he said.

Over time the district has struggled to keep a roster of volunteers at



KURT HILDEBRAND

The Ruhenstroth Fire Station will be occupied by the U.S. Forest Service.

the Ruhenstroth Station. Carlini said the district is hoping to change that, just as it did in the Sheridan area several years ago.

Through the lease agreement with the USFS, the district will be maintaining space for a volunteer contingent. The district will continue to house a Type I Engine and 3,000-gallon

water tender at this location. Under the district’s current volunteer deployment model, the volunteer’s primary task is water supply in areas without a municipal type system.

Additionally, volunteer personnel support the logistical needs of incidents and are trained for wildland firefighting. Volunteer recruitment efforts are seeing some positive gains over the past couple of years.

“The district’s proposed fire regulations, which have become necessary since Douglas County Commissioners did a wholesale repeal of the residential fire sprinkler requirements, incorporates the ability of the volunteers and the District to bring the necessary water to those areas and in meeting the fire flow requirements in the Fire Code,” Carlini said.

The Forest Service has had resources within the district for well over 20 years now and has continued to maintain strong

relationships with the local firefighters.

“We are excited to be moving into Station 10,” said Carson District Ranger, Matt Zumstein. “It gives us better access to the southern end of the Carson Ranger District, provides more space for our expanding workforce, and meets the needs and requirements that East Fork Fire has for Jacks Valley Station. We agree that it is a win-win situation and appreciate East Fork Fire’s willingness to work with us on solutions to facility issues that meet everyone’s needs.”

Five day a week staffing by the USFS began on Oct. 10. They will house 2 type 3 wildland engines and 1 patrol truck and 7 personnel per day, Monday through Friday. During the fire season, staffing will include an additional eight personnel and staffing will be on a seven day a week basis. The Ruhenstroth Station is still available for approved community use under the current policies.

## St. Gall Catholic Church



**Christmas Eve Mass Schedule**  
 Saturday, December 24th  
 4:00 pm – Mass in the Church and Pastoral Center  
 6:00 pm – Spanish  
 11:00 pm – English

**Christmas Day Mass Schedule**  
 December 25th, 10:00 am



**Rev. Mark Hanifan, Pastor**  
**Rev. Patrick Klekas, Parochial Vicar**  
 1343 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville  
[www.saintgall.org](http://www.saintgall.org) • 782-2852

**PURCHASE • REFINANCE**

## FIXED RATE LOANS

TERM	RATE	APR	TERM	RATE	APR	TERM	RATE	APR
10YR	5.250%	5.68%	15YR	5.375%	5.68%	30YR	6.000%	6.18%
Payment \$10.73 per month per \$1,000 Borrowed			Payment \$8.10 per month per \$1,000 Borrowed			Payment \$6.00 per month per \$1,000 Borrowed		

**Check the El Dorado Advantage:**

- ✓ No Application Fee
- ✓ No Prepayment Penalty
- ✓ Local Processing and Servicing



### EL DORADO SAVINGS BANK

Serving our local communities for over 60 years

TAHOE VALLEY “Y” • 942 Emerald Bay Road • 530-541-5054  
 STATELINE • 276 Kingsbury Grade • 775-586-8886  
 AL TAHOE • 1036 Al Tahoe Blvd. • 530-541-8000  
 TAHOE CITY • 740 North Lake Blvd. • 530-583-3718  
 GARDNERVILLE • 1517 Highway 395 North • 775 782 7222  
 CARSON CITY • 3788 Highway 395 South • 775 267-0116

Maximum loan \$650,000.00, primary or vacation residence. 20% minimum cash down payment on purchase. 25% equity required on refinance. Other loans available under different terms.

LOAN TERMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE  
 Member FDIC [www.eldoradosavingsbank.com](http://www.eldoradosavingsbank.com) 800-874-9779