

March Fong Eu visits fairgrounds aide discusses special election



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California Secretary of State March Fong Eu visited the Plumas County Fairgrounds Sunday, July 5, to discuss with local politicians and dignitaries a ballot issue. While Eu was here, one of her assistants described the issues that have either made or are proposed for the statewide special election next November. According to Carol Daniels, the election can be called by the Legislature or by the Governor. Because the Peripheral Canal issue has qualified for the special ballot, "it's our feeling that Governor Brown will call the election for political reasons," Daniels said. "He's anxious to get the Peripheral Canal over with before he comes up on a ballot again."

In a check with California Assistant Chief of Election Deborah Seiler on Monday, it was learned that along with the canal issue, a constitutional amendment to remove the Lt. Governor as President of the state Senate has also made the ballot. Initiatives like the canal qualify for ballots if signatures gathered from the registered voters equal five percent of the total votes cast in the last general gubernatorial election, Daniels said. Constitutional amendments arising from the populace call for eight percent using the same formula, said. But the amendment to oust the Lt. Governor from the Senate's head chair originate in the legislature and will be decided by the people, Seiler said Monday. Two other measures have made the ballot, which most likely will occur on November 3, according to Daniels. Both initiatives would effectively repeal existing state law pertaining to gift and inheritance taxes, thereby doing away with them. One of the measures calls for the tax repeal to be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1981 while the other does not. Seiler mentioned that there is some consternation in Sacramento as to whether the retroactive would stand up to legal tests. Other measures still in the works include a large number of anti-crime packages. "There are nine or 10 proposals in the legislature but only one has been put in public circulation that I know of," Daniels reported. "That's a statutory amendment out of Los Angeles County for crime money but they've just come out this week. Because the measure would have to gather 346,000 signatures by the end of this month, we figure they're shooting for June of '82," Daniels said.

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Murder case labeled 'frustrating'

Admitting "that we're not any closer now than we were nine weeks ago," is the Keddle murders investigation, Plumas County Sheriff Doug Thomas has decided to use the Secret Witness program to gain information on the case. The Secret Witness program works exactly like it sounds, Thomas said. A caller dials the county's secret witness line or writes a letter to the program and is given a code name for identification, names are not used. In Plumas County, the Secret Witness number is 283-270 and the postal address is Secret Witness, P.O. Box 8, Quincy, Ca. 95971. The line is completely devoid of the Sheriff's office as no letters that come into the program. Anyone who has good information on the case is encouraged to use the program, Thomas said. Phone calls to Secret Witnesses are not recorded

or listened to by anyone other than the people working in the program, who do not work for the Sheriff or the county. Codes names are used in Secret Witness, so that authorities can ask the person with the code name to recontract Secret Witness if they want or need additional information. As for the investigation, Thomas said Monday that it has been "frustrating" for his officers and the state Department of Justice (DOJ) men assigned to the case. "Two weeks ago, the department released sketches of two men who were wanted for questioning in the case. Several people have come forth since then and said they saw the two men in Quincy the week before the killings, but no one has been able to name them, Thomas said.

"They're still not necessarily the suspects, but they were around the area and vanished shortly before the crimes," Thomas said Monday. "They were seen by more than one witness." Thomas admitted for the first time this week that several people have been looked at as possible suspects in the brutal slaying of his friend Dana Winger, 37, on April 12 in Keddle. Another Sharp daughter, Tina, 12, has been missing since the murders and is feared dead as well. "We've looked at a couple of people as possible suspects but through further investigation, they've been cleared," Thomas said. One possible suspect was a man who disappeared from Keddle shortly after the slaying and turned up in Oregon. "That we gave him a polygraph (the detector test) and he passed it," the Sheriff said. "We found out he had gone to Oregon for employment." Still baffling the department is the whereabouts of John Sharp and Dana Winger after 10:15 p.m. on April 11. They were last seen hitchhiking from the corner of Crescent and Lawrence Streets in Quincy northwest towards Keddle. The next time they were seen was the following morning when their bodies were found. "It could have been someone from outside the area who took them home but the chances of that were slim," said Thomas. "We had have reason to believe that the three were dead sometime between midnight and 2 a.m.," but he did not depend on the statement. Blood samples taken from the

Greenville rape suspect released

Jimmy Wayne Thurman of Greenville was arrested last Friday on charges of attempted murder and rape stemming from an alleged incident the evening before at the hot spring near Twin, according to the Plumas County Sheriff's Department. Detective Dennis Forcino said Thurman was identified as a suspect by a 27-year-old Butte County woman who claimed she was the victim of rape and attempted drowning in the hot springs. Thurman reportedly met the woman at Pulga and drove her to the hot springs, Forcino said. She filed her

complaint Thursday night with the Sheriff's Department after being taken to Quincy by deputies, according to Forcino. Thurman was arrested Friday morning at his Hudson Street residence and taken to Quincy for booking, Forcino said. He was released the same day on his own recognizance by Quincy Justice Court Judge Alan Theiler. While Theiler called his action a "routine release," it was disputed by Steven Wright, vice president of the Plumas County Sheriff's Employees Benefit Association. "I have been contacted by association members throughout the county regarding this incident. It will be a topic of discussion at the association's board meeting to determine what action, if any, should be taken. "My personal feelings are those of outrage and incredulity. My personal recommendation to my fellow board of directors will be, at the very least, a strong public condemnation of Judge Theiler's action," Wright said Monday. Theiler said he had "no reason to doubt that Thurman will appear in Justice Court when scheduled." He added that the law presumes that a

person will appear in court, and that bail is required only when there is proof of a "strong likelihood that a person will not appear." (Continued to back page)

Supervisors intervene in hydro power applications

By Everett Bey Under a little-known provision of the 1920 Federal Water Power Act, some Plumas County property owners are finding hydro-electric power developers filing to build power plants on their water supply. At least seven recent Notices of Application for a Preliminary Permit have been filed with the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) on sites within Plumas County. So far the total for California is approximately 175 applications. Consolidated Hydro-Electric Inc., of Houston, Texas, with 50 applications, is by far the largest applicant with six of those being in Plumas County. The Board of Supervisors acting as the board of directors of the County Flood Control District, took cognizance of the filings this week and moved to file competing applications and protests of in-

tervention with FERC on the six consolidated applications. According to Public Works Superintendent Jim Brock, municipal agencies are given preference in the allocation of federal permits and may then subcontract to other hydro-electric developers in order to maintain control of such developments within the county. Each installation should pay for itself with 7 to 10 years, Brock said. As a result of Board action, Plumas County will intervene in the following Consolidated filings: Grizzly Creek, proposed 4,000-kw capacity, with a filing deadline of June 8; Chips Creek, rated at 1,440-kw capacity, June 22 filing deadline; Soda Creek, 4,500-kw, June 26 deadline; Lower Yellow Creek, 4,800-kw, July 6; Mosquito Creek, 2,900-kw, July

Despite Federal cuts, Plumas Unified School district governing board has approved a preliminary budget for the 1981-82 fiscal year that is slightly larger than last year's. The 1980-81 final budget was \$9,070,056 compared to a preliminary budget for '81-'82 of \$9,189,482. Beginning balances plus income show the coming budget faced with less than last year, \$10,391,476 to \$9,868,754. The 1980-81 final budget was \$679,272. Federal income showed a downward trend with a loss in projected federal money. Funds Assistant Superintendent Floyd Warren explained that last year everything that could be pumped into that source was used, amounting to \$2,140,898 compared to \$1,620,000 for '81-'82. This figure expected to change when actual funds are released later in the year. Under Public Law 974, which provides money to areas with large amounts of federal properties, the figure fell from \$80,000 to \$50,000. Other federal income also dropped from \$26,000 to \$15,000. Title I monies for the grad-

PUSD approves slightly larger prelim budget

Class of 1981 - Graduates Joanne Edwards and Matthew Crowe and some for the moment they had exchanged a few quiet words and a smile during the Quincy High School graduation ceremony Friday night at the Plumas County Fair grounds. Nearly 115 seniors waited

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