

County drops Murray as insurance carrier

By Jane Branson Little Staff Writer
Starting July 1, Plumas County will be insured by a non-local company for the first time in over 50 years.

The county Board of Supervisors approved a proposal of \$11,226 from Levinson Brothers of San Francisco for general coverage for Plumas County. Levinson's proposal was \$50,000 less than Trindell Workers Compensation Fund, and \$60,000

less than Murray and Edwards Insurance Agency. Murray Insurance has provided coverage for Plumas County schools since the 1960s, and for the county since at least the 1930s, according to Murray partner Bob Edwards.

The Board also adopted Warren's recommendation to hire Trindell for workers' compensation, at 65 percent of the annual rate or an estimated \$120,000 for the year. Edwards cautioned the Board to include intangible benefits in its final insurance comparisons.

"The relationship with an insurance agent is special. Our service and integrity are worth dollars to you. You are putting a

lot of emphasis on the recommendation of an outside person—an expert much further away from home than we are."
"Murray Insurance has a proven track record with Plumas in the eye when there's a problem," Edwards said.

Supervisor Bill Coates responded: "In the past we haven't taken enough time with our insurance policy. This year we hired a consultant to come up with a neutral analysis of our insurance, which we couldn't get from our carrier."
"When \$60,000 is at stake we have an obligation to do the best job we can. We have a long record of trying to deal locally, but there's just a point when we can no longer do that," Coates said.

He added that the decision was not "personal or vindictive" but a "responsible decision based on money." The Board requested Levinson to prepare quarterly reports on its insurance claim, a service Coates said had been absent during the years of Murray coverage.

Prior to the 4-0 approval of Levinson's proposal, County Counsel Susan Roff raised the issue of a carrier's interpretation of the insurance policy. "In the past we have had a very liberal (Continued on Page 12)



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FEATHER MERCHANT—Hal Beatty, 1983-84 president of Plumas County Chamber of Commerce, at right, presents the 1984 Feather Merchant of the Year award to Dick Wiggin, Chilcot merchant, 16th recipient of the honor. Looking on at left are Chamber secretary Bob Moon and Shirley Wiggin, the honoree's wife. The presentation was the highlight of last Saturday's annual Chamber dinner in Portola.



GAVEL EXCHANGE—Harold "Skip" Engert of Portola, at left, newly installed president of Plumas County Chamber of Commerce, presents a gavel plaque to Hal Beatty of Quincy, right, as a memento of his 1983-84 year as Chamber president. The gavel exchange took place last Saturday night at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Portola, with 100 members and friends attending.

More pictures on page 8b

Keddie Fourth victim found in slaying

By Dave Meier Managing Editor
When Tim Sharp could not be found following the April, 1981 Keddie murders, lawmen feared the slayer was dead. That fear was confirmed last week when remains of her body—found near the hamlet of Feather Falls in Butte County—were positively identified.

But what happened to Tim Sharp is uncertain, according to Plumas County Sheriff's Department Lt. Don Stoy. Stoy said that a Chico State anthropologist determined that a young girl died "some time prior to last fall" but means that she was killed between the April 12, 1981 date of the alleged murders and the fall of 1983. But anthropologist Bill G. Brown exactly when, where or how she was murdered, Stoy added.

The identification of the fourth Keddie victim, who was 12 when she disappeared, was a long and exhaustive process, Stoy said. It began April 22, when a bottle collector came upon the remains at an area five miles above the town of Feather Falls. Stoy said it is possible to drive to the area in

which she was found. Butte County authorities were alerted and they searched the area, lifting the top of a skull. At that point, "they still didn't know what they had," Stoy said. The skull top was sent to the Department of Justice (DOJ) lab in Sacramento but a forensic dentist said he could not make any identification from it.

Because of that, Butte County searched the area again the first part of this month. They found the lower jaw of the skull with some teeth in it. That was sent to the DOJ lab and the teeth were compared to dental files of missing persons. The teeth matched the file on Tim Sharp, Stoy said.

Apparently, Tim Sharp was abducted from the Sharp Keddie home that fateful evening in 1981. Investigators have theorized that the murders occurred some time in the early morning hours of April 12, 1981.

After daybreak that morning, Sheila Sharp, then 14, came home from a friend's house to find the battered and stabbed bodies of her mother, Gloria Sharp, 36, her brother, John, 15 and his friend, Dana Wisnaga, 17. The three were

found tied at the front door. They had been stabbed repeatedly and beaten with a hammer.

After that, an extensive grid search of the Keddie area was conducted in hopes of finding Tim Sharp but it was not to be. Police followed leads on her whereabouts, most of which were dead ends.

What baffled investigators at the outset was that no one heard the cries, including late night strollers, people in a house just ten feet away from the murder home and other neighbors. At least three children said maybe four were sleeping in another bedroom in the murder home and they were not disturbed at all, according to Stoy.

The have been questioned again and still can't remember being awakened or hearing anything, Stoy added.

Now, "we'd be working more with Butte County on this," Stoy said. "We'll continue talking to people in the Feather Falls area." He added that the results of tests on Tim Sharp's remains could bring them more information to go on.

Local hospital ends year in the red

By Victoria Metcalf Copy Editor
With the 1983-84 fiscal year all but over, Plumas District Hospital (PDH) is in the red, according to Administrator Larry Anderson and Comptroller Terry Kurack. Roughly estimating losses, Kurack said PDH is currently \$47,000 in debt, a figure he predicts will change.

In the last few months PDH has seen nine to 10 patients per day, Anderson said. If those figures hold through for June, PDH might be able to cut the \$47,000 loss to \$25,000, Kurack said. There are also year-end adjustments, and payments coming from Medicare and Medicaid.

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Weather...
Compiled by Bob Ayette
June 21... 60 83
June 22... 63 76
June 23... 62 76
June 24... 60 80
June 25... 60 87
June 26... 64 84
Precipitation to date: 30.18 inches, last year at this time we had 68.18.

County Forecast
The National Weather Service in Red Bluff predicts sunny, warm days, with light to moderate showers through Saturday. Highs will be in the upper 70s, lows in the 40s, with light winds.

The Sun...
June 29... 5:41 8:33
June 30... 5:42 8:34
June 21... 5:42 8:34
June 22... 5:42 8:34
June 23... 5:42 8:34
June 24... 5:42 8:34
June 25... 5:42 8:34
June 26... 5:43 8:34

Lakes...
June 29... 489.87
Buckie... 531.0 94.73
Amanor... 480.87 138.77

Smile...
Fishing can best be described as incessant excitement followed by perpetual disappointment.

Union vote hangs on 50 ballots

By Jane Branson Little Resident Editor
The future of the union is in limbo at Louisiana-Pacific Corporation's (L-P) Crescent Mills plant following a June 21 election to determine whether it should continue to represent mill workers as their bargaining agent.

Sixteen workers voted in favor of union representation and 31 opposed it, according to company and union figures. More than half of the 97 votes cast—a total of 50—were challenged. Revolution by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) could take weeks, officials said.

Election at L-P's hardwood plant in Oroville, and at five mills in the Eureka area were also decisive pending the outcome of contested votes. In Oroville, the vote was 52-15 against the union,

with 40 challenges. Workers at Big Lagoon, Carlotta, Cloverdale, Fremont and Samsa voted 284-204 against the union, with 92 challenges, according to L-P public relations manager Barry Lacer.

Workers officially rejected the union at L-P plants in Keystone near Jamestown, California, and Tacoma, Washington. The vote was 52-11 against the union in Keystone, and 52-23 against union representation in Tacoma, Lacer said.

Union decertification elections at 10 L-P plants were held nearly one year after 1700 members of the Lumber Production and Industrial Workers union (LPIW) struck 20 L-P plants in its western states in a contract dispute. The company refused to sign the agreement the

union negotiated with other major lumber companies, instead, it called for lower wages for new workers and a pay freeze for veteran employees. In addition to the strike, LPIW launched a corporate campaign against L-P, the nation's second largest timber producer.

"Naturally we're pleased at the positive vote," Lacer said. "It reflects the fact that the rank and file of the union and union leadership don't see eye to eye."

The vote does indicate that the company was able to hire votes-to-strike plants as part of its overall plot to try and decertify our struck units," countered Brad Witt, LPIW researcher in Portland.

Among the challenged votes at the Crescent Mills plant, 27 were contested by L-P, 14 by the union, and nine by the NLRB, according to LPIW Local 804 secretary Gerald Dunsky. A total of 50 union and 47 non-union workers voted, he said.

Lacer called the Crescent Mills election the closest vote at the 10 plants where decertification elections were held last week. Dunsky described the mood among local workers as an attitude of "extreme frustration."

The Crescent Mills plant reopened with non-union labor two months after the strike began on June 24, 1983. It closed in April, and was reopened three days before the election. Plant manager Leo Newell said June 25 both the sawmill and the planer mill were

Early deadlines, Pace out

We hope you enjoy our July Pace Magazine, the guide to Feather River fun for the month, which should be especially helpful for Fourth of July.

Because 4th of July falls on Wednesday, we'll be publishing on Tues., July 3. That necessitates early deadlines and they will be, Legal and Display Advertising, Fri., June 29. Classifieds 4 p.m., Fri., June 29. News 3 p.m., Fri., June 29.