



MENDOCINO COUNTY —
Rain likely this afternoon. Rain
tonight with lows in the upper
30s to mid 40s. Southerly
coastal winds 10 to 20 mph with
lighter winds inland. Showers
Friday with highs in the 50s.

Temperatures	H	L
Yesterday	57	30
Last year	56	36
Overnight	low	29
Rainfall		
Through 5 p.m. yesterday	0.00	
Year to date	9.98	
Last year	18.99	

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Plot traces Howard history

By MAUREEN CONNOR-RICE
Journal Staff Writer

A tiny cemetery, containing only a few marked graves, nestles peacefully among the houses of Deerwood Park, unaffected by the activity of families or the road within yards of its fence.

This is the family plot of Mark William Howard, who brought his family to Ukiah in 1858. He reportedly crossed the plains in 1857 with a herd of cattle, 160 immigrants and his half brothers, John and Lorenzo Madux.

The Howards owned land from the Russian River east to Lake Mendocino and to the top of Cow Mountain, says descendant Porter Smith, 83, who lives in Willits.

A home of the Howards still stands, according to John Giovannetti, who has lived in the house for 41 years. It had been located by the river, but was moved away from the flood area up to Redemeyer Road, but still on the original property.

An old tax record shows that Howard paid taxes of \$36.97 in 1865 for his property located on the eastside of the Russian River, Ukiah Township, and "bounded by Sam Ackerman."

It is a long walk from the river to the cemetery at the top of the hill. The graveyard, which was marked off to hold a very large family, is surrounded by a wire fence held up by concrete fenceposts.

The trees shade the graves, and the leaves and foliage blanket them, muffling the footsteps of those who may wander into the confines of the yard. Only the flowers and greenery provided by nature adorn the graves; they seem to be untouched by plants brought by visitors.

Neighbor Arnold Bogner takes care of the graves, according to his wife Lorene. He sprays to keep out the poison oak, trims the trees and tries to keep the area nice, she says.

Howards from across the country have visited the cemetery, Lorene relates. Two from Arizona and Sacramento said they believe there are about 30 relatives buried there. Another from Florida said he dug his father's grave by hand in 1955, but did not put up a marker.

Smith's mother was Caroline Howard, his grandfather was Bill Howard. He remembers his great-uncle Taylor, who is buried in the family plot.

"Uncle Tay lived at the homestead," he recalls from his youth. "He always put the coffee on in the morning and boiled it all day."

The tombstone for Tay Howard is dated 1847-1920. His wife Kate rests with him.

The first person to be buried in the family graveyard, according to the date on the tombstone, was the infant daughter of J.L. and H.M. Howard. She died March 1, 1884. Her tiny body sleeps all alone in a natural gazebo of trees. A lamb is carved on top of the little one's headstone.

(See, GRAVES, page 2)



Evan Johnson

Arnold Bogner has been watching over the little family cemetery of Mark and Rachel Howard's family for years. The family plot is a touch of antiquity amid the modern, expensive homes built in Deerwood which was part of the Howard ranch.

Rural county relief vowed

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — Four senators are pledging to enact a \$750 million, bipartisan 10-bill package of legislation to give counties more money and more control over programs they operate.

The bills announced Wednesday would shift a quarter-cent of the state sales tax to cities and counties — some \$600 million a year — and exempt local governments from payment of sales taxes. They would also begin state funding of trial courts, repeal state restrictions on county-run programs, and require a two-thirds vote in the Legislature to enact new requirements on counties.

Sponsoring lawmakers said that although the package is in line with Gov. George Deukmejian's "back to the people" initiative, it is not modeled precisely after the Republican governor's new budget proposals.

They acknowledged in a Capitol news conference that in some counties, the package might put local budgets above the spending ceiling approved by California voters in 1979. But, the lawmakers argued, voters could amend local spending limits at the polls, as they have in Marin and Santa Barbara counties.

County Supervisors Association President Kay Cenicerros, a Riverside County supervisor, hailed the effort as a major step toward easing the financial burden counties have faced since imposition of property tax-cutting Proposition 13.

County representatives have for several years lobbied unsuccessfully for a release from state controls placed on county-administered public services. Frequently, county officials complain, the Legislature requires counties to perform services, but does not provide the money to pay for them.

The proposed legislation "acknowledges that counties are more than just creatures of the state, but are indeed partners of the state," Cenicerros told

reporters. Senate Minority Leader Jim Nielsen, R-Rohnert Park, author of proposals to disengage the state from county-run health programs and repeal other, unspecified state mandates on counties, said the political climate is right for changing the relationship between the state and its 58 counties.

"I think it's rather arrogant of this Legislature and anyone else to sit there and say we know best how (counties) should run their programs," Nielsen said.

Joining Nielsen as co-authors of the measures were Sen. Marian Bergeson, R-Newport Beach, Sen. Quentin Kopp, an Independent from San Francisco, and Sen. Robert Presley, D-Riverside.

Kopp, a former San Francisco County supervisor, is author of SB205, the measure to shift to local governments a quarter-cent of the state sales tax, and of SB204, a bill to exempt local governments from paying the sales tax.

"We have the crazy situation in California of one government entity supported by California taxpayers paying taxes to another government entity supported by California taxpayers," Kopp said. "It's silly."

Presley's bill, SB203, would provide up to \$350 million a year to counties by giving the state control of trial courts.

Bergeson proposes that the state pay counties the difference whenever the costs of welfare programs increase faster than a county's own general purpose revenues. Under the proposal, not yet introduced as a bill, 42 counties would immediately get \$7.6 million to pay for such imbalances over the past three years.

Most controversial of the proposals are likely to be Nielsen's plans to lift state controls from county health programs and other services.

Round Valley school superintendent fired

By SUZI BRAKKEN
Journal Staff Writer

The superintendent of the Round Valley Unified School District has been fired by the district's board of education.

The board Tuesday voted three to two not to renew Leo St. John's contract, and the superintendent will leave the position as of June 30. St. John has been employed by the district since 1983.

Tuesday's action was the third time the board has voted on the issue, according to board member Sue Lucchetti. The first vote came on Dec. 15 and the second was on Jan. 12.

Covelo residents who were upset by the earlier decisions had asked the board to reconsider the decision and renegotiate with the superintendent. The vote remained unchanged each time.

Lucchetti, who voted to retain

St. John, indicated that the decision has created a conflict among the Covelo community.

Members of the Native American population are upset with the current school administration because it feels it there is not enough being done for Indian school children, according to Delores Bettega. Bettega is the president of the Covelo Indian Community Council.

Bettega said St. John has never met with the council and said the concerns of the Indian community, such as the dropout problem, have not been heard.

Lucchetti called St. John an "honest, ethical and qualified man" who has done a lot of positive things for the district and community.

She said she was not sure yet what plans the board has to hire a new superintendent.

Redevelopment funds loaned

The Ukiah City Council approved without discussion Wednesday night a request for a \$50,000 loan from the Ukiah Redevelopment Commission.

City Planning Director Mike Harris, in a memo to the council last month, estimated it will cost \$100,000 to complete the legal groundwork and environmental studies required to establish a redevelopment district.

City Manager D. Kent Payne, who doubles as executive direc-

tor of the redevelopment commission, recommended only loaning \$50,000 for now.

The money has not been given to the redevelopment commission, but will be available as needed. The loan comes with 10 percent interest, but has no firm repayment schedule.

The first action of the commission, once the money was available, was to retain the law firm of McDonough, Holland and Allen.

Hopes rise for joint justice building

By DAVE CURL
Journal Staff Writer

Negotiations between the City of Willits and the county for construction of the Willits-Mendocino County joint justice facility are close to final, with a proposed agreement within reach.

The building would be a two-story, 5000-square-foot facility housing the Little Lake Justice Court, Willits police, the county

sheriff's substation, as well as working facilities for the district attorney.

Willits Mayor Wayne Bashore, a member of the negotiating team, is hopeful construction of the project, to be built on land between East Mendocino Avenue and the existing Willits Community Center, can begin as early as April.

Terms of the proposed agreement call for Willits to con-

tribute the land for the building, with the county acting as contractor.

Willits will lease the building from the county for \$30,000 annually over the next 30 years, with the city having the option of changing the payment schedule to \$40,000 over a 20-year period.

The building will be run by both the city and the county, with the County picking up the building insurance costs and

both indoor and outdoor maintenance, while Willits is in charge of the janitorial duties and outdoor maintenance.

Utilities will be split on a percentage of square footage used: approximately 66 percent county, 34 percent city, with communication costs kept separate.

Problems still unsolved include added parking facilities for the public.

Treasurer commits suicide at news conference

HARRISBURG, Pa. (UPI) — State Treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, facing up to 55 years in prison for bribery, pulled a gun at a news conference today and killed himself with a bullet in the mouth before television cameras and dozens of horrified spectators.

Pandemonium erupted as Dwyer, convicted last month in a wide-ranging kickback scandal and scheduled to be sentenced Friday, collapsed in a pool of blood on the blue carpet of his office in the state Finance Building. Several dozen horrified reporters and TV cameramen recorded the bizarre incident.

He was declared dead on arrival at Harrisburg Hospital at 11:31 a.m.

Dwyer, 47, married with two children, had urged photographers and camera crews to keep their lenses trained on him during his rambling half-hour news conference.

Dwyer repeatedly denied his guilt and at the end of the news conference he pulled a large-caliber handgun from a manila envelope. He said, "Please leave the room if this will ..." and his final words were drowned out by shouts of "No! No! No!"

The treasurer was scheduled to be

sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court in Williamsport for steering a contract to a California company in exchange for a promise of \$300,000 in kickbacks.

He was convicted of conspiracy, perjury, mail fraud and interstate transportation in aid of racketeering, and faces up to 55 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$55,000.

Dwyer was expected by some reporters to announce his resignation at the news conference. He did not make a resignation announcement before shooting himself.

Upon his conviction Dec. 18, Dwyer, a Republican, declared himself temporarily disabled to serve as treasurer and named a deputy, Donald Johnson, to fill in for him. Johnson was present as Dwyer shot himself.

Dwyer and former Republican State Committee Chairman Robert Asher were found guilty of steering a Treasury Department contract to Computer Technology Associates Inc. in exchange for promises of kickbacks.

Dwyer awarded the no-bid contract — worth up to about \$6 million — to CTA in May 1984. The firm was to recover overpayments of Social Security taxes by school districts and their employees.

The treasurer canceled the contract two months later because of a federal investigation.

In addition to Dwyer and Asher, four CTA officials and a middle-level state bureaucrat have been convicted in the scandal. Others, including Attorney General LeRoy Zimmerman, have been implicated but not charged.

Dwyer was elected treasurer in 1980 and re-elected in November 1984, a month after the first indictments in the CTA case were handed up by a federal grand jury.

A lawyer from Meadville in Crawford County, Dwyer served in the Senate from 1971 to 1981 and in the House from 1965 to 1971.

During his trial, CTA owner John Torquato Jr. and his partner, William Smith, a former chairman of the Harrisburg-area Republican Party, testified Dwyer agreed to give the contract to CTA in exchange for a promise of \$300,000 in kickbacks.

Torquato, a Johnstown native and son of the late Democratic Party boss of the same name, pleaded guilty to taking part in the bribery conspiracy.