

# Local

Thursday, July 19, 2001

## *North state in brief*

### **Driver gets six months**

WEAVERVILLE — An Arizona man who drove a Ford Explorer off a cliff in Trinity County, killing two passengers Feb. 5, 2000, was sentenced Wednesday to six months in jail.

George F. Senner IV, 24, of Tucson pleaded guilty to two counts of misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter for the deaths of friends Crystal Mahathy, 18, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and William Scott Tarwater, 28, of Twin Falls, Idaho.

They and two other passengers were traveling west on Highway 299 near Big Bar, selling magazine subscriptions, said Senner's Redding attorney, John Kucera. The Explorer had Firestone tires that have since been recalled, two of which blew off after Senner lost control in a curve. Trinity County Judge John Letton agreed the Explorer and faulty tires were a factor in the crash but said Senner's speeding caused it, Kucera said. The California Highway Patrol estimated he was driving 74 to 80 mph in a 55 mph zone.