

also does some, I think," she said, gingerly easing part of a shattered bottle from the sand.

gushed blood all the way up the stairs. I had to have seven stitches. It was scary, all right, and I was as mad as a hornet."

doesn't work like that. I'm lying over there? I'll fill that one up tomorrow."

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Board must now wrestle with 'unhappy' budget

By BUD O'BRIEN

Santa Cruz County supervisors officially accepted a preliminary budget Tuesday from their administrative officer, hardly comforted by the report that the gloomy news contained in its figures will probably get worse.

The supervisors had been prepared for County Administrative Officer George Newell's grim budget proposals, having been given periodic reports in the past six months on the deteriorating economic conditions.

But that didn't make it any easier to swallow the flood of figures that relentlessly underlined the financial difficulties that confront the county as the 1982-83 fiscal year approaches. The preliminary budget calls for total spending of \$112 million, up \$8.5 million from last year.

But Newell noted that it is predicated on the assumption that, among other things, Measure "A" will be approved by

the voters in June. That measure, designed to raise money to repair roads and drainage systems destroyed or damaged in the big January storms, would trigger an influx of federal and state matching money. If it fails, however, Newell said it would mean \$3.3 million would have to be hacked off the road budget as presented Tuesday morning and the county's road maintenance program would grind to a virtual halt.

The budget figures were also predicated on the assumption that the current economic recession would get no worse and on several other assumptions that are shaky at best. Newell said, for example, that the estimate of a state budget deficit in the coming fiscal year of \$2 billion was probably more than \$1 billion short of reality.

Newell's estimates that the county work force would have to be trimmed by about 11 percent and

that cuts in even the most vital services would be necessary was greeted with an air of reluctant resignation by three of the four supervisors present (Supervisor Dan Forbus was in Tennessee attending a local government meeting).

Only Pajaro Valley Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. took anything resembling a positive approach to the news.

"What we really have, for the first time," the conservative Moore said, "is the results of the message from the voters when they approved Prop. 13." He said that message was that government had to make "fundamental and basic choices" on where the taxpayers' money was to be spent.

"I'm prepared to make those choices," Moore said, making it clear that he would give priority to the "property-related" services, such as police and fire protection and public works.

The other three supervi-

sors didn't view the situation as quite so clear-cut.

Santa Cruz-North Coast Supervisor Gary Patton, who has been on the board since 1974 and is recognized as the leader of the liberal-environmentalist faction in the county, said what it really means is that local government has lost the ability to perform its function in its own way.

Patton said he thought it was good that governing bodies were constrained in their spending and that making judicious spending choices was a duty public officials should welcome. But he said, with the advent of Prop. 13, local governments had in effect been hamstringed in their ability to respond to situations "when times get tough."

County residents would soon discover, Patton predicted, that the budget figures presented to the board were more than abstractions. He said they would discover it when, at a time when the crime rate is rising, law

enforcement would have to be cut back; when health care for the poor and jobless (a growing percentage of residents) is reduced if not eliminated; when child care for working parents is abolished; and in a hundred other ways.

"This will be the first year that people will learn of the results of Prop. 13," Patton said. "As a local government, we no longer have local control. We're going to learn this year how we like it."

Chairman Robley Levy, who represents the Mid-county area, and San Lorenzo Valley Supervisor Joe Cucchiara agreed with Patton.

"This will not be a happy budget session we're going into," Mrs. Levy said.

The budget hearings will begin June 16, but in meetings before that the board will be getting more information and suggestions on how to treat specific budget items.