County branch office in Morongo gets start

By BILL ROGERS
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — The Board of Supervisors took its first step Monday toward constructing a branch county office building for Morongo Basin communities.

The county's Public Works Agency, which proposed such a facility early last year to centralize most county services in the area, was authorized to initiate procedures toward selecting architectural consultants to prepare a preliminary design.

The agency has proposed building a county office center somewhere in the Joshua Tree area and estimated the cost at $1.8 million.

It is suggesting that construction funding be appropriated in 1981-82, although board chairman James Mayfield conceded that such a schedule is "tentative at best" and subject to budget review.

James Matthews, director of the county's Architecture and Engineering Division, said preliminary recommendations are for a 26,000-square-foot building to house the area's municipal court, sheriff's substation and branch offices of half a dozen other departments.

The present county building in Twentynine Palms would be retained for part-time use by departments. Libraries there and in Yucca Valley also would be retained.

Matthews said the facility would eliminate the current need for leases of office space at six scattered locations in the Morongo Basin.

In submitting its proposal last year, the Public Works Agency estimated that for a $1.8 million investment in a centralized facility, the county could save $2.4 million over the next 30 years because, in the absence of new county-owned facilities, costs of renting office space during that period would total $4.2 million.

In other actions Monday, the supervisors:

✓ Awarded a $17,654 contract to Alcorn Fence Co. of Riverside to install fencing around Joshua Tree's Sunburst Park to prevent dune-buggy and motorbike riders, using nearby desert land, from driving through the park and onto adjoining private properties. The project is being financed by Joshua Tree Park District.

✓ Approved a change from single-family to multiple-family residential zoning requested by John and Katherine Richards to permit a condominium development on a 6.3-acre Yucca Valley site extending from Coyote Trail north beyond Buena Vista Drive 135 feet west of Tamarisk Avenue.

Pioneertown plan delayed

SAN BERNARDINO — Concerned that there may not be an adequate source of supply, county supervisors Monday postponed action for at least a month on a proposal to start design of a new water system for Pioneertown, near Yucca Valley.

County board chairman James Mayfield said he was afraid the Special Districts Department was "putting the cart before the horse" in recommending design of a system prior to any showing that there would be adequate water for it.

His request for further consultation on the problem resulted in postponement until Jan. 14 of board action on proposals to form an improvement zone for the small desert community north of Yucca Valley and to levy fees of $75 per acre on property owners to pay for the design work and assessment proceedings.

Special Districts director Albert Reid cautioned that the cost of drilling a test well would exceed that of the design work, estimated at $46,000.

Ed Houston, special districts engineer, conceded that the availability of underground water "is a problem." He said the plan has been to drill a well in the wash area near the existing one serving part of the community.

Houston reported that 190 of 345 property owners in the area responded to a recent poll, and 136, or 71 percent, favored the proposal to replace and expand the community's present under-sized, deteriorated system.

Daggett center agreement OK'd

SAN BERNARDINO — County supervisors Monday approved an agreement under which the Daggett Community Services District is committed to operating and maintaining the community center that the county is planning for the desert town.

Construction of the center, for which a $150,000 federal grant is available through the county's Office of Community Development, is expected to start late next year.

Carrie Hamilton . . . two jobs

Hamilton elected to 2 posts

BARSTOW — Real estate broker Carrie Hamilton will serve as president of both the Barstow Chamber of Commerce and Barstow Board of Realtors next year.

Chamber directors elected her as their president to succeed banker Jack Micallef.

They also chose Dr. Nels Larson, first vice-president; Iva Hartman, second vicepresident, and Don Kuhns, treasurer.

Hamilton, broker-owner of International Real Estate Network/Hamilton Realty, will be installed Jan. 26 at Rosita's Restaurant. Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-San Bernardino, will be speaker.

Meanwhile, she was installed Saturday as new realty board president, succeeding Mel Ferrera. Other officers are Bob Hoffman, vice president, and Liz Troy, secretary-treasurer.

Hamilton headed the United Fund here last year, and is a member of Altrusa and is listed in Who's Who in California.

She was graduated by the California Realtor Institute.

She and her husband, Mark, have three children.

1,600 toys, $18,000 given to Toys for Tots telethon

By SYBEL ALGER
Sun Staff Writer

BARSTOW — Kids brought their piggy banks, motorists left the freeway to donate and people reached deep into their pockets to raise nearly $20,000 in cash and toys during the Tots for Tots telethon.

"The response was outstanding," said Mal Wessel, an emcee on the telethon, which was broadcast simultaneously on Channel 12 and K-131 radio. "The whole community cooperated."

The effort netted about $10,000 in cash, $8,000 in pledges and 1,600 toys, he said.

Since the effort surpassed the goal of providing two toys for every needy child in the area, the Marine Corps Reserve will have an extra "cushion" to provide for emergencies, Wessel said.

Pledges should be mailed to Toys for Tots, 420 Broadway, Barstow, CA 92311.

Merchants who still have collection canisters can call 256-2175 to have someone pick them up.

Hattie Pollard of Lenwood was the largest single contributor with $500.

About $1,300 was raised at Fort Irwin, and Marines canvassing on Main Street collected $1,200.

Representatives of all branches of the military manned phones and collected money.

Wessel said many people heard about the drive on the radio, and drove downtown to make contributions.

"They drove up to the building, gave $20 or so, and thanked us for what we were doing."

One family donated 33 stuffed animals they had won at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, Wessel said.

Local law enforcement agencies "proved they care about kids in the community" by donating 100 toys and $30, Wessel said.

But the size of the donation was not the most important thing.

Several young boys would do chores to earn money, buy a toy, bring it in to the telethon, and go back to earn more money.

"One seven-year-old had 21 cents. He went back home and got another four cents to make it an even quarter."

Butch and Jim Miller of Miller Transfer and Storage and Jack and Pill Jaggers of Calico Van and storage and Smythe Moving raised nearly $2,000, Wessel said.

They collected money from persons in the moving business throughout the state, and loaned equipment for the telethon.

A woman called from Kansas City to pledge $100, Wessel said. A $400 pledge was received from Las Vegas.

"People from all over the country were calling. It was amazing."

Distribution of the toys will begin next week.

BLM told to educate public on Afton area

By SYBEL ALGER
Sun Staff Writer

BARSTOW — Twelve persons representing a variety of interests appeared at an on-site hearing regarding the Afton Canyon camper-recreation management plan.

Joel Mur, Bureau of Land Management outdoor recreation planner, said horse lovers, rockhounds, miners, 4-wheel drive enthusiasts and environmentalists attended to discuss the plan.

The campground is located off Interstate 15 about 35 miles east of Barstow.

Major objectives of the plan are protecting the wildlife habitat by restricting vehicle use, providing areas for group camping with equestrian facilities and prohibiting collection of firewood in the area.

The plan also calls for enforcement personnel to manage the area.

"The main message everyone brought was that we should educate people about the use of the area," Mur said.

"We have to get across that in certain environments, certain behavior is not acceptable."

Afton Canyon is one of the few spots in the area with a running stream and a great variety of wildlife.

William Smith, president of the United Mining Councils of America, said "everyone (who attended) was opposed to the desecration of the hills."

He said it was a "mistake" to build the campground in its present location. "It should have been on the top of the hill away from the river."

He wanted to make sure access to mining claims in the area was protected, and that rockhounding be allowed.

Written comments on the management plan will be accepted until Jan. 2 at the Riverside District Office, 1695 Spruce St., Riverside, 92507.

bulletin board

Planning Commission

BARSTOW — The Planning Commission will conduct four public hearings Dec. 11, two covering requests for rezoning of 43 acres here.

A study session is set for 6 p.m. on land use planning for about 200 acres south of Barstow College.

The hearings will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall council chambers with a request for a sideyard setback at 28805 Grace St.

H&E Brothers Investment Corp. seeks rezoning of 37 acres south of Main Street, east of Mojave Manor for mobile homes.

Personnel Commission

BARSTOW — The Barstow Unified School District Personnel Commission will hold its regular meeting at 5 p.m. Dec. 12 in the district board room.

Needles school board

NEEDLES — Three members of the board of education have will be sworn in at the board's meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 11.

Margaret Kell is a newly-elected member while Esther Barrios and John Cochran were re-elected to the board.

Adult soccer

BARSTOW — Adult soccer leagues are now being formed by the Barstow Park and Recreation District in conjunction with Barstow Community College.

Persons 18 years or older may register from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 880 Barstow Road.

A $3 lab fee will be charged.

More information is available from Mel Otero, 256-5617.

Hospital drive

BARSTOW — Members of Kappa Lambda Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha are raising money to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The drive will continue through Dec. 28, and members are placing canisters in local businesses.

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The Barstow Mall's Christmas hours starting on Dec. 2nd, will be:
Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HEY KIDS — Santa's here every weekend — Fri. 4 to 9 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 11 to 5 p.m. Photographs Available

Brighten your shopping by shopping the Barstow Mall.

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