Desert News Roundup

Robbers sought

PALM SPRINGS — A couple posing as pest control workers are suspected of taking more than $300 in cash from an unsuspecting nurse who let them into the house Saturday, police said.

Loriece Tindell, 46, a live-in nurse at a home in the 800 block of Nueva Vista Drive in Palm Springs, invited a man and a woman into the house Saturday at noon who said they had been sent by the owner to spray for insects, police reported. Ms. Tindell told police the couple arrived in a truck stenciled "Pest Control" on the side, the department reported.

The female in the couple sat in the living room with Ms. Tindell while the man sprayed around the interior of the house, police said. Later, after the nurse discovered more than $300 missing from her purse, she called the owner, who said she didn't know anything about any pest control workers, police added.

Arrest for theft

PALM SPRINGS — A registered visitor at the downtown Palm Springs Hotel was arrested Monday night on suspicion of taking wallets and a leather bag from the rooms of fellow guests, police said.

Chris Anthony Borrelli, 22, of Glassport, Pa., is being held in the city jail in lieu of $10,000 bail. Borrelli also gave the name Tony DeFasio to investigators, and police said they are unsure which is his true identity.

Two residents found their wallets missing after returning from the laundry to their unlocked room Monday evening, police said. Two other guests discovered their locked room ransacked and clothes, jewelry and a brown leather bag taken when they returned from dinner, also Monday evening.

Police waited for Borrelli to return to the hotel about 11 p.m., and while questioning him in his room noticed a brown leather bag similar to the one described as missing. Liliana Torrelio, a law clerk from Sherman Oaks staying at the hotel, identified the bag as hers, police said.

Suspects sought

PALM SPRINGS — Police are looking for two men in a Ford Courier pickup truck who may have fired a pistol as they chased two Desert Hot Springs brothers down Ramon Road early Monday afternoon.

Leslie Cser, 25, and James Cser, 23, were driving down Ramon Road about 12:40 p.m. when two men, described as heavyset, ages 34 and 45, pulled up beside them in the pickup. The unidentified men screamed obscenities and one leveled a handgun at the brothers, who sped away with the truck in hot pursuit, police said.

Just before the Csers lost their pursuers, after reached Tahquitz-McCallum Way, they thought they heard a gunshot, police reported. No motive for the alleged chase or gun threat was reported.

Woman injured

PALM SPRINGS — A 75-year-old Palm Springs woman suffered a three-inch cut to her head Monday morning after being struck by a beer can thrown by an unidentified man. Police are looking for the man for possible assault with a deadly weapon.

Frances Elizabeth King, 75, was treated and released at Desert Hospital for her injury, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Ms. King and witnesses said the man slapped her in her home in the 2400 block of North Indian Avenue, and then flung a full beer can at her head, they said. The man then grabbed the can and left the house about 11:45 a.m., police added.

Ms. King reportedly knew the suspect, and the alleged assault took place after the two had argued,authorities said, but no other details about the altercation were available.

IW inks budget

INDIAN WELLS — A 1983-84 budget totaling $1,435,480 in income, $900,016 in expenditures, $500,000 in capital improvements and $94,089 in contingency funds, was approved Thursday by the City Council.

Last year income was $1,229,00; expeditures, $837,000; capital improvements, $400,000; and contingency, $25,000.

Pioneertown gets SB approval

Water pipeline system to be upgraded

By KEN SWART
Desert Sun Staff Writer

Worried that replacement of a water system will spur development and ruin the area's rural atmosphere, a half-dozen Pioneertown residents intend to form an area homeowners association and to work to have the town designated a historical landmark.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Monday approved updating of an underground water pipeline system at the former Western movie set, located northwest of Yucca Valley.

The motion to OK replacement of the old pipelines, and construction of several new facilities, was made by 1st District Supervisor John Joyner, who represents the Morongo Basin.

"It's a much-needed project," Joyner said.

The matter was continued three weeks to Monday to allow for Joyner's vacation and his tour of the flooded Colorado River. The delay also was granted to allow residents time to get more information, meet with their neighbors and consult with an attorney. The threat of a lawsuit if development is spurred by the improvements has been raised by the some residents.

Criticism also has been leveled at the county for not properly informing residents of the project, and at Joyner for not being available to meet with residents.

"We haven't been able to talk to him," Constance Walsh told supervisors Monday. "He's reacting to one-sided, biased information."

Added resident Jerry Johnson after the supervisors' hearing, "Yesterday (Sunday) was the first time (Joyner field representative Bob) Burke had ever been to Pioneertown. He (Burke) didn't even know it existed, except on paper. I think that's astonishing. They (supervisors) don't even know what we're up against."

As part of their decision, the supervisors:

—Accepted a $520,000 loan, at less than current market interest rates, from the state Department of Water Resources (DWR), as allowed under the Safe Water Drinking Act of 1915.

—Created an assessment district, charging the 320 or so landowners an average $1,600 over a 34-year period, to pay back the DWR loan.

—Awarded nearly $350,000 in construction bids to replace 16,000 feet of underground pipeline, drill at least three new wells and build a new steel reservoir.

In a letter to Joyner, some Pioneertown residents called upon the county to consider preserving Pioneertown as an historical landmark.

Responding to the letter, Ed Houston, chief of the projects development branch for the county Special Districts Department, said the plan for an assessment district, to replace old, underground pipeline began almost four years ago, at the request of other Pioneertown residents.

Ms. Walsh complained neither she nor any of her fellow residents had seen Houston's response until he handed copies to them just before they walked into Monday's meeting.

In contrast, Houston said he and Ms. Walsh previously had discussed the contents of the letter via telephone. He called his written response, within two days, "a pretty quick turnaround."

He said it was "super" that residents were forming a homeowners association, adding, "We look forward to working with it."

PS airport closure throws some travelers for a loop

(Continued from Page A-1)

"We tried using the taxiways as a runway before and we had three nasty accidents, one of them nearly fatal," said Colby. "Especially considering all the equipment — we're going to have a machine eating 200 tons of asphalt an hour, and we'll need a battery of trucks to keep up — it would be unsafe."

Most of the commuters do not have Los Angeles as their destination, airline officials said, but many take the short hop there and then fly on to other cities. They include architects and lawyers with two offices, as well as owners of several related businesses, some in the desert and some not.

Sun Aire considered busing commuters to Thermal and flying them out of there to Los Angeles, said Di Giorgio. But the idea was dropped because with added bus time to Thermal and flight time to Los Angeles, it was too hard to make connecting flights, Di Giorgio said.

The resurfacing is part of a $1.4 million package of improvements to be built at the airport this summer. The runway will be resurfaced to increase friction, a safety precaution, during the closure. Two new taxiways and a fire protection water main also will be installed. The project is 90 percent funded by a FAAgrant.

School board members plan re-election bid

Several school board members throughout the Coachella Valley have announced plans to seek re-election this fall.

Palm Springs Unified School District Trustess Michael McCabe said today he will seek another term. He plans to make the formal announcement Wednesday.

His fellow trustee, Gary Knutson, said today he also will seek another term but will formally make the announcement at a later date. The other trustee up for re-election in November, Carol Friedenberg, was not available for comment this morning.

In the Desert Sands Unified School District, Gilbert Anderson said he planned to run again, citing a "number of unfinished tasks" he said he would like to see completed. Among them he mentioned were the need for an "improved discipline" program and more attention paid to "the disruptive students" who he said often bring chaos to the classroom.

The other trustee facing a decision seeking re-election, Gilbert Jensen, was unavailable for comment this morning.

The filing period for the election opens Monday and extends through Aug. 12.

SB county delays OK for Joshua Tree project

SAN BERNARDINO — Final action to OK a planned one-square-mile, 3,396-unit residential-commercial development in Joshua Tree, which has the potential to double the unincorporated Morongo Basin community's current estimated population of 2,100, was delayed Monday by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors for two weeks — until July 25.

The site is 640 acres along Yucca Mesa Road, between Alta Loma Drive and Twentynine Palms Highway.

A delay was granted by the county board at the request of 1st District Supervisor John Joyner, who represents the Morongo Basin, giving him a chance to meet later this week or early next week with Irv Jennings of Joshua Tree Properties, the Rancho Santa Fe firm seeking to build what has been called a "retirement housing community."

Joyner said he and Jennings had to discuss "a lot of different signals from the community."

The supervisor apparently referred to earlier differences of opinion among several community groups — including the Chamber of Commerce, Joshua Basin Water District and the Municipal Advisory Council — on how many homes should be built and how much water is available for the new residents.

Much of the confusion, according to Jennings and county officials, stemmed from the water district's initial, cautious approval of the 3,396-unit project, but its apparent leaning toward a scaled-down, phased-in 1,310-unit version.

Recently, the water district has said it will serve water to whatever size development the county approves. But it has promised to keep close tabs on construction and projected water availability and use.

On a related issue, a county senior planning official said it was "interpretable" if the Joshua Tree Community Plan requires all services — including water — to be immediately available for the entire project, even if only part of the project is planned for immediate construction.

The open jntepretation apparently also is confusing.

Outside the board chambers after Monday's hearing, Jennings said of Joyner's request for a delay, "I can fully understand it."

Meantime, news surfaced Monday that payments on what apparently is a third trust deed for the land reportedly are in default.

A legal notice warning of default on the loan, and threatening sale of the land by public auction, was paid for by a San Fernando Valley firm specializing in trust deed services, and published last week in a Yucca Valley-based twice-weekly newspaper.

The land originally was owned by the founders of Mentalphysics college, who still hold a first trust deed on the property, according to reports.

—Ken Swart

Laid-off Ford workers eligible for benefits

MILPITAS (AP) — More than 2,000 workers who were laid off from the Ford Motor Co. in Milpitas are eligible for special federal assistance because they lost their jobs because of foreign competitiod, the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled.

In its Monday decision, the department said the workers must exhaust all state unemployment benefits before being entitled to a continuation of state benefits of up to $166 per week for another 26 weeks.

Workers enrolled in certain federally-approved retraining programs could be eligible for an additonal 26 weeks of benefits if money becomes available, depart,ent offficials said.

In May, Ford laid off 2,386 workers from its Milpitas plant, saying Ford didn't sell enough cars on the West Coast to justify keeping the plant open.

Joe Gonzales, an official of the United Auto Workers Local 560, said that about 55 of the laid off workers had found jobs.

Doctor seeks retrial in lost slander bid

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A doctor who lost a $30 million slander suit against CBS News and reporter Dan Rather over a "60 Minutes" broadcast linking him to alleged medical insurance fraud has asked for a retrial.

Bruce Friedman, attorney for Dr. Carl A. Galloway of Lynwood, based the request Monday on grounds of jury misconduct, evidence tampering and inappropriate instructions to the jury.

"Any of those grounds alone should be enough to get a new trial, but together, I think we have a very good chance," Friedman said.

Death claims Bess Shields

(Continued from Page A-1)

"I thought it was very colorless, very barren in 1924," she said during the 1981 interview. It was "questionable," she added, whether she would ever like it here.

She changed her mind through the years, saying she "found all kinds of color." She spent three seasons a year in the valley as she grew older. During summer months she usually packed up and relocated in Sun Valley, Idaho, where she maintained a second home.

As for the future now of the date gardens, Mrs. Shields once said she had "taken care of things" and she wasn't going to worry about the future.

"I learned a long time ago it doesn't pay to worry. It pays to think about things. And if you can do something about them, you do it. If you can't, you forget it. My plans are made for when I'm gone and I'm not going to worry about it."

Temperatures

	High	Low		High	Low
Palm Springs	112	75	1000 Palms	115	78
(Humidity, 5 p.m. .06%)			Desert Hot Springs	114	79
Cathedral City	114	72	Rancho Mirage	112	72
Indio	118	na	Mecca	116	74
North Shore	108	73	Oasis	113	70
La Quinta	114	76	Twentynine Palms	104	62
Indian Wells	na	na	Yucca Valley	96	56
Palm Desert	110	70	Beaumont	105	59

WEATHER: Coachella Valley — 345-3711 (Monday through Friday)
SMOG: Coachella Valley — (800) 242-4666
WIND: Coachella Valley and San Gorgonio Pass — 345-2767

California

Bakersfield	103	71
Blythe	110	m
Eureka	63	m
Fresno	104	66
Lancaster	98	58
LosAngeles	95	70
Marysville	105	m
Monterey	78	m
Needles	106	m
Oakland	98	63
PasoRobles	104	58
RedBluff	106	70
RedwoodCity	102	63
Reno	91	51
Sacramento	100	61
Salinas	99	56
SanDiego	85	70
SanFrancisco	92	63
SantaBarbara	84	62
Stockton	103	68
Thermal	114	m
Barstow	101	66
Big Bear	93	36
Bishop	93	47
Catalina	72	62
LakeArrowhead	89	50
LongBeach	94	66
Monrovia	105	59
Mt.Wilson	86	67
NewportBeach	80	38
Ontario	105	60
Pasadena	100	64
Riverside	105	60
SanBernardino	106	58
SanGabriel	99	61
SanJose	99	61
SantaAna	91	64
SantaCruz	88	60
TahoeValley	77	35

m-Missing

The nation

Albany	77	58		clr
Albuquerque	93	63	.01	cdy
Amarillo	93	63		clr
Anchorage	60	51		clr
Asheville	88	63		cdy
Atlanta	92	76		clr
AtlanticCity	82	66		clr
Austin	92	74		cdy
Baltimore	84	61		clr
Billings	82	57		clr
Birmingham	93	69		hze
Bismarck	80	48		clr
Boise	86	60		clr
Boston	82	36		cdy
Brownsville	92	76	.23	m
Buffalo	81	70		clr
Burlington	78	62	.10	clr
Casper	82	47		clr
Chrlstn,S.C.	85	75	.03	cdy
Chrlstn,W.V.	89	61		clr
Charlotte,N.C.	91	70		cdy
Cheyenne	68	51		clr
Chicago	93	73		clr
Cincinnati	89	67		clr
Cleveland	89	68		clr
Columbia,S.C.	94	72		cdy
Columbus	87	67		clr
Dallas-FtWorth	94	74		cdy
Dayton	87	69		clr
Denver	72	56		clr
DesMoines	93	66		clr
Detroit	90	69		clr
Duluth	79	59		clr
ElPaso	93	68		cdy
Fairbanks	74	57		cdy
Fargo	78	55		clr
Flagstaff	84	48		cdy
GreatFalls	79	63		cdy
Hartford	82	67		cdy
Helena	77	53		cdy
Honolulu	87	73		clr
Houston	89	75		cdy
Indianapolis	92	70		clr
Jackson,Miss.	92	73		hze
Jacksonville	92	72		hze
Juneau	63	48		cdy
KansasCity	95	70		clr
LasVegas	97	72		clr
LittleRock	94	73		clr
Louisville	92	70		clr
Lubbock	93	66		clr
Memphis	94	76		clr
Miami	85	82		cdy
Milwaukee	93	71		clr
Mpls-St.Paul	81	60		clr
Nashville	93	71		clr
NewOrleans	91	71		cdy
NewYork	85	71		clr
Norfolk	83	69		clr
NorthPlatte	79	54		clr
OklahomaCity	93	70		cdy
Omaha	83	67		clr
Orlando	90	73		hze
Philadelphia	82	61		clr
Phoenix	109	89		clr
Pittsburgh	82	63		clr
Portland,Me.	78	59		cdy
Portland,Ore.	85	63		cdy
Providence	80	65	.17	cdy
Raleigh	84	62		cdy
RapidCity	79	47		clr
Reno	91	51		clr
Richmond	86	63		clr
St.Louis	95	76		clr
St.Pete-Tampa	89	74		hze
SaltLake	78	56		clr
SanAntonio	91	71		cdy
StSteMarie	90	58		cdy
Seattle	76	60	.45	rn
Shreveport	91	69		clr
SiouxFalls	82	55		clr
Spokane	86	68		clr
Syracuse	81	64		clr
Topeka	94	69		clr
Tucson	101	76	.01	cdy
Tulsa	96	76		cdy
Washington	86	69		clr
Wichita	94	69		clr

Canada

Calgary	75	52	
Edmonton	76	48	
Montreal	72	57	8.0
Ottawa	80	54	1.4
Regina	76	52	11.2
Toronto	86	51	
Vancouver	62	57	20.5
Winnipeg	73	59	

Precipitation in millimeters.

The world

Amsterdam	90	79	clr
Athens	91	68	clr
Bangkok	91	84	clr
Caracas	82	68	cdy
Copenhagen	84	66	clr
Dublin	81	61	clr
Frankfurt	91	66	clr
Geneva	84	63	clr
Havana	88	79	cdy
Helsinki	88	58	clr
HongKong	88	82	clr
Jerusalem	97	73	clr
Jo'burg	66	43	clr
Kiev	73	57	clr
Lima	70	66	clr
Lisbon	77	61	clr
London	88	64	m
Madrid	95	64	clr
Manila	91	77	clr
MexicoCity	75	55	cdy
Moscow	79	63	clr
Nassau	88	77	cdy
NewDelhi	97	73	cdy
Nicosia	93	68	clr
Oslo	84	63	clr
Paris	88	70	clr
Peking	88	79	cdy
Rio	97	63	clr
Rome	91	64	clr
SanJuan	93	79	clr
SaoPaulo	84	63	clr
Seoul	82	68	clr
Singapore	86	75	m
Stockholm	93	63	clr
Sydney	68	43	clr
Taipei	95	79	cdy
TelAviv	90	70	clr
Tokyo	72	61	cdy

Planned Mirada resort poses new issues

(Continued from Page A-1)

ered enough signatures (793) to force a special election Nov. 8 on the issue of rezoning. The League has proposed a one-unit-per-five-acre zoning change called the "Mountain Estates" zone that would include all land in the city currently zoned as "agricultural open space."

In addition to deciding whether to approve the development agreement on July 28, the council must also choose either to adopt the Mountain Estates zoning or call a special election in November. Both issues will be separate items of the agenda.

City Attorney David Erwin said Monday that he does not know if the results of a special election could legally overturn an existing development agreement.

"It's a question I don't have the answer to at this time," he said. "I don't think it's been tested before. I just don't know if an agreement is final before a (special) election."

In the event the agreement is upheld, Tevis said the Mountain Protective League has few avenues of recourse.

"There's nothing we can do because the council is calling the tunes," he said. "We'll be in a very bad way. (As far as filing a lawsuit) we're talking about a case that will undoubtedly end up in the Supreme Court. I don't think a handful of people in Rancho Mirage will have that kind of money."

According to Tevis, the outcome of the entire issue may be up to "the will of the people."

Judge orders state to pay benefits to idled workers

(Continued from Page A-1)

The governor wants to balance the budget by vetoing up to $1.2 billion in state programs and aid. But the Democrats, arguing that the budget is already inadequate for the state's needs, want to balance it with a tax increase, and have refused to send the bill to Deukmejian until the Republicans approve a companion bill that would limit his veto power.

That deadlock meant that the state's authority to issue checks to pay salaries, bills and benefits expired June 30 with the end of the 1982-83 fiscal year.

While Schwartz's ruling was good news for the unemployed, it only made it easier for both sides to continue to hold out on the budget vote.

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, D-San Francisco, said the ruling "removes one of the pressure points, or leverage, that the Republicans and governor thought they had" over the Democrats.

But both Deukmejian and Democratic lawmakers had the power to free the unemployment funds — Deukmejian by signing a separate bill just to finance that program, and the Democrats by voting for the entire budget.

Swimming team tryouts slated

CATHEDRAL CITY — Tryouts to join the Palm Springs Piranhas Swim Team will be open to Cathedral City youngsters Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Palm Springs Swim Center.

The city of Cathedral City will sponsor a number of resident young people who qualify for the swim team but cannot afford the $30 monthly dues.

Applications for the sponsorship, which will be awarded based on financial need, are available from City Hall, 68-625 Perez Road, telephone 324-8388. The Piranhas Swim Team offers year-round training in competitive swimming and physical development.