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Local briefs for Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2003

The Desert Sun
August 26th, 2003

MORE ON THIS STORY

Pipeline project to disrupt Ramon Road

PALM SPRINGS -- Traffic on Ramon Road is expected to be disrupted through Thursday while workers install valves for an upcoming water pipeline project, according to a statement from Desert Water Agency.

The water agency said workers will be in and around the intersection of Ramon Road and Crossley Road from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Wednesday and until around 7 p.m. Thursday.

The intersection will remain open to traffic, but some lanes on Ramon will be closed, according to the water agency.

Benjamin Spillman

Palm Desert Library to add parking spaces

PALM DESERT -- Patrons at the Palm Desert Public Library will have an easier time finding a parking space after Labor Day.

Thirty-eight new parking spaces will be finished this weekend, said Rachelle Klassen, Palm Desert city clerk. The addition will bring the total number of public parking spaces at the library to 122.

The lot also will have a new van-accessible handicapped parking space, increasing the number of those spaces to eight.

The Palm Desert Public Library, 73-300 Fred Waring Drive, will be closed on Labor Day.

Jennifer Larson

Hope Memorial Mass to be held Wednesday

A cavalcade of Hollywood stars is expected to attend a private Memorial Mass and tribute to Palm Springs' longtime honorary mayor Bob Hope on Wednesday in Los Angeles County.

Hope died last month at his Toluca Lake home almost two months after turning 100.

The Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Toluca Lake. The tribute will be held at 3 p.m. at the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences in North Hollywood.

Hope publicist Ward Grant declined to reveal names or numbers of stars expected to attend but said it would be "a lot."

Another memorial has been discussed for the Coachella Valley after summer.

Bruce Fessier

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Attention Snowbirds

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Students could learn how to be polite in class

INDIO -- Students at a new magnet school in Indio are about to get some new lessons in etiquette, manners and social skills.

Woodinville, Wash.-based PoliteChild will train teachers in social skills courses, which will be offered to students at Dr. Reynaldo J. Carreon Jr. Academy, 47-368 Monroe Ave.

Officials in the Desert Sands Unified School District hope such courses will help teachers spend more time on subject matter rather than keeping order in the classroom.

The curriculum is another aspect of a new code of ethics being implemented in the district.

Mike Perrault

Arson fire damages three buildings in Coachella

COACHELLA -- A fire determined by investigators to have been caused by arson did an estimated \$5,000 in structural damage to three empty commercial buildings near the corner of Calhoun Street and Avenue 51 in Coachella on Sunday night.

Six fire engines and 18 firefighters responded to the fire that was reported about 7:15 p.m.

No one was injured, and the blaze was controlled in about 35 minutes, according to the Riverside County Fire Department/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Rick Davis

Citizens police academy applications available

PALM SPRINGS -- Openings still exist for the 32nd session of the Palm Springs Police Department's citizens police academy, which begins a 13-week run at 6 p.m. Sept. 4.

Open to anyone age 18 and older, the academy curriculum covers topics that include arrest techniques, patrol operations, deadly force decisions, criminal justice, narcotics and internal affairs.

Students also may participate in arrest-and-control scenarios, ride alongs and shoot/don't shoot situations. Weekly sessions last three hours.

Applications are available at police headquarters, 200 S. Civic Drive in Palm Springs.

Information: Sgt. Phil Parker 323-8115

Rick Davis

Riverside County citizens academy starts Sept. 11

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department will begin its eight-week citizens academy beginning Sept. 11.

Classes will be 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Thursday in Riverside at the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center at 3423 Davis Ave. The academy is open to Riverside County residents 18 or older with no prior felony convictions and no misdemeanor arrests within one year of applying for the academy.

Cadets will learn the daily operations of the department and law enforcement policies and procedures. Guest speakers will cover subjects related to forensics, hostage negotiations, emergency services team, media relations and the volunteer program.

The eight-week course also will include tours of the Robert Presley Detention Center and the Coroner's Office in Perris.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Riverside County Sheriff's Department at (909) 486-2797.

Lois Gormley

Summer reading program finishes successfully

RANCHO MIRAGE -- The Rancho Mirage Public Library's eighth annual summer reading program recently finished with a bang.

The program, themed "It's a Jungle Out There ... Swing Into Your Library," encouraged children to read during the summer.

The 838 registered children read 15,925 books this summer. The number of children registered was 25 percent more than last year's 668.

The library is located at 42-520 Bob Hope Drive.

Information: 341-7323

Staff reports

Alzheimer's fund-raiser announces emcee

PALM DESERT -- The fifth annual Memories Are Made of This Gala benefiting the Alzheimer's Association in the Coachella Valley announced its master of ceremonies.

Actor David Hyde Pierce will serve as master of ceremonies for the Nov. 21 event at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage. Hyde Pierce is best known for his role as Niles Crane on the NBC series "Frasier."

The gala is the major fund-raiser for the Coachella Valley office, which provides support, education and resources for local residents suffering from Alzheimer's.

Tickets are \$250 per person.

Reservations: 836-3433

Staff reports

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