

News from your area

April opening

CAPDEPERA

THE pensioners' home in Sa Font de sa Cala, Capdepera, will be open in April next year. This was confirmed yesterday by Minister Rosa Puig, who visited the site, accompanied by Major Joan Ferrer. The first stone was laid ten months ago. The home will have 120 places for people who need full time care, and will have a day centre for 30 people. Half the places will be for people from Capdepera. The home will cost 7.5 million euros.



■ THE new home will open in April

"benefits private interests and the PSOE wants to defend the general rights."

Road closed

POLLENSA

THE PSM (Majorcan Socialist Party) has filed a complaint with the Guardia Civil in the Port of Pollensa, claiming that the Old Road to Lluc is still closed. Mayor Bartomeu Cifre ordered the road to be opened on May 25, but it seems that the order has been ignored. The Old Road linked Pol-

lensa and Lluc from the earliest times. It was converted into a national road in 1914 and operated as such until the 1950s. However, it has not yet been included in the catalogue of public roadways. The closing of public roads where they pass through private property is a problem in many parts of the island, and town councils have been checking ancient records to prove that people have the right of way and the roads must be kept open.

Beach concessions

ALCUDIA

THE town council will auction the concessions for the beach bars early in the new year. A council spokesman said that the concession would probably be for four years.

Plans for artificial beach

CALA BONA

A group of hoteliers in Cala Bona (Son Servera) have revived plans for an artificial beach at the popular resort. Plans were first drawn up in 2004 but were shelved after opposition by the socialist party (PSOE) and local environmental groups. Socialist spokesman Josep Barrientos said that the latest request for permission to build an artificial beach is based on new documents regarding the impact on the environment. He added that his party would do everything within their power to stop it. He added that apart from environmental questions, the project

Off the Record

The stories behind the headlines

CHANGES AT THE UNIVERSITY

THE Balearic University is gradually getting back to normal after a hectic opening to the term, at which rector Avel·lí Blasco announced that he would not stand for re-election next year. Now is the time to reflect on the major academic changes which must be assumed by the students, professors, and administration and service staff over the coming years, moving in a common direction with Europe. If the Balearic University does not want to lose the prestige it cost so much to win, then it should concentrate on this objective.

ADDING TO THE ELECTRICITY BILL

FOR the time being, it is nothing more than a proposal, launched as a sounding board: regional governments will be able to add a surcharge to the electricity bill next year, according to the Spanish newspaper *El País*. The formula is similar to the so-called "cent for health" (a cent added on to petrol tax) which the Balearic government has never wanted to apply. The controversy is there and it will be interesting to see which regional governments decide to take action. However, given the proximity of the regional elections, it is not very likely that any government which is about to renew its Parliament would want to take the first step.

Majorca Today

By Irene Taylor

WINE TASTING SUCCESS

THE wine tasting session held at Sa Vinya in Bendinat last week raised the grand sum of 3,180 euros for the Balearic Cystic Fibrosis Association. Among those who attended the gathering were Jorge Pando, director of the Real Golf de Bendinat, Robert Winsor, who organises charity golf tournaments, Andrew Spence, marketing director of the Grupo Bendinat, Teresa Llull and Carlos Pons of the Fundación Respiralia, Mateo Batle of Vinos Binigrau and Adam Perkal of Mundidrink. The Grupo Bendinat organises the charity wine tasting party every year. The wines, many of which had won gold medals, were provided by Mundidrink and Binigrau.

LISTEN TO THE BAND

THE Municipal Band will be giving free concerts on alternate Saturdays at 7.30pm at the Conservatory in Palma's Calle Capitan Salom until April 21. The next concert is on October 28. Conductor Juan Giménez said that the programmes would be varied and there would be guest soloists, such as Ruben Marques of the Palace of Arts and Sciences Orchestra of Valencia who can be heard on November 11. Although the programme for the entire season hasn't been drawn up yet, Gimenez did say that there will be a jazz recital in collaboration with the Perikas Jazz Trio, a concert dedicated to film sound tracks and one of Latin rhythms. In addition to the concerts at the Conservatory, the Band will give special concerts such as November 26 in the Auditorium, on the occasion of the feast of Santa Cecilia, patron saint of music; three Christmas concerts in the Plaza Mayor on December 20, 21 and 22, and one on December 30 in the Plaza España, to commemorate the triumphant entry of King Jaume into Palma in 1229.



■ BATLE explains the wines to Winsor and his wife.

NEW BUSES FOR PALMA

THE Palma city council has taken delivery of 18 new buses which will increase the number of places available by more than 2,230. Mayor Catalina Cirer presented the buses yesterday and said that it will now be possible to extend the time of the last bus on 90 per cent of the routes to 11pm, and to increase frequencies, so that the maximum wait will be 20 minutes. Cirer said that 47 new drivers had been contracted, bringing the total up to 466. The new buses are divided into two groups, one is 12 metres long, with room for 102 passengers, and the other is 18 metres long, with a capacity of 132 people. The routes which will benefit will be the number 3 (all the vehicles on this route, the busiest one in Palma, will be articulated), 5 and 7 (two new buses each) and 8 and 14 (one new bus each). Other improvements to the service include a new circular route, the 29, which starts next month and will link Son Dureta hospital with the outlying suburbs.

Crime watch

TEENAGE GIRLS HELD FOR MUGGINGS

POLICE have broken up a gang of six girls aged between 15 and 17, accused of four muggings and causing damage to cars parked in the streets of Palma. According to police sources, they had been operating since August. They allegedly targeted adolescents and middle aged women in different parts of the city. The police report said that the alleged ringleaders were two 15-year-olds, who were the most violent.

VANDALS STEAL EXCAVATOR, DIG HOLE

VANDALS stole an excavator from a roadworks site on the Sant Joan to Sineu road and used it to excavate a huge ditch two metres long and 1.5 metres wide across the road. The excavator was then returned to its site. Despite the road works, the road is still open to traffic and in the early hours of yesterday morning a driver failed to see the ditch because of fog and drove into it. He was uninjured but the car was damaged. A few minutes later, a van driver narrowly missed suffering the same fate. The Guardia Civil are investigating the incident.

THREE NEW CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

THREE new cases of domestic violence are being investigated by the police in Palma. All three men are accused of repeatedly beating their wives or companions, and threatening to kill them.