

Los Realejos police

Female attacker

• A 44 year old woman in Los Realejos was arrested towards the end of January and accused not only of a public disorder offence but also of attacking a policeman.

The problem started when the two duty officers spotted a group of friends wandering up a central street. They were evidently under the influence of alcohol. Where the police stepped in was when the lady in question was about to get into and drive off in her car with her friends. The policemen were doing their job by trying to prevent the woman getting into trouble for drunk driving and for putting her passengers in danger. They told her not to get into the car and she refused, arguing simply that it was her car. So the policemen physically stopped her entering the vehicle and it was at this point that the woman lost control, shouted all sorts of obscenities which would apparently make a sailor blush, lunged at one of the policemen with the car key and finally swung a good kick in between the legs of the second officer. They felt they had no option but to arrest her.

Icod millionaire

Lottery win

• A person in Icod de los Vinos was the lucky winner of one of the special ONCE national lotteries last month.

The holder won a prize of nearly seven million euros consisting of €6,000 every month for 25 years. The ticket was bought at the Media Naranja café on the main shopping street in the town from a blind lottery seller called María del Carmen. She is one of the 22,000 blind and disabled people working in Spain for the ONCE, Spain's national organisation for the blind.

HOMES IN DANGER

Railway problems

Talk of the planned future northern railway line gathers pace early in 2010 as nationalist politicians try to persuade others that a train service would not only reduce the dependency on smoky road transport and modernise the transport network but also create much needed new jobs.

However, although the project appears to have

reached the stage of no return, some people believe it is over ambitious, destructive and possibly unnecessary. It has also got local politicians, whose towns the railway line is expected to pass, in a muddle. On the one hand they all want a slice of the cake, and are hungry to compete not only for stations but for central terminals. On the other they realise that some of their voters will lose homes and properties to the railway network. That is why they are

suddenly talking about asking planners to think about actually building railway tunnels under towns like Santa Úrsula where, if the current project is to be regarded as definite, up to 200 families will have to be asked to find somewhere else to live. The same may occur between Tacoronte and the north airport.

In response the regional council has told recalcitrant mayors that the route the line will take is by no means closed and that there are vari-

ous possibilities open regarding where to have stations. In fact the regional councillor for the economy, Carlos Alonso told mayors to calm down but said he understood the alarm created amongst inhabitants affected by the plans. He also pointed out that 50 per cent of the line was already going to be through tunnels and that, although he saw no reason for more of it to be underground, they could not very well create an island underground railway system.

SPY TRIAL

To Russia with love

Roberto Flórez García, the ex-Spanish Intelligence officer arrested in Puerto de la Cruz in 2007 for allegedly spying for the Russians, denied being a spy on the first day of his trial in Madrid.

He said that the letters to the Russians discovered in his property were fictitious.

Flórez told the court his mission had been to reveal deficiencies in the security of the CNI, Spain's secret intelligence services, which have been plagued in recent years by leaks and scandals. His defence lawyer told the judge the letters were part of an investigation ordered by the same intelligence services. Replying to the question of why the CNI should want

to accuse him of spying the lawyer suggested there had been certain sectors within the secret service which wanted him removed.

In one of the letters found, addressed to a Mr. Petr Melnikov at the Russian Embassy in Madrid, Flórez said he was sending the information because he considered himself left-wing and because he was against the

USA's foreign policy. But his lawyer claimed that he never actually sent the letters but put them into a bag and forgot about them.

It appears no evidence has yet been presented to prove that Roberto Flórez, who has been in prison since August 2007, actually passed on information or received anything in return from the Russians.



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