

## High Desert gets spring cleaning

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Hundreds of volunteers turned out to help clean up their communities during community clean-up days sponsored by High Desert cities.

The Apple Valley Community Clean-up Day, although conducted by the town, is co-sponsored by Burrtec Waste and the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, which is providing 200 volunteers and all the estimated 700 participants with T-shirts.

The town also encouraged residents to take advantage of a free bulky item drop off location. Burrtec provided several large roll off Dumpsters for residents at the southwest corner of Navajo and Pahute roads, where items such as mattresses and appliances could be disposed of free of charge.

"We do it twice a year," said Kathie Martin, town spokeswoman. "The availability of the drop off location helps combat illegal dumping."

Saturday's cleanup event was conducted in conjunction with Keep California Beautiful, and similar efforts were being carried out in Hesperia and Victorville. The organization provides free trash bags and gloves to any community in the state that has a clean-up day between March 1 and May 31.

Among the participating groups are churches, local clubs, Boy Scouts of America Troops and other civic organizations.

"I have a particular pet peeve about trash and the trash people leave behind," Fritz Durfee, of the Optimist Club of Apple Valley, said. For the last three years the Optimist Club has participated in the clean up and like many of the participating organizations also sponsors the clean up of a section of road through town the whole year through.

"We take care of the north side Highway 18 between Dale Evans and Navajo, Cub Scout Pack 257 teams up with us to help clean up that stretch," he said. "Trash is very unsightly and Apple Valley takes pride in its community and trash whether it is along the roads or in a vacant field somewhere just doesn't live up to anyone's expectations."





**Eric Tom / Staff Photographer** Thomas Amori, left, and Trenton Thomas, 5, pick up garbage along Navajo Road into a trash bag held by Mike Weston as they move down their two mile section from Thunderbird Road to Highway 18 during the Apple Valley Community Clean-up Day on Saturday.



**Eric Tom / Staff Photographer** William Holder, center, and Tony Ayala, both on work release from Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center, helped residents seen in the background move garbage into large dumpsters at a large-item drop site on the corner of Navajo Road and Pah-Ute Road on Saturday afternoon in Apple Valley.