


 serving
 Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
 Superstition Mountain Country



**Shakespeare
 In Sedona**
 see page B-2



**'Darling
 Deal'**
 see Sports, page C-1

APACHE JUNCTION
Gold Canyon
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Inside The News

**3:00 P.M.
 Memorial Day**



see page A-4

**Thanks,
 Seniors**



see Sports, page C-6

Fine Arts



see page A-6

Public Meetings

- Apache Junction
 Planning and Zoning
 regular meeting**
 7:00 p.m. Tuesday,
 May 27, 2008
 300 E. Superstition Blvd.
- Gold Canyon
 Business Association
 Mixer**
 6:30 p.m. Thursday,
 May 27, 2008
 Chen's Chinese Bistro
 Gold Canyon

Index

- Business Directory ... D-4
- Business Page.....C-4
- Classifieds D-2,3,4
- Community NewsB-1
- CrosswordC-4
- Entertainment.....B-2,3
- For The Record A-2
- Health & FitnessC-5
- Kollenborn A-4
- Letters to Editor A-4
- Local HappeningsC-4
- Obituaries A-2
- Opinion Page..... A-4
- Saddle Up.....B-4
- SportsSection C
- Worship Directory.....C-4

Council Directs Staff To Define 'Front Yard'

By Christina Fuoco-
 Karasinski
The News

APACHE JUNCTION- The Apache Junction City Council voted to direct staff to create a definition of a front yard last week.

During its Tuesday, May 20, 2008, meeting in council chambers, Councilman Chip Wilson said, "This has come to light because there is some restriction of front-yard usages. If the house is set all the way back — 100 feet, 150 feet, even as far as 200 feet back from the property — it very limits what their abilities can be used."

Wilson said he would like to work with city staff to come up with a definition of a front yard. Vice Mayor R.E. Eck suggested that it would help homeowners as well as those who enforce city codes.

City Councilman Rick Dietz commented he thought the front yard was always the address side of the house. City Councilman

"I and we have taken a lot of criticism lately for wasting time on ridiculous items like front yards. (But) the public needs to know there are hundreds of people in the community who are affected by the lack of clear definition of what our front yards are."

— Councilman Joe Severs

Joe Severs and Eck answered it's not that easy.

"That's what I thought too, until you see houses sitting sideways," Severs said.

In a show of solidarity, Severs added, "I and we have taken a lot of criticism lately for wasting time on ridiculous items like front yards. (But) the public needs to know there are hundreds of people in the community who are affected by the lack of clear definition of what our front yards are. We're not doing this to be wasting time or nit-picking or helping small groups

of people. This is something that needs to be corrected because it does affect a major portion of our population. Thank you Chip for working on this."

City Manager George Hoffman explained he would be willing to work with a committee of three city councilmembers, including Wilson and Severs, and perhaps Jeff Serdy, to take some time and work through different scenarios. Hoffman said something that seems like an easy task may be difficult.

"Let's go ahead and really do our homework and when we

come back as a council as a whole, fully articulate the issues, the disadvantages, the advantages," Hoffman said. City Councilwoman Robin Barker was absent from the meeting due to a serious illness in her family.

Also during the meeting, the City Council voted to direct the staff to research the possibility of changing a code provision to only require it to ratify the Department of Public Safety's contract only upon initial hiring.

On the consent agenda the City Council approved:

- resolution No. 08-11: Authority to submit a grant application to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation State Shared Revenue Program. The city will now submit a request for \$23,630 to be used to obtain materials and labor necessary for the implementation of Phase One of the Focal Point project. Further, the Resolution stipulates that the city will provide up to \$500 in materials as

a match.

- a contract with Wood, Patel and Associates for the engineering services for the installation of street lights funded by a Community Development Block Grant Project No. 102-08 in an amount not to exceed \$10,520.00.
- a contract with Salt River Project for the installation of street lights funded by a Community Development Block Grant Project No. 102-08 in an amount not to exceed \$42,780.00.

Before the Call to the Public, the Lost Dutchman Marathon Committee presented a check to the Parks and Recreation Scholarship Fund, and the Thunder Mountain Middle School Band was recognized for its gold rating in a national competition in Anaheim, Calif.

Mayor John Insalaco designated July 26, 2008, as National Day of the Cowboy, as per the request of the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce.

Recall Petitions Rejected

Recall paperwork on Severs not properly prepared

By Christina Fuoco-
 Karasinski
The News

APACHE JUNCTION- Petitions to recall City Councilman Joe Severs were rejected last week according to a May 19 letter from City Clerk Kathy Connelly. The letter said the petitions lacked a petition serial number in the lower right-hand corner of each side.

In the letter to petitioner Sharon Diehl, Connelly said the number placed on the lower right-hand corner of the Affidavit of Circulator side of each signature sheet is not the assigned serial number as required under Arizona Revised Statute 19-202.01 (B) or by the Application for Recall



Councilman Joe Severs

Petition Serial Number filed with her office on Jan. 14, 2008, and referenced in her confirmation letter of Jan. 16, 2008.

According to the statute, Connelly must remove the pages that do not carry the assigned serial

number. In this case, all 23 pages were removed, Connelly said in the letter.

"I'm not exactly sure what was wrong with it," Diehl said in a brief phone interview Friday. "There is some confusion and I did call the secretary of state's office. I would have to lay the blame on me but I'm not saying it's the serial number."

Attached to the letter from Connelly were copies of the state laws, Diehl's Application for Recall Petition Serial Number and Connelly's confirmation letter dated Jan. 16, 2008, which Diehl received on Jan. 22, 2008.

Diehl does have the right to challenge the decision under Ar-
see Recall, page A-3

AJ 4th Grader Wins NAU's 'Moral Courage Award'

Katy Pederson intervened in campus bullying incident

By Meghan McCoy
The News

A fourth grade student at Gold Canyon Elementary School (GCES) was one of three Arizona individuals who received the Moral Courage Award last month from the Martin-Springer Institute at Northern Arizona University (NAU), which was shown off at the Apache Junction Unified School District board meeting on May 13, 2008.

Katy Pederson, daughter of Celita and Steve Pederson, demonstrated to fellow students and staff what kind of moral courage she had when she helped a special needs student escape from being bullied. The 10-year-old said she witnessed other students teasing and bullying a special needs student and asked them to stop. When they continued she reminded them about the Anti-Bullying Program GCES has been applying for the past four years, which still did provide her with the results she was looking for. Pederson said she then decided to tell an adult about the situation.

Pederson said she decided to step in and help the student because bullying is just not right. "You should treat people how you want to be treated and you should not hurt anyone else's feelings," she said. "It is better to help than harm people."

GCES Counselor and Academic Coach Linda Donnelly received an email regarding the Moral Courage Award and immediately thought of one student who demonstrated an amazing amount of moral courage when she was a 2nd grade student.

Donnelly said what Katy did for another student was extremely remarkable and she is very proud of her. "She is a great example of how we



Doris Martin, co-founder of The Martin-Springer Institute, presented the Moral Courage Award to Gold Canyon Elementary School student Katy Pederson at Northern Arizona University last month.

want our students to act," she said.

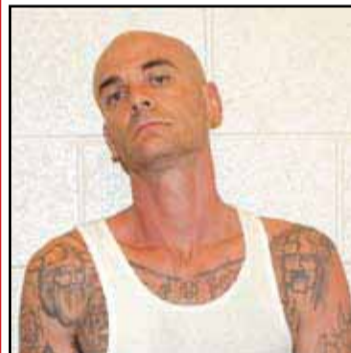
A total of seven family members traveled to Flagstaff with Pederson for the ceremony last month at NAU. There were 12 individuals from Arizona nominated for the Moral Courage Award. They ranged in ages with Pederson being the youngest by 11 years.

The ceremony began with each nominee shaking hands with Holocaust survivors, which included the

see **Courage Award**, page A-3

Police Nab Armed Carjack Suspects

Arrests made within minutes of call



Ricky Steele Sagaser, Jr. (l) and Jennie M. Ferguson, both of Mesa, were arrested by the AJPD.

By Jill Jones
The News

APACHE JUNCTION- Apache Junction Police (AJPD) officers were quick to apprehend two armed robbery/carjacking suspects within approximately 45 minutes of receiving a call around 6:15 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

AJPD units were dispatched to the vicinity of the 400 block of W. 16th Avenue and were given descriptions of the subjects. The male subject was described as being a Caucasian man with tattoos. He was said to be wearing a tank top and was allegedly armed with a semi-automatic handgun. The male suspect was reportedly accompanied by a white female with a blond pony tail, wearing jeans and a green shirt.

Officer Breck Trip responded to the area and located the stolen vehicle west of Ironwood Drive. Witnesses told him the suspects fled west through an alley.

Detective Sergeant Jeff Robins also responded to the call and located a white female in the vicinity of 16th Avenue and Cedar Drive who matched the description. The woman was later identified as Jennie M. Ferguson, 20, of Mesa, and was subsequently identified as an accomplice in the carjacking.

Detective Paul Newman and Officer Jake Bramlett located the male subject, Ricky Steele Sagaser, Jr., 37, of Mesa, in the area of 4th Avenue and Smythe Drive. Sagaser was reportedly later identified through a photo lineup.

The pair were taken into custody on Armed Robbery charges. Ferguson was reported to have been outstanding traffic warrants in Tempe. Sagaser had reportedly recently been released from prison for Aggravated Robbery and was also found to have outstanding warrants for Assault.

The News Kidcast

Mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid 70's and lows in the mid 40's.

This week's
 Weather
 "Artoonist"
**Emily
 Lewis**
 Age 5
 Four Peaks
 Elementary
 School

