

servicing
Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
Superstition Mountain Country



Pirates!
Father's Day On
The Salt River
see page B-2



Summer Softball!
see Sports, page C-1

Apache Junction Gold Canyon
On The World Wide Web At: ajnews.com
NEWS 50¢
E-Mail: ajnews@ajnews.com

Inside The News

Money Saving Monday



The Monthly Coupon Page —
Only In The News
see page A-3

A Class For Political Junkies



see Que Pasa
page A-4

Spring Break In China



see page A-6

Public Meetings

Apache Junction City Council work session
7:00 p.m. Monday, June 2, 2008
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Apache Junction City Council regular meeting
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, 2008
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Pinal County Board of Supervisors
9:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 4, 2008
County Complex, Florence

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

After 64 Years, Veteran Receives Purple Heart

Ceremony held at VFW for wounded WWII Vet

By Meghan McCoy
The News

A Mesa man was honored on Memorial Day, May 26, 2008 at VFW Post #7968 in Apache Junction after waiting 64 years to receive his Purple Heart from the U.S. Army.

M.L. Smelser, Jr. was drafted into the service in 1944, where he was known as the "Arizona Kid" by fellow soldiers because he was the only one from Arizona in his company. The Arizona Kid received a purple heart because while serving his country he was thrown into the air after a large caliber artillery round flew into the foxhole he was digging, which resulted in serious back injuries among other injuries.

A special ceremony was held for Smelser, his daughter Teresa Cole and his wife Joni last Monday.

V.F.W. Commander Mike Ferguson presented Smelser with his long overdue purple heart. Apache Junction Mayor John Insalaco, Sheriff Chris Vasquez and the Apache Bravo Young Marines also attended the special ceremony.



VFW Post #7968 Commander Mike Ferguson (l) presented a Purple Heart to M.L. Smelser, Jr. on Monday, May 26, 2008. Past Post Commander Roger Gown (standing behind wheelchair), Mayor John Insalaco (with hand extended) and Sheriff Chris Vasquez also attended the ceremony.

G.C. Sewer Petitions Submitted
Corporation Commission accepts petitions— Water usage claims disputed by customers

By Jill Jones
The News

GOLD CANYON- A petition drive initiated by Gold Canyon citizens in protest of the 72 percent rate increase granted to the Gold Canyon Sewer Company last year, resulted in 963 signatures and water usage figures of Gold Canyon citizens being delivered to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) last week.

The Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO) was granted a rehearing on the ACC decision to grant the 72.2 percent

rate increase last year and final briefs in the case were delivered to the hearing judge on May 22, 2008.

According to Gold Canyon citizen and activist Ron Kelly, the 963 signatures of Gold Canyon Sewer customers, complete with their daily water usage figures averaging 145 gallons per day, were delivered to ACC headquarters to be included in the documentation, despite their original rejection by the ACC Docket Control Office.

The person delivering the signatures and gallon usage, which was significantly less than the

475 gallons per day figures submitted by Gold Canyon Sewer in consideration of the rate increase, were at first rejected, according to Kelly, "For reasons she (the delivery agent) didn't understand."

The tenacious citizen, however, would not accept the refusal and reportedly proceeded to the second floor offices of the commission and spoke with an employee in the corporation's legal department. The employee made some calls and then accepted the petitions, agreeing to deliver them to

see Petitions, A-5

Kennedy Appears For Hearing
Former fugitive shows for May 30 court date

By Jill Jones
The News

APACHE JUNCTION- Incredulosity, shock and dismay were just some of the reactions to news that accused child molester, former youth pastor and teacher Bobby Kennedy was back on the streets and remains free after appearing in Pinal County Superior Court last week on May 30, 2008 before Judge Boyd Johnson with no request to adjust bail.

Kennedy, 29, was an uncertified teacher at Morningstar Academy Charter School in Apache Junction, where his mother, Carolyn Kennedy 54, is principal and where he allegedly molested at least three female students in the spring of 2005.

Kennedy was charged with 2 counts of Child Molestation and 1 count of Sexual Abuse in May 2005 and was held on \$750,000 bond until June 21, 2005 when the bond was found to be excessive and reduced to \$150,000 by Pinal County Judge David Roer, who ruled that the state did not meet its burden of proof. The bond was posted and Kennedy appeared at a pretrial conference



Bobby Kennedy

on July 5, 2005. A hearing was held on July 18, 2005 at which the Deputy County Attorney did not oppose the defendant's (Kennedy) Motion for Redetermination of Probable Cause.

The case was remanded back to the grand jury on August 11, 2005 and Judge White granted a motion by Deputy County Attorney Kate Pierce to dismiss the charges against Kennedy, at which time neither were reportedly aware that earlier that same day Kennedy was indicted on a total of 22 counts under a new case number. Charges included molestation, sexual abuse, aggravated assault and furnishing obscene materials to a minor.

When Pierce was made aware of the additional charges, instead of issuing a warrant for Kennedy's arrest, she requested a summons be issued for Kennedy to appear for arraignment on August 26, 2005. Kennedy was a no-show and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest in addition to a \$150,000 secured bond.

Kennedy was not seen again by authorities for over two years and he topped the Apache Junction Police Department's Most Wanted List until U.S. Deputy Marshal's captured him on March 18, 2008 in Lawton Oklahoma. Kennedy had gotten married and had a child while on the lam.

Following his capture, Kennedy was extradited to Arizona where he spent only a brief time behind bars. He was released once again after Deputy County Attorney Craig Raymond did not request modification of the \$150,000 bond previously set when he appeared before Judge Bradley Soos on March 28, 2008.

Kennedy remains free and is scheduled to appear again at a pretrial conference on June 6, 2008 at 10 a.m. before Judge Johnson.

City Set To Fill Board Vacancies

Planning and Zoning, Board of Adjustment, Health and Human Services

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

APACHE JUNCTION- The Apache Junction City Council will interview applicants during its work session on Monday, June 2, for two vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Commission, two vacancies on the Board of Adjustment and one vacancy on the Health and Human Services Commission.

Successful applicants will be appointed during the Tuesday, June 3 regular meeting at 7 p.m.

There are five applicants for the Health and Human Services Commission. Aaron Bradley, a four-year Gold Canyon resident. Bradley served on the Parks and Recreation Commission and Industrial Development Authority from 2006 to 2007. He attended Utah Valley State College but earned a bachelor of arts degree in marketing from the University of Phoenix in 2007.

"I am interested in being involved in strengthening the community and learning more about the city and region," he wrote in his application.

An Apache Junction resident for only one month, Debbie Greenlee is a registered nurse on sabbatical. She attended Clarion University of Pennsylvania and Excelsior College. "I believe my experience both as a nurse and an artist could benefit the community," she wrote.

Jason Russell has lived in Apache Junction for three years. A former student at the University of Colorado — Boulder, Russell graduated from the University of Phoenix in 2007 with a bachelor of arts degree in business. He said he is planning on raising his family in and moving his business to Apache Junction.

Jodene Weather, who has lived in Apache Junction for two-and-a-half years, is a licensed clinical social worker who graduated from Adams State College in 1965 and Denver University in 1982. "I've always worked as a public servant," she wrote.

A senior estimator at American Steel Corp. in Apache Junction, Andrew Whiteneck graduated from North Carolina State University in 2005 and South Connecticut State University in 1994. "I would like to have the opportunity to contribute and share my insight," he wrote.

There are 12 applicants for the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment, including Bradley and Russell.

An eight-year Apache Junction resident, Stephen Amrhein is a retired weapons coordinator for the Department of the Army, he wrote. He graduated from Adelphi University with a bachelor of science degree in 1965 and Seton Hall University with a master's of business administration in 1969. He wrote that because he is retired, he has plenty of time to volunteer for the city.

Noel T. Benoist, a frequent speaker at "Call to the Public" portions of City Council meetings, has lived in Apache Junction for 18 years and currently serves as a minister. He says he is retired from the National Security Agency, and attended various schools including UCLA. "Our zoning codes need to be gone through and updated to conform to current law," he wrote in his application.

Charles Bunten, a five-year Apache Junction resident, is interested in community service. He works for the Federal Aviation Administration and attended Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute.

Gary Grounds has lived in Apache Junction for more than 10 years. A graduate of Wentworth Military Academy, he works for the state's Department of Fire, Building and Life Safety. He said he yearns to contribute his knowledge and skills in making decisions and suggestions for the progress of the city.

A nine-month Apache Junction resident, Wanda Hoke attended Spokane Falls Community College and the University of Washington. "I am excited about the growth and the direction of Apache Junction and I want to be a part of the decision-making process," she wrote.

Barbara Lieske is a retired director of purchasing and warehousing for a school district in Washington state, where she attended Washington State University and Central Washington State College. A 12-year Apache Junction resident, she wants to utilize some of her time to benefit her community.

Todd Olear already serves on the Planning and Zoning and Parks and Recreation commissions. A one-and-a-half-year Apache Junction resident, he works as an analyst. He attended Lakeland College where he earned a bachelor of arts in computer science in 2005.

A member of the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as

see Vacancies, A-3

The News Kidcast

Sunny and clear with highs just over 100 and overnight lows around 70.

This week's Weather "Artoonist" **Brittaney Alexander**
Age 6
Superstition Mountain Elementary School

