

Primary Voting Information

Independents may vote in September 2nd Primary Election

Candidates for the 2008 election have filed their petitions, which means the election season is off and running, with the Primary election being held Tuesday, September 2. On that day, voters will decide who will appear on the final November ballot for national, state and local offices.

People are still asking questions about the Open Primary Law enacted by voters in 1998, according to Pinal County Recorder Laura Dean-Lytle. "Our voter registration staff is already receiving calls," she said, adding, "People are asking questions from how to register to vote, to the dates for early balloting."

The Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer's guide for candidates and political committees says:

Arizona's Open Primary Law allows voters registered as independent, no party preference or members of a party without ballot recognition to vote in the partisan Primary Election of their choice of one of the recognized political parties [Ariz. Const. Art. VII, § 10]. Voters who are regis-



tered with a recognized political party will receive their political party's early ballot.

"What this means is if you are registered as a voter for one of the four recognized political parties - Democrat, Green, Libertarian or Republican - you will get the primary ballot for races featuring that party's candidates for office," explains Dean-Lytle. "If you are registered as an Independent or another party, you may request any of the ballots. The only exception is that the Libertarian Party ballot is for that party only." A 2007 federal court decision ruled that only registered members of the Libertarian Party may vote in that party's primary contest.

Dean-Lytle says her office is looking forward to what should be a busy primary and general election season. "Since this is a presidential election we should see sharply higher voter turnout," County Recorder Dean-Lytle said. "Interest has been high since February's Presidential Preference Election."

For more information on voter registration or early voting please call the Pinal County Citizen Contact Center at 520-509-3555 or 888-431-1131.

from Kollenborn, A-4

them mine it legally, but they will sell their gold at half of spot with cash up front. A proposal like this can be quite tempting. It happens in the East Valley area three to four times a year.

My advice is to be very cautious about giving any cash in any kind of a gold deal. I would contact the state fraud division or the local police and report such activity. Anytime you can buy gold bullion for half the spot price it is to good to be true.

And if it's too good to be true, it usually is.

from Lost Dog, A-1

during her bathing. She was also taken to the vet, who seems to think Cupcake is about 1 1/2 to 2 years old, maybe 3 at the most.

Cupcake has been inside and outside of the home and has not dug any holes or chewed up anything and according to Armstrong, "She's pretty mellow with just a little spunk."

The community members would love to find Cupcake a really good, forever home. "Please help Cupcake find a home where she can be safe and loved on everyday. Just like her name, she's so sweet you just can't get enough of her," says Armstrong.

For information on Cupcake call Janet or Brian at 480-218-5502.

Romano Named President Of County Justice Foundation

Replaces Jerry Monahan as head of volunteer organization

By Thomas Preiss
Special To *The News*

The Pinal County Justice Foundation (PCJF), a sister organization working in conjunction with the Pinal County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), has entered its second year by appointing Marcia Romano as it's new president.

Romano replaces Jerry Monahan who recently left his duties as president of the foundation to become the Apache Junction Police chief. Romano brings considerable experience to bear with her organizational and administrative experience.

The PCJF is a volunteer organization, which oversees the fund-raising and distribution for The PCSO's many non-profit programs and is made up of a group of ten Pinal County citizens.

"Our first goal is to get the word out to the citizens of Pinal County about the role this organization plays in the many service-oriented programs already in existence," Romano said. "Our website at pcsjusticefoundation.org is an information-based site



Marcia Romano was appointed president of the Pinal County Justice Foundation.

that explains how people can get involved with groups like COP (Citizens On Patrol), the Sheriff's Posse, the Victims Services Unit, and many, many more."

The website also details how an individual or group can donate money to help the many services that depend on the generosity of Pinal County's residents such as the Pinal County Peace Officer's Memorial Fund, the Eddie Eagle Program, Sheriff's Santa, and the

PCSO Toy Drive.

"I am asking the residents of Pinal County to take a closer look at the PCSO Justice Foundation and to volunteer their time, money, and energy to further the impact its programs have on the safety and welfare of our citizenry," Romano said. "The money generated by the many fund-raising activities through out the year, and by corporate, HOA, county, state, and federal grants help to train K-9 units, supply bike patrols, and provide home safety programs. All of these programs are very important and we need everyone to become involved on whatever level they can."

The PCSO Justice Foundation can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through the website listed above or by calling 888-868-7175. E-mail is received at admin@pcsjusticefoundation.org, or citizens can contact the foundation through the mail at this address: PO Box 867, (971 North Jason Lopez Circle) Bldg. C, Florence, AZ 85232.

Be Firewise This Summer

Create a defensible space

Winter rains promised the first truly outstanding wildflower bloom in several years, and Mother Nature did not disappoint. But when the wildflowers are just a memory, all those green plants dry out and become wildfire fuel. By becoming Firewise, you can protect your home and your community.

Firewise people maintain a "defensible space" around their homes by leaving a 30 foot perimeter of space that is lean, clean and green. Lean means you prune back shrubs and tree branches within 15 feet of any structures. Clean means you clean out dead plant material from around your home. Green means you have planted fire-resistant vegetation and are keep-

ing it healthy and green.

Also, make sure your home is properly marked for emergency access, an entryway clear from flammable material. Most of all, have a plan in case you need to evacuate due to fire.

Before you are confronted with an emergency, it's a good idea to have the following emergency plans in place. Be sure to take into consideration specific family health as well as the needs of specific family members who may suffer from disabilities or medical conditions.

- Post your local fire and police station numbers by your home phone and program them into your cell phone.
- Decide where you will go in case of a fire and plan how you

will get there.

- Plan for your pets and their safety also.
- In case of fire, have tools available such as a shovel, rake, axe, handsaw, chain saw and a 2 gallon bucket. Also: Flashlights and extra batteries; First aid kit; dust mask to help filter air; wrenches or pliers to turn off utilities; battery or hand crank radio; three day supply of non-perishable food and local maps.

Firewise Communities is part of the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program, which is directed and sponsored by the Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Learn more at www.ready.gov and www.firewise.org.

Letters to the Editor continued from page A-4

A plea from SAFE

I am writing this letter as a plea to the people of AJ and surrounding areas. I visited the pound yesterday. When an animal's time is nearing the end, they put a green dot on his/her kennel. That tells the rescue groups that these dogs are in need of help NOW. Many of these dogs are gorgeous pit bulls and pit bull mixes. Some are shepx's, labx's and mostly larger breeds. People are losing their homes and jobs and are forced to give up their pets. SAFE wants to save as many as we can, but we need foster homes willing to take an animal into their home. We then start working on finding a permanent home for the dog. We take them to PetSmart on Signal Butte on Saturdays, put them in the paper and on our web site. We provide medical care when needed and we care for the animal until a permanent home can be found. Please call if you think you can help. Also, please, please spay/neuter your pets. It helps prevent uterine and testicular cancer. Every time a female goes into heat, it increases her chances of getting cancer and if we don't sterilize our pets, the need for euthanasia of healthy and adoptable animals will never end. Hundreds of animals are put down every week in AJ, Casa Grande, Superior, etc.

Visit the shelter, if you see a dog you want to foster, call us and we will arrange for it to be fixed and taken out. We'll provide the medical and food. You just have to provide the love and security for these animals. Many are frightened and desperate for some affection. We must work together and all be responsible for the unfortunate homeless and abandoned animals in our area. We can't just pretend it isn't happening. It's a dire problem, and we are responsible for it.

We are in need of a donated computer if anyone has one they are no longer using. Thank you for taking this problem seriously and for being willing to help. We can't save them all, but we can save many of them with your help. Call 480-466-6025 if you can help.

Evelyn Mangano
S.A.F.E.
Gold Canyon

Great graduation!

On May 22nd our youngest daughter Rebecca Rizzi graduated from Apache Junction High School. The 2008 graduates were the first in Apache Junction High School history to be rained out. As many parents, we were concerned about how the ceremony would turn out.

I'm writing to thank School Board President Lucy Young, the school board and school maintenance department staff for doing such a great job of bringing the graduation ceremony indoors in such a short period of time.

A ticketing system was used to ensure as many family members as possible would be able to attend the ceremony. Immediate family attended the actual ceremony while extended relatives viewed from a screen in the PAC. Although some may have been disappointed with the manner in which attendance was limited, all things considered the ceremony was awesome.

I spoke with parents of graduates from three other school districts that were envious of how well our school district improvised. It must have taken a lot of hard work getting equipment dried and moved indoors, tickets printed, resetting a stage and audio equipment up and running within 3 hours. The power had even gone out a few times prior to the ceremony.

To all those who made our children's graduation celebration such a success and memorable event, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your fast thinking and hard work. The evening was beautiful.

Christa Rizzi
Apache Junction

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