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In The Park**
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**Skaters Turn Up
The Heat**
see Sports, page C-1

APACHE JUNCTION NEWS

Gold Canyon

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Money Saving Monday



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

The Baron of Arizona



see Kollenborn, page A-4

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Public Meetings

Apache Junction Planning & Zoning work session
7 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, 2008
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Apache Junction Fire District board meeting
5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, 2008
565 N. Idaho Road

Apache Junction Unified School District meeting
7 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, 2008
1575 W. Southern Ave.

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

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Water Board Proposes Slight Rate Hike

Average increase projected at 20¢ to 30¢ per day

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

APACHE JUNCTION- The Apache Junction Water Company is proposing a slight raise in rates to continue to provide safe drinking water, reliable water service and economic sustainability to its customers. At its 6 p.m. June 30 meeting, the company, which also goes by the name City of Apache Junction Water Utilities Community Facilities District, said the average rate increase would be 20 to 30 cents per day for average to high-use residential customers, respectively. The Apache Junction Water Co. serves about 30 percent of the city.

"Nobody likes to raise rates," said Frank Blanco, water district director. "We looked at every line item and wherever we could cut,

we did reduce our budget to avoid a rate adjustment." However, Blanco said there are no changes to many of the fees charged including account establishment fees, account deposits for meters 3/4" and greater and miscellaneous penalties and copying.

"(Nationally) within the next three to five years, water will become two to three times more expensive," said Blanco quoting Neil Berlant, portfolio manager, with PFW Water Fund.

For example, the average customer using 4,680 gallons per month, the existing 5/8" meter base rate is \$10.94. The proposed fee is \$15.99, making a \$5.05 difference, Blanco said. The consumption rate would average \$18.16 and with \$3.41 cents tax, the new total would be \$37.56. That is a \$5.55 difference.



For a high-use customer using 15,440 gallons per month, the existing 3/4" meter rate is \$18.87. The proposed fee is \$23.92 with a \$5.05 difference. The consumption rate would rise from \$64.52 to \$68.10, with a \$3.58 difference. With \$9.21 cents tax, the new total would be \$101.23. That is a \$9.48 difference.

see Water Rates, A-3

School Budget Set For Board Approval

District reduced budget by 5.5 percent over last year

By Meghan McCoy
The News

APACHE JUNCTION — The Apache Junction Unified School District held a special meeting on Monday, June 23, 2008 to discuss the proposed expenditure budget for 2008-2009, which will be subject to the governing boards approval on Tuesday, July 8, 2008.

The district cut 5.5 percent or \$3.1 million from the total aggregate budget and 2.5 percent or \$885,051 from the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) portion of the budget for the 2008-2009 school year.

One of the challenges the district was faced with when making changes to the bud-

get dealt with a 5 percent reduction in the Average Daily Membership (ADM) funding. The ADM is an attendance tracking method that averages the first 100 days of school attendance, which is used for per pupil revenue. There are approximately 5,700 students in the district, which funded through the state of Arizona ADM amounts to approximately \$5,500 per student.

Another budgetary challenge for the district included a reduction in state and federal funding.

The most difficult challenge in reducing the budget for the 2008-2009 school year dealt with cutting \$1 million from the M&O budget due to the voters decision to stop the renewal last November, along

with the first year of the three year phase out period. The M&O budget is used for such things as salaries, benefits, classroom supplies, utilities, gasoline for buses and maintenance repairs, which accounts for the largest amount of the district's expenditures.

One of the changes to the budget that was discussed at various community town hall meetings as a savings measure was to implement a more cost efficient transportation system.

With the district facing an increase in gasoline, like the rest of the country, they looked into different ways they could decrease the

see Budget, A-2

Recall Petitions Filed On Five Councilmembers

Mayor Insalaco calls action 'Vindictive'

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

APACHE JUNCTION- An Apache Junction organization filed recall petitions July 2, 2008, at the city clerk's office against five members of the City Council, including Mayor John Insalaco, in the hopes of ousting them from office.

The Committee for Honest Government collected 491 unverified signatures against Jeff Serdy, 505 against Rob-in Barker, 514 against Vice Mayor R.E. Eck Jr. and 509 against Rick Dietz, according to Suzanne Heninger, a secretary in the city clerk's office. She said the organization needed to collect 222 for the council members. The group gathered 579 signatures against Insalaco; they needed 377, Heninger said.

Only City Councilmembers Chip Wilson and Joe Severs remain untouched by this recall effort.



Other than recall committee chairman Jim Stephens (l) a former police employee, and treasurer Shannon Flynn (r), who has had run-ins with the city over code violations, only seven other people participated in circulating the petitions, including a councilmember's ex-wife and former police chief Glenn Walp.

Other than committee chairman Jim Stephens and treasurer Shannon Flynn, only seven other people participated in circulating the petitions. Those include Glenda Serdy (Councilman Jeff Serdy's ex-wife), and former Apache Junction Police Chief Glenn Walp of Gold Canyon. Treasurer Flynn declined to comment; Chairman Stephens did not respond to calls.

"It's all vindictive," Insalaco said. "They're building

this recall on lies and accusations. They say we're not caring people. I'm not going to say anything bad about Joe Severs. He (Severs) wants to help people but the people he helped have been illegal. "The people (behind the recall) Shannon Flynn had an illegal trailer. We're not here to help people get out of code enforcement problems. We're here to help the whole community."

see Recall, page A-5

Water-Saving Tips

1. Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or for cleaning.
 2. Verify that your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
 3. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at a rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year. This adds to the cost of water and sewer utilities, or can strain your septic system.
 4. Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.)
 5. If the toilet handle frequently sticks in the flush position letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it.
 6. Don't overwater your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every five to seven days in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for up to two weeks. Buy a rain gauge and use it to determine how much rain your yard has received. Most of the year, lawns only need one inch of water per week.
 7. Plant it smart. Drought efficient landscaping is a great way to design, install and maintain both your plants and irrigation system. More importantly, it will save time, money and water.
 8. Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation.
 9. Don't allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway or sidewalk. Position them so water lands on the lawn and shrubs... not the paved areas.
 10. Install irrigation devices that are the most water efficient for each use. Micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses are examples of water efficient irrigation methods.
- Courtesy WaterSavingTips.org

Artists Subject To City Sales Tax

Former police chief angrily assails council over newspaper article

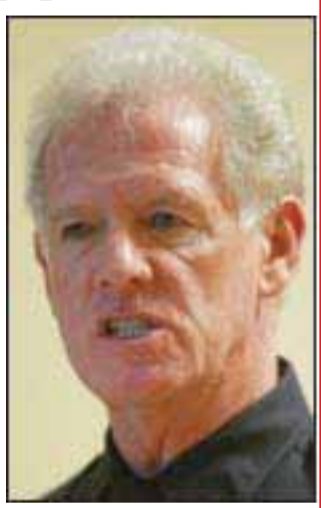
By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

APACHE JUNCTION- After years of questions and comments from the Apache Junction artistic community regarding charging city sales tax on art, First Amendment rights attorney Daniel Barr set the story straight during the July 1 City Council meeting.

"The basis of my discussion is the claim that has been made repeatedly over the last few years that artists are exempt from paying sales tax under the First Amendment, otherwise known as transaction privilege tax. That simply isn't true," Barr said.

"Frankly, I'm sure they're great artists but they misunderstand the law in this area."

During his talk, Barr discussed a handful of related court cases. He said, as a general rule, sales tax of general application has been held not to infringe on a person's right to the exercise of free speech. The U.S. Supreme Court held that as recently as 1990 in a case involving the Jimmy



Former Police Chief Glenn Walp unleashed an angry tirade at last week's city council meeting.

Swaggart Ministries against the state of California. The televangelist was publishing materials and selling them and felt he didn't need to pay sales tax because the materials were religious.

He also referred to the oft-cited White vs. City of Sparks, Nev. The city had a policy that required a permit for vendors to sell merchandise.

see City Council, A-3

The News Kidcast

Monsoon storms predicted Thursday through Sunday. Highs 108, lows 85— cooler with the rains.

This week's
Weather
"Artoonist"
Matthew Daniel
Age 6
Avalon Elementary School

