

## Letters to the Editor continued on page A-5



These kids have raised a lot of money by holding a car wash (about 100 kids showed up to volunteer) making memorial T-shirts to sell in honor of Randall and donating their own money to a WaMu Bank memorial account (#4941464028) that they started, so the Mercier Family can lay Randall to rest. The Mercier family has been very appreciative that the kids have been so supportive. This is what Apache Junction YOUTH is all about!

Sandi Chapman  
Apache Junction

### The real story

The daring rescue of three U.S. citizens from Colombia and their heart-warming family reunion stories Sen. McCain is trying to capitalize on is not the real story. The real story is what we are doing in Colombia in the first place. Nixon and the original George Bush Gang started this Drug War in 1971 as an excuse to take over the superior agricultural regions of the world for the corporations they represent.

Arlin Trout  
Apache Junction

### Thank you!

Many heart felt thanks go out to all who donated and came to a very successful benefit car wash held Saturday, June 28, 2008, at Little Prospector for our beloved and taken too soon Randall Clayton Mercier. (12/22/90 - 6/20/08).

First and foremost to the wonderful kids who went above and beyond organizing the car wash. To the many, many others who unselfishly worked so hard to help. These amazing young lives that paths may not have even crossed before joined as one to accomplish one goal in loving memory of a loved one or friend to all. In the words of Randall's Mom Shirlee, "You kids rock, you did it and I cannot thank you enough!"

This awesome group of teenagers came together, worked tireless hours prior to, during and after the car wash. They organized, made and posted fliers, asked and collected donated items from many local businesses.

Thank you to the many area businesses who allowed fliers and/or donation jars to be placed and to the following for

your donations: Ace Hardware, Albertson's, Bashas', Best Hardware, Best Buy, Checker, Coke, Dirtwater Springs, Food City, Little Prospector and Wal-Mart. Special thanks to Lucy Young and Little Prospector for allowing the car wash to be held at their establishment and the use of needed facilities.

No words can express the gratitude to all for your endless efforts, generosity and compassion. This experience, though tragedy brought it about, will forever change many lives.

Our appreciation is beyond measure. Thank you on behalf of Randall's family and friends.

Kaprice Bachtell  
Apache Junction

### Proud of his country

I watched the symbolic fireworks last night on the Fourth and reflected on our great country. We have just gone thru over seven years of war and I have seen the transition of what was united on 9/11/01 into partisan anti-American politically correct bickering of today. We are paying \$4 plus for energy and our food costs are going to skyrocket, we have just given rights to non-American "terrorists" in our courts, and seven years later not secured our own borders. We are not allowed to build nuclear plants for electricity in our own country as China has started drilling right off of our shores while we have outlawed it for our own citizens. Our own state legislature has just disbanded after putting a budget together and I stress at where we are going. Rather than dealing with the fact the government has bloomed into this huge creature that is governing us with more and more restrictive regulations and is a siphon of our tax money that it extracts from our family budgets we are forced into living on it has determined that we shall (A) mount cameras across this beautiful state and tax us on our travels. \$120 million (the conservative figure) at \$165 a ticket is hoped to be raised. My God people, that is 727,227 of us having our lovely pictures taken over the next year, because they could not stop wasting our money. (B) They have just allowed the universities to issue over \$1 billion in bonds that we will have to pay the interest on rather than repair old buildings so they can continue to waste our money. Wouldn't it be nice as we struggle to pay our own mortgages in this economy if we could just increase our own personal debt and borrow more for a bigger, newer house while we can't afford the one we live in now and not have to worry how we will pay for it?? (C) They have now planned

on increasing lottery advertising to generate over \$1.2 billion more over the next decade to help pay for some of this and we are the people that they want to turn into cash strapped overworked helpless debt loaded gamblers to pay for it. (Where is the government that is concerned for me and not what it can do to me?? (D) Passed a huge amount of its debt over to our counties and claimed "we have balanced our state budget," mindless to the fact that you and I are still part of the county's and this is tantamount to saying the right hand does not have the pay the bill as the left one hand will and never mind our citizens are the brains in the middle connected to these hands that will have to generate more tax dollars SOMEHOW to pay for this while our own families little fortunes and subsistence is stretched even more. I could continue thru the alphabet with the insanity of our future as pushed by our own government but I think you are getting the picture. It is time to clean house in our government and we should start at the county level and take it all the way to the top. While I watched the beauty of those symbolic fireworks I realized how I really was proud of being able to live in this great free country and thinking that I would be able to write a letter expressing my displeasure without worrying about a knock on my door. Yet!

John Fillmore, Apache Junction

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT CENTRAL ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS' (CAAG) 208 AREAWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE AMENDMENT FOR THE GOLD CANYON SEWER COMPANY SERVICE AREA EXPANSION, LOCATED IN UNINCORPORATED PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA.

The Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG) will conduct a public hearing on:

**DATE:** Thursday, August 21, 2008  
**TIME:** 3:00 pm  
**PLACE:** Central Arizona Association of Governments Administrative Office  
1075 S. Idaho Road - Suite 300  
Apache Junction, Arizona 85219

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss and comment on the Draft CAAG 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan Update Amendment. The hearing will address an expansion of a Service Area for the Gold Canyon Sewer Company (GCSC), currently in the planning stages. The service area is predominantly located in the unincorporated community of Gold Canyon, located in Pinal County. This amendment affirms the service area established by a Certificate of Convenience & Necessity (CC&N) issued by the Arizona Corporation Commission, and primarily adds two adjacent developments, known as Superstition Mountain Properties and Apacheland. The legal description of the service area to be affirmed is Sections 31 and 32, Township 1 North Range 8 East; and Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 16, Township 1 South, Range 9 East of the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian. The expansion of this area will include the Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ and Northwest Quarter of the Northeast ¼ of Section 32, Township 1 North, Range 1 South; and the Northeast ¼ of Section 3, Township 1 North, Range 9 East.

The expansion of the affirmed service area will add 135 acres to GCSC's current 4,800 acres. The total service area will consist of residential and light commercial development, schools, and open space. The proposed expansion to the service area will add 194 residential lots. At build out the proposed service area and DMA will be comprised of approximately 4,935 acres, with an estimated population of 13,407 residents.

This area is serviced by the Gold Canyon Sewer Company Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) located at 6520 E. US 60, Gold Canyon, AZ. The facility currently operates at a flow rate of approximately 0.999 million gallons per day (MGD), and is approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission to safely handle a maximum flow of 1.9 MGD. With the increase in service area, the projected buildout flow is 1.60 MGD. This amendment will also serve to amend the CAAG AWWQMP listing for GCSC, currently listed at approximately 0.6 MGD.

The proposed plan amendment addresses issues related to wastewater collection and treatment for GCSC as it prepares for development and anticipated growth. The Draft 208 Plan Amendment consists of a description of the above listed information including flow projections and wastewater system infrastructure requirements.

Written comments may be submitted to CAAG no later than 5:00 pm on August 21, 2008. A summary of the public comments received will be submitted as part of the Amendment Package to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for further consideration.

Written and verbal comments are welcome at the Public Hearing. A copy of the Draft 208 Plan Amendment for GCSC is available for public review at the CAAG Administrative Office, located at 1075 S. Idaho Road, Suite 300, Apache Junction, AZ 85219, from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, beginning Wednesday, July 23, 2008, or can be viewed online at [www.caagcentral.org](http://www.caagcentral.org).

For further information, to place yourself on a list of interested parties, or to submit written comments on the Draft 208 Amendment prior to the hearing, contact J. Peter Armenta by mail at: CAAG, 1075 S. Idaho Road, Suite 300, Apache Junction, AZ 85219, by phone (480) 474-9300, toll free (800) 782-1445, fax (480) 474-9306, or by e-mail at: [jparmenta@caagcentral.org](mailto:jparmenta@caagcentral.org).

### from Recall, page A-1

Insalaco said it "irks" him because Walp is "the orchestrator behind the whole thing."

Stephens, a former city police employee, threatened the council and said if Walp wasn't rehired, Stephens would pull recall petitions against the council, Insalaco explained.

"This isn't corruption. It's a different point of view. Corruption is when you steal money or work with a devel-

## "This is an attempt by a small group to hijack local government and pave the way for their special interests."

— Councilwoman Robin Barker

was still an employee last November and said to either vote his way or else he was going to recall everyone who did not vote his way, and that was about retaining the chief."

Serdy explained he is trying to remain positive during the recall process.

"We took it for six months while they assaulted us ver-

"They no longer say that anymore. They go on to corruption. They can't say we don't listen. My wife doesn't even like to go to the store with me. I hope here in Apache Junction. My wife hate it when when go to Wal-Mart. I stay and I listen to every one of them. When I go shopping here locally, people

go on forever. Let's have an election. Let's do our job and stop this before it goes on forever."

Barker explained, according to the petitions, the reason for the recall is "Failure to listen to the citizens."

"However, I do listen to the citizens, but I listen to all the citizens; not just the outspo-



Left to right, Mayor John Insalaco, Vice Mayor R.E. Eck, Councilmembers Robin Barker, Rick Dietz and Jeff Serdy are the subjects of a recall attempt.

oper to get kick backs," Insalaco said.

Eck agreed. He feels like it's just a small group of people with a lot of vengeance against the city and the community as a whole.

"There's two major players and that's Shannon Flynn, who got a code violation and shortly thereafter she pulled a recall petition, two people helped her that was (Councilmen) Joe Severs and Chip Wilson and those two people aren't on the recall," Eck said.

"And then the other one pushing so hard is Jim Stephens, who was a city employee of the police department who Chief Walp at the time brought him in with no competition. He just brought him in as an evidence tech and he (Stephens) threatened us while he

bally and several of us responded. I would hope that people would not want to elect vicious, hateful people, but people who show more leadership," Serdy said.

"You can see it in their eye—the hate, the venom and the viciousness. I'm going to try to always be positive in the time that I have. I'm going to keep working for the people."

He said the organizers originally pulled recall petitions because they believed the council did not listen to the public.

just stop me all the time constantly and my wife hates it, and telephone calls. If they're elected, they're in for a rude awakening."

Serdy said it would be ironic and troubling if he and the other recall targets were voted out of office.

"If they sweep us out of office, why do they think it would stop there? The reasons I'm going positive is what's to keep it from going to a Hatfield and McCoy situation? All of our supporters might immediately start recalls on them. This might

ken few.

"This is an attempt by a small group, some not even residents of Apache Junction, to hijack local government and pave the way for their special interests.

"In fact, I was threatened with a recall as soon as I was sworn in last summer. They simply don't like the council the people elected. Their actions have nothing to do with democracy. They want their own private kingdom."

Councilman Dietz could not be reached for comment.

**SANDIE SMITH**  
County Supervisor  
District 2

"Call me with your concerns"

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