

servicing  
Northern Pinal County  
**ARIZONA**  
Superstition Mountain Country



**Honky Tonk Angels**  
see page B-3



**Ultimate Life-guard Challenge**  
see Sports, page C-1

**Apache Junction**  
*Gold Canyon*

**NEWS** 50¢

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**Inside The News**

**AJ Chief Chairs Governor's Review Team**



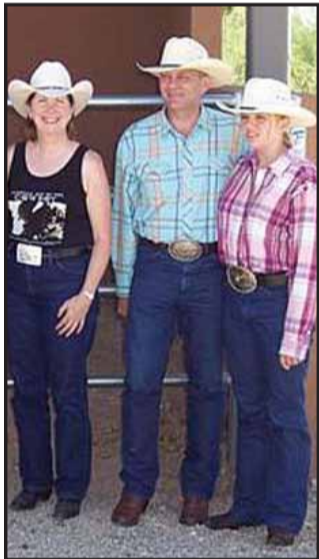
see page A-3

**75 Years!**



see page A-6

**English Cowboys!**



see page A-6

**BACK 2 SCHOOL**

see Section B pages 4, 5 & 6

**Public Meetings**

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

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**P&Z Sends 'Quik Trip' Issue To City Council Without A Recommendation**

**Neighbors speak out against new convenience store/gas station**

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
*The News*

APACHE JUNCTION—The Planning and Zoning Commission held a hearing Tuesday, July 22, in regard to a new QuikTrip gas station/convenience store on the northwest corner of Baseline Avenue and Ironwood Road and forwarded the project to the City Council without a recommendation.

A motion to deny was introduced by Commissioner Terry Parker, and seconded by Commissioner Sue Johns, but failed by a 4-3 vote. Commissioner Charles Buntin, Vice Chairwoman Tess Nesser, Chairwoman Pat Richmond

and Commissioner Gary Grounds voted no, while Commissioners Gail Evans, Johns and Parker opted for yes.

City Attorney Joel Stern said a report will be sent to the City Council saying the vote was to deny and it was not supported.

During the public hearing, about 20 nearby residents spoke out against the Quik-Trip station for a myriad of reasons including its proximity to an adjacent Chevron and the possibility of increased traffic.

Don Walker, who lives in the adjacent Desert Harbor mobile home park, said he doesn't believe both gas sta-



QuikTrip would like to build a gas station/convenience store like the one pictured above on the northwest corner of Baseline Avenue and Ironwood Drive.

tions can survive the weak economy. If one of them closes, he fears it will "introduce blight into the neighborhood."

Alice Johnson, who also resides in the mobile home park, told the commission that she will call the police if the location gets so noisy that

she can't sleep. She was also concerned that the QuikTrip's lights would shine in her window. **see P&Z Issue, A-3**

**Towing Company Loses City Rotation**

**Owner did not reveal past felony conviction**

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
*The News*

APACHE JUNCTION—Phoenix Metro Towing, LLC has lost its rotation with the City of Apache Junction because one of its owners failed to reveal a felony conviction within the last five years as required by the city's towing regulations, according to the city attorney.

According to the Michigan Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS), Shannon "Shawn" M. McGregor, 37, is on probation for five years—through Dec. 2, 2010—for failing to pay child support.

"As soon as we found this out, within a day he was dropped from the list," said City Attorney Joel Stern.

"I'm sure he wants to be on the list. He did come in here and said he had an attorney, but I cannot talk to him. I have to talk to his attorney."

Numerous attempts by the News to reach McGregor were unsuccessful.

This is McGregor's third felony conviction since 1993, when he was sentenced to one to eight years in prison for attempting to escape from jail and three to 20 years for larceny. He served almost four years of the concurrent

sentences, receiving an early discharge.

The felony child support conviction came to light when McGregor subpoenaed Stern on a matter involving the December 2007 towing of a van from Wal-Mart in Queen Creek to Phoenix Metro Towing's lot in Apache Junction.

"I don't know why they towed it, but they did," Stern said. "Maybe the owner left it there. I don't know. Maybe Wal-Mart asked them to do it. I don't know."

By January, the van's new owner, Fast Track, arrived at the towing lot to pick up the van. Phoenix Metro Tow-

ing LLC said the charge was \$1,800, including tow and storage fees for about 30 days. Stern said Fast Track called the tow "illegal" and left the van there.

Fast Track then went to the Pinal County Sheriff's Office and the county attorney, who determined the case to be civil. Stern said he in turn received a call and told then-Chief Thomas Kelly to send an officer to investigate.

At the time they applied for the city's rotation list, Phoenix Metro Towing LLC returned the van to Fast Track without charge.

A sergeant in the Apache Junction Police Department, Stern said, claimed he did a

thorough background check and the company passed.

However, Phoenix Metro Towing LLC filed a claim in Judge Dennis Lusk's court and subpoenaed Stern, he said. Stern called the towing company to ask why he was subpoenaed, Phoenix Metro Towing LLC responded that it wanted to "connect the dots on certain things." Stern was also told that McGregor's probation officer was subpoenaed as well. That was the first Stern heard that McGregor was on probation.

"I thought, 'Oh no. That's not good. If we miss that, that's not good,'" Stern said.

**see Towing Co., A-3**

**A Community Grows Into The Future**

**A report on Apache Junction city government for fiscal year 2007-2008, Part I**

**Expansion Was Key to Library's Year**

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
*The News*

When Carla Garner dropped out of school in the eighth grade, her mother had one bit of advice for her: Join a library.

"My mother told me if you're not going to stay in school, you better get a library card in whatever town you live in or you'll grow up stupid," Garner said.

Thanks to the reference information and programs at the Apache Junction Public Library, Garner recently earned her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies at Arizona State University.

"I went back to school after age 40 with an eighth-grade education," said Garner, who has aspirations to work as a museum archivist in Grand Junction, Colo. "Anything I want to learn, the first thing I do is run down to the library and get books. If it wasn't for the library being part of the community, there's a lot of us who would be uneducated bumpkins."

For fiscal year 2007-2008, the City Council approved a \$2,005,746 operating budget for the Apache Junction Public Library. It also approved a \$5 million capital budget that

went toward the renovations and expansion.

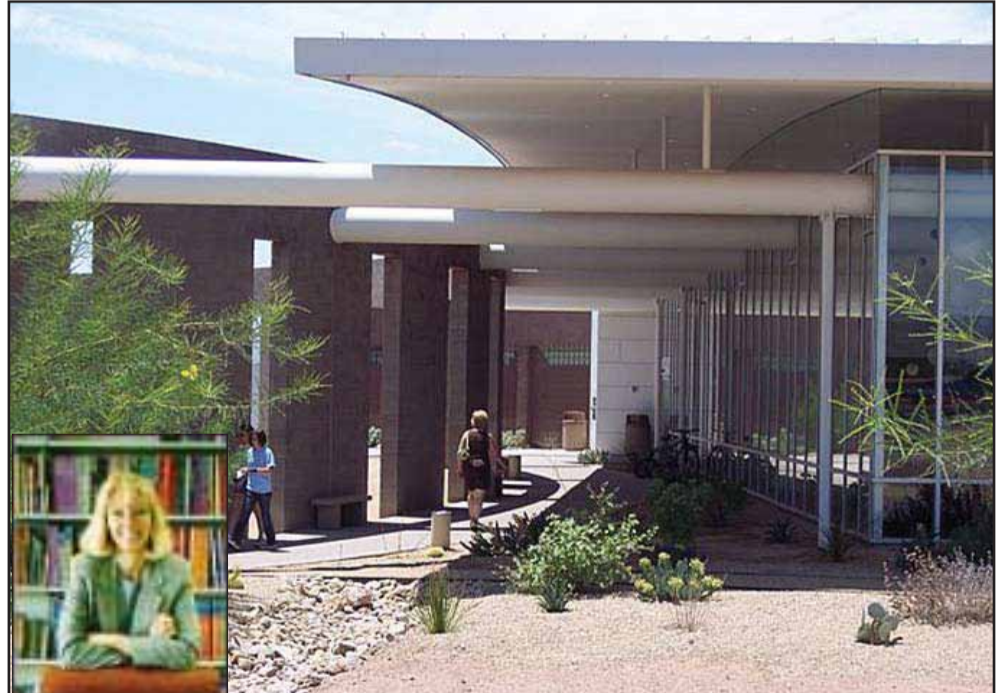
Pam Loui, library director, said the numbers went up across the board during the fiscal year.

In 2006, the library changed the way it counted materials once the self-check machines were in use, therefore it only has circulation figures for September 2006 through February 2007 and September 2007 through February 2008. According to those figures, book check out went from 112,277 to 124,045; video materials (DVDs, VHS tapes) 93,253 to 100,042; and audio materials 20,795 to 21,051.

"We've also started providing more of the popular general audience video games such as the PlayStation, Nintendo, Xbox. That's a fairly new collection for us and that's been pretty popular so far," Loui said.

In-house library computer use has doubled since 2003-2004 fiscal year, from 42,063 to 82,706.

"Even though we continue to add desktop computers, it seems like there's insatiable demand out in the community," Loui said. "Especially in the winter for the use of the computers. Our computers are pretty much filled up after the doors are open."



*The 10,000 sq. ft. expansion of the Apache Junction City Library during the past fiscal year helped keep pace with the more than 300,000 people who came through the doors in 2007-2008. (Inset, Pam Loui, library director).*

"But now we do have several people coming in with their laptops because they know they can use a wireless card and get access."

The library customer visits are also increasing year to year. In 2003-2004, 273,148 people walked through the doors. **see The Future, A-6**

**The News Kidcast**  
Continued Monsoon storms in the forecast all week.  
Highs around 100, lows around 80 degrees.

*This week's Weather "Artoonist"*  
**Brandy Anava**  
Age 6  
Gold Canyon Elementary School

