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Money Saving Monday



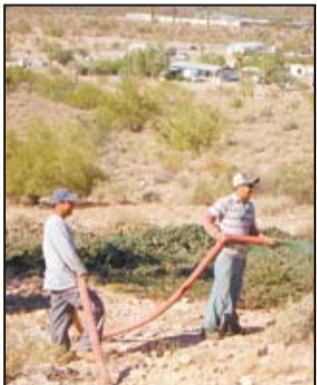
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Bluegrass Fest



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Restoration Of Silly Mtn.



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Public Meetings

Apache Junction City Council work session

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, 2008

300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Apache Junction City Council regular meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008

300 E. Superstition Blvd.

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Council To Name New City Magistrate

2 officers to celebrate retirement

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The City Council will welcome a new member and a new magistrate and say farewell to two police officers during its regular meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 2.

The City Clerk will administer the ceremonial oath of office to new City Councilman and former Mayor Doug Coleman.

Meanwhile the council will appoint James Hazel the new city magistrate, replacing retiring Judge David Alexander. Hazel has requested the opportunity to publicly address Mayor John Insalaco and the City Council. This matter was postponed from the November 4 and November 18 meetings due to recruitment technicalities.

At the top of the meeting, the council will present retirement plaques to Officer David Barnes, who retired from the Apache Junction Police Department on November 23 after serving the organization for 22 years, and Officer

Joseph Shikany, who retired from the AJPD October 28 after 13 years of service.

Also during the regular meeting, Pinal County Supervisor Sandie Smith will discuss the county's accomplishments, and Library Director Pamela Loui will present a report about her organization.

As for public hearings, Desert Liquors' Jeffrey Golzio has applied for a series 9 liquor license, and residents will have the opportunity to speak about proposed Resolution No. 08-37, approving a retail development tax incentive agreement with Empire Southwest LLC in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

On November 18, Insalaco and the City Council approved Resolution No. 08-36, which adopted the findings of Applied Economics confirming and legitimizing the tax reimbursement to Empire Southwest for public infrastructure improvements adjacent to its future 57,000-square-foot facility located at the northeast corner of 34th Avenue and Winchester Road. On the

same night, the Council also approved Resolution No. 08-35, which authorized adoption of the state-mandated 14-Day Notice of Intent to enter into the agreement.

Resolution No. 08-37 would authorize passage of the agreement which includes a reimbursement provision for only public infrastructure (i.e., roads, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, utilities and other public amenities) through a sales tax rebate in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, conditioned upon a grand opening date of November 1, 2009, and other developer obligations. A supermajority vote of the council (five out of seven members) is required to authorize the agreement.

The council is also seeking direction to staff on cable license agreement renewal with Mediacom Communications Corp. The cable license agreement is up for renewal on August 31, 2009. Staff is requesting council direction to proceed with negotiations to renew the license agreement for an additional five years, through August 31, 2014.

Benoist To Run For Mayor

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Noel Benoist, an activist in the current city recall election and founder and CEO of *Glory to God United Ministries Inc.*, has become the first Apache Junction resident to throw his hat in the ring for the mayoral race set for March.

He turned in his paperwork to the city clerk's office on Wednesday, November 26. He said he is running for mayor after initially supporting current Mayor John Insalaco as well as Councilmembers Jeff Serdy, Robin Barker and Chip Wilson.

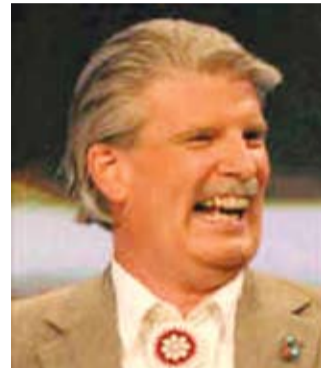
"Unfortunately there was a little bit of a rough start of them listening to others," Benoist said.

"Johnny (Insalaco, mayor) hasn't done some of the things he promised he would do. I plan to clean up the town and set a better direction. Johnny's a nice guy, but he doesn't have the knowledge to set Apache Junction in a secure direction and I do."

Benoist said he would have run for office sooner, but Sen. John McCain was going to appoint him to a position if he was elected president.

If elected, Benoist said he would vote to reduce the city's sales tax and enhance Apache Junction's historical recognition.

"As far as I'm concerned, we have a lot of history that just has not been developed,"



Noel Benoist

Benoist said. "Our history and historical sites are what gives us an advantage over every city in the nation. If we have historical sites on the National Register of Historic Places, that will promote the town and give us highway signage. In turn, it will get people in the town and increase revenue."

Benoist said since he turned in his paperwork, he has heard from developers who said they will return to working with the city if he is elected.

"I was happy to hear that," Benoist said. "I'm known by a lot of people. They've always known me to be fair."

Benoist is running in the primary and the recall election in March. He pulled recall paperwork on Insalaco but the packet was rejected, he said, for reasons he could not remember. City Clerk Kathy Connelly was unavailable for comment.

For more information about Benoist, visit his Web site at www.noelbenoistthetruthbetold.com.

Babeu Makes Pre-Oath Moves In Sheriff's Dept.

Doesn't take office until January, but asks for 7 resignations; reclassifies 2 positions

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

A month before his swearing-in ceremony, Republican sheriff-elect Paul Babeu has asked for the resignation of seven at-will employees at the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. The positions of two others will be reclassified.

Chief Deputy Jeff Kirkham, Deputy Chief Clint Lee, Patrol Bureau Capt. Ray Roerdink, as well as Pinal County Jail employees Chief Deputy of Jail Terry Altman, Jail Operations David Beauchamp, Support Services Michele McNeely and Accreditation Manager Deborah Powell have been asked for their voluntary resignations even though Babeu does not take office until January 1.

"There's seven at-will employees out of 700 to 800 employees for the sheriff's office," Babeu said. "It's mainly comprised of the jail, the detention facility and operations, which is patrol, criminal investigations and other specialty units—every-



Paul Babeu

thing from search and rescue to SWAT to the volunteer services and the posse to the civilian staff. That's a pretty big operation."

Seven of those employees are "at-will," he said, which means they are appointed by the sheriff.

"What I've asked for in a formal letter to Sheriff Vasquez is a letter of resignation from each of these seven people. If they are interested, they may send me a letter of interest with their resume for consideration in my administration."

So far, three of the at-will

employees have done so, he said.

"My commitment back to them is to meet with them. This isn't where I come in there and say, 'You're out of here.' I want to do this in a very professional, reasonable approach and respectfully. I've already talked to several people. That's part of the requirement. I think it's not only protocol, but I think it's a better way to do this for the organization and for those people. I'd like to hear what they have to say and what they have to offer."

Babeu, who is not returning to the Chandler Police Department, explained he will make his decision for at-will employees public in December. He is still interviewing for the positions and several of the candidates he had not met before the election.

"This is the beauty of this," Babeu said. "When we're talking about refreshing change and bringing highly qualified and competent people (forward), some of these people I have sought post-election have awesome credentials.

Johnson Gives \$15K to Toy Drive

Pinal County Sheriff Chris Vasquez, second from right, accepts a \$15,000 check from George Johnson, with his Marketing Director Carol Main, left, and PCSO Sgt. Stormee Wallace, right. The funds will go to the Pinal County Sheriff's Office Toy Drive, to which Mr. Johnson has donated thousands since the program began.



The News Kidcast

Mostly clear skies with highs of 70-75 and lows of 45-50 degrees.

This week's Weather "Artoonist"

Shelby Age 4

Bridges Early Childhood Education

