

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

**YOUR  
VOTE  
COUNTS!**

**City Election  
Tuesday, Mar. 10  
Special Section  
B-6, 7, 8, 9**



**Spring  
Sports**  
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**Apache Junction**  
*Gold Canyon*

**NEWS** 50¢

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**Money Saving  
Monday**



**The Monthly  
Coupon Page**  
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**Lady Prospectors  
Open With Win**



see Sports, page B-1

**Superstition  
Mtn. Museum**



**New Manager**  
see page A-3

**Public Meetings**

**Apache Junction  
City Council  
work session**  
7 p.m. Monday,  
March 2, 2009  
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

**Apache Junction  
City Council  
regular meeting**  
7 p.m. Tuesday,  
March 3, 2009  
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

**Pinal County  
Board of Supervisors**  
9:30 a.m. Wednesday,  
March 4, 2009  
County Complex,  
Florence

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**Apache Junction Celebrates  
45th Lost Dutchman Days**



The 45th Annual Lost Dutchman Days were held last weekend (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) in Apache Junction. The Rodeo, carnival, dance, crafts fairs and shows gave the revelers plenty to do. Above, the Budweiser Clydesdales led the way as more than 10,000 people lined the Apache Trail to watch the Lost Dutchman Days Parade Saturday morning, February 28. More photos, A-12.

**Green Pools Pose Threat**

Foreclosed homes making problem worse

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
The News

When Apache Junction resident Angie Hall learned of an abandoned green pool near her home in the 5800 block of Windsong, she feared the worst.

"When I went on vacation at Christmas, my friend, who house sits for me, she noticed the (nearby) house is abandoned," said Hall, an infusion therapy nurse.

"When I got back, she and I went up to the home and saw the large section of the fence open. We did trespass and we peeked over into the yard and we saw the pool. We went on in and we said, 'Oh my God.' The pool was so contaminated you can barely see the first step. I thought, 'We have a problem.'"

Hall said she spoke with Pinal County health officials, who jumped right on the problem. The pool has been treated and will continue to be treated every six months, she explained.

"That's just something we'll have to watch as a neighborhood to see if anything changes, as far as property ownership," Hall said.

Green pools are a symptom of a bigger problem—foreclo-



Foreclosed homes are leading to more green pools in Pinal County.

sure. According to Arizona State University's Morrison School of Management and Agribusiness, the 3,355 recorded resale transactions in third quarter 2008 included 1,515 foreclosures or 45 percent of the resale activity in Pinal County.

"A lot of these people don't drain their pools," said Joe Pyritz, Pinal County's public information officer. "That would stop the problem right then and there. It's really a shame. They leave in such a haste. They only turn off the filters. The next thing you know, you have a mess."

These green pools breed West Nile Virus, however, it

is simple to treat it with chemicals that stop the growth of mosquito larvae, he added.

Hall said she is "scared" of what is going to happen.

"Being a nurse, I'm very concerned," Hall said. "We're on a time bomb. Our temperatures are going up. Now we're going to be moving into the (West Nile) season until the temperatures drop really quickly again. Now is the time we should be concerned."

Abandoned pools should be reported to Pinal County's mosquito hotline, 1-866-287-0209, extension 6200, or (520) 866-6200.

**P&Z Tables Horse Boarding**

Next public hearing will be held April 28

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
The News

The Apache Junction Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to continue, until April 28, proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance regarding equine regulations pertaining to horse boarding facilities during its February 24 meeting in City Council chambers.

Commissioner Sue Johns made the motion saying the recommending body needed

additional time "so we may study this further."

More than 15 residents spoke out about the proposed ordinance. Many spoke about the proposed ordinance's controversial items. One of the more contested proposals is allowing one horse trailer to be parked on the property for every horse boarded. Boarding stables were being or going to be cited for too many trailers parked on site.

Lucille Diekman, who owns D Horse Boarding in Apache

Junction, said there are many important reasons why facilities like hers should be able to house at least one trailer per horse. For example, they would be needed if her multiple horses must be evacuated in case of an emergency.

Jim Foster of No Fly Zone Stables had an issue with "opaque" fences that are suggested in the proposed ordinance.

"If we have fences we can't see through, we're kind of see **Boarding**, A-10

**Wilson Named  
Superintendent**

Former AJHS principal replaces Wyman as head of AJ schools

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
The News

The Apache Junction Unified School District Governing Board, meeting Tuesday, February 24, voted unanimously to name Chad Wilson superintendent of schools beginning July 1 when the contract of current Superintendent Dr. Greg Wyman is fulfilled.

Wilson is currently the associate superintendent for educational services for the district. This is a position he has held since 2005 when he replaced Dr. Gary Nine who retired.

Wilson earned his bachelor of arts in history from the University of Arizona. He earned his master's degree from Northern Arizona University and will receive his doctorate of education from the University of Arizona this spring. Wilson is married and he and his wife have two children.



Associate Superintendent Chad Wilson will take over as superintendent of schools beginning July 1.

The board decided, in its Tuesday, February 10, meeting, not to renew Wyman's contract. The vote was 3-2 following the conclusion of an executive session. Board President Wendy Moore cited philosophical differences between the superintendent and the board concerning the future direction of the district.

Board members Moore, Linda Newkirk and Debbie Skinner voted not to renew. Lucy Young and Jeff Cranmer voted in favor of a new contract.

A spokeswoman for the school district said members of the governing board would not comment further because the decision was made during an executive session.

**Fisher Tries To  
Change Ballot**

Lawyer for recall candidate says items 'out of order'

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
The News

Mayoral candidate Elliott Fisher attempted to force the city and county to redesign the March 10 Primary/Recall Election ballot because the proof "not only is confusing but it is misleading," his lawyer wrote in a February 24 letter to City Clerk Kathy Connelly.

"First appearing on the ballot are the elections for mayor and city council," wrote Mark Hyatt Tynan, the attorney who is representing Fisher. "This is followed by proposition 100 and then the Recall Election ballot. In addition, at the top of the ballot it states: 'Official Ballot, Primary Election, March 10, 2009, County of Pinal, State of Arizona.' There is no mention of the recall."

Fisher is running in the recall against incumbent Mayor John Insalaco.

According to Tynan's letter, the recall is set to take place before the election for mayor and city council.

"Also, the way the ballot is structured, voters will vote for mayor and city council (sic) first without first seeing the recall election. This order wrongly benefits the incumbents subject to the recall."

He wrote that he and his client were prepared to go to court immediately if they did not have confirmation that the ballot will be changed.

"There are those who are against the recall who believe the ballot is confusing as you can see from letters to your local paper," Tynan

see **Ballot**, A-3

**The News Kidcast**

Highs starting off in the upper 80's, but cooling down to upper 60's. Lows in the 50's.

This week's  
Weather  
"Artoonist"

Tyler  
Carpenter  
Age 5

Peralta Trail  
Elementary  
School

