

serving
Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
Superstition Mountain Country



Class Of
2009
see page A-10



Thunder Mtn.
Baseball
Champs
see Sports, B-1

Apache Junction
Gold Canyon

NEWS

On The World Wide Web At: ajnews.com E-Mail: ajnews@ajnews.com **50¢**

☆ 115 N. Apache Trail, Apache Junction, Az. 85220 • (480) 982-6397 ☆ Volume XIII Issue 20 May 18 - May 24, 2009 Page A-1

Inside The News

Thrivin' & Drivin' At 103



see page A-3

State Track Championships



see Sports, page B-1

The News
Has New Summer Hours
M-F 8am-4pm

Public Meetings

- Apache Junction City Council work session**
7 p.m. Monday, May 18, 2009
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
- Apache Junction City Council regular meeting**
7 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2009
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
- Superstition Mountain Community Facilities Dist. (sewer board)**
6 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2009
Fire District Boardroom
565 N. Idaho Road
- Pinal County Board of Supervisors**
9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Administration Building A,
31 N. Pinal St., Florence
- Fire District Board**
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Fire District Boardroom
565 N. Idaho Road

Index

- Business DirectoryB-4
- Business Page..... A-6
- ClassifiedsB-4,5
- Entertainment..... A-7
- For The Record A-2
- Kollenborn A-4
- Letters to Editor A-4
- Local HappeningsB-3
- Obituaries.....A-2
- Opinion Page..... A-4
- Saddle Up..... A-8
- SportsB-1,2,3,6
- Worship Directory..... A-6

AJ High—Champions Of Giving

Prospector students honored at Chase Field— blood donation champs



Apache Junction High School Student Council members were honored before a recent Arizona Diamondbacks game for winning their division of the United Blood Services Arizona High School Challenge by having the highest percentage of students donate blood during three drives held on campus this year. Students are (l to r) Siobhan McKay, Lauren Stewart, Gage Williams, Taylor Harvey, Brandon Fields, Nora Heilman, Natalie Donald, Anthony Gallina, Erin Rankin, Melinda DeMoss, Chyna Gade, Katie Stout, and Diana Woodruff.

Apache Junction High School students were honored last week in special ceremonies at Chase Field in Phoenix prior to an Arizona Diamondbacks game for winning their division of the United Blood Services Arizona High School Blood Drive Challenge.

For the third year in a row, Apache Junction students achieved the highest percentage of blood donation for a school in their size range. The school has achieved the Platinum (highest) level of participation.

Most people do not realize that approximately 1 in every 13 blood transfusions comes from a high school blood donor and that teenagers make up one of the largest single donor groups in Arizona. Theme of the High School Challenge is "Find the Hero in You."

Sponsored by the AJHS Student Council, there are three blood drives held each school year on the Apache Junction campus. On May 6, during the latest drive, there were 94 units of blood collected.

Sheriff Fires 4, Including Drunk Sergeant

Despite evidence, deputy not charged with DUI

By Ed Barker
The News

Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu hosted a press conference on Friday, May 15, in Florence to announce the termination of four sheriff's employees, including Sgt. Ron Ryan, a deputy who showed up to his weapons qualifications test under the influence of alcohol three months ago.

Sgt. Ryan was on duty at the time and was removed from the firing range early on the morning of Wednesday, February 18, after an instructor reported smelling alcohol on Ryan.

According to sources in the sheriff's office, Ryan drove his patrol car to the range and several sports drink bottles that had been filled with alcohol were found in Ryan's patrol car at the scene. Ryan took a breath test that registered a blood alcohol level of .12, more than one and a half times the legal limit for driving.

Despite the evidence, Ryan was not arrested and has never been charged with Driving Under the Influence (DUI). Ryan was placed on paid administrative leave after the incident and continued to draw his paycheck until he was terminated last week.

In a press release on Friday, May 15, Sheriff Babeu offered no explanation for why



Sgt. Ron Ryan, fired from the Sheriff's Office.

They're Baaack—Cargo Containers

Staff seeks clarification of language

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Apache Junction City staff will seek direction from the City Council Tuesday, May 19, on how to clarify a definition in the cargo container ordinance that appears to allow tractor-trailer beds on wheels and axles to remain in use for storage without meeting the requirements.

"There's council direction to staff from an earlier meeting," said City Clerk Kathy Connelly. "It was a work session discussion. It led to a brief presentation by Brad Steinke," who is director of development services.

Also under Council Direction to Staff, the staff requests council direction regarding: criminal versus civil penalties for zoning code violations; the Board of Adjustment's authority to modify zoning boundaries; and parking regulations for semi-trucks and semi-trailers.

Also on the agenda are five public hearings. Canyon Food Mart is seeking a Series 10 Liquor License; and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Lost Dutchman No. 3850 would like a temporary extension of premises for May 25. Proposed Ordinance No. 1340, Case AN-1-06, calls for the proposed annexation of approximately 123 acres of vacant private land at the southeast corner of West Southern Avenue and Meridian Drive, owned by Fortune Travel Inc. Following that case, the company would like to rezone 111 acres of its 123-acre property from general rural (GR) to trailer homesites by planned development (TH/PD). Finally, proposed Resolution No. 09-06 calls for extinguishment of public roadway easements on Tamarisk Street and on Raindance Road.

see City Council, A-5

Rizzi Honored By President's National Volunteer Award

Former City Council candidate recognized for volunteerism



Christa Rizzi

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Former City Council candidate Christa Rizzi has received a President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Participation for her work as a Pinal County Juvenile Court volunteer with the Restorative Justice Panel, Juvenile Detention Center.

For her efforts, she received a letter from former President George W. Bush notifying her of the Bronze Award. Rizzi admitted she initially thought it was a joke.

"You know how you get things in the mail and

see Volunteer, A-9

The News Kidcast
Partly cloudy with highs in the low 100s and lows around 70 degrees.

This week's Weather "Artoonist"
David Shaul
Age 5
Avalon Elementary School

