

serving
Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
Superstition Mountain Country



Take A Walk
At The
Arboretum
see page, A-7



Catching Up
With Zack!
see Sports, B-1

Apache Junction
Gold Canyon

NEWS

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Inside The News

Boys and Girls Club May Move This Fall

Organization to relocate to old Four Peaks Elementary School

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley, Apache Junction Branch, will be able to expand its capacity from about 49 children to nearly 200 this fall thanks to the Apache Junction Unified School District Governing Board approving the organization's lease for the rental of the old Four Peaks Elementary School Tuesday, June 9, during its regular meeting.

"This momentous step forward by the Apache Junction Unified School District in Tuesday night's meeting puts into motion a partnership that will guarantee increased service to the youth served by both the school district and the Apache Junction Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley," said Sandie Smith, incoming president of the organization's executive board of directors.



Students at the Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley, Apache Junction Branch, work on computers during their summer break.

"In these economic times when the need for services far surpasses the available funding resources, it is vital that we work with the school district and the City of Apache

Junction to meet the increased demand for service. The Boys and Girls Club is elated with the opportunities this step forward presents to us. The youth of today are our future for tomorrow—we are proud to be a part of this investment in our community's youth."

Connie Lane, incoming vice president, said she was "elated" to hear the news. "The Boys and Girls Club began as a 'grassroots' community organization in 1995," Lane said. "We have more than outgrown our current building which held only 49 children at one time. The club has been held together by the citizens of this community, 'one-hand-at-a-time.' Many individuals, groups, businesses and organizations

can celebrate this significant occasion. This is a momentous turn in the school's and the club's histories. Best of all, and most important, it will give more of our community's children a positive, safe place to go after school hours."

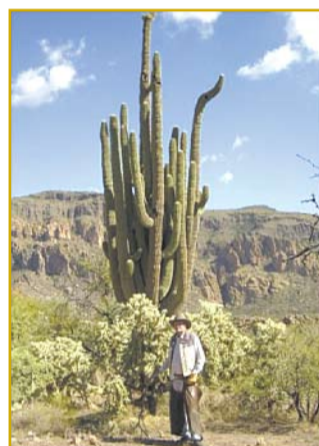
Bob Liming, Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley director of development, said about 500 students attend the new Four Peaks Elementary School, which shares a campus with the former location. Because of that population, he expects the new Boys and Girls Club to house anywhere from three to four times the amount of children that it has today.

see Club, page A-6



Sun., June 21st

Kollenborn Chronicles



see page A-4

AJ Zip Code Changes



see page A-3

Public Meetings

Apache Junction City Council work session

7 p.m. Monday, June 15, 2009

300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Water Utilities Community Facilities District

(Apache Junction Water Co.)

6 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, 2009

300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Apache Junction City Council regular meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, 2009

300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Superstition Mountain Community Facilities Dist. (sewer board)

6 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Fire District Boardroom 565 N. Idaho Road

AJFD Governing Board (fire district board)

6 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Fire District Boardroom 565 N. Idaho Road

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School Board OKs Override Election

Voters to hit the polls November 3

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The Apache Junction Unified School District Governing Board on Tuesday, June 9, approved 4-1 a special Maintenance and Operating Budget Override election to be held November 3.

The district joins seven other Pinal County school districts that are asking voters for an M&O Budgetary Override that would allow the districts to exceed their annual Maintenance and Operating bud-

gets by up to 10 percent for a period of seven years with a three-year phase out beginning in year five.

Board member Linda Newkirk voted against the election. She questioned whether or not the teachers would see a raise if the override passed, or if classrooms would benefit directly from the monies. Board member Lucy Young reminded Newkirk that the governing body was only charged with approving/denying the election on this night.

"Last night, the only question was whether or not to ap-

prove the call for an election," said Carol Shepherd, AJUSD spokeswoman. "It was not to designate dollars."

A Maintenance and Operating Budget is the portion of the budget where salaries, benefits and classroom supplies come from, so logically, that's where the override dollars would go—to pay salaries, (keeps class sizes low), to pay for training, programs and supports extra-curricular activities (supplies and addendums for coaching and

see Override, A-3

AJUSD Calls Back Teachers

Many of the 33 first-year AJUSD teachers who were given Reduction in Force (RIF) notices that their jobs had been eliminated for next year are currently breathing a sigh of relief.

They will be returning to classrooms in the AJUSD this August because they have been offered positions that have opened up through retirements and resignations. Under the rules governing the RIF procedure, school district personnel who have been subject to a RIF notice have first

right of refusal when there are teaching openings at the district's schools.

This summer, after school ended, teaching jobs become available through attrition—retirements or resignations.

During the past two years, the district has eliminated 93 positions, including teachers, administrative and support personnel. These jobs will not be refilled as the district tries to cope with a possible budget shortfall that could go as high as \$4.5 million for 2009-2010.

"We were pleased to be able to offer these laid off teachers classroom positions," said Dr. Jim Lockwood, associate superintendent of business and finance.

"At the time we issued the RIF notices to teachers we had no idea how many personnel would not be returning. With the way that the 2009-2010 budget is shaping up with possible huge cuts in funding, we couldn't offer contracts that we might not have been able to honor."

'Shop AJ' Nominated For Cable Award

Account executive calls national honor a thrill

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The "Shop Apache Junction" program has been nominated for a CAB Cable Advertising Award in the Achievement in Local Retail category for markets of less than 100,000 subscribers.

Cable One Advertising Account Executive Athena Drews said she is thrilled with the nomination, which pits her against Cable One Advertising in Fargo, N.D., see Shop AJ, A-5



Parks and Recreation Parks Ranger Supervisor Kelly Martin is seen here with the City's first placarded municipal vehicle and the "Shop AJ" message.

City Council To Hear Budget

Details not available at press time

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

City Manager George Hoffman will provide an overview of the City's Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget during the 7 p.m. Monday, June 15, City Council work session in the governing body's chambers, 300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Figures were not available at press time, according to Assistant City Manager Bryant Powell.

Also among the items on Monday's agenda, McDonald's Corp, represented by KDF/JMS Architects, is appealing the City's landscaping and screening requirements. The fast-food restaurant, which went up in flames Tuesday, November 11, 2008, wants to appeal the requirement that a six-foot block wall is to separate the subject site from the neighboring property to the East. McDonald's would like to install additional landscaping or shrubs in lieu of the wall.

The council is slated to discuss the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) Idaho exit project. During the May 19, 2009, work session, council directed staff to begin preparation of a TEA-21 grant application for the enhancement of the Idaho exit on the Superstition Freeway. Further, council directed that a graphic be selected that is consistent with the desert theme utilized on the Ironwood, Goldfield and Tomahawk exits.



George Hoffman

During the Tuesday, June 16, regular meeting, the City Council will proclaim July 25, 2009, as Pinal County National Day of the Cowboy. Sgt. Teresa Rodgers will receive a retirement plaque for her 21 years of service to the Apache Junction Police Department.

In Public Hearings, visitors will be allowed to speak about equine regulations, as well as the proposed annexation of approximately 123 acres of vacant land at the southeast corner of West Southern Avenue and South Meridian Drive, owned by Fortune Travel Inc., and that company's request to rezone 111 acres of its 123-acre property from general rural (GR) to trailer homesites by planned development (TH/PD).

The City Council will offer direction to staff on the submittal of 2009 League of Arizona Cities and Towns Resolution; a green building program; and a general plan update.

The News Kidcast

Mostly sunny with highs around 100 and lows around 70.

This week's Weather "Artoonist"

Abby Age 4

Bridges Early Childhood Education

