

serving
Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
Superstition Mountain Country

Almighty Tours & Charters
see page A-6



Summer Football!
see Sports, B-1

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Public Meetings

Pinal County Board of Supervisors
9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2009
Administration Building A, 31 N. Pinal St., Florence

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City's July 4th Celebration Set
Activities for all ages — all day, Saturday, July 4th

Free watermelon, 6 p.m.
Jann and the Moon Doggs, 7 p.m.
Fireworks Extravaganza, 9 p.m.

By Ed Barker
The News

Join the City of Apache Junction Parks & Recreation for its annual Fourth of July Celebration this weekend.

The events will kick off the morning of Saturday, July 4, with the fifth annual Locals Only Annual Skate Competition, co-sponsored by the Underground Board Factory. Helmets are required.

The competition will be a three-person Jam Style. Register at the Parks and Recreation office or the Underground Board Factory for \$15.

Registration for any spots remaining on the day of the event is \$20 and will begin at 8:30 a.m. The event will begin at 9 a.m. Please note that parking for events at the Superstition Shadows events will also be at the high school.

Other events taking place on the morning of July 4 include an adult sand volleyball tournament at Superstition Shadows Aquatics Center. Four-person teams will compete to hold the title of Apache Junction 4th of July Sand Volleyball Tournament Champions. Prizes will be awarded to first and second place teams. Register on-site at 9 a.m. It is only open to the first eight teams registered.

Superstition Shadows Aquatic Center will be open for swimming from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, July 4 (daily admis-

sion rates apply). There will also be wacky swim activities including water games, races, and making its return this year—the Obstacle Course. (free with paid pool admission). Races will be split into appropriate age categories for ages 5 and older. Prizes to those who participate. Signup sheets and times of the races will be posted pool side by the manager's office.

Evening events are located at the Apache Junction High School Track and Field. Game booths, sponsored by local nonprofit organizations and activities for kids will take place at the field starting at 6 p.m. Some of the activities include: Inflatable/Water games, bean bag toss, prize ponds, a dunk tank, a Bicycle, Wagon & Tricycle Float Contest (judging at 6:30 p.m.), and live entertainment.

Free watermelon will be available starting at 6 p.m. until it is gone. Jann and the Moon Doggs will perform from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will kick off the Fireworks Extravaganza at 9 p.m.

This is a free event, open to the public (a small fee for food and game booths will apply).

Parking is limited so please come early. The Fourth of July festivities are all located on school property and state law prohibits smoking and alcohol (bags and coolers brought in to the facility will be checked). Food and drinks



Former Coach Gets 20 Years Probation

Jewell had inappropriate contact with female student

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

A former Apache Junction High School girls basketball coach pled guilty June 23 to sexual conduct with a minor and furnishing harmful materials to a minor, resulting in a sentence of 20 years probation.

Raenna Jewell, a 25-year-old Gilbert resident, also cannot work at any school or partake in any activities with children younger than age 14. Jewell will be required to register as a sexual offender.

On March 26, 2009 the Apache Junction Police Department responded to Apache Junction High School when the school administration called to report the alleged misconduct of Jewell. "When the responding offi-



Raenna Jewell

cer was briefed, it was alleged that a previously employed sports coach had had inappropriate sexual contact(s) with a student," said Police Chief Jerald Monahan.

The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) was given the preliminary report and began the investigation. Jewell was charged with two counts of

sexual misconduct with a minor.

Pinal Deputy County Attorney Jason Holmberg worked extensively with the Apache Junction Police Department CID and is credited for the successful culmination, Monahan said.

Jewell replaced coach Jason Beck, who was arrested February 3 on charges of sexual conduct with a 15-year-old girl. Eight days later, a Pinal County grand jury indicted Beck on the same charges as Jewell—sexual conduct with a minor and luring a minor for sexual exploitation.

Beck posted \$25,000 bond and has since been released while awaiting court proceedings.

Jewell and Beck were part-time paid coaches and neither was a certified teacher.

Donations Sought For Future Fireworks

Annual display costs \$14,000

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Due to budget cuts, future July 4 fireworks displays are in jeopardy so the City of Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department is seeking donations to offset the costs of the shows.

"We are all concerned about the economy and the impact the downturn as had on our ability to fund community events like July 4th," said Jeff Bell, Parks and Recreation Department director.

"Our efforts will include placement of 'donation containers' at the entry gates during this year's event. Community volunteers will provide oversight to the containers and help in addressing questions from the public. Over the next fiscal year, we will solicit support from civic clubs, veterans organization and the private sec-

tor to assist in reducing the cost of the display (currently \$14,000)."

This year's event will be held from 9 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Saturday, July 4, at the Apache Junction High School Football Stadium on Southern Avenue, just east of Ironwood Drive. Live entertainment presented by Jann and the Moondogs from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

During recent budget discussions, Mayor John Insalaco and councilmembers asked staff to consider fundraising ideas to help offset the cost of future firework displays. "Our signage will say, 'due to the economy, future firework shows are in jeopardy... your voluntary contribution is appreciated,'" Bell said.

Donation containers will be easy to spot. They consist

see Donations, A-6

AJ Man Drowns While Tubing On The Salt River

28 year-old tried to swim against the current

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The body of an Apache Junction man was pulled from the Salt River at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 25, by a dive team from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

Robert Frances, 28, disappeared around 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, during a tubing trip with three friends.

The trouble started when one of the friends swam away from the tubes and began to sink under water. Three of his companions came to his res-

cue and all four swam back to the shoreline, deputies reported.

Frances tried to swim out into the river, against the current, when he was pulled underneath the water and did not resurface.

The News Kidcast

Scattered thunderstorms all week, highs around 100, lows around 75.

This week's Weather "Artoonist"

Brittaney Alexander

Age 5
Superstition Mountain Elementary

