

serving
Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
Superstition Mountain Country



St. Patrick's Day
Corned Beef, Cabbage
& Green Beer

see page A-7



**Nationally
Ranked
Offense**

see Sports, B-1

APACHE JUNCTION
Gold Canyon

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NEWS

50¢

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Inside The News

AJUSD Special People



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Public Meetings

Apache Junction City Council work session
7 p.m. Monday, March 15, 2010
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Superstition Mountain Community Facilities District (sewer board)
6 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2010
District Board Room, 5661 S. Ironwood Drive

Apache Junction City Council regular meeting
7 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2010
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Pinal County Board of Supervisors
9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 17, 2010
Administration Building A, 31 N. Pinal St., Florence

Arizona State Parks Board regular meeting
10 a.m. Wednesday, March 17, 2010
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

AJFD Governing Board
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, 2010
Fire District Boardroom 565 N. Idaho Road

Lost Dutchman State Park Update Meeting
6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18, 2010
Superstition Harley-Davidson Community Room, 2910 W. Apache Trail

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Event To Update Residents On LD Park

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at Superstition Harley-Davidson Bldg.

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

With the ongoing high level of community interest in the status of Lost Dutchman State Park (LDSP), the City of Apache Junction, in cooperation with Superstition Harley-Davidson and the Arizona State Park's Foundation, are hosting a community update from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at the store's community room, 2910 W. Apache Trail, Apache Junction.

Residents can come hear the latest developments, and what they can do to become more actively engaged in support of Lost Dutchman State Park, whether it is as a "Friend of LDSP," volunteer, donor business or simply a concerned citizen/park user.

The update is free and open to the public, thanks to Beverly and Mark LeResche, owners of Superstition Harley-Davidson. The meeting room is handicap accessible.

For more information on all Arizona State Parks or how to volunteer please visit: www.azstateparks.com.

For more information, call Steve Filipowicz, City of Apache Junction Economic Development director, at (480) 474-5064.

The update comes on the heels of the Arizona State Parks Board's meeting in Apache Junction's City Council Chambers at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 17.

This is its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The agenda was not available as of press time, but Filipowicz said he believes it's a positive



Steve Filipowicz, City of Apache Junction Economic Development director.

move that the board accepted the City's invitation to meet there.

"It illustrates the growing relationship between the City of Apache Junction, the community of Apache Junction and the state parks staff

and outreach to their board, as well as proximity to Lost Dutchman State Park," Filipowicz said.

Lost Dutchman State Park is slated to close June 3 due to State budget cuts. It is one of 13 state parks that the board voted unanimously to shutter in a phased series of closures that began February 22.

The group also includes Tonto Natural Bridge State Park near Payson, Alamo Lake State Park in Wenden, Picacho Peak State Park and Red Rock State Park in Sedona.

The nine parks that will remain open are ones that generate the most revenue back into the parks' operating revolving funds. The parks that will remain open include

Buckskin Mountain State Park in Parker, Catalina State Park near Tucson, Cattail

Cove State Park in Lake Havasu City, Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood, Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area in Show Low, Kartchner Caverns State Park in Benson, Lake Havasu State Park, Patagonia Lake State Park and Slide Rock State Park in Sedona.

However, the Arizona State Parks Board has agreed to make capital improvements to Lost Dutchman State Park, which is a positive sign, Filipowicz said.

"Their decision to reallocate capital dollars into our park—if they don't get swept by the legislature—is probably the key item to making it economically self-sustainable," he said.

For more information about the Arizona State Parks Board, visit www.pr.state.az.us/board/index.html.

Census 2010 Coming To Apache Junction

Make sure everyone is counted, easy to fill out and send back

The City of Apache Junction is strongly encouraging all residents to promptly fill out their Census questionnaire when it is received in March.

"Apache Junction needs the participation of all its residents in order to get an accurate count of how many people live in the city during the 2010 U.S. Census," said Pat Brenner, the City's public information officer.

In March, residents will receive Census questionnaires at their homes. This 10-question form is easy to fill out

and is confidential, he said. Each household is asked to respond with how many people are living in the residence at that time. Citizenship is not a consideration. By law the Census must remain confidential.

Of special importance to winter visitors in Apache Junction, you are encouraged to fill out your census form in Apache Junction as each person counted will add \$1,500 per person per year for 10 years into the community. That's money to fund police

officers, roads, libraries and parks.

The federal government uses this population count to help fund all of the above through shared revenue. Our community benefits when everyone is counted, Brenner said.

If the form is not sent back to the Census, employees known as Enumerators will visit each residence that failed to return the information and attempt to get the information in person. This could happen several times. The easiest thing to do is fill out the mailed form and

send it back.

No one coming to your door will ask for bank account, Social Security or any other type of personal financial information that would allow them to access your accounts. If they do request information

like this call the police immediately at (480) 982-8260. All legitimate Census workers will have a federal ID clearly showing their identity.

For further information contact the Public Information Office at (480) 474-5080.

Suspected Gunman Nabbed In Mesa

Elson allegedly shot AJ woman through front door

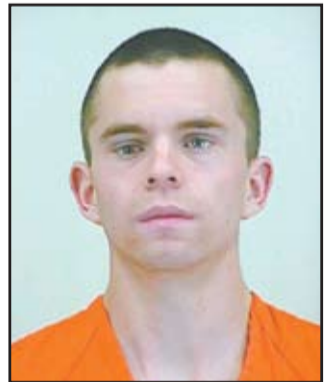
By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

A 22-year-old man was arrested March 10 without incident in Mesa in connection with the February 8 shooting of a 19-year-old woman in Apache Junction.

Brock E. Elson has been identified as the primary shooter in the investigation, according to Capt. Tom Kelly of the Apache Junction Police Department.

On February 8, the woman, who was at a residence in 1300 Block of South Royal Palm, was the victim of a single gunshot wound.

According to the victim, one of the two white men came up to her front door requesting to see her home as the house had



Brock E. Elson

a "For Sale" sign in the front yard.

When she refused entry, the man pulled a handgun and shot her in the upper body. Upon arrival, police and fire personnel rendered emergency aid whereby she was then airlifted to a local hospital for additional emergency treatment.

Elson was transported to the Pinal County Detention Center to await his initial appearance on attempted murder charges, Kelly said. Another person involved in the initial shooting has also been identified and is awaiting charges by the Pinal County Attorney.

"The Mesa Police Department Street Crime Apprehension Team assisted in this apprehension and is commended for their continued outstanding cooperation in joint operations," Kelly said.

Anyone that has any additional information about this ongoing investigation is requested to contact the Apache Junction Police Department Criminal Investigation Division at (480) 982-8260 or AJPD Silent Witness at (480) 474-8585.

Music Together Comes To AJ

10-week course for children & parents begins March 29

Does your baby start to bob his/her head when music comes on? Does your baby enjoy banging on pots and pans or playing with that musical toy that he/she got for his/her birthday?

If so, Music Together Class would be perfect for them. The 10-week course begins Monday, March 29, at either 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

It is open to children ages infant through 5 years old. Share the joy of music with your child in a fun, energetic see **Music**, A-3



The News Kidcast

Mostly sunny with highs near 80° and lows around 60° degrees.

This week's
Weather
"Artoonist"
Jessica Hausmann-Sobel
Age 6

Peralta Trail
Elementary
School

