

Fire Engulfs Trail Business

Official: 1 a.m. fire caused by human error

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

A small commercial building at 2152 W. Apache Trail sustained \$110,000 in damage after a structure fire was quickly extinguished Monday, May 3, by the Apache Junction Fire District and Mesa Fire Department.

"We responded to a report of a structure fire at Ocotillo and Apache Trail at 1:01 a.m. Monday, May 3," said Fire Marshal Dave Montgomery, also the AJFD's public information officer.

"We found a small commercial building at 2152 W. Apache Trail fully involved with fire upon our arrival. The business was a scrap metal business with the structure being used as both office and living quarters for the business manager."



The Monday, May 3, fire at 2152 W. Apache Trail was an accident, said Apache Junction Fire District Fire Marshal Dave Montgomery. Photo by Raquel Ramirez.

Montgomery said the fire started near a desk in the office, which was also being

used as a bedroom. There were no injuries. "The accidental fire was

caused by human error," Montgomery said.

Stinard Honored For Volunteerism



Central Arizona College's Sharon Stinard poses with D. Scott Taylor.

Central Arizona College's Sharon Stinard, who founded the Community Alliance Against Family Abuse, was honored on March 19 with the Volunteer Center of Pinal County's most prestigious award, "The Heart of Pinal."

She was given a painting by D. Scott Taylor, who was especially commissioned for this honor. The board members of the VCPC met at a luncheon where they were joined by Taylor and former county Supervisor Sandie Smith, who has been a strong supporter of the Volunteer Center.

To learn more about volunteering and the VCPC, visit its new website www.VCPC.org.

Students Bicycling For Colombian Orphanage

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Three California bicyclists will stop in Apache Junction and Gold Canyon on Saturday, May 15, and Sunday, May 16, during their 3,092.5-mile cross-country ride to raise money to build an orphanage in Medellin, Colombia.

The college students—Corey Fuller, Chris Wilson and Tyler Priest—were scheduled to begin their "Break the Cycle" ride at 6 a.m. Sunday, May 9, in Seal Beach, Calif., near Long Beach, and will continue through to St. Augustine, Fla., where they will reach



From left, Tyler Priest, 19, Chris Wilson, 20, and Corey Fuller, 21, all of California, photographed in Monrovia, Calif., on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. (Courtesy San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group/Staff photo by Watchara Phomicinda)

June 28. "I can't wait," Priest said in an interview on Thursday, May 6. "I'm very excited. The other two riders with me are very excited but just nervous and excited to embark on it and do something bigger than ourselves."

Priest, a children's pastor, said the idea came from Wilson early last fall.

"We go to the same university," Priest said of California Baptist University in Riverside, Calif. "Upon going on a short-term missions trip in December, we thought about doing something. We didn't know what the purpose would be."

"We went on a short-term missions trip to Medellin, Colombia. We saw kids live in just a horrible environment. We worked with kids in a

kids' center down there. This kids center, they will provide for them food and care during the day. They're not able to afford to care for the kids at night."

Most of the children lost their families to drug-related violence as, Priest said, Medellin was the most dangerous city in the world in 2005. Now the city is starting to rebuild.

"The kids don't have a place to go at night," Priest said. "Most of these kids don't have their families so they're just left on the streets. We came back and thought we need to try and do something to change this environment they have to live in. That's how we came up with the idea for 'Break the Cycle.'"

To prepare for the ride, the trio embarked on endurance rides.

"There's a big event that they have for bikers in California called Tour de Palm Springs," Priest said. "It was an 100-mile ride, so a century ride. We did that and finished it in six hours. That was really good. We've been doing things like that. In our area, we've been doing a lot of hill training. If you can do hills, you can probably handle just flat road. We've been trying to do a lot of hill stuff. That way when we leave California and go through Texas we know what we'll be facing."

Well wishers can see them along Adobe and University on Saturday, May 15, in the morning. They will speak at 4:50 p.m. just before 5 p.m. services at Gold Canyon United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 16.

There are a couple ways in which the public can get

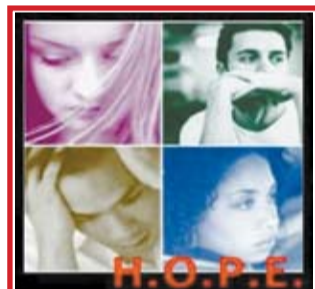
involved in helping the trio raise money to build a new orphanage in Medellin. A car following the men will sell T-shirts. There are also individual sponsorships.

They are trying to raise \$60,000. For more information, visit www.rlifefellowship.com/breakthecycle/.

"I tell people if it wasn't for something for a greater pur-

pose, I honestly would probably get to Arizona and say 'I'm kind of over this.'

"By people supporting us and believing and helping young kids who are in a horrible situation, we definitely will give it everything I have. You'll have to bury me on the side of the road. It's something bigger than myself."



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