

serving  
Northern Pinal County  
**ARIZONA**  
Superstition Mountain Country



AJPD Joins Campaign!

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**State Track!**

see Sports, B-1

**APACHE JUNCTION**  
*Gold Canyon*

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**Special People**



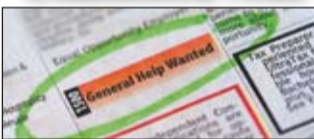
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**BTA Butterfly Walk**



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**Classified Ads**



see Section B

**Public Meetings**

- Apache Junction City Council work session**  
7 p.m. Monday, May 17, 2010  
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
- Apache Junction City Council regular meeting**  
7 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, 2010  
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
- Superstition Mountain Community Facilities Dist. (sewer board)**  
6 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, 2010  
District Board Room, 5661 S. Ironwood Drive
- Pinal County Board of Supervisors**  
9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
Administration Building A, 31 N. Pinal St., Florence
- AJFD Governing Board**  
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
Fire District Boardroom, 565 N. Idaho Road

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**State Sales Tax Increase Goes To Polls**

Special election is Tuesday, May 18

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
*The News*

Arizona residents will hit the polls on Tuesday, May 18, to vote for or against Proposition 100, a ballot measure that calls for a temporary 1-percent sales tax increase.

It is estimated to raise at least \$1 billion.

The City of Apache Junction could not take a stand on the issue, according to Public Information Officer Pat Brenner.

However, AJUSD Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson sent letters to parents and community members saying if the sales tax does not pass, the school district will have to cut 20.5 percent from its budget of \$6.7 million.

"On May 18, a Sales Tax Special Election titled Proposition 100 will be held to give



A ballot measure that calls for a temporary 1¢ state sales tax increase will be voted on this week.

Arizona voters the opportunity to approve a temporary 1 percent (one cent on the dollar) sales tax increase to help fund primary and secondary

education, health and human services and public safety," Wilson wrote.

"The 1 cent sales tax measure would increase the cur-



Make your vote count!

Wilson said the State of Arizona has approved two budget plans for 2010-2011 fiscal year, one if Proposition 100 is approved and the other if it is not.

"Support of this ballot measure would increase the State revenues by approximately \$1 billion per year during each of the next three fiscal years," he said.

The sales tax would automatically expire on May 31, 2013. Wilson explained that two-thirds of the revenue generated would be appropriated for public education and would not mean any new money for school districts.

"It would simply help to lessen the already-reduced educational funding districts are receiving," he said. "If the sales tax increase is not approved, K-12 education would experience an additional 20 percent reduction in state support for school districts' operating budgets."

**AJ Widow At Center Of Cancer Trial**

It starts June 7 in Philadelphia

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
*The News*

Joanne Branham cries softly when she recalls her husband's struggle with a malignant brain tumor that subsequently ended his life only one month after his diagnosis in 2004.

But she is strong when she talks about her mission this summer. The Apache Junction widow intends to be in court every day, starting June 7, fighting for her late husband, Frank. Their case is the first of the 31 cancer cluster cases against chemical giant Rohm & Haas/Dow Chemical to come to trial in a Philadelphia courtroom.

The Branhams, who prior to moving to Arizona lived in McCullom Lake, Ill., claim the chemical manufacturer poisoned the air and groundwater in the McCullom Lake community with vinyl chlo-



Joanne Branham's husband, Frank, died one month after his diagnosis of a brain tumor in 2004. She believes he contracted the disease after Rohm & Haas/Dow Chemical allegedly poisoned the air and groundwater near her former home in Illinois.

ride among other carcinogens discharged into an unlined waste pit from the Ringwood, Ill., plant. The prolonged exposure to the tainted water, ground and air caused the rare form of a malignant brain cancer that killed Franklin Delano Branham, according

to their complaint filed in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. The cases are being tried in Pennsylvania because it is the headquarters of Rohm & Haas, a wholly owned subsidiary of Michi-

see **Cancer Trial, A-9**

**NJROTC Ceremony Celebrates Students**



At the annual ROTC awards ceremony, Judge Dennis Lusk again presented a gold engraved Naval Officers Sword to the outstanding senior cadet. This year's recipient was Keisha McClinty. Lusk and Maj. Bill Parker revived the longstanding tradition at AJHS NJROTC when Lusk agreed seven years ago to donate the sword each year. Pictured are Lusk presenting the Silver Sword to McClinty.



Below right, Judge Dennis Lusk, representing the board of directors of the Lost Dutchman Marathon, presented a check to the Apache Junction High School NJROTC for \$1,000, for use in sending cadets to training and competitions. The presentation took place during the annual NJROTC awards ceremony on May 12. The Lost Dutchman Marathon is a nonprofit operation of volunteers that runs the best small marathon in America. This year's event eclipsed the number of runners and was so successful that several events had to be closed to additional runners. The marathon also donated money to AJHS for scholarships, to the City of Apache Junction for summer recreation programs for youth, to the Rotary Club, to the Police Explorers, and to the Boys and Girls Club.

**Ironwood Work To Be Done In Phases**

Motorists advised to expect delays



Construction is expected to last through August 12.

Construction on Ironwood Drive from U.S. Highway 60 north to 16th Avenue will continue through August 12, according to City officials.

The project involves removing the old asphalt pavement and replacing it with new asphalt pavement. The project will be done in stages.

The southbound lanes of Ironwood Drive (west side of Ironwood Drive) will be removed and replaced first, with north-south through traffic being placed on the northbound lanes. When the southbound lanes are complete, north-south traffic will be routed on the new pavement while the existing pavement in the northbound lanes (east side of Ironwood Drive) will be removed and replaced.

Traffic barricading is in place throughout the construction area to assist with traffic flow and provide safety to the

public and the construction workers. Local access for traffic will be maintained for the duration of the project. Traffic barricading is necessary to control traffic flow and speed through the construction site to ensure safety of vehicle & pedestrian traffic. The barricading is monitored constantly by the contractor and by the City, and changes are made as needed throughout the workday.

Due to the nature of the work proposed for this project, the City recommends motorists use alternate roads if possible to avoid the construction area. The City apologizes in advance for any inconvenience this may cause the driving public.

For more information, motorists and local residents should contact the City's Public Works Department at (480) 982-1055.

**The News Kidcast**

Mostly sunny with highs in the 90's and overnight lows in the upper 60's.

This week's Weather "Artoonist"

Avery Fisher  
Age 6

Gold Canyon Elementary School

