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serving Northern Pinal County ARIZONA Superstition Mountain Country

Have A Safe Memorial Day!

Summer Hoops Begin

see Sports, B-1

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Geronimo!

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Photography For Kids

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Public Meetings

Apache Junction City Council
work session: canceled
7 p.m. Monday, May 31, 2010
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Apache Junction City Council
regular meeting
7 p.m. Tuesday, June 1, 2010
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Pinal County Board of Supervisors
9:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 2, 2010
Administration Building A,
31 N. Pinal St., Florence

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Apache Junction Sailor Dies in Virginia

Father: Death under investigation

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Authorities are investigating the death of an Apache Junction sailor who died aboard the USS Enterprise in Norfolk, Va., on Easter Sunday, his father said.

The cause of death of Operations Specialist Seaman Apprentice (SA) J. Seth Pickett, 19, is unknown at this point, said Jeremy Pickett. The U.S. Navy public affairs office did not return calls for comment. His services were held Friday, April 9, and he was buried at National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona.

"He was buried with full military honors," said Jeremy, who chose the cemetery because he wanted Seth "close to home." The funeral services were overfilled with guests.

Seth was fourth generation U.S. Navy and a former state championship wrestler from Red Mountain High School in East Mesa.

"When he died, he was 180 pounds of rompin', stompin' hell," Pickett said through tears.

Born in Florida and raised in Apache Junction, Seth was raised by his single father until Jeremy met the "most awesome woman," Cynthia Pickett.

"He loved her dearly," Jeremy said. "He respected the hell out of her. He called her 'mom.'"

Jeremy said Seth as a child was a "great kid" who wanted to stay outside all of the time. Besides wrestling, his other love was bicycles. Sponsored by Mike's Bike Chalet, Seth was a BMX state champion through Black Mountain BMX in Phoenix.

"He loved all sports," Jeremy said.

Seth, who was baptized Christian at age 12, joined the military 11 months ago to raise enough money for college. He yearned to become a lawyer.

"He was a great kid," Jeremy said. "He had a heart full of gold. He wanted to save the world."

Seth served as a traffic controller for USS Enterprise. In the fall, he was scheduled to try out for the U.S. Navy's wrestling team as well.

Jeremy found out about his son's death from Naval Operation Support Commander YNC Williams.

"He was all kid," Jeremy said. "But he wasn't perfect. He unselfishly gave to the United States to make it the great nation that it is today."

Besides his father and mother, he is survived by his maternal grandparents Alan and Patricia Marcheski; paternal grandfather Marvin Hunt Pickett and the late Cheryl Boutwell; and maternal grandparents Al and Pearl Coletti.

J. Seth Pickett was buried with full military honors.

Map Crimes With New Website

Residents can see activity up to three months prior

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Residents will be able to review what types of crimes are being reported in Apache Junction thanks to new online service through CrimeMapping.com.

The website not only allows residents to see a map of recent crime activity, but users can also select crime types and date ranges (up to three months prior), generate reports and receive e-mail updates and free crime alerts.

"CrimeMapping.com promotes the department's community-oriented policing efforts by opening up a strong communication channel between the police and the public they serve," said Police Chief Jerald Monahan.

The crime information will reflect reports that have been entered into a Records Management System and will be updated on a 24-hour basis. However, if a resident has information regarding a specific crime, an e-mail can be sent directly to the police department from the CrimeMapping.com website.

Chief Jerald Monahan

"With this service our citizens, business owners and anyone considering relocation to Apache Junction will be empowered with knowledge," Monahan said.

"This knowledge and an ongoing partnership with the police department will make Apache Junction a safer place to live."

CrimeMapping.com is hosted by The Omega Group Inc., a GIS software developer, and provides timely crime incident information to millions of users throughout North America.

Users are able to choose from a list of cities across the country and see what types of crimes are occurring. The program for Apache Junction was made possible through cooperative funding from the Equitable Sharing of Seized and Forfeited Assets Program through the Pinal County Attorney's Office.

To find crimes, go to CrimeMapping.com; find Apache Junction Police by clicking on the State of Arizona. By clicking on an icon, a pop-up box will show the type of crime, report number and location. If a user should have information regarding a specific crime, click on the Apache Junction Police links (in the pop-up box) and send an e-mail to the police department.

"Residents will find the website very user-friendly and very informative," Monahan said.

For more information regarding this program, contact Suzanne Strong at (480) 474-5442.

City Receives $171K Grant

The City of Apache Junction announced at the Tuesday, May 18, City Council meeting that it has received an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the State Department of Commerce in the amount of $171,699.70.

Funded for the first time by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the EECBG Program supports projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use in Arizona cities, towns and counties.

The (EECBG) will be used to hire a contractor to conduct an energy audit on all City buildings and provide a detailed recommendation of the immediate and future proposed projects that can be completed to help the City save energy. These projects may include plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and those for the building envelope. The City's Department of Public Works will be responsible for coordination of all work activities.

Sample identified short and mid-term projects may include:

• Building Thermostat Conversions which convert manual thermostat controls to programmable thermostats.

• Building Lighting which will retrofit/upgrade lamps/fixtures to more energy efficient technologies.

• Building Window Tinting—several buildings are potential candidates for window tinting to mitigate heat gain which further taxes AC systems. Additional benefits will include improving occupant comfort.

• Building Envelope Improvements/upgrades to doors, windows and related including weather stripping to better seal openings. Also, to be considered is replacement of old, inefficient HVAC units.

Sample identified long term projects may include:

• Photovoltaic solar panels installed on applicable buildings;

• Park lighting retrofits/upgrades; and

• Photovoltaic solar panels installed to heat public pool.

"The City of Apache Junction Mayor and City Council have incorporated energy efficiency, conservation and sustainability as goals for future growth and development of public and private buildings," said Public Works Manager Shane Kiesow.

"Routine audits of public facilities and buildings are perceived as a valuable key to our successful ongoing energy management program."

There are 14 participating cities and towns that have state-approved energy-related projects and are pending local city or town approval.

For further information contact the Public Works Department at (480) 982-1055.

A Special Treasure

Whiskey cache finder Hedrick participates in 'CC Hide-a-Case' revival

By Betty Swanson
The News

Unarguably, there has been one actual treasure found in the Superstition Mountain locale.

In 1978, local treasure hunter Larry Hedrick, now special projects director at the Superstition Mountain Museum, found the case of Canadian Club whiskey that was buried "near the site of the Lost Dutchman Mine in Arizona" as part of a major multi-year national advertising campaign.

Now, 32 years later, Hedrick recently returned from an appearance at an event held at the venerable Explorer's Club in New York City that was part of the kick-off of the resurrected Canadian Club "Hide-a-Case" treasure hunt/ad campaign.

It was an all-expenses invitation to present the story of his find as a part of a press presentation, but Hedrick emphasizes that the biggest thrill for him was actually speaking at the New York Explorer's Club.

Local resident Larry Hedrick (center) told the tale of his 1978 discovery of the case of Canadian Club whiskey near Superstition Mountain as part of a media event kicking off the "Hide-a-Case" revival.

"That was the big deal for me," Hedrick said. "Local yokel speaks at the Explorer's Club."

A sister organization of the National Geographic Society, the Explorer's Club, located in the Lowell Thomas Building on East 70th Street, was founded in 1904 and is dedicated to promoting the ideal

see Treasure, A-5

The *News* Kidcast

Mostly sunny with highs around 100 and overnight lows around 70.

This week's Weather "Artoonist"

Eric Lock

Age 6

Gold Canyon Elementary School