

serving
Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
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**July 4th
Tubing!**
see Page A-7



**Olympic
Champs!**
see Sports, B-1

APACHE JUNCTION
Gold Canyon

NEWS

50¢

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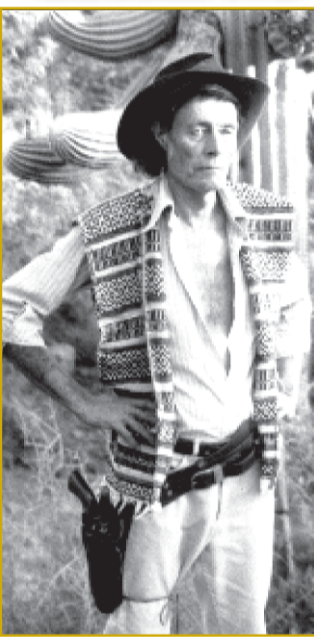
Inside The News

Saddle Up!



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Kollenborn



see page A-4

AJ All-Stars



see Sports, page B-1

Public Meetings

AJUSD Governing Board (school board) regular meeting
9 a.m. Tuesday,
June 29, 2010
1575 W. Southern Ave.

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

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Celebrate July 4th At City Events

Festivities includes fireworks, free watermelon, other activities

By **Christina Fuoco-Karasinski**
The News

Thanks to the efforts of a group of Apache Junction citizens and businesses including Allied Waste, residents will be able to enjoy a top-notch Fourth of July celebration, City officials said this week.

"Allied Waste is our presenting sponsor this year," said Chrystal Sawyer, C.P.R.P., recreation coordinator II, City of Apache Junction. "They did a huge thing by donating money."

The company gave the City \$20,000 to cover the cost of the fireworks this year.

"Allied Waste was extremely crucial in the City continuing to give the community a Fourth of July celebration," Sawyer said.

"Without their funding, it is likely that we wouldn't be having this wonderful community event. With that being said, Allied Waste, is one of many companies that stepped up to the plate. Other local businesses stepped up to the plate to support this event. Other local supporters include: Frontier Ace Hardware, Mediacom Communications, Apache Junction Little League, County Supervisor Bryan Martyn and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Tess Nesser. Not to mention the numerous agencies who allowed us to place donation bins at their places of businesses and community member, John Kantowski's volunteer group who coordinated that effort. A special thanks also goes out to community residents who were able to drop their spare change into the bins, as well as, to those who will come out and participate at our event."

see July 4, A-5



Fireworks illuminate the sky over Apache Junction during a previous celebration. This year's event is set for dark, Sunday, July 4.

Fire District Tax Rate To Rise By 17%

Drop in property valuations causes modest budget increase to excessively impact homeowners

By **Betty Swanson**
The News

The Apache Junction Fire District's proposed 2010-2011 budget is up an overall modest 1.1 percent.

Total budget amount, including General Operating Fund, Capital Fund, Bond Proceeds Fund, Special Revenue Fund and Debt Service Fund, is \$19,721,323.

But, due to the drop in local property's assessed valuation following the declining real estate market, the proposed AJFD tax rate levied to fund this budget will be rising con-

siderably.

According to Deputy Chief Dave Montgomery, the expected tax rate needed to support the 2010-2011 proposed budget would go up approximately 34 cents from last year's \$2.00 to \$2.34 per \$100 Assessed Valuation, an increase of approximately 17 percent.

The General Operating Fund Budget portion of the total proposed budget is \$14,608,972, up \$188,895 or 1.3 percent from last year's budget.

According to Montgomery, part of the district's plans for the opening of a new neigh-

borhood fire station on Don Donnelly Trail in Gold Canyon in 2011 include the hiring of up to six new personnel.

"We will be very careful in our hiring," Montgomery said. "We don't want to hire and then have to lay people off at a later date."

The look of the 2010-2011 budget forms was a little unusual because, for the second year in a row, one of the six main categories that comprise the overall Operating Budget—"Mission Readiness"—is zeroed out. Montgomery explained that the Mission Readiness money, comprised

of overtime funding, training funds and equipment upkeep expenses, has been broken down and "absorbed" into the other five funds according to which fund areas the money was being spent in.

This breakdown, initiated with the 2009-2010 budget, results in most of the funding appearing under Emergency Services, with small portions also being allocated into the Prevention, Administrative, Communication, and Technical Funds. Montgomery said that this change has to appear in the budget for three consecutive years before the

Mission Readiness Fund can be dropped from the budget format.

The tentative 2010-2011 budget lists the amount of the Reserve Fund to be \$5,572,612.

Montgomery said that this money is "Capital Funds" and "cannot be used for operating costs." He explained that about two years ago, the Governing Board made the decision to contribute some into this fund every year and build it up so that if a major capital expenditure (i.e., a

see **Fire Budget, A-3**

Recall & Incorporation Phone Calls A Mystery

Pinal residents asked if they support San Tan Valley

By **Christina Fuoco-Karasinski**
The News

The San Tan Valley incorporation efforts hit a mysterious note the weekend of June 19 when auto-dialed calls were made to northeastern Pinal County residents.

The phone poll asked residents whether or not they support making San Tan Valley a city and if they would support

a recall of County Supervisor Bryan Martyn, who is pushing for an incorporation vote.

One of those calls was made to Martyn, who lives in Gold Canyon.

Martyn said the message told residents to share their views with the Florence Town Council, which will decide on a resolution of support July 6.

see **Recall, A-3**



Bryan Martyn

The News Kidcast

Mostly sunny with highs around 107 and overnight lows in the lower 70's.

This week's
Weather
"Artoonist"

**Emma
Harry**
Age 5

Gold Canyon
Elementary
School

