

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



**SSAR**  
Members  
Certified  
see Page A-10



**AJ**  
Volleyball  
Girls  
see Sports, B-1

**APACHE JUNCTION**  
*Gold Canyon*

# NEWS

50¢

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**Inside The News**

**Boyce Thompson Arboretum**



see page A-6

**Filly's Boys & Girls Club Benefit**



see page A-7

**Public Meetings**

Apache Junction City Council work session canceled

7 p.m. Monday, July 19, 2010

300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Superstition Mountain Community Facilities Dist.

(sewer board) 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, 2010

District Board Room, 5661 S. Ironwood Drive

Apache Junction City Council regular meeting canceled

7 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, 2010

300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Pinal County Board of Supervisors 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 21, 2010 Administration Building A, 31 N. Pinal St., Florence

AJFD Governing Board 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, 2010 Fire District Boardroom 565 N. Idaho Road

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## Collision Kills One On Apache Trail

Rose remembered as caring person

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
*The News*

A 32-year-old Apache Junction resident is being remembered as kind and caring after he was killed in a one-car collision outside of the Dash In on Saturday, July 10.

Jason Rose died after he lost control of his truck and hit a planter box near the convenience store and the attached restaurant The Hitching Post at 2341 E. Apache Trail.

"He was traveling southbound on (Highway) 88," said Capt. Tom Kelly from the Apache Junction Police Department. "Witnesses said he was traveling at an extremely high rate of speed."

When he crossed Lost Dutchman Boulevard, the vehicle went from the southbound lane left, cut across and hit the flower box and railroad ties, Kelly said.

"The truck went airborne and split right in half and rolled. There was no immediate indications of alcohol use or impaired driving. The cause is undetermined. He may have had some medical issues, which could have played a role in it."

Family friend Donna Carr said she will miss Rose's caring nature.



Jason Rose died on impact after a collision with a sign outside of the Hitching Post restaurant/Dash In convenience store and gas station on Saturday, July 10.

"I mean if you needed anything, Jason would be there," Carr said. "It didn't matter whether you were somebody walking down the street. If you wanted the shirt off his back, he'd take it off his back

and hand it to you. He was just that kind of person."

Carr explained that Rose considered her his "second mom."

"He always called me 'mom,'" she said. "He lived



The collision caused Jason Rose's pick-up truck to split in half.

kitty corner behind me. We always yelled across the fence. He was a good person. He really was. He was a sweetheart.

"He was very religious. Several months prior to the accident, he went to church with (neighbor) Joe Thrush and Joe said to make sure his mom knew that he went up to the front of the church and gave himself to the Lord."

She remembers Rose wres-

ting with her sons when they were younger. She said he also raced dirt bikes with the kids, but he was always there to support them.

"When my son broke his foot on his dirt bike, Jason handed over his quad," Carr said. "Jason went through a rough period of time. Somebody went in his yard and stole his motorcycle and dirt bike first, then stole his quad.

see **Crash, A-3**

## Vote Thrusts Legion Into National Spotlight

Organization drops Cinco de Mayo celebration

By Betty Swanson  
*The News*

A vote by a small number of members at a meeting of the Apache Junction American Legion to drop the annual Cinco de Mayo post celebration suddenly became a political hot potato during the last two weeks and gained national attention after one unhappy attendee notified the Phoenix media.

On Tuesday, July 6, the *Arizona Republic* did a short story on the vote quoting veteran Harry Warren, 86, as saying that he believed that the vote was "a backlash" to protests by Latino groups against Arizona's recent passage of Senate Bill 1070, a controversial law aimed at finding and de-



The Apache Junction American Legion Post 27 with its iconic jet fighter out front is the largest American Legion Post in Arizona.

porting illegal immigrants.

The story was picked up the same day by *USA Today* and received national attention via the Internet. The telephone at Post 27 began ringing off the hook. Calls have been coming in from everyone from reporters and radio hosts to angry

American Legion members and private citizens who wanted to air their opinions, pro or con, on the vote, said Post 27 Commander Felix Gonzalez.

National and state American

see **Legion, A-3**

## School District Opens Technology Campus

LaPrise to head up Cactus Canyon

By Betty Swanson  
*The News*

Meet Cactus Canyon Junior High School (CCJHS)—the newest school in town.

On Monday, August 9, the Apache Junction Unified School District will be opening the new school—a seventh through eighth grade junior high school—born as the result of two school closings and a consolidation of students. It's a money-saving move.

The physical plant of Desert Shadows Middle School,

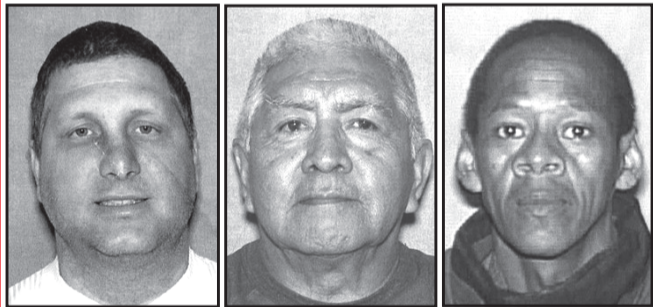
see **School, A-9**



Everything is in place, including the new name, for the arrival of students and the opening of the new Cactus Canyon Junior High School on Monday, August 9.

## Rescuers Search For 3 Utah Hikers

Treasure hunters tried to brave the intense summer heat



Kurtis Merworth Ardean Charles Malcom Meeks

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
*The News*

Three Utah men are still missing in the Superstition Mountains after they went on a hunt for the legendary Lost Dutchman Gold Mine.

The Salt Lake City trio—49-year-old Kurtis Merworth, 62-year-old Ardean Charles and 51-year-old Malcom Meeks—planned on hiking into the mountains and exploring the area during the day and spending nights in a motel, said Jeff Sprong of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

They were last heard from Tuesday, July 6, Sprong said. Their vehicle was found Sun-

day, July 11, at Lost Dutchman State Park's parking lot.

He said searchers have covered more than 100 miles so far.

"We still haven't found any clues," Sprong said. He added that usually trash or campsites are found, but nothing has been seen in this case.

"We're using helicopter, horseback and dogs but we still haven't found these guys," Sprong said.

Merworth and two friends braved the blazing summer sun to search for gold in the Superstitions last year but got lost and had to be rescued.

## The News Kidcast

Partly Cloudy with Highs near 107 and lows near 90. Possible evening thunderstorms.

This week's  
Weather  
"Artoonist"

Maygen  
Landon  
Age 6

Peralta Trail  
Elementary  
School

