



AJ Citizen

Summer edition;
Inside AJ zones



APACHE JUNCTION/GOLD CANYON
INDEPENDENT



Community

LGES opens local
workforce training
center; 2

May 2025 Volume 67 Issue 5 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Volunteer-run Lost Dutchman Marathon nears \$1M in donations to youth groups

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Volunteers in organizations and school programs that helped at the 2025 Lost Dutchman Marathon were treated recently to a post-event banquet and received donations from funds raised from the race.

The marathon is an annual President's Day weekend event featuring a scenic, rolling, point-to-point USATF-certified course from Gold Canyon to Apache Junction. Runners can use it as a Boston Marathon qualifier or choose from other race options, including a half marathon, 10K or 8K trail run.

Donations from proceeds at the 24th annual marathon included \$21,000 earmarked for seven \$3,000 scholarships for Apache Junction High School students.

• See **Marathon** on page 22

From left are Lost Dutchman Marathon Race Director Kristle Falb; Shawna James, president of Black and Gold Youth Football; and Stephanie Earles, secretary of Black and Gold Youth Football with the organization's check for \$1,000. (Independent Newsmedia, Richard H. Dyer)



Apache Junction schools banned cell phones before statewide ban

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

All cell phones must be off and remain in a student's backpack or in a classroom cell phone locker at all times under a policy approved in 2024 by the Apache Junction Unified School District Governing Board.

Now banning cell phones from classrooms is going statewide.

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs on April 14 signed into law House Bill 2484, which requires public school districts and charter schools to adopt policies limiting student access to social media and wireless devices — while preserving reasonable access for emergencies, medical needs and educational use, according to a release from Republican State Rep. Beverly Pingerelli, the bill's sponsor.

"Education requires attention, and attention is exactly what today's students are being robbed of by addictive devices and endless scrolling," Pingerelli said in the release.

When Arizona Superintendent of

• See **Cell Phones** on page 28

2024
EAST VALLEY FAVORITES

Congratulations
to the 2024 East Valley Favorites!

**You voted. We counted.
Now, the results are officially in!**

Postal Customer

ECRWSSDDM

P S R S T S T D

U S P O S T A G E P A I D

Apache Junction,
Arizona

Permit No. 1595

COMMUNITY NEWS

IN BRIEF

BUDGET TIME

Apache Junction City Council sets meetings on FY 2025-26 budget

The Apache Junction City Council has approved the proposed meetings required by state law for the adoption of the tentative and final budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

The following meetings will be held in the City Council Chambers, 300 E. Superstition Blvd.:

- ♦ Budget work session 7 p.m. Monday, May 5.
- ♦ Public hearing and adoption of tentative budget 7 p.m. Monday, May 19.
- ♦ Public hearing and adoption of final budget 7 p.m. Monday, June 16.

SUSPECTS ARRESTED

Resident scammed out of \$82K

Apache Junction Police Department recently arrested two people suspected of stealing \$82,000 from a local resident in a scam.

On March 4, AJPd responded to a fraud case involving an 86-year-old Apache Junction resident. The victim received an email about a payment she didn't recognize and responded to dispute the charge. Shortly after, she got a call from a man claiming he would issue a refund — but first, she needed to click a link which allowed him remote access to her computer to issue the refund.

The scam escalated when the suspect falsely claimed he had refunded too much money and pressured the victim to withdraw cash from her bank to return the overpayment.

On two separate days, a courier arrived at the victim's house to collect two payments totaling over \$82,000 in cash which was obtained at the bank in large bills.

On March 7, AJPd's Criminal Enforcement and Research Unit assisted detectives in apprehending suspects. Read more at <https://www.yourvalley.net>.



Officials from LG Energy Solution Arizona joined local, state and county officials in opening a workforce training center at CAC's Superstition campus in Apache Junction. The center will train workers for LGES' electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility in Queen Creek. (Central Arizona College)

LGES offers construction update, opens workforce training center

LG Energy Solution Arizona recently celebrated the opening of a workforce training center in Pinal County that will benefit the South Korean-based company as it builds a \$5.5 billion manufacturing facility in Queen Creek.

The facility, located at Pecos and Ironwood roads, just east of where State Route 24 currently ends, is expected to create 1,500 new jobs by 2027, according to a press release from LGES.

Richard Ra, president of LG Energy Solution Arizona hosted Queen Creek Mayor Julia Wheatley, Pinal County Supervisors Mike Goodman and Jeff Serdy, President and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority Sandra Watson, and President and CEO of Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry Danny Seiden at the event.

Ra announced that construction of the cylindrical battery

facility is now about halfway complete "with the aim to start sample production in the middle of next year and commercial production by the year end," according to an LGES press release.

The company has also recently started training its launch team members at the new workforce training center in Apache Junction established under Arizona's Future48 Workforce Accelerator program in partnership with the Arizona Commerce Authority, Pinal County and Central Arizona College.

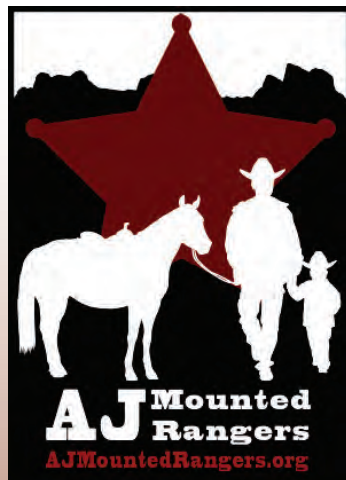
The 19,850-square-foot training center is part of the state's \$30 million Future48 Workforce Accelerator project and was constructed along with a \$42 million expansion at Central Arizona College's Superstition campus in Apache Junction.

The Queen Creek facility is

LG Energy Solution's first cylindrical battery plant in the U.S. The company has a stand-alone facility in Holland, Michigan, that manufactures pouch-type batteries for automakers in North America.

The company recently secured a series of supply agreements with automakers for its 46-Series cylindrical batteries that will be manufactured in Arizona, the release stated.

"We look forward to a continued partnership for the facility's stable operation, as this project goes beyond simply constructing a plant; we actively support developing regional talent through high-quality training programs, empowering them to become future battery professionals who will contribute to U.S. electrification with our innovative power solutions," Ra stated in the release.



The AJ Mounted Rangers are closing out our season.

We still have a several events to which we have been asked to provide security and support. As we move into another summer, we will continue to work behind the scenes, making certain our equipment is in stellar condition and planning for the coming season starting in the fall.

We are delighted that we have added several new members to our membership. This will bolster our team as we prepare for the fall.

We are grateful to the organizations that requested our help at local events and look forward to helping again in the fall.

As always, should you have an interest in the AJ Mounted Rangers, please check out our website (www.ajmountedrangers.org). You can gain insight into the work we do. There are also options to contact a member of our team should you have additional questions.

Our mission is to serve the children and youth of Apache Junction by raising money to support local organizations that support our youth.

Thank you and see you in the fall.



Call 811 Before You Dig

A simple call to 811 ensures that underground utility lines are marked for free – because natural gas lines can be buried anywhere. Whether you're a homeowner or a professional excavator, every digging project requires a call – no matter how small.

BEFORE DIGGING:

- Call 811 at least two working days before starting any digging project
- Wait for the site to be marked
- Respect the marks
- Dig with Care: Use only hand tools when digging within 24 inches of marks



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



SOUTHWEST GAS



FAILING TO CALL CAN BE DANGEROUS AND COSTLY

Not calling could lead to personal injury, disrupt natural gas service to entire neighborhoods, and might make you responsible for injuries, repair costs, and criminal penalties.

If you ever suspect a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately and call 911 and Southwest Gas at 877-860-6020, whether you're our customer or not.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit swgas.com/safety or call 877-860-6020.

LET'S TACO 'BOUT IT



**MAY FOOD BANK NEEDS
Beans, Rice, Tortillas, Salsa**

**You got it,
we want it!**



SUPERSTITIONFOODBANK.ORG



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE**

DONATE

**STAMP OUT HUNGER®
FOOD DRIVE**

MAY 10, 2025



Make plans to participate in the largest one-day food drive in the country. Each year, letter carriers across the country head out on their routes May 10th to collect donations of non-perishable food items.

#STAMPOUTHUNGER

SUPERSTITIONFOODBANK.ORG

BUSINESS

IN BRIEF

Business licenses

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

There were 38 business licenses issued in March 2025 in the city of Apache Junction.

The following business licenses are listed by name — including doing business as or dba; city; contact name; and North American Industry Classification System (code). For the full list, go to YourValley.net.

- SWAT Fitness Inc.; Houston, Texas; Lawrence Mouton; Social Advocacy Organizations (813310), Other Social Advocacy Organizations (813319).

- Roadrunner Works LLC; Apache Junction; Meghan Drake; Educational Services (611000), Independent Artists, Writers, And Performers (711510).

- Kenzo Estate Inc.; Kenzo Estate; Napa, California; Eva Bedolla; Wineries (312130).

- O-Sun Co.; Mequon, Wisconsin; Rick Omalley; Polish And Other Sanitation Good Manufacturing (325612).

- MPMR AJ Hospitality LLC dba DQ 18458; Apache Junction; Raman Kalra; Limited-Service Restaurants (From 722211) (722513).

- Sixon Concessions dba Campfire Grill; Gilbert; Darren Zawyrucka; Mobile Food Services (722330).

- Shoes For Crews North America LLC dba Shoes For Crews; Boca Raton, Florida; Howard Lynn; Footwear Manufacturing (316210).

- Byrd Dogs LLC; Mesa; Roy Byrd; Mobile Food Services (722330).

- Cuties Lemonade Inc.; dba

• See **Business** on page 12

Saguaro Smoke Shop opening

Permit approved 5-2 by planning commission

By Richard H. Dyer

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A conditional-use permit has been approved for a smoke shop to be on West Apache Trail near Idaho Road in Apache Junction.

The Apache Junction Planning and Zoning Commission on April 8 voted 5-2 to approve the permit for Saguaro Smoke Shop at Units 8 and 9 of 100 W. Apache Trail. Dissenting were Commissioners Sheryl Bigelow and Roy Starr.

“I don’t see the need for another smoke shop. I don’t know if you realize, but from the east side of Meridian to Thunderbird — that’s 1.4 miles — there’s already six smoke shops. That’s just my two cents,” Bigelow said before the vote.

Any individual can appeal the case in writing with a filing fee within 20 days to the city council, Development Services Director Rudy Esquivias said after the vote.

The smoke shop is to be in Parkway Plaza and will not sell marijuana, Associate Planner Theint Ko said to the commission.

“Since the project site is already a developed property, there won’t be any major improvements involved. However, the applicant will be required to restripe the parking spaces in front of the units 8 and 9 and there will also be some interior minor improvements,” Ko said.

Glass products, CBD products, cigars and other nicotine and vaping products will be stocked, applicant Noah Morrill-Mason of Saguaro Smoke Shop told the commission.

“We don’t sell marijuana. We don’t plan on selling marijuana at all. We



Glass products, CBD products, cigars and other nicotine and vaping products will be stocked. (Metro Connection)

are not a dispensary,” he said. “Every product that will be in our inventory will be 100% legal.”

The business is not a lounge and no smoking will be allowed in or around the business, Morrill-Mason said.

“It’s a dream to be able to open up a smoke shop in a place that I’ve called home for the past five years. And to get this opportunity feels like

a dream,” Morrill-Mason told the commission.

Starr, who said he is a health science doctor, asked if the business would have signs about smoke-cessation programs to warn of the dangers of smoking.

“We definitely can. I am not against that,” Morrill-Mason said. “(S)moking’s bad, and if people choose to come and smoke, come on in — we’ll have the products that you carry. But yeah, I don’t have a problem with carrying or showing signage that shows the repercussions of smoking.”

The primary duties of the planning and zoning commission include community contact regarding items including a zoning change request, to an application from a developer for a shopping center development or housing project. Also included are conditional use permits with the final decision being handled at the planning and zoning commission level, according to the city’s website.



The Saguaro Smoke Shop is to be at Units 8 and 9 of 100 W. Apache Trail in Apache Junction. (City of Apache Junction)

10% OFF*
FOR ALL
VETERANS
& SENIORS
MUST PRESENT CARD AT TIME
OF SERVICE. LABOR ONLY.

**TRANSMISSION
SERVICE**
\$189⁹⁹

**On applicable vehicles. Plus tax.
Must present coupon at time
of service.*

DOUG'S PERFORMANCE TRANSMISSION

1286 W. Apache Trail #2

Apache Junction, AZ 85120

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

We Now Offer Financing!
CarCareONE
NO INTEREST FOR 6 MONTHS!
Synchrony Financial
480-964-3832

FREE
CHECK ENGINE
LIGHT
DIAGNOSTIC!

AC SERVICE SPECIAL
\$99⁹⁹

**Freon extra on applicable vehicles.
Plus tax. Must present coupon
at time of service.*

DIFFERENTIAL • CLUTCH REPAIR • AIR CONDITIONING • TRANSMISSION REPAIR • TRANSFER CASE

2YEAR - 24,000 MILE WARRANTY
On Most Repair Work

WWW.DOUGSTRANSMISSION.COM

CARS • TRUCKS • RV'S • 4X4

*Family
owned
& Operated
for over
30 years!*



26 draft beers, 12 wine varieties and over 100 can & bottle options

15% OFF
Total Bill

Must Present Coupon. Cannot be combined with
any other offer. Expires May 31, 2025

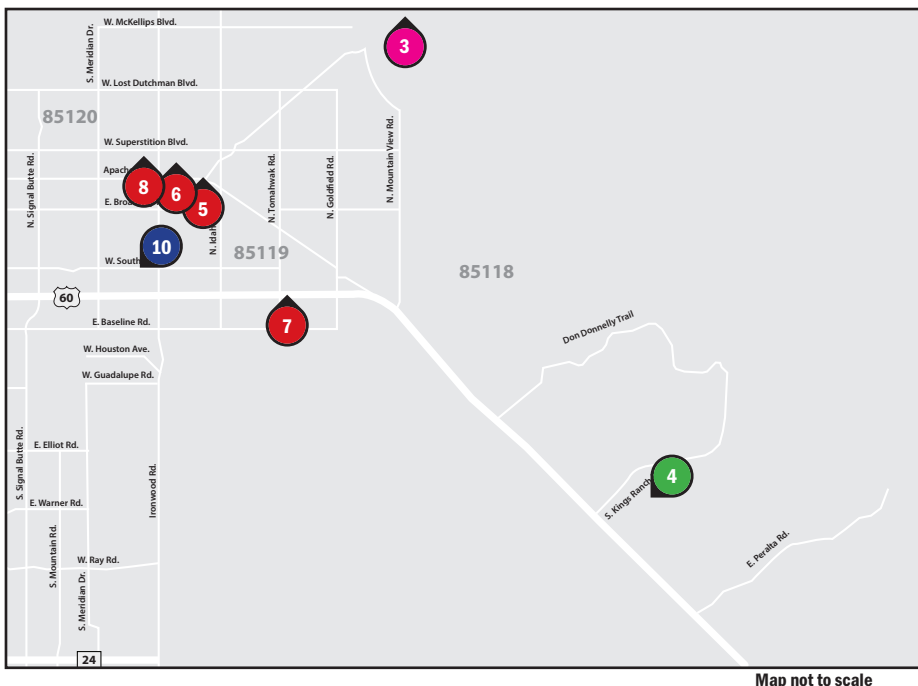


HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS
11am-6pm Monday - Thursday and all day Sunday.

2430 W. Apache Trail Suite #4
(Northwest corner of Apache Trail and Delaware)

Phone 480-982-7109 | CatwagonAZ@gmail.com

BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

LIQUOR LICENSES

The Pinal County Board of Supervisors recently voted to recommend the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control approve the following:

- 1 ♦ a special event license application of Roger Biede, for the Florence Friends of Kids First Golf Tournament Event to be held at **Queen Valley Golf Course**, 600 N. Fairway Drive, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 9.
- 2 ♦ a special event license application of Ruben Ybarra Jr, for the Superior Little League Golf Tournament Event to be held at the **Queen Valley Golf Course**, 600 N. Fairway Drive from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

SUMMER HOURS

- 3 **Tortilla Flat Saloon**, 1 E. Main St. in Tortilla Flat — north of Apache Junction — recently announced on Facebook @TortillaFlatSaloon that

the restaurant is about to close its patio for the summer. “Our last day on the patio is April 27th. It’s gonna be hot and we’re calling it. Come get you(r) kicks before we shut the gate for the summer. There’s still

IN THE NEWS

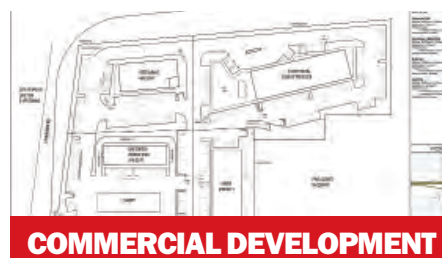
- 4 **Ginza Sushi Fusion**, 8654 E. Topaz Drive in Gold Canyon, on April 10 and 11 had music and food for a fundraiser benefiting Gold Canyon resident Heather DeBrosse whose husband, Dan, recently died from a heart attack. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-dan-debrosses-family-in-mourning>.

COMING SOON

- 5 Glass products, CBD products, cigars and other nicotine and vaping products will be stocked, applicant Noah Morrill-Mason of **Saguaro Smoke Shop** said recently. The business recently received a conditional use permit and will operate in Parkway Plaza at Units 8 and 9 of 100 W. Apache Trail in Apache Junction.



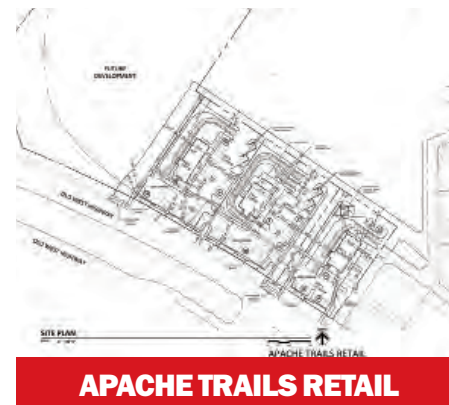
LIQUOR LICENSES



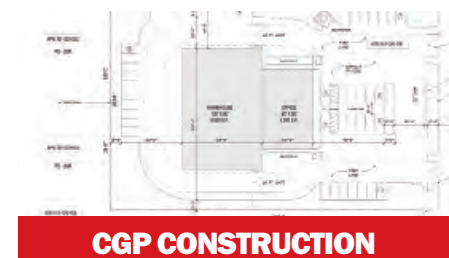
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

According to the city of Apache Junction’s geographic information systems website, <https://www.apachejunctionaz.gov/472/Maps-GIS>, the following developments are planned:

- 6 ♦ **Apache Trails Retail** on the northeast corner of North Apache Trail and East Old West Highway, is in the zoning review process. Applicant is Bela Flor Communities LLC is planning the development of three drive-thru restaurant buildings ranging in size from 2,258 to 2,473 square feet.
- 7 ♦ **A US60 Traveler Services Development** at the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 60 Superstition Freeway and Tomahawk Road is under building/construction plan review. Developer D&P LLC is planning a 46,451-square-foot restaurant on 1.068 acres, a 58,915-square-foot gas station and market site on 1.35 acres, a 27,404-square-foot retail site on 0.63 acres and an 84,467-square-foot three-story hotel site with 75 rooms on 1.97 acres, according to a site plan.
- 8 ♦ **CGP Construction** has a development south of the southwest



APACHE TRAILS RETAIL



CGP CONSTRUCTION

corner of Superstition Boulevard and Ironwood Drive under building/construction plan review. A 4,000-square-foot office and 9,600-square-foot warehouse are planned, according to a site plan. A total of 24 parking spaces are required and 40 are planned.

JOINED THE CHAMBER

- 9 **EverCare Placement** recently joined the **Gold Canyon Chamber of Commerce**, it states on Facebook @www.goldcanyonchamber.org. Contact Greg Sarlo at 480-809-9908 or greg@goevercare.com. The Gold Canyon Chamber of Commerce website is <https://www.goldcanyonchamber.org>.

NEW SERVICE

- 10 **ARFoote Chiropractic** in Apache Junction, is now offering StemWave, a noninvasive treatment for shoulder, back, hip, knee and foot pain. For a limited time, the business at 2080 W. Southern Ave. Suite No. A2 is offering a first StemWave session for \$49. Call ARFoote Chiropractic at 480-982-6568 to schedule a trial session. The website is Go to <https://dralexfoote.com>.



Superstition Express LAUNDRY

BEST IN TOWN!

Apache Junction's State-of-the-Art Laundrymat; Bright, Ultra Clean & Air-Conditioned

\$5 OFF with \$25 of Wash

NOW OFFERING: PICKUP & DELIVERY!

USE US FOR ALL OF YOUR LAUNDRY NEEDS & SERVICES



725 W. Apache Trail
Apache Junction, Arizona 85120
www.superstitionlaundry.com
(480) 359-3964

Since 1985

STEVE DICK

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL A/C & HEATING

• New Construction, Mobile Homes, Park Models • Compressor Change-Outs
• Heat Pumps • Gas Furnaces • Ductless Mini Splits

SAME DAY SERVICE

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

WE OFFER MILITARY DISCOUNTS

Veteran Owned & Operated • Technicians: Steve, Casey & Tanner

Cell (602) 526-0242 www.stevedickac.com

Lost Dutchman Music & Superstition Strings combine to make



AI's Finest Guitar Shop!

Servicing the East Valley and beyond with new & used guitars, amps, lessons, accessories, repairs, refurbishments, and customizations.

Visit us online, call or stop by today!

www.lostdutchmanmusic.com | (602) 619-8703
1000 West Apache Trail (#125) | Apache Junction, AZ 85120
(North/back side of Thunderbird Plaza)



SUPERSTITION STRINGS

Music Equipment Service

Eco-Friendly, Kid & Pet-Safe, Powerful Cleaning
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



20% Off New Residential Customers

15% Off New Commercial Customers



SUDSY CLEAN

(602) 833-2118 WWW.SUDSYCLEAN.CO



Your Local Flooring Experts

From luxurious plush carpets to sturdy vinyl flooring and exquisite custom area rugs, we have the area's most extensive selection of quality floor covering options to complement every room in your home.

MESA SALES

Serving Mesa Since 1975!

2760 East Main Street #106 | Mesa, AZ 85213
480-833-7025
mesasalesandsupply.com



Flooring Products and Installation



Window Coverings and Installation



Countertops

New!

- Free 1/2 inch, 6 lb pad with new carpet!
- 50% Off Binding for new Custom Area Rug!
- Free Moisture barrier for new LVP!

Visit our Showroom

Hours

Mon 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tue 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wed 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Thu 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Fri 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sat 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sun Appointment Only

FINANCING & DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

EDUCATION

SCHOOL NOTES

TRAVEL

Overnight travel approved for EVIT employee

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Ronda Doolen, East Valley Institute of Technology's chief academic officer, will travel to Tucson in July for a six-day career and technical education conference.

The EVIT board voted unanimously March 24 as part of a consent agenda with other items to approve the July 10-16 trip costing \$1,779.

The EVIT board must approve any trips that are 75 miles or longer.

The total cost of \$1,779 includes \$595 for registration, \$720 for six nights at the Westin La Paloma Resort and \$464 for meals. A district vehicle is to be used for ground travel, according to an approval for expenditures for professional travel form.

Officials from more than 100 school districts are to attend the 50th annual Association for Career Technical Education of Arizona summer conference, it states on a board document.

The conference is to honor the dedication of CTE professionals in empowering lives and strengthening Arizona's workforce, it states at arizonactecon.com.

"We'll showcase hands-on learning experiences, best practices in education and leadership, and networking opportunities that have made this event indispensable for CTE leaders across the state," it states at the website. "This conference is about more than looking back — it's about coming together as a CTE Family to build the future."

AJUSD to purchase vans with insurance from totaled school bus

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Insurance proceeds received from an Apache Junction Unified School District bus that was totaled in a vehicle accident are being used to purchase vans.

The AJUSD governing board recently voted unanimously to approve using the \$125,263.25 to purchase vans for the district's transportation department.

The vans are needed as the district's current fleet is aging and the vehicles are increasingly prone to

• See **Vans** on page 30



Apache Junction Unified School District buses at the district's transportation depot. (Independent Newsmedia, Arianna Grainey)

EDUCATION

Free mental health telehealth program offered to AJUSD students

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Apache Junction Unified School District is offering students free mental health support using a telehealth program offered by the state of Arizona to rural counties.

The AJUSD governing board voted unanimously recently to approve a memorandum of understanding on the Arizona mental health telehealth pilot with Cartwheel Health Services PC.

"I think it's a great opportunity for our kids and families who need that service because you know how hard it is to get that. Particularly since it's offered for free from the state of Arizona for our community, I think it's something we should



The telehealth program can help address a range of common mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, loss and grief, stress, sleep issues, technology use, trauma and more. (Metro Creative)

• See **Telehealth** on page 30

BREAKTHROUGH NEUROPATHY TREATMENT

HOW TO GET LASTING RELIEF FROM:

If You Suffer With

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

"Come learn more about nerve regeneration in 1 hour, than you have in your entire lifetime."



- Pins and Needles
- Numbness/Tingling
- Loss of Balance
- Pain Feet/Hands
- Burning Sensation
- Can't Feel The Ground

WITHOUT THE USE OF DRUGS OR SURGERY!

If you're experiencing pain, burning, numbness, tingling or pins & needles in your hands or feet ---
Don't miss this **FREE Seminar** on Peripheral Neuropathy!



PRESENTED BY
DR. AARON T SHAPIRO, DC, BCN

CLINICAL STUDIES REVEAL:
The debilitating pain, numbness and tingling experienced by patients suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy can be successfully treated **WITHOUT THE USE OF DRUGS AND SURGERY**

IN THIS CUTTING-EDGE **FREE SEMINAR** YOU'LL LEARN

- Why many current treatments for neuropathy don't work.
- The underlying causes of peripheral neuropathy, and the key to prevention!
- The Nobel prize winning discovery that every neuropathy patient MUST know.
- How peripheral neuropathy is diagnosed, and when it can be successfully treated.
- A technology originally developed by NASA that decreases neuropathy symptoms.
- Advanced diagnostic testing to help determine if your condition can be treated.
- A simple home therapy that is used by some of the largest specialty hospitals in the country to treat certain types of neuropathy.



TUESDAY MAY 6th @ 11:30AM

INTEGRITY NEUROPATHY CENTER | 1122 S GREENFIELD RD, #102, MESA
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED. SPACE IS LIMITED TO 15! RSVP by May 2nd: (480) 820-9147

incarizona.com

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE NEWSROOM

Ditch on Peralta Road could be moved to allow day-use parking

We enjoyed your well-written article in the Independent about improvements to Peralta Road (“Grant sought to improve Peralta Road in Gold Canyon” on page 24 of the April 2025 issue of the Apache Junction/Gold Canyon Independent).

The county put ditches along the road eliminating all parking places for hikers or equestrians to park and use the adjacent trust lands. For example, there is a big parking area on the left near the entrance to Donnelly Stables. That was ditched shut with “no camping” signs put up.

The no camping is good, because a lot of garbage was being left. But, the ditch should have been put around the parking area so day use people could still park.

Do you know who in the county we could contact who might have power to correct that? Thanks so much.

Kent Krone
Pinal County

Editor's note: For questions on the Peralta Road work, contact Pinal County Supervisor Jeff Serdy at jeff.serdy@pinal.gov or 480-982-0659.

Disappointed in commission over denied downtown project

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and frustration with the recent decision by the Apache Junction Planning and Zoning Commission at the April 8 meeting, to deny approval of the proposed three-story apartment complex in the heart of our downtown district.

This project was not some speculative, out-of-place development. It was completely in line with the city's general plan, a plan that was

Please send your comments to
AzOpinions@inijusa.org.

We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

carefully crafted, publicly vetted and ultimately approved by a vote of the people. To now deny a project that fully complies with that vision not only undermines the integrity of our planning process, but also sends a troubling message to residents, business owners and potential developers: that our city's policies are subject to the whims of politics rather than principle.

Downtown revitalization doesn't happen by accident. It requires commitment, consistency and the courage to follow through. A thoughtful, well-designed multifamily complex brings exactly the kind of density, walkability and economic energy we say we want in our core; but apparently not when it comes time to act.

Residents deserve better. They deserve leadership that respects the democratic process and the interests of full-time residents rather than being swayed by part-time winter residents of the Lost Dutchman Mobile Home Park. This short-sighted obstruction stifles progress.

Jeffrey Jenkins
Apache Junction

We must not be silenced by fear of unbridled authoritarians

The following was read at the April 2 Pinal County Board of Supervisor meeting:

Today's agenda presents a surreal

• See **Letters** on page 32

SPEAK UP

Here are some comments about stories happening in your area:

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES AT PERALTA REGIONAL PARK

“The whole wilderness is full of invasive grasses and plants, thousands of acres. How will one little area help?” — **USA123** via story comment

WE MUST NOT BE SILENCED BY FEAR OF UNBRIDLED AUTHORITARIANS

“Well said!” — **Tommyo Success** via story comment

'DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS' AT ZAO THEATRE THROUGH MARCH 29

“That was the most amazing play I have ever seen in my life. It is a must see!” — **Holocrypt** via story comment

AIRCRAFT NOISE MAY FORCE APACHE JUNCTION RESIDENT TO MOVE

“That's what happens living in cities. You're going to hear planes, choppers, cars, trucks people noise in general.” — **jmgargoyle** via story comment

Take the Civility Pledge

Yes, I will do my part to help my community become a safe place for people to engage in civil discourse about public issues. Visit inijusa.org/civility-pledge/ to take the pledge.

Your Opinion

Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a “right of reply” to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

Imagine your home, totally organized!

Custom Closets, Garage Cabinets,
Home Offices, Laundries, Pantries,
Wall Beds, Hobby Rooms and more!

40% off
Plus
Free Installation

**PLUSTAKE
AN EXTRA 15% Off**

Terms and Conditions: 40% off any order of \$1000 or more or 30% off any order of \$700-\$1000 on any complete unit order of custom closet, garage, or home office, and any other products. Take an additional 15% off on any complete unit order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any unit order of \$850 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Expires 05/31/25. Offer not valid in all regions.

**SPECIAL FINANCING
FOR 12 MONTHS!**

With approved credit. Call or ask your Designer for details.
Not available in all areas.



Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

480-764-2884 IN

[closetsbydesign.com](https://www.closetsbydesign.com)



Locally Owned and Operated. Licensed and Insured: ROC312904

 **ClosetsbyDesign®**

BUSINESS

Business

• From page 4

Cuties Lemonade And More; Phoenix; Quincy Milam; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• Bradley BBQ LLC dba Toms BBQ; Chandler; Tiffany Lohsen; Mobile Food Services (722330), Restaurants And Other Eating Places (From 7221) (722500).

• LCL Inc.; Scottsdale; Chris Howell; Small Arms, Ordnance, And Ordnance Accessories Manufacturing (332994).

• Chiller Services Inc.; Gilbert; Melissa A Lutz; Plumbing, Heating, And Air-Conditioning Contractors (238220).

• Expect Miracles LLC dba Simons Hot Dogs; Mesa; Luis Felipe Roldan; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• Happy Time Kettle Corn And Concessions LLC; Mesa; James Bridgford; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• Landmark Aquatic Services LLC; Glendale; Kevin Koril; All Other Specialty Trade Contractors (238990).

• Small Town Chocolate LLC dba Small Town Chocolate; Apache Junction; Cordy Helm; Chocolate And Confectionery Manufacturing From Cacao Beans (311351).

• Schubemo Holdings Inc. dba

American Ramp Co.; Joplin, Missouri; Ashley Reynolds; Sporting And Athletic Goods Manufacturing (339920).

• Inspired Through Faith LLC; Mesa; Juanita King; Clothing And Clothing Accessories Retailers (458110).

• Royal Tire Shop LLC; Apache Junction; David Sanchez; Tire And Tube Merchant Wholesalers (423130), Tire Dealers (441340).

• Desert Traffic And Safety; Surprise; Samantha Selva; Other Commercial And Industrial Machinery And Equipment Rental And Leasing (532490).

• Inside Edge Commercial Interior Services LLC; Eagan, Minnesota; Kevin Riley; Flooring Contractors (238330).

• Action AZ LLC; Tempe; Ginger Jones; Plumbing, Heating, And Air-Conditioning Contractors (238220).

• Desert Sky MHC LLC dba Desert Sky Mobile Home Community; Apache Junction; Amalia Santos; Manufactured (Mobile) Home Dealers (459930).

• Aerial Coffee LLC; Apache Junction; Thorn Wilson; Snack And Nonalcoholic Beverage Bars (From 722213) (722515).

• Kid From The Village LLC dba Maui Wowi Hawaiian; Mesa; Robert McNeal; Mobile Food Services (722330).



A business license is a license issued to a person conducting business activity within the city of Apache Junction or any person or business having a privilege tax or use tax license listing Apache Junction per city code. The fee for a business license is \$50. An application must be approved along with the fee paid before a business may lawfully engage in business in the city of Apache Junction. For questions regarding business licenses, call 480-474-5050 or email the business license coordinator at businesslicense@apache-junctionaz.gov. Applications are at apachejunctionaz.gov/997/Business-License. (Metro Creative)

• Smoothie Connect; Apache Junction; Ricky Hackle Jr; Limited-Service Restaurants (From 722211) (722513).

• Shippys Multi Crete LLC; Apache Junction; Bretton Weyers; Construction (230000).

• Tate And Team LLC dba Subway 25148; Apache Junction; Chad Barnett; Limited-Service Restau-

rants (From 722211) (722513).

• Novaks GG of Scottsdale LLC dba Gatsby Glass of Scottsdale; Scottsdale; Stacia Novak; Glass And Glazing Contractors (238150).

• Planhub Inc.; West Palm Beach, Florida; Frank Pfundstein; Custom Computer Programming Services (541511).

• Harmony And Healing LLC; Apache Junction; Michele Rhoades; Gift, Novelty, And Souvenir Retailers (459420), Used Merchandise Retailers (459510).

• Cottage Farms LLC; ; Apache Junction; Anna Sou; Cookie And Cracker Manufacturing (311821).

• Bridge Gospel Church; Apache Junction; Tim Stoel; Religious Organizations (813110).

• Skyfine USA LLC; Apache Junction; Eugenio Banda Jr; Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services (540000).

• Ruiz Legacy Homes LLC; Apache Junction; Gabriel Ruiz; Real Estate And Rental And Leasing (530000).

• Weagant Law Offices PLC; Florence; Cody Weagant; Offices Of Lawyers (541110).

• Staple 3 Construction LLC; Mesa; Heather Rogers; Framing Contractors (238130).

• Phillips Electric; Apache Junction; David Phillips; Commercial And Institutional Building Construction (236220).



Your Local Team



Richard Dyer
Managing Editor
rdyer@iniusa.org



Erik Maurer
Graphics Team Leader
emaurer@iniusa.org



Heather DeBrosse
Multimedia Advertising Consultant
hdebrosse@iniusa.org



Sarah Nieto
Multimedia Advertising Consultant
snieto@iniusa.org

Arizona Leadership

Circulation Manager: Terri Rodgers.....trodgers@iniusa.org
Digital Sales Manager: Austin Moose.....amoose@iniusa.org
Editor-in-Chief: Patrick O'Grady.....pograde@iniusa.org
Business Operations Manager: Kathleen Kotzbauer.....kkotzbauer@iniusa.org
V.P. of Sales & Marketing: Barbara Wandling.....bwandling@iniusa.org
President & CEO: Charlene Bisson.....cbisson@iniusa.org

To Reach Us

Newsroom: aznews@iniusa.org
Advertising: azads@iniusa.org
Obituaries: azobits@iniusa.org
Advertising: 623-972-6101
Customer Service: 888-665-3848

Apache Junction e-subscriptions
<https://yourvalley.net/subscribe-today/>

Memberships



© 2025 Independent Newsmedia, Inc., USA. The publication of any advertisement in this newspaper does not constitute an endorsement by the publisher of products or services advertised. All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act. We will not knowingly accept any advertising that is illegal or considered fraudulent.



NOW OPEN!

**Live Music,
Pool tournaments,
Bingo & Karaoke**

First Water Cocktail Bar
1545 W Broadway Ave., Apache Junction
Open Noon-2am every day
602-677-0932



BIBLE STUDIES AT 9 AM | WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM
6338 S. KINGS RANCH RD, GOLD CANYON, AZ
WWW.CENTERSTAGECHURCH.ORG | (480) 924-5122

ALSO LOCATED AT CENTERSTAGE CHURCH...

zao Theatre AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY THEATER
LEARN MORE: WWW.ZAOTHEATRE.ORG

THE PORK SHOP

Your Local Meat Market For Pork

FREE SAUSAGE TASTING
Saturdays In May
10am-2pm

May Is Sausage Month!

FREE LB. OF BRATWURST
With \$25 purchase.
Limit one per customer, please.

OPEN:
Tues.-Sat. 8-5pm · Sun 9-3pm
3359 E. Combs
Queen Creek, AZ 85140
(480) 987-0101
theporkshopaz.com

1901 S. Signal Butte Rd. Ste 101 - Mesa, AZ 85209
480-354-3400

WE ARE OPEN!

- OVER 200 ITEMS EVERYDAY
- BEST FOOD GOOD FOOD
- PREPARED FRESH DAILY
- AMERICAN, CHINESE & JAPANESE CUISINE!
- CRAB LEGS, SUSHI, BBQ GRILLED & MORE EVERYDAY!
- PRIVATE PARTY ROOM

15% OFF BUFFET
And Take Out Order
MUST PRESENT COUPON AT THE DOOR
Not valid with any other offer or on holidays. Expires 5/30/2025
WOOCI SUPER BUFFET

DEVELOPMENT

IN BRIEF

PERMITS

112 building permits issued in March in Apache Junction

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Out of a total of 189 building permits listed in Apache Junction for March 2025, there were a total of 112 issued as of April 18.

Examples of building permits filed, according to a website off of apachejunctionaz.gov/622/Permits, include:

- Residential photovoltaic (solar); 1010 S. Lawther Drive; installation of a new 4.92 kw roof mounted photovoltaic system on a single-family residence; permit issued March 3; Oneworldenergy LLC dba Our World Energy.

- In-ground swimming pool; 844 W. Flatiron Trail; install 392-square-foot pool; permit issued March 3; Desert Soul Landesign.

- Interior remodel (commercial); 850 S. Ironwood Drive Suite No. 106; hair salon tenant improvement required to demo multiple interior walls and construct an ADA-complaint restroom; submittal received March 4; CPI - Matt McOmber.

- New single family; 1997 W. Sentiero Ave. No. 1352; new two-story, 2,620 square feet under roof; permit issued March 6; DR Horton East Inc.

- Demo manufactured home; 1091 S. Cedar Drive; mobile home was red-tagged and needs to be demolished; project closed; March 10; John Valdivia.

- New building; 5661 S. Ironwood Drive; expand water reclamation facility from 3.0 million gallons per day to 6.5 million gallons per day — solids handling canopy; submittal received March 6; Stantec - Samantha Brown.



The vacant property is a single, irregularly shaped parcel with approximately 125 feet fronting Apache Trail and 796 feet fronting Plaza Drive in Apache Junction. (City of Apache Junction)

336-unit rental community planned

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A 336-unit three-story residential rental complex proposed for 18 acres west of the northwest corner of Idaho Road and Apache Trail in Apache Junction has drawn criticism from neighbors around the proposal and a rejection from the planning commission.

The Apache Junction Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing April 8 and overwhelmingly voted to not approve a conditional-use permit for the development requested by Wolff Enterprises III LLC, represented by Gilbert Blilie PLLC,

A motion to approve the permit, made by Commissioner Jesse Gage with eight conditions of approval and seconded by Chair Dave Hantzsch, failed 2-5. Dissenting were Vice Chair Robin Barker and Commissioners Sandra Mykland, Ari Kalan, Roy Starr and Sheryl Bigelow.

"I am overwhelmed with the problem of traffic, so I need to vote no," Barker said in voting.

With the failure of the motion, the case can be appealed to the city

council within 20 days, Development Services Director Rudy Esquivias said after the vote.

"Otherwise, if nobody appeals in 20 days, your decision stands," he said.

Eleven local residents and winter residents spoke during a public hearing about the development, with most saying they live at Lost Dutchman RV Resort, 400 N. Plaza Drive, which is just west of the proposed development.

Concerns included traffic, bottlenecks of vehicles at the two entrances, the fear of having several families living in one unit, the traffic coming from the nearby U.S. Post Office, the loss of views of the mountain dropping the value of homes at the RV resort, questioning where trucks will travel for construction of the development, where school bus stops will be located to transport children living there, and the need for bicycle safety.

The property is zoned city center — or B-3 — and the proposed multifamily use is consistent with the existing general plan land use designation. City staff support the proposed multifamily use at the site, Principal

Planner Kelsey Schattnik told the commission.

A 60-foot-tall building is allowed in that zoning and the project is at 37 feet, five inches in height, she said.

Fourteen three-story buildings are planned. Amenities include a clubhouse, pool, dog park, open space, grills and covered parking. All lighting is to be dark-skies compliant, Schattnik said.

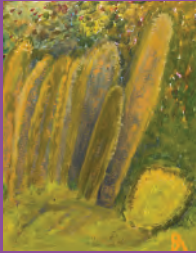
The main access is off Apache Trail and a secondary access for residents only is off of Plaza Drive.

"Units will consist of one- and two-bedrooms and range in size from 750 square feet to just over 1,000 square feet. As you can see, the applicant is providing three building types — each with their own unique architectural details," which include balconies on the upper floors and first-floor screened patios, Schattnik said.

The applicant is requesting a parking reduction. Per city code, 749 on-site spaces are required with the applicant proposing a total of 684. The applicant is providing 45 off-site parking stalls within 100 feet of the

• See **Development** on page 21

ART GALLERY GIFTS






Featuring Owners
Susan Paige
 and husband
Lt Col Barry
 and
 Local Artists
 Downtown Apache Junction

Paige Artists Gallery

300 West Apache Trail, Suite 106A
 Visit all shops in the Plaza

Hours Thurs-Sat 10am-4pm susanpaige@susanpaige.com

Superior Service & Selection of Quality Products Including Many Tariff-Free & Made In The USA!

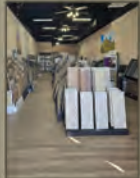
Call Today! 480-336-3801





Countertops Custom Showers Luxury Flooring

Free Estimates Free Design Assistance Samples Available







Carpet, Tile, Mosaics, Luxury Vinyl, Laminate, Granite, Quartz



Scan For Monthly Discounts and Special Savings!

www.SunFlooringCo.com
 ROC# 332270



Sun Flooring Company
 YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FLOORING STORE

Showroom Hours
 M - F 9 am - 4 pm
 Sat 9 am - 12 pm, Closed Sun
 6832 S. Kings Ranch Rd #2
 Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Health Insurance for You and Your Family is More Affordable Than You Think!



Medicare • Individuals & Families • Small/Large Groups • Long Term Care • Life Insurance

Plans With Zero Deductibles

Low Copays & Affordable Premiums

Choose Your Own Doctors

Retired? Not old enough for Medicare?

PPO plans available with low copays and deductibles. We can get you on a plan that fits your budget that you won't be scared to use.



JARMAN INSURANCE
 STAY INSURED, STAY STRESS-FREE
JarmanInsurance.com | 480-255-1076
todd@jarmaninsurance.com
 Licensed in All 50 States
 NPN# 17679951 | CA License #OK43668

NEIGHBORS

IN BRIEF

PUBLISHED

Gold Canyon resident has 3 poems published

Gold Canyon resident Betty Mermelstein had three poems published in Spring 2025 issue of the The Blue Guitar Magazine.



Betty Mermelstein

The poems “Displayed,” “Ignoring Beauty” and “Let the Sun Rise” are in the Vol. 17 No. 1 issue of the arts and literary magazine that is a project of The Arizona Consortium for the Arts.

Mermelstein is a retired Mesa teacher. She has had various articles, poems, and short humorous essays published, as well as having self-published ebooks and paperback books for children and adults. Her poem “Going Home” was the first-place winner in the James Whitcomb Riley Festival Written Poetry Competition in Greenfield, Indiana, in October 2019.

Her writing is showcased on her website: <https://www.punkynotes.com/>.

THANKED

Certificates of appreciation given for AJUSD donations

At a recent Apache Junction Unified School District Governing Board meeting, the Superstition Mountain Rotary Club and the Friends of Apache Junction were honored and awarded for donating \$1,500 to help restore Davis Field to its former glory and Kabat’s Ace Frontier Hardware was thanked for donating \$1,500 to the band Program, along with field supplies to Davis Field.

Those thanked included President Roberta Holmes and Treasurer Dodie Doolittle of the Superstition Mountain Rotary Club; and Vice President Thomas Kelly and Director Barbara Kelly of the Friends of Apache Junction; and Kabat’s Ace Frontier Hardware, it states at <https://www.ajusd.org>.

Health, human services agencies funding discussed by Apache Junction council

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Five agencies seeking a portion of \$90,000 in Apache Junction health and human services funding were revealed during a recent city council work session.

The Health & Human Services Commission held meetings to interview officials from each agency, which combined had sought a total of \$201,500 in funding.

The commission recommendation to the city council is the following:

- \$2,000 to Begin Again Homes, which had requested \$80,000 for a temporary emergency shelter, case management and eviction prevention.

- \$2,000 to Over-Flo Missions, which had requested \$4,000 for meals and dry packaged foods for Desert Chapel Community Feast.

- \$7,000 to AJ Community Development Corp., which had requested \$7,500 for administrative/operating costs, community revitalization projects, equipment and the annual Make a Difference Day.

- \$9,000 to Boys & Girls Club, which had requested \$35,000 for salaries and employee-related expenses for programs such as: Power Hour, Project Learn, Be Great Graduate, Career Launch, Diplomas To Degrees and Money Matter.

- \$70,000 to Superstition Community Food Bank, which had requested \$75,000 for the emergency food program, holiday box program and student backpack program.



The agencies seeking a portion of \$90,000 in Apache Junction health and human services funding were discussed at a recent city council work session. (Metro Creative)

The agencies have to make a concerted effort to determine residency and eligibility to ensure the funds are used for Apache Junction residents, Health & Human Services Commission Chair Michael Brennan said during an April 14 council work session.

“I made clear at the very beginning of our discussion of these that we were to deal with a major premise — that funding was utilized for the populace of Apache Junction and every effort was to be made to make sure that that was the group that was being dealt with when funding was requested. That was sort of a revelation to some people and led to some of the reasons why there were changes in the allocation,” Brennan said.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org



Health & Human Services Commission Chair Michael Brennan speaks at an April 14 council work session. (City of Apache Junction)

iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.



Arizona Charitable Tax Credit


YOU DECIDE


GENESIS PROJECT

Serving the Hungry and Homeless

Thanks to the Arizona State Charitable Giving Tax Credit you can donate up to \$421 for individuals and \$841 for joint filers and receive a dollar for dollar credit on your Arizona State Taxes!

Genesis Project is a community focused, volunteer ran, faith based 501(c)3 non-profit and Qualified Charitable Organization with a mission to feed, clothe, and hydrate the hungry and homeless.

Mail To: Genesis Project
P.O. Box 5156
Apache Junction, AZ 85178

Donate in Person: 564 N. Idaho Road, Suite #5
Apache Junction, AZ 85119
10am-2pm

Donate via PayPal: www.GenesisProjectAZ.org



In-Spa & MOBILE SERVICES



BENEFITS

- ✓ Hangover Recovery
- ✓ Hydration
- ✓ Increase Energy
- ✓ Enhance Performance
- ✓ Boost Immune System
- ✓ Speed Recovery
- ✓ Reduce Stress Symptoms
- ✓ Aid Weight Loss
- ✓ Decrease Inflammation
- ✓ Support Overall Wellness



OR CALL US AND WE CAN COME TO YOU!
2025 N. POWER RD., STE 106 • MESA, AZ 85215 | (480) 992-4202



©2025 Prime IV Hydration and Wellness (PIVHW) locations are independently owned and operated. Prime IV Hydration and Wellness and any and all associated designs, logos, slogans and are registered federal trademarks owned by PIVHW. No content may be reproduced or transmitted without prior written consent from PIVHW. Products and services are available at select locations.



PROM & GRAD NIGHT ARE COMING!

CHOOSE FUN

not substances

Are You Ready?

- Make the choice to be substance free
- Create plans to have a safe ride home
- Never get in the vehicle with an impaired driver



Prom and graduation are milestones! Make them unforgettable for the RIGHT reasons.



More information about the dangers of substances at our website at www.standupaj.org
Scan the QR code for mocktail recipes to celebrate your milestone safely!

A WORK SHOP FOR PARENTS AND TEENS



Active Parenting of Teens

FAMILIES IN ACTION

This **FREE** 6 session program is designed to break down barriers of communication, promote cooperation, and address challenges head on



Wednesdays 6/4/25 - 7/9/25
@ 5:30-7:30PM



2066 Apache Trail #116,
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Communicate without fighting
- Develop real skills for real life
- Avoid the risks today's teens face
- Enjoy the journey to adulthood together





REGISTRATION REQUIRED
REGISTER AT WWW.STANDUPAJ.ORG

THINGS TO DO

MAY 3


Building Safety Month Expo

Whether you're interested in a career in construction or just looking for a fun day out, there's something for everyone. Free event has hands-on activities, industry experts and family-friendly fun.

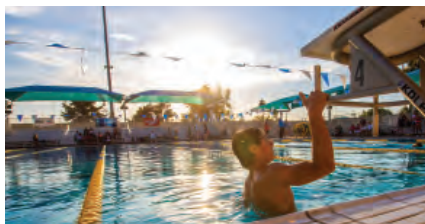
Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds
1590 E. Lost Dutchman Blvd.
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MAY 11


Diana Krall

The jazz singer has had eight albums debut at the top of the Billboard Jazz Albums chart. Tickets \$49-\$164 at <https://www.mesaartscenter.com/DianaKrall>.

Ikeda Theater at Mesa Arts Center
1 E. Main St., Mesa
7:30 p.m.

MAY 23


Summer kick off pool party

A free event for families to kick off the summer season.

Superstition Aquatics Center,
1091 W. Southern Ave. in Apache Junction
6-8 p.m.

Salt River Tubing open seven days a week starting April 26

Salt River Tubing is open on the Lower Salt River seven days a week from Saturday, April 26, through Monday, Sept. 1, weather and water-flow conditions permitting. It changes to Fridays-Sundays only Sept. 2-28.

Salt River Tubing is seven minutes from Loop 202 East on North Power Road in Mesa. It operates under permit of the USDA Forest Service in Tonto National Forest.

The cost is \$28 per person or tube, which includes tube rental, a shuttle bus ride to and from the parking lot, and parking. The cost for a shuttle pass for a customer bringing their own tube is \$22.

Salt River Tubing season passes are allowed to be used once per day and last from June until the end of September. The season pass includes: one tube rental with shuttle ride or one bus ride without tube; passes are non-transferable; and additional tubes may be purchased. For information and cost, go to <https://www.saltrivertubing.com/river-tubing-season-passes>.

Important information:

- Last tube rental is 2 p.m.;
- All guests must be 8 and older and 4 feet tall or taller;
- All drinks must be in plastic or cans;
- Children ages 12 and under must wear life jackets; they can be purchased at the snack bar for \$15;
- When the water flow is 1,200 cubic feet per second or higher, groups with children can only float the bottom half for the safety of the children; and
- What to bring: Sunscreen, comfortable shoes, plenty of water, cooler/ice chest, drinks, food and snacks. Glassware is prohibited by law.

For information, go to www.saltrivertubing.com or call 480-984-3305.



Salt River Tubing is seven minutes from Loop 202 East on North Power Road in Mesa. It operates under permit of the USDA Forest Service in Tonto National Forest. (File photo, from Salt River Tubing)



The Super Heroes Splashdown special event is Saturday, June 28. (File photo, from Salt River Tubing)



Bring sunscreen, comfortable shoes, plenty of water, cooler/ice chest, drinks, food and snacks. Glassware is prohibited by law. (File photo, from Salt River Tubing)

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2025

Special events include:

- Salt River Tubing opening day: Saturday, April 26.
- Mardi Gras Magic: Saturday, May 10.
- Memorial Day Weekend: Saturday-Monday, May 24-26.
- Salt River Pirates: Saturday, June 14.
- Super Heroes Splashdown: Saturday, June 28.
- July Fourth Weekend: Friday-Sunday, July 4-6.
- Rockin' Rodeo: Saturday, July 19.
- Mega Hawaiian Hula: Saturday, Aug. 2.
- Spooktacular Halloween: Saturday, Aug. 16.
- Labor Day weekend: Saturday-Monday, Aug. 30-Sept. 1.
- National Public Lands Day, Saturday, Sept. 27.



Apache Junction
Tires & Service

**Your Home Town
Tire and Service Center**

740 W Apache Trail • Apache Junction, AZ 85120

480-982-8489

See Our Current Specials!!!

NEW COUPONS AVAILABLE AT:
AJTIREANDSERVICE.COM

BASIC LUBE, OIL & FILTER CHANGE
\$29⁹⁹ **OR** **SYNTHETIC LUBE, OIL & FILTER CHANGE**
\$54⁹⁹

FREE 4 TIRE ROTATION AND SAFETY INSPECTION

Most cars, up to 5qts 5w30, 5w20 bulk oils, new oil filter, chassis lube. Reset TPMS not included. Plus \$3 waste fees. (Canister oil filter - additional oil - larger vehicles - Foreign Euro vehicles - and special vehicles, extra charges will apply.) Must present Coupon printed or digitally. Expires 5-31-25



OPEN
M-F 8am to 5:30pm
Saturdays 8am to 2pm
Closed Sunday

PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
480-982-8489



Midwestern University
Body Donation Program
Tomorrow's Healthcare Team



Your gift will help educate compassionate healthcare professionals for tomorrow.

For more information, call: **623-806-7990**

20195 North 57th Avenue | Glendale, Arizona 85308
azbodydonation@midwestern.edu | www.midwestern.edu/bodydonation



two maids

A Maid Service Worth Talking About

SPRING SPECIAL

\$100 OFF

Recurring Cleaning

(\$20 off first 5 visits) Offer expires 5-31-25.

\$150 OFF

Deep Clean or

Move In/

Move Out Clean

First time customers only. One time use with coupon. Offer expires 5-31-25.



License #00825-2018

480-550-8282 • TwoMaidsCleaning.com

COUNTY/STATE

IN BRIEF

IN PINAL COUNTY

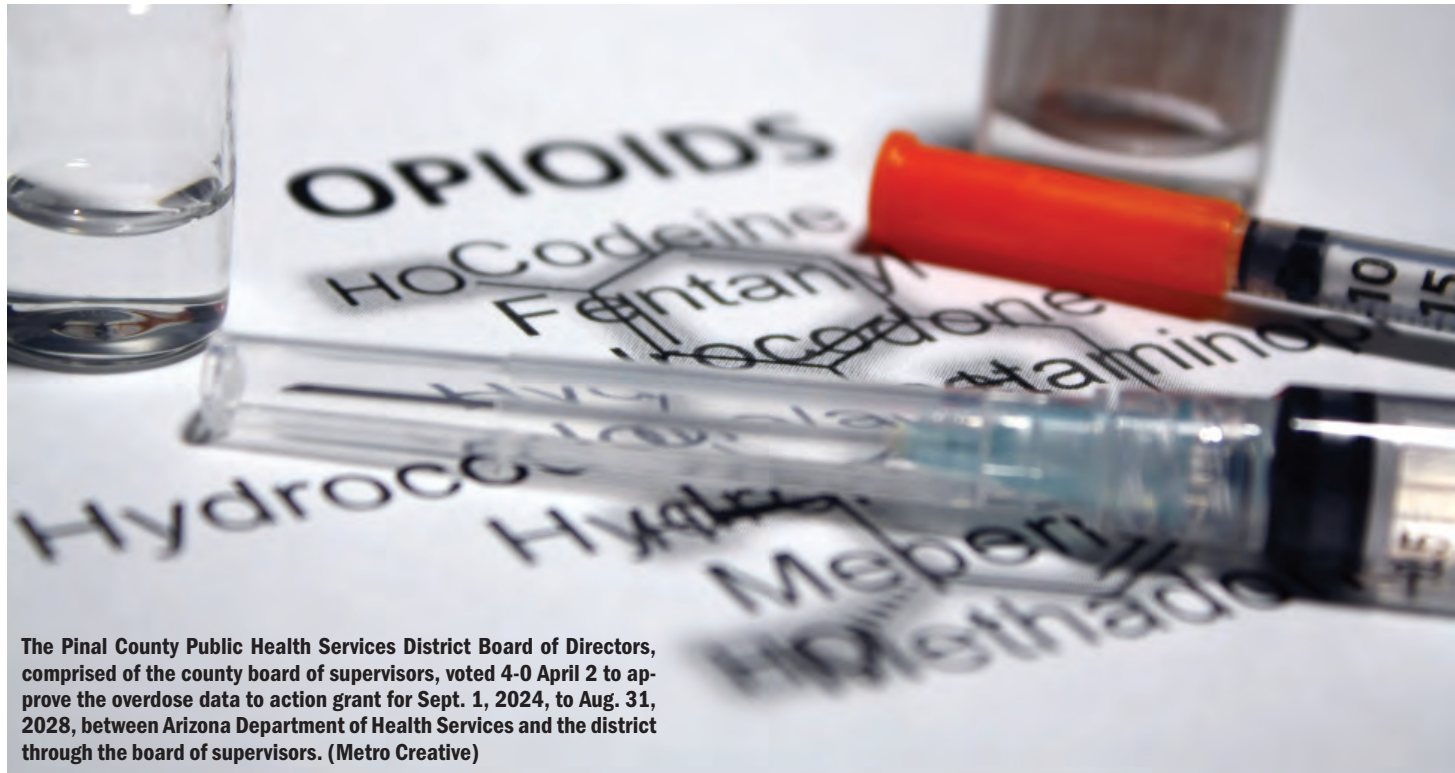
Mesa Council approves contract for construction manager for gas line installation**By Connor Van Ligten**
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Mesa City Council recently approved 7-0 a \$10,569,302 contract for a construction manager for a gas line installation project in the city.

According to council documents, the project will build a 12-inch diameter high-pressure natural gas pipe within the Magma Gas System in Pinal County. This system would support system redundancy requirements, support growth in the region and aid in pressure support for high pressure customers who get gas from the city.

“The selected alignment begins at the intersection of Meridian Road and Pima Road, runs easterly on Pima Road to Ironwood Road, and then south on Ironwood/Gantzel Road to connect to an existing 8-inch pipe at the intersection of Gantzel Road and Combs Road,” council documents stated. “The approximate length of the project is four miles.”

The contract has a total value of \$11,626,232 based on a GMP of \$10,569,302 with an additional change order allowance of \$1,056,930. The project is funded by Utility Obligations Gas, according to council documents.



The Pinal County Public Health Services District Board of Directors, comprised of the county board of supervisors, voted 4-0 April 2 to approve the overdose data to action grant for Sept. 1, 2024, to Aug. 31, 2028, between Arizona Department of Health Services and the district through the board of supervisors. (Metro Creative)

Pinal County receives \$320K grant for drug to treat opioid narcotic overdoses

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A four-year, \$80,000 annual grant will be used to purchase and distribute to Pinal County residents a drug that can treat opioid narcotic overdoses in an emergency situation.

The Pinal County Public Health Services District Board of Directors, comprised of the county board of supervisors, voted 4-0 April 2 to approve the overdose data to action grant for Sept. 1, 2024, to Aug. 31, 2028, between Arizona Department of Health Services and the district through the board of supervisors. Director Mike Goodman was absent.

Prior to the vote, Gold Canyon res-

ident Roberto Reveles asked if recent defunding decisions by the U.S. government would impact the funds received by Pinal County.

“With the recent announcement by President Trump of the pulling of funds, what impact does that have on this grant?” Reveles asked.

Jan Vidimos, a manager with Pinal County Public Health, thanked Reveles for the question and said the funds will be used to purchase Naxolone.

“So this grant works with prevention methods and methods that are considered harm-reduction methods. So what we’re doing right now is we’re getting Naxolone in the hands of as many community members as possible. We know that folks who —

whether they’re using paid medication legitimately as their doctor prescribed or they suffer from substance abuse disorder — may end up with a situation where they have taken too much. And Naxolone saves lives,” she said.

“Should the program go away, we do have opioid settlement dollars that are available to the county, which we would apply for obviously to continue the program,” Vidimos said.

Other programs with the Arizona Department of Health Services provide Naxolone to emergency medical services and law-enforcement officials, she said.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

DEVELOPMENT

Development

• From page 14

property along Plaza Drive, she said.

Primary concerns from five individuals who called the city about the project include planned off-site parking along Plaza, blocked views of the Superstition Mountains because of the planned building heights, and increased traffic along Plaza, Schattnik said.

Historical aerials show the prop-

erty may have been used as a golf course in the 1970s and 1980s but has not been used since that time, according to a written project narrative from Wolff Enterprises III LLC.

It will be a market-rate, non-age-restricted product. The development is anticipated to generate 2,265 weekday daily trips entering and exiting, it states.

The Wolff Co. is under contract to purchase the property, attorney Paul Gilbert, representing Wolff Co., told the commission.

“We openly state we don’t own the property. We have it in escrow subject to getting it entitled here at Apache Junction,” he said.

One-bedroom units are to cost \$1,300 a month and two-bedroom units are to cost \$1,800 a month, he said.

“And we’re very comfortable that that rental rate can be sustained here in Apache Junction,” Gilbert said.

Bigelow asked if a traffic light was to be constructed at the entrance along Apache Trail.

“When you come out of there to cross the Trail to get to Idaho, that could be congested sometimes. Like are you going to put a light or something over there?” she asked.

Gilbert said it would not need a traffic light.

“But we’ve traveled it several times and have watched the traffic. We did it again today and we don’t think that will be a significant factor,” he said.

“I know I sat there long enough trying to cross the Trail to get to Idaho,” Bigelow said.

GOVERNMENT

Animal control building closing in effort to eradicate rats

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Apache Junction’s animal control services building — which houses the only city-run animal control department in Pinal County — is closing temporarily May 1 to eradicate a rodent infestation.

The plywood-walled facility, 725 E. Baseline Ave., which has 38 dog kennels and 21 cat kennels, is staffed by eight city employees with the assistance of 17 volunteers, Police Chief Michael Pooley said at a recent Apache Junction City Council meeting.

“As of yesterday we’ve stopped intaking any animals and ... we’re trying to find another temporary lo-

cation and we’re trying to come up with ideas on what we can do to still intake animals. Our animal control does a lot of services with microchipping, adoptions, euthanasia. They do an incredible job. They are a beloved portion of the community so we want to make sure we still continue what we can,” Pooley said at the April 1 Apache Junction City Council meeting.

When a temporary site has been found it will be posted at <https://www.apachejunctionaz.gov/162/Apache-Junction-Animal-Control>.

The rat infestation has caused a lot of damage to the animal control facility, Pooley said.

“Last year we were notified that

rats had started to come into the facility and started to cause some really severe damage to electrical lines to the power to all kinds of things inside. So in late 2024 animal control really experienced a huge progression of this infestation,” he said.

Ceiling tiles and insulation were removed, and holes were sealed in drywall. A pest control business used rat traps, Pooley said.

Vice Mayor Robert Schroeder asked if the building should be torn down and a new one constructed.

“Down the road, yes,” City Manager Bryant Powell said.

“We wanted to share what is going on. This is something we want the community to be aware of and

yes ... we have it in our space programming for design next year,” he said. “But you’re still looking at two years out to do a right, appropriate and safe facility. So we’re not there yet.”

The total cost of removing the rats has not yet been determined, Pooley said.

“It’s going to be a little pricey, and we’re trying to figure how we’re going to pay for that and budget that still,” he said.

“But we’re talking hundreds of thousands (of dollars) now versus we want to do it right and programming could be you know a few million (dollars). We don’t know,” Powell said.

Civility Checklist

How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues.



Take the high road. Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.

Be respectful. Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment and threats directed at another person — or that person’s race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone’s character or motives.

Be truthful. Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes.

When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.

Don’t misrepresent. Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.

Listen and learn. It’s both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don’t agree with your own.

Look for common ground. When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.

Respect privacy. Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.

Set a good example. Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it’s OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.

FROM THE COVER

Marathon

• From page 1

Black and Gold Youth Football, one of the organizations receiving a donation at the recent event at The Paseo northeast of Apache Junction near the foot of the Superstition Mountains, had four board members, one coach, five youth football players and three cheerleaders at the Feb. 16 marathon.

"We were the second station at the marathon with water and Gatorade, picking up trash. We were on mile marker No. 4," said Stephanie Earles, secretary of Black and Gold Youth Football.

The \$1,000 donated this year to Black and Gold Youth Football will be used for costs such as field fees, she said.

"It goes for the season. It goes for field play, uniforms and equipment for the kids," Earles said.

A total of 26 organizations received checks at the April 16 banquet. The total was the most donated since the Lost Dutchman Marathon was established in 2002, said Gary Nine, co-founder and ex-officio marathon official.

"This year Lost Dutchman Marathon is handing out \$80,000 in money. In the last 24 years, \$980,000," he said.

"Yes, we've almost hit the \$1 million mark," Lost Dutchman Marathon Race Director Kristie Falb said. "We've had, obviously, a very successful year. It has grown. COVID had a big downturn to everything, but we've been able to rebound that."

In 2003, the first year funds were donated, a total of \$5,250 was given to charities. The highest amount donated previously was \$70,000 in 2019, it states at <https://lostdutchmanmarathon.org/Beneficiaries>.

Run by an all-volunteer board of directors and officers, Lost Dutchman



Superstition Mountain Rotary received \$3,500. With Lost Dutchman Marathon Race Director Kristie Falb (center) are Superstition Mountain Rotary members Bryant Powell and Jeffrey Mitchell. (Independent Newsmedia, Richard H. Dyer)



A total of \$9,000 was given for Apache Junction Parks and Recreation scholarships. (Independent Newsmedia, Richard H. Dyer)

Marathon Inc. is a charity that organizes the event with annual proceeds directed to local youth organizations focused on the economically disadvantaged. The donations were generated through proceeds of this year's races, which welcomed nearly 2,900

\$80,000 IN DONATIONS

Organizations in 2025 receiving donations from the Lost Dutchman Marathon include:

- Apache Junction Boys Basketball, \$1,000.
- Apache Junction High School Boys Soccer, \$1,000.
- Apache Junction High School Cap and Gown, \$1,500.
- Apache Junction High School Golf, \$1,000.
- Apache Junction High School Softball, \$1,000.
- Apache Junction High School Tennis, \$1,000
- Apache Junction Police Department Auxiliary, \$1,000.
- Black and Gold Youth Football, \$1,000.
- Apache Junction Little League, \$1,500.
- Apache Junction Boys Baseball, \$1,000.
- Girls on the Run, \$1,850.
- Apache Junction High School Band Boosters, \$2,500.
- Apache Junction High School Football, \$2,500.
- Apache Junction High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, \$2,500.
- Apache Junction High School and Cactus Canyon Junior High School Cheer, \$2,500.
- Apache Junction High School STUCO, \$1,500.
- Girl Scouts Troop No. 216, \$2,500.
- Imagine Prep, \$2,500.
- Skyline High School Army Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, \$2,000.
- Apache Junction Police Department Cadet Program, \$3,000.
- Superstition Fire and Medical District Cadet Program, \$3,000.
- Apache Junction High School Track and Field, \$5,150
- Apache Junction High School Special Ed, \$1,500.
- Superstition Mountain Rotary, \$3,500.
- Apache Junction High School scholarships, \$21,000.
- Apache Junction Parks and Recreation scholarships, \$9,000

participants from across the nation and globe, according to a release.

While having the Superstition Mountains as a backdrop doesn't hurt, the primary reason runners like the Lost Dutchman Marathon is because it is volunteer-run, Falb said.

"We have had other races come up against us. There's a Mesa mar-

athon, then the rock-and-roll (marathon) and all of that stuff. Even despite all of that, we've been able to continually grow," she said. "I would say the mountain is a draw but that has nothing to do with runners who come out to be a part of it."

• See **Marathon** on page 36

ADR HARDWARE

True Value.

AJ's Original Hardware Store

MAY 2025 SAVINGS

\$11.59

Reg. \$14.00


 20LB Wild Birdseed
Item #501272

\$45.99

Reg. \$149.00


 30 CAN SOFTSIDE COOLER
Item #252821

\$9.99

Reg. \$24.00


 3PC
SS BBQ
SET
Item
#188398

\$7.99

Reg. \$22.00


 INST GRILL
THERMOMETER
Item
#114201

\$2.99

Reg. \$7.00


 POOL/SPA PUMICESTICK
Item #247034

\$129.00

Reg. \$429.00


 NOVARA 4PC PATIO SET
Item #270131

\$29.99

Reg. \$42.00


 STACKING PATIO CHAIR
Item #270125,23,26,22

\$45.99

Reg. \$52.00


 2.5G
WET/DRY
VAC
Item
#119540

\$19.99

Reg. \$34.00


 12" 3SPD
TABLE
FAN
Item #
145341

\$29.99

Reg. \$41.00


 16" STAND
FAN BLK
Item #
205038

\$199.00

Reg. \$269.00


 6K ES AIR CONDITIONER
Item # 205030

\$9.99

Reg. \$18.00


 GE 4PK
6W SW
BULBS
Item
#240106

\$22.99

Reg. \$24.00


 25' X 1.25"
FAT MAX
TAPE
Item
#728253

\$45.99

Reg. \$64.00


 MM OSCILLATING TOOL
Item #103718

\$11.99

Reg. \$15.00


 4PC
QUICK
CHANGE
SET
Item #
158861

\$1.69

Reg. \$3.00


 5PK HD
UTILITY
BLADE
Item #
135182

\$1.99

Reg. \$2.00


 4PK
MOUSE
GLUE
TRAP
Item #
177128

\$1.29

Reg. \$1.00


 4PK
MOSQUITO
COIL
Item #
249928

\$19.99

Reg. \$23.00


 MM 4PK 1" TIEDOWN
Items # 548774

.10¢

Reg. \$1.00


 GOJO HAND
CLEAN
WIPES
Item #
275544

We're down the road from higher prices

While Supplies Last

STARTS
5/1/25
ENDS 5/31/25
ADR HARDWARE TRUE VALUE
(480) 982-7461

 237 N. Apache Trail,
Apache Junction, AZ 85120-3916
WWW.ADRHARDWAREAZ.COM


\$39.95

check up
Never a Trip Charge!


Three Phase Mechanical

All work is 100% guaranteed!

- Sales
- Installation
- Service
- Repair

Air Conditioning & Heating

480-671-0833

Free service call with any repair!

ROC247803 Lic. Bonded. Ins

24/Hr. & Weekend Service

No Premium Charge

Residential/Commercial

Protect Your Family's Future In Under an Hour

Walk-in Wills

Professional • Affordable • Convenient


Our locally-owned firm helps you:

- Create/update your Will
- Set up a Trust
- Plan for Medicaid
- Secure Powers of Attorney
- And more...

 Don't wait.
Get peace of mind TODAY.

Call for your free consultation.

480-470-7000

1095 W. Queen Creek Rd. Suite 4 | Chandler, AZ 85248

walkinwills.com/chandler

 Disclaimer: Time may vary based on client needs.
Services help in safeguarding wishes but do not guarantee outcomes.

GOVERNMENT

Fortune-telling regulations may be changed by Apache Junction council

By Richard H. Dyer

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tossing a \$1,200-a-year fee may be in the cards for fortune-telling businesses in Apache Junction.

The Apache Junction City Council at a meeting May 6 is to direct city staff to reduce or remove the fee, based on discussion at a recent work session. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, 300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Two fortune-telling business licenses have been approved in the past six years. By city code definition, a fortune teller is a person who purports to have the ability to predict a person's future by palmistry using a crystal ball or cards, or similar methods, Senior Planner Nick Leftwich told the council during an April 14 work session.

A standard business license costs \$50 a year. The business license for fortune telling costs \$50 plus an annual permit fee of \$1,200, he said.

"The code does say it requires the approval of the director of public safety, so when a fortune teller comes in for a business license the code says it would require public safety to review it and approve it," Leftwich said.

Other cities and towns in Arizona have no additional permit fee or a fee of \$100 to \$300. One Valley city bans all fortune telling, he said.

The city of Apache Junction has four



By city code definition, a fortune teller is a person who purports to have the ability to predict a person's future by palmistry, using a crystal ball or cards, or similar methods. (Metro Connection)

options going forward, Leftwich said:

- No change to existing code.
- A proposed amendment to city code to remove regulations pertaining to fortune telling.
- A proposed amendment to city code to lower the fortune telling fee comparable to other neighboring cities.
- Any other direction the council would like to pursue.

Council discussion

Councilmember Darryl Cross asked why the fee is so high for someone who wants to conduct a business in Apache Junction.

"If a person wants to blow their money on fortune telling and go in and hope that they get a good palm reading or whatever, that's their money," he said. "I kind of think that option 3, we reduce our fees to something that is a more reasonable and allow business to carry on."

Councilmember Tess Nesser recalled how she was an entertainer for 25 years at the Arizona Renaissance Festival and is friends with a palm reader there.

"She's just a regular, normal person — hard-working and business owner," she said. "I'm not sure, while I'm reading this, why we're charging an extra fee for that business that's no different than any other business. So I'm not convinced that we should be charging them any more than you do McDonald's to set up a business."

It doesn't matter what their business is as long as they are operating it legally, Councilmember Bambi Johnson said.

"It is for their clients and customers to decide whether they are successful. This to me is a penalty that somebody chose to inflict on somebody based on whatever belief they had."

The fee of \$1,200 sounds like a lot of money for a business license, Councilmember Bryan Soller said.

"The one thing that I do like is ... it might be with the approval of public safety with a background check and specific regulations," he said. "But other

than that, why would we charge that much money?"

Vice Mayor Robert Schroeder asked if fortune telling was the same as a psychic.

"They're not going in there and asking the widow that I'm going to let you talk to your husband for \$300 are they? Or are they going to lay down the cards?" he said. "(If you're a medium and you can channel the dead and let me talk to my grandfather, you're not in Apache Junction at a strip mall, right?)"

In Apache Junction, a fortune-telling business is for people telling the future. The city has no regulations for businesses using spiritual art, Leftwich said.

Mayor Chip Wilson said he had his palm read when he was in his early 20s.

"Actually I was supposed to have passed away when I was 34 years old, so you know that palm reader was very poor," he said.

The decision to charge \$1,200 a year was done by the council in the 1980s, City Attorney Joel Stern

"I think there is a trust element there and I think you're right, it goes to 'Well, are these people fraudulent?' I think that's what that council may have thought at the time. That's why it's so high — that's my guess — and they did create a background process. Back then a background check was a lot more expensive than they are now," he said.

Ardith L'Hommedieu Carley

Ardith L'Hommedieu Carley, beloved wife entered Heaven on April 13, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on 10-20-1955 in Milford, Connecticut, coming to Arizona in 1974. She met and married Stephen

Carley on June 23, 1980. From early tent camping to hotels in Hawaii, they shared many adventures. She worked at tax and accounting firms and gladly knitted baby blankets for expectant friends. She enjoyed the outdoors and all wildlife. Avid stargazer, she embraced life with a huge sense of humor. Ardith is survived by her husband Steve, sisters Holly and Beverly, brother Arthur, several nieces and nephews.

Free Puzzles!

Words • Numbers • Strategy

YourValley.net/puzzle



DAILY
INDEPENDENT
at YourValley.net



VINYL PLANK • TILE • CARPET • LAMINATE • NEW FLOORING • HUGE SALE!

HUGE SALE! • NEW FLOORING • VINYL PLANK • TILE • CARPET • LAMINATE

VINYL PLANK • LAMINATE • WOOD • TILE • CARPET

Spring In-to **Flooring** SALE

OFFER
CODE
0383

SAVE ADDITIONAL

\$750 OFF*

SELECT STYLES & PRODUCTS*



**HALF PRICE
INSTALLATION
SALE**

All flooring
types!

Wholesale Pricing
to the Public!



Lifetime Labor Warranty*

\$35
ROOM SALE*

PET PROOF FLOORING

Scratch resistant, water proof flooring*

FREE IN-HOME SHOPPING

We bring large flooring samples to you!



save additional
10% off

- Senior Citizens
- Public Services
- Law Enforcement
- Teachers
- Military



FREE AIR DUCT CLEANING

with Flooring Purchase*



CINCO DE MAYO

FLOOR DADDY

SEXY FLOORING | AFFORDABLE PRICES | QUALITY INSTALL

ROC 352055

Must present a coupon or ad at the time of initial appointment. Offers are first appointment incentives only and only good if both decision-makers are present. Cannot combine offers. \$35 room sale, must buy the largest room at regular price, each additional room, \$35 for product only. Must pay for labor. 12x15 is min size to be included. Rooms greater in size or using upgraded flooring will add additional costs. Does not include stairs or rip up. Financing is based on approved credit. \$5,500 min purchase for free air duct cleaning.



call or text



(602) 691-4610

Call today for a FREE in-home consultation.

www.FloorDaddy.com



Licensed bonded and insured.



Worry Free Guarantee*
(You break it, we fix it, within 1 yr)



Exclusively Providing
Mitigating Moisture Barrier

East Valley readers pick their favorite businesses

The Daily Independent at YourValley.net hosted an online best-of competition where readers vote for their very favorite places to visit. 48,959 people voted for their favorites.

At its core, Valley Favorites helps businesses to thrive. It celebrates the great local businesses and organizations serving our communities and keeps them top of mind with local consumers. Congratulations to those who take home the honors for their local community.



Professional Services

Mortgage Lender Teresa Dempsey - Cornerstone Financial
 Mortgage Lender Guild Mortgage
 Mortgage Lender Karen Camblin
 Internet Service Provider Cox
 Internet Service Provider Centurylink High Speed Internet
 Insurance Agent The Medicare Navigators
 Insurance Agent Eric Stark
 Insurance Agent Nikki Schaal
 Insurance Agency The Medicare Navigators
 Insurance Agency #NAME?
 Insurance Agency Nikki Schaal - Farm Bureau Financial Services
 Independent Senior
 Living Community The Summit at Sunland Springs
 Independent Senior
 Living Community Canyon Winds Independent Living
 Independent Senior
 Living Community Verena at Gilbert
 Funeral Home Horizon Funeral Care
 Funeral Home San Tan Funeral
 Funeral Home Mountain View Funeral Home
 Financial Advisor James Hundley - Edward Jones
 Financial Advisor Stu Boardman - Edward Jones
 Financial Advisor Ann Martin - Apricity Wealth Management
 Financial Advisor Edward Jones - David Culbertson
 Financial Advisor Julie Reid
 Financial Advisor Mallory Ries
 Final Resting Place Santan Memorial Gardens
 Final Resting Place Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetary
 Final Resting Place Valley of the Sun Mortuary & Cemetery
 Estate/Trust Attorney
 or Law Firm The Parker Law Office, LLC
 Estate/Trust Attorney
 or Law Firm Harrison Law
 Estate/Trust Attorney
 or Law Firm Desert Financial
 Customer Service Premier Health Family Practice
 Customer Service Appliance Equation
 Customer Service Lerner & Rowe
 Credit Union Desert Financial Credit Union
 Credit Union Mountain America Credit Union
 Credit Union OneAZ Credit Union
 Computer Repair uBreakiFix - Phone and

Thank you to our sponsor!

Lerner & Rowe Injury Attorneys

3900 W Ray Rd #4

Chandler, AZ 85226

lernerandrowe.com/chandler

602-977-1900

24/7 award-winning Chandler personal injury law firm.

Computer Repair

Computer Consulting Firm

Computer Consulting Firm

Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency

Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency

Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency

Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency

Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency

Childcare/Daycare Facility

Childcare/Daycare Facility

Cellular Phone Provider

Business/Corporate Attorney

or Law Firm

Business/Corporate Attorney

or Law Firm

Bank

Bank

Bank

Attorney/Law Firm

Attorney/Law Firm

Attorney/Law Firm

Assisted Living Facility

Assisted Living Facility

Assisted Living Facility

Ad Agency

Ad Agency

Happy Geeks

Data Doctors

Adrianne Lynch

Ravenswood Realty

Cre8

SJ Fowler Real Estate

Suzanne Dye

WonderWise Preschool

KinderCare

T-Mobile

Harrison Law

AVID Esq Group

Unison Bank

Meadows Bank

Academy Bank

Lerner & Rowe

Harrison Law

Browne Law Group The

Anti Lawyer, Lawyer

The Summit at Sunland Springs

Gold Canyon Assisted Living

Canyon Winds Assisted Living

DeBellevue Global

Marketing Agency

Sophisticated

Marketing Solutions

Ad Agency

Ad Agency

Accounting Firm

Home & Garden

Outdoor Living

Outdoor Living

Outdoor Living

Rain Gutter services

Rain Gutter services

Window Repair/Sales

Window Repair/Sales

Tree Service

Tree Service

Tree Service

Synthetic Lawn Company

Roofing Company

Roofing Company

Remodeling Company

Remodeling Company

Remodeling Company

Pool Installation

Pool Installation

Pool Installation

Plumber/plumbing company

Plumber/plumbing company

Plumber/plumbing company

Moving Services

Moving Services

Mattress Store

Mattress Store

Lawn Care Services

Lawn Care Services

Lawn Care Services

Lawn Care Services

Dawning Public Relations

Mirex Marketing

Queen Creek Accounting

Big B's BBQs

Cutting Edge Landscapes

Element Mist

Rain Gutter Express LLC

Sun Valley Guttering

Lifetime Windows & Doors

Southwest Door and Sas

Family Tree Trimming

Cutting Edge Landscapes

Wayne's Landscaping

Cutting Edge Landscapes

State 48 Roofing

True Built Roofing

Bulldog Design/Build LLC

JPS Restoration & Construction

New Level Builders

AZ Pool Concepts

Presidential Pools

The Edge Pools

Knockout Plumbing

Semper Fi Heating and

Cooling

Above All Home Services

Just In Time Moving

San Tan Moving Company

Mattress Store

Brooklyn Bedding

Family Tree Trimming

Only Turf

Cutting Edge Landscapes

Leon Landscaping

Check out next edition for the remaining list of winners. If you can't wait, go to YourValley.net and click on Favorites.

Congratulations to the 2024 East Valley Favorites!



**You voted. We counted.
And now, the results are officially in!**

**We present to you the best
our community has to offer -
the East Valley Favorites!**

Voting Results:



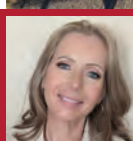
**Or go to
evf.yourvalley.net**

 **APACHE JUNCTION/GOLD CANYON
INDEPENDENT**

Would you like to be more active in your community?



Join us for cycling, hiking, and social events.



For information on these events or others in the GC community please contact your neighborhood real estate broker

Debra Coray 480-688-1713

GRI, MRP, Designated Broker



Go! Arizona HOMES



Authorized
EZGO
Distributor



Low Priced EZGO Lithium Options Available

Warranties Included!

Reserve Your Rental Today!

2165 S. Coconino, Apache Junction, AZ
(1 Block N. of Southern, 1 Block W. of Idaho)

480-983-1234



Electric
Cart Service **\$69⁰⁰**

www.robinsongolfcarsupplyaz.com

RED MOUNTAIN FLOORING AZ

10104 E. APACHE TRAIL APACHE JUNCTION

480-380-3211

"YOUR FLOORING PROFESSIONALS"

WE SELL CARPET - TILE - LAMINATE - WOOD - VINYL
WE CLEAN CARPET - TILE - GROUT - UPHOLSTERY
WE DO FLOOR REPAIR AND MORE

ROC #201105
IICRC CERTIFIED

\$20.00 OFF CARPET CLEANING!!**

INCLUDES: Pre-treatment, spot treatment, no-residue rinse, rake & deodorizer as needed, truck mount hot water extraction

480-380-3211

*DISCOUNT OFF MINIMUM JOB OF \$120.00

\$35.00 OFF TILE AND GROUT CLEANING!!**

100% EVERY INCH GUARANTEE!!

480-380-3211

*DISCOUNT OFF MINIMUM JOB OF 235 S/F

FROM THE COVER



Banning cell phones from classrooms is going statewide. (Metro Creative)

Cell Phones

• From page 1

Public Instruction Tom Horne held a press conference Aug. 22, 2024, on wanting to ban cell phones from classrooms — and that he was looking for legislative help to do that — AJUSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Pappalardo was on hand to speak about the district's ban.

"I support the version signed into law as it reflects what AJUSD has already put into practice and reinforces a shared commitment to creating learning environments that limit distractions, encourage student engagement, and put kids first," Pappalardo said April 15.

"AJUSD proactively implemented a cell phone policy last year that

aligns closely with the new state law signed by Gov. Hobbs. Our policy was designed with the same intent — to reduce distractions, improve academic focus and support student well-being. Because of this foresight, our existing guidelines already meet the core requirements outlined in the legislation," he said.

AJUSD is reviewing the specific language of the new law to ensure full alignment, Pappalardo said.

"If any adjustments are needed to maintain compliance, we will make those updates accordingly, though we anticipate only minor clarifications rather than significant changes," he said.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

Correction

The story "Gold Canyon food bank sees increased demand" on page 1 of the April 2025 Apache Junction/Gold Canyon Independent should have said the food bank was named the Gold Canyon UMC Food Bank.



Step Up. Stop Cancer.

Help us stop childhood cancer in its tracks.



Isabella, 4

StepUpStopCancer.org

Harkins
THEATERS

Layton

5 FOR THE FIGHT



WE ARE PINAL COUNTY'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE

**2 YEARS OF
FREE IN-STATE
TUITION
FOR QUALIFYING
PINAL COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!**



PINAL
promise

Central
Arizona
College

LEARN MORE AT CENTRALAZ.EDU/PINALPROMISE



Looking for the **BEST** Insurance?

- All Types: Personal, Commercial, Health & Life Benefits
- Multiple Carrier Options
- Great Coverage & Rates
- Friendly, Local Insurance Experts
- Superior Service & Support

**Judy Holder
Insurance**



288 N. Ironwood Dr. STE 111
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

(480) 982-0273
jhins.net



**WE'RE HIRING
BUS DRIVERS!**

As a bus driver with HUSD, you'll enjoy:

- Paid Training Provided- No experience needed!
- Paid Holidays & Winter Break
- Flexible Schedules
- Benefits offered for full-time employees



hUSD.org/drivehigley



Join our team and make a difference in students' lives!

**GOLD CANYON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!
6640 South Kings Ranch Rd
(Just north of US Hwy 60)



SUNDAY WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL		SUPPORT GROUPS	
9:30am	Traditional	9:30am	Children	AA	Thursdays 7pm
11am	Praise	11am	Children & Youth	Cancer	Fridays 5:30pm
4pm	Gospel	12pm	Youth Fellowship	CareGivers	Call for schedule
				GriefShare	Fridays 11am
					Call for schedule

480.982.3776 • www.GoldCanyonUMC.org • Childcare at morning services



**CLK
PLUMBING, LLC**
ROC# 332239

\$79
**SEWER CAMERA
SPECIAL**
Normally up to \$350

- Drain Specials
- Water Heaters
- Water Softener Specials
- Remodel Specials

480-594-6775

clkplumbing1@gmail.com

clkplumbing.net

ROC# 332239

EDUCATION

Vans

• From page 8

breakdowns, it states in a governing board document.

Seven 77-passenger buses costing more than \$1 million were purchased by AJUSD in 2021 using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds from the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Governing board approval is needed to spend the insurance money to acquire the new vehicles, Gina Salazar, AJUSD director of business services, said to the board.

"In the last year, probably around March, one of our buses was involved in an accident and it was totaled and insurance company ... finally got the proceeds received on that. It was \$125,000," she said.

A board member asked why a re-

placement bus is not being purchased.

"Why are we not using the funds to purchase another bus that was totaled," Board Member Sandra Leen asked.

"Because we already purchased other buses. This was purchased with ESSER funds," Salazar said.

AJUSD has three elementary schools, a junior high school and a high school. In 2025 it is slated to open The Classical Academy at Superstition Mountain, a K-5 school designed to provide students with a traditional, liberal arts education. The district boundaries run from Meridian Road on the west to the town of Queen Valley on the east and from the Goldfield Mountains to the north, south into the San Tan Corridor. Communities served include Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Peralta Trail, Queen Valley and unincorporated Pinal County land in-between.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

Telehealth

• From page 8

do," Superintendent Robert Pappalardo said to the board.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne announced in January a new partnership with mental health care provider Cartwheel.

"This partnership with Cartwheel will help ensure that students in rural areas who wish to speak with counselors can do so with the appropriate permission and supervision of their parents," Horne said in a release.

The telehealth program can help address a range of common mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, loss and grief, stress, sleep issues, technology use, trauma and more,

according to the release.

AJUSD has three elementary schools, a junior high school and a high school. In 2025 it is slated to open The Classical Academy at Superstition Mountain, a K-5 school designed to provide students with a traditional, liberal arts education. The district boundaries run from Meridian Road on the west to the town of Queen Valley on the east and from the Goldfield Mountains to the north, south into the San Tan Corridor. Communities served include Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Peralta Trail, Queen Valley and unincorporated Pinal County land in-between.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

GOLD CANYON PLUMBING

WOMAN OWNED AND OPERATED

Goldcanyonplumber@gmail.com
For 24/7 Service Call (480) 217-7174



FEATURED IN
PLUMBER MAGAZINE

24/7 PLUMBING
SERVICE

Licensed
Bonded
Insured
ROC-269970-K37

GO GREEN WITH
PLUMBERWOMAN & GOLD
CANYON PLUMBING.

@PLUMBERWOMAN

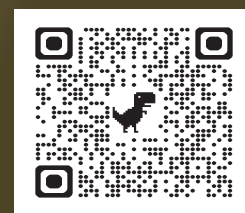
Office: 480-497-1110 • goldcanyonplumbing.com

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



BUG OFF
PEST CONTROL

- PEST CONTROL (No Contracts)
 - BEE REMOVAL
 - SCORPION PROOFING
 - SNAKE PROOFING
 - RODENT PREVENTION & TREATMENT
 - WEED CONTROL
 - PRE-EMERGENT SERVICES
 - TERMITE TREATMENTS
- Termidor® Certified



Utilizing Termatrac™
Technology
(Termite Detection Radar)

FAMILY OWNED
AND OPERATED
LICENSED & INSURED LIC #B407

480-370-5075

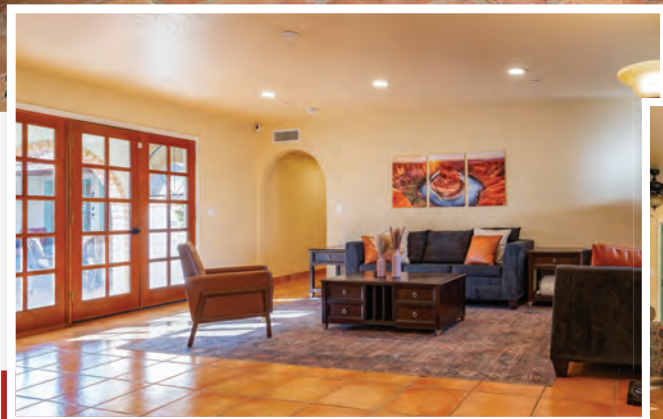
WWW.BUGOFFPESTAZ.COM

Discover resort-style living at Gold Canyon Assisted Living



Nestled in Arizona's picturesque Sonoran Desert. Our luxury assisted living facility offers a serene 4.5-acre property with stunning views of the Superstition Mountains. Enjoy easy access to top-notch healthcare, nearby churches, golf courses, hotels, and dining options. Experience upscale comfort and a vibrant community at Gold Canyon Assisted Living. Learn more at GoldCanyonAL.com.

Gold Canyon Assisted Living offers a range of amenities for its residents, including spacious private suites, gourmet dining, personalized care plans, and recreational activities tailored to residents' interests. The facility features beautifully landscaped grounds, common areas for socializing, and access to transportation for appointments and outings. Additionally, residents benefit from 24-hour on-site staff, fitness programs, and various wellness services aimed at enhancing their quality of life.



1ST MONTH FREE!*

Contact us to set up a tour

*first month free with a 6 month contract

480-983-0939 | GoldCanyonAL.com

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3-Month

4.20%
APY*

6-Month

4.05%
APY*

1-Year

3.90%
APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



David L. Culbertson

Financial Advisor

6724 S Kings Ranch Rd Ste 103
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
480-288-9341

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 04/15/25. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-18670-A-E-FL AECSPAD 24979682

GOVERNMENT

By-district elections discussed by Apache Junction council

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Doug Johnson of National Demographics Corp. gave a presentation during a recent city council work session on Apache Junction council members being elected to represent a district rather than being at-large.

Council members and the mayor had discussed moving to a district system during a recent council retreat.

If it were to have a council district system, the city of Apache Junction could be drawn into six districts of equal population with the mayor remaining a citywide position, Johnson said during an April 14 council work

session.

"They have to be equal population," he said. "It's not an equal number of registered voters or voters casting ballots or anything like that. It's people counted by the Census."

Elections would remain staggered with three council seats up for election every two years. Only the voters in a council district would vote for the representative of that district, Johnson said.

A change to by-district elections must be approved by voters unless districts are ordered by a judge, he said.

• See **Elections** on page 34

OPINION

Letters

• From page 10

environment that should make us all feel uncomfortable. Approving a National Crime Victims Rights Proclamation, and a National Public Health Week Proclamation. Good proclamations.

But they come at a time when all of us have become victims of an unprosecuted perpetrator of crime.

No public discussion about the hundreds of victims currently being denied our Constitution's first amendment right of freedom of speech. Victims snatched off American streets, arrested and detained without criminal charges, others deported without due process.

No discussion of our 23 states' lawsuit against the Trump administration's denial of some \$11 billion for public health, mental health and

addiction services.

No accountability for Trump's chaotic executive orders affecting Pinal County's economy, public health, schools, environment, work force, roads and highways, and sanctuary of churches.

Despite this display of intentional negligence of these threats, the American public is still free enough to dare confront the undeniable display of fascism emanating from Washington.

We must not be silenced by fear of unbridled authoritarians at any level of governance. I encourage fellow defenders of our Constitution to join in resistance to these threats facing us all.

Dare to speak out, dare to peaceably assemble. Dare to demand accountability.

Roberto Reveles
Gold Canyon



JAMES TIRE

480-982-7422

1755 W. Apache Tr. • Apache Junction

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR BY CERTIFIED AUTO TECHNICIANS

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

\$36⁹⁵
Plus Tax

Up to 5 quarts. Must
present coupon at
time of service

**WE CAN HELP WITH ALL OF YOUR
AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR NEEDS**



LARGE SELECTION OF TIRES IN STOCK AT ALL TIMES

IS KNEE PAIN KEEPING YOU FROM ENJOYING YOUR LIFE?

ARE YOU TIRED OF NOT GETTING RESULTS
AND WANT TO AVOID SURGERY?



INTEGRITY
CHIROPRACTIC
HEALTH CENTER

COME HEAR ABOUT OUR NEW NON-DRUG AND
NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT TO CORRECT
YOUR KNEE ISSUES.

JOIN OUR FREE BREAKFAST

TUESDAY MAY 20TH

@8:30 AM

PANERA BREAD COMPANY @DANA PARK

3426 E BASELINE RD SUITE 113

MESA, AZ 85204

WHEN:



WHERE:



WHO:



DR. AUSTIN MEINDERTSMA, D.C.



DR. JOSHUA SOHN, D.C.



SCAN ME

(480) 820-9147

WWW.INTEGRITYCHIROPRACTIC.COM

**SEATING IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 15
CALLERS! CALL TO RESERVE**

BIG O TIRES®

\$80-\$120 INSTANT SAVINGS*

on 4 select, in-stock Nitto, Nexen, Sumitomo,
or Cooper Tires with installation purchase.
Valid 4/28/2025 - 5/26/2025.

NITTO

NEXEN

NEXEN TIRE

SUMITOMO TIRES

COOPER TIRES

+ Zero interest if paid in full within 12 or 6 months

On purchases of \$1,200+ for 12 months or \$199 - \$1,199 for 6 months at participating locations with the Big O Tires® and Service Credit Card. Interest will be charged to your Account **from the purchase date** if the promotional plan balance is not paid in full within the promotional period. Promotional Plan Fee may apply.**

*\$120 Instant Savings on in-stock sets for four Nitto Crosstek2 tires. \$100 instant savings on in-stock sets of four Cooper Endeavor, Cooper Endeavor Plus, Nexen AH8, Sumitomo HTR Enhance LX2/Cx2 or Sumitomo Encounter HT2 tires. \$80 instant savings on in-stock sets of four Sumitomo HTR AS P03 or Nexen N-Priz AHS tires. Installation charges extra, required on all four tires. Disposal fees and shop fees extra where permitted. See store for pricing. Eligibility may vary. Not valid with other offers. At participating locations. No cash value. Valid 4/28/2025 - 5/26/2025. **Deferred Interest. Payment Required plan. Interest will be charged to your Account from the purchase date if the promotional plan balance is not paid in full within the promotional period. Minimum payments are required for each Credit Plan. Minimum payments are NOT guaranteed to pay the promotional plan balance within the promotional period. You may have to pay more than the minimum payment to avoid accrued interest charges. Valid for single transaction only. As of 04/2025, terms for new Accounts: Purchase APR of 35.99%. Minimum interest charge is \$3 in any billing period in which interest is due. Promotional Plan Transaction Fee is 2% of the promotional plan purchase. A fee of \$2.99 per month may apply for each paper billing statement mailed to you. You can avoid this fee by enrolling in paperless statements. Existing Cardholders: see your credit card agreement for Account terms. Credit card offers are subject to credit approval. Big O Tires® and Service Credit Card Accounts are issued by Comenity Capital Bank. The Big O Tires® and Service Credit Card is valid at participating Big O locations.



\$21⁹⁵

PREMIUM OIL CHANGE

**LUBE CHASSIS • REPLACE FILTER
22 POINT INSPECTION
4 TIRE ROTATION**

Up to 5 quarts conventional oil • Most cars & light trucks • At participating store
Shop supplies additional • With coupon • Not valid with any other offer
No cash value • Waste handling fee extra • Expires 5-31-25 • AllIndy425

BIG O TIRES



\$19⁹⁵

FREON EXTRA

**A/C PERFORMANCE
CHECK**

We'll thoroughly inspect your compressor, belts, hoses, pressure and temperature.

Refrigerant at additional cost, if needed • Valid on R134a systems.
R1234yf systems are additional • Shop supplies additional
Most vehicles • Not valid with other offers • No cash value • With coupon
At participating stores • Charge for additional parts/service if needed
See store for complete details • Expires 5-31-25 • AllIndy425

BIG O TIRES

**APACHE JUNCTION
35 S. IDAHO ROAD • 480-288-1978**

Tread designs may vary on all tires shown. Prices subject to change. State or local taxes or surcharges for environmental protection will be an extra charge.

Elections

• From page 32

“Typically the council votes to put the issue on the ballot,” Johnson said. “The voters of course could circulate an initiative with signatures to put it on the ballot themselves.”

Changing to council members representing a district and redrawing district maps following every decennial Census may cost \$30,000 to \$150,000 if there is a lot of public outreach, he said.

“We have some jurisdictions that have sent a postcard to every voter saying ‘We’re drawing districts; come participate.’ So you’re looking at at least \$30,000 essentially for one of these projects and it can get up to \$150,000. Of course in a city like Mesa or Phoenix it goes up even more,” Johnson said.

Council discussion

Councilmember Bambi Johnson said she and another council member are neighbors.

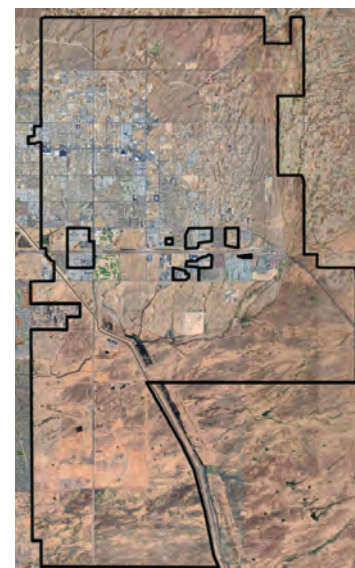
“I’m probably not a fan of this at this time just because I don’t think the city is really anywhere near this yet,” she said. “Let’s say that ‘poof, we are going to do districts’ and we drew them out. So based on it having to be split up relatively small, so many people, I mean so basically none of our council members could live in any vicinity to each other.”

A council member would need to live in the district he or she would run in, Johnson said later.

“So yeah that can definitely create issues if a lot of us live within proximity of each other,” Councilmember Darryl Cross said.

Councilmember Bryan Soller asked if there could be three districts with two council members in each.

“I believe so. I haven’t seen it done here but ... you might have to do it by charter, as a charter amendment. So



A change to by-district elections must be approved by voters unless districts are ordered by a judge. (City of Apache Junction)

yeah, you might have to get a charter to do that,” Johnson said.

“Because looking at this, the way our population is growing, three districts would be better than six,” Soller said.

Vice Mayor Robert Schroeder asked how many Arizona cities and towns with council districts are non-partisan.

City Attorney Joel Stern said most are nonpartisan.

As more residents move to housing subdivisions in south Apache Junction, residents there could run for council and dictate the future of the city, Cross said later.

“One of the reasons why this was brought up is the thoughts behind our city kind of being spread out with the new development to the south. And the thought process is, you know, in a very short order they could stack the elections and dictate everything about Apache Junction — how the rest of the horse community lives, how some of the mobile home parks live and they could override a lot of things that we currently hold near and dear to our hearts,” he said.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AZOpinions@iniusa.org.

Make Mother's Day Sparkle

Celebrate that special day with a tasteful touch of glamour from our fine jewelry collection.

20-60% OFF

regular prices



Kyhn's Jewelers

3061 W. Apache Trail | APACHE JUNCTION
480.982.0300
(S.E. corner Meridian & Apache Trail)

Your Family Jeweler since 1972

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?

JP ELECTRIC LLC

(602) 804-8806



SMALL LOCAL BUSINESS



- Lighting Upgrades
- Diagnose and Repair Electrical Issues
- Ceiling Fans
- Outdoor Power for Spas and RVs
- Panel Upgrades
- Electric Vehicle Chargers

LICENSED BONDED INSURED ROC #350839



Save the Dates

SENIOR EXPO

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

THE PREMIER SENIOR HEALTH & LIFESTYLE EXPOS



Sun City • May 5, 2025 • Sundial Recreation Center

Fountain Hills • July 15, 2025 • Fountain Hills Community Center

Sun City • September 24, 2025 • Sundial Recreation Center

Sun City West • October 21, 2025 • Briarwood Country Club

Chandler • February 24, 2026 • Sun Lakes Country Club

INTERESTED IN A SPONSORSHIP?
EMAIL AZADS@INIUSA.ORG OR CALL 623-972-6101

Is your HVAC system 10 years or older?

Stop sweating like you're in a sauna, and start relaxing in comfort again.



Call JLM Air Conditioning
Providing quality and comfort for generations



WE OFFER:
Factory Rebates
Utility rebates (restrictions apply)
Labor warranties
Manufacturer warranties
10 year parts replacement
Lifetime compressor replacement

\$500 OFF NEW SYSTEM INSTALL
Expires 5/31/2025

FREE DUCT CLEANING
when you purchase a new system
Expires 5/31/2025
Coupons may not be combined - 1 coupon per household

You value your family's comfort. We do too.
At JLM Air Conditioning and Heating, we believe that comfort is a critical part of what makes a house a home. Our team of certified technicians deliver the highest level of service.

602-619-3609

JLMairconditioningandheating.com

ROC #329152



FROM THE COVER

Marathon

• From page 22

We have so much positive feedback from runners who come out here and love, No. 1, that we're a 501(c)(3) so that all of us who are on the board and everything are full volunteers ... and all of the money that we raise goes right back to the community."

While some organizations have helped for years, volunteers are always needed, **Falb** said.

"We add some every year, some leave — it depends on the group. We've had a Girl Scout group here for 17 years volunteering with us," she said. "We have the youth that come out and I think people appreciate that running our race and seeing a lot of the youth that are supported by their adults and that people in charge of them are helping make it a success so it makes people feel even better about coming out."

Early beginnings

The marathon's concept started as a kernel of an idea when two Apache Junction residents met over beers at a local establishment, but it couldn't have succeeded without the support of four organizations that have helped since the beginning. They are the city of Apache Junction, Apache Junction Unified School District, Superstition Fire and Medical Dis-



A total of \$3,000 was given for the Apache Junction Police Department Cadet Program. (Independent Newsmedia, Richard H. Dyer)

trict, and Pinal County, Nine said during the banquet.

Nine recalled how he and Martin Loftus, both runners, talked about how there were few nearby marathons or races they could go to and surmised one could be held in Apache Junction.

"He said 'I've got to go all the way to Glendale to get a good run in' and I said 'Let's start a race here' ... and we talked about it," Nine said.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2026 EVENT

Groups that can work as a team or individuals are needed as volunteers for special projects throughout the year, during the final pre-race preparation, on race day or post race. Email volunteer coordinator Jody Dutra at volunteer@lostdutchmanmarathon.org.



A total of \$3,000 was given for the Superstition Fire and Medical District Cadet Program. (Independent Newsmedia, Richard H. Dyer)

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR 2026 EVENT

To learn more about available sponsorship opportunities for the 25th Anniversary Lost Dutchman Marathon taking place in 2026, go to www.lostdutchmanmarathon.org/sponsoring.

RUMBLE ON THE GRIDIRON:



With every ticket purchase, you're not just witnessing an epic game but also supporting the local community—Proceeds support community journalism at the Daily Independent newspaper at YourValley.net. It's a win-win!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PREPARE FOR A SHOWDOWN YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS.

LOCATION: DESERT DIAMOND ARENA, GLENDALE

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

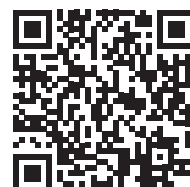
KICKOFF: 6:05 PM

DON'T WAIT—TICKETS WON'T LAST LONG.

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY AND BE PART OF THE ACTION!

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE

INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities
YourValley.net



CLASSIFIEDS



AUTOMOTIVE, GARAGE SALES & MERCHANDISE RATES

\$20 per market - 30 words

Your ad appears in the newspaper of choice plus online

\$5⁰⁰ for color and each additional photo
.25¢ extra per additional word

\$60 four markets - 30 words

Your ad appears in four newspapers of choice plus online

\$5⁰⁰ for color and each additional photo
.25¢ extra per additional word

BUSINESS/SERVICE DIRECTORY RATE

Starting at **\$30**

for one column by two-inch advertisement

\$15⁰⁰ per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)
Logo and photos included
4-weeks minimum

To place your ad call us at
623.972.6101

EMPLOYMENT ADS

Starting at **\$30**

for one column by two-inch advertisement

\$15⁰⁰ per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)
Logo and photos included
No minimum commitment requirement

EMAILS

iniclassads@iniusa.org

legals@iniusa.org

azobits@iniusa.org

**CLASSIFIED ADS
ONLINE**

Create Your Own
Ads Online, It's Easy!

Go to:

iniusa.org/classifieds

Then select "Place an ad"

VISIT US @ iniusa.org/classifieds / EMAIL US: iniclassads@iniusa.org

DEADLINE: Wednesdays by 3pm / **OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Friday 9am-4pm

Announcement



**Removal,
Relocation & Sales**

Joshua Trees Available!

Specializing in
Mature Plants & Cactus

Senior Discount

Saguaro • Totem Poles • Agave • Yucca • Mexican Fence Post

480-859-7561

ArizonaCactusExchange.com

2022
WINNER
BEST VALLEY
BUSINESS

Part Time

Remote Job Opportunities:

Part-Time Data Entry Specialist

We are seeking a detail-oriented and self-motivated individual to accurately and efficiently manage data in a flexible work environment.

Part-Time Customer Care Representative

We are looking for a customer-focused and reliable individual to assist with inquiries and provide support to our clients. Strong communication skills and a friendly demeanor are essential.

To Apply: Please send applications to
apply@willowsbridgepc.com

Your Ad Goes Here! To advertise call **623-972-6101**

Gutters



**RAIN GUTTER
EXPRESS**

Quality Products & Service

- Seamless 5" & 6" Gutter Installation
- Custom Fabrication
- Cleaning, Restoring & Repair

**FREE
ESTIMATES!**

www.RainGutterExpress.com

602-300-7472

LICENSED
BONDED • INSURED
ROC#347844

Building Materials

**GRANITE
DELIVERED**

Support Your Small Local Businesses

**Wyatt Works
Trucking**

480-330-2256

WHOLESALE
PRICING

Read the News



at
iniusa.org/classifieds



**BE
SEEN!**

In the Classifieds!
623-972-6101
iniusa.org/classifieds

Lawn & Garden



Services:

- Tree Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Tree Removal
- Wood Chipper
- Tractor Work Available
- Yard Maintenance
- Yard Clean ups
- Pavers
- Tractor Work Avail

**JOSE R CORTEZ
LANDSCAPING**

Please call or text - **480-232-2095**

FREE
ESTIMATES

Pets/Supplies



Bark Bath & Beyond

CATS & DOGS

Pet Grooming

NOW OPEN under NEW Management

\$5 OFF

GROOMING • PET BOARDING COMING SOON!

Call to for your appointment

10839 E APACHE TRAIL #127
480-219-7665

Plumbing Supplies



**GOLD CANYON
PLUMBING**

WOMAN OWNED AND OPERATED

HELP HAS ARRIVED!

LIC, Bonded, INS • ROC-269970-K37

Go Green
with
Gold Canyon
Plumbing

Call 24/7 **480-497-1110**
<https://www.goldcanyonplumbing.com/>



**TREASURE
Chest
INC
GRANITE PIT**

480-983-1606

Mon. - Fri. 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
5063 N. Starr Rd. • Apache Junction
North on Idaho to McKellips, go east till it ends, turn left, stay on paved road to the Pit. Delivery Available

We
Deliver

CALL THE EXPERTS

To place your ad call 623.972.6101 or email iniclassads@iniusa.org

Automobiles

WANTED
older cars 1940's 50's 60's 70's 80's 90's 2000's.
Running or not. Can tow non running car.
Please Call or Text me what you have
480-375-8959
or email
oldear@usa.com



AC/Heating

SERVICE1ST
HOME MAINTENANCE
HVAC

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Free Estimates on NEW Units
- \$89 Service Fee (waived with repair)
- Senior Discounts on Repairs
- We Offer Financing

\$39.95 Winter/Summer Checkup
with coupon

CALL TODAY!
602-898-Home (4663)
Licensed / Bonded / Insured / ROC 354145
www.service1stvac.com



Clean Windows

Mom Was Right!
Quality Work
& Tidy Inside Your Home

APPEARANCE COUNTS WINDOW CLEANING

1 Story \$170 Includes: Inside & Out
2 Story \$200 Up to 30 Panes
(Additional Panes - \$4 Each) (Screens Cleaned \$3 Each)

We Also Offer: Solar Panel Cleaning.
Fan & Light Fixture Cleaning & Pressure Washing

Call Ron - 480-584-1643

SINCE 1995



John's Window Cleaning
The Owners Clean Your Windows!

1-STORY \$200 SCREENS \$3 EA.
2-STORY \$225 ADD'L PANES \$3 EA.
INSIDE & OUT UP TO 30 PANES

MOBILE SCREENING
480.201.6471



Electrical

ELECTRICAL
Custom Creations Electric LLC
Commercial & Residential
Licensed-Bonded-Insured - ROC#219009 C11

New Construction or Remodels
Custom Homes & Additions
Tenant Improvements
Trouble Shooting & Repairs
Service Changes
EV Charger Installs

Since 2006

Steven Hamilton
480-238-5495 shccellc@gmail.com



Your Ad Goes Here! To advertise call 623-972-6101

Electrical

FOR ALL OF YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

D.T.L. ELECTRIC INC
ROC - 133603

IF ELECTRIC RUNS TO IT,
WE CAN DO IT!

• Licensed • Bonded • Insured

480-226-8850

FREE ESTIMATES



Handyman

Darwin Hopkins
Home Repair & Handyman Services

- Water Heaters (electric only)
- Toilets
- Light Plumbing
- Faucets Disposals
- Electrical
- Light Drywall Repair
- Ceiling Fans
- Door Installation
- Lighting
- And More

Repair • Replace • Install
Dependable & Fully Insured

480-628-4512

FREE ESTIMATES



**Call
Today
and
Get
Results**

**To Advertise
CALL
623-972-6101**

Health Care

AZ Whole Heart Connection, LLC
Professional Mental Health Counseling.

Treatment for children, adolescents
adults, couples and families.

**6641 S Kings Ranch Rd., Suite 1,
Gold Canyon, AZ
(480) 371-5883
connect@whctherapy.com
www.whctherapy.com**



Home Improvement

TEWA BUILDS QUALITY WORK GUARANTEED

We Provide These Services

- Built-in cabinetry and shelving
- Door installation and repair
- Custom woodworking
- Door and window trim
- Crown molding

HONEST ESTIMATES

480-332-2187
info@tewabuilds.com



Landscape Contractors

MIGUEL VARGAS LANDSCAPING

We Can Provide:

- Regular yard services
- Irrigation repair and install
- Tree trimming
- Yard clean up

Free Estimates

480-251-5892



Painting

CAMERON COATINGS COMPANY

- Surface Restoration
- Interior/Exterior Painting
- Garage Floors/Pool Decks
- New Construction & More

480-331-0920
www.cameroncoating.com

ROC#324184 LICENSED & INSURED
COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • RESIDENTIAL

We accept: 

All Work Guaranteed



Post your Items for Sale

OPEN LATE

at YourValley.net

View Valleywide Classified Ads

at

iniusa.org/classifieds

Landscaping

D&D's

LANDSCAPING SERVICE

- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Complete Yard Clean Up

Call Today for a
Cleaner Tomorrow!



FREE
ESTIMATES

480-432-7050 • 480-306-3253

Licensed • Insured

Painting

CRAIG ALLEN PAINTING



Exterior/Interior
Drywall Repairs
Epoxy Floors

Free
No Pressure
Estimate!

Owner Operated
Licensed-Bonded-Insured-ROC #330199

480-221-7375

ALL MAJOR
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Plumbing



PLUMBING SERVICES

WE ARE A FULL-SERVICE PLUMBING COMPANY

SPECIALIZE IN WATER & SEWER LINE REPAIR & REPLACEMENT

- Drain & Sewer • Water Leaks • Hydro Jetting
- Camera Inspections • And More

rescuemyplumbing.com

480.286.5372

LOCALLY OWNED
Licensed, Bonded & Insured
ROC# 333354

Plumbing

- DRAIN CLEANING
- WATER HEATERS AND SOFTENERS
- TOILETS • FAUCETS
- GARBAGE DISPOSALS
- AND MORE



24/7

Locally Owned & Operated
Licensed-Bonded-Insured

No Job
too
SMALL!

Call Tom

480-401-8334 480PlumbingAZ.com



- Residential & Commercial
- Emergency 24 Hour Service
- Senior & Military Discounts
- Licensed & Insured

We ARE The Master
Drain Cleaners!

FREE
ESTIMATES

480-288-4584 | mikedavisplumbing@gmail.com

Remodeling



Specializing in:

Drywall & Stucco Repairs

- Bath & Kitchen Remodels • Cabinets
- Remodeling • Painting • Plumbing • Electrical
- Doors & Windows • Roofing • Tenant Improvements
- Water & Fire Damage Restoration

Fast 24 hour response!

480-430-7737 Cell

480-833-7353 Office

Since
1978

aaaActionContractingInc.com

LIC/BONDED/INSURED | Residential | Commercial | ROC#218802



- Bath & Kitchen Remodel
- Painting • Plumbing • Doors
- Dry Wall & Stucco Repair
- Cabinets • Electric
- Roofing • Handyman Service

LOCAL RESIDENT • ROC #289321 and ROC #289320

(480) 232-6017 studmanak47@aol.com

Your Ad Goes Here! To advertise call 623-972-6101

Transportation

TRANSPORTATION

Airport Transportation



- Direct Personal Ride
- Door to Door Service on YOUR Schedule
- No Stops • No Waiting
- Insured

Design A Ride
Transportation

Affordable
&
Dependable!

480-707-1393 www.dartaz.com

Tree Trimming

ARBORIST/TREE SERVICE



FAMILY TREE TRIMMING LLC

"It's Not Just Tree
Trimming, It's FAMILY
TREE TRIMMING"



We Trim or
Remove Anything!

No Tree Too BIG or SMALL!

familytreelc.landscape@gmail.com

GOT A
TREE?
CALL ME!

CODY GRAHAM 480-340-7907

Roofing

Senior & Military
Discounts

YORK ROOFING & PAINTING LLC

Specializing in Repairs & Replacements

Roof Repairs • Roof Replacements • Flat Roofs Coatings • Tile • Shingles Foam Roofing • Mobile Home & Patio Roofs • Turbine Repairs • House Painting



John York - Owner/Operator



FREE
ESTIMATES

602-705-5209

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
ROC #188602 #327991, #327992, #327993



DEDICATED TO QUALITY AND SERVICE

No job too big or small
Senior discounts available

ROC # 305771

Licensed Bonded Insured

480-518-3246

FREE
ESTIMATES

Weatherproof LLC

(800) 230-5341 (480) 823-1138

Senior
Discounts



Family Owned
& Operated

Free Evaluation

- ★ New Roofs-Roofing Repair
- Shingle, Tile, Flat & Foam Roofs
- ★ Turbine Vent Replacement
- ★ Exterior House Painting

We Fix Roof Leaks!

ROC #317976



ROC #317977

Just a click away!



iniusa.org/classifieds

Catch small problems BEFORE they become BIG problems!
HEATING & A/C REPAIR

24/7



WE FIX IT
HOME SERVICES, LLC

**ARIZONA
NATIVE**

CALL NOW!
480-908-6100

An HVAC Company You Can Trust!

WeFixitAzAir.com

- Repairs
- Maintenance
- Installations
- Free Second Opinions
- Indoor Air Quality
- Service ALL Brands
- Duct Cleaning
- Dryer Vent Cleaning

**Family Owned
& Operated**

Licensed, Bonded,
Insured with ROC 335037



**\$0 SERVICE CALL
WITH ANY REPAIR!**

480-908-6100

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services

FREE estimate
on replacement or
2nd opinion

480-908-6100

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services

\$59⁹⁹ 32 point
per unit tune up
includes condenser
coil acid wash

480-908-6100

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services

0% Interest Financing, O.A.C With Repairs & Installation