

Community

Students in walkout get unexcused absence; **4**

APACHE JUNCTION/GOLD CANYON

INDEPENDENT



Education

Team wins at Lego robotics regional tournament; **24**

March 2026 Volume 68 Issue 3 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper · YourValley.net

Teen wins gold, eyes next Paralympian challenge



By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Rumi Walsh of Apache Junction recently shot in an Arizona Junior Olympics competition in 10-meter air rifle, winning first place and a gold medal in her division as a Paralympian.

Born with symbrachydactyly, with one hand, the 14-year-old shot with a borrowed Anschutz 9015 .177 air rifle on a custom

• See **Paralympian** on page **14**

Rumi Walsh of Apache Junction on her custom shooting bench waiting to start the Jan. 31 Arizona Junior Olympics competition at Rio Salado Sportsman's Club in Mesa. (Caryn Walsh)

IN MEMORY

Memorials planned for longtime city employee, volunteer

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Commission recently received an update on a memorial planned for a longtime city employee who died and discussed how to recognize the work of a longtime volunteer who also died.



Jeff Bell (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Plans are in place to dedicate the city of Apache Junction softball fields at Prospector Park in honor of Jeff Bell, former parks and recreation director. The recognition could be done this fall, Parks and Recreation Director Liz Langenbach said during the commission's Feb. 4 meeting.

"Renaming, putting all that stuff there at the softball complex," she said.

A sign could be put on the main building stating it is Jeff Bell Ball

• See **Memorials** on page **6**

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ON YOURVALLEY.NET

Police ID man killed in officer-involved shooting

Charles Back, 69, has been identified as the man killed Feb. 14 after a shooting involving Apache Junction police officers, authorities said.

The investigation, which is continuing, revealed Back had a Sig Sauer BB gun that he raised at officers, which is when the officer-involved shooting occurred, police said.

GO TO:
https://tinyurl.com/4h6mymfy

1 person in critical condition after mobile home fire

One adult victim was rescued and was transported to the hospital in extremely critical condition from a mobile home fire early this morning in Apache Junction.

GO TO:
https://tinyurl.com/4822fu5m

Road construction begins on Old West Highway, Winchester

The Arizona Department of Transportation is administering a pedestrian improvement project on sections of Old West Highway and Winchester Road in Apache Junction to enhance safety and accessibility in the area. Construction began Feb. 9 and continues through December.

Project locations are the south side of Old West Highway from Winchester Road to Goldfield Road, and Winchester Road from Ninth Avenue to Old West Highway.

GO TO:
https://tinyurl.com/2xbfswkv

COMMUNITY NEWS

Students in ICE walkout to receive an unexcused absence, AJUSD says

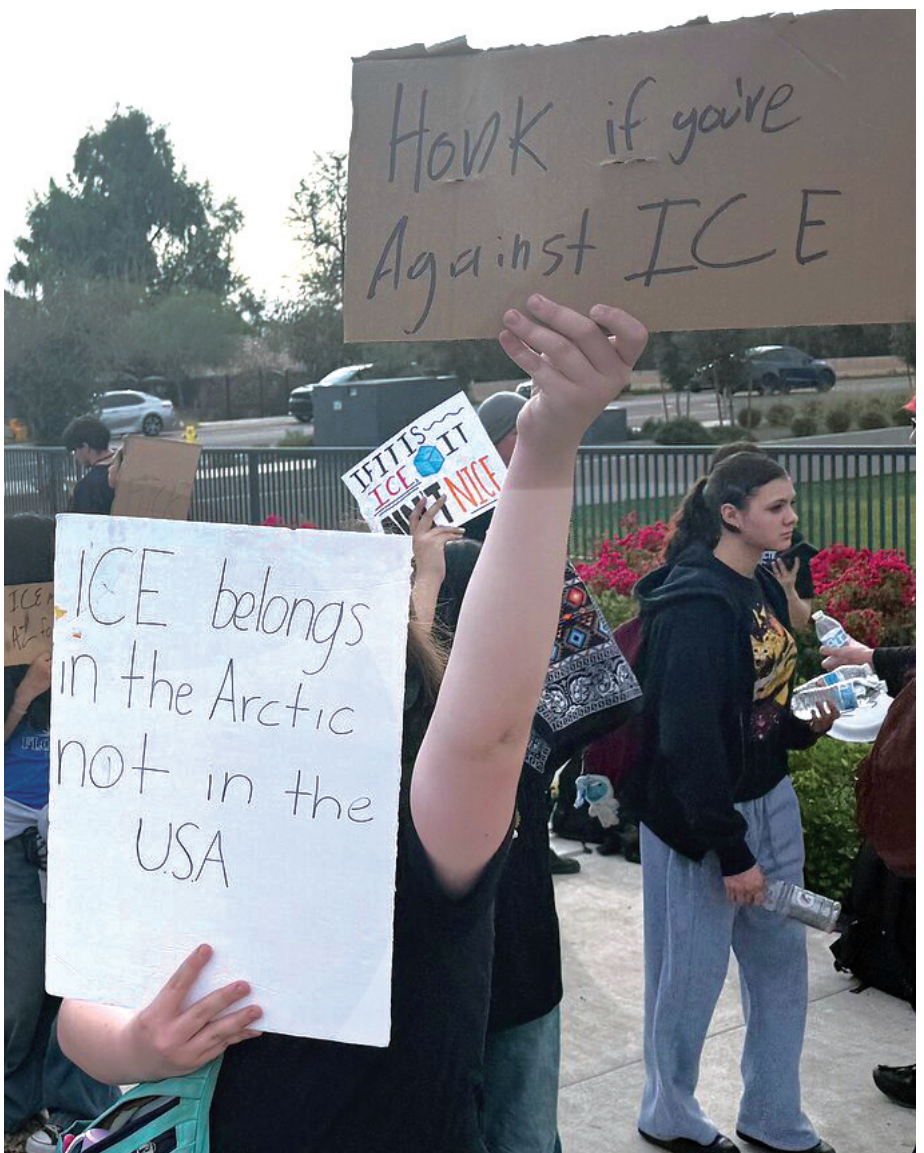
Prior to the Jan. 30 walkout by Apache Junction High School and Cactus Junction High School students, school district officials notified families that students leaving campus during the school day would receive an unexcused absence under its standard attendance policies.

That is according to Apache Junction Unified School District's website at "Setting the Record Straight: Student Walkout."

"Apache Junction Unified School District is aware of questions and misinformation circulating regarding a student walkout that occurred during the school day," it states.

It also states:

- The school district did not organize, support, or supervise the walkout. We did not endorse the purpose or timing of the event.
- Prior to the walkout, we notified families that students leaving campus during the school day would receive an unexcused absence under our standard attendance policies.
- Our schools maintain closed campuses. Students who left campus did so on their own and were subject to our established attendance and campus safety procedures.
- Students who missed instructional time will address it through our regular policies for handling absences.
- No school employees participated in or accompanied students during the walkout while on duty.
- We are a nonpartisan public school district. We do not take political positions or use instructional time to promote political viewpoints. At the same time, students retain their constitutional rights to express their views outside of school authority, provided this does not disrupt school operations or compromise safety.
- Acknowledging that an event occurred does not constitute endorsement. Our responsibility is to ensure student safety, follow established policies, and communicate accurate information to families and the community.
- We remain committed to transparency, consistent enforcement of policies, and maintaining our focus on student learning and well-being.



Students protested ICE actions across the country. (Independent Newsmedia, Jason Stone)

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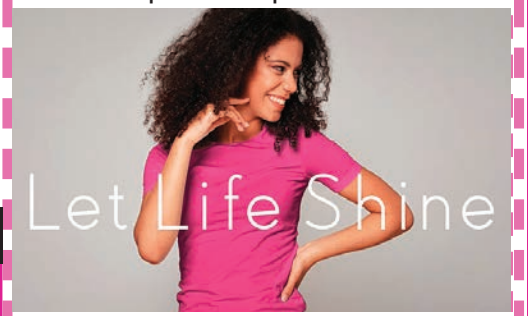
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FROM THE COVER

Memorials

• From page **1**

Field or Jeff Bell Softball Complex, Langenbach said.

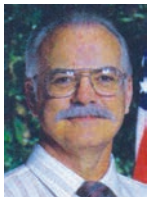
"Using his whole name was kind of what was suggested to me because over time, while it might be meaningful to us, there will be people who would never know who he is until they read maybe something that's there. Or maybe there's other Bells and people wouldn't know it was him versus somebody different," she said.

In addition to the sign there is to be a storyboard showing the history of the parks department, which started with Bell, she said.

"That storyboard would talk about his history through the 35 years he was there," she said.

Bell — the city's only parks director until his retirement in 2016 — died in 2019 after an illness. He was 61. Bell steered the city's parks department for 35 years and oversaw the development of more than 2,000 acres of park and open space, it states in an August 2022 Apache Junction/Gold Canyon Independent article.

The city's parks and recreation commission on July 6, 2022, voted to recommend to the council that the fields at the park, 3015 N. Idaho Road, be dedicated to Bell, it states.



Wayne Standage in a 2016 image (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

The 2022 article also quotes Commission Chairman Wayne Standage recalling Bell's work to build Prospector Park.

Standage died late in 2025, and the commission Feb. 4 briefly discussed possible ways to mark what he had done

• See **Memorials** on page **22**



An Apache Junction High School Prospectors softball game in 2016. Plans are in place to dedicate the city of Apache Junction softball fields at Prospector Park in honor of Jeff Bell, former parks and recreation director. (Independent Newsmedia, Arianna Grainey)

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BUSINESS LICENSES

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

There were 58 business licenses issued in January 2026 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.

- My Skin Therapy LLC; Apache Junction; Mariah Snyder; Beauty Salons (812112).
- Visionit Media LLC; Gilbert; Sara Kramer; Commercial Printing (Except Screen And Books) (323111).
- Roadrunner Pressure Washing LLC dba Road Runner Logistics; Apache Junction; Austin Hinman; Drycleaning And Laundry Services (Except Coin-Operated) (812320).
- Gredler Enterprises Inc. dba Signline; Apache Junction; Karl Gredler; Sign Manufacturing (339950).
- MVS Phoenix; Phoenix; Alan Artunian; Mobile Food Services (722330).
- David Sullivan dba Kettle And Cotton; Snowflake; David Sullivan; not listed.
- Traditional Sporting Goods Inc. dba Traditions; Old Saybrook, Connecticut; Kim Modehn-Hall; Sporting And Recreational Goods And Supplies Merchant Wholesalers (423910).
- Wood-N-Crate Design LLC; Apache Junction; Carole Alger; All Other Consumer Goods Rental (532289).
- Power Of Water LLC; Show-low; Leann Findlay; Household Appliances, Electric Housewares, And Consumer Electronics Merchant Wholesalers (423620).

• See **Business** on page **23**

FIRST RESPONDERS

$547K architect contract approved for new south Apache Junction fire station

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

An architect will be paid nearly $550,000 for work including adapting a Daisy Mountain Fire Station No. 144 design into a new 11,000-square-foot fire station for Blossom Rock in south Apache Junction.

Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical covers a community of 65,000 residents north of Phoenix and east of Interstate 17. It includes the communities of Anthem, Black Canyon City, the town of Cave Creek, New River and Desert Hills, it states at https://www.daisymountainfire.org.

Using an existing fire station design will save the Superstition Fire and Medical District more than $300,000, Fire Chief John Whitney said at the fire district board of directors' Feb. 18 meeting.

"(W)e went for a site-adaptive plan, meaning they're taking plans from another fire department with their approval and we are adapting them to the site and location of ours. That is going to save us $300,000 to $400,000 in this process... That's how we are approaching the fiscal conservancy of this," he said.

The SFMD board of directors on Feb. 18 voted 3-0 to approve a consent agenda that included a $547,952.60 agreement and fee proposal with Perlman Architects. Board members Jeff Cross and Jason Moeller were absent.

Perlman Architects was chosen following a request for qualifications, Whitney said.

"We did go out for bid. We went through a fully functional RFQ process to select our architect. We went though that, numerous meetings, numerous scoring matrixes, etc.... So we went through that process," he said. "We ended up selecting an architect that is very familiar with fire station construction that deals with mixed-use spaces that require living and working areas, that have hot zones/cold zones, that are (National Fire Protection Association) compliant, that deal with all of the complexities and uniqueness of fire stations."



The Superstition Fire and Medical District, which is primarily funded by property taxes, provides fire suppression, fire prevention, wildland protection, advanced life support, rescue, extrication and medical transportation services out of five fire stations in Apache Junction and Gold Canyon. (Independent Newsmedia, Arianna Grainey)

• See **Contract** on page **19**



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MINDSAGE FLOW

Compiled by Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

IN THE NEWS

1 Elected leaders and staff from the city of Apache Junction joined local businesses and stakeholders at **Sundt Construction**'s groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction on its 65,000-square-foot manufacturing facility near the southwest corner of Tomahawk Road and U.S. Highway60. The industrial building is expected to create approximately 100 new job opportunities for the city in this first phase. Construction is anticipated to be completed in the first quarter of 2027. Go to https://www.sundt.com.

2 **Garmin** has acquired a hangar and office complex at Mesa Gateway Airport. The airport is operated by the Mesa Gateway Airport Authority, with representation from Apache Junction, Mesa, Queen Creek, Gilbert and the Gila River Indian Community. The new facility space will expand the company's capacity for its aircraft certification and flight test organizations. Go to go to Garmin.com/Aviation.

3 Fire-protection service **Siphon Draw Global**, 4650 N. Mammoth Mine Road north of Apache Junction, recently posted on Facebook @ SiphonDrawGlobal that along an approximate 17.1-mile corridor from Goldfield Substation to Queen Valley, it cleared vegetation around 500 230kV and 115kV wooden poles and wrapped them with fire mesh to provide protection against wildfires. Go to https://siphondrawfireandfuels.com.

4 The Feb. 19 Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce networking mixer was held at **Three Feather Financial**, 185 N. Apache Trail Suite No. 8 in Apache Junction, included a special ribbon-cutting celebration for Maggie Berizzi of Three Feather Financial, it states on Facebook @ AJChamber. Go to https://www.ajchamber.com

5 The Apache Junction City Council on Feb. 17 voted unanimously to approve a consent agenda that included awarding a bid to **Cholla Pavement Maintenance Inc.**, 5254 S. Warner Drive in Apache Junction, for a one-year contract with the option to renew for up to five years with a maximum contract value of $1.5 million to supply and deliver pre-coated chips to the city for chip-sealing maintenance of roads.

NOW OPEN

6 **Lost Dutchman Liquidators** recently opened at 306 S. Ironwood Drive in Apache Junction. The business has discounted tools, home improvement items, plumbing supplies, lawn and garden products, appliances, home goods and more — all sourced from major retailers and priced at a fraction of retail, it states in a release on Facebook. Call 480-252-5465.

7 **Taco Giro Mexican Grill** reopened Feb. 19 at 1520 W. Apache Trail in Apache Junction. "We're open, Apache Junction. Come enjoy the same authentic Mexican flavors and the good vibes you love," it states on Facebook @ tacogirorestaurant. In a Dec. 6 post on Facebook, the restaurant said, "Our restaurant will be temporarily closed while we take a short pause to make a few necessary adjustments so we can continue offering the warm service and unique flavors you love. We truly appreciate your patience and your continued support during this time. We'll be ready to welcome you back very soon." Go to https://tacogirorestaurant.com.

OPENING SOON

8 **Mindsage Flow**, a meditation studio and curated art gallery at 6268 S. Kings Ranch Road in Gold Canyon, has a grand opening noon-4 p.m. March 7, it states at https://mindsageflow.com. The business is "designed as a space for clarity, creativity and meaningful pause. It's a place where mindful practice and creative expression coexist — where people can slow down, reconnect with themselves, and experience both inner and outer inspiration," it states. The grand opening includes a chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony, live jazz guitar, a studio open house and a chance to meet the artists.



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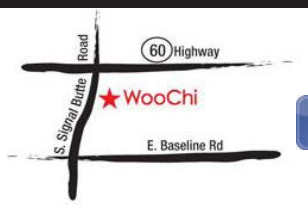


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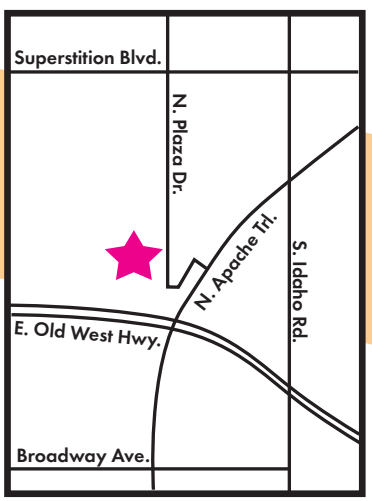
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FROM THE COVER

Paralympian

• From page **1**

shooting bench to help support the fore-end of the rifle.

"My medal looks like everyone else's. I did the same thing they did, just a little differently," Walsh said in an email.

While she was the only Paralympian competing, she shot at the same time as others during the Jan. 31 competition at Rio Salado Sportsman's Club in Mesa.

"There were 10 other air rifle competitors in the same heat. It was fairly quiet except for the launching and impact of pellets. It was a lot of fun. It was my first time competing with juniors. I'm used to being the youngest competitor," Walsh, who with her twin sister Halo, recently turned 15.

She had a 589-32 electronic integer score out of a maximum of 600 points, it states at http://www.riojuniors.com/junior-olympics.html.

Athletes had one hour and 15 minutes to shoot 60 shots into the electronic targets, John Karadsheh, junior division director at Rio Salado Sportsman's Club, stated in an email.

"Each shot is worth 10 points for a maximum of 600 points. Rumi shot a 589/600. The 32 is her X-count. Deep 10s are counted as Xs. The X-count is used as a tie-breaker in the event that two or more shooters have the same score," he said.

Rumi is the only Paralympian who has competed in air rifle in more that a dozen years, he said.

"I've been running that match for the last nine years and have been involved in it for the last 13, and Rumi is the first para shooter in Arizona that I am aware of," Karadsheh said.

Rumi's classification is SH2, which means someone doesn't have the upper body strength to support an air rifle so they use a certified spring stand, her mother, Caryn Walsh, stated in an email.



Rumi Walsh of Apache Junction with her gold medal. (Caryn Walsh)

She is not in the SH2 modified classification, which means someone doesn't have two hands to support an air rifle. Their spring stand has a stiffer spring so it wobbles a bit less. It's not like using a bag or a lead sled, and the rifle has to be touching one side of the stand so it is off balance, she said.

Caryn Walsh is hopeful that with such a high score, Rumi will get an invite to the Junior Olympic Championship.

"We expect that Rumi's high score, which far surpassed the minimum score necessary, will earn her an invitation to the National Junior Olympics in Alabama in April," she said. "This is important because Rumi does not have local SH2 peers. She has mentored adults along her way, however."



Rumi Walsh shooting during practice on a different day than the competition. (Caryn Walsh)

The automatic invite cut score for air rifle is 585. First-round invites will be sent no later than Feb. 27, it states in a 2026 USA Shooting, Arizona State Junior Olympics Air Rifle Championship Program form at Rio Salado Sportsman's Club's website.

Rumi is excited about the possibility of being asked to go to the championship.

"It's a huge step toward Paralympics. I've never just been in a group of disabled junior shooters before. My people!" she said.

Going to Alabama in April won't affect her education. Rumi started homeschooling during lockdown and goes to Eagleridge Enrichment and Mesa Distance Learning.

• See **Paralympian** on page **20**

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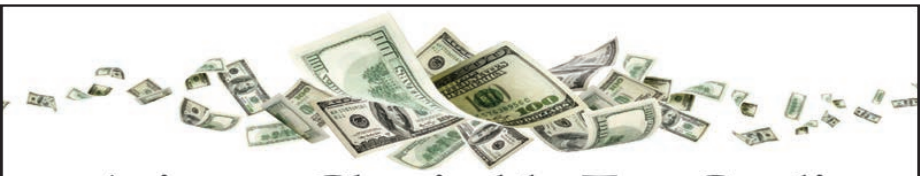
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Speak Up

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.

SPEAK UP

Here are some comments about stories happening in your area:

'ICE OUT FOR GOOD RALLY' SATURDAY HOSTED BY APACHE JUNCTION GOLD CANYON INDIVISIBLE GROUP

"As a long time resident of Apache Junction I support this, I want to see our community supported and our rights upheld. I am pro human rights." — **Felicia Madrid** via Facebook comment

***

"Need an 'ICE In' rally." — **Grant Leonard** via Facebook comment

***

"Get all illegals out now ." — **David Murray** via Facebook comment

***

"Love ICE. Let them do their job." — **Vern Larson** via Nextdoor comment

***

"Vern, by killing American citizens. No thank you." — **CINDY KEEVER** via Nextdoor comment

APACHE JUNCTION STUDENTS IN ICE WALKOUT TO RECEIVE AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE, AJUSD SAYS

"Why are they hiding their faces? Go protest in Iran." — **Judith O'hara** via Facebook comment

***

"Arizona is almost last in education. I don't think an extra day is gonna matter any." — **Alyna Jae Vargas** via Facebook comment

***

"Absolutely an unexcused absence. They are in school to learn not protest." — **kaye hind** via Nextdoor comment

***

"kaye, they'll learn more about how their government really operates by going to the protest than they will in 10 classroom days." — **Thomas Borjon** via Nextdoor comment

***

"Thomas, don't get them started protesting. They will learn things as they get older. They need to learn to be respectful, job oriented and to depend on themselves. Protesting is for people who are living with Mom and Dad, on welfare and want to cause trouble, not changes. Leave these young people alone to grow up and be good, happy people. Protesting is not going to change a thing and might even get you hurt or killed. Decent people are not out there." — **Darla Bush** via Nextdoor comment

KENADIE 'KENNA' FLEMING, 17, MISSING FROM APACHE JUNCTION, POLICE SAY

"So many missing. Praying for her ." — **Joan Carbajal** via Newsbreak comment

GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN APACHE JUNCTION SCHOOLS

"Need to train users to ask completely thought out questions, and ask for complete and footnoted source answers. Also need to train not to just accept AI answers. It can suffer from garbage in garbage out just like all computers since beginning, and people too." — **Deb G.** via Nextdoor comment

***

"I don't believe it should be used for everything. We need to think or lose it." — **Andrea Polecheck** via Nextdoor comment

APACHE JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS TO BE OFFERED PATH TO GRADUATION

"Reaching out to young people and showing them the path to success is very important to us all." — **Dolly Winkelmann** via Nextdoor comment

***

"That's what the GED is for, unless the 'participation trophy' of attending graduation is the goal. Sounds like a waste of resources. Most GED programs have a graduation ceremony." — **Chris C.** via Nextdoor comment

***

"Young people deserve second chances. Most people deserve a second chance." — **Letitia S.** via Nextdoor comment

APACHE JUNCTION SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS HEAD TO CONFERENCES IN NASHVILLE, MIAMI

"Wow! More waste." — **Terri Kridler** via Facebook comment

***

"Attend virtually, save $10,000." — **Seth Art** via Facebook comment

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MARCH 1

Western Concert

Dave Stamey has made it his life's work to celebrate the rural American West. In the past two decades he has recorded 11 albums of original music, traveled thousands of miles and performed thousands of shows doing just that. Come for an afternoon of music celebrating cowboy music and values. Starts at 3 p.m. outdoors between buildings C and F at Central Arizona College's Superstition Mountain Campus, 805 S. Idaho Road. Cost is $20.
Go to centralaz.edu/cac-calendar

MARCH 7-8

Superstition Sleepover

Camper check in and set up starts at noon and activities begin at 3 p.m. at Prospector Park, 3015 N. Idaho Road. For $15 a person, campers will get the chance to set up their own camp site on the softball fields and participate in a variety of activities including outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and a special showing of "Up" on the big screen while enjoying s'mores. The Handlebar will be providing dinner for all campers. The following morning, campers will rise to a sunrise and a continental breakfast.
This is a great event for anyone who likes camping but doesn't want to go alone or have to rough it in the wilderness. All you need is a tent and a sleeping bag and Parks and Recreation will take care of the rest, it states in a release.
Register at tinyurl.com/54tbxj9t. For information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 480-983-2181.

MARCH 28

Dino Day

Join the Apache Junction Parks & Recreation Department 4-6 p.m. for the free event at Flatiron Community Park, 100 N. Apache Trail. Take a trip back in time and discover what the world was like in the Jurassic age. Activities are to include finding dinosaur eggs, various crafts and games, replica Jurassic Park vehicles, and even live dinos. Once the event concludes, stick around for a special showing of "The Land Before Time" beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event page is facebook.com/share/18CkreU2JF

THINGS TO DO

Arizona Baseball Museum opens at historic Lehi auditorium

The Mesa Historical Museum recently hosting the grand opening of the Arizona Baseball Museum, dedicated solely to Arizona's baseball history.

Located in the historic Lehi auditorium at 2345 N. Horne in Mesa, the museum shares the story of the origins of baseball in Arizona from early military posts and mining towns to community teams and the rise of spring training. The museum explores the birth of the Cactus League and the role Arizona communities played in making the state a spring training destination.

Visitors can see historic photographs, memorabilia and personal stories that highlight both well-known players and the many people behind the scenes-groundskeepers, team staff, local organizers, and fans-who helped baseball thrive here.



The museum shares the story of the origins of baseball in Arizona from early military posts and mining towns to community teams and the rise of spring training. (Independent Newsmedia, Richard H. Dyer)

"This is a story that hasn't been told in one place before," Mesa Historical Museum Executive Director Susan Ricci said. "Arizona helped shape the game of baseball — from barnstorming teams to the creation of the Cactus League. We are excited to finally give that history a permanent home."

The Arizona Baseball Museum provides a year-round destination for residents, baseball fans, and visitors. The museum will also offer special programs, guest speakers, and seasonal exhibits tied to spring training and Arizona baseball milestones.

Go to https://www.arizonabaseballmuseum.org.

Apacheland Movie Weekend March 7-8 at museum

The Superstition Mountain Lost Dutchman Museum is hosting the Apacheland Movie Weekend March 7-8.

March 7 begins with Dinner with Dante, a curated dinner at the museum, 4087 E. Apache Trail in Apache Junction, with Western movie star Michael Dante, according to a release.

March 8 kicks off Cheers to Charro! with an 11 a.m. screening of the Elvis Presley movie "Charro!" filmed in part in the chapel at the museum grounds, with staff expert commentary. The afternoon rounds out with a screening of "Arizona Raiders" in the Audie Murphy barn, with insider commentary by film and television legend Dante. The family-friendly event will take place on the museum grounds.

"I look forward to returning to the Superstition Mountain Lost Dutchman Museum for the 'Apacheland Movie Weekend,'" Dante said in the release, "where I have so many great memories of working in the barn with Audie Murphy and an excellent cast in 'Arizona Raiders.' Those were fun days!"

Dinner with Dante costs $75 per couple. Purchase tickets at www.smldm.org or through the museum shop.

"Charro!" and "Arizona Raiders" will be screened for free.

For information on the museum, go to www.smldm.org.

Contract

• From page **8**

The scope of basic services/fee includes the following work phases: pre-design/programming, schematic design, design development, construction documents, planning and permitting processes, and construction administration (inclusive of warranty follow up), Perlman Architects Director Gerrald Adams wrote in a letter to the fire district.

The project includes a 11,000-square-foot single-story fire station with a 3,600-square-foot covered canopy/trellis structure constructed on the northwest corner of Flat Iron Trail and Warner Avenue, a Perlman Architects document states.

The architect's scope of work and associated fee proposal for Fire Station No. 266 is based on SFMD's requirements, applicable building and fire codes, and the unique operational needs of a modern emergency response facility, SFMD Administrative Services Director Anna Butel wrote in a memo to the board.

The scope includes apparatus bay design, decontamination and clean/dirty zone planning, living quarters and site considerations such as secure access, circulation, and stormwater management, she said.

"The fee has been developed using an estimated construction budget, anticipated project complexity, consultant coordination requirements and the projected timeline, and reflects the level of professional staffing and oversight necessary to deliver a code-compliant, durable and operationally efficient facility that supports long-term community needs," she said.

The district, which is primarily funded by property taxes, provides fire suppression, fire prevention, wildland protection, advanced life support, rescue, extrication and medical transportation services out of five fire stations in Apache Junction and Gold Canyon.

SFMD board meetings are generally held at 5:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at the SFMD Administrative Office, 565 N. Idaho Road in Apache Junction. Agendas are at https://sfmd.az.gov/.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines, https://www.yourvalley.net/civility-checklist/.

ADAPTING FIRE STATION FOR APACHE JUNCTION

The following items have been requested to be changed from original Daisy Mountain Fire Station Fire Station No. 144 plans:

- Increased staff covered patio area
- Delete one captain office
- Add hazard zone vestibules
- Add an additional crew restroom
- Add overhead and exit door to fitness
- Enlarge the kitchen/dining areas slightly
- Remove doors leading into day room
- Add the coat drop/mud room area
- Rework firefighter office to be a bit larger with view window into bays
- Rework electrical/mechanical room based on the restroom addition
- Adjust laundry room to allow extra closet storage space
- Delete linen closets in dorm corridor
- Delete fourth apparatus bay
- Add SCBA compressor fill station to workshop

Source: Perlman Architects scope of services and fee proposal document





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FROM THE COVER

Paralympian

• From page **14**

"We do leadership training and sports. We volunteer and we hunt. Sometimes we do schoolwork from camp or airports," she said.

Shooting sports

In addition to shooting with an air rifle, Rumi is an archer and shoots smallbore rifles.

"Everyone said I had natural talent, even when I was 9 years old and drawing a bow with my teeth. I started hunting rabbits and elk with my mom and her friends. A lot of people helped me figure it out," she said.

"Then my mom found Arizona Disabled Sports and convinced me to try their air rifle season. I didn't even want to. But I said 'OK, I'll do it.' I've been there since I was 11. Then I was 12 and she said I should sign up for Desert Challenge Games just for the life experience. I got a medal and they took me to Nationals in Alabama. All in five months. I was never away from my mom and sister like that. The next year my mom competed, too," Rumi said.

As she was born with an upper limb difference, she began shooting with local adaptive leagues at the age of 12, Caryn Walsh said.

"Immediately showing a sharp eye and a dedication to achievement, she competed locally and nationally within mere months of picking up an air rifle," she said.

Ability360 gave her an air rifle and case. Last year at Desert Challenge, MOVE United selected Rumi for Human Achievement.

"I like to go to NubAbility camps. Or do stuff with Ability360 for kids or military families. I like to make quilts and elk steaks," she said.

Last year she did archery with Arizona Disabled Sports.

"I can't shoot with my teeth now since I got braces but I have a shoulder release," Rumi said.

"My twin sister shoots with me. This year she got an elk in the morning and I got one that evening on opening day. I like air rifle because it takes me places. I can shoot it my whole life if I want to and I don't have to run on a track. I don't need two hands to do it," she said.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines, https://www.yourvalley.net/civility-checklist/.

RESOURCES

Arizona Disabled Sports offers two types of programs, which include adaptive opportunities for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities through Team Mesa Programs as well as adaptive opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities through the Arizona Heat Physically Challenged programs, it states at https://www.arizonadisabledsports.com.

Founded in 2011, NubAbility Athletics Foundation has grown to provide limbdifferent children with coaching in 23 mainstream organized sports at camps and clinics across the U.S., it states at https://nubability.org.

Ability360 offers and promotes programs to empower people with all disabilities to take personal responsibility so they may achieve or continue independent lifestyles within the community, it states at https://ability360.org.

The next Desert Challenge Games is May 27-31 with air rifle and air pistol competitions, track and field, swimming and archery, it states at https://www.arizonadisabledsports.com/desertchallengegames.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Police find no credible gun threat after report during student protest

While a group of high school and junior high school students protesting the actions of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement were near Ironwood Drive and Apache Trail in Apache Junction Jan. 30, local police received a report that a person driving by had pointed a gun at the students.

Police later determined no gun was pointed at any student and no threats were made.

Students from Apache Junction High School and Cactus Canyon Middle School walked out of school and gathered off school property Jan. 30. They walked through the city as part of a peaceful protest. Apache Junction Police Department was aware of the event and had officers in the area, police said in a statement on Facebook @ApacheJunctionPD.

While the group was near Ironwood Drive and Apache Trail, AJPD received a report that a person driving by had pointed a gun at the students. As a result, several students ran into a nearby Circle K for safety, police said.

Officers were on scene at the time of the report and did not observe any behavior consistent with a firearm being pointed at the students. Officers immediately contacted witnesses and conducted interviews.

Officers also spoke with parents who were escorting students at the time. None reported witnessing a gun or any threatening behavior and stated their information was based on what students had relayed to them.

Witness accounts provided conflicting information regarding vehicle descriptions and the location of the alleged incident. After investigating, officers determined that no gun was pointed at any student and no threats were made.

No students were located who personally witnessed a firearm. All students contacted by police and that remained on scene only heard secondhand that someone had pointed a gun.

"Apache Junction Police Department supports the community's right to peacefully protest and responded to ensure everyone's safety. We also want to clarify that the reported threat was investigated and found to be unfounded. We appreciate the community's cooperation and encourage residents to rely on verified information shared directly by AJPD," it states.



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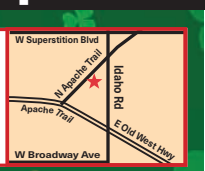
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SOUTHWEST GAS

FROM THE COVER

Memorials

• From page **6**

for the city.

Wayne Phillips Standage Jr. was 74 when he died Nov. 6, 2025, in Apache Junction, according to an obituary at legacy.com posted by Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetery.

A tree, bench or other memorial could be placed to honor him, Langenbach said during the commission's Feb. 4 meeting.

"I just wanted to talk briefly and get some of your perspective on where we might put ... a tree or a bench or something like that," she said. "Wayne Standage — he was very involved with the multiuse trail, really with anything related to (Bureau of Land Management). He was on a lot of our open-space boards with Pinal County. He drew us many wonderful maps. He went and met with lots of people to kind of get historical map data."

Vice Chair Felicia Madrid suggested having art as a focal point at a horse staging area at the rodeo event center.

"It would be amazing to have something as a focal point when you come in. So maybe the memorials can tie into that as well. And maybe we can do something that still mimics nature so the horses aren't scared," she said.

Commissioner Frank Schoenbeck said Standage had a collection of saddles.

"He mentioned that to me at one time. I don't know how we could tie that into a memorial... Just throw that into the mix," he said.

The city of Apache Junction is working on a brochure that explains how a memorial can be placed, including what the cost may be, Langenbach said.

"It is much more costly than it ever used to be," she said. "Things have just really increased."

The memorials are not done by the city but through the nonprofit Friends of Apache Junction.

"It is a donation to the department... Friends of AJ actually cuts the check for the amenity that's getting purchased," she said.

Area residents can have two types of memorials placed without going through the commission and council, Langenbach said.

"The only two memorials the public can do without bringing it and having an entire process is benches and trees," she said. "Usually a person has a place they want it to be, and we determine whether or not it is possible... Sometimes it's not."

Bricks can be placed at the focal point through Apache Junction Community Development Corp.

"They have a spot on their website; we're adding that to this brochure as well so that people will know how to get there for that," she said.

The seven-member parks and recreation commission is an advisory board that works closely with the parks and recreation director. The board recommends regulations, policies and improvements of public parks and programs in Apache Junction. The commission also recommends fees for the use of public facilities, programs and services administered by the department.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines, https://www.yourvalley.net/civility-checklist/.

Business

• From page **8**

• Reign-N-Country; Mesa; Melody Wade; Musical Groups And Artists (711130).

• Jim Turner dba Jim Turner Historian; Tucson; Jim Turner; Independent Artists, Writers, And Performers (711510).

• Sherri L Lanter dba Faithline Ledger; Apache Junction; Sherri Lanter; Other Accounting Services (541219).

• Eat Thrive Prosper LLC dba Genuine Fresche; Gilbert; Marcy Olsen; Mobile Food Services (722330), Snack And Nonalcoholic Beverage Bars (From 722213) (722515).

• Outside Scoop Arizona LLC dba Outside Scoop; Fort Dodge, Iowa; Sara Carlson; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• Tolerance Trading LLC; Ladera Ranch, California; Yulia Utkina; Cosmetics, Beauty Supplies, And Perfume Retailers (456120).



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@apachejunctionaz.gov. Applications are at apachejunctionaz.gov/997/Business-License. (Metro Connection)

• Petroleum Traders Corp.; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Hunter Kirgis; Petroleum And Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers (Except Bulk Stations And Terminals) (424720).

• Snowberger Holdings LLC dba Valley Trenching; Glendale; Jason Snowberger; Other Heavy And Civil Engineering Construction (237990).

• Recreational Rentals Of New Mexico dba I Heart Cookies; Augusta, Kansas; Rachel Marlow; Mobile Food Services (722330), Snack And Nonalcoholic Beverage Bars (From 722213) (722515).

• Bill Burt Rocks; Mesa; William Burt; Coal And Other Mineral And Ore Merchant Wholesalers (423520).

• Guns Out LLC dba Guns Out; Apache Junction; Laura Tavormina Massa; Promoters Of Performing Arts, Sports, And Similar Events (711300).

• Wolff Construction LLC; Scottsdale; Jarrod Fenberg; New Single-Family Housing Construction (Except For-Sale Builders) (236115).

• Core Media Solutions LLC;

• See **Business** on page **29**

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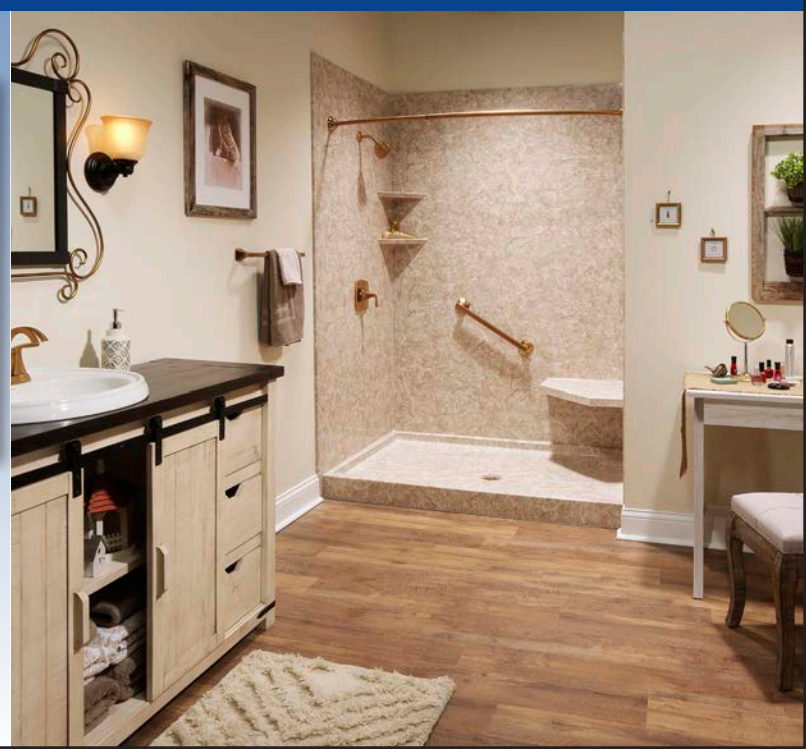
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EDUCATION

Local youth win awards at Lego robotics regional tourney

The Superstition Mountain Branch Boys and Girls Club team from Apache Junction earned awards at the Lego League Skyline Regional tournament.

They won the Peer Award and Motivate Award at the event at Skyline High School in Chandler, Dr. Anna Prakash, co-founder of Education Empowers Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Chandler that is the STEM and robotics program providers for the Boys & Girls clubs in the Valley, said in a release.

The competition included challenges such as:

- Robot game and robot design challenge
- Innovation research project challenge
- Core values challenge



At the judging table are Superstition Mountain Branch Boys & Girls Club team members Mason DeMario, Anthony Sousie, Vienna Romero, and Richard Jimenez-Valandra. (Kagen Photography)

Around 200 students from 21 Education Empowers teams across Chandler, Gilbert, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Apache Junction, Queen Creek and Tucson participated in the Lego robotics competition. The challenge this year was called "Unearthed." Students demonstrated robot coding missions, teamwork and a research presentation of a project related to challenges in archeology, it states.

"The team excelled across multiple categories and won two awards — the Peer Award and the Motivate Award — for their outstanding performance," Prakash said.

The Motivate Award went to the Mech Mechanics at Superstition Mountain Branch Boys and Girls Club. The Motivate Award celebrates a team that embraces the culture of Fist Lego League through team building, team spirit,and displayed enthusiasm.

The Peer Award went to the Green Raptors at Superstition Mountain Branch Boys &and Girls Club. The Peer Award celebrates a team that

• See **Robotics** on page **25**

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With the Phoenix Suns gorilla are Superstition Mountain Branch Boys & Girls Club team members Aubrey Romero, Richard Jimenez-Valandra, Mason DeMario and Vienna Romero. (Kagen Photography)

Robotics

• From page **24**

has been nominated by their peers for their expression of core values and gracious professionalism.

The lead team coach is Angela Davis, branch director for the Superstition Mountain Branch Boys & Girls club; and Gabe Sordia, program director.

The robotics program is available for all ages. Using Legos Mindstorm Robotics kits, members are introduced to the basics of robot construction and coding in a 20-hour program. At the conclusion of the five-week participants have the opportunity to compete against the other robotics built in the program, it states at https://www.bgcaz.org/club-program/lego-robotics.

About Education Empowers Inc.

Founded in 2017 by a mother-daughter team, About Education Empowers Inc. provides year-round hands-on STEM programs in robotics, drones, AI, coding and sustainability for K–12 youth. It focuses on empowering Arizona communities through education and STEAM career exploration.

For information or to subscribe to its newsletter, subscribe via its website at http://www.educationempowers.org or email contact@educationempowers.org





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DEVELOPMENT

Council rejects 3-story multifamily rental community permit



The affordable housing rental community — with rents $1,262 for a one-bedroom unit to $1,950 for a four-bedroom unit including utilities — was to use the Section 42 low-income housing tax credit program, which allows developers to offer affordable housing to residents earning up to 60% of the area's median income. (City of Apache Junction)

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Apache Junction City Council voted to deny a conditional-use permit for a 300-unit, three-story multifamily residential rental development near the southeast corner of Idaho Road and the Scenic Street alignment.

The affordable housing rental community — with rents $1,262 for a one-bedroom unit to $1,950 for a four-bedroom unit including utilities — would have used Section 42 low-income housing tax credit program, which allows developers to offer affordable housing to residents earning up to 60% of the area's median income.

The development proposed 14 three-story buildings with 48 one-bedroom, one-bath units; 132 two-bedroom, two-bath units; 84 three-bedroom, two-bath units; and 36 four-bedroom, two-bath units. Parking was to include 370 surface spaces and 300 covered parking stalls.

• See **300 Units** on page **27**

300 Units

• From page **26**

The 13-acre property is zoned city center or B-3 and is in the general plan's downtown mixed-use area, both of which allow multifamily uses.

A multifamily use in B-3 requires a conditional-use permit, Development Services Director Rudy Esquivias said during the council's Feb. 4 meeting.

"The B-3 zoning is appropriate for the downtown mixed-use (area) but within the specifics of the B-3 zoning a lot of uses are allowed outright. Some of the ... uses that perhaps should be carefully planned, more carefully thought out, those require a conditional use permit. This type of multifamily project is one of those land uses that falls under the CUP category whereas many, many, many other uses would be allowed outright including retail and offices and hospitals and shops and restaurants and things like that," he said.

The permit request by Roers Cos. was denied in a 5-2 vote Feb. 3. Dissenting were council members Peter Heck and Tess Nesser.

Councilmember Bambi Johnson made the motion to deny the permit.

"I do not believe there is an adequacy of roadway off-street parking, public facilities and services to accommodate the proposed use at this time," she said.

Following the vote, Wilson said the city's general plan needs to be modified.

"I think we need to look at the general plan ... and possibly go back to the voters as to what they want in this area," he said.

Public comment

Three people spoke in favor of apartments and 15 spoke against the development over 50 minutes of public comment at the council meeting.

"Roers (Cos.) project will attract more young people and young families to downtown AJ. As they move up in their career, their salaries may get too high for Roers ... and they will move to a permanent home or rent one of the other communities in downtown," said Karl Huish, managing director for Bela Flor Enterprises LLC. "I expect that many of the residents at Roers will eventually rent at my Bella Norte or Skyline project as their family grows and their household income exceed that which is permitted under the HUD rules."

Donna Car of Apache Junction said she was opposed to the development.

"For one, the traffic is going to be a problem," she said. "I don't think any apartment belongs in that area because it would make that area too congested... I think it would be better used to put restaurants or gift shops — something like that in there — that will catch the tourists as they are coming and they are going, or for people to stop to be able to have a bite to eat coming back from Canyon Lake."

David Day of Apache Junction said there is no infrastructure in the area to support the development.

"I'm opposed basically on the grounds there is no infrastructure. Are you going to come to us in six months after you build this and say 'Hey, we have to raise your taxes because we need a new ladder truck because we have these three-story apartment complexes or we need a new fire station or we need more police or we need more roads.' Fix your infrastructure before you build your city," he said.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines, https://www.yourvalley.net/civility-checklist/.



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Sherry Coker selected Honorary Dutchman

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sherry Coker, who is the chairman of the Lost Dutchman Days Committee and is vice president of the Superstition Mountain Promotional Corp., was recently selected as this year's Honorary Dutchman, an award that is given to longtime volunteers.

SMPC along with volunteers from the Apache Junction Mounted Rangers, a peacekeeping organization, put on the Lost Dutchman Days rodeo, which this year is Feb. 27-March 1. Funds raised from the rodeo are given to children's charities.

Coker is very involved in the local community including as a volunteer with the Apache Junction High School Booster Club, Apache Junction Elks Lodge No. 2349 and the Goldfield Ghost Riders.

Name: Sherry Coker

Age: 64

Occupation: Construction manager

Hometown: Weskan, Kansas

Family: I have been married to Dave Coker for 38 years. We have six children — three young men and three young women. They have blessed us with 21 grandkids.

When and why I moved here: We moved here 25 years ago for a general manager position that I was offered with a company that I was employed with at the time.

How long have you been a member of the Superstition Mountain Promotional Corp. and what do you do there?: I have been a member for 16 years and hold the position of vice president.



Sherry Coker was recently selected as this year's Honorary Dutchman, an award that is given to longtime Lost Dutchman Days volunteers. (Sherry Coker)

What do you do for the Lost Dutchman Days Committee? I am the chairman of Lost Dutchman Days. It is my responsibility to organize the event and try my darnedest to have it run smoothly and go on without a hitch.

Were you surprised to be named this year's Honorary Dutchman and why?: I was very surprised! I would not have guessed in a million years, that I would even be considered. There are so many in our community that are deserving of the title of Honorary Dutchman. I am very blessed and honored to be the 2026

• See **Neighbor** on page **30**

Business

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Phoenix; Shawn Morse; Other Heavy And Civil Engineering Construction (237990).

• Fortis Payment Systems LLC; Plano, Texas; Denise Kenyon; Financial Transactions Processing, Reserve, And Clearinghouse Activities (522320).

• AJ's Original Sandwich At The Meat Slicer dba John A. Martino; Apache Junction; John A Martino; Limited-Service Restaurants (From 722211) (722513).

• Desert Chicas Jewelry; Goodyear; Olga Gerald; Jewelry Retailers (458310).

• Copa City Salsa LLC dba Copa City Salsa; Maricopa; Jamie Adamkiewicz; Fruit And Vegetable Canning (311421).

• Healthy Choice Vending LLC dba Hack Shack Cookies & Creamery; Gilbert; DJ Hackett; Baked Goods Retailers (445291).

• A Sub Above LLC; Manasquan, New Jersey; Jill Rooney; Lessors Of Nonfinancial Intangible Assets (Except Copyrighted Works) (533110).

• Core States Construction Services Inc.; Duluth, Georgia; Kristin Maroney; Commercial And Institutional Building Construction (236220).

• Estate 2052 S Idaho LLC; Apache Junction; William Tierney; Lessors Of Residential Buildings And Dwellings (531110).

• Estate 476 E Linda LLC; Apache Junction; William Tierney; Lessors Of Residential Buildings And Dwellings (531110).

• Superior Massage dba Massage Therapy; Apache Junction; Angela Shaw; Other Personal Care Services (812199).

• Healthway Home Products Inc.; Pulaski, New York; Alex Batson; Industrial And Commercial Fan And Blower And Air Purification Equipment Manufacturing (333413).

• Phoenix Test And Balance LLC; Glendale; Wade Handley; Plumbing, Heating, And Air-Conditioning Contractors (238220).

• Red Hat LLC; Raleigh, North Carolina; Kathy Weaver; Custom Computer Programming Services (541511).

• Krause Family Cellars dba Cinder; Garden City, Idaho; Melanie Krause; Wineries (312130).

• On The Rock Martial Arts; Apache Junction; Frank Charmoli; Sports And Recreation Instruction (611620).

• Harmonious Chiropractic; Mesa; Tiera Mcdermott; Offices Of Chiropractors (621310).

• Roar Hospitality dba Loompeeya; Fountain Hills; Ricky Ocampo; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• AZ Chop Shop LLC dba Sbuds; Mesa; Tyler Winters; Caterers (722320).

• Sunny Saguaro Studios LLC dba Superstition Ranch Tacos; Apache Junction; Emilio Armand.

• Golden Goose Retail USA LLC; New York, New York; Vincenzo Roberto; Shoe Retailers (458210).

• Heritage AZ LLC dba Sewer Time Services; Cave Creek; Jessica Endres; Plumbing, Heating, And Air-Conditioning Contractors (238220), Septic Tank And Related Services (562991).

• CW Design Builders LLC; Mesa; Christopher Shill; New Single-Family Housing Construction (Except For-Sale Builders) (236115), Nonresidential Building Construction (236200).

• Simply Raw Honey Family LLC dba Simply Raw Honey; Sun City; Carly Faul; Other Grocery And Re-

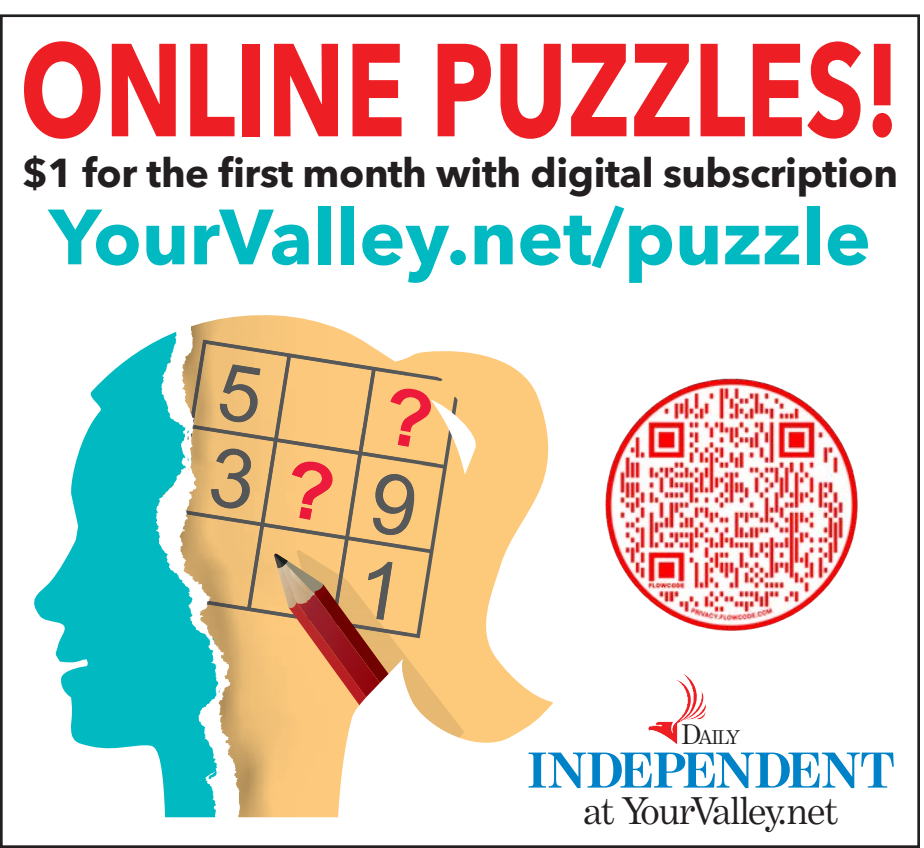
• See **Business** on page **30**











Neighbor

• From page **28**

Honorary Dutchman.

What is something many people don't know about you? For anyone that knows me, this will be a shocker...years ago, I sold Mary Kay and was good at it even if I don't wear makeup. Another thing that you may not know is that I started driving a semi-truck pulling doubles for wheat harvest when I was 15 years old.

What originally brought you to the Valley? Like I mentioned above, I was offered a general manager position with a company that I was employed with at the time.

How are you involved in the local community? I was an AJHS Booster Club member and treasurer for at least 13 years. I have been a member and officer of the Apache Junction Elks Lodge No. 2349 for 13 years. I have been a member of the Goldfield Ghost Riders for 16 years and serve on the Board of Directors. I have been a member of Superstition Mountain Promotional Corp. for 16 years and have held several positions over the years. In all of the clubs that I am involved with, our main focus is the youth in our community.

What drew you to your community? The small town feel and horse community. I grew up on a ranch in Northwest Kansas and when I came to Apache Junction 25 years ago, it felt like home.

What do you most cherish from your childhood? Growing up on a ranch is something that I will always cherish. It was hard work and I'm sure a lot of complaints when I was young, but I wouldn't change it for the world.

Business

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lated Products Merchant Wholesalers (424490), Gift, Novelty, And Souvenir Retailers (459420).

• Rolliamo Pizzeria & Bakehouse; Mesa; Robert Foote; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• David Polston dba Bluegrass Heaven; Tucson; David Polston; Musical Instrument And Supplies Retailers (459140).

• Miss Nature LLC dba Christopher Hall; Tucson; Chris Hall; Independent Artists, Writers, And Performers (711510).

• Solar Tech Energy Systems Inc.; Phoenix; Giselle Leon; Electrical Contractors And Other Wiring Installation Contractors (238210).

• Auntys Masala Corner LLC dba Auntys Masala Corner; Queen Creek; Cherryl Hodel; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• Blue Glass Design; Mesa; Leeann Samsel; Jewelry Retailers (458310).

• SDMG Signs LLC dba Sign Centers; Phoenix; Justin Miller; Sign Manufacturing (339950).

• Paragon AV dba Paragon AV LLC; Apache Junction; Travis Barney; Electrical Contractors And Other Wiring Installation Contractors (238210).

• Chocolate Bootlegger LLC dba Chocolate Moonshine Co.; Mesa; Steven W Schultz Jr; Confectionery And Nut Retailers (445292).

• Live C. E. & J. LLC; Queen Creek; Leopoldo Cabezas; Landscaping Services (561730).

• Pristine Barber Shop 4 LLC; Apache Junction; Catherine Walls; Barber Shops (812111).

• Angel Care Home Assisted Living And Memory Care; Apache Junction; Ciara Warner; Assisted Living Facilities For The Elderly (623312)

• Saguaro And Trails LLC dba World's Best Corndogs; Queen Creek; Luke Topol; Mobile Food Services (722330).

ROADS

$500K road emulsion contract approved for city

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A business will be paid $1,725 a ton up to $500,000 for the supply, delivery and application of asphalt emulsion for chip-sealing maintenance of city of Apache Junction roads.

The Apache Junction City Council on Feb. 17 voted unanimously to approve a consent agenda that included awarding a bid with C.R. Contracting LLC, which does business as C.R. Contracting, with a one-year contract with the option to renew up to five years with a maximum contract value of $500,000.

Chip seal is a preventive maintenance surface treatment with a single application of asphalt emulsion followed by a chip spreader. The surface is then rolled to seat the aggregate, according to Pinal County Public Works at https://www.pinal.gov/1392/Pavement-Preservation.



The Apache Junction City Council on Feb. 17 voted unanimously to approve a consent agenda that included awarding a bid with C.R. Contracting LLC, which does business as C.R. Contracting, with a one-year contract with the option to renew up to five years with a maximum contract value of $500,000. (Metro Creative)

A bid opening was held Dec. 10. The bid proposals were reviewed for responsibility and responsiveness, proven technical ability/merit, financial viability and pricing, Public Works Superintendent Andy Amado said in a written memo to the council.

Bids were:

- C.R. Contracting, $1,725 a ton
- Cholla Pavement, $1,800 a ton

"Resulting one year contract after renewals could attain a maximum value of $500,000 over the five-year term. The city performs on average of $200,000 worth of chip seal maintenance a year," Amado said in the memo.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines, https://www.yourvalley.net/civility-checklist/.





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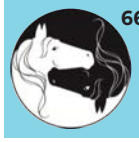
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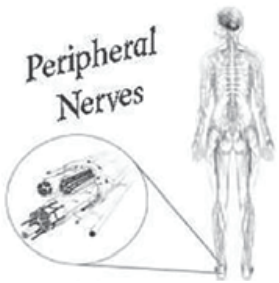
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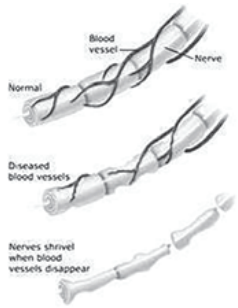
PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND CHRONIC PAIN WARNING!

Mesa, AZ — The most common method your doctor will recommend to treat your chronic pain and/or neuropathy is with prescription drugs that may temporarily reduce your symptoms. These drugs have names such as Gabapentin, Lyrica, Cymbalta, and Neurontin, and are primarily antidepressant or anti-seizure drugs. These drugs may cause you to feel uncomfortable and have a variety of

Chronic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves often causing weakness, pain, numbness, tingling, and the most debilitating balance problems. This damage is commonly caused by a hands and feet which causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow.



As you can see in Figure 2, as the blood vessels that surround the nerves become diseased they shrivel up which causes the nerves to not get the nutrients to continue to survive. When these nerves begin to "die" they cause you to have balance problems, pain, numbness, tingling, burning, and many additional symptoms. The main problem is that your doctor has told you



to just live with the problem or try the drugs which you don't like taking because they make you feel uncomfortable. There is now a facility right here in Mesa that offers you hope without taking those endless drugs with serious side effects.

(See the special neuropathy severity examination at the end of this article) neuropathy three factors must be determined.

1) What is the underlying cause?

2) How much nerve damage has been sustained.

NOTE: Once you have sustained 95% nerve loss, there is likely nothing that we can do for you.

3) How much treatment will your condition require?

The treatment that is provided at Aspen Medical has three main goals.

1) Increase blood flow

2) Stimulate and increase small fiber nerves

3) Decrease brain-based pain

The treatment to increase blood flow, stimulate small nerve fibers and get you back to health is our new $50,000.00 SANEXAS UNIT!

In addition, we use a state-of-the-art diagnostics like the TM Flow diagnostic unit to accurately determine the increase in blood flow and small skin biopsy to accurately determine the increase in small nerve fibers!

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THE GREAT NEWS IS THAT SANEXAS IS COVERED BY MOST INSURANCE! (Medicare restrictions apply) Depending on your coverage, your treatment could be little to no cost to you!

The amount of treatment needed to allow the nerves to fully recover varies from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation. As long as you have not sustained at least 95% nerve damage there is hope!

Aspen Medical will do a chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination to determine the extent of the nerve damage as a public service to you and/or your family and friends. This neuropathy/pain severity examination will consist of a detailed sensory evaluation, extensive peripheral vascular testing, and a detailed analysis of the findings of your neuropathy.



Aspen Medical will be offering this chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination from now until April 30, 2026. Call 480-796-1136 to make an appointment to determine if your chronic pain and peripheral neuropathy can be successfully treated.

Due to our busy office schedule, we are limiting this FREE consultation to the first 15 callers. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SUFFER ANOTHER MINUTE, CALL. Call 480-796-1136 … NOW!

We are extremely busy and if your call goes to our voicemail, please leave a message and we will get back to you asap.

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