

Neighbors

Imagine Prep wrestling state runner-ups; **20**

APACHE JUNCTION/GOLD CANYON

INDEPENDENT

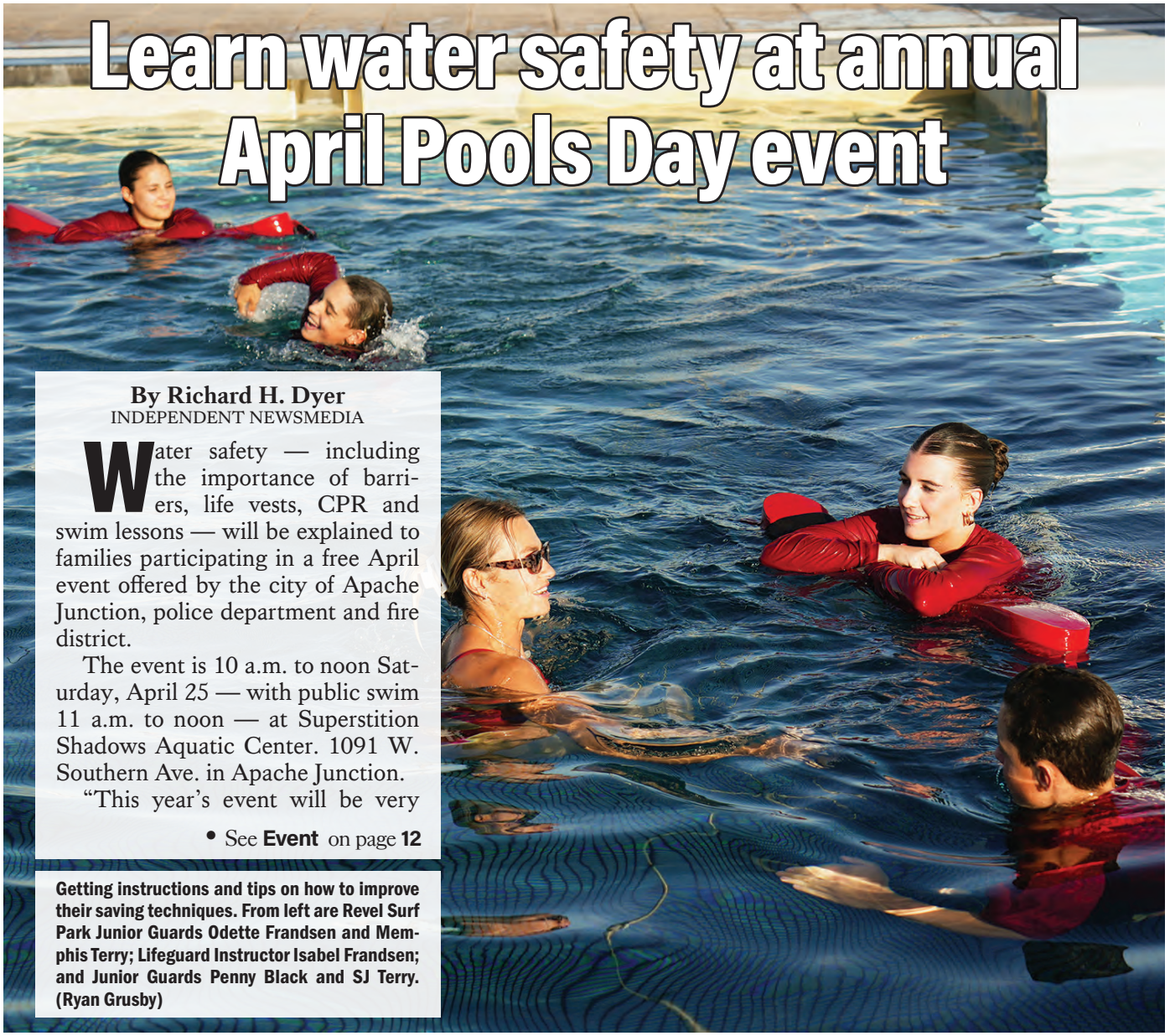


AJ Citizen

Summer edition; **Inside AJ zones**

April 2026 Volume 68 Issue 4 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Learn water safety at annual April Pools Day event



By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Water safety — including the importance of barriers, life vests, CPR and swim lessons — will be explained to families participating in a free April event offered by the city of Apache Junction, police department and fire district.

The event is 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25 — with public swim 11 a.m. to noon — at Superstition Shadows Aquatic Center. 1091 W. Southern Ave. in Apache Junction.

"This year's event will be very

• See **Event** on page **12**

Getting instructions and tips on how to improve their saving techniques. From left are Revel Surf Park Junior Guards Odette Frandsen and Memphis Terry; Lifeguard Instructor Isabel Frandsen; and Junior Guards Penny Black and SJ Terry. (Ryan Grusby)

Student balancing high school, competitive ice skating

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Kynleigh Taylor of Gold Canyon has had to manage the art of balance on and off the ice, taking high school and college courses while training in competitive figure skating.

"This past weekend was my first competition of the season in Colorado. It was the first time I did my free skate — long program — in competition, and I got first place. I also earned third place in my short program," she said. "My next competition is in mid-April in Arizona, and I will be competing in Las Vegas in May."

Taylor, 18, began competitive figure skating seven years ago. Previously she qualified and competed at the Excel National Finals, earned the designation "U.S. Figure Skating Gold Medalist" for passing senior skating moves in field tests, and this year she landed her triple Salchow figure skating jump, it states in a release.

• See **Skating** on page **6**

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ON YOURVALLEY.NET

Water district, council meetings canceled

Due to a technical issue impacting the audio/visual systems in the council chambers, the Apache Junction Water District and City Council meetings scheduled for March 17 have been canceled.

GO TO
https://tinyurl.com/26sehjr6

Randomly selected city households to be surveyed

The city of Apache Junction is part of a national community survey where randomly selected households will receive mailed survey invitations over the next few weeks.

GO TO
https://tinyurl.com/3re2azk2

Construction expo seeks sponsors, food trucks

The city of Apache Junction invites vendors, sponsors and food trucks to participate in the 2026 Community Construction Expo on May 2, held in recognition of Building Safety Month.

GO TO
https://tinyurl.com/35femwej

DPS asks public for help after woman shot on SR 88

A woman was injured after a gunman fired at a vehicle March 5 along State Route 88 near Apache Junction on Thursday night, and state authorities are asking the public for any information about the shooting.

A suspect fired from a vehicle, striking another vehicle and injuring the woman.

GO TO
tinyurl.com/mhv7m7uj

COMMUNITY NEWS

8 nonprofits seeking $218K in health, human services funding

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When the Apache Junction Health and Human Services Commission deliberates this month to determine which of eight nonprofit agencies seeking a total of $218,700 in funding from the city of Apache Junction will be funded it will do so with only six of its seven members as a commissioner works with one of the applicants.

The commission, comprised of volunteers who will make a recommendation to the City Council on which ones should receive fiscal year 2026-27 funding, met March 9 to interview the applicants. Last year the city provided $90,000 in funding.

Commissioner Della Wood was absent because she has a conflict of interest, City Clerk Evie McKinney said.

"So she will not be serving on the board as long as decisions are being made for the applicant funding," she said.

Chairman Michael Brennan asked if Wood could have attended the meetings and abstained from discussing whatever organization she has a potential conflict of interest with to provide input on the others.

"I don't think so," McKinney said.

"No, because whatever decision she makes is going to affect the other group, her group, too," Vice Chairman Jeffrey Danford said.

"And she works with two organizations — two of our applicants — so it's a tough spot," McKinney said.

Commissioner Wood has a potential conflict of interest with NazCare, the city clerk said in an email March 11.



Superstition Community Food Bank is seeking $75,000 to purchase food. A commission comprised of volunteers who will make a recommendation to the City Council on which agencies should receive fiscal year 2026-27 funding met March 9 to interview applicants. (Metro Creative)

"After reviewing the correspondence received from Ms. Wood, she actually stated two divisions within her current role that she works in, but only one of the nonprofits is creating the conflict of interest for her. That nonprofit is NazCare," McKinney said.

Commissioners will first discuss their thoughts on who should receive funding and how much during a meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, March 30, in the Apache Junction Council Chambers, 300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Applicants for funding are:

- A New Leaf, $20,000 to provide services for domestic violence survivors.
- Apache Junction Community Development Corp., $7,500 for operating expenses, code compliance and residents' cleanup needs.
- Azura VITA, $15,800 to expand outreach of free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance preparation program.
- Black and Gold Youth Football League, $6,000 for fall football and cheer scholarships.
- Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley, $30,000 for youth program staff at the Superstition Mountain Branch.
- Kiwanis Club of Apache Junction, $2,000 for youth services.
- Nazcare Inc., $62,400 for Rising Star Wellness Center renovations.
- Superstition Community Food Bank, $75,000 to purchase food.

The commission conducts public hearings to determine the needs of city residents with regard to public health, provision of human services and care of the elderly, handicapped and developmentally disabled.

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/.



Joseph John Vojtech

Joseph, 74, of Apache Junction passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 surrounded by Family.

Born in Chicago, Joe moved to Arizona in 2006.

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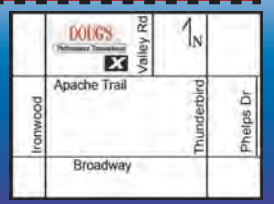
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Kynleigh Taylor of Gold Canyon competes in figure skating. (Cynthia Slawter Photography)



Kynleigh Taylor, 18, began competitive figure skating seven years ago. (Cynthia Slawter Photography)

Skating

• From page **1**

Typical day of skating, schoolwork

Taylor wakes at 5 a.m. five days a week and drives an hour to train at the Scottsdale Ice Den, spending two to five hours on and off the ice.

"I arrive at least 30 minutes early to do warmups off ice. Then I start my day on the ice with warmups then work my way up to training my program, which is a 3-minute-and-30-second program for my upcoming competitions," Taylor said. "After I finish working on everything I need to be prepared for a competition, I focus on higher-level skills to try and improve my skating so I can move to a higher level."

She drives home to start ASU Prep Digital schoolwork between 12:30 and 1 p.m., then finishes around 3 p.m. for lunch.

"After that I will do something I enjoy, like watch a show or do an activity, then I start my schoolwork again at around 6 p.m., right before dinner. I try to fit in stretching and off-ice jumps. After I eat dinner, I get ready for bed and spend at least an hour on any college classes to get ahead. Then I go to bed around 10 p.m.," Taylor said. "On days that I stay at the rink all day, I spend time on my schoolwork and eat lunch in between my sessions and finish skating around 2:30 p.m."

Before moving to Gold Canyon eight months ago, Taylor lived in Peoria where she attended Liberty High School her freshman year.

"We moved here because my parents loved how pretty it was and to be closer to family," Taylor said of Gold Canyon.

Sophomore year she began at ASU Prep Digital where she takes high school and college courses and is to graduate in May. After graduation she plans to attend college to study marine biology and continue skating competitively at a national level.

"I heard about online school from other skaters at my rink. Once we started talking about it, I heard from other parents that ASU Prep was a more challenging and rigorous school, and I felt this would be a

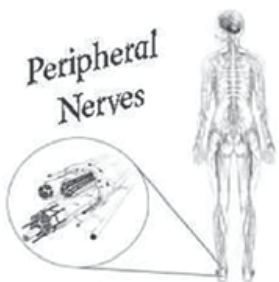
• See **Skating** on page **21**

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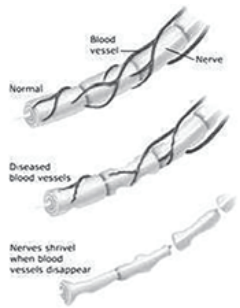
PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND CHRONIC PAIN WARNING!

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?

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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 May 31, 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!

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BUSINESS LICENSES

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

There were 52 business licenses issued in February 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.

- Pestco AZ LLC dba Arizona's Best Choice Pest & Termite Services; Mesa; Joanna Mejia; Exterminating And Pest Control Services (561710).
- Jackalope Lane LLC; Apache Junction; Brandy Dinger; Toilet Preparation Manufacturing (325620).
- Backyard Butchers; Friendswood, Texas; Melissa Nemitz; Meat Retailers (445240).
- Phx Dough Box; Phoenix; Theresa Martis; Snack And Nonalcoholic Beverage Bars (From 722213) (722515).
- Casey Olson dba Casey Olson Designs; Apache Junction; Casey Olson; Independent Artists, Writers, And Performers (711510).
- Remodeling Solutions LLC dba Axis Roofing LLC; Mesa; Stacy Stoddard; Roofing Contractors (238160).
- Engineering And Recording Inc. dba Ear Professional Audiovideo; Tempe; Ed Vogt; Other Electronic Parts And Equipment Merchant Wholesalers (423690).
- Verde Property Services Inc. dba Service Direct Landscape; Phoenix; Rachel Smith; Landscaping Services (561730).
- Twisted Caramels; Mesa; Tracy Hansen; Nonchocolate Confectionery Manufacturing (311340).
- Munder Vacation House Rentals LLC; Apache Junction; Adam

• See **Business** on page **9**

UTILITIES

Agreement allows Google Fiber right-of-way access on city streets



The majority of the work is to be done on low-traffic residential streets. With shallow-trenching construction methodology, roads aren't shut down, and access to homes and businesses aren't impacted, according to Google Fiber. (Google Fiber)

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A communications services license agreement was approved with Google Fiber Arizona LLC for work along and across public highways within the city of Apache Junction.

The Apache Junction City Council recently voted unanimously as part of a consent agenda with other items to approve the agreement to install, place, operate, maintain, upgrade and repair the communications network.

Google Fiber is to pay the city a $3,500 application fee for the administrative costs involved in the issuance of a license, it states in the agreement.

A right-of-way usage fee is to be calculated as 2% of gross revenues and will be paid annually beginning on the execution date or a lump sum payment of $30,000 for the right to occupy the right of way for 24 months, it states.

The standard license agreement allows Google Fiber Arizona to install and maintain its telecommunication facilities within city rights of way, IT Director Doug Wirthgen wrote in a memo to council.

"The city of Apache Junction owns public streets and alley rights-of-way within the corporate limits of the city that are designated for use by utility providers for installation, operation and repair of public utilities pursuant to licenses or other agreements with the city," he said.

Apache Junction is the fifth city in Arizona to reach a service agreement with GFiber following Mesa, Chandler, Queen Creek and Tempe. Apache Junction residents and business owners will be able to choose between GFiber's three products — core, home and edge — with speeds up to 8 gig, it states in a release.

The majority of the work is to be done on low-traffic residential streets and with shallow-trenching construction methodology, roads aren't shut down, and access to homes and businesses aren't impacted. GFiber anticipates that for a city the size of Apache Junction, it could take a few years to build, Google Fiber 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/.

Business

• From page **9**

Munder; Less Than 5 Units — Lessors Of Residential Buildings And Dwellings (531111).

• Matthew Purcell Addleman dba MP Horizon; Apache Junction; Matthew Purcell Addleman; Landscaping Services (561730).

• Rich & Strong Publishing LLC; Apache Junction; Jacob Strong; All Other Publishers (513199).

• Pluhar Creations; Gold Canyon; Heather Pluhar; All Other Miscellaneous Wood Product Manufacturing (321999).

• Donkeys And Danes; Gilbert; Robin Kurz; Gift, Novelty, And Souvenir Retailers (459420).

• Perla Ochoa dba AZ Perla's Kitchen; Apache Junction; Perla Ochoa; Perishable Prepared Food Manufacturing (311991), Confectionery And Nut Retailers (445292).

• Bake Me Happy Baby; Queen Creek; Mayra Ciotti; Baked Goods Retailers (445291).

• Ronald J Cox dba Ron Cox Photos; Apache Junction; Ronald Cox; Independent Artists, Writers, And Performers (711510).

• Newell Brands Distribution LLC; Sandy Springs, Georgia; Sobia Rais; Process, Physical Distribution, And Logistics Consulting Services (541614).

• AWP Inc. dba AWP Safety; North Canton, Ohio; Elizabeth Davis; Other Support Activities For Road Transportation (488490).

• Carnow Inc.; Raleigh, North Carolina; Jason Boucher; Custom Computer Programming Services (541511).

• Mindsage Flow; Gold Canyon; April Toms; Other Individual And Family Services (624190).

• New Vision Healing; Gold Can-

• See **Business** on page **36**



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)

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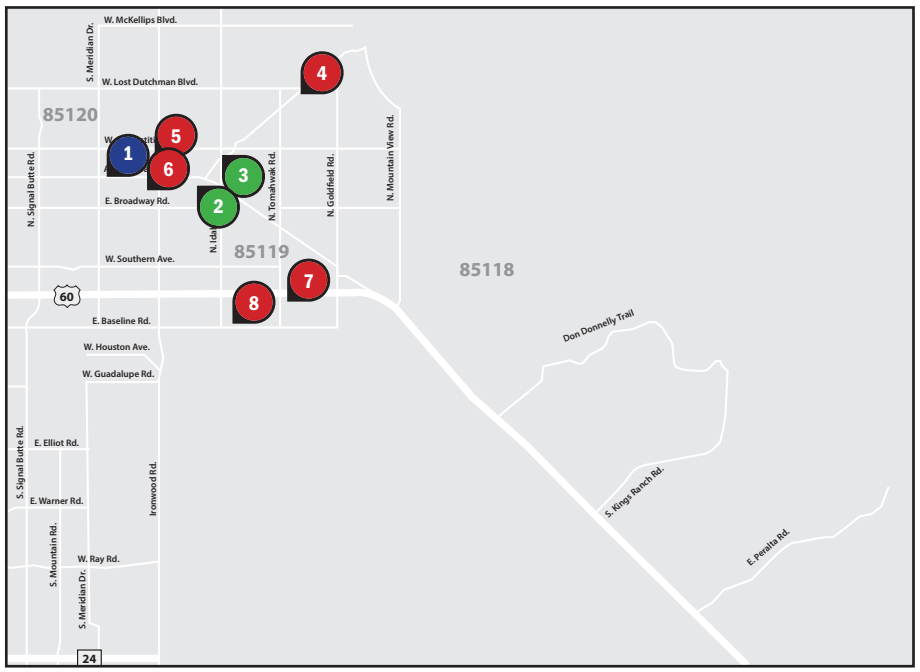
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BUSINESS MOVES



Map not to scale

Compiled by Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

CLOSING

1 April 30 will be the last day to shop at the Apache Junction location of **Sunshine Acres Furniture & More**, 3003 W. Apache Trail Suite No. 3, operated by Sunshine Acres Children's Home, it states in a release on Facebook @SunshineAJ-Store. Sunshine Acres will continue to accept donations at its Mesa location at 3405 N. Higley Road or by scheduling a home pick-up at https://sunshineacres.org/donation-page.

IN THE NEWS

2 The Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, 567 W. Apache Trail, on March 4 held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening for **FirstLight Home Care of Apache Junction**. "Thank you to everyone who joined us for our grand opening! We are so grateful for the support from our friends, family, and community. Your encouragement means the world as we launch into an exciting year ahead in hyper-growth mode. Watch us grow," the business at 8427 E Baseline Road Suite 106 in Mesa said on Facebook @ FLHCApacheJunction. Go to https://www.firstlight-homecare.com/home-healthcare-apache-junction

3 The Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce's February networking mixer included a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Maggie Berizzi of **Three Feather Financial**, 185 N. Apache Trail in Apache Junction. Email maggie@threefeatherfinancial.com, call 480-625-1733 or go to https://threefeatherfinancial.com.

COMING SOON

Plans on the city of Apache Junction's Geographic Information System map at apachejunctionaz.gov/472/Maps-GIS include:

4 • **Apache Trail Superstition Event Center**, between East Apache Trail and Cortez Road and south of Lost Dutchman Boulevard, is in building/construction plan review.

5 • **CGP Construction**, south of the southwest corner of Ironwood Drive and Superstition Boulevard, is in building/construction plan review. The site plan shows a 9,600-square-foot warehouse and a 4,000-square-foot office.

6 • **James Motor Sports**, on the southwest corner of Apache Trail and Saguaro Drive, is in building/construction plan review.

7 • A **commercial building** on the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 60 (Superstition Freeway) and Tomahawk Road, is in building/construction plan review. The site plan shows a 6,945-square-foot restaurant, 5,148-square-foot gas station and market site, a 9,180-square-foot retail site and a 36,000-square-foot hotel with 75 rooms.

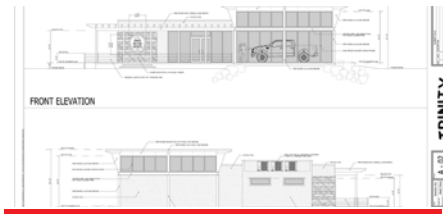
8 • **B&C Investments**, at Padre Road and 39th Avenue, is in the zoning review process. The site plan shows two 3,200-square-foot metal storage structures and two 2,400-square-foot metal storage structures.



CGP CONSTRUCTION



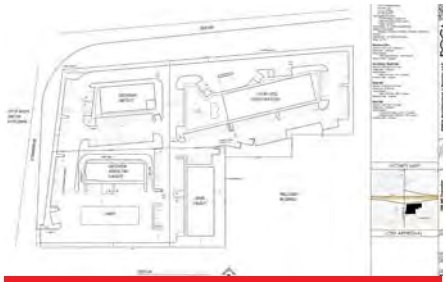
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Event

• From page **1**

similar to last year, keeping the popular activities that families loved. The focus remains on water safety education and fun, but we are always improving the experience with small updates and possible new vendors to promote water safety," said Julia Feraldi, Apache Junction aquatics recreation coordinator.

The city's parks and recreation aquatics team will explain important water safety tips and demonstrate safety practices to attendees, she said.

"Participants will learn about the proper use of life jackets, water awareness and basic CPR techniques. Instruction will be provided at various interactive stations, including a life jacket try-on station, a sensory booth, a CPR booth and a swimsuit visibility booth," Feraldi said.

Participants also will have the opportunity to explore "Touch-a-Truck" vehicles from Apache Junction Police Department, Superstition Fire and Medical District, and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office; take mini swim lessons; receive a free lunch; and engage in fun activities designed to promote safety and awareness around water, Feraldi said.

Fire district officials will provide the free lunch, and safety tips for being in and around the water, SFMD Deputy Fire Marshal Tina Gerola said.

• See **Event** on page **25**

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AT POOL THIS SUMMER

In addition to April Pools Day, special activities this summer at the Superstition Shadows Aquatic Center in Apache Junction include:

- Read and Rec poolside 9:30-11 a.m. Saturdays June 6, July 18 and Aug. 1. Designed for ages 1-5 but all ages are welcome, with reading and swimming at the pool. Learn water safety with a story as well as instructor-led water activities at the free event.
- Teen Night, 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, June 12. Ages 13-17 can participate in various activities including volleyball, open swim, music, games and competitions. Free pizza and drinks with price of $5 admission.
- Pirates vs. Mermaids, 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 19, for water games, challenges and treasure hunts for all ages. Admission is $3.
- Itty Bitty Beach Party, 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, July 10. Games and prizes. Admission $3 per child and open to children 6 and under.
- Holiday Heat Wave, 6-8 p.m. Friday, July 24. Crafts, music and plenty of poolside fun. Admission is $3.
- The Last Splash, noon-5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7. Celebrate Labor Day at the last day of open swim with games, water basketball/volleyball, spike ball and prizes. $2 per child 17 and under and $3 per adult.

Register at www.apachejunctionaz.gov/onlinereg

Source: City of Apache Junction





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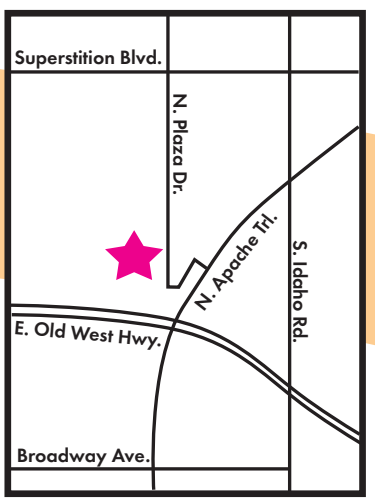
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NEW HOURS: MON: 9a - 8p **WED:** 11a - 8p **THU:** 11a - 8p **FRI:** 11a - 8p **SAT:** 9a - 8p **SUN:** 9a - 2p *Last call 30 minutes prior to closing time.

EDUCATION

1% salary increase approved for AJUSD employees

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Employees at Apache Junction Unified School District will be getting a bit more in their paychecks.

The AJUSD governing board recently voted unanimously to approve a 1% increase added to the base salary for employees for the 2026-27 school year.

The board last year approved a 2% increase. For an average teacher salary of $63,804 in fiscal year 2024, the 2% increased the annual salary by $1,276 to $65,080 in fiscal year 2025, it states on the district's website.

The new 1% increase for the average teacher salary of $65,080 adds $650.80.

"I would love to give 10%. I wish we could. But 1% ... shows that we're doing something," Board President Dena Kimble said before the vote. "From as long as I'm on the board, we've never not gave 1% or 2% in the base, so I just feel that it is important to do that."

The amount for a 1% increase for the entire district is approximately $215,000, AJUSD Superintendent Robert Pappalardo said before the vote.



The new 1% increase for the average teacher salary of $65,080 adds $650.80. (Metro Creative)

"Of that $215,000 ... $99,000 would come from the site fund that we get from the state of Arizona," he said. "$80,000 to $85,000 of that will come out of (maintenance and operations) and the remaining $30,000 to $31,000 will come out of grant funding. That's how we'll get to that 1%."

Board member Gail Ross asked if it could be a stipend rather than added to the base salary.

"Why can't we consider doing it as the stipend and the following year putting it in the base to make sure that it's going to be doable?" she asked.

"That's a decision for the board. Mine is a recommendation," Pappalardo said.

"I would request to maybe bring this back the next work session... Of course I want to give the teachers everything we can, but I don't want to put us under the gun and then not be able to keep it up and put ourselves in a bind," Ross said.

The 1% increase is needed to attract and retain teachers, Board Vice President Cami Garcia said.

"Times are hard right now, and I feel in order to show the appreciation ... I would want to put it into the base salary because I want to keep those teachers here," she said.

AJUSD has three elementary schools; a K-5 school designed to provide students with a traditional, liberal arts education; a junior high school; and a high school. The district boundaries run from Meridi-

• See **Salary** on page **15**

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EDUCATION

AJHS opens bidding for scoreboard advertising



The highest responsible proposal meeting the minimum bid of $5,000 and district standards will be awarded the placement. (Kody Pudney)

Apache Junction Unified School District invites local businesses to partner with the Prospectors and gain year-round visibility by advertising on the David Field scoreboard.

The back panel of the AJHS football field scoreboard, which is visible from Southern Avenue, is available for competitive bid for a one-year calendar term, according to a release.

The selected advertiser will receive exclusive placement on the scoreboard for the full calendar year.

The winning bidder will be responsible for all costs associated with removal of the existing advertisement and the design, production and installation of the new sign. All materials must comply with district guidelines and receive final approval prior to installation. AJUSD's governing board advertising policy is available for review at https://tinyurl.com/5d7bpb43.

Interested parties should submit bid proposals electronically to the AJUSD Office no later than May 1 at advertising@goaj.org. The highest responsible proposal meeting the minimum bid of $5,000 and district standards will be awarded the placement, the release states.

Salary

• From page **14**

an 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. 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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$5.99 Reg. $13.49 — Revo Carpet Knife Item #176032
$12.99 Reg. $59.99 — 12lb Sledge Hammer Item #104469
$1.99 Reg. $3.79 — MM 2pk 5/16" Nutdriver Item #255395
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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.

SPEAK UP

Here are some comments about stories happening in your area:

1% salary increase approved for Apache Junction school district employees

"Wow, that will make them want to stay." — **Victor R. via Nextdoor**

***

"It's a slap in the face to our educators." — **Betty Miller via Nextdoor**

***

"Pretty sad." — **Margie Schendel via Nextdoor**

***

"Are your children being taught reading writing and arithmetic? Are they learning and performing up to grade level? I hope these are the issues guiding the answers here, for the sake of the children, for our country." — **Bob Thompson via Nextdoor**

***

"Bob, coming from a former AJ student in my youth to now having high-school-aged children of my own: No, AJ students are not performing well or at grade level, says testing standards in AZ. I know your questions were rhetorical but I took my 17-year-old out of the district when he was in fourth grade due to underperformance issues in the district. I knew he was behind but I had no idea how far behind until I brought him to an A-plus rated school district. It took him till the middle of sixth grade before he was actually caught up. Its so sad to see teachers being insulted with 1%." — **Valerie Scott via Nextdoor**

***

"That is an insult. Our children are our future and they deserve dedicated teachers. Are teachers supposed to live only on air?" — **Marsha Newbold via Nextdoor**

Superstition Fire and Medical District buying $85K Ford F-150 for fleet rotation

"85,000 for an F150 is grossly overpriced. Should be required to purchase base model. It all depends on what was needed." — **hunter m. via Nextdoor**

***

"With all the new developments and apartments being built, we need more fire protection. I believe that is a small price to pay if it is your loved one who needs help or your house is on fire. Just my opinion." — **kaye hind via Nextdoor**

***

"It is a pickup with lights, a tonneau cover over the bed and a radio. Possibly a computer. It is for chiefs to drive around, not to put out fires. Read the article completely." — **Herb Glass via Nextdoor**

Apache Junction youth wins gold, eyes next Paralympian challenge

"Outstanding. I taught air rifle for several years in high school. Her choice of rifle is excellent, but without the skill, it's just a tool. And to shoot as well as she did. Awesome. Watch for her name and the Paralympics in the future." — **Steve Wood via Nextdoor**

***

"Congratulations." — **Donna Drake via Nextdoor**

***

"Way to go, Rumi. Excellent work. Proud of you." — **Lee B. via Nextdoor**

***

"Awesome. Continued success." — **Shelli Navarro via Nextdoor**

***

"Great job, Rumi." — **Dale Kater via Nextdoor**

East Valley lawmaker's bill for Buffalo Soldiers monument clears house

"Senators, please vote 'Yes.' The Buffalo Soldiers are a unique part of Arizona history that needs to be honored and remembered." — **Judy Wade via Nextdoor**

***

"My grandfather was a Buffalo Soldier. David Whit. He was stationed in Fort Huachuca Base and camped out on the Naco Sonora border near the railroad where he met my beautiful grandmother, Guadalupe Ballesteros. It's a beautiful history. I visited the Fort Huachuca Base in 2004. They have an amazing museum that holds all the memories of the soldiers and nurses. It was a wonderful experience for my kids and myself to see a little of my grandfather's life through that museum. They have a huge monument of a soldier on a horse. We need good history of the real heroes of this world. People who truly stand for one's life while risking their lives. It's a good impact for our children they get to see the real men who made the difference, who battled for a better today." — **Jamila C. via Nextdoor**

***

"It would show we are not bigoted in Arizona and appreciate all the Buffalo Soldiers did and sacrificed for us all." — **Nancy G. via Nextdoor**

Bill would pave way for residents to vote on photo radar

"Long overdue. Let's get rid of this intrusive abomination once and for all." — **Roland Murphy via Nextdoor**

***

"A large percent of tickets are given in error, so have fun with that." — **brock d. via Nextdoor**

***

"I'll vote down any photo radar if it's going to be used for speeding. Red light running, I'm a maybe." — **Glenn F. via Nextdoor**

***

"Glenn, I tend to agree. Except every school zone should have a speed camera." — **James Panzer via Nextdoor**

***

"No cameras anywhere! Put more officers on the streets if anything." — **Roland Ochoa via Nextdoor**

***

"Long overdue and the clearing of city surveillance should continue until gone." — **josh barkley via Nextdoor**

***

"I think making it a non moving violation with a small fine but no points on their license would get drivers' attention and make them more inclined to pay the fines." — **Geralyn Weil via Nextdoor**

***

"Lots of accidents in Maricopa County but photo tickets are like an ATM for the city or county. I support our laws but we as taxpayers are paying for these machines they use for revenue financed by taxpayers as a method to balance budgets is (wrong)." — **Dennis Marino via Nextdoor**

***

"No, on photo radar. It's our constitutional right to face our accuser. No camera is going to show up in court to have questions asked of it." — **Les Smith via Nextdoor**

***

"Cameras are cheap compared to the damage a red-light runner causes." — **Steve Dill via Nextdoor**

***

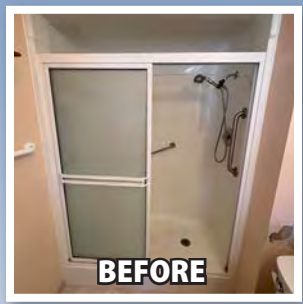
"We need photo radar. Way too many people have no clue how to drive." — **Dee S. via Nextdoor**

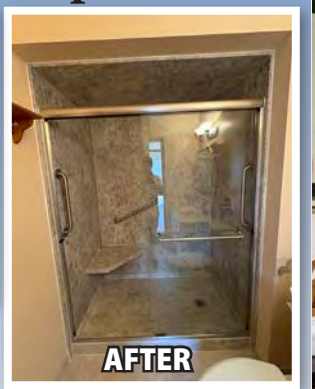
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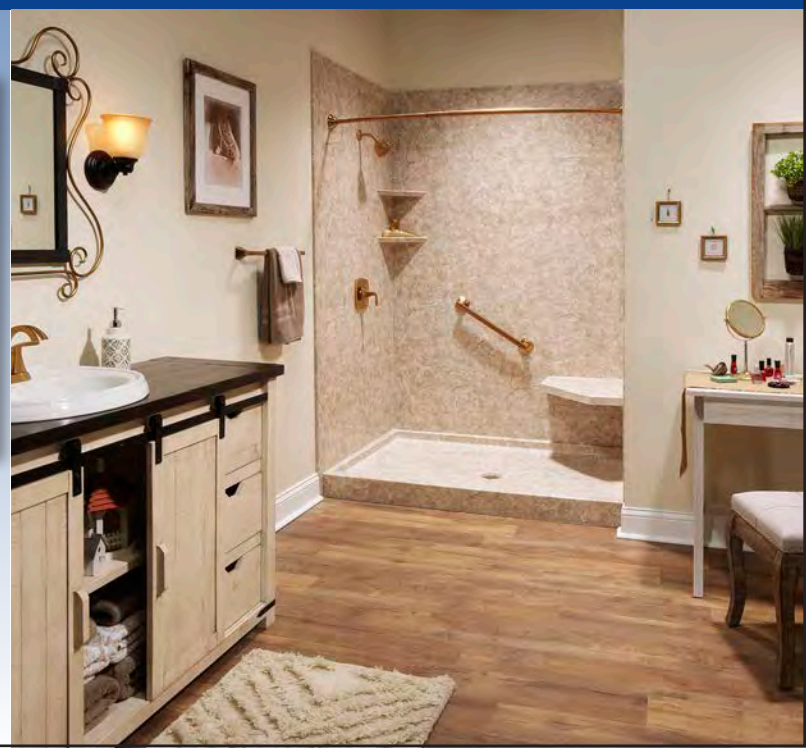
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Business Operations Manager: Kathleen Kotzbauer ..... *kkotzbauer@iniusa.org*
V.P. of Sales & Marketing: Barbara Wandling ..... *bwandling@iniusa.org*
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Richard Dyer
Managing Editor
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APRIL 11

Balladeer Dolan Ellis book-signing event

Dolan, who lives in Tubac, was appointed Arizona's Official State Balladeer by Gov. Sam Goddard in 1966 and has been re-appointed by 13 consecutive governors. He has retired from live performances due to hearing loss but has found a new way to continue sharing his love of Arizona through the pages of his new book, "Adventures of a Balladeer."
A short presentation followed by a time for Q&A is 1-3:30 p.m. at the Superstition Mountain Lost Dutchman Museum, 4087 E. Apache Trail (State Route 88) in Apache Junction.
Go to dolanellis.com

APRIL 11

Concert in the Park

Bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a nice evening outside listening to music from "Guns Out" playing a medley of classic rock hits 5:30-7 p.m. at Flatiron Community Park, 100 N. Apache Trail. In the event of bad weather, the concert may be moved to the Multi-Generational Center. For information, call Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department at 480-474-5240 or go to apachejunctionaz/parks.

APRIL 13

Dark Sky Week event

Come out and enjoy some stars, stories and s'mores with Pinal County Open Space, Trails and Regional Parks and the Pinal County Library and celebrate International Dark Sky Week in Pinal County 6-8 p.m. at Dinosaur Park, 5622 S. Alameda Road in Gold Canyon.
pinal.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=3677

APRIL 18

Movie in the Park

Bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a nice evening outside watching the family movie "A Bug's Life" from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Flatiron Community Park, 100 N. Apache Trail.
In the event of bad weather prior to movie time, this program could possibly be moved to the Multi-Generational Center.
For information, call Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department at 480-474-5240 or go to apachejunctionaz/parks.

THINGS TO DO

Annual Earth Day, ladybug release event at Flatiron Community Park

Bring the whole family for the Earth Day and ladybug release Saturday, April 11, at Flatiron Community Park in Apache Junction.

The event 9-11 a.m. at 100 N. Apache Trail is packed with activities for the whole family such as arts & crafts, face painters, seed planting, garden education, and of course, the releasing of thousands of ladybugs.

Ruggiero's Ace Hardware provides the ladybugs to release in the park.

"Feel free to release your ladybugs at Flatiron Park or take them home to release. The whole community is invited to help release the ladybugs beginning at 9 a.m. All of the activities are free for ages to attend," it states in a release.

For information on this program or other programs and services, call contact the Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center at 480-474-5240 or go to https://apachejunctionaz.gov.



The event 9-11 a.m. at 100 N. Apache Trail is packed with activities for the whole family such as arts & crafts, face painters, seed planting, garden education, and of course, the releasing of thousands of ladybugs. (Independent Newsmedia Arianna Grainey)

Annual Easter egg hunt April 4 in Apache Junction



Special prizes will be given to those who find a token in the egg during the hunt. (Independent Newsmedia, Arianna Grainey)

Help find over 15,000 prize-filled eggs as the Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department invites the community to participate in its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4.

It will be held at the softball fields at Prospector Park, 3015 N. Idaho Road in Apache Junction.

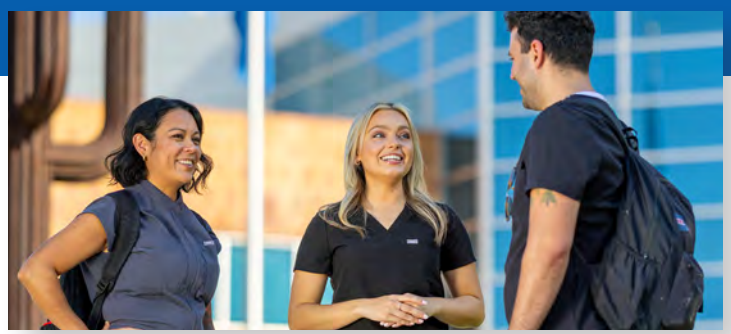
This egg hunt is open to all kids up to age 17 and is free to the public. The hunts are divided into separate age groups: 2 and under, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, 7-9, 10-12 and 13-17. Special prizes will be given to those who find a token in the egg during the hunt.

"Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets to carry all of your goodies. There will be other activities and games sponsored by local nonprofit organizations available during and after the egg hunt. Bring your camera so that you can capture your very own picture with the Easter bunny," it states in a release.

The first egg hunt will begin at 9 a.m. for children 2 and under. The remaining hunts will begin immedi-

• See **Egg Hunt** on page **34**

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Sun City • May 4, 2026 • Sundial Rec Center
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Surprise • August 18, 2026 • The Colonnade
Sun City • September 23, 2026 • Sundial Recreation Center
Sun City West • October 28, 2026 • SCW Foundation Center
Mesa • November 13, 2026 • Mesa Marketplace Swap Meet

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STATEWIDE RESOUCES

1-838-588-4222 Opioid Assistance and Referaal Line
Local medical experts offer patients, providers, and family members opiond information, resources and fererral 24/7. Translation services available.

1-800-562-HELP (4357) SAMHSA's National Helpful
Free, confidential treatment feferral and information service available 24/7 (in English and Spanish).

NaloxoeAZ.com
See where the opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone is available near you.

DumpTheDrugsAZ.org
Find a location to dispose of unused, unwanted, or expired medication.

FindTreatment.gov
Find treatment resources available inyour area.

TalkNowAZ.com
Get tips on talking with youth about substance use.

YOUTH RESOUCES

Text ***HELLO*** to ***741741*** to test anonymously with a trained crisis counselor for free, 24/7.

1-800-248-TEEN (8336) Teen Lifeline *Available 24/7*
Arizona support line for teens operated by teens.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline *Available 24/7*
Helps individuals in suicidal crisis with suport.

1-866-488-7386 Trevor Project Lifeline *Available 24/7*
Confidential suicide hotline for LGBT youth.

1-800-TLC-TEEN Teens Helping Teens *Available 6p to 9p PST*
Text TEEN to 839863 to speak with another teen.

CHAMPIONSHIPS



Imagine Prep's wrestling team is the state runner-ups for the second consecutive year. (Imagine Prep)

Imagine Prep wrestling team state runner-ups

By Varsity Head Coach Lance Uehling

In an impressive display of skill and determination, the Imagine Prep wrestling team has secured its position as the state runner-ups for the second consecutive year.

The team concluded the state championship with remarkable accomplishments, including three individual state champions, three state runner-ups and three additional placers, emphasizing the depth of talent within the program. This success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both the athletes and coaching staff, who have tirelessly prepared for this moment.

Among these distinguished athletes, Xavier Flores emerged as a standout star, capturing his third state title. His impressive performances throughout the season have solidified his reputation as one of the top wrestlers in the state.

In an exciting announcement, Flores will be taking his talents to the collegiate level, signing with Arizona Christian University to continue his wrestling career. His commitment marks a significant milestone for not only him but also for the Imagine Prep wrestling program, which continues to cultivate elite talent.

As the wrestlers celebrate their accomplishments, the coaching staff and supporters are already setting their sights on next year's championship. We are incredibly proud of our team's performance and the individual achievements of our wrestlers. While we are honored to be the state runner-ups again, our focus is on building towards a team state championship next year,

The Imagine Prep community stands united in support of the wrestling program and looks forward to even greater success in the future. The hard work, resilience, and sportsmanship demonstrated by these athletes serve as an inspiration, as they continue to strive for excellence both on and off the mat.

As the team prepares for the upcoming season, one thing is certain: the Imagine Prep wrestling team will be a formidable competitor in their quest for a state championship.

NEIGHBORS

2026 is 50th year Bob Bogart has volunteered at Lost Dutchman Days



Bob Bogart at Lost Dutchman Days. (Bob Bogart)

Apache Junction resident Bob Bogart, 84, has volunteered with the annual Lost Dutchman Days since 1976, including snapping photos for the past 25 years.

His favorite memory taking photographs at the rodeo arena was when a photo of himself ended up in an Apple TV commercial when the company was launching its worldwide "Shot on an iPhone" campaign, which debuted during the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

Name: Bob Bogart
Age: 84
Occupation: Retired
Hometown: Apache Junction
Family: Wife, Ann Bogart; one daughter, Toni Bogart; one son, James Bogart; daughter-in-law Marlene Bogart; and two grandchildren, Brianna Bogart and Braiden Bogart.

How long have you been with Superstition Mountain Promotional Corp. and helping with the Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo? In what areas do you volunteer for Lost Dutchman Days? Helping with the rodeo and Lost Dutchman Days since 1976, making this the 50th year. Been with the SMPC since the start of the organization when we transitioned the management of the rodeo from the Chamber of Commerce to SMPC. In the beginning I was arena manager, LDD chairman, booking stock contractor, determin-

• See **Bogart** on page **36**

Skating

• From page **6**

good fit," Taylor said. "It allows me to have more of a flexible schedule for other important things in my life, like getting to spend a lot more time at the rink, as well as allowing me to finish my schoolwork and take college classes in between my practice and travel schedule for skating."

Bianca Ibarra, Taylor's learning success coach at ASU Prep Digital, said she helps her balance a demanding training schedule with her academic responsibilities.

The personalized advising and guidance is tailored to an individual's needs, Ibarra said.

"As a learning success coach, I empower students to take ownership of their learning while supporting them in achieving both their personal and academic goals. By monitoring academic progress, helping students stay organized and providing encouragement and accountability, I help ensure students remain on track for success," she said.

"I regularly check in with Kynleigh to review her progress, help her plan assignments and ensure she remains on track academically while she is managing her athletic commitments," Ibarra said.

ASU Prep Digital offers the flexibility and personalized support needed to balance rigorous athletic training with academic success, Ibarra said.

"The program provides a flexible weekly schedule and online resources that allow students to complete coursework at times that best fit their training and/or personal obligations," 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/.



Kynleigh Taylor qualified and competed at the Excel National Finals, earned the designation "U.S. Figure Skating Gold Medalist" for passing senior skating moves in field tests, and this year she landed her triple Salchow figure skating jump. (Cynthia Slawter Photography)



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FUNDING

$200K awarded to AJUSD for robotics program

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Arizona Department of Education is giving $200,000 to the Apache Junction Unified School District for its robotics program.

The AJUSD governing board voted unanimously recently to approve an intergovernmental agreement for the onetime funding.

"(L)egislators at the state get discretionary funding that they can use however they want to for their district, so that $200,000 is one-time discretionary funding that Rep. (Walt) Blackman had that he's giving to us — a portion of whatever he got — for the robotics program," AJUSD Superintendent Robert Pappalardo told the board.

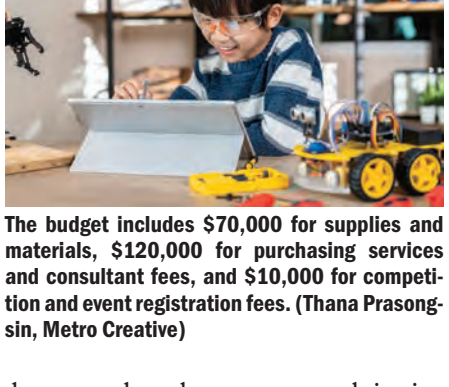
The agreement is effective from upon execution through Dec. 31, 2026, and can be renewed, it states.

Michael Wilson of GenTech Support sought the funding for AJUSD, it states in an interagency service agreement budget sheet.

The budget includes $70,000 for supplies and materials, $120,000 for purchasing services and consultant fees, and $10,000 for competition and event registration fees, it states.

The funding from ADE to GenTech will expand the district's robotics program already in place, Meara Verna, AJUSD's executive director of educational services, told the board.

"We have the opportunity with ADE for a robotics program through the district. We are basically partnering with GenTech again to offer these services and expand the program that we have already currently with them at the elementary and junior high going up into the high school as well, after-school program, summer programs. We're going to work with them to get as much of the STEM education — especially robotics — into their hands," she said.


The budget includes $70,000 for supplies and materials, $120,000 for purchasing services and consultant fees, and $10,000 for competition and event registration fees. (Thana Prasongsin, Metro Creative)

"Sounds wonderful," Board member Gail Ross said.

AJUSD has three elementary schools; a K-5 school designed to provide students with a traditional, liberal arts education; a junior high school; and a high school. 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.

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SCHOLARSHIP

Program brings local GCU graduates back as teachers at AJUSD schools

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Grand Canyon University is offering a $1,000 annual scholarship toward a teaching degree for high school students willing to return to Apache Junction Unified School District for three years of post-graduation employment.

The AJUSD governing board recently voted unanimously to approve a memorandum of understanding with GCU for Rise 360 Pathway.

"Basically it is a scholarship program for students who would go to GCU and have the opportunity to earn a teaching degree ... and return to the community as educators," Meara Verna, AJUSD's executive director of educational services, said to the board.

"There's also a small scholarship portion — I believe it is $1,000 a year — to help facilitate this as well. So this helps create another pipeline for future educators in our community," she said.

The Rise 360 Pathway scholarship of $500 a semester has no cash value and applies to tuition and fees only. A student's acceptance of the scholarship serves as a commitment to serve as an educator in the school district for a minimum of three years post-graduation, it states in the memorandum of understanding.

"I think this is a great pathway for students who want to go into teaching," AJUSD Superintendent Robert Pappalardo said to the board.

During the student's program of study, it is required that they complete any student teaching, substitute teaching or teacher's aide work within the district that awarded the scholarship, it states in the memorandum of understanding.



During the student's program of study, it is required that they complete any student teaching, substitute teaching or teacher's aide work within the district that awarded the scholarship. (Metro Creative)

"If the district cannot place you, you may seek opportunities elsewhere," it states. "This award may be renewable exclusively for the fall and spring semesters, for a maximum of eight semesters, provided that the recipient maintains continuous full-time enrollment, remains in good academic standing and admissibility with Grand Canyon University and successfully fulfills all program milestones necessary for student teaching and graduation."

AJUSD has three elementary schools; a K-5 school designed to provide students with a traditional, liberal arts education; a junior high school; and a high school. 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.

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RESULTS

Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo pays out more than $33,000



Team-roping action Feb. 26 at Lost Dutchman Days with heeler Lil Michael Calmelat and header Pedro Egurrola. (Independent Newsmedia, Richard H. Dyer)

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Winners of the Feb. 26-March 1 Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo in Apache Junction shared a combined payout of more than $33,500, according to official results from the Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo Association.

That's up from the Feb. 23-25 Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo that had a combined payout of more than $32,400, which was down from the Feb. 24-26, 2023, Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo that had a combined payout of more than $37,300.

The following winners are listed by event, place, name, time/score and prize amount. Each payoff was based on the payoff schedule per event; if all places were not filled, the payoff was to remain and monies for the places not filled were to be considered a ground split between placing contestants, according to the rodeo association's website, gcpra.net.

The following are by event; then place, name, time, score and amount:

Bareback

- First place, Cauy Betony, 70.5, $522, $23; second place, Cooper Haefs, 63, $415, $23; third place, Cooper Haefs 57, $307, $23; fourth place, Latharien John (P) 51, $200, $23.

Steer Wrestling

- First place, Travis Reay, 5.3, $529; second place, Cody Montgomery (P), 5.4, $420; third place, Dane Browning, 5.6, $311; fourth place, Travis Reay, 8.6, $202; fifth place, Jackson Clark, 13.0, $93.

Breakaway

- First place, Kayse Mahoney, 1.9, $1,004; second place, Rio Schmidt (P), 2.0, $831; tied for third, fourth and fifth place, Aislynn Mulcaire, 2.2, $485; tied for third, fourth and fifth place, Lyndsey Orris, 2.2, $485; tied for third, fourth and fifth place,

• See **Rodeo** on page **27**

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Event

• From page **12**

"The SFMD will be grilling up a free hot-dog lunch to everyone that attends," she said. "The focus remains on the layers of water safety, including barriers, life vests, CPR and swim lessons."

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.

Summer swimming

Superstition Shadows Aquatic Center opens Saturday, May 23, for the summer. Daily fees are $2 for 17 and under, $3 for 18 and older, with youths free every Wednesday. Open swim hours are 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 1-5:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday. For information, visit https://www.apachejunctionaz.gov/aquatics.

The city of Apache Junction offers swimming lessons for children 6 months old to adults. Other pool classes include adult lap swim for ages 15 and older, water aerobics for ages 16 and up, and a water stretch and tone class for ages 16 and up. Register at https://www.apachejunctionaz.gov/onlinereg.

A Mesa business is helping children build water-safety skills with programs ranging from 5 year olds to adults.

Revel Surf Park, 4503 S. Power Road in Mesa, teaches water safety, rescue skills, surf technique and teamwork in a controlled wave-pool environment. Visit https://revelsurf.com to register.

A junior lifeguard program was held in March. A senior lifeguard program for ages 16-18 is planned at the beginning of summer, with dates to be released.

"It will be an elevated and more in-depth version of our junior lifeguard program. The idea is to put them through our actual lifeguard training and test to prepare them to become a real lifeguard. They will leave with an actual StarGuard Junior Lifeguard certification, and if we have spots left to hire for in our lifeguarding department, a chance to interview for a job position with us and get certified as an actual lifeguard," said Ryan Armstrong, general manager at Revel Surf.

The business also offers a guppy guards program for ages 5-9.

"Our mini and guppy guard programs are a much shorter morning/day camp. The idea is to create a fun camp environment to begin to expose them to water and beach safety while making new friends and having fun at the beach," Armstrong said.

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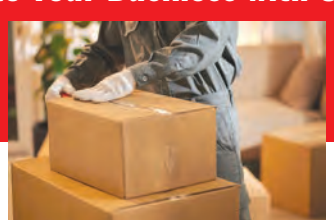
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STUDY

US60 study to focus on Ironwood Drive to Kings Ranch Road

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The city of Apache Junction and Maricopa Association of Governments are reviewing applicants for a consultant to run a study of U.S. Highway 60 from Ironwood Drive to Kings Ranch Road in Gold Canyon.

City staff last year contacted MAG about the projected future travel demand on U.S. 60, Management Analyst Robert Wisler told the city council March 3.

"(W)e saw future traffic forecast data in 2050, even in 2040-50 data we were seeing the U.S. 60 was not meeting the capacity that was projected on that roadway," he said. "MAG proposed doing a corridor study — basically to outline what the future conditions of that corridor should be, what improvements need to be made on it so it functions well."

The study is in the MAG budget, Wisler said.

When the consultant is chosen, it will begin the study process that should conclude in early 2027, Wisler said.

"From there we're likely going to have recommendations in terms of ... what the highway will look like in the future. So we will be kind of moving next from this corridor study to environmentals and final design, getting the funding for this piece and then be looking at construction beyond that," Wisler said.

Councilmember Darryl Cross asked if the study could be moved south past the Arizona Renaissance Festival, which is at 12601 E. U.S. Highway 60 in Gold Canyon.



Maricopa Association of Governments will study U.S. Highway 60 traffic from Ironwood Drive to Kings Ranch Road in Gold Canyon. (City of Apache Junction)

"I mean it just seems like Peralta Road is getting busier and busier," he said.

City staff did ask to extend the study to Peralta Road, Wisler told the council.

"We asked first about going down to the renaissance festival. Unfortunately that piece didn't work because for a corridor study ... you have to have a definitive endpoint. It has to go to like another freeway or highway, and there's nothing at the renaissance festival in terms of that sort of waypoint," he said. "We also asked about doing Peralta, going to Peralta. The other issue is that funding is limited and it is a huge stretch that we have already."

No council decision was made on the study March 3 as the topic on the agenda was a discussion item.

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Rodeo

• From page **24**

3,4,5 Cassie Camarillo, 2.2, $485; sixth place, Fallon Doka, 2.3, $86; sixth place, Taylor Girvin, 2.3, $86.

Open tie down

• First place, Cooper Andersen, 8.9, $772; second place, Homer Sanders, 9.2, $613; third place, Kass Newman, 9.3, $454; fourth place, Weston Crane, 9.4, $295; fifth place, Russell Cardoza, 9.5, $136.

Incentive tie down

• First place, (I) Sean Richard, 11.0, $375; second place, (I) John Boyd IV, 14.1, $312; third place, (I) Carson Clark, 15.6, $250; fourth place, (I) Tyrel Richardson, 18.8, $187; fifth place, (I) Joe Grant, 19.7, $125.

Open team roping — header

• Tied for first and second place, John Gaona, 4.0, $1,374; tied for first and second place, Pedro Egurrola, 4.0, $1,374; third place, Wawa Ben 4.1, $985; fourth place, John Gaona, 4.2, $726; fifth place, Hagen Peterson (P), 4.3, $466; sixth place, Braydon Schmidt, 4.5, $259.

Open team roping — heeler

• First place, Steven Gaona, 4.0, $1,374; second place, Lil Michael Calmelat, 4.0, $1,374; third place, Cashton Weidenbener, 4.1, $985; fourth place, Russell Cardoza, 4.2 $726; fifth place, Dylin Ahlstrom (P), 4.3, $466; sixth place, Nano Garza, 4.5, $259.

Incentive team roping — header

• First place, (I) Caiden Murphy, 6.5, $593; second place, (I) Michael Calmelat, 6.8, $490; third place, (I) Jhett Hale, 8.6, $388; fourth place, (I) Chantz Popelier, 9.5, $286; fifth place, (I) Jhett Hale, 11.6, $184; sixth place, (I) Riggin Reed, 13.0, $102.

Incentive team roping — heeler

• First place, Sterling Fowlie, 6.5, $593; second place, Ryan Batdorf, 6.8, $490; third place, Tristan Mahoney, 8.6, $388; fourth place, Mike Freeland, 9.5, $286; fifth place, Ryan Batdorf, 11.6, $184; sixth place, Tristan Mahoney, 13.0, $102.

Saddle Bronc

• First place, Paul Allyn O'Hair (P) 81, $783; second place, Oistin Charleston, 78, $622; third place, Stade Riggs, 76, $461; fourth place, Soshane Kee, 75, $300; fifth place, Jace Angus (P), 72.5, $138.

Open barrel racing

• First place, Stacey Padilla, 17.42, $962; second place, Wendy Platts 17.51, $837; third place, Teri Pegoski, 17.54, $711; fourth place, Cheyenne Barnett, 17.65, $544; fifth place, Allison Vankoll, 17.67, $460; sixth place, Sam Shannon 17.71, $335; seventh place, Ashlyn McCleve, 17.79, $209; eighth place, Courtney Moody, 17.84, $126.

Incentive barrel racing

• First place, Lexie Miller, 18.14, $707; second place, Miko Grubaugh, 18.15, $561; tied for third and fourth place, Sloan Williams, 18.16, $343; tied for third and fourth place, Lacey Reddell (P), 18.16, $343; fifth place, Riley Reidhead, 18.21, $125.

Bull Riding

• First place, Teron Young, 83, $959, $30; second place, Hunter Kelly, 82, $781, $30; third place, Teron Young, 80, $639, $30; fourth place, Antoine Moore, 74.5, $462, $30; fifth place, Hunter Kelly, 69, $355, $30; sixth place, Hunter Kelly, 68, $178, $30.

Bull day money

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• Saturday: Antoine Moore, $73; Hunter Kelly, $73; Teron Young $73.
• Sunday: Hunter Kelly, $80; Teron Young, $80.

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Canyon Lake drawdown project begins in September

The water level of Canyon Lake north of Apache Junction will be lowered 54 feet for approximately 16 weeks starting Sept. 16 for critical dam safety inspections and maintenance.

Tonto National Forest will close the lake, including all boat ramps and access points, during this time. Canyon Lake Marina will relocate slips and boats, according to a release from Salt River Project.

SRP and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lower Canyon Lake for critical dam safety inspections and maintenance once every 20 years.

While inspections and maintenance are regularly performed on the dams, some critical equipment is located underwater, which makes it inaccessible without lowering the lake level. The work will focus on the normally submerged portions of Mormon Flat and Horse Mesa dams, as well as the river channel downstream of Horse Mesa Dam.

Canyon Lake, including all boat ramps and access points, will be closed to the public during the drawdown, the release states.

Go to https://tinyurl.com/5fhhhckp.

TIMELINE

The project will last for approximately 16 weeks beginning Sept. 16, 2026.

It takes approximately four weeks to lower the water level by 54 feet.

It takes approximately eight weeks to complete the inspection and maintenance work.

It takes approximately four weeks to fill the lake back to the normal level using water from upstream reservoirs.

Source: SRP



The work will focus on the normally submerged portions of Mormon Flat (pictured) and Horse Mesa dams, as well as the river channel downstream of Horse Mesa Dam. (SRP)

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LIFEPAK

Service contract approved for fire district cardiac monitor

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Superstition Fire and Medical District is paying more than $3,200 over two years for technical service, maintenance and device repair for a cardiac monitor.

The SFMD board of directors recently voted 3-0 to approve a consent agenda that included the addition of one Lifepak 15 monitor to the district's Stryker ProCare Service monitor service agreement. Board members Jeff Cross and Jason Moeller were absent.

"This agreement is to pay for and add our newest Lifepak 15 cardiac monitor to our already-in-place monitor three-year service plan. This will put all our monitors on the same time line for renewal," Tanner Fox, emergency medical services battalion chief, wrote in a memo to the board.

It will cost $1,601.10 yearly for two years to match the other monitors' plan, he 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.

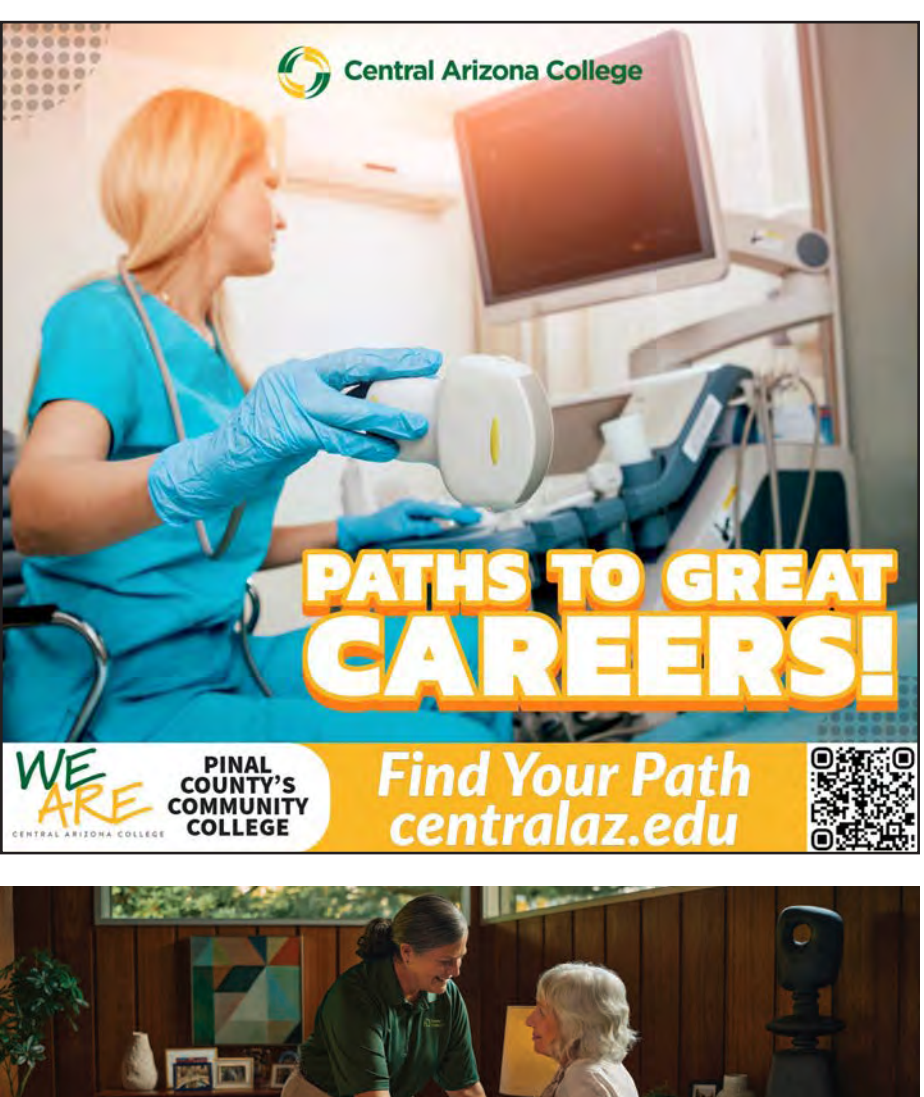
SFMD board meetings are generally held at 5:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at the SFMD Administrative Office, 565 N. Idaho Road in Apache Junction. Agendas are at https://sfmd.az.gov/.

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/.



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. (Metro Creative)







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EDUCATION

High school dropouts to be offered path to graduation

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Apache Junction Unified School District is offering a program where anyone 16 to 22 who has dropped out of school can take courses to earn a high school diploma.

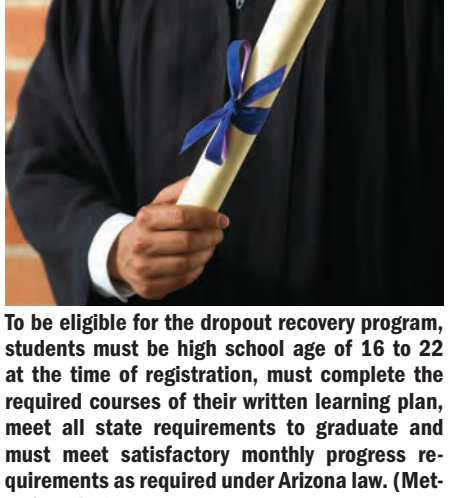
The AJUSD governing board recently voted 5-0 to approve an agreement with Graduation Solutions LLC for the educational services.

The district will receive 20% of the average daily membership generated through the program. School districts and charter schools in Arizona receive state funding based on student counts or ADM.

"This agreement allows the district to offer targeted instruction support and intervention services aligned with district goals to help students remain on track to make graduation requirements. Under this partnership AJUSD will serve as a hub for students ages 16 to 22 who have not yet graduated," Board President Dena Kimble said prior to the vote.

"Life happens to kids 16 on, and they want to now finish their high school diploma. So we then are able to offer those classes to them in the evenings or afternoons when they can have it on our campus. So we can collect those kids and make them high school graduates rather than high school dropouts," said Robert Pappalardo, AJUSD superintendent.

The agreement states courses will be taught primarily online with instructor guidance, tutoring options and in-person meetings. To be eligible for the dropout recovery program, students must be high school age of 16 to 22 at the time of registration, must complete the required courses of their written learning plan, meet all state requirements to graduate and must meet satisfactory monthly progress requirements as required under Arizona law.



To be eligible for the dropout recovery program, students must be high school age of 16 to 22 at the time of registration, must complete the required courses of their written learning plan, meet all state requirements to graduate and must meet satisfactory monthly progress requirements as required under Arizona law. (Metro Creative)

AJUSD has three elementary schools; a K-5 school designed to provide students with a traditional, liberal arts education; a junior high school; and a high school. 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.

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FIRE / MEDICAL

Fire district buying $85K Ford F-150 for fleet rotation

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A Ford F-150 truck with a first-responders light package and tonneau cover totaling nearly $85,000 is to be purchased by the Superstition Fire and Medical District.

"That is going into our fleet rotation. We haven't determined exactly who that goes to. My staff is recommending it goes to me. I'm recommending that it not go to me," Fire Chief John Whitney said during the SFMD governing board's Feb. 18 meeting. "As typical with the rotation, when a new vehicle comes (they) will look at mileage, years, everything like that, and they try to put that into different places."

The truck is to be purchased with the fire district's 150 fund through the ambulance revenue in Transportation Services Director Billy Warren's division, Whitney said.

The SFMD board of directors recently voted 3-0 to approve a commitment to purchase a 2026 Ford F-150 with an eight-year, 150,000-mile Ford premium care warranty. Board members Jeff Cross and Jason Moeller were absent.

It had been on the consent agenda with other items but was pulled by Board Clerk Connie Van Driel for separate discussion.

The 2026 F-150 with warranty and taxes from San Tan Ford is to cost $72,008.06. Additional costs are $10,451.43 for an Arizona Emergency Products light package and $2,500 for a tonneau cover, it states in a memo to the board from Whitney and Warren.

The district needs an additional staff truck as several vehicles in its fleet have reached or exceeded their expected service life, they said.

"Adding this truck would free up a current truck as a reserve vehicle, enabling seamless operations by allowing frontline trucks to undergo scheduled preventive maintenance without disrupting service delivery. When not needed as a backup, the reserve truck could also support administrative personnel for essential tasks, maximizing fleet utilization and improving overall efficiency," they wrote in the memo.

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/.

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STAFFING

Blues & Brews Art Festival medical agreement approved by fire district

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A $1,575 medical staffing agreement for two personnel and a utility terrain vehicle was recently approved for the Blues & Brews Art Festival in Apache Junction.

The Superstition Fire and Medical District board of directors recently voted 3-0 to approve a consent agenda that included a joint agreement between AM Events & Entertainment and the district valid for the March 14 scheduled event. Board members Jeff Cross and Jason Moeller were absent.

The Blues & Brew Art Festival contract is a paid-for-service agreement that allows SFMD to recover all costs for apparatus, fire and medical services used during the event, Assistant Chief Richard Mooney wrote in a memo to the board.

SFMD will have one emergency medical technician basic provider and one paramedic advanced provider to serve as medical aid services and staff a medical aid station 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the event at Flat Iron Park, 100 N. Apache Trail, it states in the agreement.

The $1,575 is based on actual hours worked, plus one hour for preparation and travel to the event, and half an hour for the crew to return to the SFMD Training Center. Personnel and UTV costs are:

- Certified paramedic, $85 per hour for a total of $637.50
- Certified EMT, $75 per hour for a total of $562.50
- UTV apparatus cost, $50 per hour for a total of $375

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.

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PROJECT

CAC to install solar shade structures costing $8.3M

Central Arizona College, in partnership with Veregy, was slated to begin installing solar shade structures costing nearly $8.3 million at the Signal Peak Campus in early March as part of an effort to increase energy efficiency and reduce long-term costs.

The campus is at 8470 N. Overfield Road in Coolidge.

The contract for the solar project is not to exceed $8,259,207 with an estimated rebate of $3,303,682, Angela Askey, CAC executive director of public relations and marketing, said.

The solar shade structures will be installed at the maintenance facility, main parking lot, administration building and residence life areas. Two electric-vehicle charging ports will also be added in the administration parking lot, according to a release.

Veregy first approached CAC in February 2024 to discuss the possibility of installing solar shade structures to improve energy efficiency and generate long-term cost savings, it states.

The business will be installing a system with a capacity of 1,539 kilowatts or 1.539 megawatts. The system is expected to produce 2,653 kilowatts/hour, offsetting 40% of the college's energy demand from the grid, Edward Farrell, account executive with Veregy, said in the release.

With energy costs continuing to rise, CAC elected to move forward with the project as a cost-effective approach to managing energy use through rebates and long-term return on investment. The project also aligns with the college's sustainability plan, the release states.



The contract for the solar project is not to exceed $8,259,207 with an estimated rebate of $3,303,682. (Metro Creative)



The solar structures are to be installed at the blue areas at the Signal Peak Campus campus at 8470 N. Overfield Road in Coolidge. (Central Arizona College)

"The solar shade panels will create a more energy efficient way to manage overall budgetary costs while enhancing quality of life for students and staff," Mark Salaz, director of purchasing, said in the release.

Construction of all solar shade structures is expected to be completed by end of fourth quarter 2026.

Go to www.centralaz.edu.





TRAIL OPENS

Pinal County celebrates Phase 2 opening of CAP recreation trail

Pinal County Open Space, Trails and Regional Parks on March 11 celebrated the grand opening of Phase 2 of the CAP National Recreation Trail with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the South Florence Trailhead.

Following the Central Arizona Project canal through south-central Arizona's desert and agricultural landscape, the CAP Trail will span nearly 100 miles when complete, connecting the communities of Red Rock, Eloy, Coolidge, Florence and Apache Junction, according to a release.

The mostly unpaved, relatively flat trail is ideal for gravel biking, walking, running and horseback riding. Segment 2 offers non-motorized trail users a nearly 40-mile stretch through southern and central Pinal County with views of the Picacho Mountains, Newman Peak, Picacho Peak, the Tortolita Mountains and the Superstition Mountains.

Along the way, visitors can experience stretches of pristine Sonoran Desert, riparian areas and creosote flats, home to a wide variety of native plants and wildlife.

Explore one of Arizona's newest outdoor recreation opportunities. Learn more at pinal.gov/1099/CAP-National-Recreation-Trail.



Following the Central Arizona Project canal through south-central Arizona's desert and agricultural landscape, the CAP Trail will span nearly 100 miles when complete, connecting the communities of Red Rock, Eloy, Coolidge, Florence and Apache Junction.



Egg Hunt

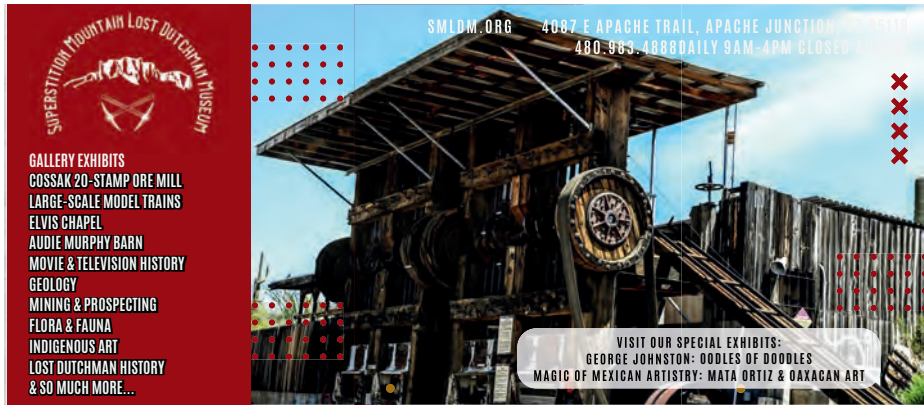
• From page **18**

ately after the first hunt in order of age. Be sure to come early and allow for plenty of time to park and access the fields before the egg hunts. Additional parking and shuttle services will be available at the Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds.

Any local nonprofit organization that would like to sponsor a booth at the Easter egg hunt should email Jared Grimm at jgrimm@apachejunctionaz.gov.

Are you interested in volunteering at this event? If so, email Jared Grimm at jgrimm@apachejunctionaz.gov.

For information on this or other programs and services, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 480-983-2181 or go to www.apachejunctionaz.gov/parks.



PARKING/STORAGE



The property owned by Timothy McNees and Laurie Crawford at 4424 N. Cedar Drive was found in violation of the Pinal County development services code as to outside storage and parking — vehicle parking and outside storage and parking — other items. (Pinal County)

Code violations on North Cedar Drive property before supervisors

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Authorizing the Pinal County Attorney's Office to take all necessary action to enforce civil hearing office findings of violations against a property owner northeast of Meridian Drive and McKellips Boulevard near Apache Junction was approved recently by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

The supervisors voted unanimously recently on a consent agenda with other items to authorize filing a complaint in Superior Court, using appropriate resources to remedy the violations and file liens for the cost of recovery.

The property owned by Timothy McNees and Laurie Crawford at 4424 N. Cedar Drive was found in violation of the Pinal County development services code as to outside storage and parking — vehicle parking and outside storage and parking — other items, it states on the agenda.

The supervisors packet includes a two-page timeline from when the property owner was notified.

A courtesy letter was mailed to the property owner on Sept. 7, 2022, and a code compliance officer first inspected the property on Oct. 17, 2022, it states.

"Property was found to be in violation. On the northeast side of the property, a trailer loaded with wood framing, a bucket truck, two more flatbed trailers, several RVs with no tags visible and scrap/debris consisting of metal and other indiscernible items were observed. On the southeast side of the property, inoperable vehicles and semi-trailers or storage containers were observed. An order to comply letter was mailed to (property owner)," it states about the Oct. 17, 2022 inspection.

A hearing was held May 22, 2025, where the property owner was found in violation of count 1: outside storage and parking – vehicle parking and count 2: outside storage and parking – other items; and a fine of $500 per violation was imposed equaling $1,000, it states.

The last two items on the list are: "07/07/2025 case referred to the county attorney for enforcement" and "12/15/2025 property was inspected and the violations remain."

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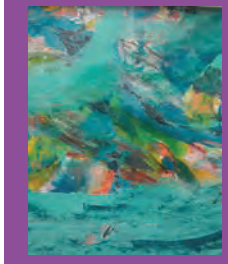
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Bogart

• From page **20**

ing locations for rodeo, judge for rodeo queen competitions. Donated crowns for Apache Junction queens. Before we had our own chutes and bleachers, would make arrangements to lease them from nearby cities and schools.

What do you like most about the rodeo? The people that you meet, involved with the rodeo and interacting with the public. Also the fact that all the proceeds go to help local youth organizations is very important.

How long have you been taking photos at the rodeo and associated events and why? About 25 years. Includes the golf tournament, rodeo queens competition. Enjoyed photography for many years and this was a way to expand on that.

What is your favorite memory snapping photos at the Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo? I was shooting photos at the rodeo arena for Lost Dutchman Days and ended up with a photo of me in an Apple TV commercial. They were launching their worldwide "Shot on an iPhone" campaign, which debuted during the 2016 Olympics in Rio. It was an interesting turn of events.

What is your favorite memory of a nature photo you snapped? And how do you know where to frame the shot? A whale breaching almost completely out of the water on a family trip to Alaska. It was a good photo but being there with my whole family to see it also made it that much more special. Timing was everything for it. Trying to guess when and where it would happen was tough. Luck helped a lot with that one.

What advice do you have for new photographers snapping photos at live rodeo events and in nature? Practice what you are shooting to become good. You also don't need top-line gear for good photos. Anyone can take a picture with expensive gear. Learn how to shoot a good photo on anything.

What is something many people don't know about you? I'm probably the only person to have ever roped a moose horseback. No really.

How are you involved in the local community? Mostly just through LDD and SMPC now.

What drew you to your community? Business opportunities. Started our first business here in 1976.

What do you most cherish from your childhood? In keeping with the rodeo theme — at the age of 17 with the help of three friends produced my first rodeo in Anthony, New Mexico.

What is your most quirky talent? Telling stories.

Business

• From page **9**

yon; Jean Buckborough; All Other Outpatient Care Centers (621498).

• D.N.A. Nutrition dba Dwights Annie Green; Mesa; Dwights Annie Green; Other Personal Care Services (812198).

• Holistic Harmony By Karen; Apache Junction; Karen Sotelo; Other Personal Care Services (812198).

• Jersey College School Of Nursing; Mesa; Greg Karzhevsky; Colleges, Universities, And Professional Schools (611310).

• Not Every Libra; Phoenix; Melinda Whittington; Gift, Novelty, And Souvenir Retailers (459420).

• Legalshield Associate; Apache Junction; Scott Pfeiffer; All Other Legal Services (541199).

• Epica LLC; Las Vegas, Nevada; Alex Kaplan; Other Individual And Family Services (624190).

• MJ Healing Spa LLC dba Mj Healing Spa; Apache Junction; Arizona; Manping Neff; Other Personal Care Services (812199).

• Ventures Endurance Events LLC; El Paso, Texas; Raquel Trinidad; Promoters Of Performing Arts, Sports, And Similar Events Without Facilities (711320).

• Mota Construction LLC; Buckeye; Bryan Mota; Other Heavy And Civil Engineering Construction (237990).

• Ehhe LLC dba K Town In AZ; Queen Creek; Sam Hong; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• Sycamore Grove Designs LLC dba The Living Loaf Co.; Mesa; Amber; Independent Artists, Writers, And Performers (711510).

• Edward Jones; Mesa; Linda Drake; Portfolio Management And Investment Advice (523940).

• Red Stone Glass; Apache Junction; Cynthia Davenport; Independent Artists, Writers, And Performers (711510).

• Miriam Wilson dba Avian Arts; Apache Junction; Arizona; Miriam Wilson; Hobby, Toy, And Game Retailers (459120).

• Neal Family Vineyards LLC dba Neal Family Vineyards; Angwin, California; Mark Viter; Wineries (312130).

• Casa Tlalli LLC; Mesa; Yarmeli Uribe; All Other General Merchandise Stores (452319).

• Grill'd LLC dba Grill'd Food Truck; Fountain Hills; Carla Tredway; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• Dewitt Construction Arizona LLC; Vancouver, Washington; Garrett Speyer; All Other Specialty Trade Contractors (238990).

• Teaching Strategies LLC; Washington, D.C.; David Trammell; Elementary And Secondary Schools (611110).

• Sweet Treats Ice Cream LLC; Mesa; Jasmine Williams; Mobile Food Services (722330).

• J C Compton Enterprises Inc.; Tempe; Minako Compton; Power And Communication Line And Related Structures Construction (237130).

• S & S Paving & Construction LLC; Phoenix; Lori Van Ess; Commercial And Institutional Building Construction (236220), Other Heavy And Civil Engineering Construction (237990), Site Preparation Contractors (238910).

• 817 Properties LLC dba Alair Homes; Gilbert; Jeff Gorszczyk; Framing Contractors (238130), Other Foundation, Structure, And Building Exterior Contractors (238190).

• On Scene RV Service LLC; Phoenix; Donal D Tomnitz; General Automotive Repair (811111).

• For The Love Of Flowers LLC; Gold Canyon; Elisha Ott; Florists (459310).

• Hampton Meridian Cat LLC; Apache Junction; Nelly Gomez; Residential Property Managers (531311).

• Kingmans Barbershop dba Stately Barber Co; Apache Junction; Robert Burge; Barber Shops (812111).

• Ryse Home Services LLC dba Ryse Restoration AZ; Apache Junction; Jordan Lowe; Remediation Services (562910).

• Inframark dba Mehall Contracting; Chandler; Cade Girardi; Other Nonhazardous Waste Treatment And Disposal (562219)

• Sunworx Solar Services LLC; Apache Junction; Micah Mcmanama; Other Services To Buildings And Dwellings (561790)

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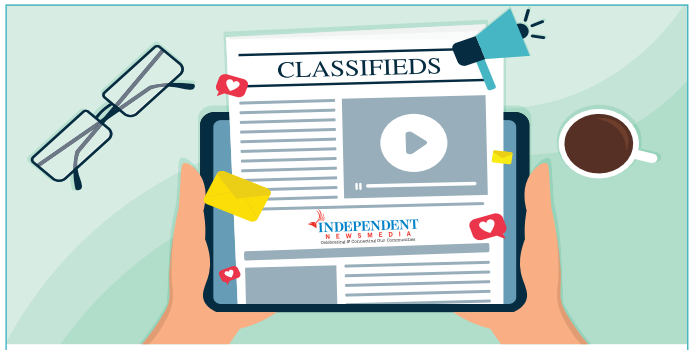


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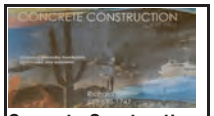
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THE CITIZEN

SUMMER 2026 ISSUE | MAY- AUGUST



IN THIS ISSUE:

CELEBRATE AMERICA250

The city will mark America's 250th anniversary with events and programs that celebrate our shared history, civic pride, and community spirit.

UNEARTH A STORY THIS SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Apache Junction's annual Fourth of July celebration returns with family activities, live music and a fireworks extravaganza at Superstition Shadows Park

Surrounded by Legends

Message from the City of Apache Junction

Dear Citizen Readers,

Welcome to your summer issue of The Citizen, featuring the many exciting programs and activities offered to Apache Junction residents this season. Throughout this issue, you will find a variety of offerings by our Parks and Recreation, Library and Police Departments.

In addition, we want to remind our residents of several upcoming citywide updates, all of which can be found on our website at www.apachejunctionaz.gov for more information!

• Celebrate America 250 in Apache Junction | Honoring Our Nation's Legacy

The City of Apache Junction is proud to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, honoring our nation's history, civic pride, and the values that continue to shape our community.

Throughout the year, residents and visitors can participate in a variety of America250 opportunities, including Outdoors250 events, the Passport250 digital pass, and a special collaboration with State Forty-Eight featuring a custom America250 shirt highlighting Apache Junction's iconic scenery.

Additional America250 programming will continue throughout 2026, with special library collections, educational discussions, and America250 elements incorporated into the City's Fourth of July Celebration and Veterans Day Parade.

Learn more and stay updated at www.apachejunctionaz.gov/a250

• 3rd Annual Community Construction Expo Happening May 2nd!

We're thrilled to host our 3rd Annual Community Construction Expo — formerly known as the Building Safety Month Expo — on Saturday, May 2, 2026, as a celebration of Building Safety Month, a nationwide initiative led by the International Code Council.

Last year, this FREE community event welcomed more than 300 attendees and featured local contractors, character appearances, Touch-a-Truck, food trucks, games, prizes, and more.
This year, we're building it even bigger with more character appearances, a skid steer stunt show, and a larger, hands-on digger zone for kids and families to enjoy.

Thank you to the many sponsors and vendors who make this event possible! Learn more at www.apachejunctionaz.gov/buildingsafetyexpo!

• Stay Connected and Don't Miss a Thing!

In addition to the many events and programs featured in this publication, we also wish to remind residents of the many additional ways to stay connected with us! Whether it's our website, social media platforms, or weekly e-newsletter, there are no shortage of options to have the latest city news right at your fingertips!

Visit www.apachejunctionaz.gov/stayconnected to sign up for our newsletter, connect with us on social media, and more!

Lastly, a reminder that this publication is developed in partnership with the Apache Junction/Gold Canyon Independent Newspaper, which produces issues of The Citizen three times a year – Fall, Spring, and Summer. This is the result of an innovative agreement between the city and Independent Newsmedia, which allows the publication to be supported by advertising from area businesses and all but eliminating the cost to the taxpayer.

We thank our residents of Apache Junction for your continued trust in serving you and wish you a wonderful summer season!

Our Mayor And City Council



Mayor
Chip Wilson



Vice Mayor
Robert Schroeder



Councilmember
Darryl Cross



Councilmember
Bambi Johnson



Councilmember
Peter Heck



Councilmember
Tess Nesser



Councilmember
Bryan Soller





2026 AJPR 4TH OF JULY Celebration



Gates open at 6pm. Coolers and bags will be inspected, please use clear bags for faster check-in; no glass, no alcohol, tobacco/e-cigs or pets allowed.

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters!
Apache Junction Little League, Apache Junction Police Department, Superstition Fire & Medical District

Public Swim 9am-3pm
Superstition Shadows Pool

★

Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament
Sign-up @ 7:45am @ Superstition Shadows Aquatic Center
Limited to the first 8 teams

Fireworks @ 8:30
Weather Permitting

★

Location: Superstition Shadows Park

Field Activities & Inflatables

★

Free Watermelon

★

Vendors and Food Booths

★

Live Music

Gates open at 6pm

For more details information: www.apachejunctionaz.gov/4thofJuly
480-474-5240 Facebook: @AJParksAndRec



Parks and Recreation Programs/Events

SWIM LESSONS

The City of Apache Junction is a proud provider of STARFISH SWIMMING!

Starfish Swimming is a nationally recognized swim instruction curriculum developed by the Starfish Aquatics Institute (SAI). The Starfish Swimming curriculum is designed for students ages 6-months to 13. Benchmarks are established at each stage in the program that combines both swimming and safety skills. Students participate in experiential learning activities that allow them to explore the water in a creative and comfortable environment. Correct swimming techniques are taught from the very beginning. Remember parents: supervision is a must! While swimming lessons are one layer of protection, nothing beats supervision. Keep your eyes on your child whenever you are in, on, or near the water!

StarBabies™ and StarTots™ (ages 6mo- 3 years) The purpose of this course is to foster in very young children a high comfort level in the water while at the same time training parents and caregivers in water safety and drowning prevention. This course does not teach children to become accomplished swimmers or to survive in the water; it does provide confidence-building, fun, and loving experience. Swim diapers are required if not potty trained.

Starfish Swim School® (ages 3- 13 years) Students work toward development of the five core swimming competencies and receive color stage awards for each achievement. The color stages are used to divide students into broad ability groups. Children progress at individual rates with the opportunity to learn the core swimming skills and progress to advanced strokes. Learning is self-paced but challenging.

Starfish Stroke School™ (ages 5-13 years) Students refine freestyle and learn stroke technique for backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke, and more.

Adult Lessons (ages 14 and older) If you are interested in swim lessons, please contact Julia Feraldi at 480-474-5248 or jferaldi@apachejunctionaz.gov. These will occur in Session 5 at 4:30pm.

Starfish Swimming

Be Safe! Have Fun!

Registering made easy!
Simply choose the timeframe that works best for you and your child/children. On the first day of class, all Swim School/Stroke School children will go through a quick assessment based on the pre-determined benchmarks set by the Starfish Aquatics Institute. They will then be placed into the proper class. Should you need assistance transferring timeframes, please contact Parks and Recreation at 480-474-5240.



Session I ~ May 26 through June 4 (no class on Memorial Day Monday)
The last day to register in the office is 5/22

Class	StarBabies	StarTots	StarFish
4:30-5:00pm	3419		3420
5:05-5:35pm		3421	3423
6:00-6:30pm	3424		3425
6:35-7:05pm		3426	3427

Session II ~ June 8 through June 18
The last day to register in the office is 6/4

Class	StarBabies	StarTots	StarFish
9:00-9:30am			3428
9:45-10:15am		3429	3430
10:30am-11am	3431		3432
4:30-5:00pm	3433		3434
5:05-5:35pm		3435	3436
6:00-6:30pm	3437		3438
6:35-7:05pm		3439	3440

Session III ~ June 22 through July 2
The last day to register in the office is 6/18

Class	StarBabies	StarTots	StarFish
9:00-9:30am			3456
9:45-10:15am		3457	3458
10:30am-11am	3459		3460
4:30-5:00pm	3461		3462
5:05-5:35pm		3463	3464
6:00-6:30pm	3465		3466
6:35-7:05pm		3471	3467

Session IV ~ July 6 through July 16
The last day to register in the office is 7/2

Class	StarBabies	StarTots	StarFish
9:00-9:30am			3534
9:45-10:15am		3535	3536
10:30am-11am	3537		3538
4:30-5:00pm	3539		3540
5:05-5:35pm		3541	3542
6:00-6:30pm	3543		3544
6:35-7:05pm		3545	3546

Session V ~ July 20 through July 30
The last day to register in the office is 7/16

Class	StarBabies	StarTots	StarFish	Adult
4:30-5:00pm	3549		3550	3548
5:05-5:35pm		3551	3552	
6:00-6:30pm	3553		3554	
6:35-7:05pm		3555	3556	

Starfish Swimming ($25 each; $5 discount if registered by the Thursday prior to class)

Each session runs Monday through Thursday for 2 weeks (fee is for the 2 week session). Children ages 3-13 registered for a timeframe in Swimschool/Stroke-school will be assessed on the first day of class and separated into the proper class based on pre-determined benchmarks. Please contact our office immediately if any changes need to be made to your enrollment. We do not offer refunds, credits, transfers for swimming lessons **after noon on Friday preceding the start of the first class** — extenuating circumstances will not be considered due to the high demand for these classes. Register for one class per session, and if there are openings patrons can be enrolled into additional classes on-site the fist day of lessons.

Due to restrictions, schedule subject to change.





AQUATICS

Swim Team

Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $50.00
Ages: 5-15
Our summer recreation swim team program focuses on competitive stroke techniques while providing a dynamic recreational team environment.

3527	Morning	8:30am to 9:30am	May 26-July 11	M-Th
3526	Afternoon	4:30pm to 5:30pm	May 26-July 11	M-Th

Adult Lap Swim

Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $40.00
Ages: 15 and up
Join us for lap swim and start your day out right! We will have several lap lanes available. Please follow appropriate lap swim etiquette.

3448	6:30am-7:30am	June 2-June 27	Tu/W/Th/Sa
3449	7:30am-8:30am	June 2-June 27	Tu/W/Th/Sa
3450	6:30am-7:30am	July 7-August 1	Tu/W/Th/Sa
3452	7:30am-8:30am	July 7-August 1	Tu/W/Th/Sa
3453	6:30am-7:30am	August 4-August 29	Tu/W/Th/Sa
3454	7:30am-8:30am	August 4-August 29	Tu/W/Th/Sa

Water Aerobics

Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $40.00
Ages: 16 and up
A moderate to high intensity cardio workout focused on interval training, as well as strength training, toning and stretching of all muscle groups.

3442	7:30pm-8:30pm	June 2-June 25	Tu/Th
3443	7:30pm-8:30pm	July 7-July 30	Tu/Th
3444	7:30pm-8:30pm	August 4-August 27	Tu/Th

Water Stretch & Tone

Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $40.00
Ages: 16 and up
A lower intensity workout, this class is great for anyone wanting to tone upper & lower body areas, strengthen core muscles, and improve balance.

3445	7:30pm-8:30pm	June 1-June 24	M/W
3446	7:30pm-8:30pm	July 6-July 29	M/W
3447	7:30pm-8:30pm	August 3-August 26	M/W

Summer Kick Off Pool Party

Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: Free Ages: Any
A free event for families to kick off the summer season. Note: Children 7 and under must be within arm's reach of an adult at all times. Swim diapers are required for those not potty trained.

3564	6pm to 8pm	May 22	F

Read and Rec-Poolside

Time 9:30am-11am
Fee: FREE
Ages: Designed for 1 year to 5 years but all ages welcome
The AJ Parks & Recreation Aquatics Staff is bringing you a morning with reading and swimming at the pool. Learn water safety with a story as well as instructor led water activities. Children must be within arms reach of an adult at all time. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Swim diapers required. Please do not change your children on the pool deck or picnic tables.

3516	Read & Rec Poolside	June 6	Sa
3514	Read & Rec Poolside	July 18	Sa
3515	Read & Rec Poolside	August 1	Sa

Itty Bitty Beach Party

Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $3.00
Ages: 6 and under
Friday, July 10th from 6:00-7:30pm. Join us for an exciting evening of swimming, games and prizes just for the little ones! Admission is $3 per child and open to kids 6 and under. Note: All children must be within arm's reach of an adult at all times. Swim diapers are required for those not potty trained.

3562	6pm to 7:30pm	July 10	F

Pirates vs. Mermaids

Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $3.00
Ages: Any
Whether you're a daring pirate or a mystical mermaid, join us for a fun-filled Friday night on June 19th from 6pm-8pm of water games, challenges, and treasure hunts.

3561	6pm-8pm	June 19	F

Holiday Heat Wave

Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $3.00
Ages: Any
Join us for a festive summer pool party that brings cool winter cheer to the hottest time of year. Dive into holiday-themed games, crafts, music, and plenty of poolside fun. It's a fun twist on a classic holiday celebration - summer style! Grab your swimsuits, bring your friends, and get ready to celebrate the season early in the pool.

3565	6pm to 8pm	July 24	F





The Last Splash
Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $2 per child (17 & under); $3 per adult
Ages: Any
Celebrate Labor Day with The Last Splash, our last day of open swim with games, water basketball/volleyball, spike ball, prizes, and tons of fun!

3572	12pm to 5pm	September 7	M

Teen Night
Location: Superstition Aquatics Center, 1091 W Southern Ave
Fee: $5.00
Ages: 13-17 years old
Friday, June 12th from 6:30-8:30 pm. Admission is $5 and all teens between the ages of 13-17 years old are welcome. Participate in a variety of activities including: volleyball, open swim, music, games, and competitions. Free pizza and drinks with price of admission.

6:30pm to 8:30pm	June 12	F

Special Events

Mother/Son Nerf Night
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $5.00
Ages: Any
Get ready for an action-packed evening of fun at our Mother/Son Nerf Night! We're transforming the MGC into the ultimate Nerf battleground for an exciting night of friendly competition and unforgettable memories. Participants are welcome to bring their own Nerf blasters, and we'll also have a variety available on-site to ensure everyone can join the action. Throughout the evening, moms and sons will team up, strategize, and enjoy high-energy games in a safe and supervised environment.

3618	4pm to 6pm	May 2	Sa



Cowboys & Cuties Father Daughter Dance
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $10.00 per person
Ages: Any
Celebrate Father's Day with our annual Cowboys & Cuties father daughter barn dance! Activities include learning the 2-step, rodeo fair-themed events, and western style crafts. Enjoy the taste of the southwest with our catered dinner! This event is designed for fathers and their daughters, ages 4-14 years old. Fathers can be substituted with any father figure in a young lady's life - grandfathers, uncles, older brothers (18+), or family friends!

3520	4:30pm to 6:30pm	June 13	Sa

Garden Party
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: FREE
Ages: Any
Join us at the Multi-Generational Center for a Garden Party! This is an open-house-style event where all ages can come and plant their own flowers and take part in other garden-related crafts and activities!

3418	5:30pm to 7:30pm	August 21	F

Diamondbacks Field Trip
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $20.00
Grades: 7-12 years old
Join us for the 2026 D-Backs Camp Day at Chase Field! Our Arizona Diamondbacks will host the Los Angeles Angels for a special day game. Participants will need to bring a sack lunch and any extra money (no cash) for snacks at the game. Sealed water bottles will be allowed. No food or drinks will be provided. Participants will meet at the Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center at 10:30am.

3571	10:30am to 4:30pm	June 17	W

Sunsplash Field Trip
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $30.00
Grades: 7-12 years old
Cool off this summer as we spend a day at Sunsplash. Join us as we ride the water slides, splash around in the wave pool, and relax in the lazy river. Lunch will be provided and participants will be able to select from a hamburger or hotdog lunch. It will be hot during the day, so remember to bring sunscreen and water, and a towel to dry off at the end of the day. Kids will be divided up into small groups which they must stay in throughout the day. Only children who are good swimmers should attend this trip.

3586	10:30am to 5pm	July 8	W



Summer Break Camp
Location: Cactus Canyon Junior High School
Fee: $50.00. Multiple Session Discount: $25.00
Ages: 6-12 years old
Parents! Looking for a place for your child to get out of the house this summer? AJPR has got you covered. Check out new summer camps we will be offering. Each week will offer a different themed camp for the morning and afternoon sessions. Activities will include sports, arts & crafts, cooking, science and more.

Sign up for morning and afternoon session and receive a $25 discount.

**Our summer camps are not licensed daycare facilities. Children are free to check themselves in and out of the program.

3574	8am-12:30pm	June 1-June 5	M-F
3575	12:30pm-5pm	June 1-June 5	M-F
3576	8am-12:30pm	June 8-June 12	M-F
3577	12:30pm-5pm	June 8-June 12	M-F
3578	8am-12:30pm	June 15-June 19	M-F
3579	12:30pm-5pm	June 15-June 19	M-F
3580	8am-12:30pm	June 22-June 26	M-F
3581	12:30pm-5pm	June 22-June 26	M-F
3582	8am-12:30pm	June 29-July 3	M-F
3583	12:30pm-5pm	June 29-July 3	M-F
3584	8am-12:30pm	July 6-July10	M-F
3585	12:30pm-5pm	July 6-July10	M-F

Outdoor Recreation

Scorpion Hunt
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $5
Ages: All Ages
Join us for a fun evening filled with learning and exploring the world of scorpions. If you have a black light feel free to bring it!

3593	8:30-9:30pm	July 10	F
3594	8:30-9:30pm	August 7	F

Fishing Fridays @ Painted Sky Park
Painted Sky Park Ironwood & Ray
Fee: Free
Ages: 4 years and older
Join us for a free fishing event that's fun for all ages! We'll provide the fishing poles, bait, and everything you need to cast a line and enjoy some time by the water. Registration is required through Game and Fish. Look for Painted Sky Park when registering.

3567	6:30pm-7:30pm	May 15	F
3568	6:30pm-7:30pm	June 19	F
3569	6:30pm-7:30pm	July 17	F
3570	6:30pm-7:30pm	August 21	F

Desert Trees in the Summer
Location: MGC, 1035 N. Idaho Rd
Fee: FREE
Ages: All ages
Join us for a short, guided outdoor program focused on how trees survive—and even thrive—during the intense summer months. We'll take a walk outside to observe local trees up close and talk about the adaptations that help them handle heat, drought, and harsh conditions. This is a free program, but registration is required. Come ready to walk, learn, and see our summer survivors in action!

3625	7:30pm-8:30pm	August 14	F

Adult Special Interest Classes

Stargazing With the Pros
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: Free
Ages: All ages
Join us for an unforgettable experience as our astronomy expert guides you on an adventure through the stars. This will be a lecture-style presentation; telescopes will not be provided for viewing.

3528	6:30pm-9pm	May 27	W
3529	6:30pm-9pm	June 24	W
3531	6:30pm-9pm	July 22	W
3530	6:30pm-9pm	August 26	W

Art with Kim
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $15.00
Ages: 13 and up
Welcome to our hands-on art class where you'll explore your creativity through a series of exciting projects! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced crafter, this class will guide you step-by-step to make personalized, functional, and decorative items. We'll use various materials and techniques to create unique pieces of art.

3139	Decoupage Coffee Mug	11am to 2pm	May 9	Sa
3140	Woven Basket	11am to 2pm	June 13	Sa



Rock Painting
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: FREE
Ages: Any
We offer open house nights the first Friday of the month; this allows you to come and go, paint as you wish. We supply all the needed materials, but the rocks, we do recommend you bring 1-2 smooth rocks. Brushes, paint, and everything else is provided. If possible, bring a 2-ounce bottle of acrylic paint to share with your table. Youth under 12 need to be accompanied by an adult.

5:30pm-8pm	May 1	F
5:30pm-8pm	June 5	F
5:30pm-8pm	July 3	F
5:30pm-8pm	August 7	F

Martial Arts Instruction
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd
Fee: $50.00
Ages: 6 and up
This martial arts & fitness program is a community-based class designed to promote physical fitness, self-discipline, confidence, and respect for all participants. This program blends fundamental martial arts techniques with conditioning, balance and coordination in a safe, welcoming and family-friendly environment. Classes are structured for beginners and experienced participants. Emphasis is placed on personal growth, respect for others, and overall wellness rather than competition.

3539	6pm-7:30pm	May 1-May 29	F
3540	6pm-7:30pm	June 5-June 26	F
3541	6pm-7:30pm	July 3-July 31	F
3542	6pm-7:30pm	August 7-August 28	F

Paint & Pints
Location: Cat Wagon Tap & Bottle
Fee: $40.00
Ages: 16 years and older
Spend an evening with Parks and Recreation and the Cat Wagon Tap & Bottle! On the first Thursday of each month, join us at Cat Wagon Tap & Bottle for Paints & Pints! This program will be led by a local artist and each month's painting will be different from the last.

3557	6pm to 8pm	May 7	Th
3558	6pm to 8pm	June 4	Th
3559	6pm to 8pm	July 9	Th
3560	6pm to 8pm	August 6	Th

Superstition Run Club
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd
Fee: $10.00; free for MGC members
Ages: 5 and up
Run Club is all about movement, motivation, and good vibes! Runners and walkers of all levels are welcome—whether you're lacing up for the first time or building endurance. We move together, hype each other up, and have a blast every step of the way. No pressure—just positive energy and community. Run or walk your way to a 5K or beyond! Join us every Saturday morning from 5:30–6:30 AM—the perfect way for the whole family to get active together.

3513	5:30am-6:30am	April 4-August 29	Sa

Youth Special Interest

Archery Lessons
Location: Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds
Fee: $60.00
Ages: 8 and up
Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow by some of the most qualified coaches in the world. Lessons will be taught by 4x USA Olympian/2x Olympic Silver Medalist with nearly 50 years coaching experience, Rick McKinney, and the staff of Superstition Archers.

3517	7am to 8am	May 2-May 23	Sa
3518	7am to 8am	July 11-Aug 1	Sa

Arts & Crafts Classes
Location: MGC, 1035 N. Idaho Road
Fee: $5.00
Ages: 7-13 years old
Join our staff as we create fun Summer crafts and arts. Each class will be themed around the spring holidays and create different crafts!

3610	4pm to 5pm	June 9	Tu
3611	4pm to 5pm	June 16	Tu
3612	4pm to 5pm	June 23	Tu
3613	4pm to 5pm	June 30	Tu
3614	4pm to 5pm	July 7	Tu
3615	4pm to 5pm	July 21	Tu
3616	4pm to 5pm	August 4	Tu
3617	4pm to 5pm	August 18	Tu









PARKS AND RECREATION REGISTRATION

Go to https://www.apachejunctionaz.gov/onlinereg and click the link to either sign-in if you have an account or create a new account.

The registration site will allow you to register and pay for many of the activities online, make payments on payment plans and view account history (reservation permits, activity lists, etc). Additional online processing fees apply.

Drop-off and over-the-counter registration is at 1035 N. Idaho Road — inside the MGC. Call our office at 480-983-2181 or email us at ajpr@apachejunctionaz.gov if you have additional questions or have issues.

Visit our website at www.apachejunctionaz.gov/parks to check out everything AJ Parks & Rec has to offer.

Cooking with Kids
Location: MGC, 1035 N. Idaho Road
Fee: $10.00
Ages: 7-10 years old
Welcome to Cooking with Kids—an exciting culinary journey where young chefs learn essential cooking skills while creating delicious dishes from scratch. With diverse recipes, hands-on learning, and a focus on fun, our program fosters creativity, teamwork, and a love for food. Join us for an unforgettable adventure in the kitchen!

3600	4pm to 5pm	May 20	W
3601	4pm to 5pm	May 27	W
3602	4pm to 5pm	June 3	W
3603	4pm to 5pm	June 10	W
3604	4pm to 5pm	June 17	W
3605	4pm to 5pm	June 24	W
3606	4pm to 5pm	July 8	W
3607	4pm to 5pm	July 22	W
3608	4pm to 5pm	August 12	W
3609	4pm to 5pm	August 19	W

Child/Babysitting Certification
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd
Fee: $50.00
Ages: 12-25
The Child and Babysitting Safety (CABS) program gives teenagers and young adults everything they need to know for safe and successful babysitting. The program teaches how to get started with a business, working with parents and children, and key safety, caregiving, and first aid tips.

3489	4pm-8pm	May 12	T
3490	4pm-8pm	June 23	T
3491	4pm-8pm	July 14	T
3492	4pm-8pm	August 14	F

Firearms Safety Course
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $40.00
Ages: 8 and up. There are separate adult/youth classes.
This comprehensive Firearms Safety Class is designed for individuals of all experience levels who want to learn safe and responsible gun handling. The course covers essential topics such as firearm safety rules, proper handling and storage, loading and unloading procedures, and legal considerations. Participants will receive quality instruction from a certified instructor in a controlled environment to ensure confidence and competence in firearm use.

3498	1:30pm-2:30pm	May 9 (Adult)	Sa
3499	12pm-1pm	May 9 (Youth)	Sa
3500	12:30pm-1:30pm	June 27 (Adult)	Sa
3501	11am-12pm	June 27 (Youth)	Sa
3502	9am-10am	July 18 (Adult)	Sa
3503	10:30am-11:30am	July 18 (Youth)	Sa

Youth Sports

Basketball Camp
Location: Imagine Prep High School Gym
Fee: $50.00
Ages: 8-14 years old, boys & girls
Imagine Prep High School Basketball Coach Sam Valencia will conduct this camp. There will be a huge emphasis on fundamentals and skill development, shooting, ball handling, team and individual offense and defense, quickness and agility. All in a FUN and positive learning environment.

3525	12:30pm to 2pm	June 1-June 5	M-F

Softball Camp
Location: Prospector Park, 3015 N Idaho Rd
Fee: $50.00
Ages: 8-14 years old, girls
Imagine Prep High School Softball Coach Sam Valencia will conduct this camp at Prospector Park. Campers will be learning fundamentals of fast-pitch softball including, throwing, batting, fielding, and learning all aspects of the sport. Balls and bats will be provided. Campers will need their own glove and water bottle. You can also bring your own bat if desired.

3524	9am-10:30am	June 8-June 12	M-F

Volleyball Camp
Location: Imagine Prep High School Gym
Fee: $50.00
Ages: 10-13 years old, girls
Imagine Prep Superstition High School Varsity Volleyball Coach Rachel Mathews will conduct this camp. Join us for a fun and engaging volleyball camp designed for girls ages 10-13 to develop their skills and love for the game! Throughout the week, players will focus on basic volleyball fundamentals, including passing, setting, serving, and hitting while also learning the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship.

3521	9am to 11:30am	June 15 - June 18	M - Th

Football Camp
Location: Prospector Park
Fee: $95.00
Ages: 6-17 years old, boys
Former NFL Oakland Raider/Super Bowl XXXVII Tight-End Jeremy Brigham will conduct this camp at Prospector Park. This camp is open to beginners and advanced players ages 6-17yrs old. Please bring a water bottle, cleats, and a mouthguard. Special guest speakers will also be provided.

3523	8am to 11am	June 4 - June 6	Th-Sa

Archery Lessons
Location: Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds
Fee: $60.00
Ages: 8 and up
Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow by some of the most qualified coaches in the world. Lessons will be taught by 4x USA Olympian/2x Olympic Silver Medalist with nearly 50 years coaching experience, Rick McKinney, and the staff of Gilbert Archery.

3517	7am to 8am	May 2-May 23	Sa
3518	7am to 8am	July 11-Aug 1	Sa

Basketball League 6-8 years old
Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $45.00, $5 discount if register by May 22
Ages: 6-8 years old
VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!!!
This is a noncompetitive introduction to the game of basketball, coached by volunteers for girls and boys. Practices and games will be held Mon & Wed evenings and Saturdays at the MGC. Please volunteer to COACH when registering! Each date is 1 hour. Season opening clinic 5/30 @ 1:30pm. Meet Your Coach 6/6 @ 10:00am.

3480		May 30-July 18	M & W & Sa

Basketball League 8-11 years old
Location: Imagine Prep High School, 1843 W 16th Ave & MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $50.00, $5 discount if register by May 22
Ages: 8-11 years old
VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!!!
This is a noncompetitive introduction to the game of basketball, coached by volunteers. Practices and games will be held Tues & Thurs evenings at Imagine Prep Superstition and Saturdays at the MGC. Please volunteer to COACH when registering! Season opening clinic 5/30 @ 2:30pm in the MGC. Meet Your Coach 6/6 @ 11:00am.

3481		May 30-July 18	Tu&Th&Sa

Parent/Tot Basketball
Location: MGC
Fee: $30.00
Ages: 3-5 years old
This is an awarding winning, parent assisted basketball program, designed to help teach parents and children how to work together on learning the basic skills of the sport, including listening and teamwork skills. Teams will not be made and the games we play will be designed to teach a particular skill. No games will be played in the traditional sense. Parents are required to actively participate in this program. Participants MUST be 3 years old prior to start of class. No class 5/25.

3479	12:30pm-1:15pm	May 9 - June 6	Sa

Baseball Coach Pitch League

Location: Prospector Park, 3015 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $45.00, $5 discount if registered by July 20
Ages: 6-8 years old
VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED!!! This recreational league is designed to introduce kids to baseball. It is coached by volunteers. Practices and games will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings (7:00-8:00pm) and Saturday mornings (9:00-10:00am). No program Labor Day weekend. Please volunteer to COACH when registering! Each date is 1 hour. Season opening clinic: 8/1 @ 9:00am at Prospector Park.

Special pricing for volunteer coaches. Call (480) 474-5119 for details.

3484		August 1-September 19	M & W & Sa

Parent/Tot Baseball

Location: Prospector Park, 3015 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $30.00
Ages: 3-5 years old
This is an award winning, parent assisted baseball program, designed to help teach parents and children how to work together on learning the basic skills of the sport, including listening and teamwork skills. Teams will not be made and the games we play will be designed to teach a particular skill. Parents are required to actively participate in this program. *Participants MUST be 3 years old prior to the start of class. No Program on Labor Day weekend.

3482	10am to 10:45am	August 15 - September 12	Sa

Baseball T-Ball League

Location: Prospector Park, 3015 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $40.00, $5 discount if register by July 20
Ages: 4-5 years old
This league is a recreational introduction to the game of baseball, coached by volunteers. Practices and games will be held on Monday & Wednesday evenings (6:00-7:00pm) at Prospector Park. No program on Labor Day. Please volunteer to COACH when registering! If your child is a beginner, consider also registering for Parent/Tot Baseball. No season opening clinic.

3483	6pm to 7pm	August 10 - September 16	M & W

Superstition Run Club

Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd
Fee: $10.00; free for MGC members
Ages: 5 and up
Run Club is all about movement, motivation, and good vibes! Runners and walkers of all levels are welcome—whether you're lacing up for the first time or building endurance. We move together, hype each other up, and have a blast every step of the way. No pressure—just positive energy and community. Run or walk your way to a 5K or beyond! Join us every Saturday from 3:30–4:30 PM—the perfect way for the whole family to get active together.

3513	5:30am-6:30am	April 4-August 29	Sa
3483	6pm to 7pm	August 10 - September 16	M & W

Adult Sports

Adult Co-Ed Fall Softball League

Location: Prospector Park (3015 N. Idaho Rd.)
Fee: $440.00. Early-Bird Registration Discount: $40.00, expires June 21st
Ages: 18 and up
Double Header league on Tuesdays. Games start July 21st. Visit www.apachejunctionaz.gov/sports for flyer, team packet and additional details. (Minimum 12 game guarantee)

3497	6:30pm to 10:30pm	July 21-September 22	Tu

Archery Lessons

Location: Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds
Fee: $60.00
Ages: 8 and up
Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow by some of the most qualified coaches in the world. Lessons will be taught by 4x USA Olympian/2x Olympic Silver Medalist with nearly 50 years coaching experience, Rick McKinney, and the staff of Superstition Archers.

3517	7am to 8am	May 2-May 23	Sa
3518	7am to 8am	July 11-Aug 1	Sa

Adult Golf League

Location: Apache Creek Golf Course
Fee: $5
Ages: 18 and up
AJPR, in conjunction with the Apache Creek Golf Course, is hosting a 13-week golf league. Play weekly on Tuesdays (minimum 8 rounds) to earn end of the season prizes and play in the tournament on the 13th week. Players/groups schedule their own tee times directly with the Pro Shop on league Tuesdays. $25.00+tax, per round, green fee paid at the course ($2.00 per round prize fund included in price). Play starts May 5 at 8am. Visit www.apachejunctionaz.gov/sports for league rules and weekly updates. Sign-up as an individual or with a group of your friends. MEN & WOMEN WELCOME!

3476	8am	May 5-July 28	Tu

Indoor Beginner Pickleball Lessons

Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $25.00
Ages: Any
This course is designed for complete beginners. Class size is limited to eight students. The goal of this class is to equip you with safety information, stroke mechanics for control, and enough rules and etiquette to give you confidence for drop-in play. Learn the court, equipment, shots, game play, rules, and etiquette.

3508	8:30am to 9:30am	May 7-May 21	Th
3509	8:30am to 9:30am	June 4-June 18	Th
3510	8:30am to 9:30am	July 2-July 16	Th
3511	8:30am to 9:30am	August 6-August 20	Th

Indoor Intermediate Pickleball Lessons

Location: MGC, 1035 N Idaho Rd.
Fee: $30.00
Ages:Any
Looking to take your game to the next level? This is intermediate class that will focus on dinking, dropshots, and court positioning.

3504	10am-11am	May 7-May 21	Th
3505	10am-11am	June 4-June 18	Th
3506	10am-11am	July 2-July 16	Th
3507	10am-11am	August 6-August 20	Th

Intro to Pickleball

Location: Prospector Park (3015 N. Idaho Rd.)
Fee: Free
Ages:16 and up
New to pickleball or want to brush up on your skills? Join us the second Saturday each month for our free intro Pickleball class at Prospector Park from 9:00-10:00am! Our skilled instructor will guide you through the basics, so you can step onto the court with confidence. Balls will be provided and paddles available for those without one. Second Saturday monthly, pre-register to ensure your spot.

Senior Services

Leisure Time Programs (LTP)

Location: MGC, 1035 N. Idaho
Road Fee: $20.00
Ages: 55 and up
This is a group of programs geared towards those 55+. The LTP program is comprised of many different types of programs; PoKeNo, Bridge, fitness classes, walking groups, etc. You don't have to participate in them all, you can pick and choose the programs that interest you. The LTP registration is $20 for programs Jan - June, and/or $20 for programs July - Dec. Please visit apachejunctionaz.gov/parks or the front desk at the Multi-Generational Center for a calendar of events.

	8am to 4pm	July 1- December 31	

Celebrate Mom!

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Mother's Day Tea

at the Multi-Generational Center
1035 N Idaho Rd. Apache Junction, AZ 85119

$10 Per Adult
$5 Per 12 & Younger

MAY
SATURDAY 9 11 AM - 1 PM
2026

You MUST pre-register at the Senior Services front desk
For more information, call 480-474-5260

The City of Apache Junction welcomes participation by people with disabilities in all programs, sites, and facilities. For more information about accessibility contact us as 480-474-5240 or ajpr@apachejunctionaz.gov or visit www.apachejunctionaz.gov/ada.

Apache Junction Parks & Rec

Senior Services

https://www.apachejunctionaz.gov/480/Senior-Services

Congregate & Home Delivered Meals

Served fresh and on site daily

apache junction parks & recreation
the benefits are endless...

ACTIVITIES

Bingo
Cards
Fitness
Arts & Crafts
Health & Nutrition Classes

ajpr@apachejunctionaz.gov 480-474-5260

VISIT YOUR PARKS!

Parks & Meeting Facilities
The Parks Division manages an efficient and complex system of parks, facilities, open spaces, and trail systems for the City of Apache Junction. These are all usable by the public and have various reservable spaces. For park and facility reservation information please visit: www.apachejunctionaz.gov/parks.

Flatiron Park
100 N. Apache Trail. (Hours: Sunrise - 10 p.m.)
Splash Pad, Ramadas, Playground, Multi-Use Field, Picnic Area, Think Water area

Prospector Park
3015 N. Idaho Rd (Hours: Sunrise - 10 p.m.)
Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis/Pickleball, Racquetball, Ballfields, Multi-Use Fields, Picnic Areas, Playgrounds

Superstition Shadows Park & Aquatic Center
1091 W. Southern Ave. (Hours: Sunrise - 10 p.m.)
(Skatepark hours: 8am-9pm)
Aquatic Center, Baseball Field, Walking Path, Tennis/Pickleball, Picnic Areas, Playgrounds, Skate Park
Visit wwwapachejunctionaz.gov/aquatics for operating hours and fees

Little League Complex
1700 W. Broadway Rd. (Hours: Sunrise - Sunset.)
Baseball Fields

Dutchman Dog Park
247 E Superstition Blvd
(Hours: Every day 6am- 10pm except Th 1pm- 10pm)
Off Leash Dog park- Lighted Turf Areas, Dog Waste Stations, Dog/Person Drinking Fountains



Painted Sky Park
10109 S Dutchman Dr
(Hours: Sunrise - 10p.m.)
Playground, Catch & Release Lake, Open spaces, cornhole boards, bocce ball

Painted Sky Dog Park
10200 S. Picacho Trail
(Hours: 6am-10pm except Wed 12pm-10pm)
Off Leash Dog park- Turf Areas, Dog Waste Stations, Dog/Person Drinking Fountains

Parks & Rec Complex Park
1035 N. Idaho Rd. (Hours: Sunrise - 10p.m.)
Picnic Areas, Playground

Rodeo Park Event Center
1590 E. Lost Dutchman Blvd.
Rodeo Arena, Concession Stand, Restrooms





Veterans Memorial Park / Gazebo
1001 N. Idaho Rd. (Hours: Sunrise - 10p.m.)
Gazebo, grassy area,

Silly Mountain Park
NE corner of Silly Mountain Rd. & US60
(Sunrise - Sunset)



Apache Junction Public Library

DO YOU HAVE A LIBRARY CARD?
YES? AWESOME! NO? IT'S EASY TO GET ONE!
Everyone is welcome to get a library card!

Library cards with a 30-item limit are free to anyone who:

- Lives in Pinal County
- Owns property in Pinal County
- Works in Apache Junction
- Goes to school in Apache Junction

Easy Access cards with a 3-item limit are free to anyone regardless of residence.

What do you need to bring?

A government issued photo ID (license, permit, passport, etc)
If your address is correct on your photo ID, that's all you need. If not, bring a piece of mail or bill.

For Kids 13 & under – parent required to apply
Ages 14-17 – Photo ID and School ID accepted.
You can even apply online at ajpl.org







1177 N Idaho Rd, Apache Junction, AZ 85119
480-474-8555 | ajpl.org
Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 AM – 8 PM
Friday-Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM

#AJREADS

AJPL HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!
BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND ALL THE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS WE HAVE TO OFFER.
ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE DUE IN LARGE PART TO OUR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY.

PLEASE NOTE:
REGISTRATION OPENS 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THOSE PROGRAMS REQUIRING REGISTRATION.
(PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION VISIT AJPL.ORG.)

AUDIOVISUAL STUDIO

Podcasts, family portraits, film making...and more. Grab your library card and reserve the studio!

AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT

Cameras ranging from 4k DSLR to an iPad
Lights-professional LED and box lights | Backdrops | Green Screen
Podcast equipment | Teleprompter | Microphones | Mixers
You may also bring your own camera, phone or tablet

Free use of iMac Pro editing suite

Note: You must sign an agreement for the studio before use. Parents/guardians must sign for users under 18. For patrons under 15, the signing parent/guardian must accompany them at all times.





Act One CULTURE PASS ™

Your free ticket to museums, history, culture, art and more! You just need your Library Card!
Check out admission for two people to various locations around Arizona, including the Superstition Mountain Museum, the Heard Museum and more. Find the complete list on the website.

Limit 1 Culture Pass per household, per week. | Limit 2 Culture Passes per household, per month.
Pass will be removed from account on expiration date.
Some locations may have special events or exhibits not covered by the pass,
we suggest contacting the institution ahead of your visit.






SEED LIBRARY

We provide seeds and planting, growing, and harvesting resources for our community.
Four (4) seed packets may be checked out per library card per month.
Seed packets are assembled by the Superstition Master Gardeners.
Want to help pack seeds and hear from Master Gardeners?
Every 2nd Wednesday from 4-5:30 pm join us for Seed Up Meet Up.



WIFI HOTSPOTS

The Library has WiFi hotspots available for check-out. If you are over 18 and an Apache Junction library cardholder, you can check out a hotspot for Internet access at home (or anywhere in the continental United States). These hotspots will allow you to connect to the Internet using your computer, tablet or phone.
Checkout for 28 days, 1 per household.

ROKU STREAMING STICK

The Library has Roku Streaming Sticks available for check-out. If you are over 18 and an Apache Junction library cardholder, you can check out a Roku. You will have access to Netflix, Disney+, preloaded movies on the Vudo app, live TV and more. Hoopla and Kanopy app are also available, just create your free account with your library card. Checkout for 7 days, 1 per household.







SUMMER READING | May 23-July 18, 2026



Unearth a Story this summer at the Library!

We are ROARING with excitement for our summer programs!
All ages will earn prizes as they read!
Preschool | Ages 5 & under
Kids | Ages 6-12
Teens | Ages 13-18
Adults | Ages 19+

Preschool, Kid & Teen program finishers earn a FREE BOOK from the Scholastic Book Fair July 9-18.

Roar Into Summer
Monday, June 1 | 12-2 pm | All Ages
ENCOUNTER LIFE-SIZE DINOSAURS!
Sign-up for summer Reading | Participate in Dinosaur activities

Tea-Rex Party
Monday, June 8 | 2 pm | Ages 6-12 | Registration Required
Have you ever had a tea party with dinosaurs? Join us for tea and learn about dinosaurs, too!

Cardboard Drive-in, Stuffy Sleepover, LEGO building and more fun coming this summer!

GET THE APP!

beanstack

TRACK YOUR SUMMER READING ONLINE WITH OUR APP!
APACHEJUNCTION.BEANSTACK.ORG
PICK UP THE SUMMER READING BROCHURE FOR COMPLETE LIST OF ACTIVITIES BEGINNING MAY 11!

AMERICA 250™



This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

America Waves

Wednesday, June 10 | 10 am | All Ages
Join together as a community to create a celebratory sea of red, white, and blue!
Meet at the Complex Park by the Library or wave from home and tag us on social media!
Pick up your flag from the Library beginning May 26. (1 per person, while supplies last)

We the People

Monday, June 15 | 6-7:30 pm | All Ages
Family program to explore and discuss the Declaration of Independence and how it changed the world.
Discussion lead by Shane Krauser, well-known local author, speaker and expert on the Declaration and the Constitution.

Celebrate America250

Monday, June 29 | 5-6:30 pm | All Ages
It's time to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial!
Hands-on activities, crafts, fun, and photo ops!

Fun Van!

Join a free class near you in Pinal County!
Have fun with your child, build connections with other families, and find support in Fun Van classes.
Each class includes storytime, playtime, a craft and a book to keep!



Contact us!

www.ajpl.org/funvan
funvan@apachejunctionaz.gov
480.474.8559

Register online for a class near you!

Supported by FIRST THINGS FIRST

SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

Chess Competition

Saturday, May 2 | 10 am-4 pm | All Ages | Registration Required

All skill levels welcome. In partnership with Rhino Recreation Center. Trophies awarded for Best in Play.

Exploding Kittens Board Game Night

Thursday, May 14 | 5-7 pm | All Ages

All ages welcome to this fun game night featuring a crazy lineup of Exploding Kittens games! Ever wondered how Neanderthals wrote poetry? How about what it feels like to throw a burrito at someone? We will even have foam sword sparring, all part of these fun board games. Supplies made possible thanks to Exploding Kittens, Inc. and the Friends of the Library.

Fantasy Bookends Craft Night

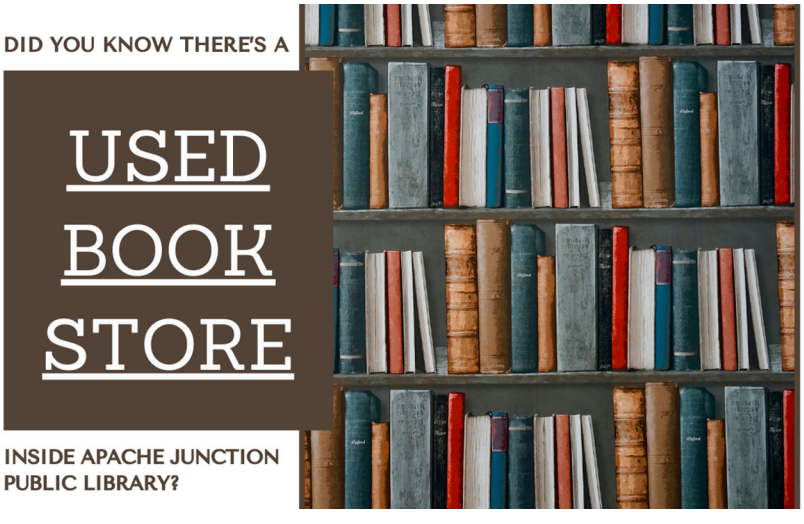
Thursday, June 4 | 5-7 pm | Teens 13+ and Adults | Registration Required

Join us to craft your own set of bookends using fantasy elements like fairies, toadstools, moss, dragons and more. Create your own doors to a bookish fantasy world! All supplies provided by the Friends of the Library.





Be sure to pick up the monthly Library calendar for all our regular programming. Storytimes, Preschool University, Art, Gaming, Sewing, Music and more!





Apache Junction Police Department

Address: 1001 N. Idaho Rd. Apache Junction, AZ 85119
Phone: 480-982-8260 (non-emergency), 911 (emergencies)
Hours: Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm

Safety, Service & Summer in Apache Junction

Summer in Apache Junction brings longer days, busy community events, and more time spent outdoors with family and friends. At the Apache Junction Police Department, this season is all about connection, prevention, and continuing to work side by side with our community. Through outreach, education, and partnership, we remain committed to keeping Apache Junction safe while strengthening the relationships that make our city feel like home.



May: Wellness, Gratitude & Police Week

Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental health is an important part of a strong and resilient community. AJPD continues to prioritize wellness resources, peer support, and open conversations that support both our employees and the residents we serve. Taking care of ourselves and one another helps us show up stronger every day.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Month & Police Week

This May, many of our officers and staff will travel to Washington, D.C. during Police Week to honor **Officer Facio** and stand alongside agencies from across the nation in remembrance.

We are deeply grateful to the Apache Junction community for the generous donations and continued support that make this meaningful journey possible. Your kindness shows our officers and their families that they are supported not just as professionals, but as neighbors and friends.



June: National Safety Month & A Time of Remembrance

June is **National Safety Month**, a reminder that small, everyday actions can make a lasting impact. From safe driving habits to protecting your home and staying aware during the summer heat, safety is something we build together as a community.

June 8 also marks a day of remembrance for AJPD as we honor the life and service of **Officer Facio**. We remain grateful for the continued support shown by our residents and community partners, whose kindness and compassion continue to uplift our department and his family.

Supporting Those Who Serve: Apache Junction Police Foundation

The newly established **Apache Junction Police Foundation** was created to support the men and women of AJPD and their families — helping bridge the gap between community support and needs that fall outside traditional city budgets.

Through partnerships and fundraising, the Foundation supports initiatives such as:

- Officer wellness programs
- Memorial and Honor Guard travel
- Scholarships and youth engagement projects
- Specialized training and equipment
- Community events like Shop with a Cop

APACHE JUNCTION POLICE FOUNDATION
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

Residents interested in supporting these efforts can learn more or donate by scanning the QR code included in this edition or visiting ajpf.net.



Community Policing in Action

Community policing remains at the heart of what we do. Each year, AJPD participates in more than **100 community events**, connecting with residents through youth programs, school visits, neighborhood outreach, and local celebrations.
These everyday interactions help us build trust, answer questions, and work together to keep Apache Junction safe.







Let's Talk Safety — Schedule a Meeting with AJPD

AJPD offers free safety meetings for neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and community groups. These sessions provide practical tips, answer questions, and help strengthen community partnerships.
Topics can include:
- Fraud and scam prevention
- Home and business security
- Crime prevention strategies
- General safety questions and concerns

To schedule a safety meeting or learn more, contact:
Rayna Steffen
Public Information Officer
480-474-5442
rsteffen@apachejunctionaz.gov

Thank You, Apache Junction

Whether through remembrance, community events, or everyday conversations, AJPD is proud to serve alongside you. Thank you for continuing to support our officers, staff, and the work we do together to keep Apache Junction safe.



Summer Safety Tips

Summer in Apache Junction means rising temperatures and busy roadways. A few simple steps can help keep you and your family safe:
- Stay hydrated and take breaks from the heat
- Stay focused behind the wheel and watch for pedestrians and cyclists
- Slow down during monsoon storms and avoid flooded roadways
- Lock vehicles and remove valuables from sight
- Talk with kids about safety while they're home for the summer



AND SO MUCH MORE TO COME!

JOIN THE CITY OF APACHE JUNCTION IN CELEBRATING AMERICA250!

2026
SPRING

AMERICA'S FUTURE

A **community art project** on canvas to create a visual representation of the community fabric that is America's future! The project includes 325 individual canvas squares that will be pieced together to create an American Flag. The Apache Junction Public Library and Parks and Recreation will co-host a **series of events for the community** to create all of the canvas squares. The completed piece will be proudly displayed inside the Library from May through July 2026! Additional details coming soon!

2026
SUMMER

MORE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ARE STILL BEING ADDED!

There are even more plans in the works to honor America250 throughout city services and programming in 2026! Additional events are slated to include a **designated America250 collection of books, movies and multimedia kits** at the library, a "We the People" lecture discussion, and some very special additions to this year's **annual Fourth of July Celebration and Veterans Day Parade**! Stay tuned for details!

OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA250

CELEBRATE WITH US ALL YEAR LONG WITH MORE EXCITING PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Apache Junction is proud to participate in **Outdoors250**! This statewide initiative highlights how our shared outdoor heritage has shaped our culture, values, economy, and way of life in Arizona and across the country. Find **City of Apache Junction events and other Outdoors250** activities happening statewide on the Arizona America250 Commission's online event calendar.

You can also download your **free Passport250 digital pass**, designed to help Arizonans and visitors explore the state through unique excursions and themed lists ranging from culinary discoveries to cultural experiences!

The **City of Apache Junction and State Forty Eight** have also announced an exciting new collaboration! A new custom shirt design has been created to feature the iconic scenery of Apache Junction, and includes a special commemoration of America250 on the back. This new design will launch to the public in the coming weeks, so be sure and check back for updates.

VISIT WWW.APACHEJUNCTIONAZ.GOV/A250 TO LEARN MORE!



The Citizen publication is produced by the city in cooperation with Independent News Media to inform the community about various programs and events from city departments.

The publication is distributed via mail to Apache Junction residents, and is also available in digital format on the city website. Visit our website and follow us on social media to learn more and stay connected!

WWW.APACHEJUNCTIONAZ.GOV