



# Fugitive Priest Pleads Guilty

**Priest nabbed in Apache Junction pleads guilty to felony battery**

By Jill Jones  
The News

A Roman Catholic Priest arrested in Apache Junction earlier this year pleaded guilty to felony battery with a deadly weapon in connection with an attack on a parishioner and church soloist that occurred at Our Lady of Las Vegas Parish in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 26, 2007.

Reverend George Chaanine, 53, pleaded guilty in a Clark County, Nevada courtroom on Thursday, September 20, 2007 to attacking church soloist and office worker Michaelina Bellamy, 54, while she was working at her desk in the church office. Bellamy was reportedly struck over the head with a sacramental bottle of wine after which Chaanine allegedly dragged her down a hall by her hair and sexually assaulted her.

The assault reportedly ended abruptly when Bellamy began praying at which time Chaanine fled. He was arrested without incident on February 1, 2007 by Apache Junction Police and was later extradited to Las Vegas.

Chaanine was suspended by the Diocese of Las Vegas and faced charges of attempted murder,



**Suspended Roman Catholic Priest George Chaanine pleaded guilty to assaulting a church soloist after being arrested in Apache Junction in February 2007.**

sexual assault and felony flight; however, prosecutors agreed to drop the other charges in exchange for a guilty plea of felony battery with a deadly weapon, allowing them to forgo a trial.

Chaanine could be facing a prison term of six to 15 years for the attack. According to Deputy Public Defender Scott Coffee, Chaanine took responsibility for the attack but vehemently denies that a sexual assault occurred.

# AJ Man Killed On Freeway

APACHE JUNCTION- Charles E. Bass, 67, of Apache Junction died in a three-car collision on U.S. 60 on Tuesday, September 26.

The collision occurred on the westbound lanes of U. S. 60 near Greenfield Road. Five other individuals were injured, including an 11-month old, a 14-month old and Gabriel and Kelli Botiller of Gilbert.

No further information was available on the status of the victims.

## Obituaries

### Walter Collins

Walter Collins, 74, of Mesa passed away on Tuesday, September 18, 2007. Mr. Collins, a mechanic for NJ D.O.T., was born in Litwar, WV. He is survived by his wife Mildred; daughters Jenette Warren and Darlene; sons Terry, Walter and Keith; sister Genieve Atkins; brother Buford; 6 grandchildren. Services were held Friday, September 28, 2007 at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. Arrangements were handled by Apache Junction Mortuary.



## Justice Court

### Apache Junction Pinal County Justice Court #1107 575 N. Idaho Rd.

Judge Dennis Lusk, Presiding

#### Small Claims and Civil Cases

**Cortez Ranch HOA vs Michael and Marlene Harned** - Judgement was awarded to plaintiff Cortez Ranch HOA, in the amount of \$1495.82.

**Circle Cross Ranch Community Association vs Aaron and Samantha Morris** - Judgement was awarded to plaintiff Circle Cross Ranch Community Association, in the amount of \$1042.86.

**Circle Cross Ranch Community Association vs David L. Chapman** - Judgement was awarded to plaintiff Circle Cross Ranch Community Association, in the amount of \$2402.02.

**Action Financial, LLC vs Tiffany Bottemiller** - Judgement awarded to plaintiff Action Financial, LLC, in the amount of \$2355.80.

**Capital One Bank vs Zack A. Sears** - Judgement awarded to plaintiff Capital One Bank, in the amount of \$2037.70.

**Persolve, LLC vs Viola Dutchover** - Judgement awarded to plaintiff Persolve, LLC, in the amount of \$3086.91.

**Westwood-Nina Partners LLP vs Arizona Gym Services, LLC** - Judgement awarded to plaintiff Westwood-Nina Partners LLP, in the amount of \$5457.28.

**Rancho Santa Fe Thrift & Loan vs Lorraine M. and Faouzi Charfadi** - Judgement awarded to plaintiff Rancho Santa Fe Thrift & Loan, in the amount of \$11,706.34.

**Household Industrial Finance Company vs Scott E. Hutchinson** - Judgement awarded to plaintiff Household Industrial Finance Company, in the amount of \$6632.36.



## City Court

### Apache Junction City Magistrate Court 300 E. Superstition Blvd. Judge David Alexander, Presiding

**September 25** - Teresa A. Clardy, 31, of Florence, guilty of shoplifting. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, complete LifeSkills by December 31, 2007, \$385 fine.

**September 25** - Lori F. Curnow, 27, of AJ, guilty of expired temporary registration. Sentenced to 12 months unsupervised probation \$50 fine.

**September 25** - Jose Angulo Rodriguez, 19, of AJ, guilty of graffiti. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, 30 hours community service by November 30, 2007, \$345 fine, reduced to 12 months unsupervised probation if all terms are met.

**September 25** - Joseph M. Corbett, Jr., 20, of AJ, guilty of graffiti. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, 30 hours community service by November 30, 2007, \$345 fine, reduced to 12 months unsupervised probation if all terms are met.

**September 25** - Adam L. Maxwell, 26, of Mesa, guilty of driving suspended. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, \$565 fine.

**September 25** - Jeanne F. Cron, 37, of AJ, guilty of dog at large, failure to appear. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, \$481.82 restitution, \$455 fine, reduced to 12 months unsupervised probation, \$205 fine if no further dog violations in 12 months.

**September 25** - Jordan Moody, 25, of Mesa, guilty of theft. Sentenced to 30 days jail to run concurrent with existing incarceration.

**September 25** - Francisco Altamirano Castro, 36, of Glendale, guilty of no fire extinguisher, no pre-trip inspection. Sentenced to 24 months unsupervised probation, \$605 fine.

**September 25** - Jose Angel Canales, 31, of Phoenix, guilty of no horn. Sentenced to \$115 fine.

**September 25** - Maribel Smith, 36, of AJ, guilty of expired temporary registration. Sentenced to 12 months unsupervised probation, \$115 fine.

**September 25** - Michael P. Martinez, 19, of AJ, guilty of illegal dumping. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, \$385 fine.

**September 25** - Dean A. Vongruben, 48, of AJ, guilty of DUI. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, 10 days jail all but 24 hours suspended upon completion of alcohol screening and any recommended counseling, 1 MADD panel within 45 days, \$46 jail fee, \$1475 fine.

**September 25** - Samuel Harlan, 19, of AJ, guilty of illegal dumping. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, \$385 fine.

**September 26** - Steven R. Dewitte, 44, of AJ, guilty of DUI. Sentenced to 36 months unsupervised probation, 10 days jail all but 48 hours suspended upon completion of alcohol screening and any recommended counseling, 1 MADD panel within 45 days, \$92 jail fee, \$2725 fine.

**September 26** - Thomas J. Novalsky, 18, of AJ, guilty of reckless driving, speeding, accident, no insurance. Sentenced to 24 months unsupervised probation, 1 MADD panel, \$9000 restitution, \$2445 fine.

**September 26** - Tabitha R. Reed, 22, of AJ, guilty of driving suspended, failure to appear. Sentenced to 15 days jail to run concurrent with existing sentence.

**September 26** - Barbara L. Canaday-Miller, 36, of AJ, guilty of false information to police. Sentenced to 30 days jail to run concurrent with existing sentence.

**September 26** - Joshua Smith, 22, of AJ, guilty of trespass. Sentenced to 9 days jail.



## Sheriff's Record

### The Pinal County Sheriff's Department Sheriff Chris Vasquez, Pinal County Sheriff

#### Arrests

**September 21** - David J. Kurtz, 18, of AJ, was arrested for interfering with judicial proceedings.

**September 24** - Nicholas Raymond Barr, 56, of AJ, was arrested for assault intentionally, recklessly, fighting, disruptive behavior.

**September 24** - Lupe Michael A. Renteria, 39, of AJ, was arrested for disorderly conduct, criminal damage.

**September 27** - Scott D. Pope, 50, of AJ, was arrested for 2 counts failure to appear in 1st degree.

**September 27** - Quenton James Roberts, 35, of AJ, was arrested for failure to pay fine.



## Police Record

### The Apache Junction Police Department Chief Glenn A. Walp

September 19 - September 25

#### Arrests

**September 19** - Rigoberto M. Rodriguez, 59, of the 200 block of West Palomino Drive, Chandler, was cited and released for DUI, DUI w/BAC of .08 or over and extreme DUI.

**September 19** - Christopher C. Endicott, 25, of the 400 block of East Southern Avenue, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia.

**September 20** - William J. Homan, 55, of the 700 block of South Meridian Drive, was cited and released for DUI w/slightest degree, DUI w/BAC of .08 or over and extreme DUI.

**September 20** - Timothy C. Canning, 20, of the 1500 block of North Sixshooter Road, was arrested for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

**September 22** - Eileen M. Sharp, 47, of the 1400 block of South Deniza Road, was arrested for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving on suspended license.

**September 22** - Robert L. Hohenwater, 40, of the 800 block of West Shiprock Road, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

**September 23** - Dana A. Rowe, 42, of the 900 block of South Royal Palm Road, was arrested for disorderly conduct/domestic violence.

**September 23** - Scott A. Farquharson, 32, of the 1800 block of North Hilton Road, was arrested for assault/domestic violence, criminal damage and disorderly conduct.

**September 24** - Xavier V. Nixon, 19, of the 500 block of North Valley Drive, was arrested for possession of a narcotic drug for sale, possession of marijuana for sale and possession of drug paraphernalia.

#### Incidents

**September 19** - Reported a theft from a motor vehicle between 35th and 38th Avenue. Stolen were four AMPG speakers.

**September 20** - Reported a vehicle theft in the 3200 block of South Chaparral Road. Stolen was a white 2002 GMC Yukon with AZ license plate of #500VXV.

**September 21** - Reported a vehicle theft in the 3600 block of West Winchester Road. Stolen was a white 1999 Chevrolet two door flatbed truck w/work rack on the back.

**September 21** - Reported several burglaries, theft and criminal trespassing in the 200 block of South Meridian Drive at AJ RV and Boat Storage.

**September 23** - Reported a vehicle theft in the 400 block of West 16th Avenue. Stolen was a gold 1999 Toyota Camry with AZ license plate of #581WWK.

**September 24** - Reported a theft of a tractor in the 3600 block of South Winchester Road. Stolen was a yellow Cat landscaping tractor.

**September 24** - Reported a vehicle theft in the 2700 block of West Virginia Street. Stolen was a gold 2002 Chrysler Sebring with AZ license plate of #453FDS.

**September 24** - Reported a residential burglary and theft in the 300 block of South Main Drive, stolen was a Compaq Presario computer and a skill saw.

**September 25** - Reported a theft from a motor vehicle in the 900 block of North Ironwood Drive. Stolen was a AZ license plate of #577XJP.

# Schools Earn Good Marks From State

**Federal guidelines tell a different story**

The state labels are in and the Apache Junction Unified School District's schools have done very well. Of the nine district schools three were named Performing Plus, two schools were designated Highly Performing and four schools rated Performing labels.

The labels were released September 19, 2007 as part of the "AZ Learns Achievement Profiles" for Arizona's more than 1,965 public and charter schools.

The labels describe yearly academic performance for each of the state's schools and are determined by a formula which, in part, relies heavily on the AIMS' (Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards) test scores. Other criteria include overall school improvement, individual student progress, increased graduation rates and reduced drop out rates. Schools also earn points for students attaining "excelling" scores on IIMS.

Five rankings under the state system are possible. They are: "Excelling," "Highly Performing," "Performing Plus," "Performing" and "Under Performing."

The schools which received Highly Performing for 2007 were Peralta Trail Elementary School and Desert Vista Elementary School. Apache Junction High School, Desert Shadows Middle School and Superstition Mountain Elementary School received Performing Plus for 2007. Performing was awarded to Four Peaks Elementary School, Gold Canyon Elementary School, Mountain Shadows Education Center and Thunder Mountain Middle School for 2007.

The release of labels by the Arizona Department of Education last week came on the heels of the U.S. Department of Education's release of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) labels. Five hundred and nineteen Arizona schools were informed they

failed to meet federal academic standards. For 19 of Arizona's school districts, this was the fourth year in a row they failed to achieve AYP, triggering intervention at the state level. Those districts included some of the state's largest including Mesa and Paradise Valley.

Locally, AJUSD did not make AYP as a district nor did five of its schools. The District has filed appeals on behalf of Apache Junction High School, Mountain Shadows Education Center, Thunder Mountain Middle School and Gold Canyon Elementary School.

"There are 254 ways to fail achieving AYP," said Dr. Greg Wyman, Superintendent of Schools, said. "Just fail one of the criteria and it's as good as failing all of them. Add to the controversy the conflicting federal laws concerning testing special education students using non-standard accommodations and you have the basic reason the four schools failed to make AYP."

Students tested using non-standard accommodations cannot be counted as part of the mandatory 95 percent of the student population required to test in all areas. It is possible for schools to score very well on AIMS (Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards), receive a passing "AZ Learns" label and still fail to achieve AYP due to this conflict, explained district officials.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE APPLICATION FOR REHEARING FILED BY THE RESIDENTIAL UTILITY CONSUMER OFFICE REGARDING DECISION NO. 69664, DOCKET NO. W-2519A-06-0015

On January 13, 2006, Gold Canyon Sewer Company ("Gold Canyon" or "Company") filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application for a determination of the current fair value of its utility plant and property and for increases in its rates and charges for wastewater utility service provided to customers in the Company's certificated service area in Pinal County, Arizona. On June 28, 2007, the Commission issued Decision No. 69664 granting a rate increase to Gold Canyon. On July 18, 2007, the Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") filed an Application for Rehearing on two issues raised by RUCO during the hearing: an allegation of "excess capacity" in the Company's treatment plant and the capital structure employed in the Commission's Order. During an Open Staff Meeting held on August 1, 2007, the Commission granted rehearing. Copies of the documents related to this proceeding are available at the Company's offices 12725 W. Indian School Road, Suite D101, Avondale, Arizona 85392, 480-488-4152 and the Commission's offices at 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona, for public inspection during regular business hours.

The Commission will hold a hearing on this matter beginning **November 13, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Commission's offices, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona. Public comments will be taken on the first day of the hearing. Written public comments may be submitted via e-mail (visit <http://www.cc.state.az.us/utility/cons/index.html> for instructions), or by mailing a letter referencing Docket No. to W-03512A-06-0407 etal: Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007. If you have any questions about this proceeding, you may also contact the Consumer Services Section of the Commission by calling 1-800-222-7000.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, as well as request this document in an alternative format, by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Linda Hogan, at [LHogan@admin.cc.state.az.us](mailto:LHogan@admin.cc.state.az.us), voice phone number 602-542-3931. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.