

Letters to the Editor
continued from page A-4

The only thing they could tell me was to go online and find it that way. They couldn't help me.
The five of us don't have school kids in the area, but if we did we would not want her as their bus driver.
If any of you know which school that bus comes from, I hope you will call and let them know what happened for the safety of us all.

Lillian See, Apache Junction

Wellness Event

The City of Apache Junction Parks and Recreation held its annual Heal Yourself, Heal Your World, Wellness Event this past weekend.
Over 30 classes were offered and estimated 2000-2500 guests will attend this event. Over 80 agencies from the east valley were represented.
This event was hosted by the City of Apache Junction and the City would like to thank its Platinum Sponsor-Ray's Printing and Awards, its Silver Sponsors; AJ News, Mediacom, Mountain Vista Medical Group and United Health Care.
In addition many thanks to the Volunteer Committee made up of wellness advocates from the community; Jean Buckborough, Grace Guilfoyle, Anna Marker, Deborah Smith and Superstition Mountain Mental Health.

Apache Junction Parks & Recreation

City's Paint-a-Thon A Success

Volunteers paint five homes

The City of Apache Junction participated for the seventh consecutive year in the Rock and Roll Paint-a-Thon on Saturday, October 23.
The City coordinated with Rebuilding Together, Valley of the Sun (who identified homeowners with limited financial resources who are 60 years of age or older and/or have a permanent disability). During the past 7 years volunteers have painted the homes of 20 local residents. Across the Valley, more than 100 residents receive a fresh new paint job each year.
For more information, contact Heather Patel at the City of Apache Junction at (480) 474-2635 or hpatel@ajcity.net.

This annual event is held Valleywide and is coordinated by Rebuilding Together. This community-based effort is designed to paint the homes of homeowners with limited financial resources who are 60 years of age or older and/or have a permanent disability. During the past 7 years volunteers have painted the homes of 20 local residents. Across the Valley, more than 100 residents receive a fresh new paint job each year.
For more information, contact Heather Patel at the City of Apache Junction at (480) 474-2635 or hpatel@ajcity.net.



Apache Trail High School students and staff participated in the Rock and Roll Paint-a-Thon on Saturday, October 23.

City Election Packets Now Available

Mayor, City Council primary election set for March 8

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Packets containing the legally required documents needed to run for a seat on the Apache Junction City Council during the March 8, 2011, primary election are available at the City Clerk's Office.
According to a press release issued by the Clerk's Office, the packets are self-explanatory and serve to help the potential candidate file the forms necessary to qualify for placement on the ballot.
Forms in the packet include but are not limited to Financial Disclosure Forms, Candidate Affidavit, Nomination Paper and Campaign Finance Laws

Statement, Political Campaign Committee Statement of Organization, Contribution and Expenditure reports, Candidate \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement and Nomination Petitions.
To be eligible for the primary, the completed packets must be filed by 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 8. Each candidate must submit nomination petitions containing between 131 and 261 valid signatures of qualified city electors. Packets which are incomplete or received after the filing date will not be accepted.
On a related note, packets containing the legally required documents needed to run against incumbent Councilman R.E. Eck II in the

March 8, 2011, special recall election are available at the City Clerk's Office as well. A press release stated the packets are self-explanatory and serve to help the potential candidate file the forms necessary to qualify for placement on the recall election ballot.
Forms in the packet include but are not limited to Financial Disclosure Forms, Candidate Affidavit, Nomination Paper and Campaign Finance Laws Statement, Political Campaign Committee Statement of Organization, Contribution and Expenditure reports, Candidate \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement and Nomination Petitions.
To be eligible for the March

8, 2011 recall election ballot, the completed packets must be filed by 5 p.m. Friday, January 7, 2011. Candidates must submit nomination petitions containing at least 144 valid signatures of qualified city electors. Packets which are incomplete or received after the filing date will not be accepted.
The City Clerk's Office is located at the City Hall Complex, Building C, 300 E. Superstition Boulevard. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays.
For additional information, contact the City Clerk's Office at (480) 982-8002, option 5.

from Kollenborn, A-4

ated with Bluff Springs Mountain does not contain gold or any valuable minerals.
Many prospectors and treasure hunters believed Bluff Springs Mountain contains a cache of rich gold ore or bullion. There are no historic Spanish, Mexican or American records to support treasure caches on Bluff Springs Mountain. It is a search in total futility to look for a gold cache on Bluff Springs Mountain.
When I was a young man in the 1950's I spent many weeks roaming the top of Bluff Springs Mountain. Much of what I found had to do with contemporary prospectors and early cattle ranchers in the area. I have used the so-called Anderson-Ely Trail on many occasions. Dropping off the northeastern end of Bluff Springs Mountain can be a wild ride on a horse. I really don't recommend it anymore. The trail of the southeastern end of the mountain is steep and quite treacherous. When I worked for the Barkley Cattle Company we often moved cows off the top of Bluff Springs down into the corrals we had at Bluff Springs.
Robert K. Corbin tells the story of a man who gave him a Spanish sword that he told him he found on the top of Bluff Springs Mountain stuck in the ground. Bob had the

sword sent off to the University of Arizona where it was closely examined by experts and was determined to be a Korean Police saber dating somewhere around 1953. The man actually believed the sword was Spanish and had belonged to a Spanish Conquistador. Such a misinterpretation reveals the gross ignorance of Southwestern history associated with these characters who wander the trails of the wilderness area in search of gold.
There is another story about a cave above Ed Buckwitz's old camp in Needle Canyon. Near the entrance of this cave was a bronze cross about sixteen inches high. This cross with its Spanish markings turned out to be fraudulent. It was later discovered the cross was placed there in the 1930's as part of a promotional stunt.
There are numerous stories about hidden Spanish caches on Bluff Springs Mountain. The Jesuit cache theories still remains an interesting theory and that is all. It is nothing but a theory.
Dr. Charles D. Polzer, Jesuit historian at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, says, "The insistent legends about Jesuit treasure in the Superstition Mountain area is pure bunk. All it proves is the catastrophic ignorance of the contemporary inhabitants of the desert of all the important history of the Southwest."

Maeghan Rice Sentencing Postponed

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The sentencing for Gold Canyon resident Maeghan Rice, scheduled for November 1, was postponed.
Rice pleaded guilty to second degree murder recently for her role in the June 20, 2008, murder of Randall Davis-Mercier. She made the deal within the last couple weeks, said Kostas Kalaitzidis of the county attorney's office.

Meanwhile, the trial of 20-year-old accomplice David Paulson, who is charged with premeditated murder in the first degree, has been set for April.
According to police, Paulson stabbed 17-year-old Mercier 20 times.
Authorities suspected the attack was the result of jealousy over Rice, Capt. Tom Kelly of the Apache Junction Police Department said at the time.
The attack took place after

Paulson allegedly directed Rice to pick up Mercier while Paulson hid in the back seat of a crew cab truck. Paulson allegedly waited for Rice to

utter a code word before he lunged from the backseat, stabbing Mercier, police say. Paulson then fled to Utah and was extradited to Arizona.

from Election, A-1

Incumbent Pinal County Superior Court Clerk Kristi Youtsey Ruiz was replaced with political newcomer Chad Roche.
And, in an upset that surprised many people, Apache Junction Justice of the Peace Dennis Lusk didn't even survive the primary race, bowing to eventual general election winner Shaun Babeu.
Generally, Democrats fared poorly, with Republican candidates being tapped in the name of "change."
Pinal County recorded a countywide 41 percent voter turnout, with Apache Junction precincts registering turnout percentages ranging from 32 to 52 percent.
Statewide, voter turnout was 46 percent, approximately 15 percent less than projected by Secretary of State Ken Bennett, who was overly optimistic after a high primary-election turnout in August.

- Below are the unofficial results for the AJUSD and local races:
- AJUSD Governing Board Seats (2 Seats)**
 - Lucy Young 4,485
 - Debbie Skinner 3,555
 - Dena Kimble 3,105
 - Jo Harte 2,815
 - Judy Leeb 2,283
 - Krista Van Soest 2,083
 - Override**
 - No 9,105 Yes 4,983
 - Apache Junction Precinct 7 Justice of the Peace**
 - Shaun Babeu (Rep) 15,861
 - Jim Pfeifer (Dem) 9,294
 - AJ Precinct 7 Constable**
 - Jack McClaren (Rep) 16,052
 - David Barnes (Dem) 8,407
 - Clerk of Superior Court**
 - Chad Roche (Rep) 35,619
 - Kristi Youtsey Ruiz (Dem) 27,939
 - Judge of Superior Court - Div. 1**
 - Daniel Washburn 27,605
 - DeLana Fuller 24,336
 - Judge of Superior Court Div. 4 (unopposed)**
 - Gilbert Figueroa 43,325
 - Judge of Superior Court Div. 7 (unopposed)**
 - Kevin White 43,317
 - Judge of Superior Court Div. 8 (unopposed)**
 - Brenda Oldham 42,609
 - Judge of Superior Court Div. 10**
 - Steve Fuller 33,792
 - Larry Wharton 6,327

from Council, A-1

that if a building permit was issued within one year of the previous residence being removed, no development fee would be required. The previous residence on the East Cody Street property was removed 21 years ago.
Councilwoman Robin Barker and Councilman Doug Coleman voted yes to deny the appeal.
Barker said she decided to vote to deny the appeal because the money would eventually be transferred from the city general fund to the development fee coffers, meaning city taxpayers would end up paying the costs.



Councilman Doug Coleman

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