

New Asst. Principal For AJHS Approved

Tayna Loftis to assume duties July 1

By Meghan McCoy
The News

APACHE JUNCTION — The Apache Junction Unified School District Governing Board confirmed Apache Junction High School (AJHS) Principal Jim Denton's recommendation for Tayna Loftis as the new Assistant Principal for AJHS at the monthly school board meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

Loftis, a teacher and department head at AJHS, will assume her duties as the assistant principal on July 1, 2008. She has her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Arizona State University and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Phoenix University.

She joined the AJHS staff in 1996 as a special education teacher. In 1999, Loftis assisted in the development, coordination and assessment of the Youth Transition Program and in 2003 she became the Department Head of the Career and Technical Education, where she oversaw the restructure and coordination of the program with state guidelines and standards.

Loftis also serves on the high school site committee and is a member of the North Central As-



Apache Junction Assistant Principle Tayna Loftis.

sociation Accreditation/School Improvement Plan Committee and was head coach of the Girls Varsity Volleyball team for ten years.

Denton's recommendation of Loftis to the governing board was part of a selection process conducted by a committee of five members including Denton, Assistant Principal Mark Blomgren and three AJHS teachers. The district had 44 out-of-district candidates for the assistant principal position and 11 in-district candidates, eight of whom were interviewed before the final recommendations were made.

Veterans Day Parade Begins Planning

Committee meets second Wednesday of each month for November 11 event

By Lynn Carter
Special to the News

The Veterans Day Parade Committee of Apache Junction has begun planning the 2008 parade. Every year this group of dedicated volunteers meet to decide on a theme, choose a Grand Marshal and plan every aspect of the parade. The Apache Junction Veterans Day Parade is sponsored wholly by donations. There is no city funding for this event and no tax dollars are spent.

Lawrence C. Garrett VFW Post #7968 will sponsor the parade this year and meetings are held at the Post located at 725 W. Apache Trail, Apache Junction on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings.

Our theme this year is "Operation Wounded Warrior". If you can dedicate just a couple of hours a month to honor veterans, please come to a meeting and get involved.



Artist Paints Portrait For Old Friends

'Owl' created masterpiece as a way to say "thank you" to The Amateur Outlaws

By Meghan McCoy
The News

A talented artist began painting murals, landscapes, animals and portraits more frequently in the past ten years when he retired from the Apache Junction Unified School District as a bus driver, due to the relaxing studio he created in his backyard.

"Owl" decided to paint a picture of his dear friends, country singers The Amateur Outlaws, which he met 25-years ago in Punkin, Arizona. He became good friends with the group after he brought his new lady friend, who later became his wife, to the

local lounge for live music and something to do on the weekends.

"Luckily, every Friday and Saturday a country western trio, The Amateur Outlaws would drive down from Payson to entertain us," Owl said. "They were very talented, unique and funny."

Owl said he became great friends with Rockin' Ron, Jay Frawley and Doc through the years and had the opportunity to sing a few songs with the group during their last sets, which sparked an idea for his proposal.

"That's how I got the idea to propose to my lady from the

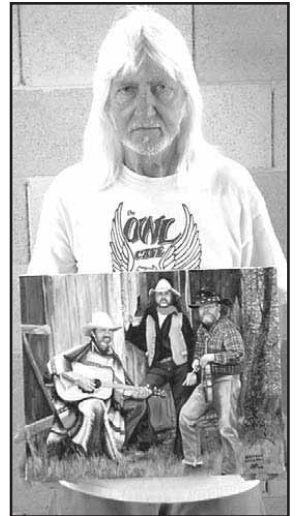
bandstand," Owl said. "To everyone's surprise, she said yes, so as a wedding gift, The Amateur Outlaws played for our wedding."

He said he would occasionally reminisce with Rockin' Ron, who is the voice for KMOG radio when he visited Payson. Owl also has the opportunity to visit with Mesa resident Jay Frawley when he comes to Apache Junction. The last group member, Doc lives in Texas, which makes it difficult for them to visit as often.

Owl said a couple weeks ago his wife found their photo album from their wedding and ran across a picture of The Amateur Outlaws and he decided to paint a portrait of the group as a way to say thank you.

"It's just my way of saying thanks guys for many years of friendship and happy memories," Owl said. He said he used a photograph that was taken of the group at Rockin' Ron's cabin in Star Valley. The painting took him 40 hours to complete and he said he plans on giving it to one of the group members.

Owl explained that his paintings are usually done from a photograph of anything from landscapes to animals to por-



The Amateur Outlaws, (l-r in the painting) are Doc, Rockin' Ron Gibson and Jay Frawley. The painting is by 'Owl' who is holding the painting.

traits of individuals. His passion for painting has grown over the years, especially now that he has a studio in his back yard.

For those interested in Owl's work, he may be reached at 480-983-3573.

Governor Endorses Rios For Supervisor

Former state senator and current representative to run for District I job

State Representative Pete Rios will be seeking his party's nomination for Pinal County Supervisor District I. Rios has had a long and illustrious career in representing LD District 23 at the State Capitol. He served as President of the State Senate and has been in legislative leadership positions for eighteen years. Rios has both a Bachelor and Master's degree from Arizona State University and has been working as a Juvenile Counselor for the past twelve years.

Rios previously worked in different capacities for the Arizona Department of Economic Security and was also a small businessman, operating a grocery store. He said he prides himself

in fighting hard for job creation; quality education; children; families; the elderly; clean environment; better benefits for workers; and economic development.

Governor Janet Napolitano is endorsing Rios' candidacy and said, "With Pete's extensive government experience he will make an excellent Supervisor for Pinal County."

Rios said, "Pinal County is the third fastest growing county in the nation and I want to use my skills, talents and experience in building Pinal County into one of the most thriving and efficient counties in the State. In Pinal County we are facing many growing pains with new housing, inadequate infra-structure,

roads, water, and smart growth and planning."

Rios has historically been endorsed by the Ariz. Fire Fighters Assoc., AEA teachers, Medical Assoc., Lawyers Assoc., AFL-CIO, USWA, Nurses Assoc., Fraternal Order of Police, Correctional Peace Officers, Realtors, State Employees, Az. Police Assoc., and Environmental groups. Representative Rios states, "I am extremely grateful to the people of LD-23 for their support these past 24 years in the legislature and I hope I can count on their support for Supervisor."



State Representative Pete Rios

from Recall, page A-1

justice" for all. She also cited him speaking to the council during "Call to the Public" as being disrespectful. Diehl said she has plenty of recall supporters in Apache Junction.

"Initially, I pondered over it and I decided I'm going to go do this. I have learned a lot since I took the recall out. It took me about three to four weeks to get the signatures. I've seen things with my own eyes that I don't understand," Diehl said.

If the signatures are verified, an election would likely be held this fall, possibly September.

"I'm told the recall election will not cost the city any additional money because it will either be on the September ballot or November presidential ballot at the bottom," Diehl said.

As for a candidate to run against Severs, Diehl said it's too early to discuss that. Should Severs be defeated in a recall election, the candidate opposing him would serve out the remainder of his term, which expires in June, 2009.

"We can't go any further with the process until I get something stating that yes there were enough valid signatures on that recall petition," she said. "I'm 90-percent sure that I have at least 270 that are valid."

Diehl is an unlikely candidate for the recall effort. She said she and her husband were strong supporters of Severs during his run for city council.

"My husband and I supported him heavily," Diehl said. "Then I started going to city council meetings and I said, 'You're causing turmoil. Yes, certain things need to change but you

have to go about it professionally."

She said he responded with a five-minute eulogy to George Diehl, but Sharon said it was too late for that.

The recall against Severs is one of several against city council members including Mayor John Insalaco. Apache Junction residents Shannon Flynn and Jim Stephens, both supporters of Severs, are reportedly collecting signatures to recall Insalaco, Vice Mayor R.E. Eck and council members Rick Dietz, Robin Barker and Jeff Serdy. There is no word on the progress of those recall efforts.

The elected terms of Insalaco, Dietz and Eck expire next year in June, 2009. The terms of Barker and Serdy expire in 2011.

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the Sheriff's Office is becoming a proactive law enforcement agency with deputies catching armed robbers, burglars and thieves. My criminal investigation bureau is solving major crimes within 48-hours after the crime is committed. These are just a few examples of many positive things that are occurring under my direction.

In closing, if the letters touched someone and made them feel better about themselves; if a wife was able to seek the courage to leave an abusive relationship; or a parent was able to recognize their child was on meth; then I have no regrets. The letters accomplished their intent - the delivery of a meaningful message.

Chris Vasquez
Sheriff, Pinal County

from Kollenborn, A-4

of a corral. Open ground work consisted of roping a wild range calf, taking it away from its wild mother, and throwing it to the ground without the benefit of a corral or catch pen to keep the irate mother cow at bay.

The cattle drovers and cattle barons of the Superstition Mountain area have long since disappeared. The great herds that once grazed the region under the brand of the Clemens Cattle Company and others have also since vanished.

At the peak of the Clemens operation more than 12,000 head of cattle grazed the eastern fringe of the wilderness. These huge herds overgrazed and destroyed much of the range. Through the use of careful range management techniques much of the old range is returning to its original state.

There are many controversies associated with grazing and non-grazing within the wilderness. Some range managers believe grazing helps to reduce wildfires; while others believed without wildfires the soil becomes infertile.

Life was not easy on the open range, but it did have its rewards. Those old range riders may not have frequented churches very often, but they were close to their God and the work of his mighty hand.

A cowboy's sense of freedom and free spirit was unequalled anywhere else in the country.

Cowboys rode through life uninterrupted by its complexities. Cowboys generally didn't lay awake at night listening to sirens, bells and the noise of modern traffic. Their nights were filled with silence occasionally interrupted by the lonesome call of a coyote or a hooting owl.

The cowboy recognized the value of sitting astride his horse and traveling with the wind in his face. Hollywood has immortalized the free spirit of the American cowboy, therefore helping preserve the ideals of our freedom. These old time cowboys and their horses were true icons of American freedom and they definitely have a place in the history of the Superstition Wilderness Area and the American Southwest.

The large cattle ranches of the Superstition Wilderness have long since vanished from the Arizona scene. Conservation methods did not destroy them. The high cost of operation, limited grazing and strict controls on public grazing lands have reduced the productivity of these once large cattle empires. Feeder pens are slowly replacing the range beef of the past.

Today only a few isolated ranches survive, symbolic of a time forgotten by many. These cattlemen and cowboys are certainly a part of the history of the Superstition Wilderness and our American heritage.

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