

serving
Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
Superstition Mountain Country

THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN
see page A-6



AJ Girls Win Again!
see Sports, page B-1

Apache Junction Gold Canyon
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Inside The News

AJUSD FOCUS SCHOOLS
see page A-3

City Easter Egg Hunt



see page A-10

AJ Track Wins



see Sports, B-1

Public Meetings

Apache Junction City Council work session
7 p.m. Monday, March 16, 2009
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Apache Junction City Council regular meeting
7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2009
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Superstition Mountain Community Facilities District (sewer board)
6 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2009
Fire District Boardroom
565 N. Idaho Road

Pinal County Board of Supervisors
9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2009
County Complex, Florence

AJFD Governing Board
6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2009
Fire District Boardroom
565 N. Idaho Road

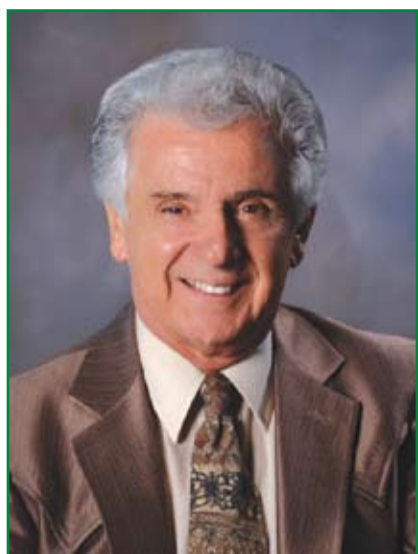
Index

- Business DirectoryB-6
- Business Page..... A-9
- ClassifiedsB-5,6
- Entertainment..... A-7
- For The Record A-2
- Kollenborn A-4
- Letters to Editor A-4
- Local HappeningsB-4
- Obituaries..... A-2
- Opinion Page..... A-4
- SportsB-1,2,3,4
- Worship Directory..... A-9

Landslide!

AJ voters overwhelmingly defeat recall by more than 2 to 1— All incumbents kept in office

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News



Mayor John Insalaco
• Defeated the recall attempt with 72% of the vote
• Won re-election in the primary with 59% of vote (2-year term)

Despite a long, drawn-out recall attempt of nearly two years, five Apache Junction City Council incumbents, including Mayor John Insalaco, easily retained their seats in the Tuesday, March 10, 2009 recall election.

Insalaco, challenged by recallers Noel Benoist and Elliott Fisher, earned 1,561 votes (72%), according to early, unofficial results. Fisher brought in 285 (13%) while Benoist had 229 (10%). There were 94 write-in votes.

Insalaco also won another two-year term as mayor in the regular election with 59% against three challengers.

"I honestly didn't know which way it was going to go," Insalaco said. "I wasn't confident I was going to win because of so many people running and splitting the vote so many ways. But (the recall) people talked and they said we don't listen to the people. The vote shows we were listening to the people. The people who said we weren't listening to them just didn't like the answer."

"I thank all the people who believed in us."

Vice Mayor Robert "R.E." Eck, Jr. was challenged by David Dowdle in the recall. Eck brought in 1,555 (69%) to Dowdle's 661 (29%). There were 16 write-in votes.

"I believe the voice of the community has been heard," Eck said. "It's overwhelming desire was 'Let's stay with the good people we have and say no to this recall.'"

Eck explained this was the first time that he's seen so many angry or disgruntled voters. They did not understand the ballot, Eck said.

"They felt like they were given misinformation if they were to ask (at the polls)," Eck said. "But I'm thrilled that the election is resolved now. We can hopefully move forward with the City Council doing the business we need to be doing."

Councilwoman Robin Barker faced recall leader Shannon Flynn and received 1,580 votes (69%) to Flynn's 676 (29%). There were 18 write-ins.

"I want to thank the voters for their support of the mayor and the City Council," Barker said. "I believe this is a mandate from the people to continue to work toward the future of Apache Junction. It was a choice between forward or back and we're going forward."

Councilman Richard "Rick" Dietz earned 1,653 votes (73%) to recaller Ted Mueller's 587 (26%). There were 14 write-in votes.

"I'm excited," Dietz said. "It's definitely been the hardest election I've ever been through with the recall. It's been the most stressful without a doubt. I'm just really glad the citizens of our community saw through the recall effort and decided to put the existing council back into seats."

Councilman Jeff Serdy won 1,404 (64%) over another recall leader James Stephens' 774 votes (35%). There were 13 write-in votes.

"We never wanted it to happen," Serdy said of the recall. "You hate to waste all that time defending yourself like this when you could be spending that time doing something constructive and beneficial, which is what I think I've been doing all along."

He said that had the ballot been not so confusing, he thinks he would have won by an even greater margin.

Councilmen Doug Coleman, Dietz and Eck also ran in the primary election and easily won their races, which also included candidates Dowdle, John Kantowski, Mueller, Christa Rizzi, Janice Stenglein and Andrew Whiteneck.

Coleman was the highest vote getter in the regular portion of the election with 1,547 votes. Eck had 1,418 and Dietz at 1,409. Dowdle had 407 with Kantowski at 253, Mueller at 444, Rizzi at 738, Stenglein at 662 and Whiteneck at 194. There were 35 write-in votes.

Coleman could not be reached for comment.

Insalaco (1,518) won in the primary election as well against Benoist (167), Fisher (233) and Dave Waldron (652). There were four write-in votes.

Candidates must win 50 percent, plus one vote, of the total ballots cast in the primary. The incumbents did that, avoiding a May runoff.

In a separate ballot issue, Home Rule (Proposition 100), passed with 77% of the vote, 1,824 to 527. Under the option, residents and the City Council make annual budget decisions for their city "at home" rather than using a state-imposed limitation, according to the city. The limitation would have caused the city to cut one-third of the general fund budget over four years, amounting to \$39.8 million.

There are 17,399 registered voters in Apache Junction and 15.25 percent or 2,654 cards were cast. The last city council election in 2007 saw a turnout of some 13%.

The City Council will adopt the results of the March 10 primary election and recall election during its Tuesday, March 17, meeting.



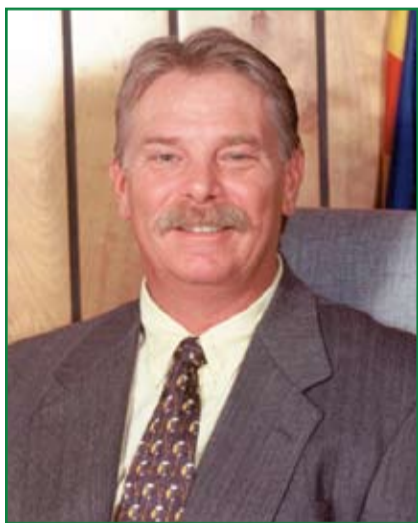
Councilwoman Robin Barker
• Defeated the recall attempt with 69% of the vote (will finish last 2 years of a 4-year term).



Councilman Jeff Serdy
• Defeated the recall attempt with 64% of the vote (will finish last 2 years of a 4-year term).



Vice Mayor R.E. Eck, Jr.
• Defeated the recall attempt with 69% of the vote
• Won re-election in the primary with 59% of vote (4-year term)



Councilman Rick Dietz
• Defeated the recall attempt with 73% of the vote
• Won re-election in the primary with 59% of vote (4-year term)



Councilman Doug Coleman
• Won election in the primary with 63% of vote (4-year term)

'Wall' Arrives In AJ

At Prospector Park until March 17



The American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT), which includes an 80-percent-size replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, rolled into town on Wednesday, March 11, to much fanfare. An Apache helicopter flew over the motorcade from U.S. Highway 60 to Idaho Road and finally to Prospector Park, 3015 N. Idaho Road, where the AVTT will rest until Tuesday, March 17. Scores of motorcycle riders also escorted the display.

The News Kidcast

Mostly clear skies with highs reaching the upper 80's and lows in the mid-50's.

This week's Weather "Artoonist"

Will Cobb Age 5

Superstition Mountain Elementary School

