

Viewpoint & Opinion

"If you expect to be ignorant and free, you expect something that never was and never will be." — Thomas Jefferson

Letters to the Editor

Deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. on Thursday. Letters and faxes to the News are welcome. All letters and faxes must be signed and must include your residential address and a daytime phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be printed, but are needed for verification of authenticity.

Letters to the editor should be 250 to 300 words or less, so please keep your comments brief and to the point.

Letters:
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Dogs in danger

My name is Tonya Vert. I live in Gilbert, Arizona, and I am State Lead of Arizona for a program called Dogs In Danger. Dogs In Danger is a nonprofit organization on a mission to assist shelters, in every state of our country, cut back on euthanization of dogs. We offer free advertising for the shelters, and we are, basically, for the shelters that euthanize. We have an 86 percent save rate, and we are growing more and more everyday and receiving more media attention every week. We are currently going to be featured in People Magazine at the end of January. The number that you need to call to reach our corporate office is 212-704-2191. They take care of all of the interviews for Dogs In Danger there or over the phone, etc.

I just recently began contacting the Arizona shelters last week. Most of the shelters have said yes, and four have finally registered online. However, taking photos of their dogs with blogs underneath them takes some time. Therefore, if you check our Web site, dogs won't be listed for at least one more week in Arizona. This is due to the shelters gathering up information and taking photos of each dog.

This program needs to be known and heard of by the people of Arizona. Did you know that the Douglas Shelter is putting dogs down for worms due to lack of a vet and the proper finances to care for the animals medically? Did you know that most of our small towns don't even have a spay and neuter program for their shelter animals, only for the general public? Does the public know that some of these small counties only hold the animals for three days and then put them down for space reasons, and they won't even try to find the animals homes?

Does the public know that Navajo Nation has five shelters on their property and that the living quarters of the animals is horrific? Our voices, our stories, our teamwork is what will save these animals. Please do a story about Dogs In Danger. These furry kids need all the support and help that they can get. If you have any questions regarding my request, I can be reached at 480-656-4128. Thank you for your time.

For The Love Of All Animals,
Tonya M. Vert
State Lead of Arizona
Dogs In Danger

Climb that mountain

I enjoy getting your paper and reading the different stories to my family about the Superstition Mountain. About six to eight months ago there was a story about a girl, age 8, who climbed to the front peak of the Superstition Mt with her uncle. This story motivated my son Cole, age 7, to want to climb to the highest peak in the east.

Saturday Cole and I made the 8 1/2-hour round trip journey to the top. We left our car at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. we had made it to the top. What a great hike.

We returned to our car at 6:30 p.m. in the dark, which my son thought was cool hiking in the dark with our head lights on. He has always called the Superstition Mountain the purple mountain since he could talk, and has always asked me when are we going to the top.

Anyway, I would like to thank your newspaper for motivating my son to make this awesome journey. The memories and feelings of achievement are priceless.

Dale M Geiger
Infrastructure Systems Engineer II
Pulte Homes, Information Services - Tempe

"Highly paid"

So, Russell Sgro is still whining about the loss of the override election in the Apache Junction School District during November's election in 2007. The local voters have told him and the AJ School District, "You have enough money, spend it more wisely." Now he is pointing his "they're starving our poor children to death" vitriol at Russell Pierce and others on the state level.

In the interest of clarity and open government it must be noted that there may be more of a problem for Mr. Sgro than children's welfare.

How many know that he is one of those "highly paid" Apache Junction school administrators and that his wife is a "highly paid" administrator for a school district in Queen Creek and that the two of them live in a fine home on an exclusive Gold Canyon golf course?

With this information in mind it is not difficult to wonder if Mr. Sgro's concern is for his salary more so than children's welfare. We would love to see a headline some day that reads, "SGRO STOPS WHINING, PLEDGES TO SAVE TAXPAYERS MILLIONS."

Henry Katz
Apache Junction

Choices

How sad it was to watch our president, leader of the greatest nation on earth, begging the king of Saudi Arabia to either pump more oil for us or lower the price of oil.

We make choices every day, the vehicles we purchase, how well

we utilize our natural resources, etc. Another choice we make is to elect our leaders, from the president all the way down to our local leaders.

If you step back and look at some of the predicaments this country is in, it's obvious we have made some bad choices in the past. This country needs leaders now more than ever before.

Where have all the leaders gone?

Ron Barrett
Apache Junction

Civilian sacrifices necessary during war

Why are the candidates for president reluctant to discuss civilian sacrifices during the current war or reject the need for sacrifice? I remember the home-front sacrifices in World War II when the civilians willingly accepted the sacrifices as they mourned the sacrifices of the military families.

Do the candidates fear rejection by suggesting sacrifice? Are we such a consumer society that such a suggestion by a candidate would be political suicide?

As military families are making sacrifices, civilians should be willing to sacrifice also. Without sacrifices, I question whether any valuable lesson can be learned from war.

As I receive income from stock dividends, I am for the recently reduced tax on this income but not during war. I prefer that the current war costs not be passed on to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I hope Americans are mature enough to accept home-front sacrifices during war as being high-principled.

Hopefully, the candidates will show more maturity and courage, and will tell the people what they need to hear.

Joseph Lenoir
Apache Junction

Illegal immigration

I'm amazed at the people expressing outrage at the lack of government action toward the illegal immigration problem. People say, "I'm mad, and I want my country back."

Might I suggest these folks consult an American Indian on this problem?

Some say, "It was legal immigrants who helped make this country great." Again, ask an American Indian the difference between legal and illegal.

They go on to say, "Those who wish to enter this country must do it lawfully and possess a willingness to assimilate to American laws and traditions."

Kollenborn's Chronicles

Adolph Ruth: A Sad Tragedy

By Tom Kollenborn
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The Superstition Wilderness Area is a confusing maze of deep canyons and lofty mountain spires to the novice. A new explorer can easily be disoriented in this rugged terrain. Did Adolph Ruth become disoriented in June of 1931? Researchers continue to disagree and speculate about this bizarre case.

Adolph Ruth was first reported missing on June 18, 1931, by William A. "Tex" Barkley. A search of the region around Willow Springs was started on June 19, 1931, but to no avail. Ruth remained missing for almost six months before the first real clue to his disappearance surfaced.

Richie Lewis and George "Brownie" Holmes were guiding an archaeological expedition into the Superstition Mountains on Dec. 10, 1931. Near the "Spanish Racetrack," at the north end of Bluff Springs Mountain, one of Lewis' dogs began to bark and bay. At first, Holmes and Lewis thought the hound had picked up the scent of a lion. The night before it had rained heavy and usually scent was best at this time. As Holmes rode over closer to the baying hound, he immediately saw what the hound was barking at. Under a small Palo Verde tree, on the moist ground, laid a human skull. Brownie dismounted so he could examine the skull and the site. Immediately, Odds Halseth, an archaeologist, called out not to touch or disturb the skull.

Brownie noticed the previous rain had erased all sign, so he reached down and picked up the skull at the ire of two of the expedition members. He immediately noticed two large circular holes in the temporal regions of the skull and commented to the others in the group that it looked like this poor fellow must have been



Above, the skull of Adolph Ruth (in circle) as it was found in the Superstitions. At right, Mr. Ruth in happier times.



Tom Kollenborn

shot in the head.

Halseth studied the skull momentarily. He declared the skull appeared very old and was probably Native American. Brownie could not understand how Halseth could make such a determination when pieces of skin tissue still clung to the skull. It was Brownie who announced to the group that he believed they had found the skull of Adolph Ruth, the missing prospector.

Brownie later claimed he made the statement because he recognized a ridge on the top of the skull that was similar to the ridge on the forehead of Adolph Ruth whom he had met at Barkley's Ranch almost six months earlier.

Halseth denied the skull could be that of the aging treasurer hunter, who had been missing since June 15, 1931. E.D. Newcomer, a freelance photographer for the *Arizona Republic*, asked Holmes to cradle the skull in his hands so he could take a photograph of it.

Controversy soon developed between the members of the expedition over what they should do since the discovery of the skull. Some wanted to continue the

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Last Week's Results: Question: What's your opinion on why Hillary Clinton overcame the media predictions and won the New Hampshire primary last week?

Piling-On Effect: Even people who dislike Hillary disliked the media pile-on even more.

24.6%

The Braking Effect: The Clinton win was brake-tapping by still-undecideds made uneasy by the heavily predicted Obama victory.

40.2%

Tears: The media making a big deal over Hillary's emotional moment angered voters and resulted in a backlash at the polls.

36.4%

This Week's Question: In your opinion, what's the number one issue facing our country during this election year?

- The Economy
- Terrorism and National Security
- Affordable Healthcare
- Other

Must I say "American Indian" again?

I wonder if these people ever heard of the law of cause and effect, reaping what you sow, karma?

If not, they should take a look at just who is coming over the border from the south. They might want to check out the words, "Mayan and Aztec."

Phil Lowe
Gold Canyon

problem by tying a piece of baling wire through the skull's gaping holes and hung it in one of the Sycamore trees high above the ground. Ruth's skull dangled from the tree casting an eerie spell over the camp.

The night of Dec. 10 was extremely damp and cold. A ground fog completely hid the skull high in the tree at dawn. As the ground fog slowly lifted the skull was revealed suspended in the air dangling by a piece of baling wire.

Most of the expedition's participants wanted to return to Phoenix that morning. Mott and Newcomer had a story, Halseth thought he had found an Indian skull, and Richie Lewis along with Holmes was sure they had found part of "old man Ruth."

The archaeological expedition was well on its way by 10 a.m. They arrived at First Water Ranch about 3 p.m. The trip from First Water to Phoenix was about seventy miles. The members of the expedition finally made their way into the city editor's room of the *Arizona Republic* around 10 p.m., Dec. 11, 1931. It was too late in the evening to have a pathologist examine the skull to determine if in fact it did belong to Adolph Ruth.

On Dec. 12, 1931, Dr. Orville H. Brown examined the skull and pointed out many characteristics that agreed with the photos they had of Ruth.

Dr. James J. Lasalle corroborated Dr. Brown's opinion. Dr. Claude M. Moore, a dental surgeon, felt sure the skull was that of an aged white man.

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