

# 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 300 words or less, so please keep your comments brief and to the point.

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Apache Junction, AZ 85220

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E-Mail —  
ajnews@ajnews.com

### Free lunch

If the AJUSD is facing budgetary constraints, then why is there a "Free Summer Lunch Program"? For six weeks this summer, any child living in the area who is age 18 or under can get a free lunch at any of four school sites. What does this program cost the taxpayers? Wouldn't the funds be better spent on educational aids? Why is the AJUSD assuming a responsibility that should rest with parents? Is there a statutory requirement for free lunches? If the school district is 100% reimbursed by the state and/or federal government, then by all means, go for it! If not, then I believe that the AJUSD should not be in the business of social welfare. Spend the money on books and teachers.

Nancy Mello  
Apache Junction

*Editor's note: The Summer Lunch Program is a federal program funded entirely by the federal government.*

### Military Honor Code

It is time to stop using the Honor Code as part of the curriculum in our academies and officer training. Truth, honesty and integrity are no longer required for continuing in the service.

Ollie North is a good example. Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who covered up the Pat Tillman scandal, is another who should be disciplined or made to resign.

Teaching the honor code must make the students laugh under their breath.

Larry J. Kluth  
(Lt. Col. USAF Ret.)

### The name game

Someone wrote a letter recently deriding Senator Barack Obama's middle name (Hussein), and trying to tie that name to terrorists and/or dictators. Clearly, to folks with this kind of mindset, the issues that face us as a nation and the real differences in ideas on how to deal with them are of no importance, as long as the presidential selection process can be so trivialized.

So we all should vote for John Sidney McCain - it's so much easier than thinking, and we'll have four more years of the same (or worse) misguided leadership. But at least his name will sound more appealing.

Small minds need simple answers.

Bruce Chapman  
Apache Junction

### Sheriff writes in his own words

Early in my career I learned that law enforcement was more than just arresting criminals and putting them in jail. I developed a deep desire to touch peoples' lives. I always looked for ways to somehow take a bad situation and make their life better, even if I couldn't solve the crime.

When putting together the monthly letters to the citizens my desire remained the same: to touch the lives of whomever read them. The letters covered many topics, such as: domestic violence, methamphetamine use, identity theft, bullying, and gangs. I have made it no secret on how I put together the letters. I have had citizens ask me how I can do this with such a busy schedule. So I have told them.

I am not an expert on some of the topics, so I would research the internet so I could provide the best information. Sometimes I would read a passage and simply rewrite it in my words. Because what I read was fresh in my mind, the passage and what I wrote were similar. Sometimes I simply would cut and paste the passage into my document. In a letter there may be several paragraphs I would cut and paste or just one.

I will admit that in a few of the letters the majority of the information was cut and pasted from different sources. Also, there may be a few where the majority of the information came from one source. I simply felt the reader would really benefit by how the information was written and that I couldn't rewrite it in any other way without taking away from the message.

Recently an article was printed in the *East Valley Tribune* saying what I did was plagiarism. The meaning of plagiarism, as I understood it, was when a person took the work of someone else in order to gain something, such as money or a good grade. I did not at the time feel I had anything to gain by these letters. I don't receive compensation for them. I simply do this as a service to the citizens of Pinal County. It is not my intent to deceive anyone. My only intent is to educate and touch peoples' lives. Hopefully, to save a life.

If by the definition through the letters I committed plagiarism, then I apologize to all who are offended. I apologize to you, the readers. I apologize to those in the writing field, as this is a subject very close to your hearts. I made a mistake. Because I don't want to offend anyone else, I have requested all the articles be removed from my website.

This mistake doesn't define the man I am, nor should it take away from the many positive accomplishments I have made in my career, especially as Sheriff. Pinal County Sheriff's Office is better now than it ever has been. For the first time in a long

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## Pinal County Animal Control

### Services & Rabies Alert

By Sandie Smith  
*Special to The News*

Pinal County Animal Care and Control is a Division of the Health and Human Services Department which protects the health and welfare the Pinal County citizens by managing the county's companion animal population, enforcing rabies prevention/intervention regulations and enforcing the provisions of the Animal Control Ordinance.

On the web site at <http://pinal-countyaz.gov/Departments/AnimalControl/Pages/Home.aspx> you can reach a multitude of services offered by this department.

Some of those Services are: Adopting a Pet, Animal Cruelty, Fees and Deposits, Lost and Found, Pet of the Week, Problem Referrals, Public Notices, Upcoming Events and other valuable information.

You can report a found or lost animal or look into adoption on line: **Lost Animal:** <http://pinal-countyaz.gov/Departments/AnimalControl/Pages/FoundAnimal.aspx>

**Adoption:** <http://pinal-countyaz.gov/Departments/AnimalControl/Pages/AdoptionInterview.aspx>

On our web site under public notices is the 2008 Spay and Neuter Voucher Program. To see if you qualify for this service go to our web site <http://pinal-countyaz.gov/Departments/AnimalControl/Pages/Home.aspx>

Check or Money Order Only. Please leave your pets at home. **RABIES:** In addition to the services listed above, I would like to address the issue of Rabies. There have been instances of Rabies in Pinal County this year and we want to make sure that citizens know the precautions to take to avoid contact with a rabid animal and to protect their pets.

• Keep people and pets away from wild animals. Do not pick up, touch, or feed wild or unfa-



Sandie Smith  
County Supervisor

countyaz.gov/Departments/AnimalControl/Pages/Home.aspx . You would then click onto Public Notices.

### TO PURCHASE A LICENSE FOR YOUR DOG.

You may come to the administrative office/shelter at 764 S. Eleven Mile Corner Road, Casa Grande, or you may purchase a licence only at (Thursdays except Holidays 11:00AM - 1:00PM) - Roy Hudson Complex 575 N. Idaho - Apache Junction.

Check or Money Order Only. Please leave your pets at home.

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## The News Opinion Poll



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**Last Week's Results:** *Question:* Have you changed your summer vacation plans or driving habits because of the price of gasoline?

Yes  83.3%  
No  16.7%

**This Week's Question:** Pinal County Sheriff Chris Vasquez has been accused of plagiarism in his monthly columns (Sheriff's corner) by using facts, sentences and phrases from other writers he has taken from the internet. Do you find this offensive?

Yes  Somewhat  No

miliar animals, especially sick or wounded ones. If someone has been bitten or scratched, or has had contact with the animal, report it immediately to animal control or health officials

• Do not "rescue" seemingly abandoned young wild animals. Usually, the mother will return. If the mother is dead or has not returned in many hours, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 602-942-3000

• Vaccinate all dogs and cats against rabies. Pets should be kept in a fenced yard.

• Take precautions when camping, hunting or fishing. Avoid sleeping on the open ground without the protection of a closed tent or camper. Keep pets on a leash and do not allow them to wander.

• Do not disturb roosting bats. If you find a bat on the ground, don't touch it. Report the bat and its location to your local animal

control officer or health department. Place a box over the bat to contain it. Be careful not to damage the bat in any way since it must be intact for rabies testing.

Contact Animal Control for the dates and times of rabies clinics as well as the license outreach clinics. For any of these services or further information, you may also contact Animal Care and Control by phone or by mail:

• Pinal County Animal Control  
764 S. Eleven Mile Corner Rd.  
Casa Grande, Arizona 85222  
• 520-509-3555 - 520-866-7610  
- or 888-431-1311

<http://pinalcountyaz.gov/Departments/AnimalControl/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Other useful numbers:**  
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

<http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer> - 888-426-4435  
LIVESTOCK 1-800-294-0305  
GAME & FISH 602-942-3000

## Kollenborn's Chronicles

### Cattle In The Superstitions

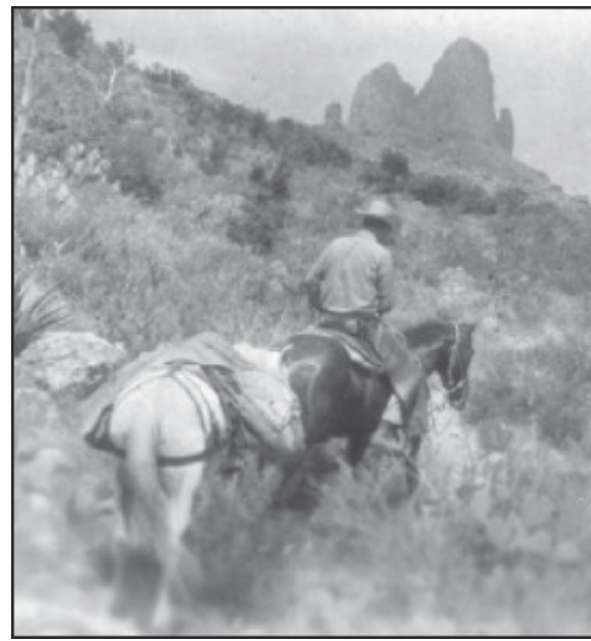
By Tom Kollenborn  
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Prior to roads and horse drawn carriages the only means of travel between Superstition Mountain and the surrounding towns was by horseback or afoot. Since those long forgotten days, little has changed within the boundaries of the Superstition Wilderness Area. Today one still must travel by foot or on horseback.

The Department of Agriculture, in 1939, set aside approximately 124,040 acres of land within the Tonto National Forest to ensure the preservation of a particular way of life and the natural wonders of the Sonoran Desert. Today a continuous flow of hikers and horseback riders travel these ancient Indian and early cattle trails of the Superstition Wilderness Area.

Since the first settlers arrived in this area it has been known as the most hostile and rugged cattle range in the American Southwest. The first cattlemen fought Indians, drought, heat, famine, disease, and winter storms to graze their cattle in the deep canyons and towering ridges of the Superstition Wilderness. A very rugged breed of cowman evolved from this hostile environment.

These cattle drovers first arrived from New Mexico and Texas shortly after the discovery of rich mining properties in the central mountains of Arizona Territory. Copper and silver were first discovered around Globe just after the American Civil War. The first cattle herds arrived around 1870-1871. The small valley flats between the towering ridges and cliffs of the Superstition Wilderness served as grazing range for these Texas cattle brought in by drovers. The discovery of the Silver King Mine in 1875 opened the region to cattle rais-



Packing supplies to a line camp in the Superstition Mountains, circa 1960.

ing because of the tremendous demand for beef on the hoof.

The sharp spines of desert flora, the summer heat, the long droughts and the winter cold was nothing new for these early cowmen. Many of the cattlemen came to reap the profits associated with providing beef for these early mining camps that dotted the landscape of central Arizona. The miners purchased tons of beef, making cattle raising a very lucrative industry in the area. The somewhat mild climate, good grazing and the market convinced many of the cattlemen to stay on permanently. As the mining industry grew so did the cattle business. The cowboy was soon a common sight in the isolated canyons of the Superstition Mountain region.

Hardships reflected life on these

early cattle spreads. There were no permanent shelters or medical facilities. If a cowboy broke an arm or leg, his only doctor was his partner or himself. If he picked up a stray bullet he prayed that he could make it back to headquarters before infection set in. Infection was the greatest enemy of man and beast in those days. Survival was for the strongest because the weak often perished.

The early cowboy's diet consisted of jerked beef, pinto beans, chili and hardtack. His revolver or rifle was his constant companion. Either weapon was used against his many enemies.

A cowboy's horse was his means of survival. A solid and sound horse meant the difference between life and death in the wilds of the Superstition



Tom Kollenborn

Mountains. The care of his horse was the most important chore of his daily routine. Most cowboys had a string of eight or ten horses and rotated between them when working cattle. Providing care for these animals required a considerable amount of effort and time. There was always an animal to doctor, shoe, or train. A cowboy's work was truly from sun till sun and it was never done. There were always fences to mend, water holes to repair, windmills to work on, stock to check, tact to care for and every other job associated with cattle ranching.

The advent of barbed wire changed the early cowboy's way of life. Barbed wire forever ended an open and free range. It also ended the mighty cattle trail drives. The colorful and romantic life of the cowboy so often portrayed by western writers was more fantasy than reality.

A herd of cows, calves and a couple of bulls would be cared for by one cowboy. Most of these herds numbered between a hundred and three hundred head.

Each spring and fall a rodeo (roundup) was conducted to gather the cattle from the open range. The purpose of the roundup was to brand, castrate and doctor calves. Yearling steers were generally separated from the herd and driven to the nearest point of need. A typical roundup area consisted of temporary catchpens, but most often it was open ground work without the benefit

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of Apache Junction



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