



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.

Letters: The News 115 N. Apache Trail Apache Junction, AZ 85220
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New hospital revue

Any brand new hospital is going to go through problems while getting standard procedures and services established. The key to the whole thing is if the hospital administration can and will make needed changes. In the case of our new hospital, near the Crismon Road and Hwy 60 crossing Home Depot in East Mesa with an entrance off Crismon, it looks like the right changes are being made.

I have a friend who lives in the same 55+ Mobile Home park I live in and he had to take his wife to that hospital when they first opened. He had a bad experience with the ER nurse telling him his wife had no broken bones and later she was being treated for a broken pelvis. I spoke to the Director Jim Johnson and he said they put a lot of effort into bringing everyone "up to speed" with customer service a main focus. "And that means every area of customer service. We want to eliminate the "hospital feel" and make people feel comfortable as though they were visiting a resort. There are no semi private rooms. All our rooms are designed to be comfortable, roomy, and private."

I have helped a lot of the elderly and disabled. One I have been helping had to go to the same hospital Mid May or this year. We dealt with ER and he was in a Hospital bed in a matter of minutes. It was much faster than the norm.

After that we dealt with the Urologist, Heart Specialist, Lab people, Nurses, Physical Therapists, Respiratory Therapists, and others. Their attitudes and skills were "Five Star" and I have never before given a "Five Star" rating. The hospital lay out and rooms are like being in a resort with medical amenities and they get a "Five Star" rating in that area also. Once again, I have never given that rating to any hospital prior to now.

They even have "free" Valet service at the front entrance. I thought that showed excellent consideration for the elderly and disabled. Just pull up to the front door and give the Valet your keys. He will give you a ticket receipt and retrieve your vehicle when you are ready to go. You take a very short walk or wheelchair ride straight into the front reception area. The Valet parking is going to be suspended for two months and the Security patrol that is constantly patrolling the parking lot will pick up the slack. They are going to resume the service in August. Until then flag down security and they will help you get to the entrance.

There is never a "perfect" facility and the patient certainly has a responsibility to give the doctors every detail when it comes to medical history. As an example; in my case there is no such thing as out patient surgery. My body gets inflamed and WILL produce an infection if not monitored for two or three days after surgery and antibiotics MUST be given with anti inflammation medications. I tell surgeons to plan for it no matter what the norm might be. I have no problem saying I would not hesitate when it comes to going to our new East Valley Hospital.

I have given the doctors and nurses information regarding the elderly friend I am helping and they were glad to get the information. They acted accordingly and we have made great progress. I think we have a hospital that will be known as the Jewel of the Valley and it has the opportunity to set the bar high and compel others to follow their example. I hope they continue to grow and go in the direction they are following so far.

Noel T. Benoist, Apache Junction

Memorial Day

Numbering indeed the statistics presented by the editor in his Memorial Day editorial in last week's issue of *The News*. America's total war dead: 1,194,198 over the course of thirteen conflicts. Tragic!

And the tragedy becomes all the more real and horrific as one bears in mind that each one of those statistics stands representative of an individual, a real live human being like unto ourselves, who at one time worked and sweat, laughed and loved, danced and dreamed and then left this vale with his or her life unlivid to its fullness.

Equally sad and tragic were the casualties unreported in the editorial, victims from yet another war fought concurrently, a vicious, merciless war, an uncivil war, a war waged against the unborn, a war that has claimed more lives than the combined total of all American soldiers killed throughout all of our nation's bloody conflicts.

We talk much of civil rights. Abortion is a civil rights issue waged in behalf of those most defenseless, the unborn. I don't believe I would be stretching the issue were I to say that we might well be engaged in the fight for the survival of our culture as we know it. Abortion is a moral issue and as we debate the morality or the immorality of abortion (aborticide?), I would simply ask each reader of this missive to take a trip in his or her minds eye back into the warmth of their mother's womb and ask, "Would I want my mother to kill me so that she and my father could be free of the responsibility of raising me? Would I want my mother to abort me for her personal, social and economic convenience? Would I want my parents and physician to kill me because they might have some reason to believe I might be mentally or physically impaired, somewhat less that perfect?"

May we eventually learn to treat all people, old as well as young, the infirm as well as the strong, with due respect for their God given intrinsic moral worth and dignity.

Richard Paustian, Gold Canyon

Que Pasa?

Thanks

Robin and I would like to thank the many, many people who sent flowers, cards, their condolences, thoughts and prayers to our family last week after learning of the death of our daughter, Emily.

Your kindness is warmly appreciated.

Emily was the eldest of four children. The big sister. She will be missed not only by her husband and her own three children, but by her sister and her brothers who looked up to her.

Emily was the production manager at the newspaper for several years. I'm sure many of you will remember her from the front counter at the office.

She was also one of my very favorite people to have a beer with after work. Em' was the intellectual equal of anyone I ever met and I really loved to hear her laugh.

Her mother and I will dearly miss her.

For political junkies

Central Arizona College's Lifelong Learners (C.A.L.L.) are encouraging people to voice their political opinions with a four-week series entitled Election, 2008 - What Do You Think?

Participants of the free series



Ed Barker News Editor

may indulge in some give-and-take on the hot issues of this presidential election year.

Topics may include a discussion on what traits are desirable in a president; defining the terms "liberal" and "conservative"; health care; the economy and the war in Iraq.

Participants will choose the topics of discussion while Jan Bobbett, a C.A.L.L. member and the class moderator, keeps the conversation rolling in a passionate, but civil manner.

The series will meet each Monday from 9 to 10 a.m. starting June 9 through June 30. The discussions will take place in room

The News Opinion Poll



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Last Week's Results: Question: The current Apache Junction City Council has been in office for one year. How would you grade their job performance thus far?



This Week's Question: How do you plan to use your federal economic stimulus check this summer?

Spend It Pay Bills
 Save It

442 of Central Arizona College's Superstition Mountain Campus located at 273 E. Old West Highway in Apache Junction.

With the diverse and varied political views held by the people of Apache Junction and Gold Canyon, it is certain to be a lively and interesting series of classes. I plan to attend, and I hope to see you there.

For more information about the C.A.L.L. program, Election 2008 or to receive a current catalog, please contact Vera Walters at 480-677-7707 or 520-494-5444,

ext. 7707 or by email at vera.walters@centralaz.edu or Joel Beck at 480-677-7721 or 520-494-5444, ext. 7721 or by email at joel.beck@centralaz.edu.

C.A.L.L. is an enrichment program for adult learners of any age without regard to previous education, providing a variety of informal, low-cost, high-quality classes, study groups and field trips.

You may visit the C.A.L.L. program at www.centralaz.edu/call.

Kollenborn's Chronicles

Tom Mix

By Tom Kollenborn
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Tom Mix, a cowboy hero of the motion picture industry during the first half of the 20th century, was born on January 6, 1880, in a frame house in Pennsylvania, halfway between the Pennsylvania Railroad Line and Bennett's Branch of the Susquehanna River.

Tom's parents were old family Pennsylvanians, and Tom worked and trained horses since boyhood. In 1902, when Tom Mix was twenty-two years, he got his first big break. He was hired as cowboy performer for the Miller Brother's 101 Real Wild West Ranch near Bliss, Oklahoma. Colonel Joe Miller hired Mix as a full-time cowboy for \$15 per month, including room and board.

Tom Mix was a rough and ready cowboy. There was no challenge too great for him. He rode bucking horses, bulldogged steers, and made spectacular jumps with horses. Mix could jump a horse into a railroad boxcar, easily jump a five-foot gate or jump from a moving railroad flat car. One of the most spectacular jumps Mix made was jumping his horse over the old wagon road cut at Newhall, California.

Mix had many ties to Arizona and the Superstition Mountain area. He once worked as a cowboy in the Prescott area. He moved to the Prescott area in 1909 from his home in Oklahoma. According to the story Mix arrived in Phoenix in 1911 on horseback leading a heavily laden burro. He stopped and rested at Hotel Adams. He said he was headed westward to California looking for a better job. Mix had heard they were paying cowboy extras \$5 a day in the motion picture business.

Tom Mix was a top performer in rodeos and his ability with horses are legendary. He performed in many of Arizona's rodeos including Prescott, Payson, Tucson, Willcox, and Phoenix.

On December 26, 1925, Tom Mix returned to Phoenix and



During his years in Hollywood, Tom Mix always claimed Arizona as his home.

the Hotel Adams as a famous western motion picture star. He came to Phoenix in route to Fish Creek Canyon on the Apache Trail. The area had been chosen for a film location. Mix made the film "Tony Runs Wild" at the site. Fifty members of the film cast stayed at the Apache Hotel located at Hotel Point on Roosevelt Lake.

According to Mix, the real star of his films was his horse, which was billed as "Tony, The Wonder Horse." Mix said his horse was worth \$75 as horseflesh, but was insured for \$50,000. Mix also claimed he would sell him for a million dollars. Indeed the horse was valuable to him.

During his years in Hollywood, Mix always claimed Arizona as his home. During the filming of "Tony Runs Wild," Mix meet the Clemans family. William J. Clemans owned an operated the old Fraser Ranch in the Reavis Valley. Mix spent time relaxing on the old ranch and riding with Clemans' cowboys. Mix came back to Tucson and Florence to visit friends all the time. He had many memories of the state and the area we now call the Superstition Wilderness Area.

On Saturday, October 12, 1940, death intervened in Tom Mix's life on a lonely stretch of U.S. Highway 80-89, between Florence and Oracle Junction. He was headed for Phoenix by way



The Tom Mix Monument is ten miles south of Florence on Highway 80-89.

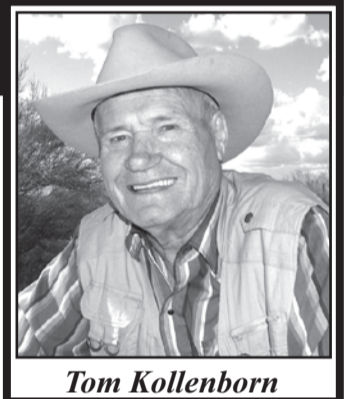
of Florence when the accident occurred. In Florence he had planned to visit an old rodeo friend, Harry Knight. Knight was married to Mix's eldest daughter.

Mix was alone, driving his green custom-built Cord roadster when he came upon a crew of highway workers. He avoided hitting the workers, but lost control of his Cord. The automobile plunged across a wash and rolled over, killing Mix instantly. It is believed a piece of flying luggage broke his neck. According to witnesses, his cream-colored western suit remained virtually uncrumpled from the impact.

Tom Mix died wearing his boots, a diamond-studded belt buckle, and a white 10-gallon Stetson hat. On October 12, 1942, Tom's horse "Tony" followed him in death.

The Pinal County Historical Society erected a seven-foot monument of a riderless horse in December of 1947 to mark the spot where Tom Mix had his fatal automobile accident. This site is some ten miles south of Florence. Pinal County Historical Society President A.W. Gressinger wrote the inscription on the monument. The inscription reads as follows:

January 6, 1880 - October 12, 1940
 In Memory of Tom Mix



Tom Kollenborn

Whose spirit left his body on this spot

And whose characterizations and portrayals

In life served to better fix memories of

The old west in the minds of living men.

The Pinal County Historical Society, under the guidance of Mrs. Billie Early, rededicated the monument on October 21, 1989. Another rededication of a replica monument in the yard of the Pinal County Museum occurred on February 19, 1994. Mrs. Billie Early and other volunteers worked diligently to restore the vandalized monument south of Florence in the 1980's.

Tom Mix lived the life many people only dream of living. He was a national hero, he was loved by many, and he was an astounding horseman. His horsemanship accomplishments have never been duplicated. He was certainly national and international silver screen hero to children worldwide. His films instill honesty, integrity, loyalty, and hope among his many admirers and viewers. Real cowboys respected Tom Mix's exploits, because they knew Mix was one of them.

A visit to the Pinal County Historical Museum is a rewarding experience to anyone interested in Central Arizona history. The museum hours are 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tues. through Sat. and from noon until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is located at 715 South Main in Florence. The phone number is 520-868-4382.

If you have time, drive ten miles south of Florence and visit the Tom Mix Monument on Highway 80-89.

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