



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

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Kudos for Cupcake

In last week's edition the *Apache Junction Gold Canyon News* printed an article with a color picture of CUPCAKE, the stray dog who stole the hearts of the residents of Jalapa Lane in the Superstition Foothills community of Gold Canyon.

The article resulted in many phone calls and the adoption of CUPCAKE by a wonderful lady from the East Valley.

Several neighbors had been leaving her water and food by a bush that she used as her safe haven. CUPCAKE wouldn't let anyone get too close to her. Finally, after a week, she followed one of the neighbors to her house. She was named CUPCAKE because she was so sweet.

There are so many people to thank in this story: the residents of Jalapa Lane for their dedication and perseverance and for paying the Vet bills; Pat Prince, President of the Superstition Foothills Homeowners Association who sent many emails trying to find the owner; and to reporter Jill Jones and *News* editor Ed Barker for the article. I am sure the residents of Jalapa Lane will get "visitation rights!"

The CUPCAKE story was featured on the PAW Alert page of our website www.GoldCanyonDOG.org

Marta Saint-James, Gold Canyon

Thanks to Gold Canyon businesses

The Superstition Foothills Homeowners Association would like to express their appreciation to our local business' here in Gold Canyon. Without their support and generosity our first HOA community event, our "Porker Derby Day", would not have been the success that it was. Thanks again to you all: B & B Coatings, Basha's, Chen's, De La Cruz, Firehouse Grill, Gecko Express, Great Wall, Gold Canyon Car Wash, Gold Canyon Golf Resort, The Garage, Jack In The Box, Lucky Cream, Mesa Market Place, Tropical Smoothie, & the Wart Hog. It was a great day in our neighborhood!

S.Silveira, Committee Chairperson
Superstition Foothills COA

When Democracy Turns Criminal

The Bush administration and the Republican and Democratic Parties have been on an 8-year crime spree. Their policies are responsible for the deaths and displacement of millions of innocent people. These policies include torture for information and jail without due process of law. These political party leaders have lied to the public to rationalize and accomplish their goals. They have committed war crimes against humanity for the sake of greed and privilege in the name of the American People.

As a human being and an American citizen I will not support or tolerate the torture and murder of innocent people---no matter what color they are or the color or what flag these crimes are being committed under.

The Republican Party members that have supported and tolerated these crimes have done so with the knowledge of how their party operates and what the results of their votes accomplish. Millions of people in this country have voted to kill innocent people and take what they possess. A vote for John McCain is a vote for the continuation of these criminal practices and policies in its purest form. If this is the end-result of democracy---then it has failed us all miserably.

Arlin Troutt, Apache Junction

DIS-appointed

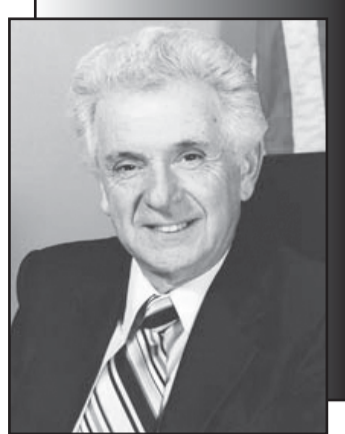
The City Council meeting of June 17, 2008 proves there will be no real service and a set of standards that apply to everyone until there is a new regime. Charley Bunten was appointed to the Zoning Board and I hope he will do a good job of protecting the rights of property owners, which includes developers who own property. The problem arises in that the first time I was told the Council would call me in and others were told the same. We were told to show up on the Tuesday of the appointments. When we showed we were told we could not and would not be considered because we did not show up for the initial interviews. We had a good reason for not being there. For good reasons, Charley Bunten was not at the initial interview but he was appointed anyway. I hope he does a good job and I also hope the Council will stop doing and justifying whatever they feel like doing and stop applying different standards to fit their will. It is the wrong way to govern! Joel Stern (city attorney) didn't want me on the Planning and Zoning because I know too much about the law and people's property rights under the U.S. Constitution and Court decisions. Does he have an exercise power over the Council? I think the answer is a resounding YES!

I have seen Charley take his direction from Joel Stern on more than one occasion so I hope Charley will do the right job but fear he will be easily misled like so many others. I have seen Joel recommend people who agree with him and I know he has sent projects he and his office could have done to outside friends who in turn made hundreds of thousands of dollars. Why did Joel Stern recommend and even "push" the SWEET Empire land deal through and kill other developments and developer deals. The land sold went for less than half the real value. It never went to public bid. The procedure of another opening for the 'public comment' after back and forth discussion with the developer was mandated on a different project and killed on the Empire deal. When I mentioned Robert's Rules Joel said it was Council's right to choose. The "Rules of Incorporation" and Robert's Rules of Order being deferred to for all matters not in the R. of

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Shared Revenues Keep Arizona And Apache Junction Strong

Guest Commentary
By John Insalaco
Mayor, City of Apache Junction



Mayor John Insalaco

For almost four decades, a small portion (15%) of the income taxes collected by the state has been shared with Arizona's cities and towns. Mandated by voters in 1972, this system is a stabilizing force in Arizona's economy. It was first approved by voters 36 years ago, in lieu of cities passing their own separate income taxes.

The shared revenue system keeps Arizona strong and vibrant for a number of reasons. First, studies show that 92 percent of income tax revenues come from economic activities in Arizona's cities and towns—a higher percentage than in many other states. Cities and towns are Arizona's strongest economic engine. The revenue sharing system helps keep the economy humming by building the infrastructure and supporting local services that makes cities safe and efficient and promote an attractive business climate.

The future of Apache Junction's downtown redevelopment and new growth south of US 60 is heavily dependent on the continued enhancement of city services through shared revenues in both areas.

Second, cities and towns rely on shared revenues to help provide the essential services that taxpayers depend on: police protection, roads and street lights,

parks, neighborhood enhancement and outreach programs and libraries. Because cities and towns provide these services in such a seamless manner, people have the luxury of taking them for granted.

Third, when shared revenues come back into the city, Arizonans know that spending decisions are made by local officials who are accessible and accountable to the people. They can see the direct results of that money working in their home town.

Apache Junction Public Library's fabulous new expansion of 10,000 sq. ft. allows the residents to enjoy a beautiful view of the Superstition Mountain while operating their laptops, perusing newspapers, or reading recent best sellers. Public accessible computers, new shelving with DVDs and music CDs, and a service desk staffed with friendly knowledgeable Library

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Last Week's Results: Question: Do you favor a "Windfall Profits" tax on oil companies as a way to help lower the cost of gasoline at the pump?

Yes 38.4%

No 61.6%

This Week's Question: Do you believe that opening offshore areas of the U.S. and the Artic Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling would significantly reduce the high price of gasoline?

Yes

No

employees wait just inside the doors. It is a comfortable and inviting space to relax and enjoy the many materials and services the Library has to offer.

Our aquatic facilities, at the renovated swimming pool on Southern Avenue, are there to be enjoyed by the public all summer long. This excellent community amenity can be staffed thanks to state shared revenues.

Additionally, with the state experiencing rapid population growth, it is essential that stable revenue sources are in place to confront the stress on essential services such as police protection.

Some state legislators are talking about reducing state shared revenues to cities and towns in order to help balance their own budget, but at the expense of cities and towns.

Finally, shared revenues benefit the entire state by keeping Arizona's smaller cities and towns economically healthy, even in the most remote and rural areas of the state. This fair and equitable distribution method allows all cities and towns, regardless of size or location, to share in the benefits of a strong and growing economy.

The voter-established shared revenue formula is a major reason why Arizona's cities and towns are great places to live and work, and help power the economy of the entire state.

This is no time for the state to take back revenue sharing that voters approved almost four decades ago. State shared revenue is one of the biggest success stories in the history of the state of Arizona.

Kollenborn's Chronicles

Dawn At Weaver's Needle

By Tom Kollenborn
© 2008

At dawn on May 11, 1866, a contingent of the 14th, 24th and 32nd Infantry lay poised to attack an Apache-Yavapai village near the base of Weaver's Needle. The unit was under the command of Brevet Lt. John D. Walker. His command also included some Pima Scouts and member of the 1st Arizona Volunteers.

As the command to attack was given, the soldiers, volunteers and Pima Scouts swept down the hillside firing their muskets. The inhabitants of the village were in total shock and confusion. The attack had been a complete surprise. The initial hail of musket fire by Walker's men struck warriors, old men, women and children.

The first soldiers to reach the village were the Pima Scouts. They clubbed to death as many survivors as they could find who had survived the first volley of musket ball. The chaos and confusion added to the death toll. The scouts were followed by elements of the infantry, who reloaded and fired yet another volley. When the acrid smell of gunpowder finally cleared the air, some fifty-seven men, women and children lay dead or dying. The Pimas took twenty-two women and children prisoner.

The contingent of soldiers, volunteers and Pima Scouts had two casualties. One of the Pima Scouts was accidentally shot in the leg by an Army musket. One soldier sprained his ankle as he jumped over a large boulder in the initial charge at dawn.

The Army confiscated eleven primitive Mexican flintlock smooth bore muskets and a variety of clubs, lances and bows. All the weapons were destroyed on the site. The Pima Scouts estimate three hostiles escaped the



Above, Weaver's Needle was once known as "Statue Mountain." Below right, Brevet Lt. John D. Walker in later years.



It was much easier to destroy them.

The Rancheria Campaign was a search and destroy mission for the Army and the beginning of the end for the independent way of life for the Native Americans who lived in the Salt River Mountains (Superstition Mountains).

Large scale maps with accurate place names and landmarks were non-existent at the time. Sierra de Supersticiones (Superstition Mountain) and Weaver's Needle (c. 1853) were the only landmarks that appeared on military maps. It is very interesting to note that the military made reference to Weaver's Needle as Picacho Peak. This inaccuracy



Tom Kollenborn

used by the Army had confused many a map maker ever since. It is quite apparent that the name "Picacho" was accepted by the Army because of the frequency it appears in military reports.

It is ironic, but Weaver's Needle would probably serve best as a tombstone for the unfortunate souls who died in its shadows some one hundred and forty-two years ago.

Interestingly enough, Weaver's Needle has also been called Needle Rock, Picacho Peak and Statue Mountain, adding more confusion to controversy. The events that have occurred in the shadows of this well-known landmark have become the history of the area. Often the truth and fiction are separated by a very thin gray line.

During the late 1950's Ed Piper and Maria Jones brought attention to the area by feuding over mining claims that eventually lead to the death of a couple of miners.

The final analysis proves to us the naming and renaming of landmarks accurately is important to the preservation of history. Even though Weaver's Needle was officially named in 1853, the name still under went a metamorphosis before the final name was accepted or agreed on. Ironically the historical name of a landmark does little to commemorate the events that occurred there.

Weaver's Needle and the 1866 battle seem to be so far apart in the annals of Superstition Mountain history.

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