



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. 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.

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Recall ridiculous

I lived in Washington D.C. for about 12 years and saw a lot of odd things in politics. But I never saw anything as ridiculous as the recall effort here in Apache Junction. I've seen no evidence of the mayor or any council members doing something that would justify removal from office. All I've seen is a couple of people's personal grudges against the city and some council members slinking around darkly in the background.

We've elected these people to do a job. Let them do it. Don't be fooled. Even if the recalls succeed these people will not go away. If the council in the future makes a decision that they don't agree with they will just have another recall. Personally, I don't think tax dollars should go to pay for someone's attempt to get even. Ask yourself whose town is this? Yours or a small select group with ulterior motives? You want to keep it your town, defeat the recalls.

By the way, why is Joe Severs on our city council? He doesn't live in Apache Junction anymore.

Peter Czapor, Apache Junction

Man with a plan

So let's say my wife, who handles the treasury in our home, comes to me and points out with no equivocation that my salary is not quite enough to pay the bills. She says we need to take our finances in hand or we will be bankrupt. My response is I think she's probably right but I don't want to give up any of the pleasures and expenditures we now have. She, with that look in her eye says, "You better come up with a plan!" "No sweat," says I, "nothing to it."

Here's my plan:

1 - Each and every time she and I make love we record the session with a mini cam and then we sell the tapes to Internet porn sites.

2 - We re-finance the house at 100 percent for the third time and borrow against my retirement plan at the company I work for.

3 - I rent our basement three nights a week to a friend of mine— who operates a floating crap game— for 10 percent of his take.

4 - I notify all my current creditors that they have been sending their bills to the wrong person, that indeed my relatives are the ones who should be paying.

If I did implement a plan like that and if I were to ask you what you thought about it you most likely would tell me I am insane or terribly, terribly irresponsible about money. And yet the plan, which I have just proposed, is the same thing our legislature has done to fix the state budget and then run out of town as fast as they could. Their fix included taking pictures of speeders for money, borrowing billions to build more university Taj Mahals, jacking up the lottery and passing their bills off to be paid by the counties and cities of this fair state. What's the difference between my plan and theirs? We can laugh over mine, but we have to cry over theirs. And to make matters worse as I drive on the roads around the valley I can barely see the highway because of the visual interference caused by these same legislator's campaign signs begging me to send them back into office. Does it ever end?

Felix Wilson, Apache Junction

Revolution?

Since the early 1970s our government leaders have proven themselves to be extremely poor stewards of the public trust and money.

Energy Policy: The Arab Oil Embargo had politicians shouting 'we need to get of the oil drug.' Thirty plus years later, we hear the same empty rhetoric. Simple things, such as the following would get us on the right path. (McCain's office ignored these suggestions as have other political leaders that I've sent this two over the past several years):

1. Time our traffic signals so there isn't so much stop n go driving. NTSA statistics show our community wastes 5 percent of our fuel because of poorly timed lights.

2. We have thousands of miles of unused rail track in this country. Start using them and expand Amtrak service throughout the nation.

3. Stop Saturday mail delivery - the post office vehicles throughout the nation eat up a lot of fuel (indeed, the gov't is the biggest single user of gasoline).

4. We have thousands of miles of freeways - a partnership between city, state and utility firms should utilize the medians for placement of solar panels and wind turbines.

5. Outright grants and/or healthy tax incentives should be given to builders who incorporate energy alternative devices into new construction. Used tires can be turned into energy efficient homes at almost no cost. Earth sheltered homes and straw-bale homes are more energy efficient.

6. A variety of alternative energy systems are in use in other countries already - including use of free methane, heliostats, greenhouse funnels to produce energy and so on. Why aren't we on the same page?

The federal government devoted billions to the development of the atomic bomb and made it a national priority.

Why aren't they doing the same with the development of energy alternatives everyone can make use of? Doesn't seem to be much of a priority.

We really don't need another election. We need another revolution.

Bruce David, Queen Creek

Second Amendment

I have not seen anyone else opine on the following subject so I feel I must do it myself: Thank God Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy sided with the conservative justices regarding the gun control issue and the Second Amendment because he has single handedly prevented America's second civil war. How frightening it is, though, that only one man stands between us and Armageddon; and he is a liberal.

Kenny Baker, Apache Junction

Candidate's financial support questioned

This weekend I saw Bryan Martyn's June Financial statement for his campaign. I am thoroughly confused, I thought he was a Republican running for office. After looking at the statement; I noticed most of the contributors were developers, Realtors and lawyers. Pinal County has been run by the above for years now, and how can we expect change if this candidate is doing the same? I was hoping we would have a clean election, and big developers wouldn't have their say, but it looks like no change at all is going to occur. For too long the "good ole boys" have been running this county into the ground, and making the tax payers pick up the tab. Know your candidates before you vote.

L. Schmidt, Apache Junction

Financial support questioned II

Recently it was brought to our attention while attending a function the financial status of candidate Bryan Martyn. We were totally shocked and disgusted to hear how he has taken money from big developers, Realtors and lawyers; it appears to be over half of his campaign funding.

To us this does not spell out a true Republican or a representative that we want representing us. We are concerned hearing this, which comes from reliable sources. It has been too long that the same regimen has been controlling this county, and it is time for change.

Mr. Martyn has been heard saying that a good relationship with developers is important, don't we already have that? Maybe we have too much of a good relationship with developers look at the road problems in our county (especially Johnson Ranch). What happened to being concerned about

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Last Week's Results: Question: Do you think the attempted recall of five city council members will be successful?

Yes 7.2%

No 92.8%

This Week's Question: As a cost-saving measure, the Apache Junction/Gold Canyon News is considering changing the newspaper to the long "Tab" size, the same new format used by the East Valley Tribune. Do you like the Trib's new size?

Yes No No preference

the tax payers and being able to stay in our homes we have worked so hard to maintain?

Wake up call folks; know your candidates before you vote and think about voting for the other Republican candidate!

Deborah and David Mellado, Apache Junction

Financial support questioned, Part III

Do you want Pinal County to be run by and for the big developers, Realtors and lawyers?

Recently we saw Bryan Martyn's June campaign finance report (properly obtained) and were shocked to see how much money he has taken from the above-mentioned big developers, realtors, and lawyers.

It has been way too long that the "good ol' boys" Democrat system has been running this county, with "business as usual" such as the above transaction and with the tax payers picking up the tab.

Martyn is ostensibly running as a Republican. Does the fiscal behavior demonstrated above support this?

Pinal County needs help and change. People, please pay attention to whom you are voting for in the primary. Check out all the candidates running before choosing!

Art Fesler-Butts SFC/Ret. LTC and Anne Fesler-Butts MD Apache Junction

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Kollenborn's Chronicles

Wild Cattle

By Tom Kollenborn
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William Augustus "Tex" Barkley owned and operated the Quarter Circle U Ranch for almost 50 years. In the 1940s, Barkley's ranch covered more than 117 sections. The family ran cattle from Canyon Lake in the north to almost Castro Springs in the South. Their range included most of Peter's Mesa east of La Barge Canyon and Barkley also had a lease on several sections of state trust land around Superstition Mountain. The Barkley Cattle Company owned most of the land that Gold Canyon and Meadow Brook is located on today.

Harold Christ and the Dinamout Corporation bought the Barkley Ranch in 1970 from a business group who had purchased it from the Barkley heirs in 1965. So much for the demise of the old Barkley Cattle Company. Let's talk about the wild bulls of West Boulder Canyon.

Each Spring and Fall Barkley would check out his calve crop and round up the yearlings. There were several areas on his stock range where it was impossible to ride a horse. Most cattlemen will tell you Barkley had the roughest stock range in the Southwest.

Removing wild cattle from Old West Boulder Canyon became an annual event, but not part of the regular roundup. Any cattle successfully removed from Old West Boulder Canyon's upper reaches would have to be done on foot and with dogs. There was always water in the pot-



William Augustus "Tex" Barkley, circa 1940.

holes and good grass in the Spring, high on the slopes of Superstition Mountain's east side. This was an almost impossible range from which to remove cattle.

There were old timers around that had a variety of suggestions on how our problem might be solved. One old man claimed he used to take a jackass into the mountains and tie the jackass to a wild bull and eventually the jackass would lead the bull out of the mountains. This idea might have been sound in some areas, but I wasn't sure you could get a jackass into the area. Another man suggested we shoot the bulls, jerk them and haul them out in packages. This idea sounded most practical to me, but it was not my decision to make.

Tex Barkley died in early Fall of 1955, and his son, William Thomas "Bill" Barkley, took over the operation of the ranch. Jimmy and Tafoya Ruiz lived at the Quarter Circle U Ranch, and old Jimmy had worked for

Tex for many years. Jimmy stayed on for about two years after Tex Barkley died, and then he retired.

It was during my first summer working for the Barkley's that I learned of the wild bulls in Old West Boulder Canyon. I was young, inexperienced and not too knowledgeable about cattle. I suggested to Bill that I hike up in the canyon with a couple of the dogs and try to haze the bulls down into West Boulder Canyon. I put on my military brogans and with two of Bill's cow dogs I started my hike into Old West Boulder Canyon from the First Water Ranch. This experience taught me that wild cattle were just plain "wild."

Hiking up Old West Boulder convinced me these old bulls didn't want to be disturbed. They didn't plan on leaving their habitat. The dogs barked, the bulls jumped from one rock to another and basically avoided all herding attempts. There was no way these bulls were going down Old West



Tom Kollenborn

Boulder Canyon, and Bill wasn't very happy with my attempt. Now I understood why some cattlemen recommended shooting wild bulls in impassible country. Eventually, the wild bulls of West Boulder Canyon were shot to rid their impact on the fragile ecosystem of the canyon.

Cattle were totally removed from the western end of the Superstition Wilderness by 1990. No grazing permits have been issued on the western end of the Superstition Wilderness Area since then. The Barkley Cattle Company owned most of the land that Gold Canyon and Meadow Brook is located on today. Several years ago the Gold Canyon and King's Ranch Resort area had a problem with cattle, but this was because of cattle permitted to graze on state trust land adjacent to Superstition Wilderness Area.

Wild cattle, grazing cattle, cowboys, windmills, dirt tanks, salt blocks, barbed wire, and cow pies on the landscape were all part of the ranching heritage of the Apache Junction area. For the most part, it is all gone.

Today, the closest thing to wild bulls and cowboys are the rodeos here in Apache Junction during the annual Lost Dutchman Days in February and Ben Johnson Days in November.

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