

**Letters to the Editor**  
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apply ethics to your opinion column. That is very apparent once again.

You do not know me, have never talked to me, have made no attempt to, and yet you write as if you know my motives for doing what I am doing.

You say that I have never been specific in my comments. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Three times I have requested that someone from Council or Staff investigate the alleged statement from a past Animal Control Officer that he "has the City Attorney in his pocket". There is no apparent interest from them to find out what he meant by that. Why? You think maybe because of cronyism?

You have repeatedly stated that Mr. Walp was involved in a scandal involving sexual harassment complaint. While it is true that there was such a complaint you have never stated in your newspaper that the complaint was investigated by an outside investigator and the results were that the complaint was nothing more than a misunderstanding and on a scale of one to 10, was a one. Mr. Walp did write a letter of apology at the request of the City Manager. After the investigation the complainant not only dropped the complaint, but dropped her lawsuit and quit her job. As you must know over 30 employees, several of them women and co-workers of the complainant, wrote affidavits supporting the chief when this complaint was made. Every time you mention this incident you write it as if the complaint was valid even though you knew the outcome.

When I was offered the position in the property and evidence room, as you already know, the property room was a disgrace (I have the pictures). I had the experience and the chief knew it. The Property and Evidence position is a lot more involved than most would know. There are many "rules of evidence" that have to be followed. Practically nothing had been disposed of in over 20 years. Boxes were stacked to the ceiling including the aisles. You could hardly walk through the room. I was hired to clean it up. The department did run a background check on me but it was a simple one. All they had to do was call Bullhead City as they ran a complete one when I was hired there. This is common practice, not an exception. It was not bid and is not required to be under these conditions.

You say we were told "bye bye" in your column when, in fact, I resigned two months prior to the end of my contract because I had completed my assigned task, trained my replacement, and there was no need to continue, hence saving city money. My contract was not "fat" as I received few benefits from the city as my replacement did and paid me less than some other agencies pay for similar experience.

Jim Stephens, Apache Junction

**'Nobody's damn business'**

Even though I am not a resident of Apache Junction I have been reading with interest the ongoing saga of the "recall team" with their accusations of "corruption and cronyism" and the antics of City Councilman Joe Severs.

Your editorial hit the bull's eye in regard to these issues. As the old television ad said, "Where's the beef?" The members of the recall team seem to be short on specific allegations and appear to throw around terms of corruption and cronyism rather loosely. Where's the proof?

In regard to Mr. Severs (It's nobody's damn business where I live); the public domain should have no room for such arrogance and his apparent disregard for compliance to the law. The citizens of Apache Junction deserve better!

Fred Nadzieja, Gold Canyon

**Que Pasa**

Ed Barker's editorial (Que Pasa) sure hit the nail on the head last week (Everybody's business and Job opportunities). Of course when Mr. Barker has characters like Joe Severs, Jim Stephens and former police chief Glenn Walp to write about, it's got to make his job a lot easier.

Marshal Wynn, Apache Junction

**On the recall team**

While I disagree with almost all your editorials, I wholeheartedly agree with your assessment of the current situation concerning the A.J. City Council. All are trying to move A.J. forward at a time when Apache Junction will either become a viable city or cease to be anything other than a footnote. I believe that Severs should resign and leave. I believe the "Recall Team" should get out of town or run for city council, and the person who hired (police chief) Walp and his cronies should be fired. Walp was not qualified or ready to run a police department that was dysfunctional already. I won't go into Walp's qualifications other than to say he had none. As to the citizens of Apache Junction I would say that with ONLY 15 percent of voters casting a vote, you're damn lucky that you have as good a council that you have. It would be in your best interest and quit complaining!

**On Bryan Martyn**

Evidently Mr. Bryan Martyn's supporters missed the report in the E.V. Tribune that laid out what each candidate received at the end of the first reporting period. In his case, roughly 15 percent was from a voter and 85 percent from "others." While it does not include contributions 'returned' during this time (Johnson Utilities, others) it would cause anyone to pause....Anyone can say that it would not "affect" his actions within the county. Sandie Smith let it happen and we find ourselves in an almost impossible situation of practically no infrastructure. The question is, do we vote in a person who says it doesn't "matter" or go with a reformer who does care?

Joe Brendel, Apache Junction/Superstition Foothills

**More on recall**

I've been reading in the papers these past few weeks about a recall in Apache Junction against Mayor John Insalaco, Vice Mayor R. E. Eck and three council members, Robin Barker, Rick Dietz and Jeff Serdy. The major complaint seems to be "they don't care about the people of Apache Junction."

Well, I'm glad to say that in regard to Councilman Jeff Serdy, I find that to be very far from the truth.

Due to suffering from Valley Fever, I found myself unemployed which landed my wife and myself homeless. I stopped at AJ Sporting Goods on Apache Trail and Meridian to see if I could sell my leather jacket so my wife and I could eat. I talked to Mr. Serdy, who said that unfortunately there was no market at this time for my jacket, but if I was interested he had some work for me at his new location. I jumped on the offer to make some money (it's very hard to get a job with no address and no phone).

Mr. Serdy paid me a good wage, bought me lunch, then bought dinner for my wife and myself. Mr. Serdy also found us temporary housing and continues to find work for

us at his new location. He's also gotten work for me with neighboring businesses, associates and employees.

My wife and I can't thank God enough for putting Mr. Serdy in my path, nor can we thank Mr. Serdy enough for extending a very helpful and caring hand to a couple down on their luck.

Thanks to Mr. Serdy, tomorrow looks pretty good again. To my wife and I, what Mr. Serdy has done for us does not sound like someone who doesn't care about the residents of Apache Junction.

Thank you Councilman Jeff Serdy for caring.

J. V. Torres, Apache Junction

**Emissions— Fake success**

Pete Rios (State Representative) was bragging in the newspaper a while back that he had worked 10 years to get an emissions testing station in Apache Junction. Sandie Smith and the old gang work endlessly to bring us things like the emissions testing scam. This 40 to 50 people they intend to rob everyday in Apache Junction will all be poor people that can't afford to buy new cars. This scam has always fallen on the backs of the poor and done nothing for real pollution or the safety of the cars we operate on the highways. This newspaper has been cramming these people down our throats at election time for decades with fake success stories like this one.

Arlin Troutt, Apache Junction

**Revolution**

A letter writer called for a revolution in the July 14 edition of the News. His frustration and anger with government, with those who run it, was real and honest. It also was a wake-up call to all of you.

Let us hope he is talking about a revolution of ideas, not one of violence. We hope he is advocating a revolution of ideas, of measured and rational actions, that will stir citizens, get them to polling places at election time, into public city council and board meetings and others events in which government business—the peoples' business—is done. Elected officials do business with our permission because they are our representatives, our public servants. At least they are supposed to be.

Those who govern must be made aware, within the bounds of laws and good citizenship, that there are consequences for their inaction or actions that are contrary to the common good of the community or the expressed will of the people. They should be applauded when they do the right thing and held accountable when they don't.

So should public servants who are appointed or hired (and rarely fired). They should not escape scrutiny. They may not be as visible as elected official but they often frustrate the will of the people. City managers and others appointed by elected officials or hired by their staffs may believe they are beyond the reach of the electorate. They should be disabused of that notion.

And absolutely no one, elected or appointed—and even the delusional few who believe they have been anointed with royal authority by a higher power—has the right to feed at the public trough indiscriminately without facing consequences. Miscreants may fear law enforcement; most do not fear the "average" citizen. They should.

Some officials and employees violate public trust willfully. They foolishly believe they are above reproach—above the law, even. They can get away with misdeeds, misfeasance or malfeasance because citizens are too occupied with their jobs, family and other responsibilities to figure out they are doing things not in the public's interest. Many citizens, they believe, just do not care, are too disinterested. They count on your apathy, and they often get it.

Many of you say you don't get involved in politics or government because it is of little interest to you or it is somebody else's responsibility. You show little concern until it's time to pay your tax bills or when you learn something has gone wrong in a community.

A revolution should involve all citizens of voting age—and even younger people who are not eligible to vote but should learn—be taught—about civic responsibilities.

A revolution should start with small and easy steps: Register to vote. Learn about the candidates; they may someday profoundly affect your lives. Vote in primary and general elections—even special elections for bond issues and other referenda. Attend public council and board meetings. Take an active role in your community. Tell your friends and neighbors to do the same. That is how a revolution begins, by vocal and spirited, but rational, citizens who are willing and determined to exercise their rights and privileges.

Take a look around at the government and social landscape today and tell me how pleased you are with what you see. I believe you will get the point.

Richard J. La Susa, Gold Canyon



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Editor's note: The above letter was edited for brevity.



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Ad paid for by Sandie Smith

**State Sticks City With \$130,000 Bill**

**State budget requires cities to return some state-shared revenue**

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski  
The News

APACHE JUNCTION—The City of Apache Junction, like other incorporated cities, towns and counties in Arizona, is expected to pay back to the state a certain amount of state-shared revenue this fiscal year, according to officials.

Bryant Powell, Apache Junction's assistant city manager, explained he expects the city's payback to be \$130,000. However, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee staff has until Aug. 31 to determine the exact amount.

"State-shared revenue is what the state gives back to the local cities in sales tax, income tax and gasoline tax," said Matt Busby, assistant to the city manager.

"In the budget, they gave us all the full amounts that they are required by law to give us. But then they had this other provision that required (cities, towns and counties) to pay back \$30 million statewide."

He added that the city receives \$5 million in state-shared revenue each year. The total general fund budget is \$24.5 million.

"We weren't planning on having to give that back to the state," Powell said.

"It just showed up without any warning," added Ken

Strobeck, executive director of the League of Cities and Towns. "We did not know this was going to be even discussed or contemplated."

The budget provision requires cities, counties and towns make the deposit in fiscal year 2008-2009. Strobeck said, however, many questions linger.

"How can this be? This is something that's never been done before. To declare that cities, towns and counties shall give money to the state?" Strobeck explained.

He said it doesn't appear to be any kind of fee, tax or assessment. The League of Cities and Towns, he said, is retaining expert counsel to explore the constitutionality of the provision.

Apache Junction's monies will come from its \$1.2 million contingency fund.

"That amount is set aside for unexpected costs throughout the year. We kind of plan for things like this to happen," Busby said.

"It is what it is," Powell added. "It's not good news. Our former mayor used to always say this money is money that's generated within the cities—sales tax or our own citizens

who pay income tax. Yet we give it back to them and they give it back to us. Now we're giving it back to them again. It's an opportunity cost."

**from Kollenborn, A-4**

Bohme's foreman, once said he made quite a cowboy. He was tall in the saddle and a very strong rider. Allan loved his horse, Apache. The bay quarter horse was a powerful animal that carried him throughout the Superstition Wilderness from Black Top Mesa to Mound Mountain for more than 10 years.

Blackman was an impulsive and stubborn person. One day he was driving through Globe when he saw a fiddling contest. He became interested in fiddling, bought a fiddle from a Mesa pawnshop, and began to fiddle his way into competition around Arizona. Allan's last remarks I recall were somewhat philosophical. He said, "Live each day of your life to the fullest, you won't live it again."

Allan Blackman was an ordinary person with a dream. He left his name on the Superstition Wilderness by having a trail he blazed named after him. The trail is known today as the Blackman Slope Trail to Circlestone. He found his niche in the West and became a son of the West. His dream had been fulfilled.

Blackman had many friends in the East Valley and the Apache Junction area. He lived in and around Apache Junction for more than fifteen years. About a year ago he had open-heart surgery and never really regained his health. Allan Blackman passed away on Sunday, July 5, 2008. He is survived by his two children, Bruce Blackman of Cottonwood, Ariz., and Nancy Foffett of Camdemton, Mo. Allan had five grandchildren.

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