



# 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

**Letters:**  
The News  
115 N. Apache Trail  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

**Faxes: (480) 982-3707**  
**E-Mail —**  
ajnews@ajnews.com

### AJ's young people are heroes

I just had to write and tell you of this experience on Sunday, Aug. 3. I was navigating and realized the path my husband had highlighted was the same road we took last year out of Apache Junction...the "dreaded Route 88" (We were in a 28' Motor Home towing a midsize car.) So I "suggested" we turn around and find a different route. He agreed and pulled off to the side of the road in a clearing to turn around. It would have been OK except as he turned around he crossed a washed out gully and our front end was sticking out in the road. Our rear wheels were not touching the ground, and our two bar was deeply embedded in the dirt.

We got out to survey the situation and I tried to direct traffic around the motorhome. All of a sudden 3 or 4 cars and trucks pulled to the side of the road and about a dozen kids got out. They pitched right in trying to help us get the back end jacked up enough to remove the tow bar, extension and spare tire we have mounted back there. They also began directing traffic from both directions. We put wood under the rear jacks but it still didn't work. The tires were still spinning. I'm not sure how but the tow bar was finally freed. But we had the car unhooked and could finally remove the bar. Then the extension with the very heavy spare tire had to come off which the boys readily accomplished. A man in a big truck stopped to see if he could help but a young woman had stopped and had gone back to the lake to get her dad with his heavy duty pickup. He towed us to a position that we could get turned around and get to an area where we COULD cross the gully. We went to the gas station about 1/2 mile away, hooked up the car, and headed to the Elks Lodge in Payson.

The whole process took almost 2 hours in extreme heat. We offered the teens money but they refused and said they were glad they could help.

Maybe there is hope for this country after all. I hope you will print this and I hope those young people will recognize what heroes they are in our eyes.

Lynda Markwood, Apache Junction

### Making a difference

On Saturday, August 2nd the Apache Junction High School Touchdown Club invited a few guest speakers to talk to our football program (and parents of football players) about health and nutrition and their athlete. As a member of the Touchdown Club I would like to thank Jan Gradle, MSN, CPNP and owner of Apache Junction Pediatrics for educating our players about health and nutrition.

Jan not only volunteered her time but also brought Bill Wainwright, who competes in iron man triathlons and also is a test pilot for Boeing. Bill educated us on the proper nutrition, strength training, rest, and water intake. Another guest speaker was Paula Smith, RN, FNP-BC for Banner Desert Medical Center. Paula spoke to us about MRSA and the symptoms of MRSA and how to control the spread of MRSA in the sports community. Our last guest speaker was Jeff Linn owner of One Stop Nutrition at Signal Butte Road, Justin Redford, who is a personal trainer and employee of Jeff's, educated the program on multi vitamins, vitamin supplements and protein supplements that are available at their store. Thank you to all of our speakers for volunteering your time to our program, and for your contributions to our community.

Mirandi Hoffman, AJHS Touchdown Club,

### Silent majority

Thanks for explaining the city council's inability to deal with this rascal, Councilman Joe Severs (Que Pasa August 4). An interesting point, the question of what if he refused to vacate his seat after having been voted out by the voters?

Some of these folks remind me of what I've read about STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases). They are a sore spot that there is no cure for and new ones keep popping up.

Let's hope the great silent majority will send these malcontents a message by defeating this recall distraction (if it goes to a recall) so the city can get on with its real business of serving the needs of the community.

Dennis Lease

Business owner and property owner in Apache Junction.

### Paper or plastic

It was interesting to read the statistics on plastic grocery bags (Que Pasa July 28), and we probably will use our material bags that we have been buying. But what do we do about all the other plastics like large trash bags, food containers, bottles, plastic wrap and the list goes on and on. More and more plastic is appearing in all phases of life. Will people be encouraged to wash cloth baby diapers again? What about the housing for computers, printers, TV's, etc? Look at all the plastic used in children's toys.

Obviously, when we look at the big picture, those little plastic grocery bags are actually a small part of the landfill problem.

Beverly Troha, Apache Junction

### Recycling complaint

This is a complaint about the recycling bins on Pinal County property in Apache Junction. My family has been trying

to recycle as much as possible lately. We have dramatically reduced our normal garbage to where we could get by with only 1 pickup per week, if it were to significantly lower our refuse bill, but that is another issue for another time. My chief complaint is the condition of the recycling area at the southeast corner of Superstition and Idaho, which is Pinal County property.

Quite often I have gone there to recycle and the plastic and cardboard bins are so overflowing and full, citizens are just dropping their recyclables outside of the containers. The problem with that is that we are in a monsoon season and those things tend to blow away. I wish the persons recycling would take their items home until another day, but when is that, since it is a common occurrence that the containers are overly full.

Today was another day of that happening. On August 4th (Monday), my wife stopped by to drop off our plastics, cardboard and newspaper. The containers were full and quite a lot of material was already being stacked on the outside of the containers and starting to blow away. My wife then took our recycles to Gold Canyon, since she was going there.

What actions have I taken about this? I have emailed County Supervisor Sandie Smith twice in the past couple of months about this problem and she has promptly emailed me that she would have it cleaned up — and it was. But, I don't think we should have to call Sandie Smith every time this is a problem. Today, I decided to write to the editor, since there hasn't been any solution by Pinal County that handles this mess.

What could Apache Junction do?? Provide their citizens with a bigger recycling area and not depend on Pinal County. There are many newspaper and aluminum can recycling containers scattered around the city, but not many cardboard and plastic nor glass. Better yet, I wish the Apache Junction City Council would now seriously look into a city-wide recycling program. I know it is difficult, since most of us contract our own garbage pickup and have no utilities with the city. But I think the city could negotiate with a refuse company to provide specific services for regular garbage one day per week and recyclables the other normal day. Then inform the citizens that they have done that. It worked for a homeowner association I use to belong to a couple of years ago. I think it is time. Let's push our city to get green.

Jeffrey C. Rank, Apache Junction

### Thank you

Now that a week or so has passed since the National Day of

## Kollenborn's Chronicles

### Cholla Education

By Tom Kollenborn  
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Mighty Superstition Mountain is a place where I retreat from the rigors of city living. When I look toward the mountain and its wilderness I can still see a small part of pioneer Arizona. Actually, it is a land of yesteryear. Each time I sit down to write, my mind wanders back to those wild and woolly days on the old Quarter Circle U Ranch.

I must admit those cowboy days made a man out of me. Someone my father and mother could be proud of and count on. When I worked on the Quarter Circle U Ranch and a couple of other small ranches I realized I was finally on my own. My teacher for the most part was experience. No self-respecting cowboy-to-be would want to admit he didn't know a cinch from a cinch ring. Often my teachers were few and far between. Many of these cowboys often didn't know anymore than I did. Those who knew more didn't particularly want to share their coveted knowledge with an untested hand. I just wasn't a part of the fold.

My knowledge was gained through experience. Experience that often would put my life in peril. In one year I had ten encounters and any one of them could have cost me my life.

Rattlesnakes, rank bulls, mother cows, crazy broncos, barbed wire, Cholla, windmills, the gun-happy fools, intoxicated drivers, intoxicated cowboys, mine shafts, flash floods, dynamite, and lightning all tried to end my cowboy experience at one time or another during my employment on the Barkley's Quarter Circle U Ranch. Today I cherish those close



Tom Kollenborn aboard "Spook" in the spring of 1959 near Miner's Summit.

calls as part of life's experiences. I am not sure I should, but the bravado of yesteryear are the memories of today.

Life without peril on an Arizona cattle ranch in the 1950's was non-existent when I was growing up. With this in mind I think about my first encounter with Cholla. Bill Barkley, the boss man for the Quarter Circle U Ranch, had asked Mike Finley and me to check on some calves over in Tule Canyon south of the headquarters ranch. Mike saddled Scooter and I saddled a horse named Pee Wee, better known to cowboys as Spook. A gentle horse he was not! Mike actually refused to ride Pee Wee. I think Mike knew something I didn't know. We rode out about 5 a.m. to the sound of cactus wrens and White-Wing doves. It was just twilight. The eastern sky had just begun to turn a light yellow.

The morning sunrise was beautiful as the rays of light filtered down on the giant Saguaro cactus in Barkley Basin

## The News Opinion Poll

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**Last Week's Results:** Question: Do you believe offshore oil drilling would have an effect on gas prices in the next 5 years?

Yes  63.3%

No  36.7%

**This Week's Question:** Would you approve of the City buying the land behind the focal point (site of the former the Grand Hotel) in order to develop a downtown area? Yes  No

the Cowboy events, we'd like to share its success with the community that did so much to make it happen.

Facts first. Last year the NDOC was hosted solely by the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce with a single site at Goldfield Ghost Town and attracted 3,500 people. This year the Goldfield site was swelled to capacity with well over 5,000 people attending. Also this year the Chamber acted in coordination with the NE Pinal Economic Partnership with activities in Gold Canyon, Florence and Superior as well as at Goldfield. The combined totals approached 12,000 participants drawn to the area! I believe we can all agree that's a pretty singular experience in Pinal County at the height of the summer.

Apart from thousands of folks having a really good time, what actually got accomplished? First, Apache Junction and the surrounding area received a lot of good press. Thousands of people who seldom felt the need to go east of Meridian were re-introduced to the area and how we've grown. In what I admit is far from a scientific survey, many of our business members reported a definite upswing in business that weekend. In short, the National Day of the Cowboy proved that a community effort such as this can not only lift our spirits but affect our livelihoods as well!

Those who deserve our thanks and appreciation are far too

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Tom Kollenborn

ley's Basin and Tule Basin. It wasn't long before we spotted the calves Barkley wanted us to check out. Most of the calves ignored us except for a mule-eared small black steer. He must have thought he had balls. He put his head down and charged our two mounts. The little son-of-gun couldn't have weighted more than four hundred pounds.

Scooter jumped to the right, while Pee Wee broke in the middle. His first jump had unseated me from the saddle. I was still on his back, but not in control. Pee Wee's next move was a spinning crow-hop. On the second spin he found a large Cholla and planted my body on it.

Cholla balls covered most of Pee Wee's right side from his neck to his flank. I had Cholla balls from my shoulder to the top of my boot. The pain was excruciating. My whole right side felt like it was on fire. Fear filled my mind. I expected Pee Wee to break and go crazy. He didn't! He just stood there in one spot and shivered from shock.

This brief moment in time provided me an opportunity to step to the ground and out of the saddle. I collapsed on the ground in shock. Mike climbed off Scooter and rushed to my side. When he saw all the Cholla in me he thought I was a goner.

"Just lay there Tom, I've got to take care of the horses," Mike said calmly.

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**Foothills Publishing, Inc.**  
of Apache Junction



115 North Apache Trail Apache Junction, Az. 85220

• (480) 982-6397 • FAX 982-3707

• Web Site: [ajnews.com](http://ajnews.com) • E-Mail: [ajnews@ajnews.com](mailto:ajnews@ajnews.com)

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