



Letters to the Editor
continued from page A-4



numerous to list completely but include: The City of Apache Junction, Senator Rebecca Rios, Pinal Co. Supervisor Sandie Smith, the AJFD, Bob & Luanne Shoose and Jay Zingler of Goldfield, The Gold Canyon Business Assoc., the Chambers of Florence & Superior, Jan Gradle of Apache Junction Pediatrics, Dillon's RV Sales, Super 8, Hoof's Farrier & Vet Supply, Filly's Restaurant, The Arizona Renaissance Faire, The Apache Junction News, The Independent Newspapers, The Arizona Republic, The East Valley Tribune, The Territorial News, The Boys & Girls Club of Apache Junction, Mr. Rocky Govert, Ms. Dale Gorny, Triple R Behavior Health, All the Entertainers, Event Managers and others who would fill a page by themselves.

Special Thanks to our Event Sponsors: Sterling Title, Robert Horne Ford, Superstition Mountain Mental Health Center, Country Insurance & Financial and Office Max.

And to you, the citizens of Apache Junction/Gold Canyon, our biggest Thanks and promise that next year's NDOC will be bigger & better than ever!

James Coplin, AJ Chamber of Commerce

VFW Help

Men from the Veterans of Foreign Wars came out when our electric went out and got SRP out here right away for us. We had no a/c or washer and dryer, etc. The whole deal cost \$2,400.00 and the VFW paid most of it for us. The post at Main and Saguaro #9399 did this for us. We are in our 70's and on a fixed income. Thank God for the VFW and Lee's Electric.

Lori McWilliams, Apache Junction

Who's who on the recall "team"

I do not read blogs. I am not interested in the opinion of anyone that gives it under the protection of anonymity. However, I cherish comments from anyone who wants to discuss issues with me regarding our recall efforts or our motives to do so face to face.

However, friends of mine that do read blogs have brought to my attention some rumors that I would like to dispel.

First, there seems to be a few that have angry feelings about this entire recall attempt. Please let me remind you that there is no recall until it is placed on the ballot and all citizens of Apache Junction have an opportunity to vote on it. Gathering signatures to start this process is merely the first step in a long process.

Secondly, there have been, apparently, a number of bloggers that have on their own assigned names to our "team". We appreciate any and all individuals that are supporting our efforts and in their own way helping our cause to move forward. Not all of these individuals are on our team but they have spoken out in our behalf and given us moral support as we move through this process and we are grateful. Councilman Seavers (Severs) is most often mentioned as being on our team, mainly because we have not made an attempt to recall him. If you recall, when we pulled our petitions for recall Mr. Seavers already had a petition pulled for recall by Mrs. Deihl. That recall attempt was disqualified by the City of Apache Junction.

The citizens of Apache Junction are deserving of a growth oriented Council and Mayor that are at the same time sensitive to their needs. Our recall process lends itself to those goals and more.

Some bloggers are also suggesting Mr. Noel Benoist is on our team as well. Mr. Benoist has been helping in furthering our cause but has his own ambitions in what could be a larger political arena.

We do have a team. You already know that Mrs. Flynn and I are two members of this team and we will announce the entire team at the appropriate time. Until the petitions are verified and an election is imminent there is no need to do so. However I did want to clear up the rumors and assure you that neither Mr. Seavers or Mr. Benoist are a part of our five.

Jim Stephens, Apache Junction

Editor's clarification: At the time Mr. Stephens' team pulled recall petitions on five city council members, recall petitions had already been pulled by others on Councilman Severs as well as on Mayor Insalaco, Vice Mayor Eck and Councilmembers Barker and Dietz.

Future recalls?

This letter is to Shannon Flynn and Jim Stephens, the so called "Committee for Honest Government." My question—do you guys have family, children, jobs or even a life? Are you being paid to terrorize the good citizens of Apache Junction? What have you done for the citizens except spread half-truths, making a spectacle of yourselves at council meetings with unruly children running about and waiting to the last possible moment to file recall papers.

Now here you come again suing the County Recorder over recall papers. Give me a break, this committee should just admit defeat and crawl back under a rock. And don't forget to take the money man with you. You will lose the recall attempt and God forbid if you don't... here's a heads up for you in the future. I will personally take out petitions to have you two recalled and it won't take me months to do the job.

Teresa Harvey, Apache Junction

Notes from Noel

In reading the *AJ News* letters to the editor I found two that stand out. The first is a latter letter but I am addressing it because of the priority of the message. An outstanding hooray for Richard J. La Susa! The U. S. Constitution gives "the people" the right to 'overthrow any portion of government that becomes corrupt' and this has been a tradition of action accomplished through our participation and vote. It is much safer than violence for all concerned! This was one of the best letters I have read in a long time.

The second letter is that of Jim Stevens (Stephens). The bible says we are justified by our words and we are condemned by our words. It does not matter if a person believes in the bible or not because the concept and statement has been proven time and again throughout history. We should all apply ethics to our words and deeds 24/7. EVERYTHING will go much better. Others will not be so hurt and insulted by the truth the way they are by a lie or statements that mislead people and have the same effect as a lie. Let us all do our best to get our statements clear and clearly understood.

A long time back one of my statements sounded like I filed a 'Bar Complaint' against Joel Stern (city attorney) and, in fact, I did file a complaint a long time ago but the bar wanted more complaints or they wanted me to pay attorney fees and file a law suit then let them know the outcome. I did not mean to put that out there at the time and I openly apolo-

gized for the potential miscommunication. The apology was heart felt. Mr. Stern told me he always apologizes when he is wrong but I have not seen or heard so much as ONE apology in almost twelve years. I hope people show up at the next city meeting and get bar complaint forms from me, give me their info so I can reference it in my complaint to the 'Bar' and make sure they see the whole picture this time.

When our Mayor (John Insalaco) issued a heart felt apology to John Kantowski and John did the same it was a "WAY TO GO" MOMENT. As to the reasons for recalls being the council failures to listen to the people it is not an idle thing. Some of the Council picked up their performance a little bit since all of this but the past was in fact pretty miserable. It was largely due to unethical and illegal advice from Joel Stern and friends. Most of the Council want to do the right job but they lack the knowledge and "guts" to do what must be done. Instead of doing what was promised when they got elected they decided to go with those in power, the group behind the scenes, and that is when they stopped listening to the people. Our future IS NOT in becoming another city that looks like every other city in the state. Our future is in our history, Western pleasures that can be enjoyed by stepping off your back porch and hitting one of our many trails, many stories that would attract any movie outfit with half a brain, outdoor sports, and LOOKING like a city that has and offers all of this and more! While this is being developed if we drive out our poor, disabled, and elderly (many of whom built what is now here); then we set ourselves on a dead end road to nowhere. As we plan and develop we must do so with the concerns and needs of EVERY CITIZEN addressed and planned for! This REQUIRES the "think tank" procedures of communication and participation from and with ALL SIDES of each and every issue with people REALLY trying to hear and understand the other person.

When it comes to (councilman) Joe Severs let us not forget that he is in the same boat that has snared thousands of Arizona home owners AND he took a lot of money earning time away from his business and affairs to help Apache Junction residents in need! Give compassion and understanding because you might need some yourself someday!

Noel T. Benoist, Apache Junction

Fisher campaigns

I was surprised by the politicians of Pinal County all clamoring to get some of their ideas in the local papers about what they believe National day of the Cowboy is all about. It seems Pinal County Supervisor district two's Sandie Smith had a view from her high horse. In one paper she was quoted as saying: "independent spirit" is the important ideal of the American Cowboy; something she herself claims to aspire to, as well. I agree the independent spirit of Americans is what made this Country great, but what about collective action and sharing a common interest?

For 16 years she has heard numerous cries for improved mass transit and has seen several costly studies on the subject indicating the need and benefits of even the most simple bus extensions into Apache Junction with little real effort to implement the idea in a useful way.

I often wonder as I see the daily reports of the home foreclosures, how many would have been avoided with the ability to negate \$4.00 plus for gas. I remember a leading motor club study in the nineties indicating the cost of the average per mile operation a car at almost \$2.00 per mile. The figures were based on under \$2.00 gasoline!

I won't even bring up the environment and health benefits of Mass Transit. I think the Two leading parties have some answering to do. I, myself have been attacked for being 'a One-issue Candidate' in Apache Junction and Pinal County; more or less, a Transit gadfly.

The way I see it, the leadership of this State of Arizona has failed us. The people that could do something never learn from their own rhetoric or history! As the Bing Crosby Cowboy classic of 1944 said: "Don't Fence Me In!" Unfortunately, we have been for 16 years.

As an Independent Candidate for Pinal County District Two, I promise to never again allow you to be "Fenced in!" Affordable movement as the Railroads proved in the past, along with the latest technology is the future for the west.

I ask you to support the idea that collectively we can achieve more together then we ever did alone and ever will.

The Independent Spirit is alive and well; I only need you the people to collectively support it!

Elliott E. Fisher, Independent Candidate for District Two of Pinal County.
Apache Junction

Impressed by Martyn

I'm impressed by what I see and hear from the Bryan Martyn for Supervisor campaign. It really is a breath of fresh air to hear someone speak with a depth of understanding about the challenges that Pinal County faces. Let's face it, we've got challenges! His combination of integrity and intelligence are just what we need after years of less than stellar leadership and oversight.

Bryan Martyn has been involved with the community and has given of his time whenever asked to help. From that experience he has gained an insight into the problems we face and has the vision of how our community can become the place where we want to live and raise our children.

When I vote in September for Supervisor in District 2, my choice will be Bryan Martyn.

J. Ferguson, Gold Canyon

Another one for Martyn

I have not written to the newspapers for quite some time, but I feel now is a good time to express an opinion.

I have read about how Bryan Martyn has taken campaign contributions from developers and how it's going to be the same old politics in Pinal County. Where does that come from?

If you would take the time to think about it you would see Bryan Martyn first of all served his country for 20 years. In two different branches of our Armed Forces. The United States Army and then the Air Force, he served two terms in Iraq and Afghanistan, Bosnia and Desert Storm. Secondly to do that is quite a feat in itself considering both branches of the service he served use different techniques in how they operate.

He made it to the rank of Major that puts him in a command position to give orders and lead troops. Being that you have to take orders and follow them yourself, it's that attribute that allows you to give orders. You learn first to listen before you can lead.

Over the past six months when I met Bryan Martyn, and I did not know him before that, I can tell you he has a command performance about him, charismatic qualities and a willingness to listen and make sound decisions. He is not afraid to debate or say no to something he does not believe is for the common good for all involved or to just say no to what he does not believe in.

He is a family man, Arizona raised and dedicated to his family and his faith.

I believe he will pick up the ball and change what needs to be changed for the betterment of Pinal County and all of its residents. The kind of leader we need right now and not a follower for someone to put a thumb on and say "do as we say." His military service, plus his commitment to family, along with returning to Arizona his home, should be enough qualification and proof of that. He could have taken his retirement and live anywhere in this country if he chose, but he chose Arizona and Pinal County.

Again, this is just my opinion. Agree or disagree as you may, but at the least he should be given a chance to prove himself to the residents of Pinal County. He's earned that right through his service to the US.

John W. Kantowski
Vietnam Veteran, Apache Junction

Competence

A week or so ago, the effusive gentleman at the coffee shop was passing out what he said were his wife's campaign materials: little note pads and business cards. I noticed the elephant on the cards (it's small; you have to look to find it) so I tucked the materials away to keep them from falling into the hands of someone who might be tempted.

Then a few days later the wife herself appeared, with more little note pads and more business cards. Not wanting to be impolite, I smiled and took the items, though I already knew how I'd be voting.

Yesterday, a friend held up one of those cards and asked me if I'd noticed anything. I replied that all I had noticed was the elephant and I hadn't looked any further.

The friend suggested I read across the top of the card. Half a second later I burst out laughing.

"HONESTY • INTEGRITY • COMPETANCE"

If I were inclined to vote for Rayna Palmer, I might have called her up or sent her an email to let her know. But since I'm not inclined to vote for her, I thought I'd tell the newspaper instead.

Linda Hilton
Apache Junction

Likes Babeu

My wife and I first met Paul Babeu shortly after he returned from his Army tour in Iraq. I also have served in the Army as a Special Forces Medic. I have served tours in multiple countries. I share this, since I know what kind of moral character is required to lead soldiers, be responsible for the safety of others and accomplish the mission. Paul Babeu knows this and has done it.

Paul is a well trained Army Officer, who rose through the ranks from enlisted to become a commissioned officer. Over the past 19 years, Major Paul Babeu has served as a Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, Company Commander, Staff Officer, Reserve Force Officer, Special Advisor to Senior Officers and Task Force Commander for over 1,000 active duty soldiers and airmen.

Earlier in his military career, Paul commanded platoons and companies of Combat Engineers who has responded to natural disasters and worked on civil projects from Massachusetts to California. Paul has organized emergency responses to natural disasters of floods, blizzards and tornados. He has served as project officer to construct roads, bridges and sports complexes in local communities. Paul has excelled in every leadership role he has been assigned. Imagine having a disciplined Army Officer elected as sheriff, bringing accountability and results to law enforcement. Paul's election threatens and will end the good ole boy system, which has harmed Pinal County and compromised the integrity of law enforcement.

Paul graduated at the very top of his Police Academy class and has been awarded two life saving medals as a Chandler Police Officer. Paul will make sure every Deputy is First Aid & CPR certified, just as we expect and deserve.

My wife and I decided to move our young family to Johnson Ranch area of Queen Creek since we wanted a safe place and decent schools for our children. We made a decision to move to Pinal County, yet feel we shouldn't have to sacrifice our expectation for law enforcement, other government services and decent roads. We love our neighborhood, yet expect more from the county when it comes to professionalism and accountability.

Please join me in supporting an honest cop who is a highly trained manager and Army officer who will bring accountability and discipline to our local law enforcement. Paul Babeu has my full support, trust and vote.

John Leonard, Queen Creek



ERNEST BUSTAMANTE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

"With your support on Tuesday, September 2, I will continue to fight every day for our families, our district and our future." – Rep. Bustamante

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