



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.

Letters to the editor should be 300 words or less, so please keep your comments brief and to the point.

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Thanks To The Community

Special appreciation should be expressed to the folks at Mountainbrook for organizing and hosting a phenomenal public forum for all the contested Pinal County candidates in the upcoming November election. As a candidate myself I appreciated the opportunity to introduce myself to those citizens who have not yet met me.

As a lifelong resident of Pinal County I appreciated the opportunity to hear the issues discussed by the candidates on all number of topics relevant to individual departments. As a member of our local community I appreciated the efforts of Patricia Prince, Larry England and Diane Wyle and the many other involved workers, as well as the graciousness and hospitality of the Mountainbrook Community, who opened the doors of their brand new auditorium to several hundred interested voters. We are all more enlightened, informed, and prepared to vote in September and November because of their efforts. Kudos for a job well done.

Janna L. Vanderpool, Superior Court Judge Div. 6
Gold Canyon

Deputies Association Endorses Vasquez for Sheriff

After interviewing all of the candidates for Pinal County Sheriff the Executive Board of the Pinal County Deputies Association has voted overwhelmingly to endorse Chris Vasquez for another term as Sheriff of Pinal County. In making this endorsement, several factors were taken into consideration.

Chris Vasquez has shown leadership and compassion in dealing with employee issues. Chris has been at the forefront of labor issues; vigorously supporting Pinal County Sheriff's Office Employees in their pursuit to obtain collective bargaining rights. Chris has written letters, and e-mails in support of employee rights, and has personally attended public meetings where he spoke on behalf of employees' rights. It is rare to find a leader with Chris' concerns about employees' rights.

Great strides have been made in updating Sheriff's Office equipment. The enhanced color change of patrol vehicles provides a more visible officer presence thus deterring crime. Chris has continued to update equipment, while placing more officers on the street. These leadership moves along with the addition of specialized crime fighting units have created a safer environment for the citizens of Pinal County. During the administration of Chris Vasquez, the Criminal Investigations Bureau has almost doubled in size and is constantly being expanded to meet future needs. Employee education is a priority under Chris' leadership; resulting in more thorough investigations, better educated deputies and a safer community.

With thirty years of Pinal County law enforcement experience; and over six years of administrative leadership within Pinal County Sheriff's Office; Chris is the obvious leader to move Pinal County Sheriff's Office into the future.

Training within Pinal County Sheriff's Office has undergone dramatic changes with more training completed in house. This emphasis on training has produced visible results recognized throughout the law enforcement community. These changes have resulted in other agencies attempting to hire leadership and officers from Pinal County Sheriff's Office. Through the leadership of Chris Vasquez; citizens of Pinal County may be assured that county law enforcement will be on the forefront of training and experience.

Based upon these compelling factors, the Executive Board of the Pinal County Deputies Association has requested President Troit Stowe to make public our endorsement of Sheriff Vasquez.

Aubrey Keck
Pinal County Deputies Association

A sheriff or a deputy?

When you cast your vote for Pinal County Sheriff, think about the following: are you electing a Sheriff or a Deputy? I ask this based upon the fact that your Sheriff's office employs several hundred deputy/detention officers and operates on millions of your tax dollars; do you want someone learning how to be a law enforcement leader, or a person who already has proven law enforcement executive/leader experience?

I recently checked several police chief job openings posted on the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Police Executive jobs.com, and Police One.com websites, and each of them listed in one way or another continuous, progressive law enforcement management experience. I know some will say that the Sheriff does not have to meet the same requirements of a police chief. While true, do you really want less? Here are some examples:

- 4 years police management/supervisory experience
- 7 or more years of increasingly responsible experience in law enforcement

- 8 years of progressive responsibility in public safety
 - 2 years of administrative experience at or above the rank of lieutenant
 - 10 years command and supervisory experience in an organized police department
 - a progression of positions showing increased management and command responsibility in a law enforcement department
 - 10 years of law enforcement experience, 5 of those in progressive management responsibility
- Of the individuals in the race to be your Pinal County Sheriff, only one has the proven experience to be our Sheriff and he is our Sheriff, Chris Vasquez, the other two fall way short. Join me in voting for Sheriff Chris Vasquez.

Roger Vanderpool
Casa Grande

Editor's Note: Roger Vanderpool is a former Pinal County Sheriff and is the current director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Endorses Bryan Martin

It is with great pleasure that I offer my endorsement to Bryan Martyn for Supervisor in District 2.

I have known Bryan for several years through the Pinal County Republican Party and he and I have had many opportunities to talk about Pinal County and the Apache Junction Gold Canyon area. As a former Council Member in Apache Junction my interests were for this area as a region and Bryan spoke with a unique understanding of the challenges that face northern Pinal County as a whole.

Bryan's perspectives and vision for the area that encompasses District 2 is one of cohesiveness and cooperation. If we in northern Pinal County want to emerge as a leading force in the very near future, this is the vision we need on the Pinal County Board of Supervisors. He has the vision, knowledge and ability to create this partnership.

I would like to urge everyone to support and vote for Bryan to be our next County Supervisor in District 2.

Dave Waldron,
Former City Council Member Apache Junction

Streets and sidewalks

The governing body of Apache Junction is a joke. Before everyone gets all upset, hear me out on a couple of items then look around and form your own opinion of the area. The City Counsel wants to draw more business to the area of A.J. A good start would be to fix some of the streets (e.g.) Ironwood

The News Opinion Poll

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Last Week's Results: *Question:* Do you plan on voting in the September 2 Primary Election?

Yes 82.5%

No 17.5%

This Week's Question: Do you think the selection of Sen. Joe Biden as Obama's running mate helped or hurt the Democratic Party's 2008 ticket?

Helped **Hurt** **No Change**

between Teepee and Lost Dutchman, the City just keeps patching all the holes and bumps. Another street is Delaware between Superstition and Main. One main area that needs improvement all over the City is SIDEWALKS!!!!!! Lets take the aforementioned Ironwood. The only sidewalks North of Superstition were installed by the RV parks or subdivision owners and none of them would match up if connected.(wonder who ok'ed those plans?). They look like a tweakers teeth some are there, some are not. On Delaware South and North of the Trail Sidewalks are not there or there only for short distances. There are Many People in A.J. who utilize Motorized Scooters for their main means of transportation, to say nothing of the Winter Visitors who would like to take an evening walk on the SIDEWALK. On Ironwood I personally Have seen people almost hit by cars because they were driving their scooter in the street. These scooters are expensive to maintain and repair and a drive on the shoulder or bumpy street doesn't help their longevity. I suggest that the Mayor, City Council, And others Schedule an Area to take a walk in each week' so they are more in touch with the community and their needs.

Gerard Kaczmarek
Apache Junction

Editor's Note: Due to the special section on the September 2 Primary Election, The News did not have room to print three letters to the editor that we received this week. Those letters will be printed next week.

Kollenborn's Chronicles

Dreams and More Dreams

By Tom Kollenborn
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I don't recall the first time I hiked to the top of Bluff Springs Mountain, but it was with my father sometime in the late 1940's. I was attending Hill Street Elementary School in Globe, Arizona. We drove out to the old Quarter Circle U Ranch and hiked up Bark Draw to the old William's Camp then east toward Bluff Spring's water trough and cabin. We started our ascent of the mountain from the southeast end. I was worn out by the time we arrived at the base of Bluff Springs, but my dad wanted to climb to the top and into the interior of the mountain. My back pack was quite heavy even though I was only carrying my bedroll, pillow and some water. Dad was carrying our food and other necessities.

We climbed over the southeastern end of Bluff Springs Mountain and hiked down into the canyon on top of the mountain and set camp near a pool of water. We had a small two-man pup tent. Once camp was set Dad rested for awhile then decided to do a little looking around. He suggested I stay in camp, however in my spare time I could gather some wood for the fire. He also advised me to be very careful about snakes because it was spring time and they were out.

The reason for my father's trip to Bluff Spring's Mountain was to find something that was Spanish or Mexican. Something that would prove the Spanish or Mexicans were mining or prospecting in the area. Dad was checking out a story he was told by old Pete



Hiking with my dad on Bluff Springs Mountain. C. 1954.

Petrasch who lived in Globe. According to Pete, he and his brother Hermann had a camp on Tortilla Mountain. Pete had committed suicide about three or four years earlier. Dad knew most of the old timers around Globe and Miami and he was always listening for another treasure story or tale that he could check out. Father loved to check out lost mine stories. It was his hobby and an opportunity for some recreation and outdoor fun.

I wandered around the camp site area searching for wood while dad hiked up toward the eastern façade of Bluff Spring's Mountain. Petrasch had told father there were some steel rings embedded in the rock near the eastern edge of the mountain. When dad returned to camp he said he found nothing that would confirm old Petrasch's story. The next morning we hiked down Bluff Springs Mountain Canyon toward the north end of the mountain. All I could think about was the long hike out of this country. We spent the morning hours looking around the north end of the

mountain. We did discover some markings and maybe some very ancient petroglyphs on an outcrop of black rock, probably basalt.

By ten o'clock we were back in camp and packed up for the long walk out. Thank goodness, I thought, most of our hike out would be down hill. We hiked down off the southeast end of the mountain to the Crystal Springs area then headed for Miner's Summit. The hike from Miner's Summit to the Quarter Circle U Ranch is a long walk, but most of it was down hill. It was on hikes like these that I grew to love the desert. I was very fortunate to have a father who loved to take me into the hills and share his dreams and expectations with me. Dad never really believed the mine existed, but he wasn't going to leave anything up for grabs without checking it out. Basically this is how I was introduced to the tale of the Dutchman's Lost Mine.

My father instilled in me the importance of historical preservation. He always said the cultural history of a



Tom Kollenborn

region was worth preserving for future generations to explore and learn about. He always talked about the many characters and their dreams of striking it rich. His dream certainly has been fulfilled with the construction and development of two museums in the Apache Junction area, especially two museums on the Apache Trail. I never forget the conversations he had with Jack Anderson before he died about someday seeing a museum in Apache Junction about our area.

The Curtiss' and Andersons in 1938 gave the Don's Club of Arizona a perpetual easement on a piece of land they owned fifty feet by 100 feet to build their monument. One might say this was the beginning of the museum movement in Apache Junction.

Yes, I agree this is stretching it quite a bit. Then again, maybe not! This was all started when I was born in 1938.

Today Apache Junction has two museums. One is located on the Apache Trail near Mountain View Road and the other is located in the Goldfield Ghost Town. Both organizations are preserving the unique history of Superstition Mountain and the surrounding region. I am sure your support of these fine organizations will help preserve the history of this area for future generations to enjoy.

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