



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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School bus policy questioned

Apache Junction has instituted a new bus policy for all of the district's schools this year that has many scratching their heads. In their infinite wisdom they have decided that saving money outweighs the safety of many of our community's children.

They have researched and found that if they can make children that live within 1 mile of the school walk to get to their schools they will save lots of money. Works great in theory, but have they looked at the possible effects that this new cost-saving measure will have?

1. They have ensured that all community members have been notified that this was the new policy and this includes all child predators that may live within our community. Since the school year started, there seems to be no increase in the patrols conducted around Four Peaks at the time that the children are walking to school. (I cannot comment on other schools)

2. Child-care providers in our community that fall within this 1-mile radius of a school will now have to transport children to the schools. This is a expensive and potentially liable situation for many child care providers. The cost to purchase vehicle(s) to transport children will raise costs for parents. The additional cost for proper vehicle insurance to protect these children being transported will also raise costs for care.

3. Child-care providers who decide that the costs and/or liabilities of transport are not feasibly recoverable from parents are now refusing to provide care for these children unless parents transport their own children to school from the providers' location. This has resulted in a loss of revenue for Apache Junction child-care providers.

4. Parents that cannot provide transportation for their children have three options; adjust work schedules (if their employer is accommodating enough), quit their job to get their child(ren) to school or find another provider that will transport or is outside the 1-mile radius. The Apache Junction community already has a shortage of child care providers so this makes the last option difficult if best.

We are one of the providers in this community affected by this new policy. We actually live over 1 mile from the school but the bus will not stop for two kindergartners that we have in our care. Both are 5 years old and obviously cannot be expected by any sane person to walk to school on their own. We have been informed that a bus stop has been provided for us a half mile in the opposite direction from the school. We must question if all of the school district's school bus stops have been placed so that some of the children must walk a half mile to get to a stop. The bus stopped last year just at the corner and picked up children.

We are a State of Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) and Department of Economic Security (DES) certified child-care provider. We cannot afford either a van or the insurance for transporting children and cannot pass these costs on to parents who already have low incomes. The State of Arizona will not reimburse us or any other provider for these additional costs.

One of our larger child-care providers in town on Ironwood Drive has already lost income because of this new policy. This hurts not only the employees and owners but also our community. Families wishing to move here to Apache Junction will find that because of child-care facility locations, homes in certain areas will not allow them to enroll their children in care and get them to school. Why buy a home if you cannot work to provide the income needed to support it?

Dan and Crystal Holtz, Crystal's TLC for Kids Child Care Apache Junction

Editor's note: A School District spokesman explained that with the failure of the M & O Budget Override in last November's election the School District has been forced to reduce their budget by \$1 million per year. As a result, the district initiated a number of cost-saving initiatives including reductions in transportation through the consolidation of bus stops and the enactment of the 1-mile walking rule, which requires all students who live within one mile of school to walk. There is no door-to-door service for home-based businesses.

Magical choice

McCain's choice for vice president reminds me of the old magicians trick of bringing out a pretty assistant to distract the audience while he performs his "magic" to fool the audience.

Dennis Lease, Apache Junction

Sarah Palin Is Not Just Like Me

I keep hearing some women say that they love Palin because she's a woman and a mother— just like me. Actually, she is NOT just like me, and here is why:

- I don't believe in replacing science with religion in public schools.
- I don't believe in continuing Republican economic poli-

cies that are devastating the people of this country, particularly the middle class.

- I don't believe in continuing a war that has killed over a million innocent people, made refugees of many more, destroyed our nation's reputation and served to enrich corporations through war profiteering.

- I don't believe, as does Sen. McCain, that women are not smart enough, mature enough, or worthy enough to make our own decisions about our own bodies.

- I don't believe that that way to solve the energy crisis is to continue more of the same— and more and more and more.

- I don't believe in using my religion to justify homophobia.
- I don't believe in banning books I don't happen to like from my local library.

Oh yes — and I don't believe Alaska should secede from the United States.

Sarah Palin is — most definitely — not just like me!

Mary Desio, Apache Junction

Retired Veteran writes

I believe most will agree that this national election is the most important to our country in recent history. It most certainly is for me, and I am 81 years old.

I personally see this as a contest between the two men running for president; although the vice presidential candidates do effect the way I see the country going.

One of the presidential candidates has worked his way to a great education through hard work. The other candidate was put in a special high school in order to get a high school diploma. He did poorly. Because of family influence, he was given an appointment to Annapolis ahead of much more deserving young men. He finished fifth from the bottom in his class and showed a minimum of leadership skills. Because of family influence he got into the pilot training program ahead of more deserving young men. He does poorly, crashes one plane and still graduates. He crashes two more planes, (probably pilot error) and still gets promoted ahead of others in his Annapolis class.

One of the candidates has been married and faithful to the same women since they first walked down the aisle; the other admits to many affairs and divorced an ailing wife to marry another woman.

The winner of this election will have a chance to take America into the 21st century; through logic and reason. If the evangelical right manage to elect the pampered Navy retiree; we can expect our education system to fall behind the rest of the world. Logic and reason can move us ahead. The evangelicals cannot see beyond their faith. Faith and truth are not compatible.

The advances in science in the next four years are going to be

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Last Week's Results: Question: How do you plan to vote in the presidential election in November?

Obama/Biden ██████████ 52.8%

McCain/Palin ██████████ 47.2%

This Week's Question: The seventh anniversary of the terrorists attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, just passed last week. For some lesser crimes seven years is the statute of limitations. Are you angered that Osama bin Laden has never been apprehended?

Yes

No

truly amazing. I can only see our country leading the way if we elect the young man who worked for everything to get to where he is today.

Larry J. Kluth (Lt.Col. USAF Ret.)
East Mesa

Great Question!

I really enjoyed answering the question in your paper this week. "How do you plan to vote in the presidential election in November?"

Obama/Biden _____ McCain/Palin _____

No undecided, that was great! This is the most important election of my life and I do not believe there is room for indecision.

If you believe the United States is on the right track- if you are better off than you were 8 years ago, then you vote for McCain/Palin. If on the other hand you believe the United States is on the wrong track- if you are not doing better than you were 8 years ago then you vote for Obama/Biden.

Simple!

Andrew J. Jacobsen, Apache Junction

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Kollenborn's Chronicles

The Saga of Marjorie McNulty

By Tom Kollenborn
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A cold, dreary Chicago winter day in the late 1880s brought bad news to Marjorie McNulty. Her physician had just diagnosed her lung ailment as tuberculosis. He recommended Marjorie move immediately to the hot and dry desert of Arizona Territory. Believing there was little hope, Marjorie prepared for her trip to the Southwest.

In those days very few people recovered and survived from this dreaded lung disease. Those who contracted tuberculosis were sent to "lunger" (sic) camps in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and southern California, but few ever left these camps alive. Some camps were prisons without bars and members of these camps were social outcasts. Conditions in these camps were often severe.

Miss McNulty arrived in Arizona Territory on January 11, 1893. She reported to a camp just northeast of Phoenix, where Scottsdale is located today. Marjorie's residence in this camp had been pre-arranged by her father and physician. For the most part they planned on Marjorie spending the rest of her life there. However, this was not her desire. Tuberculosis or not, she did not plan to just lie down and die.

After several months of basking in the hot rays of the Arizona sun, Marjorie's condition improved and her strength began to return. It wasn't too long before she was on her feet and moving about the camp. The camp physician allowed her privi-



Marjorie McNulty found refuge in the Superstition Wilderness.

leges other camp residents or patients were not permitted. One of these privileges was riding one of the team horses into the desert on the weekends. By the end of October 1898, Marjorie knew her health had returned and she even doubted the diagnosis of her physician in Chicago. She also realized the camp physician had no intention of releasing her— healthy or not.

By December 1898, Marjorie had become an assistant nurse to the camp physician and at this point she realized she would be working in the camp for the rest of her life. She felt like a prisoner. While riding east of the camp one Sunday Marjorie came up on an old Mexican wood cutter. During their conversation, he told her about an Indian medicine man that could cure all diseases that afflicted man or beast. Marjorie took this information with a grain of salt, but expressed an interest. The old Mexican wood cutter gave her directions how to find the old Indian Medicine man and his camp near Superstition Mountain. Marjorie looked east toward Superstition Mountain looming on the

horizon.

Marjorie carefully planned her departure from the "lunger" camp on March 3, 1899. She planned on seeking refuge in the Superstition Mountains and never returning to the camp. She rode away from the camp late in the evening meaning to never return again. She would be searching Superstition Mountain for the medicine man known as Makai.

As she made her way across the desert, dark clouds gathered overhead. When she neared the site of Jim Bark's line camp on the northwest edge of Superstition Mountain, she turned south following a canyon. On the distant horizon she could see a needle-shaped peak. It was near here she had been told by the Mexican woodcutter she could find the old Indian medicine man.

"You will spot the smoke of his camp without any problem," she was told.

By evening of the next day she had reached her destination. Her energy had been sapped by the long ride. She tied her horse to a tree for the night. Locating a small cave



Tom Kollenborn

she decided to spent the night and search for Makai the next day.

It rained all night and by morning Marjorie was cold and weak. As she peered from the entrance of the cave she could see her horse was gone. During the night he had broken away and probably returned to the "lunger" camp.

After this long ordeal she was hungry, weak, and cold. Sensing her situation as hopeless, she closed her eyes and drifted off to sleep. Only by chance was her sleep interrupted by a barking dog.

Opening her eyes, she could see a dog and an old Indian standing in the entrance of the small cave. At first he did not speak, but in his eyes she could see concern and compassion. This was Marjorie's first meeting with Makai and many years later she wrote the following narrative.

"His hair was silver-grey and long, very coarse. His hands were calloused and his skin was wrinkled. He stood just five foot in height and somewhat bent forward. He wore nothing more than a loin cloth and some kind of a fur blanket for protection against the early morning cold. He carried three bags around his waist, colorfully painted. On his feet he wore deerskin moccasins. On his right side he carried a beautifully ornamented knife. He spoke with broken English

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Foothills Publishing, Inc.
of Apache Junction



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