



Viewpoint & Opinion

"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what 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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Supports Dodie Doolittle

The duties of the county treasurer are clearly spelled out in Arizona law. The treasurer is responsible for the safekeeping, managing and investing of the county's monetary assets. The treasurer also must make sure the money is there so the bills can be paid on time.

Dolores "Dodie" Doolittle has been an excellent treasurer. Doolittle has streamlined the office to an ideal model of efficiency. She takes her fiduciary responsibilities very serious and manages our money to ensure that it is in the safest places possible. In fact, with our nation and the world facing a crisis not seen for decades, our treasurer has not lost one penny. Pinal County is one of the few counties across the country that has done that. Some counties in Arizona and across the nation have lost large sums of money during this recent crisis. Doolittle is to be commended for that accomplishment.

Doolittle deserves another term as our treasurer. Now is not the time to take a chance on inexperience.

Connie Lane, Apache Junction

Supports Terri Kibler

My husband, stepson and friends here in Apache Junction are all pulling for Terri Kibler for Pinal County Water District Commission. Terri Kibler is a product of Arizona and the wife of a dairy farmer whose family has been in the dairy business for a few generations here in Arizona. Terri knows what and why it is necessary to be good stewards of the land and our precious water supply. Terri is both a strong Conservative and a very conscientious Conservationist. She knows how to best use our water and what needs to be done to prevent waste and pollution of our water resources. The situation in the Florence/Queen Creek area this past summer in which the Johnson Ranch contractors created a nasty pollution situation through negligence of a wash and local ground water had Terri Kibler calling for investigation from both the U.S. government and the State of Arizona. Terri's unique qualifications and knowledge of the water supply in Pinal County and her personal involvement in the management of water for a business provided her with knowledge that what happened this past summer cannot and must not happen again. We need someone who has more than a passing interest in the maintenance and use of our water here in Pinal County and Terri Kibler is that person. We support Terri Kibler for the position on the Pinal County Water District Commission.

Anne Fesler-Butts, M.D. Apache Junction

Sheriff asks for your support

Two years ago, during the 2006 election, I traveled the county and listened to your concerns about rising crime, response times, traffic concerns, graffiti, and communications with the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. Because it was my first election I used that campaign as an opportunity to take note of the issues that matter most to the citizens of this county.

Since 2006, my staff and I have continued to meet regularly with various community organizations and citizens discussing solutions to the various concerns. I believe that together, we have forged a great long-lasting partnership with one goal: The safety and security of you and your families. To that end, we have made great strides leading to many positive results.

As a result of the improved communication and new partnership between the Sheriff's Office and you, crime in Pinal County has been reduced. Pinal County is a safe place to live, work and raise your children. I pledge to continue the open lines of communication and find new ways of enhancing law enforcement services.

The Pinal County Sheriff's Office is one of the leading police agencies, not only in Pinal County and the State of Arizona, but, also in the Nation. Your Sheriff's Office has received national recognition for solving major cases quickly and efficiently; the Amber Hess is just one example. The Victim Services Unit has received national recognition as one of the best in the nation. Your Sheriff's Office was one of three out of 3,000 sheriff's offices selected by the National Sheriff's Association to develop a continuity of operations plan to be used as a model for other law enforcement agencies to follow. We are ready should a major disaster hit Pinal County. The NSA chose us because of our excellent reputation in law enforcement.

Your deputies are receiving more law enforcement training, equipment and technology than they ever had in the past making them better trained and equipped to better serve you. In 2007, our training unit provided 12,000 hours of in classroom training. And to date in 2008, more than 10,000 training hours have been provided with a goal of 15,000 hours on subjects like, search and seizure, search warrants, interview and interrogation, interviewing sexual assault and child molest victims, crime scene investigation, criminal investigation, and how to utilize computers in vehicles to their maximum potential. Your deputies also receive count-

less hours of officer safety training to ensure they return home to their families at the end of a shift, including: tactical shooting, shooting from behind cover, tactical driving, defensive driving, judgmental shooting, and defensive tactics.

Although we have accomplished much, I promise we will not settle for status quo. We, as your servants, will continue to improve current programs and search for new programs that will positively impact the quality of life in Pinal County. It has been my honor to serve you since becoming Sheriff in 2005 and I ask for your vote on November 4 to continue to serve as your sheriff.

Chris Vasquez, Pinal County Sheriff

Supports Weaver, Cross & Jackson for Fire Board

Facts — These men have considerable fire-related business experience and are currently working in "today's environment" versus their opponents. They actually have business knowledge of what "can and cannot" be done in the daily operation of a Fire District without having to rely on legal opinions.

Each one of these individuals are extremely capable of making up their own minds. They are "not" under anyone's influence except for what is morally right for Apache Junction Fire District taxpayers.

Weaver, Cross & Jackson have no prior relationships with the previous fire chief and would provide a new perspective on how business should be conducted.

These candidates wish to establish a healthy work atmosphere for the employees of the Fire District as well as good rapport with new Fire Chief Dan Campbell.

Candidates Weaver, Cross & Jackson did not vote for a \$15,000 Fire District lobbyist and will strongly review this matter.

Weaver, Cross & Jackson did not vote or sit on the committee that approved the extremely expensive Fire District Bond that is costing the taxpayers over \$500,000 per year in interest.

Lastly, these candidates have conducted their campaigns in an extremely professional manner which is highly indicative as to how they will conduct themselves as fire board members.

FACT: My husband and I are voting for Weaver, Cross & Jackson.

Linda Shank, Apache Junction
Former Fire District Board Member, 1996-2004,

Laura Dean-Lytle asks for your support

This is a letter sharing my qualifications to "apply" for the position of Pinal County Recorder. I have held that office for ten years and operated it with integrity and honor to represent you, the public.

The Recorder's Office is a library of property ownership documents and more. Those current documents and data are available on the county website. These recorded documents

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Last Week's Results: Question: Will the state of the economy effect your normal spending habits this coming holiday season?

Yes 81.2%
No 18.8%

This Week's Question: Apache Junction City Council meetings are televised on cable and over the internet. Do you watch....?

Regularly **Occasionally**
Rarely **Never**

increased from 58,000 per year in 1999 to a high of 180,000 per year in 2006 and now at 130,000 annually. The Recorder's Offices in Apache Junction, Casa Grande and Florence are all full-service offices.

Voter Registration activities and Early Voting are also the responsibility of this office. Voter registration has increased from 65,000 in 1999 to 146,000 at this time. Early voting has reached a level of over 46,000 early ballots issued for this General Election. In this division, we all hold Secretary of State Certification in voter registration and early voting training.

Business affiliations include: member and Past President of the Arizona Association of Counties and also of the Arizona Association of County Recorders, member of other national job-related associations. I've also had the opportunity to serve on the Governor's E-Recording Commission for two years.

Every year has been filled with community involvements and local nonprofit organizational participation. I enjoy being continually active; not just active on election year.

It would not be possible to provide services for this rapidly growing county without increasing the budget from year to year. This same budget provides over \$1 million annually to the County General Fund. During the high-growth period our revenues were almost \$2 million. At that time we were able to re-classify our staff and add new positions. We will now hold unfilled positions vacant until the need is there to work with that quantity of staffing. There is a surcharge on recorded documents that enables the Recorder and the Assessor to conduct business with quality electronic capabilities.

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Kollenborn's Chronicles

Read the Chronicles archive at www.SuperstitionMountain.info

Trails of the Superstitions

By Tom Kollenborn
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The Superstition Wilderness Area is filled with many beautiful and mysterious areas. Searching out these special places has been a lifetime avocation of mine. I worked on a cattle ranch for several years, hiked the trails as a young man and continue riding the trails throughout adulthood. My love for the history, beauty and solitude of region has not diminished in any way. I continue today hiking and walking in the Superstition Wilderness Area and even enjoying it more because it has been saved from development.

Many years ago a gentlemen ask me what was my favorite hide-a-way in the Superstition Wilderness. This certainly was a difficult choice for me because I had so many places I loved and cherished within this rugged mountain wilderness of deep canyons and towering spires. Wandering the trails and remote regions of this wilderness was as exciting as gathering the history and legend of the region. After a moment of indecision I decided to make my choices of favorite locales in the wilderness.

The first one was the rugged interior of Rough's Canyon that flowed into Fish Creek Canyon in the eastern portion of the wilderness area. This canyon is beautiful in its transition through desert flora to high-mountain flora.



Reavis Fall in the Superstition Wilderness.

Water is generally found year around in this canyon making it an oasis in the desert. The canyon floor is filled with house-size boulders making it almost impossible to hike through. An old cattleman named Floyd Stone once told me he got a horse down into the canyon and actually had to build a trail to get him out. Knowing old Stone and his ability with livestock I didn't doubt his story at all. He ran the old Reavis and Tortilla allotment for a couple of decades with his father-in-law John A. "Hoolie" Bacon. The early inhabitants of the Superstition Wilderness built cliff dwellings in Rough Canyon and these ruins today are a mute testimony to their survival instincts of almost millennium ago.

Another favorite location in the wilderness is Log Trough Canyon. This canyon is filled with large Ponderosa pines and thick underbrush. It is extremely difficult for a man

or women on horseback to negotiate the trail along the canyon's floor. Near the head of this canyon there are some old "trigger-traps" used to catch wild cattle. The brush in this canyon was so thick it was impossible to work cattle on horseback in the old days. Cattlemen like William J. Clemans, John A. Bacon, and Floyd Stone would tell you, "a good cow dog was worth a dozen good cowboys in this brushy country."

The beauty and solitude of Log Trough Canyon is unique. Several years ago I spent several hours watching a clearing among the towering pines of this canyon. As the wind rustled through the tops of these pines and the rays of sun broke through into the clearing a young doe browsed on the deep green grass that covered the floor of the clearing. It was such a tranquil scene it mesmerized me for several minutes. This is the kind of beauty and tran-



Tom Kollenborn

quility you find in Log Trough Canyon.

Another favorite location is the top of Weaver's Needle. I am quite convinced I will never climb to the top of Weaver's Needle again, but my experience climbing the "Needle" in the 1950s and 1960s will live with me forever. I really don't consider climbing the "needle" a technical climb, however it is highly recommended only for experienced rock climbers or mountain climbers. An old friend of mine, Clay Worst, climbed the "needle" in an emergency in the 1960s and I doubt very much he would recommend the average person to undertake such a climb. I don't encourage anyone to climb Weaver's Needle unless they are in good physical shape and experienced in mountain climbing.

There was an old retired Navy photographer named Dewey Wildoner who mastered the climb when he was seventy-two years old. Dewey was a veteran hiker and climber. He celebrated his birthday while camping out over-night on top of Weaver's Needle. Dewey was a dedicated photographer of the

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