



Letters to the Editor
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with the saying, "No child shall be left behind" means absolutely NO child should be denied their education. However with talks of cutting out all-day kindergarten all together or making parents pay \$60 a week for it, doesn't that sound like a child or thousands of children will be left "behind." We need the wonderful teachers we currently have and overcrowding children into classrooms will not solve our problem, remember our children now will be the ones running the country in the future. Come on... Let's get real Arizona!

We all pay taxes for education and our taxes keep going up each year, yet you still can't figure out how to budget so you want to punish us tax payers by cutting education due to your lack of common sense. Some schools around the state have already stated they are going to a 4 day school week, and cutting out classes such as Math and Science. What are you trying to do, are you trying to make us the dumbest state? Arizona, according to state ranks, is on the bottom of the list for providing the best education. Wake up and smell the coffee. We cannot afford to cut out any more of our education; we need the education here so that Arizona can produce "smart people" to get us out of the mess the state has put us in.

Tiffany Chao, Gold Canyon

Home Rule

On January 31, 2007, former Pinal County Manager, Stanley D. Griffis pleaded guilty to six felony charges.

Why should headlines like that motivate the citizens of Apache Junction to VOTE FOR HOME RULE? We the voters decide who we want to control the city funds! First it gives the City of Apache Junction power to control its local budget and expenditures! It provides the city the ability to modify the structure of its government. It is the most tangible benefit of Home Rule! The right of Home Rule provides cities the ability to control local affairs. The right to self govern, the power to adopt local police and sanitary regulations. Power to control, and operate public utilities. Power to control its local budget and expenditures.

Municipal "Home Rule" is the cornerstone for the progressive movement that has made this country what it is today. It truly is the heart and soul of democracy. Home Rule does not guarantee a good city government, but allows more latitude to its citizens in interfacing with city policies and city budget expenditures.

Charles Bunten, Apache Junction

Quacks like a duck

For some time now I've been thinking, "What's so familiar about this recall group?" Now I realize what it is, Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons.

We've got the evil tag team of Boris and Natasha (with their minions) out to destroy "moose and squirrel." And let's not forget the infamous "Mister Big." For Apache Junction, he's come out of the closet and lives in Gold Canyon.

Why is it that only five members of this council are being recalled? What favors may be involved to those that were not recalled? Are there personal grudges against the five being recalled? Are there other issues? Personal views, religion, etc.? These are questions I have. As should all citizens of Apache Junction.

After reviewing news articles of Bullhead City and Apache Junction newspapers, both cities experienced recalls of council members and the same name crops up in both, Glenn Walp.

What do these recalls have in common? City council members questioned actions taken by this man. Why is he involved? If he was a mature responsible adult, he would have said, "my contract is over, so I'll move on."

The recall group has stated they want this man as city manager. This same man as police chief said he would take AJPD "down to its 2x4s," I'm told. He almost destroyed it. If you were a businessman and had an employee (like Walp) who has cost you tens of thousands, possibly \$100,000 dollars in legal costs defending his actions, would you renew his contract?

The actions of the recall group during the past 18 months are too numerous to quote here. Sen. Barry Goldwater once said, "those who seek absolute power, even though they seek it to do what they regard as good, are simply demanding the right to enforce their own version of heaven and earth."

To vote for Flynn, Stephens, Mueller or Dowdle is to vote for the recall and for Glenn Walp. Here the old saying "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, hangs around with other ducks, it's a duck."

Why vote for a recall quack?

Wayne Standage, Apache Junction

Sad News

I have been reading the *Apache Junction News* for years and am saddened as I watch it deteriorating week by week, right before my eyes. What was once a fair, well balanced news sources has, over the last year or so, become a platform for the editor to espouse his personal views and opinions. This change has suspiciously coincided with the editor's wife's run for a council seat. While he is well within his rights to express his opinion in the editorial pages, it is obvious that he is influencing the reporting of the political news for the benefit of his wife.

Things went from bad to worse, when the paper changed their reporting staff. I no longer trust the *Apache Junction News* as a credible source for local political news coverage and I am not alone. It is no secret that the size of the paper has diminished. While, some of it can be blamed on the economy, a good deal of it is due to the lack of quality, unbiased reporting. Why would any business continue to advertise in a paper with a diminishing readership?

Before this publication is totally destroyed, the owners should take a good look at the editing and current reporting. The editor has lost all perspective when it comes to politics. The only thing the News had over the other local paper was the quality of the reporting, which has now deteriorated to an all time low.

If I were you, I would put the reins on Mr. Barker and I would get on the phone and beg your former reporters to return. I almost guarantee a turn around. People want fair, honest and quality reporting of the facts. Not slanted and biased coverage of what the editor wants to see printed. With the current editor and his "has been" puppet reporter from another publication, the News has no chance of surviving unless they make a huge turnaround and clean up their act.

Perhaps Mr. Barker and Mrs. Karasinski should put out a separate tabloid paper where they can relieve their frustrations and vent their opinions, instead of turning the News into a "rag."

Lisa Day, Apache Junction

Disagrees with recall

I have lived in Apache Junction for the last 24 years of my life. During my time I have seen dramatic changes in the people, businesses, and scenery. We have a vested interest in the success and growth of our city and I know that the City Council has a major impact on the direction we take. While I have not always been correct in my support of candidates, I have stood by my choice.

Every two years we have a form of a Recall Election in Apache Junction: the General Election. At the end of each councilmember's term, we decide if they have performed up to our standards by choosing to re-elect them or vote for a different candidate. When I learned there would be a Recall Election at the same time as the Primary Election for mayor and City Council, I was shocked. I cannot believe that we are trying to recall our council two months before their term is over.

Recalling our City Council members severely handcuffs our government and will negatively impact our ability to do business. I believe the Recall does not serve the best interest of Apache Junction. I will be using the Primary and General Elections as my own form of recall - if I am unhappy with a councilmember's performance, I will let their term lapse naturally in two months. That is our recall!

Dave Mowat, Apache Junction

Supporting Waldron for Mayor

As a lifelong member of the community it is with great concern and hope that I call to voters to assist in providing solid leadership to the City of Apache Junction. As we approach the upcoming primary election it is becoming apparent that there is one mayoral candidate who is clearly deserving of consideration, Dave Waldron.

His proven record of sound business experience coupled with his demonstrated history of positive performance in both local government and his community demonstrate that he possesses the skills necessary to provide the leadership that is needed to move our community through its present period of concern and put us on the right track for the future.

I urge you to evaluate the issues and candidates, and after a thoughtful review I believe you'll join me in supporting Dave Waldron for Mayor of Apache Junction.

Tayna Loftis, Apache Junction

Response to recall letter

Last week I read one of the most outrageous letters, one with more untruths and errors than I have read in a long time. The writer, whom I have heard speak intelligently at council meetings in the past is as far from reality than I would have ever imagined. First of all, we (the recall team) are self financed. We are reaching deep into our own pockets to pay for this campaign. I wish we had an angel that would finance it for us but none have stepped forward as yet. It is absurd to suggest that Dr. Walp is putting up the money for this. It is absurd to suggest that he is doing this in order to become city manager. We have not made a commitment to him nor has he implied that he would accept it if offered. Have we discussed it with him? Yes, we have, but not with finality in either his or our agendas. To suggest that we, because we live in communities where our homes are on leased land, are somehow second-rate citizens is offensive. We are aware that one of the current councilmembers that is on the recall ballot stated in a public meeting that we should be evicted from our community and the property converted to commercial property. As if the council could find someone interested in development. Those citizens all throughout our city that live in similar circumstance should be aware of the attitude of council and of residents like you that think we are of a lower status than yourself. And how could you even suggest to know where I and others shop!! You don't even know me, you have never talked to me, and yet you are willing to make this outrageous statement. Just for the readers' information, we proudly shop in AJ, except for those rare occasions when we might make a convenient stop on our way from somewhere else.

How could our recall attempt be used as a weapon? This could only be in your own mind. Has our "weapon" brought about any policy changes? Has our "weapon" affected your or the life style of anyone you know? This is a legitimate process that the residents of Apache Junction will vote on. Their and only their opinions are the ones that will really count on March 10.

Jim Stephens, Apache Junction

from Que Pasa, A-4

Mayor Eck, he said he "just picked somebody."

On the official city documents filed for the recall election, Mr. Dowdle listed his address as 2303 E. Cochise in Apache Junction. However, that home has been sold at foreclosure. On the notice of trustee's sale and deed of trust Mr. Dowdle's official home address was listed last fall as 309 Bristol Rd., Kearny, Az.

So, where did/does Mr. Dowdle actually live? He says he lives here now, but you must have a one-year, current established residency in the city where you are seeking elected office. Running for office in a city where you have not lived continuously for one year is against state law, and it's a serious offense. Maybe Mr. Dowdle is just following the example of Joe Severs. You remember Severs. He stayed on the city council even after moving to Gilbert.

Birds of a feather?

Stagnant?

Among the many falsehoods spread by the "recall team" a major one was repeated last week in their guest editorial published by the *Independent*. The recallers said business has stagnated and almost come to a halt in Apache Junction under the current leadership.

The *Independent* knows better (or should), because the facts are a matter of public record (not opinion). Actually, in the 20 months the current city council has held office, only one commercial building permit has been denied (QT Convenience Store due to safety considerations over the heavy traffic on South Ironwood). During the same 20-month period, more than 140 new commercial building permits were issued by the City of Apache Junction along with 2600 new city business licences. And this during an economic down-

turn! Why would a city whose sales tax is the only source of municipal revenue turn down new businesses? The premise is insane. There are many other issues (i.e., State Land) that the "recall team" perverts, either because they don't understand the issue or because they don't like the truth. In reality, the only thing stagnant in Apache Junction is the B.S. the "recall team" has been spreading for the past two years.

Grass roots?

Another of the lies told by the "recall team" for nearly two years is about the "grass roots" support of their effort to remove nearly an entire city council (5 members). Now we discover, according to the "recall team's" own recently filed public financial statements, this "populist" movement actually had to pay people to gather the signatures for the recall movement. Yep, they had to pay their own "grass root" supporters about a buck and a quarter for each valid signature they gathered.

Enough!

The *News* has never endorsed a candidate for office, but this particular election is far too important to set on the sidelines and watch while the truth is being trampled and the public being misled.

I don't always agree with the incumbent council members, including my wife. But when it comes to honesty and integrity, no council member being recalled would deliberately lie or pervert the truth in order to get elected. That puts their head and shoulders above the people behind this recall.

For the sake of this community, for the sake of sanity, this recall must be stopped. Don't let your community fall into the hands of these pinheads.

from Hazel, A-1

partial payments or small payments to make sure they got paid," Hazel said. "We're working to get a staff of collectors that isn't going to cost the city any money. But I hope to bring in some future revenue.

"We're also going into a state program shortly that if a person gets a ticket and they don't pay it, it's recorded with the State and if they try to renew their registration, they're prohibited from doing that. That's another thing we're going to do."

Funding is a challenge with-

in the courts, given the country's current financial crisis.

"We have to make sure we continue to provide the services we need to do for the public in a professional and timely manner," he said. "We have to recognize that the public may be having financial difficulties as well. We need to work with them to make sure they make their court obligations and not create such a hardship. It's a fine line. We want to be here to help people and educate them so they don't come back."

"That's basically the purpose of the court. We're successful if people don't come back."

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