

Kollenborn Retires From AJ School District

Former teacher will be honored Sept. 8, will continue writing his weekly column in the News

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Carol Shepherd, Apache Junction Unified School District spokeswoman, calls retired employee Tom Kollenborn "an original," someone who cared about his students and the programs he ran during his 35 years with the organization.

"He is remembered by his many students as the best science teacher they ever had," Shepherd said about Kollenborn, who retired in August. "One of the things that made him such a special teacher was his willingness to give of his experience, his time and his talent. He used to take the kids on hiking and horse back trips into the Superstitions teaching as they went."

Kendra Adams, principal of Superstition Mountain Elementary School, is one of those former students. She explained that his teaching methods were "awe inspiring."

"He was always great with kids—just calm, supportive, encouraging and also enlightening," Adams said.

"He also went a step further. Probably one of the best times in my childhood was because of him. Together, he and I and his son started up a hiking club. We worked really hard on it and raised enough money that the whole group went to Colorado. It was really spectacular."

Adams explained that Kollenborn would teach the students about mountains and of which they were made, but her summer in Colorado was

a "rite of passage." There's more to academics than the classroom, she said.

"We learned how to socialize and how to cook," Adams said. "It was a trip that forever carried with me."

Kollenborn, an *Apache Junction/Gold Canyon News* columnist, will be honored for his years of service during 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, AJUSD governing board meeting.

"Tom has been an asset and an institution in our district and our community," said Chad Wilson, Ed.D., AJUSD superintendent of schools.

"From the days in which Tom taught shop and science, to his role as our community schools director, Tom has worked tirelessly to bring programs and opportunities to our students and our community. Tom has, and will always, put the students and the community of Apache Junction first."

Kollenborn retired from the district as community school director, running the Arizona Lecture and Public Events series.

"Working for the school district was a wonderful life experience," Kollenborn said.

"I taught school for, I think, 18 years and then I spent the rest of the time as community school director and running different kind of programs that were primarily fundraising programs to generate revenue."

Kollenborn, who will keep writing his weekly column "Kollenborn's Chronicles" for the News, will also work on writing books and traveling during his retirement.

He said his most vivid memo-



Tom Kollenborn will be recognized for his years of service during the September 8 school board meeting.

ries from his years at AJUSD are when he first started because it was "under such primitive conditions."

"I was teaching in an old Williams Air Force Base barracks building," he said. "The room was about 20 x 22, something like that. I had four shop tables in there. There weren't enough room for the tables, let alone kids."

"I had 28 kids so it was pretty wild. I taught a program called The World at Work. Basically they learned how to nail safely—always wear goggles—shop safety and tool usage."

He said it wasn't hard to get children motivated for his class.

"They all liked that," Kollenborn said. "We had no power tools in that little room—all hand tools. I had a lot of won-

derful experiences there with those kids.

"We were so far from the office that I had to send runners in emergencies. I had a kid who had an epileptic seizure. I had to take care of him. I had a kid who stuck himself with an Xacto knife."

The most gratifying part of his 35-year career, however, was working with the lecture series volunteers.

"My primary job was working with volunteers," Kollenborn said.

"I had the best group of volunteers you could ever have. Some of them have worked with me for 20 years. That's a long time for a volunteers. They were outstanding volunteers."

"The only thing I really regret about leaving is I just hated to leave the volunteers."

The 71 year old said his volunteers were so knowledgeable that he just had to hold one meeting a season to tell

them of their assignments.

"I never had to worry about them being there," said Kollenborn, a Fulbright Scholar who taught in Israel in 1986.

"I never had to worry about having enough people. The key to the lecture series was the volunteers because if you had to pay somebody to do all the ushering and ticket sales, there wouldn't be much profit. The volunteers is really an important part of the program."

Shepherd explained one of the best things that Kollenborn accomplished during his time with the district was leading an archeological dig

that took place where Gold Canyon Elementary School is located.

"The district had to do this survey before they could build, but the project involved students, teachers and community volunteers," Shepherd said.

"When they conducted the recent dig at a location in that area, they actually found the report from Tom's dig valuable in assessing the importance of the site."

Shepherd added, "Tom has truly made a difference in the lives and the educational experience of the children of this district."

Group Celebrates Grandparents Day

Events are Sunday, Sept. 13

The Central Arizona Kinship Coalition will celebrate Grandparents Day, Sunday, September 13, with a variety of activities and celebrations during the weekend.

At last count (2000 Census), in Arizona there were 96,062 children living in grandparent-headed households (7 percent of all children in the state). There were another 36,720 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.7 percent of all children living in the state).

The Central Arizona Kinship Coalition, as well as other kinship programs throughout the state, provides a network of support and advocacy services for kinship families.

Activities include:
• Ice Cream Social, noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, September 12, at the Family Resource Center, 817 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa. Contact Berna-

dette for more information at 480-834-9424

• Ice Cream Social, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, September 12, Church of the Beatitudes, Nelson Hall, 555 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix. Call Ginger at (602) 274-5022 ext. 42 for more information.

• Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, September 12, Superstition Shadows Park, 1091 W. Southern Ave., Apache Junction. Contact Kim Robinson, KARE Program coordinator, at (480) 986-9209.

• Hot Dog Meal and the the movie "Cars," 11 a.m. with the movie beginning at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, September 13, at the Multi-Generational Recreation Center, 1035 N. Idaho Road, Apache Junction. Call Terri or Laura at (480) 474-5260 for more information.

from Animal Control, A-1

and to other rescues, depending on the number of dogs," Monahan said. "If it's financially sound to transport, then we will transport. It's not an absolute that we will not transport to another facility."

"Thank God for a rescue groups. They do a tremendous service for these animals. All

of us would much rather see those animals rescued or adopted than put down. So we're very fortunate to have the rescue groups working with us."

The bottom line is Monahan and Mullender said running Animal Control is hard work.

"It is emotionally draining," Monahan said. "Our staff experiences that, our volun-

teers do, too. I understand that there's strong feelings there. Trying to manage that unit is a challenge. We'll continue to manage it. Our goal is to ensure the dignity of the animals as they're guests. While they're there we consider them guests. For us, euthanasia is still a reality. We're not beyond that yet."

from City Council, A-1

boarding facility with camping

• Intensity of RV camping being introduced into the city's low-density areas.

Esquivias said the City Council is hoping to have a public hearing on it on Tuesday, September 15.

Also on the work session agenda is discussion on funding service providers for fiscal year 2009-2010. The City of Apache Junction annually funds several programs pur-

suant to contracts with service providers. City Council does not routinely approve these programs each year because funding amounts are less than \$25,000. Council has requested to review these programs for fiscal year 2009-2010.

There will also be a funding and planning update with Superstition Vistas planning representatives. The City of Apache Junction joined with other East Valley cities and Pinal County to conduct a Superstition Vistas Area Study

in 2008. The City has, thus far, paid \$80,000 and City staff seek council direction for funding of an additional \$40,000 to participate in the Superstition Vistas Area Study through completion in December 2010. Representatives of the Superstition Vistas Planning Project will provide City Council an update on its planning efforts and activities.

The Tuesday, September 1, regular meeting of the City Council has been canceled.

Open Evenings & Saturdays... Call for an appointment!

We offer all the comforts of home to ensure the best dental experience possible.

SERVICE WITH A Smile

- Upscale Family Practice
- Emergencies Welcome
- New Patients Welcome
- Absolutely Gentle Cleanings
- Bring Your Favorite CD/DVD
- Emergencies Seen Same-Day
 - Senior Discounts
- Complimentary 2nd Opinion
- We Bill Insurance
- 6 or 12 Months Same As Cash (OAC)

\$70.00 OFF ANY DENTAL SERVICE
FIRST TIME PATIENTS ONLY
Expires 9-15-09
Must Present Coupon At Time Of Visit.
SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY • NO CASH VALUE
Major Credit Cards Welcome

Doctors
Matthew Scheerhorn, DDS
Jonathan Lovell, DMD

Superstition Mountain Dental
480-671-7777
5331 S. Superstition Mountain Dr.
Suite #108 • Gold Canyon (in Basha's Plaza)

With an average of 24,000 Newspapers each week, and an average of 10,000 Readers Online each week... No one else even comes close!

Every page every story every ad
The entire newspaper ONLINE
More than 10,000 readers from all over the world click on the News each week!



* Circulation verified to the Arizona Newspaper Association.

More people read The News!
And that means more people read your advertising

Your Hometown Newspaper
Tried & True
The Proven Leader

The News
115 N. Apache Trail,
Apache Junction (480) 982-6397

