



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 4 p.m. on Thursday. All letters and faxes must include your name, residential address and a daytime phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published, but are needed for verification of authenticity. Please keep your letters to 300 words or less and please do not use CAPITALIZATION for emphasis.

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Opposes Prop 100

Over \$1 million from those with a vested interest in the funds it will create if passed are making a plea using the typical "chicken little" scare tactics that our education system will crash, society will lose thousands of jobs and we need to sell our kids' futures and put them in debt with future taxes, etc. if we do not pass Prop 100. But it is the lack of legislative backbone and their inability to balance the budget by cutting the size of government, while being more creative in making new jobs that we should focus on. Instead of stealing money from the parks, why not more private/public relationships with concessions/park cleaning operated by the private sector? Why not look at the mismanagement of government and stop passing mandates and financial cuts to the counties, towns and cities. Pinal County citizens still end up paying the darn bills! Why not have only 90 school districts (six per county) instead of 230 +, getting rid of a couple of hundred high-paying positions, boards, commissions redundancy, overlays, duplication etc. and leaving the \$\$ to the good teachers and the classrooms (Our kids! Our future!). Cut administration! Instead of continuing to ramp up social/medical increases in the public sector, why not stop this drive toward socialism? Stop double dipping retirement systems where public employees now retire then can be hired to same job the next day with a huge pension. How about Health Savings Accounts instead of deluxe insurance for the public employees? Or abolishing agencies that are best served by the private sector? How about visiting some of the big tax breaks handed out over 10 years old that are now just gravy for corporations? How about challenging our antiquated drug laws that are costing us? How about the legislature doing its job instead of asking for 5cent taxes on all little water bottles (Rep. McGuire) or \$12 fees when we register our vehicles (Rep. Pratt)? Taxes, if you give it to them they will just waste it! Vote NO on Proposition 100 so we can have some leadership solve the problem instead of just throwing money at them.

John M. Fillmore, Apache Junction

News vs. opinion

Those of us who are here legally already carry either a Social Security card, a driver's license or a voter registration card in our wallet. We have no need to show a birth certificate or passport, unless we leave the country, because the above are sufficient to prove our citizenship. Illegals have no U.S. Social Security card, driver's license or voter registration card, unless they are forgeries. Your weekly survey question conveniently leaves out these facts. A large majority of the Arizona citizenry support the new law and feel it will be administered fairly to all. It would be nice if you reported the news without bias,

Wally and Cyndee Naas, Gold Canyon

Editor's note: Readers often confuse news for opinion and opinion for news. The News Public Opinion Poll is a public opinion poll — not news. That's why the poll is on the editorial/opinion page asking the readers to share what they think, and the News certainly thanks Mr. & Mrs. Naas for sharing their thoughts.

Yes, but how do you tell the difference?

I don't understand who you expect to answer the question on proof of citizenship (News Public Opinion Poll, May 10 edition). Citizens aren't required to have more than a legal driver's license. Others, who are here legally are required to carry their documents at all times by federal law, and now by AZ 1070. Do you understand the law?

Jeff Whitfield, Apache Junction

People in Glass Houses

I feel compelled to respond to a letter written last week by Beck Barnes concerning her neighbor's tall weeds. She only told part of the truth that suited her. Yes there were some tall weeds in the yard but as soon as she was able to get someone to cut them she did. She is an older lady and is unable to do it herself. The real reason that Barnes called was because she is angry that the lady didn't hire her son to deal with the weeds. He does odd jobs around the neighborhood as he is unable to support himself but because of her rancor some of the neighbors will no longer hire him. In fact she kicked him out last week and he is living in a shed across the street.

She feels compelled to pick a fight with as many of her neighbors as she can. She states that she rescues animals which is nonsense as animal control has been out there several times because she has too many dogs and cats and no license for them. Since she lives on food stamps, I wonder how she feeds all of those animals? She generally refuses to answer the door when they come. It must be filthy in her house. She calls about everyone else but she is a poster child for code violations such as an open water pool that breeds mosquitoes and some broken windows.

Frequently there is a lot of trash in her yard though she does keep the weeds down.

Mary Shell, Apache Junction

What about fire, police, etc.?

Edward Auert concludes his May 8 letter with this thought: "But our government has failed us. Now what?" ("Latino giant" made up of illegal immigrants, May 7)

Excuse me, but what is this government he is talking about? Surely he is not talking about the millions of ways our citizens — and even many of our visitors who are not our citizens, are being served by the thousands of agencies of government.

Have you driven by a fire station recently? Or noticed the police cars patrolling our streets? Or paid any attention to those senior citizens who might be homeless if it was not for the benefits they receive as a part of our Social Security system? Any person who has ever worked for a living understands the role the government plays in our daily life. That includes most of us. And any failures are few and far between.

All this whining about what the government is not doing irritates me. It has been over 50 years since I studied "government" in school, but we had a definition then that remains as applicable today as it was in those "dark" ages. We were taught that in a Democracy, the government is you and I, brothers and sisters, each doing our part to sustain a livelihood that is the envy of billions of others on our planet.

Perhaps he is referring to Congress, those 535 individuals who are charged with creating the legislation that governs our lives, but they are there only because we, the people, elected them to office. If there is anyone to blame, it has to be that image we see in a mirror as we start each day.

In an election year, perhaps this will serve as a reminder to all of us to lay aside our own biased prejudices and seriously consider the qualifications — and the motives, of those running for office. The process has served us well for more than two centuries. It could be improved, but not until we all begin to participate.

Shirley MacRae, Apache Junction

No ID needed

Dave Rouse, I read your letter to the Apache Junction News

Kollenborn's Chronicles

Read the Chronicles archive at www.SuperstitionMountain.info

Surviving The Desert In Summer

By Tom Kollenborn
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Summer is almost here and temperatures will soon be soaring above 100°F and a review of some summer survival techniques might be appropriate at this time. Each summer we read or hear about a tragic death or deaths resulting from dehydration, exhaustion or sunstroke occurring during the hot summer months on the Sonoran Desert. These summer deaths could be easily prevented with the proper preparation and training.

Living in the Sonoran Desert for more than sixty years doesn't make me an expert on the topic of desert survival. However, I would like to pass on a few things I have learned over the past decades. Veterans of many desert sojourns in the summer months have died tragically because they took the desert for granted. The older we get, sometimes the more careless we become. The most basic rule of desert survival is tell somebody where you are going and when you expect to return. This simple rule can save you or your family's life.

Now, if you insist on going into the desert during the summer months when temperatures exceed 110 degrees on the ground, you need to consider some other basic rules of survival. For each adult in your group you will need a minimum of one gallon of water per day to prevent dehydration. Yes, you can survive on a quart of water per day under ideal conditions. This means you are in the shade, off of the hot ground and not exerting yourself. Even under these ideal conditions a quart of water per twenty-four hour period will not prevent the onset of dehydration. A rule of thumb is always one gallon of water



per day per person on any desert outing in the summer time.

When a family or group of four go trekking into the desert with their four-wheeler, sand buggy, ATVs or family car they need to carry sufficient water for any emergency. Remember, if you are planning a three day trip into the desert and there are three adults in the group you need a minimum of nine gallons of water. If you have a sufficient quantity of water your survival has been increased three-fold. Large quantities of water can be carried in a vehicle; but what about horsemen and hikers?

A hiker or horseman must know the sources of permanent water along the route he or she has chosen. I would like to believe a reasonable hiker or horseman wouldn't find themselves in a remote desert setting during the summer months. However, that is not the case. Each summer Search and Rescue teams pull dehydrated hikers out of the Superstition Wilderness Area.

The next thing one should consider is their method of travel under extreme desert conditions, whether it is by vehicle, horse back or afoot. Surface temperatures can reach 180 Degrees F. on a

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The polling program is designed to limit each computer to one vote in each poll.

Last Week's Results: Question: Do you plan to carry a passport, birth certificate or other proof of citizenship on your person when Arizona's new immigration law takes effect?

Yes 25.9%

No 74.1%

This Week's Question: Do you think the Republican Party's decision to hold their nation convention in Tampa, Fla. instead of Phoenix in 2012 had anything to do with the controversy over Arizona's new immigration law?

Yes No

today and it is apparent that you have bought in to the hysterical hyperventilating of the open order/amnesty crowd.

SB 1070 doesn't require U.S. citizens to carry any identification whatsoever. Aliens who are lawfully present in the United States have been required to carry their papers since 1940 and SB 1070 simply cites these federal statutes and prohibits aliens from violating them. Check out the attached article to find out what SB 1070 really says.

So go ahead and go out walking with no ID.

Dick Anderson, Apache Junction

More on SB1070

The shock of the Immigration Bill, signed by Gov. Brewer, is beginning to diminish. Perhaps, in time, more and more of the people will recognize that this Bill could become the catalyst that will awaken those "trusted leaders of our Na-

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Tom Kollenborn

placed under a wheel to gain traction when stuck in sand can save your life. A vehicle will do better in sand if you lower the air pressure in the tires. Prior to the many deaths of illegal immigrants trying to cross the border between the United States and Mexico more than sixty per cent of the desert deaths resulted from vehicle becoming stuck in the sand or high centered on a rock. A large percentage of victims perished from the over extension of their physical capabilities.

Remember survival begins immediately, not ten hours after you have become stranded and you realize the consequences of your decisions. People have worked all day in the hot sun trying to free their vehicles suddenly realize they are in a hopeless situation. Once panic controls a person's actions survival is dramatically reduced.

No situation is hopeless if preplanning has been undertaken. As soon as you know that you are in a dangerous situation there are three basic rules for survival. One, don't let yourself panic, two, stay where you are, and three, try to signal for help.

You can build a signal fire from desert brush for immediate signaling with smoke. Automotive tires make the best smoke signal. The tires will give off a dense black cloud of smoke that can be seen for miles. You can use your car mirrors to signal aircraft. One important rule is always to keep a signal fire ready to ignite if you see an aircraft in your vicinity.

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