



ANDREW CHENEY

The Superstition Mountains are as colorful as the various explanations for how they came by their moniker.

How Superstitions got the name

Today's question:

How did the Superstition Mountains get their name?

There are various explanations, but the most common seems to be that the Pima and Maricopa Indians who lived near said mountains thought they were the home of bad medicine, or maybe they didn't like the way the wind howled through them.

Or maybe it was because their Apache enemies used the range's high points to scout for Pimas and Maricopas.

Whatever. Regardless of Native American superstitions or well-grounded fears, the Superstitions are the source of enough myths and rumors to last any mountain range a lifetime.



**ARIZONA
101**
CLAY THOMPSON

For starters, there is, of course, the Lost Dutchman gold mine. I'm not even going down the road of answering whether it exists and where it might be. If anybody ever finds it, I'll be among the first to congratulate them — and ask them for a loan — but I'm not holding my breath.

Next: What else but UFOs? It has been claimed that the Superstitions are the home of an un-

derground base for aliens determined to abduct and probe us. And, of course, there are some who say that's just what happened to them.

Have you ever heard of monoatomic gold? Neither did I until just now. The Superstitions are said to be a good source of monoatomic gold, which apparently is derived by superheating gold. It is supposed to give you the memory of a supercomputer, cure diseases and strengthen your heart.

Right here in our very own Superstition Mountains. Who knew?

Do you have an Arizona question? Reach Thompson at clay.thompson@arizonarepublic.com or 602-444-8612.