

Timothy Rawles



Don't get rattled, it's snake season: Handy tips for chance encounters

 Timothy Rawles 2 days ago



Diamondback RattlesnakeGetty Images

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the beach. But panic is the *last* thing you should do when encountering a curled-up predator in any environment.

You might be hard-pressed to find a native Arizonan who isn't aware that rattlesnake season begins in March and goes through October. Experts might tell you these cold-blooded reptiles are worshipers of the sun that like their privacy and if you invade it, there might be consequences.

As scary as that sounds, snakes are natural social distancers who don't want any part of being around humans. So any attacks that happen are usually caused by someone who won't leave them be, or by unknowingly surprising them by walking through shrubs or reaching into dark rocky places.

"They give you many chances to walk away," [says](#) Andy Baldwin, chair of Life Science at Mesa Community College.

Unfortunately, snakes aren't great listeners. In other words, they may not hear you and react in surprise.

"If you were swimming and went underwater. and somebody standing

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Out of 60 species of snake, Pinal County is [home to 28](#). Eight of those are considered venomous, so you'll have to know what to look for and how to react.

Only one of those eight snakes In Pinal County is not a rattlesnake. The Sonoran coral snake is related to the cobra and native to the region. They are striped with black, red, yellow, or white bands. The red bands don't appear on the tail.

The other seven are: The large western diamondback, Sonoran sub-species of the sidewinder, the Mojave rattlesnake, Arizona black, speckled, black-tailed and tiger rattlers.

So what should you do if you accidentally come across a rattlesnake? Knowing that their first instinct is to flee, don't panic. They don't want to stick around and will usually make a fast getaway. If they can't, they might lash out with a warning strike to get you to leave them alone.

If you happen to get bitten, call 911 immediately advises Baldwin, refrain from any of the following:

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hospital. Treatment is not snake-specific, according to Banner Health.

Other tips include warning other hikers of when and where you saw the snake. Remove tight clothing to prevent swelling, keep the bite below your heart and try not to move to prevent the venom from circulating.

In 2021 there were [79 rattlesnake bites](#) reported throughout Maricopa County. To reduce your risk of being bitten keep your distance from the snake and let them be on their way. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) reports more than half of all bites were the result of provocation.

Although Arizona has more rattlesnake species than any other state,

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Published by

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Timothy Rawles has been a journalist for over 20 years. He has written for global publications in San Francisco, San Diego, and Phoenix. His favorite stories are features, interviews, entertainment news, and local stories.

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Apache Junction, AZ 7 days ago

To summit-up, Silly Mountain is a great place to hike

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(Apache Junction, AZ) Don't be surprised if seasoned Arizona hikers list Silly Mountain in Apache Junction as one of their favorite spots. With its variety of different trails, gorgeous views, and native wildlife, it might become your go-to hiking destination as well, whether you're new to the state or a longtime resident.

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Casa Grande, AZ 8 days ago

Little horses create big memories at The Pony Ranch

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Children riding the carousel at The Pony RanchThe Pony Ranch (Facebook) (Casa Grande, AZ) An opportunity for kids to meet, or even ride, a pony might light up their faces with big smiles. Beyond that excitement, the connection between humans and animals can be a beneficial one – studies have shown that equine interaction may be therapeutic to both children and adults.

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Queen Creek, AZ 14 days ago

Clean Juice, a healthy alternative to fast food, coming to

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One of many Clean Juice locationsClean Juice Facebook. (Queen Creek, AZ)
Drive-thru burgers and fries are great, but there's a healthier option coming soon to Queen Creek. It's called Clean Juice and it's the only national USDA-certified organic juice bar and quick-service restaurant combo.

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Find a fur baby at the Pinal County Animal Care & Control Clear the Shelter adoption event

Adopt a pet from The Pinal County Animal Care & ControlGetty Images. (Casa Grande, AZ) If you're looking for a life-long companion, chances are a cute dog or cat is looking for the same.

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Hollywood to Pinal County

David Arquette in "Eight Legged Freaks" Warner Bros. (Pinal County, AZ) When they paved over paradise to create the world's entertainment capital, Hollywood needed to expand its reach. Some of that stretch included Arizona; Pinal County, to be specific. Some of these sites where filming took place are still around and just a day trip away.

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country music festival, but that's exactly what you're going to get at the Gila River Music Festival happening on April 22 – 23.

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Pinal County, AZ 21 days ago

At the Rooster Cogburn Ranch, ruffled feathers are just a part of the fun

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One of the ostriches at Rooster Cogburn RanchRooster Cogburn Ranch.
(Picacho, AZ) Desert motorists are always looking for unique roadside attractions, and if they involve cute and tolerable creatures, it makes the trip all the better.

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Queen Creek, AZ 22 days ago

The new StretchLab in Queen Creek helps you extend your limbs for an assortment of results

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(Queen Creek, AZ) Boutique exercising may be a convenient gym concept, but according to StretchLab, there's another aspect of wellness that should come before and after you head to the treadmill.

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Oracle, AZ 22 days ago

Real camping — not glamping — is what you get at the High Jinks Ranch, founded by “Buffalo Bill” Cody

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Entrance to courtyard of High Jinks. To the right (where you see some stairs) is water for hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders. Courtesy of Kimberly K. (Hipcamp) (Oracle, AZ) The High Jinks Ranch is one of Arizona's most historic vacation properties. With ties to old west legend and showman "Buffalo Bill" Cody, the rich history behind the property is only eclipsed by its incomparable black ink night sky and its peaceful position in the Sonoran Desert.

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San Tan Valley, AZ 27 days ago

After 20 years, The Home Depot breaks ground on a San Tan Valley lot

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(San Tan Valley, AZ) It was confirmed that the hardware and home improvement company, The Home Depot, will begin building the new store located in Skyline Ranch Marketplace on West Hunt Highway and North Gary Road.

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Superior, AZ 27 days ago

Traveling through time at The Magma Hotel is included in the price of your room

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(Superior, AZ) Imagine you're traveling through the desert in 1913. Tired, hungry, and in need of a bit of rest, you happen upon a little town called Superior in Arizona. You see a large two-story building made, oddly, of concrete. Intrigued, you hitch your horse and walk into the building where you are immediately struck by the grand staircase leading up to the second-floor rooms. It's quieter than most places you have stayed at before because there are no wooden walls that snap and creak as they shrink from baking in the desert sun all day.

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Superior, AZ 29 days ago

Superior day trip: The Boyce Thompson Arboretum has plants galore and an upcoming brunch just for mom

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One of the trails at Boyce Thompson ArboretumBoyce Thompson Arboretum. (Superior, AZ) The Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior, Arizona, is the oldest and largest botanical garden in the state. It was founded in 1924 by Col. William Boyce Thompson, who had a particular interest in plants and conservation.

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Oracle, AZ 2022-04-01

Biosphere 2 is another Earth in the middle of the Sonoran Desert

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(Oracle, AZ) You may remember the screwball comedy "Bio-Dome" starring Pauly Shore back in 1996, but did you know that it was based on something very real right here in Arizona?

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Arizona State 2022-04-01

The time Arizona built an Old West movie set and Elvis came to town

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The Elvis Chapel at the Superstition Mountain MuseumSuperstition Mountain Museum. (Apache Junction, AZ) It's just an ordinary Hollywood movie trope. A cowboy riding his horse off into the sunset after a fierce standoff in the dusty streets of an old western town is a classic western B-movie metaphor.

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Casa Grande, AZ 2022-03-30

Casa Grande's historic Paramount Theatre remains a beacon of Hollywood history

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People lined up outside of the Paramount Theatre Paramount Theatre Foundation. (Casa Grande, AZ) The Historic Paramount Theatre is a gem in the crown of Casa Grande, Arizona. The fact that it is still in operation is a testament to not only its workmanship but the importance it has in the community.

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Pinal County, AZ 2022-03-30

The Dolly Steamboat: a relaxing cruise through the heart of the Superstition Mountains

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The Dolly Steamboat, Tortilla Flat, AZ Courtesy of The Dolly Steamboat. (Tortilla Flat, AZ) Unlike its neighbor to the west, Arizona doesn't have an entire ocean running up its spine, but it does have over 125 lakes to enjoy, and although the landscape is much different than its coastal sister, its scenery remains archetypical of everything the Southwest represents. There might not be anything more characteristic of this vision than the Superstition Mountains.

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Florence, AZ 2022-03-28

Florence is getting ready to rumble with Country Thunder

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Riley Green to perform at Country Thunder in Florence, AZ Rileyduckman via Country Thunder. (Florence, AZ) Florence, Arizona is about to feel the thunder, the Country Thunder that is. The annual music festival takes place from April 7 to April 10.

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Arizona's Shamrock Farms turns 100
Courtesy of Shamrock Farms. (Stanfield, Arizona) Arizonans who have kept milk as a household staple anytime within the last 100 years probably recognize the name Shamrock Dairy (now Shamrock Farms). It has been seen by countless amounts of people in supermarkets, schools, and even hospitals.

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Chiles & Chocolate: Sweet and Spicy Foods in the American SouthwestNewsBreak. (Queen Creek, AZ) Your palate is in for a history lesson at the Chiles & Chocolate: Sweet and Spicy Foods in the American Southwest presentation on Friday, May 13 at the San Tan Historical Society Museum.

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