

Letters to the Editor
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Campus. CARLOTA has served over 88 different police agencies and has trained almost 2,500 officers.

More up my alley, CAC trains more firefighters and emergency medical technicians than anyplace else in Pinal County. Those firefighters and EMTs are often the first professionals that patients see and at the most critical times.

Without CAC, our public safety professionals would have to leave Pinal County to train and to update their training, putting miles between themselves and the county they protect. Public Safety is just one more reason to vote "Yes" on Question One.

Paul M. Sabel
Fire Chief, Arizona City Fire District

An endorsement for Judge Vanderpool

I have known and worked with and for Judge Vanderpool for some 20 years now. She was a county prosecutor for the first 12, and she has been a Superior Court Judge for the last eight years. As a prosecutor and a judge, she has consistently shown the mettle and the dedication needed to be successful at both. She has presented herself as fair and impartial in her decisions in the court. She has extensive experience in both civil and criminal matters, and she will continue to serve the people of Pinal County with that same sense of justice for years to come.

She will appreciate your vote. She has mine.

James Pfeifer, Retired Probation Officer
Apache Junction

Supports Vasquez

After much thought and discussion with my family, we have decided to publicly support Sheriff Chris Vasquez. My wife, a school teacher in Casa Grande, my son, who is currently serving our country as a military policeman in the Army in Iraq and I all feel that Chris Vasquez not only has the experience and dedication but also the vision needed to continue to move the sheriff's office forward. In our opinion, this is the direction the sheriff's office has been moving all along. There have been many excellent programs either started or continued under the leadership of Sheriff Vasquez. Some of which have saved the county and taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The opponent and his supporters have made many statements and accusations about the sheriff. We have seen no evidence to support these accusations and to the contrary I have personally seen the opposite. We agree with those who say if it isn't broke why fix it. Let us keep the programs implemented by Chris going. Why bring in a new sheriff and the expense that bringing in a new sheriff would entail. In our opinion Chris has earned and deserves our support. Therefore on Election Day we are voting for Sheriff Chris Vasquez.

Scott, Susan and Ryan Strobel, Florence

Cutting city spending

It appears that I made the City Council head for the barn when I mentioned their salaries Tuesday evening during the Call to the Public. I had mentioned that I thought it would be more prudent to reduce across-the-board salaries of all employees. This meaning everyone, including any group that might feel they are above the fray! I did not mean remove the salaries of the City Council! They are not salaried employees of the city, but the money to defray their expenses does come from the city coffers.

It is apparent that the city manager has the mind set to dismiss/layoff/eliminate/get rid of employees; but is this always the right path to follow? Especially when society today, is inundated with financial doom and gloom. I think it might be called a monetary psychological absence of fact!

If we could reduce all salaries by 2 percent for one year, and at the same time from accounts such as the proposed "Non-Departmental" Budgeted Expenditures (2008-2009) for the sum of \$5,838,400 maybe, just maybe a portion of that money could be put in an interest bearing account. When the insecurity of our cash flow system stabilizes, then those employees who shared in the financial survival of our city would benefit from the interest accrued in the form of repayment for the one year of lost wages.

Mr. Hoffman mentioned that if we did support the health and welfare organizations our public safety might be jeopardized? Say what? Then he mentioned that the chief of police was working very hard to reduce the overtime in the police department, Say what? If the police need overtime, and we are asking them to reduce it? What's wrong with this picture! It would seem we would want the overtime, or

maybe we just have a shortage of personnel in the department. Either way to suggest that we have to reduce or under-budget public safety doesn't sound like a good idea to me! How about you? Speak out!

Let them know what your feel/think, attend the council meetings! Express yourselves.

Charles Bunten, Apache Junction
Editor's note: The Apache Junction City Council salaries are \$800 per month.

Patriotic

I would like to answer Mr. Kerley's charge of not understanding the responsibilities of the recorder's office. For one thing, in May I requested and received the Arizona Statutes Title 11 Chapter 3-11-459 to 11-466 concerning the recorder's duties. Gilbert Rojas himself gave them to me before I even thought of running for the recorder's position. I take exception to not being able to point to any kind of delay when it took over two months to receive my voter card and I finally received my card after the second application was placed on file.

Mr. Kerley clearly has not been to any debate or he would have heard me tell of my concerns of my opponents overspending in her eight years in elected office. Budget? My opponent has never heard of this word. She is the essence of pork barrel spending. Has my opponent received any awards for saving Pinal County voters any money? I do not believe so! Her budget has increased 19 percent every year since 2001 through 2007, a whopping 133 percent. In 2008 to 2009 her budgets will go up 52 percent or \$532,000 by her own admission. In the budget year of 2007 to 2008 the actual budget was \$986,000 and from 2008 to 2009 it will be \$1.5 million as my opponent has stated. This is the largest increase in the history of the Pinal County recorder's office. The failings of our current Recorder have been noted in several newspapers. Her vacation to Hawaii, taking a few friends, and spending the hard earned taxpayers' dollars to financially pay for her entire junket being just one example. It is not patriotic Mr. Kerley, but if you want to help support a pork barrel spender, please do.

My opponent has also stated she does not have the manpower to count and authenticate 2,500 signatures. I myself authenticated 1,250 signatures in two days. If she has cross trained her staff, why does it take months for real estate documents? My opponent also broke election laws when she used Pinal County computers to promote her 2008 election bid. She also participated in breaking state election laws. Joe Camfield with Election Services stated she has flagrantly broken state law. So my opponent has handled the extra work but not always legally and at what cost to the tax payers?

I would like to personally invite Mr. Kerley to any of the remaining debates. At the Walker Butter School debate I stayed and answered questions for 30 minutes from voters to newspaper writers. Mr. Kerley if you think it's patriotic to pay higher taxes that is entirely your privilege. Mr. Kerley if you would like to support a pork barrel spender (my opponent) who breaks a state law, then so be it. However, slow work at a high cost does not deserve four more years.

I am giving the voters of Pinal County a chance to bring back honesty, integrity, and trust back to Pinal County. I would be honored to represent you as recorder of Pinal County.

John R. Acton
Reform Republican Candidate for Pinal County Recorder

Too busy?

I would like to respond to the accomplishments of Bryan Martyn, although he has many, the one that caught my attention is the one where he stated about belonging to the C.O.P. (Citizens on Patrol) of Gold Canyon.

This is true, but in the 18 months he has been on the roster, Mr. Martyn has been out on patrol only once.

I believe that he has all of these credits to his account and he doesn't have enough time to be devoted to all of them. Is this just one of many?

Mark Smith, Gold Canyon

Supports CAC

In 2005, voters gave a thumbs-down to a bond for Central Arizona College. Many said they wanted to support the college, but thought the bond was too big. That was then and this is now.

This bond is less than 25 percent the size of the 2005 bond. It will add a mere \$28 a year to the tax bill of someone living in a \$250,000 home.

When you consider that over the last five years CAC has reduced its tax rates by \$190 for the same homeowner, it really is a bargain. CAC is vital to growing our job base and to

keeping our brightest young minds right here in Pinal County instead of sending them out of the county for their education and ultimately their career.

We can't afford to delay. Vote "Yes" on Question One, the Central Arizona College bond.

Tami Tack,
Pinal County Republican Party Treasurer

from Kollenborn, A-4

Mountain). Jacob talked about a cave filled with twenty metric tons of gold bullion. He talked so much about it he believed the story himself.

I first met Robert Simpson Jacob in November of 1964, just a month after he arrived in Arizona. He was driving down First Water Road in 1960 Red Toyota Land Cruiser. We met at the old trailhead and had quite a talk. As soon as he found out I had worked for the Barkley Cattle Company I couldn't get rid of him or his stories. He told me he came to Arizona to find the Peralta Mines. He was convinced he had located them in the mountain near a place called Squaw Box.

Finally Jake and I parted company that day, but it wasn't long until I ran into him again. The next place I found him was at Pop Hamaker's Bluebird Mine & Curio Shop before Ray Ruiz bought the business in 1967. I believe Jake lived at the curio shop for a short time in 1965. "Crazy Jake" was making regular trips into the Superstition Wilderness Area by the middle of 1965. Jake was always looking for investors for a variety of schemes. He was always willing to sell you gold bullion half of spot price. If gold was going for \$300 an ounce, Jake would sell you gold bullion for \$150 per ounce with delivery within ninety to one hundred and twenty days. You would be surprised how many people fell for this deal and bought lots of mythical gold bullion.

Robert Simpson Jacob had quite an operation going in Squaw Box Canyon by the middle of the 1970's. I started writing columns for the *Apache Sentinel* in September 1976. Jake invited a reporter from the *Mesa Tribune* and me to visit his treasure site at Squaw Box. He guaranteed us we would see gold bullion. As you can imagine the trip never became reality. Jake was going to fly us in by helicopter in violation of forest service regulation. He claimed he had authorization from the U.S. Attorney General to land in the wilderness area with a helicopter. Those of you out there who remember Jake knew he was good at postponing those events that would reveal his scams or make him out a liar.

Jake was one of those individuals who had a magnetic attraction to those who wanted to get rich. These people

believed Jake was their instrument to wealth and fame. It was for this reason Jake was so successful at conning people out of money. Over a seven-year period it was estimated Jake raised more than thirty million dollars, however only seven million dollars of this money was ever documented. Robert Simpson Jacob was eventually convicted of fraud and sentenced to ten years in prison in 1986. He was eventually released and died shortly thereafter. Jake was still trying to find his Cave of Gold in the final month of his life.

Jake constantly talked about his cave of gold in the Superstition Wilderness Area. His story about a cave of gold will probably survive and continue to be retold as long as there are dreamers out there who want to believe.

Ron Feldman began a search near Iron Mountain for a cache of gold bars. He was the first prospector to convince the forest service he had a valid claim. The government for the first time gave Feldman a Trove Treasure Permit to search for treasure in the Superstition Wilderness Area. On September 11, 2004, Feldman set up camp at Roger's Trough Trail Head and proceeded to excavate an area nearby. His search did not produce any gold bars, but it did document the fact early miners had worked in the area prior to 1850's. Feldman's search continues to be a hallmark in accession rights of prospectors and miners with the United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Forestry.

The "Cave of Gold" story can be found on various sites on the world-wide web. In addition to Williams, Baxter, Jacob and Feldman there are others who have made the claim of a cave filled with gold bullion, nuggets, or high grade in the Superstition Wilderness Area. The stories of lost caves full of gold bars in the Superstition Wilderness Area are never ending. If such a cave were ever found I am to first to suggest it will be filled with copper instead of gold ingots. As far fetched as that may seem; many years ago a cache of copper bullion poorly smelted was found in cave near the Globe-Miami area. Little information exists today about this discovery, however it could explain all the stories about caves full of gold bullion in the region.

SANDIE SMITH
County Supervisor
District 2

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Ad paid for by Sandie Smith

Did You Know...
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Jonathan Lovell, DMD

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