

**Letters to the Editor**  
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and streamlined, but not only has the loss of override funds had a huge impact, the state has further restricted funding. Unless we step up and support the schools, I believe there will be a direct negative impact on the students. Go to the AJUSD web site and read "Override Consideration" under the "NEWS" tab to get more information. In the coming months the critics will come out of the woodwork, but it is imperative that we make decisions based on facts and not uninformed rhetoric.

Jey Moore Apache Junction

*Editor's note: Mr. Moore had two letters to the editor this week. His second letter will run next week, in the July 6th edition.*

**Dialing it back**

Apparently, Ed Barker doesn't like it when his opinion is refused by 87.5 percent of the respondents, so he gives out incorrect information to try to force HIS opinion (Que Pasa, June 22, 2009). Bill O'Reilly simply reported the fact that many in Kansas were referring to Dr. Tiller as "TILLER the baby KILLER". OH and by the way, BECK, RUSH, etc. are not political leaders.

Ed, do you agree that Left Wing political leaders must share the blame for the soldier in Arkansas who was murdered by the converted Moslem (Muslim)? Harry Reed (Reid) "The war is lost", John Mertha (Murtha) called our troops Murderers before they were tried in court & found not guilty, and John Kerry said "Our troops are terrorizing women and children in Iraq".

Try dialing yourself back.

Jeff Whitfield, Apache Junction

**One out of two**

When you (the editor) wrote about the pre-existing conditions (Que Pasa, June 22, 2009) I was in agreement with you, until you got to the part about "Tillman (Tiller) the Baby Killer" and about the news people at Fox Cable News. It is apparent that you get your information about the Fox Cable news from blogs like the Huffington Post and other extremely liberal web sites. Mr. O'Reilly did not make that quote but he did say that "the nick name suited him".

If you had watched his program he has denied this to fifty million daily viewers every day for the last two weeks. Ed, I would have to guess you are not one of the "fifty million" that tune into a "fair and balanced" news show. If it weren't for Fox there would not be another opinion.

Tim Johnson, Apache Junction

**Partisan politics**

Ed Barker, editor of The Apache Junction News, has become a social liability to the communities of Apache Junction/Gold Canyon. His brand of yellow journalism is creating a rift in our community which seeks to play blame games rather than seek the best in each other, which values mud-slinging and witch hunts, even to the point of slandering our most valued asset, our law enforcement and other public safety agencies.

We have become sick of these partisan politics. Everyone in the community with a brain knows that hatred and violence has no political affiliations. Who is to blame for our current state of affairs? We ALL are. Who will fix this problem? We ALL must.

I have preached the solution to partisanship can be found in four simple principles that served the Great Generation well, The Four Freedoms:

- Freedom of Worship - revile sectarianism and value the right of everyone to worship in their own way, responsibly.
- Freedom of Speech - revile hate speech, and irresponsible journalism. Everyone has a right to speak their mind, responsibly, but once it begins to harm our balanced American values and call for the elimination of the free speech of others, or only allow one viewpoint to have a say in public life, we all lose that balance, and descend into chaos.
- Freedom from Fear - All of us deserve to live free of fear. The security of all Americans to pursue Liberty and Happiness is at the center of our way of life. Finding the balance, to be secure in our homes, our churches, and our borders, must be our passion, for all of us.
- Freedom from Want - Neither Liberal nor Conservative has a monopoly on compassion. We must survey the good done by both types of organizations in our local area, from the Church to the secular club, and value what they do positive to this end, and embrace public generosity and self-sufficiency. Government is not the answer, never has been, never will be. The People will care for their own, and we must publicly support common sense answers and reject obvious partisan goals that clearly result in mass destruction of American values that have served to make us the Freest and most Prosperous nation on the planet.

One way to send a message to Barker and the cronies using his paper to cause division in our community, is to boycott advertising in his paper. All of us can see that The Independent has been far more responsible and careful of our community "hegemony" than has Barker's rag. We value this balance, and revile social division.

Reward responsible behavior, and punish those who seek to use the public for their own ends. Let's hurt them where it counts, in their pocketbook, until they learn that in the

end, all we have is one another. And that is a value that would be insane to play with.

The alternative is open Civil War. We must work for Peace. Freedom isn't free. This has been sent to both the News and The Independent for publication.

Sonny Craig, Apache Junction

**Threats and intimidation**

I have to hand it to Mr. Barker for writing a column (Que Pasa, June 22, 2009) that criticizes political extremism while he's living in the middle of political extremism. There's no doubt that someone, maybe several someones, will threaten him before the week is out.

Lawrence Klein, Gold Canyon

**Holy cow!**

Holy Cow Mr. Barker!! There is so much to comment on from last week's edition of the News that I hardly know where to start. I was going to write something after reading the article about the stupid Freeway Art, but then I read the article about the Sheriff's commander and his lying about his drug history. I was in a quandary. Which to write about? But then I read the Letters to the Editor bashing the School District for wanting an override, and that really got my blood boiling too. I was just about to take pen to paper (alright- it was keyboard to computer) when I read your opinion piece on the right wing nut jobs who are inciting their crazy followers. So then I was really conflicted. Which do I comment on? They are all worthy subjects and I can't pick any one over another. So I'll comment on all of them!! I'll be brief (at least I'll try):

Your opinion piece on the conservative lug nuts that use the public airwaves to stir up the crazies was brilliant. I could not agree more with your comments.

As to the Sheriff, he really needs to stop hiring his buddies and putting them in highly paid senior positions. He needs to fire his Chandler police buddy now. He doesn't need to wait any longer for the facts- they are in. He has the polygraph results and the AJ job application. (He has much more information than he had when he demanded the County Recorder resign). The guy lied. Fire him.

As to the School District, it's obvious that the letter writers don't know how to do research (as you pointed out by correcting their misstatements), have no clue about the concepts of deficit spending and it's relationship to job creation, don't know the challenges of teaching, and have no idea how to read a budget. They have no solutions, just complaints. It's living proof that an underfunded school system results in letter writers who can barely string two coherent sentences together.

As to the Freeway Art—now I like art as much as the next guy, but I have to say that our fine City Council should have more important things to debate than if we should draw a picture of a javelina or the Lost Dutchman on the side of the exit ramp. Mr. Serdy's contention that it will let people know they are in Apache Junction is just absurd (didn't he also go off on a tangent about the flowers in the center of town? Guess he has a thing about aesthetics). More to the point, the first piece of exit ramp art cost tax payers a little more than \$650,000 (Federal tax dollars, I believe). The second masterpiece was in the vicinity of \$750,000, and I have no idea what the third work of art is costing. Hey Council---ARE YOU PEOPLE NUTS??? How dare you spend tax dollars this way? When I asked council candidates how they

could ever justify this kind of insane expenditure, they simply responded with "if we don't ask for the money, someone else will get it". That is the biggest load of crap I have ever heard. I have no problem spending tax dollars if the money does some good. Put people to work (I doubt the freeway art projects did much toward that objective). Open a homeless shelter. Feed the poor. Anything is better than wasting the money on so-called freeway art.

Vince Desio, Apache Junction

**Gold mine is lost... not the Dutchman**

First we have Lost Dutchman Days in AJ. And now there is a headline in the June 22nd News that the Lost Dutchman May Grace Idaho Exit (headline June 22, 2009).

Who is this Lost Dutchman? I've heard of a Dutchman who may have had a mine that has gone missing for many years. But I never knew the Dutchman himself was ever reported errant.

Can't we get this wording correct? "The Dutchman's Lost Mine." "Dutchman's Lost Mine Days." "Jacob Waltz May Grace Idaho Exit."

Ted Meland, Apache Junction

*Editor's note: Mr. Meland is absolutely correct. The mine is lost; not the Dutchman.*

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