

"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

Thomas Jefferson

# OPINION

"Liberty without learning is always in peril; learning without liberty is always in vain."

John F. Kennedy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, CONTRIBUTORS

(OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE AUTHOR.)

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## Don't need an outsider

To the voters of Mariposa County, I recently read a Web site and found a disturbing page. It was written by a candidate for Mariposa County Sheriff who has spent all his time and career in Los Angeles County.

He insulted our local sheriff's department, saying it is not educated in law enforcement.

We have two local candidates who have 20-plus years of experience here in the county and are well qualified with education and training necessary to hold this position of sheriff. We need people with the knowledge and experience our community needs.

We don't need an outsider from the big city trying to shove big city ideas down our throats with insulting attitudes that don't work here. We don't need an outsider to overload the budget, bring in personal friends and cronies to replace our local deputies that are our friends and neighbors.

Bobby Lindsey has an insulting and disrespectful attitude.

We need someone with sound judgment, common sense and who knows what is going on in our communities and knows the needs of the county. We need a mountain man for mountain people.

J. Blevins

## Coyote Springs

Mr. Brockman,

What is laughable is the voters who voted in a supervisor who has stopped Ms. Castaldi's constitutional right to earn a living and bring money and jobs to Mariposa County.

Estelle Green

## Never, never land

The comparison of Peter Pan's Never Never Land and Theresa Castaldi's Coyote Springs Ranch are very similar. Peter Pan never wanted to grow up and neither does Theresa Castaldi. We have all enjoyed her antics at the county board meetings about how she has been singled out and persecuted. You never hear about how she pulled over 40 permits then promptly forgot what the terms of those permits were and tried to "adjust" them to her liking.

Like parents being tolerant of a spoiled child, the county tried to explain and reason with her about her obligations, which is more than her investors or local businesses got from her. However, all that invoked was tears and you don't understand.

Well, I understood it in plain English. You needed to complete a driveway encroachment permit, were given three chances to do so and finally when the barricades went up, you cried foul. But does that stop you from doing business at the ranch, although you are not permitted. Yes, Peter Pan, oops, Theresa, now you want to run for supervisor in District 3. You have demonstrated the inability to compete projects, within a time restraint. You have not been able to bal-

ance you funds and those funds entrusted to you (from investors). You have hired local labor and not paid them (a big sin for a small community) and have mocked our County employees as being unfair and unqualified to perform their jobs. Tell us just what do you expect to do as a supervisor in District 3? Before you throw your hat into a political ring, I suggest you demonstrate some abilities to handle the position.

Carla R. Kelly

## Ideas for Ferguson viaduct

In response to your latest news, I propose a tunnell (viaduct) to be constructed at the original site of the slide, to encapsulate the roadway starting before the slide area and extending beyond.

Masaygo quotes, "still the same six alternatives on the table" and "expects design process of any proposal to take 24 months." It sounds like the state is asking for better ideas. In past articles, I've read about bigger bridges, cross along at different sites. Relocation of roadway, above the river; with tunnels through the mountains. Concerns that with removal of debris at the site, future slides are imminent.

Knowledge of all six proposed ideas at this time will give Mariposa the insight needed to place further ideas on the table. Mariposa supervisors should ask that the county be instrumental in all aspects on this job site. I can see two positive outcomes: one, employment of Mariposa residents; and an increase in the tax base. Education into the allocation of future projects along this beautiful corridor we all call home.

Jeff Macready Liston

## Paying it forward

My name is Todd Maddux, and I am an agriculture teacher at Dos Palos High School. The first week in December a fire in the adjoining wood shop swept across the Career and Technical Education wings on our campus and subsequently entirely destroyed our agriculture department and the ag mechanics shop. Student projects, record books, FFA and ag department history were all destroyed. The outpouring of support from our community and surrounding communities has been amazing. But this letter is to tell you about the support we (Dos Palos ag department and students) have received from your community's generous young people.

Two weeks ago, my parents, who live in Mariposa, received a check made out to the Dos Palos FFA from one of your great youth organizations. The Triangle 4-H decided to donate money to help our students in Dos Palos rebuild. My parents were both ag teachers, my sister is an ag teacher, and I subsequently chose this field of education. I have been a member of or involved with 4-H and FFA organizations my entire life and know the limited funds these clubs have to operate on while being an integral part of students' education and development of leadership skills. That is why I, the staff of our ag department, and our stu-

dents were so appreciative of this donation. The unselfishness and generosity of your young people to decide to help other young people they have never met is without question a direct reflection of your great community.

When I and the other ag teacher received this check, our first reaction was, "How can we possibly take a check from young people who probably need this money for their organization's daily operations?" But, we agreed that we are not the ones to tell these young people that helping others you feel need help is without warrant or appreciation. We shared the news of this donation with our students in the hope that they will know the generosity of people to give all they can to help others. My only hope is that our students will "pay it forward" and have the same moral and grounded values that your young people have exhibited. Thank you.

Todd Maddux

## Endorses Binnewies

I have been retired for a few years now, but still and always will care about the future of law enforcement in our county. We are fortunate to have three candidates running for the office of sheriff. Serving in your sheriff's office for 31 years, I had the opportunity of watching and evaluating the performance of two of those candidates on a daily basis. I feel a strong, personal obligation to endorse and support the only candidate that truly stands out, a professional who will continue providing excellent law enforcement services to the citizens of Mariposa County.

It is with great humility and pride that I give my endorsement and full support to Undersheriff Doug Binnewies. His credentials are incredible. His integrity is impeccable and his strong, positive leadership qualities are invaluable. Undersheriff Binnewies is a pillar in the county and stands as a role model and leader we can all look up to both in his personal and professional life. Undersheriff Binnewies has always demonstrated the highest level of commitment to the safety and overall well-being of our citizens. He has a wealth of law enforcement and local government experience, along with an undeniable devotion to community.

Your sheriff's office is ever-changing and will require the absolute attention and commitment from your next sheriff to move our public safety issues forward. Undersheriff Binnewies has been preparing himself to do just that. I am confident that he will lead with honor and integrity while continuing a very proud, unselfish and trustworthy commitment to the citizens of Mariposa County.

C.A. "Pelk" Richards  
Mariposa County Sheriff, retired

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and opinions.

Additional letters on Page A-5.