

Letters to the editor: 10-31-17

By Contributed Content

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Town manager search

A recent article discusses Apple Valley's town manager search. This brings to mind two critical points that need to be addressed, specifically the total compensation for the Town Manager (2016) and (some) assistant town managers is greater than the governor of California. This is a ridiculous situation resulting from insufficient oversight and control by the Town Council. Now is the time to start correcting that problem.

Secondly, Assistant Town Manager Marc Puckett may well be considered for this position. If so, the full and complete circumstances of his (recent traffic accident) must be made public. This matter was sent to the District Attorney for determination some time ago. Let's be sure it doesn't get swept under the rug for political considerations.

Dean Schepis, Apple Valley

Desert Guardian a good step

I am writing to commend the efforts of Sheriff McMahon and his staff, as well as the leadership of District Attorney Mike Ramos and the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, for the Desert Guardian anti-crime sweeps that recently took over 800 criminals off the streets of the High Desert. A significant number of those arrested had benefited from early release under AB 109, legislation enacted by the Democrat-led state Legislature that had the effect of reducing sentences while undermining the ability of local law enforcement to protect its citizens.

While this successful operation was made possible by a one-time allocation of funding from the Board of Supervisors, I believe that crime sweeps would be even more effective if conducted on a regular basis, perhaps monthly for a period of one or two years. Regular saturation patrols and criminal sweeps would have the effect of encouraging career criminals to relocate elsewhere.

I applaud the efforts of our local law enforcement personnel as well as the elected and appointed community leaders that made this successful crime prevention effort possible. I encourage High Desert residents and representatives to continue their dialogue geared toward reducing crime in the region.

Joseph W. Brady, Trustee, Victor Valley Community College District

More uplifting pieces please

A recent letter was so refreshing. The writer cited a number of famous people's take on the Las Vegas massacre. He concludes the remarks are opinions not necessarily based on fact. What was so unusual was he didn't spew any hatred on groups or a person.

Don't people realize that constantly slamming others just adds to the divisiveness our country is experiencing? It also distracts us from personal responsibility (sorely lacking in U.S.A.).

The op-ed column by Holly Noel the same day was a thing of beauty. I'd love to see more uplifting pieces like this in the paper. She talks about the loving behavior displayed by strangers to people in need. Maybe we're paying too much attention to the wrong things.

These two writers are people I'd like to spend time with. I invite them to visit the High Desert Spiritual Gathering where we are "moving toward the light of a better tomorrow."

Marie Youpelle, Apple Valley

Is this heroism?

When I was growing up, heroes were always those military men who captured and killed the enemy, saving their brothers in arms by disabling machine gun nests, tanks and other artillery on the battlefield.

In World War I, Sgt. Alvin York was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for single-handedly capturing 132 Germans and silencing a nest of 35 machine guns, saving the lives of many in his unit.

In World War II, Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of that conflict, was awarded the CMH for many of his brave deeds in silencing Nazi ground forces by neutralizing gun emplacements and disabling tanks on the battlefields of France. The governments of France and Belgium also rewarded his bravery with medals.

However, Senator John McCain became a hero by being shot down, captured, and imprisoned by the enemy during the Vietnam war.

I always thought that heroes captured the enemy, not the other way around.

Harold Pollner, Apple Valley

One veteran's opinion

I don't know what the NFL is trying to advertise, but selling anti-Americanism by routinely disrespecting the American flag during the national anthem of each game is abhorrent to myself and everyone I know. This disgusting behavior of NFL players has now surfaced amongst our young children who kneel and turn their backs to the daily pledge of allegiance to the flag at grade schools across the country.

As a veteran, God and country are one and two in my personal priorities, and seeing them slammed on a weekly basis is beyond belief. Go ahead NFL, continue to force your repulsive politics down our throats, but certainly don't expect us Americans to just take it. For the first time in decades, I have turned off football in our household and found other things to do on Sundays, and so too have some of my friends.

Mark Reynolds, Spring Valley Lake

The holiday spirit is dying

For the last two or three years, I've noticed the holiday spirit disappear little by little. When I was a kid, about 16 years ago or so, I remember my mom driving my little brother and I around the neighborhood to look at everyone's Christmas lights and decorations. I remember going trick or treating and just about every house on the block was decked out in webs, skeletons, ghosts, and pumpkins. I wish I could say the same now.

For the last few years, the fun and excitement of decorations has died. It really upsets me that when I drive down the street, I can't find one decorated house on the block. When I drive to work in Spring Valley Lake, almost all of those beautiful big homes that once displayed haunted houses and lots of spooky but fun scenery for Halloween are still just houses. There's no decorations. There's no holiday spirit. Not only in SVL, but in neighborhoods all over.

The children today aren't going to experience true fun of Halloween or the magical feeling of Christmas like I did. It's kind of sad. Am I the only one who feels this way? Has anyone seen homes that in fact do decorate? I hope so. I don't want the spirit to die.

Megan Passaquindici, Hesperia



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