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Editorials

Recreationists need to get permit for state land

We fully support the movement under way by local hikers and mountain bikers to protect hundreds of acres of State Trust land with many trails an area Green Valley recreation enthusiasts are calling the West Desert Preserve.

Organizers of this grass-roots campaign, including Bill Adamson, co-chair of the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Committee, have met with Green Valley Recreation leaders and county officials who have expressed an interest in including the West Desert trails in the county's master trail plan.

The area in question is west of Green Valley proper between several residential neighborhoods and the Phelps Dodge Sierrita Mine.

Advocates of the West Desert Preserve argue convincingly that the land provides an important buffer from the mine, while at the same time serving as a potential public park and natural area for Green Valley-area residents to pursue their recreational interests, such as hiking, biking, birdwatching and more.

Green Valley has no public parks, so this area would seem to

serve as prime possibility.

However, we hope advocates realize that State Trust land is not public land and that those who use it are obliged to purchase a recreational use permit from the State Land Department.

The cost of a permit is minimal—just \$15 per individual or \$20 for a family for less than five days and \$50 for a year.

To apply for a permit, you can go to the State Land Department's Web site at www.land.state.az.us or call their office in Tucson at 209-4250.

State Trust lands, which include

9.3 million acres in Arizona, are managed for sale to the highest bidder, with the revenue used to fund schools, prisons and other state functions. We strongly support the efforts of GV residents to get this parcel of State Trust land preserved for recreation.

However, in recent weeks, the State Land Department has been posting "No Trespassing" signs at various entry points to the West Desert Preserve, which tells us that word has gotten out that the area is being widely used, possibly in many cases by residents who have not obtained a permit.

We hope this will not continue to be the case so as not to jeopardize the efforts of those who want to see the West Desert Preserve designated for conservation.

Unfortunately, the State Trust land Department doesn't publicize the permit requirements as much as it should, but the "No trespassing" signs tell the story.

If you want to use State Trust land, by all means purchase a permit. And vote yes on the statewide initiatives which would place more State Trust land in the conservation category to preserve the land for recreation.

Letters to the Editor

Rethink Rosemont mine

Editor:

As might be expected, we are getting the usual hue and cry from the "not-in-my-backyard" people about the prospect of a mine in the Rosemont area. I can't begin to evaluate the merits of such a proposal, ecologically or otherwise.

But, before we become completely polarized I want to make a plea for some balanced thinking.

I never miss an opportunity to remind people that there are only two basic industries on this planet of ours – mining and agriculture (and they are interdependent). When I bring this up I may get a "Gee, I never thought of that," but I am sure to get a litany of industries which some think are equally basic – construction, health services, transportation, steel making, etc. etc.

None of those industries would last beyond their inventory without mining and/or agriculture.

Look around you. Can you see anything (inanimate, of course) that does not in some way derive from mining or agriculture.

I believe we need to make use of our natural resources. We must do so prudently and judiciously, and often at a price, of course. We cannot always depend on other countries to supply us with raw materials.

We cannot keep on locking up our energy resources in wilderness areas and then cry about the price of gas.

One of the most dangerous statements you might hear is "Oh, they'll think of something!" Don't count on it.

Peter P. Ribotto
Green Valley

Interesting news items

Editor:

• The Amado community building should be named The Charles Oldham Center.

• One bit of missing Canoa Ranch history was that Steve Meyers, Fairfield's public relations guy back when, tried in vain to get Fairfield to buy the ranch as a tourist attraction

and conference center.

• A letter writer chastised another writer about one of the local restaurants being closed during the migrant demonstrations. He said it was closed because the cooks didn't show up. Can you say illegal cooks? Their employment is against the law, sir.

• I'll miss Dean Brown's smile. He was the first person I met when I arrived in Tucson in 1975 when I visited the American Airlines office at TIA.

• Recently, I paid \$2.93 for regular gas in Green Valley. No Web site needed.

• Tucson police statement on "meth": "We don't have a crime problem in Tucson, we have a meth problem." If your home is invaded, a business is burgled, construction is burned, domestic violence occurs, it's probably methamphetamines - "meth." It's not just kids – some Green Valley residents are hooked.

Jerry Pulliam
Sahuarita

A bloodless answer

Editor:

We are wrong in opposing Iran's enrichment of uranium in its program of using nuclear energy peacefully. Our opposition may backfire.

Consider Iran's predicament. It vividly remembers a vicious war it had with Iraq, when millions died or were wounded.

It has resolved never to let that happen again. It will develop a nuclear weapon as a defense.

If Iran stops at peaceful uses, that will be to its credit. If it tries to go further, we have an answer: the hydrogen bomb. We have the know-how. We can flatten Tehran, after letting the inhabitants leave first. It could be a bloodless answer.

The mere threat should be enough to keep Iran in line. We shouldn't have to kill people, as we had to do with Japan to convince its leaders.

We could offer this as a protection for Iran against its enemies. It can also be used to quell other conflicts. We could have a peaceful world!

Let's be sensible. Iran could close the Straits

of Hormuz to traffic. The price of gasoline could go from \$3 to \$5 per gallon overnight.

W.E. Railing
Green Valley

Reason to believe us

Editor:

In June of 2005 Mohammed Gulab, an Afghanistan, found a wounded American commando, a Navy Seal. He took him into his home for two days, fed him and sheltered him and contacted the American forces so they rescue him.

The Jihadists demanded that he be released to them. Gulab and the other men in the village refused to do so and took him to a nearby cave, posted armed guards for four more days before the U.S. rescue team arrived to take him to a U.S. base.

The Seal thanked Gulab and promised the U.S. would send him a reward and possibly relocate him to the U.S. (the military denies this).

Death threats have forced Mohammed to abandon his home and all his possessions, including his pick-up truck.

His little lumber business has been burned to the ground, his brother-in-law has been shot. He has been given a \$250 a month construction job on a military base.

I am asking everyone who is touched by this story to contact their legislators as I am going to do. I am appalled that we, America, could be this insensitive when we are trying to insure that all Afghanis understand we are there to help them become independent of all insurgents like the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

If this event is true, we surely need to do something to give the people a reason to believe us and help us.

Bob Porter
Green Valley

Portrait of America's greatness

Editor:

I was truly saddened recently to learn of the passing away of Joe Kastanek of

Ed Nemechek
Landers, Calif.

Letters Policy

The News reserves the right to edit contributions for length, accuracy and clarity.

Letters exceeding 300 words will be edited. Readers are invited to submit guest commentaries which should not exceed 700 words.

Writers of commentaries may submit an accompanying photo and brief biographical information. The News also retains the right to reject any letter and limit frequent contributors to a maximum

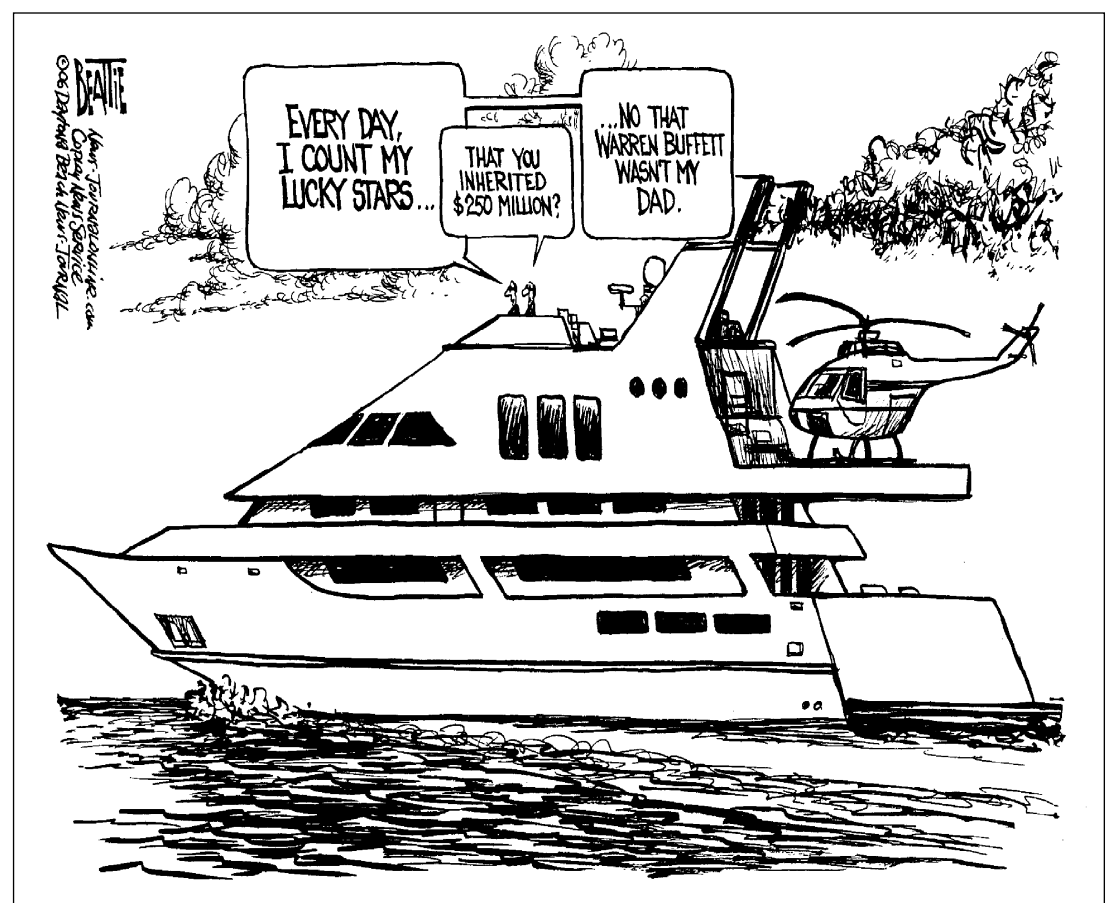
of one per month. All contributions must include the writer's name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Letters and commentaries should be submitted to any of the following:

Fax: 520-625-1603

Email: letters@gvnews.com

Mail: P.O. Box 567, Green Valley, AZ 85622



Looking Back

One year ago

Answering the needs of the community, the *Green Valley News and Sun* expands its news coverage to three days a week with the publication of its first Sunday edition.

Five years ago

A U.S. District Court judge rules that the playing of slot machines, keno and black-

jack is illegal in Arizona, and at the same time declares the state's Indian gaming compacts unconstitutional.

Ten years ago

Members of the Sahuarita Town Council unanimously vote 6-0 to approve a final budget of about \$1.57 million for the 1996-97 fiscal year.

GREEN VALLEY

NEWS

AND SUN

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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