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APPALLING

The long-winded letter on February 2, 2024 is appalling. It's my understanding that one of the commissioners wrote it.

How dare they accuse anybody of swindling citizens for votes. Prove it! They have no decency to put that accusation into writing.

The entire commission should be embarrassed by that letter.

s/Debra L. Devault
125 Cedar St. #8
T-or-C, NM

EB COUNCIL

As read at the last Elephant Butte City Council meeting:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak. The last time I was here, John Mascaro pushed me out of the building with his belly, because the truth hurts. I emailed each of you detailing the incident and heard nothing in return.

As a long-time resident of Elephant Butte, I am frankly embarrassed by our city council. The

hiring of an unqualified city manager, who is forced to leave his last position in disgrace, should never have happened had our councilor's done any due diligence. John Mascaro's shady past was easy to discover. Had our city council done their job, his future transgressions would have been easy to predict.

The affair between Mr. Mascaro and Ms. Sevedra was well known. The pair clearly did not respect the city, or their positions, because they knew the council would do nothing about it.

When the pair was finally put on leave, the taxpayers paid them over \$12,000 to do nothing for us. It is unacceptable that Mr. Mascaro was put on paid leave after the city spent thousands defending and settling the numerous lawsuits that he caused.

I understand that employee negotiations and complaints are handled in executive session; however, the lack of transparency around Mr. Mascaro and Ms. Sevedra's eventual release is unacceptable. When it comes to

transparency again, this council gives the citizens and taxpayers, once again nothing.

Now we are left with no city manager or fire chief while paying an outside firm to find a new city manager for us.

You were elected by the people to do what is best for the community, and you have failed, miserably. Your inaction and inability to do the jobs you were elected to do has done serious damage to the city. The cost of your mistakes goes beyond the financial losses.

It is past time for you all to step down. If you truly cared about the community, you would allow the state to take over and get us back on track.

s/Paul Forsyth
PO Box 54
Elephant Butte, NM

SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE CHILD

The problem with schoolroom disorder and violence by wayward children is a reflection of the society at large in Western nations, the lack of sufficient corporal punishment and lack of capital punishment (the death penalty) for certain crimes. I call this the heresy of non-punishmentism. Western societies coddle wayward children and criminals and leave the victims without any recourse to justice and create chaos, disorder, and fear in school or society at large.

Here is what the Word of God says about sufficient corporal punishments when necessary: "Withhold not correction from a child; for if thou strike him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from hell." (Prv. 23:13-14) "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, and the rod of correction shall drive it away." (Prv. 22:15) "Give thy son his way, and he shall make thee afraid... Give him not liberty in his youth and wink not at his devices. Bow down his neck while he is young and beat his sides while he is a child, lest he grow stubborn and regard thee not, and so be a sorrow of heart to thee. Instruct thy son, and labour about him, lest his lewd behaviour be an offence to thee." (Eccus. 30:9-13)

And St. Paul says, "And you have forgotten the consolation, which speaketh to you, as unto children, saying: My son, neglect

not the discipline of the Lord; neither be thou wearied whilst thou art rebuked by him. For whom the Lord loveth, he chastiseth. And he scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. Persevere under discipline. God dealeth with you as with his sons; for what son is there whom the father doth not correct? But if you be without chastisement, then are you bastards and not sons." (Heb. 12:5-8)

Cowboys should know this; after all, they tame wild horses by breaking them.

A spirit of effeminacy and non-punishmentism are pervasive in the West in Democratic nations. A natural effect of democracies and republics is that the people are taught that they have the right to believe and do whatever they want. No one is going to tell them what to do, not even

God. This fosters a spirit of rebellion against lawful authority and thus leads to lawlessness, disorder, and chaos. Wayward children, criminals, and other malcontents are coddled and protected while victims are ignored and in some cases vilified when they try to defend themselves.

"A voice was heard in the highways, weeping and howling of the children of Israel, because they have made their way wicked. They have forgotten the Lord their God. Return, you rebellious children, and I will heal your rebellions." (Jer. 3:21-22)

For your only hope of salvation, visit the www.JohnTheBaptist.us website.

s/Richard Joseph Michael
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(Over 350 words paid)

on his back, place the rock carefully at the bottom, and re-zip.

After poking along, stopping, looking, tossing (or saving) for about 45 minutes without spotting a single folded rhyolite rock, I finally plop down and take a swig of water 15 feet from a giant yucca stalk that has caught my outdoor decorator's eye. The quest for folded rhyolite, never really my thing, is becoming tedious. Suddenly, I hear, "Look!". Scrambling up at the excitement in his voice, I pick my way towards him, carefully avoiding cacti camouflaged among the rocks.

Folded Rhyolite is a pale, finely-grained volcanic rock of granitic composition, typically porphyritic in texture. Yep, I had to look that up. Michael is standing in the middle of an area that looks like somebody had taken a paintbrush and delicately tinted layer after layer of rocks with muted pinks, browns, and purples, then broke them sharply along curved lines. They appear soft, delicate, tender, almost feminine, if rocks can be gendered.

Scattered around are many stones with tiny embedded crystals. That is what porphyritic means, if you want a geology lesson. Some look like miniature sheep, with hundreds of crystal wool bumps across the surface.

Michael points excitedly to a stack of porphyritic stones piled at his feet and again exclaims, "Look! Someone found all these and then didn't take them!" He begins to sort through the cast-offs. "Look at this one. Oh! I think this one is better. What do you think? Wow... this one is huge!" He is like a kid in a candy store.

"Um, Michael?" I point out it is already 2:00 p.m., in the high 70s, in the middle of the desert, the pickup is half a mile away, and he has twice as many rocks as he can possibly carry. So he empties the backpack of its previous treasures and lays them next to the rhyolite and the crystals for comparison.

The rocks are rearranged and re-sorted. There is talk of hoping the straps won't give out, but the re-configured collection is finally hoisted on Michael's broad back. After much sweaty effort and a few curse words, I have managed to break off the dried yucca stalk. We both carefully make our way down the steep slope with treasures in hand.

Arriving home, I carefully lift my yucca out of the truck bed. I have the perfect spot for it. In turn, Michael hoists the 60-plus-pound backpack out of the pickup bed and, with just as much care, lines all the rocks up for a bath.

As I head off for a shower and nap, I thank God we live in this beautiful place and for a husband who wants a companion for his rock-hounding adventures.

Information about the upcoming rock show and SCRAGS can be found at SCRAGS.ORG.

Alice Wyatt is a local writer and community connector. Her writing can be found at www.alicewyatt.com

FUNDRAISERS
603 MAIN ST
WE WILL BE HOSTING SOME FUNDRAISERS COMING UP! THIS MEANS WE WILL BE OPEN SOME SUNDAYS!!

MILE MARKER 7 GIVE BACK EVENTS

- Sunday March 10th 7am-1pm (NHRC - Youth Group)
- Sunday April 14th 7am - 1pm (NHRC- Youth Group)
- Sunday April 21th 7am - 1pm (Herons on the Water)

Anchored Youth Ministries



Sierra Co Farm Bureau presents
The NOT SO Newlywed Game
Proceeds to benefit the 2024 Sierra County Fair Buyers Dinner

Thank you for celebrating the special day with us!
We would like to thank everyone so much for your generous donation to our Sierra County Fair Board Fundraiser.
We truly appreciate your commitment to the kids in our community.
We couldn't do it without supporters like you!

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