

# EDITORIALS & LETTERS

## A letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

The Messenger editorial committee has decided that we have been, perhaps, too lenient with the letters we have allowed into the Messenger. We think some feelings may have gotten hurt and caused some tension in the community, which is exactly what we do NOT want to have happen! So, from this moment on we will not accept unsigned letters or editorial comments. We will be stricter in our policy to not accept any article, letter or editorial that is hurtful or vengeful or states unbecoming facts about an individual, whether truthful or not. If you feel strongly about something and wish to express it in such a manner we have provided a Community Forum for this type of discussion. You may logon to our website at [www.backcountrymessenger.com](http://www.backcountrymessenger.com) and click on Community Forum. You will need to register one time with a username and password. This username and password will need to be verified (by the administrator - me) before you will be able to post. This normally takes one or two days. You will be able to read posts as a guest,

but will not be able to comment.

I will also be providing a hands-on class in the computer lab at the community center in Campo detailing how to use these services. The class will be Saturday, April 10th at 9:30 am. The class will last about an hour. The community center is located at 976 Sheridan Rd. just across the street from the Sheriff's Station.

You will learn how to use the Messenger's online community calendar to add your own community events. Also, you will be able to get a username and password instantly for the community forum and post remarks. I hope to see you there.

To anyone who has been offended by the type of letters and editorials that have been published up until now, we express our sincerest apologies.

Here are the complete set of rules for publication of editorials and letters to the editor:

To be considered for publication, a letter must include a daytime phone number and, if faxed

or mailed, be signed. E-mail it to [editor@backcountrymessenger.com](mailto:editor@backcountrymessenger.com), or fax it to (866) 584-8524. You can also send it to Editor, The Back Country Messenger, P.O. Box 71, Campo, CA 91906.

We do not allow personal insults, derogatory or racist remarks, or abusive, vulgar or obscene language.

Because of the number of letters we receive, and to allow as many readers as possible to be published, it is the policy of the Back Country Messenger to publish no more than one letter from the same author within 60 days. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

It is also our policy to publish letters supporting or opposing a particular issue in a ratio reflecting the number received on each side. For example, if we receive three times the number of letters supporting Side A than Side B, we'll publish three times more letters supporting Side A.

Letters submitted may be used in print or in digital form in any publication or services offered by The Back Country Messenger.

## An open letter to Joe Carmody

Dear Joe,

*Wake up and smell the coffee*

The electorate spoke at the polls in November of 2008 and the Merit-sponsored Planning Group members were voted out of office. Obviously the electorate liked the H.O.P.E. message as opposed to the Merit message. The Planning Board majority formerly held by Merit-supported members has become one held by H.O.P.E.-supported members. It happens all the time, Joe. It happened to the USA last November.

You mentioned 740 potential new homes in the Cameron Corners area. Wow, that is scary! Because I am not a "development friendly" person, this would be of great concern to me. However, when given some unbiased thought,

it appears so unrealistic as to be dismissed out of hand. Do the math, Joe, 740 homes with 4 people per home is nearly 3000 people in that area. Do you think that this could really happen? Possibly in a thousand years, but then the Back Country will be overrun and not because of our General Plan Update. So, is this referral to 740 homes just another Merit piece of propaganda?

The revised General Plan Update was crafted by nine, and I mean all nine, reasonable, intelligent citizens of our community who hold the best interests of the community above all else, not the self interests of a small few.

Joe, you give the impression that H.O.P.E. is evil and is misleading the community. As Treasurer of H.O.P.E. since its inception, I can tell

you that we are transparent. Our meetings are open to all and are well advertised. We submit financial reports to the County Registrar of Voters semi-annually which become public record. But you already know this because that is where you find out who donates and how much they donate to H.O.P.E. Now Merit, on the other hand, who backed you as a candidate for the Planning Group, is a secret organization which does not advertise its meetings. It spent money to get you elected yet that does not become public record. Strange, H.O.P.E. must comply but Merit does not.

Finally, Joe, I suppose you are beholden to Merit and must toe the party line, but Chula Vista???

Sincerely,

Sid Fox

## Congress of History meeting attendee recognizes Messenger Midge Neff-LeClair

Dear Editor,

I recently attended the Congress of History Conference which was held on March 5th & 6th. I had the great pleasure of introducing myself to a lady who sat next to me. I had recognized her from her photo that is on her column "Then & Now" that is in your Back Country Messenger. I was

sitting next to Midge Neff-LeClair, PhD.

What a delightful person she is. On Sat. March 6th she was presented an award for her years of dedicated service. They gave her the award in front of the Congress of History banner that she had made for them 35 years ago. I was so pleased to have been there. I have only one thing to

say to Midge, "YOU GO GIRL."

Sincerely,

Marie "Wild Mule Mary" Hale

EDITOR'S NOTE: MIDGE NEFF-LECLAIR RECEIVED "THE HISTORICAL TRAILBLAZER" AWARD FROM THE CONGRESS OF HISTORY IN OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO ON

MARCH 6TH. NEFF-LECLAIR WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF HISTORY IN 1964. SHE SERVED AS PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

IN HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE MIDGE HAS REPLICATED MANY PERIOD COSTUMES AND THE 16 DIFFERENT FLAGS THAT FLEW OVER EARLY CALIFORNIA.

HER AWARD WAS PRESENTED

IN FRONT OF A CONGRESS OF HISTORY BANNER SHE MADE 35 YEARS AGO.



PHOTO AT RIGHT: MIDGE NEFF-LECLAIR

**THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON THIS PAGE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE BACK COUNTRY MESSENGER NEWSPAPER, IT'S STAFF, MESSENGERS OR ADVERTISERS.**

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### Join The Back Country Messenger Online Community Forum

Find out what your neighbors have to say about issues effecting your community! Voice your opinions! It's easy to participate!

Logon to [www.backcountrymessenger.com](http://www.backcountrymessenger.com)

CLICK ON COMMUNITY FORUM

To participate you will need to register. Click the "Register" link at the top of the page. If you have a problem please contact [lynn@backcountrymessenger.com](mailto:lynn@backcountrymessenger.com)

### Learn How To Use The Back Country Messenger Online Community Forum and Online Community Calendar!

FREE CLASS

Learn how you can add your own comments to the Community Forum and add your own community events to the Community Calendar

Saturday, April 10th at 9:30 AM

at the Community Center in Campo 976 Sheridan Rd. across the street from the Sheriff's Station

## Reader writes about health care

Editor,

I'm writing about Health Care reform today because I am worn out reading and hearing about how bad it would be if the insurance industry were regulated and people were protected from the greed of the current system. I have lived in Australia for years and experienced first hand the benefits of a system which protects everyone. I have visited Canada and heard about their system and have friends living in England who wouldn't think of

privatizing the system they have there.

People who complain about the possibility of waiting for non urgent surgery such as hip replacement or knee replacement have a point. However, that point is muted by the complaints of the family whose child has cancer and is denied life saving treatment; or a family whose grandmother is cutting her heart medications in half because the cost of her prescriptions

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