

Letters

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Babeu should stop embellishing and covering up his own corroded sense of honor by publicly parading and humiliating an otherwise pathetic and misguided candidate.

Regardless of the sheriff's vengeful posturing, the voters will deal with Constable candidate Acton's careless background claims. At the same time, Babeu should not be allowed to sanctimoniously forget that Pinal voters did not apply similar disqualifying standards to the sheriff's male sex solicitations that truly stole honor from fellow professional law enforcement officers. Clearly Babeu figures the public has forgotten his misrepresentations and exaggerated resume of "studboi1," Babeu's chosen

internet screen name as he trotted for sex.

While contemplating charges and investigations, Pinal County authorities should inquire into last week's unlawful misuse of County government offices and resources in brazenly issuing government press releases on strictly partisan political squabbles.

Either candidate Acton's actions are a law enforcement issue demanding filing of charges by the Sheriff, or they're a partisan political fight being stage-managed by party "capo" Babeu.

In any case, the public and the Board of Supervisors should demand that Paul Babeu file charges or stop using the Sheriff's Office as the political headquarters of the Republican Party boss.

**Roberto Reveles
Gold Canyon**

Smith a farce of a state legislator

Dear Editor,

To prepare for the 2014 elections, I have scoured the voters' guides, read the logic and thinking behind recent endorsements, and reviewed legislative voting records of those who have them. In the LD 11 Senate race, there is only one conclusion: Steve Smith is out of touch with reality and should not be returned to the AZ legislature. Here's why:

1) Smith is a religious zealot, who publically has claimed he's in Arizona because God sent him here. How can Smith represent the diversity of LD 11 appropriately and fairly? What about atheists, native peoples, or those of faiths other than his?

2) Smith champions an irrational view of the real-world. He

claims that his legislature balanced the budget. Recent news articles tell the real story: AZ is actually billions in debt. Smith voted for that. He also irrationally thought he'd raise billions of dollars to construct a border fence. He didn't raise enough to build 1/10th of a mile. Leadership or boondoggle?

3) Smith simplistically likens complex modern America to 1776. He proclaims it on his

campaign posters. How is going backward, leadership? Does he even realize that in 1776 Arizona didn't exist, women had no legal standing and no rights, and the vast majority of Africans here were slaves? Perhaps that is his vision of Arizona.

4) Smith is an absentee representative: The Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce reports that Smith missed 27.4 percent of legislative votes. Leadership?

And Smith voted *against* the Arizona School Board's Association on every education bill in the last legislative session.

I will cast my vote for Jo Holt, a retired scientist, a mother, a compassionate care-giver, and a candidate with concrete solutions to the real-world challenges facing Arizona today.

**Tim Koch
Tucson**

Marriage

Continued from Page 1

years of dating had not expected to get legally married any time soon.

"We didn't really consider it because it wasn't allowed," Desoto said. "But when the decision came down from the 9th Circuit, we really began to think that this could actually be a possibility."

Until today, their story was the norm for same-sex couples in Arizona, wondering when if ever they were going to be offered the same benefits of heterosexual couples. This left a feeling of relief among them almost as strong as the joy.

"I was scared that if something happened to her, like going to the hospital, I wouldn't be able to be there for her when she needed me," Desoto said. "Or God forbid, something serious happened to me and I passed away, she wouldn't get the help she needs."

The crowd that awaited them behind Window 1 wasn't just present for the historic nature of the event. Sowers works in the clerk's office, making this an even more personal occasion in her life. Her co-workers were there to show their love at the end of a tough journey for equal rights. It also ensured she would be able to make history.

"I've worked here for 25 years," Sowers said. "So I told them to make sure we're the first ones."



Joey Chenoweth/Coolidge Examiner

Denise Sowers, left, and Madison Desoto, partners for more than three years, were married on Friday - the first same-sex couple to do so in Pinal County.

The reception was merely a part of the support the couple has received all day. Ever since Federal District Court judge John Sedwick made his ruling early in the morning and Home made his announcement that he would not fight the ruling any longer, Sowers and Desoto were receiving phone calls from friends and family congratulating them on the news, even though many of those calling had no idea they wanted to get married. Then, after they received the

license, someone waiting in the office came up and gave both of them a hug, emotional over the path they have helped set.

They say they have not had time to set a date for a wedding ceremony, but they want to do it soon, and they know the celebrations will be something they will never forget.

"This is all so amazing," Sowers said. "We have so much support and so much acceptance in our lives."

Local couple

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While the clerk's office still needs to order the elegant, wedding-esque pieces of license paper stating "applicant" instead

of "bride" or "groom" from an outside company, couples can get a license and then return to the office at a later date to switch it out.

Capitol Media Services reported Friday morning that gay rights advocates have stationed ministers at all 15 county courthouses for gay couples wishing to wed immediately after receiving their license on Friday.

After Home's Friday morning announcement that he would not appeal Judge John Sedwick's ruling that the recent Ninth Circuit Court decision to strike down Nevada and Idaho's gay marriage ban also applies to Arizona, the Maricopa couple who started it all reflected on the momentous verdict.

Joe Connolly and Terry Pochert, the men who sued the state last December to recognize their 2008 California marriage, released a joint statement Friday morning:

"Today's ruling by Judge John Sedwick has granted Arizona same-sex couples the same rights

and privileges our opposite sex counterparts have enjoyed for years. We have longed for this day for years; for ourselves, for others who have gone before us and for those who will come after us. Opponents who blocked marriage equality through local, state and federal laws and through our court system learned today that legislators and the voting population cannot discriminate. The "will of the people" can never trounce on the rights of a minority."

"...As people of faith, it is our wish and hope that all couples will carefully, thoughtfully and prayerfully take their own reflective journey toward marriage, civil or religious. We hope you will plan a wedding that represents your uniqueness and speaks to your families, friends and co-workers. Celebrate with a wedding that consummates your engagement.

"Enter into marriage with your eyes open, thoughts for the future and plan a celebration befitting of your love."

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REQUEST FOR ARGUMENTS FOR & AGAINST

PROP 405

Proposition 405 will appear on the November 4th, 2014 General Election ballot. Proposition 405 is being referred to the voters by the Maricopa City Council and, if approved, will change the term for the office of mayor from 2 years to 4 years. More info at: maricopa-az.gov

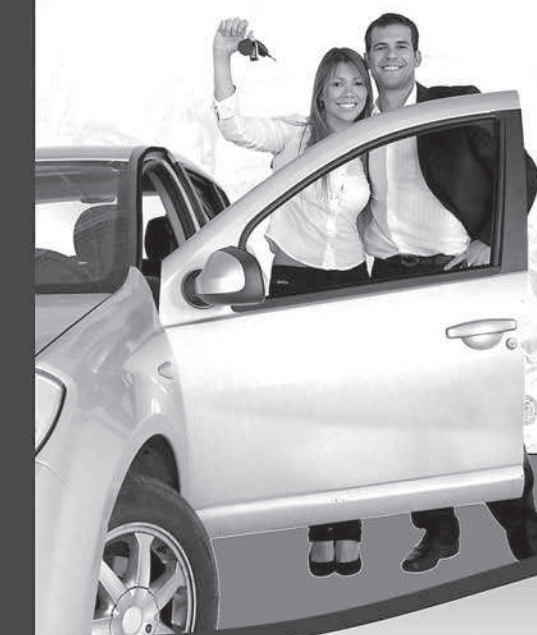
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