

OUR VIEW

After years of waiting, it's 'full steam ahead' for Riviera

There are finally some signs of life at the Havasu Riviera State Park.

The project broke ground two and a half years ago in an elaborate ceremony that involved then-State Parks Director Sue Black turning earth in a backhoe. It was an exciting time as Havasu was about to venture on its biggest building project since Robert McCulloch built the London Bridge. And then, silence. Eventually, Sue Black was fired by Gov. Doug Ducey over an unrelated Lake Havasu project, which meant more frustrating delays as a

new administration was installed.

More than two years after the groundbreaking, Havasu had little to show off except for an inaccessible boat ramp and the city's completed portion of a roadway leading to it. Thankfully, local officials managed to get the attention of the state.

With an audience that included Ducey, Mayor Cal Sheehy declared last month that the Riviera Project promised to generate \$1 billion in economic impacts for the region, and thanked the governor for his help in ensuring the state fulfilled its obligations even in the absence

of a leader in the state parks department. That was effective at getting Ducey's attention, because it wasn't long before the new director, Bob Broscheid — just a few weeks into the new gig — made it a priority to tour Havasu and declare the Riviera project was "full steam ahead"

This week, we saw it wasn't just lip service as road crews began working on the the road that will lead to the state park.

The Havasu Riviera Project was never going to be easy. It's the result of a three-way partnership between the state, Lake Havasu

City and a private developer, and that means there are all kinds of ways for things to go sideways. There are lingering questions, such as those involving revenue sharing and use of a state parks pass, and we hope there's an effort soon to offer clarity to the public as the project moves forward.

For now, we're glad to see the project appears to be back on track and we hope the partnership continues to move forward with transparency, efficiency and public interest in mind.

— *Today's News-Herald*

OTHER VIEWS



CHRISTINE FLOWERS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Fox News host Tucker Carlson shouldn't apologize

Apologies are like diamonds: When they're authentic, their value is incalculable.

Lately, though, society has gotten used to the reflexive mea culpa, the one triggered not by a real sense of remorse but rather by the fear of being ostracized. It's the idea that unless we do that politically correct course correction, we will be persona non grata among the people with the power.

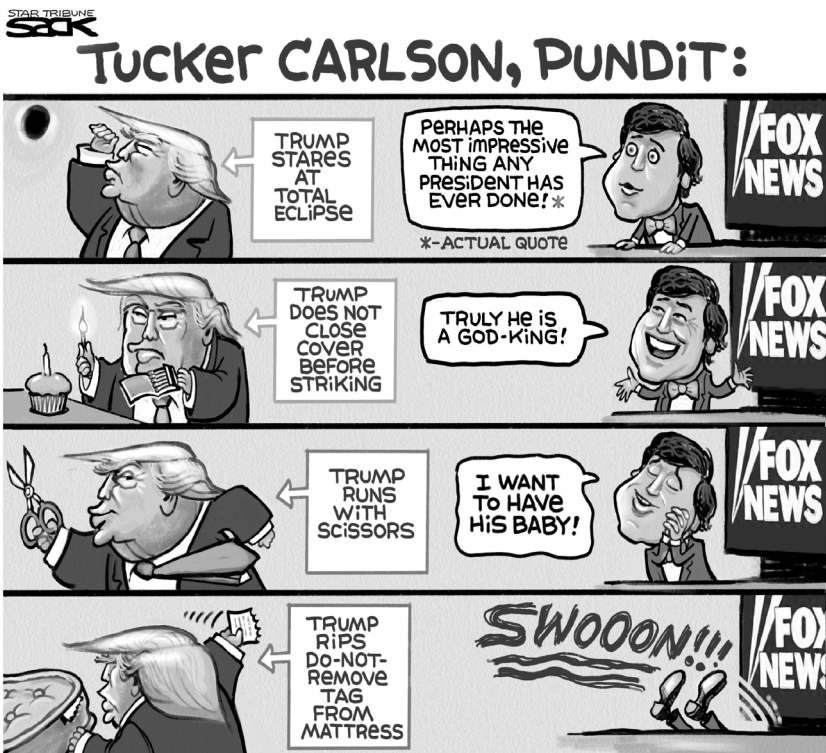
We've seen those examples of forced apology over and over again, even when the initial offense was completely innocent and unintended.

Take, for example, Terry Crews. The actor and former athlete had made an astute observation about the importance of black fathers in the lives of their sons. Somehow, his comments were seen as offensive to LGBTQ followers, who didn't like the fact that Crews was "othering" people who came from nontraditional families (translation: families with two mommies, two daddies, or variations thereof). When I saw his initial tweet and then the fact that he was getting grief over it, I started counting down in my head the hours it would take for him to apologize. And of course, he did:

"Had a great talk with @iamstephbeatz this morning on set that shed a lot of light on why the LBGTQ community were hurt by my comments. I want to apologize for anyone who was triggered or felt targeted. I was speaking out of my very personal experiences as a Black Father."

I believe Crews' apology was sincere. He seemed to be genuinely upset that he might have inadvertently hurt someone's feelings.

The problem is not the authen-



ticity of the apology. It's the fact that Crews felt it necessary to apologize in the first place. The social pressure that allows one group of people to coerce another group of people into making amends for upsetting them has been building to dangerous levels with the advent of identity politics. You said something that offended me? You better apologize, or else!

That's toxic. An article in Psychology Today put it this way: "Don't say you're sorry if you don't think you have anything to apologize for. That doesn't mean you don't have something to apologize for; it just means that a real apology is sincere."

Sadly, it's rare when people are able to withstand that social coercion these days, because too many of us care about being liked more than we care about being honest. This brings me to Tucker Carlson.

I haven't watched the Fox host regularly since he was still wearing those preppy bow ties and annoying the liberals on MSNBC. But he floated back into my consciousness when Media Matters, a left-wing media outlet, published some years-old comments Carlson made about women, underage sex, Martha Stewart's daughter, and a whole host of other disgusting things. They were no worse than

Jimmy Kimmel inviting women to guess what was in his pants, Whoopi Goldberg saying that Roman Polanski wasn't guilty of "rape rape," or the sleazy things said by David Letterman about Sarah Palin's daughters.

Letterman apologized. Kimmel and Goldberg didn't, at least not as far as Google is concerned. And guess what? I'm fine with the fact that Jimmy and Whoopi haven't said "I'm sorry," because I wouldn't have believed them. Frankly, I didn't believe Letterman. And I'm glad that Carlson is standing his ground.

I find the things he said pretty disgusting, especially the part where he suggested that female teachers having sex with underage boys is a rite of passage. No, idiot, it's rape.

But if Carlson came out and asked for forgiveness, it would be farcical, because he probably has few, if any, regrets about acting like a slimeball on a shock-jock radio show called "Bubba the Love Sponge" in the pre-Twitter age.

I'd rather an honest, unrepentant jerk than one who is forced into fake, insincere submission..

Flowers is an attorney and a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News, and can be reached at cflowers1961@gmail.com.

LETTERS

Don't give hatred a foothold

Editor: Fifty Muslims killed in New Zealand while praying, nine black churchgoers killed in Charleston, S.C., 11 Jewish worshipers killed in Pittsburgh and the list goes on, becoming longer and more horrific as far right white supremacist extremism is increasing. Hate, intolerance, and racism have spawned violent acts by groups and individuals. Hate filled rhetoric by white supremacist groups poses a dangerous threat to public safety. We should all be alarmed. It needs to be labeled as terrorism and denounced by all. When it becomes allowable to hate, label and kill those who are different in looks, religion, ideology, ethnicity, gender identity or political viewpoint, nobody is safe.

Hate is focused and increasing in all aspects of society. It is openly spewed from twitter, Facebook and the mouths of friends, neighbors, family members, and from the highest echelons to the lowest. A firestorm of vitriol has unleashed a 50 percent increase in hate crimes.

We need to be appalled and outraged that hate is being normalized, and innocents continue to be slaughtered. Fear is overcoming reason. Ignorance is battling knowledge. Diversity is despised not valued.

This is a battle we need to win. We can't allow hatred and ignorance the tiniest foothold. We can't allow it to overcome rational thought, logic and human kindness. We need to embrace and respect everyone differences and all, just as our founding fathers intended. Our Constitution states, "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our posterity." This is a legacy we have shared worldwide. Our final legacy, tragically, should not be hate.

Mary Welch
Lake Havasu City

Why we need walls

Editor: This morning, I drove past many neighborhoods and businesses on my way to shop. I couldn't help but notice the majority of homes and businesses had walls around them. There were many different types of walls, and I wondered why so many people had them. Could it be to keep out strangers, protect families from unseen dangers, and prevent unnecessary theft? The majority of people seem to know that walls are an efficient deterrent and help keep their families safe.

Most people in areas of the country I've visited have walls around their property. Each time I ask why they do, their answers are simple and straightforward: To protect their families, properties, and prevent theft. They feel safer at night with doors and fenced yards locked.

Why is building a wall on our southern border any different? Politicians on both sides of the aisle have failed to secure our borders and prevent illegal immigration. For decades I've been hearing that illegal immigration is a problem and we need to do something about it.

Politicians conveniently conflate legal with illegal. Politicians don't want to be labeled racist so they shy away from common sense and cave to big business and special interests, pushing the can down the proverbial road to the next Congress, which never does anything about illegal immigration either.

It's time to secure our southern border. Politicians should listen to what Border Patrol and law enforcement officials say about the wall. They want it. Yes, we need more border patrol agents, yes we need updated technology to track who's coming into our country illegally, and yes we need a physical barrier on the southern border where the majority of illegals and dangerous drugs are crossing.

Kandi Finfrook
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PARTING SHOT



OTHER VIEWS

House votes for transparency: Free the full Mueller report

The congressional rebuke of President Trump's national emergency declaration — and his subsequent first veto — got the headlines last week, but a more consequential statement came from the House in the form of a 420-0 vote calling for Special Counsel Robert Mueller's final report on Russian interference in the 2016 election to be released in full to the public.

Under Justice Department regulations, the special counsel presents a confidential report, including any prosecution decisions, to the attorney general, who then sends his own report to Congress. Could be 100 pages, could be a page. Attorney General William Barr has been unclear on how much detail he'll offer.

Thus, the House called "for the public release of any report Special Counsel Mueller provides to the attorney general, except to the

extent the public disclosure of any portion thereof is expressly prohibited by law."

After nearly two years' work — with more than 30 individuals indicted and guilty pleas or convictions obtained from some of those closest to Trump like Paul Manafort, Michael Flynn and Rick Gates — the American people are owed the whole truth.

— *New York Daily News*

Wildfires: Agency's plan doesn't do enough to limit risks

One of California Gov. Gavin Newsom's first actions after taking office was to ask the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire, to

craft a plan to address the giant wildfires that have become all too regular deadly, costly ordeals in the Golden State. Now the plan is out.

Its strongest point is its call to double the amount of forest land the state clears annually of dead trees and vegetation that can fuel wildfires. The 90,000 acres to be cleared would be at 35 priority sites identified by local Cal Fire crews. Cal Fire officials emphasized this would not be the clear-cutting that some forest experts think promotes blazes but a more "surgical" removal of flammable matter.

Given that California wildfires killed more than 100 people and destroyed nearly 18,000 homes and businesses last year, an all-of-the-above approach to firefighting makes sense.

The strategies of thinning forests and protecting homes should both be pursued. And a hard look should be taken at whether Cal Fire and other fire agencies have enough resources. If they don't, that should also be addressed.

— *The San Diego Union-Tribune*