

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prescribed fires can restore forest health

The recent letter to the editor by Jan Boyer ("Prescribed burns could harm watershed," Letters to the editor, Jan. 22) describes how prescribed burns are harmful. That is just not the case.

A prescribed fire refers to the controlled application of fire by a team of fire management experts under specified weather conditions that helps restore health to a forest environment and the watershed. A prescribed fire is one of the most effective tools that we have in preventing the outbreak and spread of wild-fires. They boost the physical condition of the land, improve wildlife habitat and help to maintain a healthy watershed.

There are many references on the positive effects of prescribed fires. Two examples to check out that show how effective a prescribed fire can be when applied with careful planning and execution are: <http://smokeybear.com/prescribed-fires.asp> and a video called *A Land in Balance: Benefits of Prescribed Fire*: <http://agrillife.org/blog/2013/08/21/a-land-in-balance-benefits-of-prescribed-fire/>

Steven Hamp
Santa Fe

Support Cashmon

I endorse Maureen Cashmon for Santa Fe Public Schools Board of Education for District 2.

Kristin Reidy
Santa Fe

No vote for Sullivan

Jack Sullivan has no business being in the race for a seat on Santa Fe Community College board. His comment "It sets a bad precedent" ("Two battle for open seat on SFCC board," Jan. 25), in and of itself is the type of hypocrisy that Sullivan would bring to a board that may have its faults at times, but is overseen by people who look out for the best interests of SFCC.

During his term as county commissioner, one of his deeds of "setting a bad precedent" was when developers were trying to acquire Santa Fe County Commission approvals for their subdivision (La Pradera), just south of Interstate 25, which neighbors his property.

The approvals the developers were seeking were continually tabled for one reason or another. He would not recuse himself from these proceedings (which was unethical and a conflict of interest on his part, as he was a neighbor to La Pradera) in making decisions as a commissioner on that matter. I say no to Jack Sullivan.

Ernie Zapata
Santa Fe

Elect Cashmon

I unequivocally support Maureen Cashmon for the contested District 2 seat on the Santa Fe Public Schools Board of Education.

I've known her for 20 years as a neigh-

bor and friend. Like Cashmon and her husband, my wife and I have two students in the Santa Fe Public Schools. She has significantly more classroom experience than her opponent, a caring parent who has spent his professional career in economic development.

Schools are an enterprise but shouldn't be treated as a business to be developed. We need someone with Cashmon's background to speak for the students and parents of the school district.

Her extensive volunteer service to our schools demonstrates that she is dedicated to the well-being of our students and will listen to the teachers who form the backbone of our educational system. Please join me in electing Cashmon.

Clifford M. Rees
Santa Fe

Vote for Jack Sullivan

I am happy to endorse Jack Sullivan for the Santa Fe Community College Governing Board. As a city councilor and mayor, I served with Sullivan for eight years when he was a Santa Fe county commissioner. We were able to make great strides in water security for Santa Fe, in land use planning and in many other areas. Sullivan has been a great public servant and would be great for our wonderful community college.

David Coss
Santa Fe