

site daily (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). She, like El-Khal, eagerly accepted the invitation to work the mobile unit.

“Over here, there’s been a lot of positivity,” Abdullah said. “People for the most part have been very polite, very nice, telling us how they appreciate us being here. That’s good to hear, that we’re actually helping people in need.”

“Most of the Camp Fire victims don’t have the money or the access to get into a home or don’t have cars so they can just go and rebuild their lives. These are people who already didn’t have anything and now they *really* don’t have anything; so [our] being here is for them to be at peace, [knowing] now they can get more help.”

Evacuees seeking the mobile unit—parked in the southwest corner of the fairgrounds, where President Trump visited the Camp Fire’s incident command center—literally walk up. Being on-site is key, El-Khal said, because many people displaced from other communities don’t have a way, or know the way, to get to medical facilities in Chico.

About Ampla:
Visit amplahealth.org for more on Ampla Health.

Ampla doctors have provided a wide range of services. Many evacuees just need prescriptions refilled or medications replaced, in the absence of their primary physicians. Others seek treatment for conditions related to the fire and living in tight quarters of a shelter: difficulty breathing, colds, flus, stomach ailments. Some require care for chronic conditions such as diabetes, open wounds, even cancer.

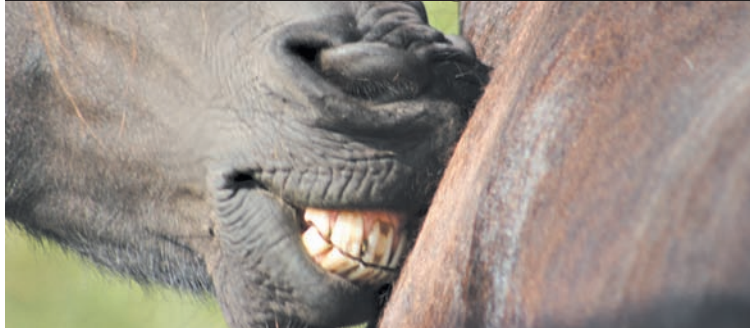
Ampla assists those who don’t have insurance with enrollment in plans such as Medi-Cal.

The overall goal is to provide stop-gap medicine—a bridge until evacuees establish, or re-establish, with a medical provider.

“They have the option of following up with us, because once they come in here, they’re already an established patient,” El-Khal said. “But we’re not doing it as patient recruitment; we’re doing it because that’s our mission at Ampla Health, to serve the underserved....

“I just want to do my job and help.” □

WEEKLY DOSE



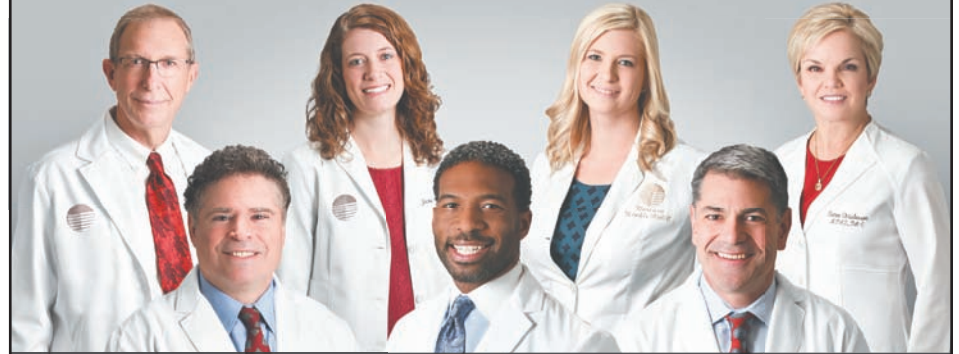
Climate change bites

We didn’t see this one coming! In addition to extreme weather events and wildfires, melting sea ice and rising ocean levels, impacted air and water quality, and myriad other oft-cited effects of climate change, we also can look forward to getting bitten by animals and insects more often. In a report published by Stanford researchers last month, rising temperatures will lead to more mosquitoes and ticks, and developmental sprawl will force increased interaction with both wild and domestic animals. This could add to the already enormous health care costs associated with animal-related injuries, which already exceed \$1 billion per year in the United States. Animal bites are most common among lower-income populations and people living in rural, resource-poor settings—once again putting the ultimate costs of our climate disaster on the most vulnerable among us. You can read the full report here: tinyurl.com/Climate-Bite

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Regrettably our Paradise office has closed. We welcome Renee Christenson back to our Chico location along with our Paradise patients.

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