

Fallen oaks outrage

Re "Oak grove chainsaw massacre" (Newsline, by Evan Tuchinsky, March 14):

I am outraged by the city of Chico's removal of healthy valley oak trees adjacent to the Chico Creek Nature Center.

There is no way to bring those trees back, but the city must work to make sure this doesn't happen again. It is long past time for the formation of a vegetation management plan for Bidwell Park. This plan should take into consideration the management of invasive versus native species and should clarify which parts of the park are for intensive recreational activities, such as One-Mile, and which areas will be kept in their natural state.

To protect Chico from wildfires, some vegetation removal likely is necessary, both in selected parts of Bidwell Park and in places on the east side of town where there is an urban lands and wildlands interface. However, it is essential that

such fire prevention measures be made in consultation with Chico's fire chief, Cal Fire, and the City's urban forester.

Until a vegetation management plan is adopted, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission should adopt a temporary measure that states the urban forester must be consulted regarding any tree removal projects, and those projects must be closely supervised by city staff.

Nancy E. Park
Chico

Editor's note: For more on this subject, see Second & Flume on opposite page.

Politics and PG&E

Re "Hashtag movement" (Greenways, by Evan Tuchinsky, March 14):

The Camp Fire was not caused by climate change. According to The New York Times, a live wire broke free of PG&E Tower 27/222, likely starting the fire. PG&E guidelines

put Tower 27/222 a quarter-century beyond its useful life.

Former Gov. Jerry Brown blames climate change for the Camp Fire, and certainly the increased dryness caused by warming temperatures is a factor. However, fires at the end of the dry season are part of California's ecosystem.

Fire investigators determined that PG&E's equipment was responsible for 17 of the 21 major wildfires in 2017, though the Camp Fire's cause is still under investigation.

The problem is the very cozy relationship PG&E had with Gov. Brown, who had former PG&E executives as his top aides. Also, then-California Attorney General Kamala Harris and her longtime mentor, the very powerful California Democrat and PG&E lobbyist Willie Brown, contributed to PG&E having a very lax regulatory environment.

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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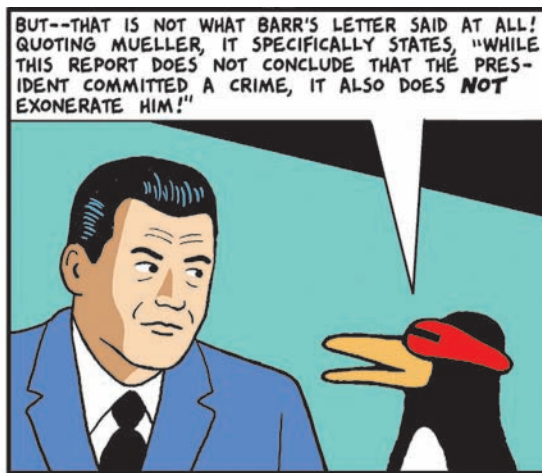
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WHERE: Disability Action Center office,
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QUESTIONS? Contact Sandra Morales at 893-8527 x 104
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BY TOM TOMORROW

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