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## LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

cost of housing. Learn more at  
chicotaxpayers.com.

**Juanita Sumner**  
Chico

*Editor's note: In interviews with  
the CN&R, Chico City Manager  
Mark Orme has referred to Chico's  
new population figure as an  
estimate. It was based on spikes in  
traffic and daily flows at the Chico  
Water Pollution Control Plant.*

### Speaking of taxes

In 2016, two housing tax increases  
were passed. In 2017, a garbage  
tax was passed. Now the Chico  
City Council and CARD are paying  
a political consulting firm over  
\$100,000 of our tax dollars to get  
more tax increases passed. The City  
Council's tax increase alone is esti-  
mated to cost a family of four an  
additional \$1,200 a year in taxes.  
These taxes are regressive, meaning  
they hit the poor the hardest.

The reason for all the tax  
increases is because of unsustain-  
able city employee compensation,  
especially pensions. City bureau-  
crats and other city employees have  
multimillion-dollar pensions. In a  
state that has among the highest  
living expenses and taxes in the  
nation, and in a county with a  
21 percent poverty rate, instead  
of implementing pension reform  
our City Council intends to try to  
maintain this unconscionable status  
quo on the backs of poor people.

Our City Council members,  
including the so-called liberals,  
care far more about multimillion-  
dollar pensions for city employees  
than they do about poor people.  
In next year's election, vote  
these politicians out of office and  
vote against their regressive tax  
increases.

**Dave Howell**  
Chico

### Discussion on facts

Re "Scoffing at committee"  
(Letters, by Loretta Ann Torres,  
May 16):

Not sure which "climate hyster-  
ics" Ms. Torres was listening to  
in the 1970s, but it was pretty  
common knowledge that global  
warming is due to man's influence.  
Today it is unquestioned.

Earlier projections of impact  
were erroneous only in their  
estimates of the time it would take,  
most giving us until the last third  
of the 21st century to make some

drastic changes. They couldn't  
envision that, per a recent report  
by Potsdam Institute for Climate  
Impact Research in Germany, the  
CO<sub>2</sub> levels in our atmosphere are  
at levels not seen in over  
2.5 million years. Secretary of  
State Mike Pompeo and Russian  
President Vladimir Putin recently  
were salivating about the newly  
opened "Northern Suez Canal"  
for shipping and extraction of  
resources in the Arctic because our  
polar caps are disappearing.

Sorry, Ms. Torres, this is not a  
belief system. Those of us alive  
in the '70s have no stake in this,  
except for our wishes for our  
children and grandchildren. By the  
time we die (I'm 74 looking toward  
100), climate refugees from Florida  
and New York probably will need  
to be resettled, because people  
didn't "believe" in climate science.  
"All politics is local," so I'm  
hoping to have a discussion about  
what to do, based on the facts.

**Rich Meyers**  
Oroville

### Blame Gov. Brown

Re "Three on PG&E" (Letters, by  
Walter Ballin and Bob Mulholland,  
May 16):

Four days after Obama clinched  
the 2008 Democratic primary, his  
opponent Hillary Clinton endorsed  
him. Four weeks after Hillary  
defeated Bernie Sanders by more  
than 3 million votes in the 2016  
Democratic primaries, Bernie  
sheepishly endorsed Hillary. Walter  
Ballin calls waiting four weeks to  
endorse a candidate "vigorous."  
That doesn't meet the laugh test in  
my book.

According to a recent analysis,  
former UMass professor Brian  
Schaffner noted that about  
12 percent of Bernie supporters  
from the 2016 Democratic primary  
crossed party lines and voted  
for Donald Trump in the 2016  
general election. In Pennsylvania,  
Wisconsin and Michigan, the  
number of Sanders defectors was  
greater than comrade Trump's  
margin of victory.

Speaking of Trump, I would  
support him before I'd ever  
support a PG&E CEO, Wall Street  
CEO, or any other so-called CEO,  
so let's set the record straight. I  
asked Ballin to put his feet in the  
shoes of the operators at Table  
Mountain substation on the fateful  
night the Camp Fire broke out.

How does that equate to backing  
CEOs?

Ballin's consequential kook in  
the White House is sending battle  
ships to the Persian Gulf as we  
speak.

**Ray Estes**  
Redding

Mr. Mulholland, please forget  
having the PG&E board do a town  
hall with Camp Fire victims. While  
the board members might fake  
caring about Camp Fire victims,  
they mostly represent their PG&E  
stockholding hedge funds, and  
their concern is profit.

As you have some stature in  
the California Democratic Party,  
get former Gov. Jerry Brown and  
his friends at the California Public  
Utilities Commission to do the  
town hall with Camp Fire victims.  
Only they have the clout to make  
change with PG&E.

First, they could apologize  
for their lax oversight of PG&E,  
allowing PG&E to become so  
casual in regard to maintenance  
and safety, but laser-focused on  
their profit. Former Gov. Brown  
and the CPUC need to accept  
responsibility for their enabling  
of PG&E resulting in PG&E's  
equipment being the cause of 17 of  
the 21 major wildfires in 2017, and  
now the Camp Fire.

Providing safe power to fire-  
prone areas is not going to be  
cheap. Real change would require  
restructuring to remove the profit  
motive. Strong, creative and strate-  
gic action is needed, now!

Brown, show that you care. Do  
something to make up for the pain  
and the colossal carbon footprint of  
the fires you enabled.

**Lucy Cooke**  
Butte Valley

### Support the shelter

If you are a part of "not in my  
backyard," that is the No. 1 reason  
why you should be supporting [the  
Orange Street Shelter].

Our local homeless community  
often stays in Depot Park. Our  
local homeless community often  
stays in the City Plaza. You don't  
like to see them outside. You don't  
like when homeless folks urinate  
and defecate outside in public.

If you agree with the statements  
above, please take a moment to  
realize how backward your logic  
is when opposing the shelter.  
Offering [homeless people] shelter

will keep them out of sight, off of  
the streets, and give them a place  
to sleep and use the restroom. It  
also will help them regain stability  
in their lives.

This is not in question; this has  
been proven time and time again.  
Do your research. Providing a  
place for them to rest safely, prac-  
tice proper hygiene, and improve  
their mental health is the best  
chance they have at re-entering  
society. It must be at this central  
location, making it accessible.

Depot Park is already a popular  
location for our friends without  
homes. You will not notice a  
difference, except for the fact that  
you will not be able to see them  
anymore.

**Allison Keck**  
Chico

### Tackle real issues

I recently read an article about  
increased THC in the regulated,  
"recreational" cannabis on sale  
today. This article was from  
NPR Radio via the web, a most  
respected news outlet today. I  
respect their coverage.

Maybe, just maybe, we should  
find the priorities to research and  
address issues in our society like  
cellphone use on the roads, streets,  
highway, endangering the public  
every day in our world. Maybe  
strive to eradicate infectious  
diseases such as measles (again),  
sexually transmitted diseases,  
overprescribed medications by  
unethical doctors. Maybe more  
education, mandated in global, let  
alone "national," media.

Most importantly, more help at  
the city, county, state and federal  
levels to address homeless people  
in our backyards, streets and  
creekbeds. These are public health  
and real social issues in almost  
all of our lives today. Thank god  
for THC. Thank god or goodness  
or whatever for public radio, TV,  
for following these stories, but is  
anybody paying attention?

**Brian Johnson**  
Orland

### Write a letter

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to the editor. Send submissions of  
200 or fewer words to [cnrletters@newsreview.com](mailto:cnrletters@newsreview.com). Deadline for  
publication is noon on the Tuesday  
prior to publication.