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LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

has made extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of Orange Street—and Safe Space in general. Win or lose, it's an inspiring thing to behold.

Patrick Newman
Chico

The Orange Street Shelter is a long-overdue and much-needed resource in Chico for our entire community, and specifically for our LGBTQIA2S+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, agender, aromantic, two-spirit) community.

With all of the current permanent shelters in Chico being faith-based and/or higher barrier, sex-segregated and without gender-inclusive policies and training, the many unhoused LGBTQIA2S+ people in Chico are falling through cracks that the larger community is responsible for.

LGBTQIA2S+ young adults are at a 120 percent higher risk of homelessness, and comprise approximately 40 percent of the homeless youth population. Furthermore, nearly one-third of trans people surveyed in a 2015 U.S. survey had experienced homelessness during their lifetime. And, we know these are low estimates, as many unhoused LGBTQIA2S+ people go uncounted and miscounted.

Even so, none of the year-round shelters currently focuses on serving this population, and many of their policies create barriers and conditions that render the space effectively inaccessible for the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

Marin Hambley
Chico

Sweets at the plaza

There will be a free ice cream social on Saturday, June 15, from 2-4 p.m. at the City Plaza. Emily's Band of Ne'er Do Wells will be providing music. Safe Space Winter Shelter is our sponsor. Donations will not be requested but will be accepted for Safe Space. Volunteers are from Chico Friends on the Street. We will have plenty of ice cream, and hope many people will join us for a laid back, fun afternoon.

Nancy Wirtz
Chico

Help him plug in

At the last City Council meeting a man spoke up with a simple request. He wanted to be able to charge his electric wheelchair while in the downtown area. He described how

he has run out of power multiple times, including being stranded in the middle of crossing the street.

He described the difficulty of having to leave his chair behind to come back for later and how it would be impounded by the police. Most people in Chico don't have to worry about this kind of dilemma. That's why we have laws like the ADA. The response from the council was silence.

Technically, they cannot take action during business from the floor, but it would have been easy for them to acknowledge the request or perhaps offer to email about it later. They do that all the time. Does the council support disabled folks having equal access to downtown?

Rain Scher
Chico

What about other elders?

Re "California's elderly crises" (Cover story, by David Wagner and Elizabeth Aguilera, May 30):

I agree the state should be looking at the increased needs of a growing elderly population. Unfortunately, this article only addresses the increased need for elderly that meet the income qualifications for the state's In-Home Supportive Services program.

Yes, there are thousands of people being paid by the state to care for elderly family members who meet poverty income requirements. But there are millions more Californians who worked and paid taxes their entire lives, yet the high cost of living in California leaves them unable to pay for long-term care, home health care, rent, medical expenses, transportation, energy costs and food, etc.

The state guidelines need to address the actual cost of an elderly person's survival level of expenses subtracted from income.

Marion Dearman
Chico

Left-wing hypocrisy

Re "Chico's blind eye to racism" (Editorial, June 6):

Your claims of racism at the hands of white nationalism are ridiculous. Fake news and the leftist propaganda machine is falsely toxifying the white race in this country in order to discredit and create lies about the president.

Leftists are continuing to deny real racists, like Reps. Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, while acting like the white male is the perfect

example of evil.

Racists come from all colors and all creeds. This myth that Donald Trump is creating this racist white movement in America is a laughable lie.

Propaganda by a partisan left-wing media machine is the root cause for divisiveness in this country. Demonizing the white race is somehow OK with today's media. This hypocrisy is stunning and blatantly wrong.

Brad Pankratz
Orland

Editor's note: The editorial in question does not "demonize" anyone. It asks white folks to do more to counter local incidents of race-based hate.

Right-wing hypocrisy

It's a bit telling that five of the nine states that recently passed brutally repressive anti-abortion laws are ranked within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 15 most polluted states, based on cancer rates and analysis of the average daily fine particulate matter in the air.

Republicans and the evangelical faithful proclaim they're "protecting the children." Well, at least until they're born. Then it's, "Sorry, kid, you're now an afterthought," as evidenced by Trump's efforts to overturn Obama's Clean Power Plan (and the GOP and evangelical support for his agenda). The plan projected that by 2030 America could expect 90,000 fewer asthma attacks a year, 300,000 fewer work or school days missed, and 3,600 fewer premature deaths annually.

Hypocrisy is alive and well. Republicans court the evangelical political leadership vote, and evangelicals turn their backs on Jesus by supporting draconian treatment of immigrants and the impoverished, while ignoring the millions of American families struggling financially.

Former House Speaker Paul Ryan, who benefited from Social Security survivor benefits after his father died, declared the Republican Party's attitude toward those in need: "Government assistance programs are no longer a safety net; they have become a hammock."

Roger S. Beadle
Chico

More letters online:
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