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LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

decide the next country to invade. The United States government and past presidents have unilaterally deployed troops overseas. I, as a veteran, am deeply offended by your perception that myself and fellow veterans are to blame for all the world's ills, and that citizens of this country "are pandering to veterans."

Your bizarre comments bring back painful memories of how the country treated returning Vietnam veterans. You spit in the face of people suffering from the scars of war daily, but you also wipe your feet on graves of the men and women who weren't able to return home. You need to have someone check your letters before sending them out to the public. You should be embarrassed and ashamed.

Gary McHargue
Chico

Speaking as a retired military veteran of over 20 years, I was very disappointed in this writer's letter. The writer implies that veterans like me chose to go to Iraq or other far-off lands, as if it's our decision.

As the saying goes, "War is young men dying and old men talking." Young men, like myself, deployed to war zones spend time away from family. In my case, that's missing seven of my son's 12 birthdays—not by choice, but because I was ordered to. I was ordered to based on the decisions of elected officials. We deploy to support the interests of this nation because we understand duty, honor and commitment.

I get her point, and I can tell you most veterans are extremely embarrassed about some of the privileges we get. However, before you accuse me and thousands of others of "wrecking countries [and] killing hundreds of thousands," please take a good class on American government so you can understand how things work.

Mike Guzzi
Chico

Tea, taxes, thanklessness

Re "Rethink your votes" (Letters, by Loretta Ann Torres, July 4):

Ms. Torres has another complaint—this time tax rates. Torres thinks the tax on gas is high. Well, taxes are used to pay for services rendered. In her letter,

she wants to go back to 1776 and the tax on Americans for tea and other services.

Well, we need to go back to 1754-1763, during the French and Indian War, which the Brits financed. Otherwise, we would be speaking French. So the colonies were slowly trying to reimburse the Brits for their aid in the war. The British imposed taxes to be repaid. Simple, right? So, Americans did not or could not pay the bill. A group of thankless Americans pulled the Boston Tea Party we all learned about in grade school.

So, please, Ms. Torres, next time provide all the needed information before clicking "send."

Marc Deveraux
Chico

The ponds are fine

Re "Pond problems" (Letters, by Dick Cory, July 4):

Teichert Ponds is not the problem. The mindset of calling vegetation removal for improved "viewscape" and uprooting the already uprooted a win-win is a mindset that has ushered both climate change and homelessness to our doorsteps.

Teichert Ponds is fine as far as I can tell. Perhaps finer than it has ever been. The seasonal rise and fall of water puts those who camp on its shallow edges more in touch with the nature of the Sacramento Valley ecosystem than their educated and housed neighbors. And yes, nature uproots us all.

Managing natural resources is complicated. Wetlands, not uniquely, are complicated, precious and deeply webbed, every square foot an unfathomable mystery. Some folks have made understanding wetlands and stream ecology science a professional lifetime exploration. People like our own Paul Maslin and his students, biologists at the mosquito abatement district, the local Resource Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Teichert Ponds is a hazard that must be shrunk? Would it improve carbon sequestration? Reduce human exposure to disease? Benefit the water table? Ease the injuries of homelessness? Or, if there is a perceived problem, are there options to nature's

pasteurization that would address our concerns in a much broader, deeper and holistic way?

Richard Roth
Chico

Recalls and estimates

Re "Inconvenient truths" (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, June 27):

At first glance it seems surprising that local Republicans would try to hold an expensive special election to recall two of our City Council members, Randall Stone and Karl Ory, so close to the end of their four-year terms. However, it makes more sense if we observe that a special election would minimize voter turnout for the recall.

In many states, Republicans have been able to increase their number of elected officials at various levels by brazenly purging legitimate voters, gerrymandering districts, and suppressing turnout by making voting as difficult and inconvenient as possible.

Here in California, those tactics are not available, so about the only other way to successfully reduce voter turnout for a recall is a special election, which would have a very low voter turnout. If this recall was part of a general election, its supporters know that there is absolutely no chance that it would be successful. Please don't support this dubious tactic by signing their recall petitions.

Steve Kennedy
Chico

Chico's police chief claims the city has grown by "19,000" since the Camp Fire and the editor uses the figure "almost 20,000," but still no real numbers.

In April, City Manager Mark Orme was using his "10,000-15,000" number, based on nonregistration, couch-living, trailers parked on streets. But to date, there is still no actual count, only "estimates."

According to a state Department of Finance press release, these numbers are based not on actual population but on new construction. "Changes to the housing stock are used in the preparation of the annual city population estimates. Estimated occupancy of housing units and the number of persons per

household further determine population levels. Changes in city housing stock result from new construction, demolitions, housing unit conversions, and annexations."

Everything's "estimated." Then they even "adjust" the numbers "to be consistent with independently produced county estimates."

I don't support the recall either, but I'm tired of hearing the city and the media make claims based on fake numbers. Our town is a mess right now because people are not doing their jobs, but expecting to be paid into perpetuity.

Juanita Sumner
Chico

'Pay attention'

Re "Of Jesus and POTUS" (Letters, by Rich Meyers, June 27):

A letter writer recently wrote, very accurately, about the mistakes the United States has made since 1960 regarding Iran. This history lesson failed to include the very real lack of understanding among most of us about the dangers of an atomic nation ruled by leaders who believe in the coming of the 12th Imam.

Iran is like no other country. Its leaders will welcome their country's complete destruction, if it brings about this caliphate that they so strongly believe in.

Islam, for the most part, is a religion of love for us fellow human beings. But a very radical few want a cataclysmic event to bring the 20th century world to its knees!

Meanwhile, our leaders want to force our president to reveal his tax returns, while oil tankers are on fire in the gulf and our drones are shot down.

If this scares you, it should. Time to pay attention to our president's decisions. Time to allow him to concentrate on the events that endanger not only us, but also the world.

May God bless America.

Loretta Ann Torres
Chico

More letters online:

We've got too many letters for this space. Please go to www.newsreview.com/chico for additional readers' comments on past CN&R articles.

