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## Chico's class divisions

"Diversity on the dais" (Newslines, by Ashiah Scharaga, Oct. 31):

Whether Chico can be improved by "district" elections, as opposed to an "at large" system, is anyone's guess. What's beyond doubt is that driving this change forward on the basis of ethnicity is just plain silly.

Many cities exhibit geographic concentrations along racial and ethnic lines; Chico has no such concentrations. What we do have are distinctly different neighborhoods, with class being the operative factor. That is, geographic concentrations at well above the median income/wealth level and concentrations at well below the median—an obvious example being Canyon Oaks versus Chapmantown.

What's long been missing in Chico politics is representation of the 50 percent of our population falling at or below the median: the Walmart worker, the semi-employed construction worker, the elder caregiver, etc. Instead, we have a history of disproportionate representation by affluent professionals.

To further complicate matters, we've had Latinx candidates running the spectrum from not qualified, Mercedes Macías, to well-qualified, Lupita Arim-Law—though Arim-Law is yet another professional! And let's not let this irony go unnoticed: Our only self-identifying Latinx council member, Mayor Randall Stone, voted for an ugly, not-at-all-progressive raft of homeless criminalization laws in 2015, while the lone dissenter was a white woman, Tami Ritter.

**Patrick Newman**  
Chico

## 'Love and respect'

Re "Awaiting rain" (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, Oct. 31):

Journalists covering jarring local news stories are a testament not only to the constitutional rights of freedom of the press and freedom of speech, but also to sacrifices people make for the betterment of our community.

Wendy, a principal in the Youth for Justice show I'm producing to air—on KZFR 90.1 FM at 6 p.m. Nov. 7—had this to say: "I Just wanted to thank you again for

being a part of our recovery. That was really good for Dolyn (age 6) today."

Every act of kindness has an impact. Documenting Camp Fire stories, a year later, of families who lost everything, on the sacred barren lots where their homes once stood, is the most personal healing endeavor of mine this year.

Huge amounts of love and respect for my radio colleagues, print journalists and TV broadcast news for telling the stories that help all of us heal.

**Bill Mash**  
Chico

## Chiding the congressman

Re "Stuntman LaMalfa insults constituents" (Editorial, Oct. 31):

I know my Republican friends do not belong to a Trump cult, because if he shot a member of the Chico community in the middle of Main Street, they would not dispute a murder charge. However, I'm not sure about LaMalfa.

**Andy Hanson**  
Chico

We knew from recent fires that climate crisis denier (akin to flat-earth) Rep. LaMalfa is a "don't let science get in the way" firebrand. But who knew he is also a red tie/blue-suited anti-law-and-order firebrand?

**Beau Grosscup**  
Cohasset

## Anniversary thanks

Last year on Nov. 8, we moved out of Paradise, after 40 years, 20 minutes. After almost a year, living in Chico, I just want to say thanks to all of you, for helping all of us. Thanks for caring and giving and helping. You are wonderful people and you know who you are.

**Pete Lipski**  
Chico

Nov. 8 marks one year since the Camp Fire, the most devastating and destructive fire in the history of California. Within minutes of Gov. Jerry Brown being told of the Camp Fire, he ordered an all-out response. Thank you, Jerry.

The rebuilding of towns on the Ridge and the lives of survivors will take years. But this is a time to once again thank all those in law enforcement, firefighters and private

contractors (with bulldozers, etc.), from all over California, who drove into the fire to rescue hundreds of people. And, of course, there are many government staff (including school officials), nongovernment organizations and businesses who have done so much for so many survivors since, and we are all grateful. The leadership of the Paradise Town Council has been extraordinary; they themselves were made homeless and yet they have persevered.

A special thanks to the hundreds of families (including my wife, Linda, and I) who opened their homes, garages and driveways for people to stay, as they dealt with insurance companies, FEMA, etc. All of Butte County appreciates everything done by so many for the thousands of survivors.

**Karl Ory**  
Chico

*Editor's note: The author is a member of the Chico City Council.*

## Wildfire, PG&E and Trump

PG&E isn't alone when it comes to wildfires destroying California. There is plenty of blame to spread around.

Trump, who hates California and the idea of climate change, is at the top of the human-caused inferno. When he deregulated America and crippled the Environmental Protection Agency for greed and jobs, he turned up the heat and pollution. Then, threw it on our dry state. Now, he says, let it burn! Pollution from the south has dehydrated our forests. While trees clean air, they also poison themselves.

All levels of government have permitted Sierra Pacific to clear-cut our forest, leaving a patch quilt of dead and dying trees. Piles of dead slash are ready to ignite the healthiest trees in the forest. Beetles invade the clear-cut, slash and dehydrated trees. Sunshine on snow-covered clear-cuts causes snow to evaporate quickly, instead of melting into Mother Earth.

**Pat Johnston**  
Red Bluff

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