District discussions

Re "About-face" (Newslines, by Ashiah Scharaga, Nov. 14) and "Housing and cannabis" (Newslines, by Ashiah Scharaga, Nov. 21):

I must note my extreme disappointment in the path the city has chosen in regard to district elections. Despite the gross violations of the civil rights to our fellow community members and the immense financial cost to the city, the council seems dead set to do less than the bare minimum to fix the problem.

As your articles note, Councilwoman Ann Schwab's questions focused on the incumbency of current council members and Councilman Karl Ory noted the current plan would prevent a large portion of the city from voting in 2020, potentially including the protected classes excluded from our current system. These on-the-record comments show the current plan will not meet the requirements of the California Voting Rights Act. Further, even the most cursory research into previous cases like ours reveals that the current legal representation has no real understanding of the issue and thus has given flawed advice on the actual options going forward.

> Chaz Kelley Chico

Native knowledge

Re "Touch the sky" (Guest comment, by Janet E. Rechtman, Nov. 28):

Indigenous people were the first to reflect on "touching the sky," while weaving harmony and "open mutuality" with nature. Yet many longtime Butte County residents, let alone newcomers, have no knowledge of the history and ecological wisdom Mechoopda tribal members have nurtured generation to generation.

Hallelujah: The omnibus Farm Bill extends the maximum duration of federal land stewardship contracts up to 20 years in areas where the majority of federal lands are in Fire Regime Groups I (much of Butte County), II and III. Thank goodness for the wisdom of the Mechoopda Tribe and its partners, including the Butte County Fire Safe Council, for their ongoing work on a 20-year stewardship contract focusing Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the wildland-urban interface. Stewarding the land using traditional knowledge will be a much-needed return to native Mechoopda roots. Contact them at tekstewardship@gmail.com.

> Bill Mash Chico

Retort time

Re "Oh, cynicism" (Letters, by Patrick Spielman, Nov. 28):

In his letter, Patrick Spielman accuses me of disparaging Bernie Sanders. I invite Mr. Spielman to go back and read my letter dated Nov. 14 and tell me what part of

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

BY TOM TOMORROW

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