



June 25 letters to the editor

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June 24, 2014

'Facts' were wrong in critical column

I'm referring to Thomas Peele's June 15 column, "Kensington leaders make big stench in stifling their critics."

Peele and "investigative reporter" shouldn't be used together. Hopefully, he will take time to reinvestigate the facts documented in this Kensington debacle, rather than report on facts relayed by a few dissenters.

Peele has so many of his facts wrong it is hard to believe he looked into the case objectively without having some kind of agenda.

The Kensington Nine made plenty of noise, their voices were heard, and when the district elections for board members came up, they and their supporters were voted out. Kensington residents understood what happened and made the proper choices.

The Kensington Nine are still making noise and they are the ones forcing the issues and costing taxpayers unneeded and unwarranted expenses. They should be made to pay for the problems they created. Everyone has the right to dissent, but with rights, you also must take responsibility for your actions.

Howard Kirk
Kensington

'Solutions' often have side effects

Following the scientific bases offered for climate change in the 1970s and today, one could conclude that intervention exacerbated the problem.

Then it was reasoned that aerosols dimmed sunlight, causing global cooling. So, we outlawed aerosols (fossil fuel emissions) to avert freezing to death. Scientists also argued that greenhouse gases (CO2, methane) cause warming and would offset the cooling effect.

Seems to me that man has spent trillions of dollars on ill-advised "solutions" that actually aided warming.

Now, some scientists propose to ship aerosols into the outer atmosphere to filter sunlight reaching the Earth.

Erich P. Kellner
Walnut Creek

Bergdahl at least needs to be heard

President Barack Obama did the compassionate and wise thing bringing Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl home. Bergdahl doesn't deserve to bear the bizarre, irrational wrath some people have toward Obama.

Bergdahl learned the local language before he was captured. He may well have knowledge about the Taliban that can save American lives.

We did the right thing bringing him home. We do not know Bergdahl's story. We do not know if he was suffering from PTSD or any other war-induced mental condition before he wandered away.

Bergdahl is a young man who volunteered to help our country. We owe him a chance to explain what happened; he could be a gold mine of information. If a military tribunal finds him guilty, then he should get whatever punishment he deserves -- or exonerated, if not.

However, Bergdahl deserves to be in America to be tried, not sentenced to death in Afghanistan as a prisoner.

Carolyn McDonough
Benicia

Cato Institute's misinformation

When the Times chooses to print a column from the Cato Institute on health-care reform, it must expect misinformation.

A recent column from that source tells us that the Affordable Care Act was to prevent health-care spending from rising above the rate of the overall economy. Not true. Health-care overspending has been a problem in the United States for decades. It is why doctors and hospital administrators are the most likely to be in the top 1 percent for accumulated wealth.

Doctors and hospitals drive the costs. And, for the most part, they do not want to modify their operations or controls.

The column also implies that insurance companies simply pay bills sent to them. This, of course, is also not true.

The primary goal of the ACA is to increase the percentage of Americans with health-care insurance. Period. And, it is doing that just fine.

Reducing our overall spending will come with greater operational efficiency and effectiveness, and in the reduction of fraud, waste and abuse. We are on the right track.

George Fulmore
Concord