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Editorial: Hits and Misses -- Our take on the week in news

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HIT — Professionals and residents of Glenn County can all celebrate the remarkable turnaround of Glenn Medical Center.

An independent facility now, Glenn Medical is enjoying its return to black after a number of years of debt and threat of closure.

More populated areas usually attract superior health services, but it's rural areas like Glenn County that face the greatest need and usually struggle.

Wise management, plus generous support by communities, businesses and citizens has brought the center back to health, so to speak.

Supporters are to be congratulated, but hopefully they won't back away when they think they're not needed.

MISS — Late last month, the city of Chico put out a call for artists to "pre-qualify" for a list the city was putting together for upcoming art projects.

The city likes to work from a list of screened artists so that when a project comes to the table, the selection is quicker.

But it alarmed us that the city noted artists from "Santa Cruz to the Oregon border" could apply to be pre-screened.

Why wouldn't the city zero-in on local applicants, at least limiting it to Butte, Glenn and Tehama counties?

Keeping taxpayer dollars local stimulates our economy, not someone else's. And it's not like we're getting sub-standard art. Arts advocates and others say we have artists here with boundless talent. Why waste money by looking beyond?

HIT — We're going to think positively that the well-planned and needed expansion of the Chico Wal-Mart will get the green light from the Planning Commission and then go on to the City Council for another nod.

Wal-Mart's plans to expand its Forest Avenue store will be examined by the Planning Commission starting Thursday.

Union-fanned outcries about the harm the expansion would cause makes us wonder how new jobs and more choices be bad for a community. As we've seen in other communities that have entertained Wal-Mart expansions, opponents have a political agenda. It's about emotional opposition, not the facts.

We'd like to point out that Wal-Mart opponents were strangely silent about Costco's expansion, which had some of the same traffic and air quality concerns.

Who needs to be heard during the Planning Commission hearings are the customers, because the minority opponents certainly will be there.

We also are positive that planning commissioners will follow their regulatory charge to approve a good project that's good for the community rather than listening to their political persuasion against business.

MISS — Some folks just don't learn. Like Michael Allen Fraser or Oroville, who was slapped on the wrist for claiming to be a decorated Vietnam War

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veteran. It was a violation of the Stolen Valor law, but it earned him just a fine and a 100 hours of community service.

But now he's accused of not even doing the service time, rather forging a letter that claimed he did.

Everyone's innocent until proven guilty, but with this guy's track record, we've got a feeling how this one's going to sort out. And if it goes as we expect, we'd hope the judge teaches him a real lesson when sentencing comes.

"Hits and misses" appears each Saturday. Items are compiled by the editorial board.

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