

Editorial: Hits and misses

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HIT >> It was inevitable. Damage has happened to trees and plants at the Peregrine Point disc golf course off Highway 32 that's part of Bidwell Park.

The Bidwell Park and Playground Commission wrestled for months to hammer out an agreement that protected Bidwell Park's natural assets while allowing the public to play.

After three years of operation, monitoring of the course has shown damage to the blue oaks, erosion, and plant-barren bald spots, which could be caused by player traffic, the public walking out to catch the view, or others passing through.

But there's good news. Club members are working with the city to keep it from getting worse. There will be a target realignment, tree guards and screens, and railings.

Players need to stay on the course, but visitors also need to be aware of where they walk, sticking to designated areas too.

MISS >> With fire season as extreme as it already is this year, someone ... perhaps several someones ... is lighting fires.

There was an arrest Friday after a fire was started near Olive Highway and Miners Ranch Road east of Oroville. Earlier this week, an olive orchard fire in south Oroville was confirmed to be arson, and the suspects there appear to have tried several times.

There've been a whole string of other fires starting in locations where you just have to wonder how they got going. The answer is all too obvious.

The motive appears to be short term gratification. It's quite a show to watch the flames leap, hear the firefighters roar in with lights and sirens, and see them disembark and enter battle. With luck, maybe there'll be a helicopter or an air tanker.

It's sick. Firefighting is dangerous work, and the people who do it risk their lives. It's expensive too, and we're the ones who pay for it.

And most of, fire is destructive, and it can be very destructive. People lose their homes and sometimes their lives.

Memories are short. The arsonist who lit the Humboldt Fire back in 2008 left 87 families in south Paradise without homes.

Most of us couldn't sleep if we caused such an inferno, even by accident. But maybe that's what these jerks are looking for.

We hope if community members know information, they would share it with Oroville Police Department, 538-2448. Let's hope the police catch these criminals.

HIT >> Certainly veterans landed in the spotlight with the hubbub about the Veterans Administration problems throughout the country.

So kudos to organizations that help those who have served this country. There's an article elsewhere in this newspaper today about a local group of Vietnam vets trying to help.

Out of sight out of mind becomes the easy way out. Isn't it a community obligation to remember those who have served?

MISS >> They're back. Those ugly, voracious mosquitoes are buzzing around, looking for breakfast and dinner. It's West Nile virus time.

Spraying for mosquitoes has already started in Butte County, and a dead crow turned up with the virus. That means it's time to scour the yard and landscaping for items that retain water, from plant pot bases to play equipment.

That's where they hatch. While it's easier for people to cover up, slather on and get out of the way of mosquitoes, it's not the same for horses. The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District recommends getting horses vaccinated quickly.