

Valley Times Feb. 11 letters to the editor

Letters from our readers

Posted: 02/11/2009 12:01:00 AM PST

Dear Secretary Geithner,

Congratulations on your confirmation as head of the Treasury and IRS! I know that you're going to be super busy spending a \$1 trillion so I thought I would drop you a quick note since its tax season. I learned a lot about the IRS during your confirmation when the Republicans were hounding you about not paying your taxes. Until then I didn't realize that being confused and embarrassed is an official excuse.

Like you, I messed up my self-employment taxes a few years ago — seems like I forgot to transfer my K1 Sub S income to my 1040. The IRS caught my error and sent me one of those nasty IRS envelopes that you've been getting every month. It was for \$10,000. Now this will make you laugh — I actually paid my taxes; I didn't realize it was optional! Anyhoo, I want my money back because, officially, I was confused and embarrassed.

Don't bother sending me a check; I'll just reduce my AGI using the alternative energy tax credit to accelerate depreciation on some of my "solar windmills."

I won't charge penalties or interest. I'll also include this note in my return so your guys at the IRS know that I cleared it with you first. \$10,000 and \$999,999,990,000 to go!

David Fore

San Ramon

Trust them?

Did I miss something? During the past eight years under Bush did the Republicans do all they could to create new jobs. Did they stand up against the Bush economics of barrow and spend, a policy that took our country deeper and deeper into a bottomless hole?

Did they stand up against the Bush bailout package that had absolutely no oversight on the billions given to the same banks and financial institutions that gave bonuses to the CEOs that ran these companies into the ground and gave thousands their pink slips?

What did I miss?

Now all the sudden they're so concerned with jobs and what the cost will be to repair what they allowed to happen with the economy.

The Republicans in the House voted 100 percent against President Barack Obama's bailout package saying, "We have a better plan to create jobs and fix the economy."

Are you kidding? History has shown that Republicans are as good on the economy as Bush is on defending the Constitution, or the Chicago Cubs are at winning the World Series.

Now Republicans have a plan. Now they're so concerned. And what's worse is they expect Americans to believe them, and many will.

They sat around letting Bush do what he wanted, doing what they wanted, all while the country continued to sink deeper and deeper.

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I've never seen so many hypocrites and liars in one place. And that one place is the Republican party in Washington.

Brad Zetterlund

Pleasanton

Get the facts

To me, the most upsetting aspect of the Alamo incorporation issue is the amount of misinformation out there. Every day I hear people make erroneous statements.

Things like, "the new town council will cost us a fortune" (the town council will be volunteer), "Our taxes will go up." (No they won't, unless we the people of Alamo, vote to raise them). And so on.

I urge everyone in Alamo to learn all the facts before making a decision on this issue.

There are myriad meetings being held around town over the next few weeks. If you would like to get questions answered and learn more about what incorporation means for Alamo, please either come to this meeting or contact me (Christy Campbell, clcampbell14@aol.com) and I will find you a time and place that a meeting is being held in your neighborhood.

Please make an educated vote, whichever way you choose.

Christy Campbell

Alamo

Lacking specifics

The Times reported Thursday the House of

Representatives passed the "economic stimulus" bill, and devoted considerable space to who met with whom, who voted which way, etc.

Absent from the Times article was much information on the bill's content.

While the bill does contain some provisions likely to stimulate the economy in the near term, it also contains numerous examples of pure pork-barrel spending, which won't help much, if at all.

We didn't, for example, read anything about the \$6 billion to subsidize university building projects, the \$4 billion in grants to neighborhood activist groups like ACORN, the \$400 million for habitat restoration, the \$400 million for "research" on global warming, or the \$335 million for STD prevention.

And we certainly didn't learn much about the \$83 billion for more income tax refunds for people who don't pay any income tax to begin with, or read anything about the \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, the folks who in the past have sponsored all sorts of XXX-rated exhibits at taxpayer expense.

Perhaps the Times' writers just didn't know about the bill's provisions — or perhaps they did, but chose not to include them in the article.

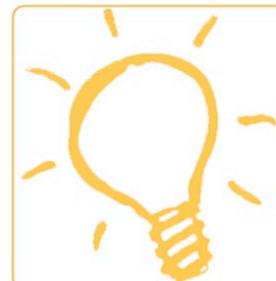
Sandra D. Heller

Danville

Schmidt for council

I am supporting Grace Schmidt as a candidate for the Alamo Town Council. She has years of experience working with government institutions and programs. She worked as staff to members of the Board of Supervisors in Marin County and in

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Santa Clara County as well as a congressional field representative in Alamo's 10 District. This broad experience has informed her work as a volunteer in our community.

She has worked tirelessly as a member of the Alamo Improvement Association Board and as a writer and researcher on a variety of issues that profoundly affect us.

She has lived in Alamo for a long time and knows that this beautiful place where we live is worth protecting.

Join me in supporting Grace Schmidt for Town Council.

Jan Bergamini

Alamo

Mail service cut?

Postmaster General John Potter should use some logic before cutting back on delivery service. Even I, a former secretary, could affect some reforms he should have years ago.

- 1) Eliminate the very low postage allowed nonprofits and, especially the blizzard of campaign mail before every election.
- 2) Cease catering to stamp collectors. I believe the reason for the very limited numbers of "beautiful, interesting" postage stamps is to increase their value for collectors.

There have been some exquisite stamps with flowers, birds and other subjects in recent years, but a month or so following their availability they are no longer stocked. Certainly, large amounts of money were spent to produce these unique stamps.

Our Brentwood post office still has two, at times three, clerks on the desk, same as 11 years ago. Yes, they are in a larger, newer building, but the lines of patrons have not changed.

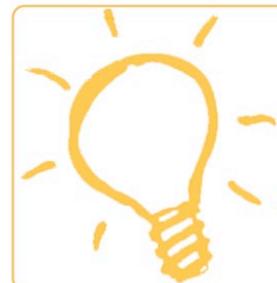
The Postal Service may also soon ask for another increase in first class postage, from the present \$0.42.

As I said, some logic is needed.

Beth Pforr

Brentwood

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