

# THE UNION

Feb. 23, 2017

## Our View: Hits and misses

Each week we'll run through the sublime, the trivial and profound issues, decisions and goings on that strike us as Hits or Misses. You can join in, too, by emailing your Hits & Misses to [drogers@theunion.com](mailto:drogers@theunion.com) or [bhamilton@theunion.com](mailto:bhamilton@theunion.com)

HIT: To western Nevada County's new Grammy winner, Cactus Skidoo. Talk about finding a niche. Skidoo found his place in family music, which culminated with earning Best Children's Album for "Infinity Plus One." The first track: "My First Multiverse." Far out, and a lot of fun.

MISS: To the U.S. economy growing only 1.6 percent in 2016, the least since 2011.

HIT: To Fayth Woodward, a 2015 graduate of Nevada Union High School who became an All American college wrestler recently at the national championships.

**HIT: To Western Sierra opening a dental and medical clinic in Penn Valley. The hours are limited for now, but the clinic hopes to grow those with time.**

HIT: To U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock's remarks recently on the House floor, and printed in The Wildwood Independent: "... As long as we are talking with each other and not shouting at each other, our system works well. ..." Hey, it's a start. We'd add to that by suggesting one party working with and not summarily ignoring the other is even better in the long run.

HIT: To short-term rentals — aka airbnb and the like — being treated as the lodging they are. That is regulated and, yes, taxed as they should be.

HIT: To Chuck Farnsworth teaching us something about pluck, and the anonymous benefactor who is helping Fransworth get his life back together. This thing, life, ain't easy.

MISS: To YouthBuild shutting down. Though a small program, it made a big difference in the lives it touched.

HIT: To presidential news conferences. Never have these been more ... interesting.

HIT: To Tim Kiser stepping up again as interim city manager for Grass Valley.

HIT: To Tractor Supply possibly filling the vacant space left by Meek's Lumber and Hardware.

MISS: To the state of California withholding funds that belong with Nevada County. The county shouldn't have to pester the state for what's ours here. In essence, the state is shirking its property tax obligations to the county, though it's not called a tax, exactly, but a payment "in lieu" of tax. Whatever, pay up.

HIT: To partners Erik Bonnett, Desmond Sandy and Jakob Garlow-Kent aiming to open a labor of love, a climbing gym called Gold Crush, very soon now.

HIT: To growing awareness, however halting, that a marijuana dispensary makes it harder, not easier, for kids to get their hands on marijuana. This is too easy now, as it has been for 50 years or so. Tighter control on a legal business that outcompetes the criminal one will improve things, much as has happened with alcohol. By no means perfect, certainly, but better.

HIT: To construction progress of the amphitheater at the Madelyn Helling Library.

HIT: To good neighbors. Almost nothing's better than a good neighbor, and almost nothing worse than obnoxious ones.

HIT/MISS?: To atmospheric rivers. Looks like our snowpack, groundwater and reservoirs are all replenished big time. But it all comes with a cost after years of drought. But that's California, right? "It never rains. ... But when it rains, it pours."

HIT: To at last a solid choice for national security adviser. The administration got this one right, with a second shot. Michael Flynn was too well known as flaky. Gen. H.R. McMaster is the complete opposite, inspiring respect and praise for this choice from both sides of the aisle in Congress. This is a much-needed step forward. Another grownup in the room can only help.

HIT: To recently retired state Fish and Game Warden Jerry Karnow, who can tell you a story or two from his three decades on the beat. He'll receive the Public Safety Award on Saturday at the Red Light Ball from the Nevada County Law Enforcement and Fire Prevention Council.

HIT: To "Spread the Love" last Friday in downtown Grass Valley. Gina Ramos and friends handed out 400 or so flowers and well wishes in a bid to counter rancor in social media and the news. Even the rain couldn't dampen their spirits.