

This is AM with your community comment.

Everybody listening, knows that Eureka has a big problem with the homeless. There are two sides, two arguments--two groups of people repeating their wisdom until they are blue in the face. I am obviously on the pro-business, anti-welfare, The no-soup-for-you side of that gap... And like many of you, I want an outcome that helps everybody. We want local businesses to thrive, tourists to visit, and homeless people to find homes.

I've made the usual arguments. You've heard it all already. Years of government handouts and non-judgemental private charities have ironically made the homeless problem worse. What should be a hand up has instead led to enabling. I will only speak for what I see in Eureka. I think most of the homeless in our town, have made their priorities abundantly clear. They would rather have heroin than a bed, they would rather have meth than a bath. And they would rather get free money, than honest pay for a days' work.

And that is their choice. But it means that we also have to make a choice. Do we stop feeding them so they travel elsewhere, or do we continue to enable their dysfunctional culture?

Humboldt County no longer has any industries. Fishing and Logging are no longer a big thing in Humboldt. And as far as the Marijuana industry goes, that's a very touchy subject that is way above my pay grade. In fact, when it comes to cannabis, I turn into a Dr. Seuss like character. I do not want to talk about it here, I do not want to talk about it there. I would rather munch on some Green Eggs and Ham.

Some people think visiting tourists might help float our economy, but have you ever seen tourists rush away and get scared of our local homeless population. I see it all the time. You cant have a chronic homeless problem and hope for big tourism dollars.

So, if Humboldt County has no industries, then maybe the best thing for our elected officials to do, is to make it official. Tell the world that Eureka, California has one industry, and it is creating more homeless people. Think of how much grant money this city could raise. Think of the repaired roads, the bridges, maybe even more picnic tables.

Instead of playing solitaire on their smart phones during the hours of public comment time on Tuesday Nights, the Eureka City Council could direct their staff to apply for every single homeless grant available. Apply for Federal and state grants. When you are done with that, go big! Call the United Nations, and see if they have any money to spare.

We could take every unused building owned by the city, and cram it with homeless. Yes, most of them will do nothing but sit around, taking drugs and making a mess. But I bet we could squeeze out a couple shovel ready jobs doing that.

Maybe I am being a little absurd, but am I really? If we are going to tolerate this disaster, why not at least get as much emergency funding, as we can???