

*This is AM for your community comment*

*A couple weeks ago I attended a townhall, it was organized by a state senator, it was about the Nations Opioid crisis and what Humboldt County was going to do about it.*

*Unfortunately, what I learned is that we are set on a course to do all the wrong things. The focus was on enabling, instead of prevention. Instead of discussing smart ways to reduce criminal activity the townhall announced that more funding is coming--specifically for a new treatment center.*

*A quick look at the center; It's called Aegis--reveals that it is a national chain that specializes in assisting drug addicts. The senator says that over four million dollars is pledged to the effort. I've talked about the problems of handing out needles before, so I'll leave that alone for now, but I have a question: What happens when the funding runs out in two years? Is this yet another social program that we will have to foot the bill for?*

*There are already several good local options that could have benefited from that money. During the townhall I stood up, and I asked what we were going to do about reducing the number of criminal addicts. I pointed out that in fact that very same day I had encountered a shoplifter at my store. I saw that he had a meth scar under his left eye, but because I treated him like I would anyone else, he managed to grab something and get away.*

*The panelist wasn't very helpful she said that not all addicts steal*

*Here In the real world, addicts will steal when hard pressed to get what they want. The Townhall panelists went on, telling the community to stop stigmatizing addicts, assured us that more funding is coming and that they know hw best to spend these new funds.*

*The townhall was a disaster, and business owners and concerned citizens alike left feeling let down by their local and state leaders.*

*We are in the sunset of the green rush. There will come a day where the billions of dollars it brings no longer cycle through Humboldt . Wouldn't it be better invite new industries, new business and new innovation to our area, rather than to continue wasting time with social engineering.*