

HTS

I normally focus my comments on one topic, but this season there's so many issues in our community and world, I'll try a shotgun approach and you can let me know if I hit a target of your interest.

First, there is the decision, announced recently by Humboldt State president Lisa Rossbacher, that football will continue at HSU into the foreseeable future. It seems that the community found enough boosters to put their money forth to support local college football. I'm glad for the coach and players that they can continue to play the exhilarating and sometimes concussive sport of football. However, I do not think it would have been disastrous had football gone away because many universities have no football program. And at some universities football has become the tail that wags the university dog. The main purpose of the university is to educate students, not field a football team—or any intercollegiate sports team. I think it is therefore fair that the people who love the game are supporting it, rather than taxpayers.

Second, ~~but~~ perhaps related, was an article about a group of lawyers who are suing the state of California because so many children can not read. If true, and I have no reason to believe it is not, I'm also alarmed. But I wonder if suing our State is really any kind of a solution. I personally think these lawyers' time would be better spent buying a bunch of books for under-privileged kids and reading to them—rather than suing the state! My solution: parents. It's up to parents to make kids literate: buy books, turn off the TV, take away their smart phones, and read, read read to your kids from cradle to grave... Well, maybe until they turn into teenagers.

Third. A 56 year old transient man was found dead in Eureka a few days ago. Another man was shot in Manila last week, so that makes two for two. Two weeks; two homicides in our county. That's two, too many. We have a horrendously high homicide rate in Humboldt County and across our country. Life is cheap on the streets and in the drug culture. There's no quick fix, but once again: I think a lot of this has to do with the loosening bonds of covenantal relationships that used to glue us together: like church, family, friends, relatives-- and parents who used to read books to their children rather than let them play with electronic baby sitters or watch TV all day.

Fourth. In spite of all the mayhem in our community and world, we should not forget the good stuff. Holidays season is upon us and the All Seasons orchestra is playing, the Nutcracker is coming to the Van Duzer, Handel's Messiah is playing somewhere, maybe several somewhere, and the spirit of charitable giving is in full swing with the Sheriff's dept. raising money by growing beards so kids from Boys and Girls Club can get gifts for Christmas.

Moreover

Finally, speaking of charitable giving: thanks Coast Central Credit Union for the \$50,000 grant to six organizations through their Community Investment Program. I am glad you are recognizing Dean Christensen for his many years of service and community support by naming the program after him.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment