

Letter: Infrastructure for the Homeless

July 31, 2022



The homeless issue was front and center in two articles on the front page of the July 22nd edition of the Pilot. From the public opinions expressed during the Project Turnkey meeting and past opinions on other homeless issues it is clear that the residents of Brookings do not want any infrastructure or local programs for the homeless in our city. I hope that our city and county governments are paying attention.

Chief White of Gold Beach said, “if we tell people where they can’t be, we have to tell them where they can be”. No we don’t. We would prefer that they leave because they aren’t getting support here. In order for entities like Oasis Advocacy and Shelter to gain strength in the community, they need to convince the public that the homeless problem is everyone’s problem. It’s not. The majority of the homeless population do not believe in personal responsibility and until they do, attempts at fixing the problem are futile.

Each homeless person in the state would have been paid \$66,000 if they had been given the money from a bill passed by our legislature earlier this year. In San Francisco the amount was \$175,000 each from a bill that they passed. Neither has made a difference and the only people they are helping are the ones who make their living by “helping” the homeless.

Our community would be better served by available programs that help our neighbors who are having a hard time making ends meet, especially in today’s economy.

Tom Wynne

