

**'Unconscionable'**

Re "Double down" (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, Jan. 24) and "Shelter no more" (by Meredith J. Cooper, Jan. 17):

Thank you, Editor Melissa Daugherty and the staff of the Chico News & Review, for your role in encouraging the American Red Cross to shelter fire refugees beyond Jan. 31.

In your coverage and editorial comment, I see journalism at its finest: A bright light shed on an issue, bringing the facts forward. Then, the articulation of a principled response to the facts on the ground; in this case, saying loudly and clearly that it is unconscionable for a massively funded charity to allow people to go unsheltered in the dead of winter.

On Jan. 28, I stood with members of the Chico Homeless Union in a well-organized and inspiring protest against what appears to be an impending "soft closure" of the fairgrounds shelter—a closure now appearing more and

more like a public relations gambit, designed to blunt opposition.

Notwithstanding the above, we are deluding ourselves in thinking charities can or will comprehensively address major social problems, like shelter deprivation. We have a full-scale, national, governmental failure in the realm of housing—and poverty in general.

And, right here at home, *once again*, where are Chico's share of the FEMA trailers?

Patrick Newman  
Chico

**Ask the developers**

Re "About the Red Cross" (Letters, by Patrick Newman, Jan. 24):

A number of people have questioned what the city [of Chico] is doing about placing FEMA housing for Camp Fire victims. The question might be better posed to our local developers.

The city owns parks, reserves and facilities that have purposes other than housing. Our local

developers have bare land that is earmarked for what FEMA needs—parcels zoned for dwellings. The developers have land-banked substantial acreage around town in the hopes of future development. One such parcel on Eaton Road was proposed for FEMA manufactured housing units, but the developer pulled the piece from consideration.

Our developers appear to be better positioned than the city to assist with suitable land for emergency housing. If FEMA is not asking them about it, perhaps community members should be.

Scott Huber  
Chico

*Editor's note: The author is a member of the Chico City Council.*

**Pets still need help**

Re "For the pets" (Newslines, by Melissa Daugherty, Jan. 24):

The article has a feel-good tone

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

**THIS MODERN WORLD****BY TOM TOMORROW****ATTENTION BOOMERS**

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WHERE: Disability Action Center office,  
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1161 East Ave, Chico 95926

QUESTIONS? Contact Sandra Morales at 893-8527 x 104  
or [sandra@actionctr.org](mailto:sandra@actionctr.org)

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