

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

Jan. 29 -Feb. 4, 2021

### MONTEREY PENINSULA MAKEOVERS – Part 5

*our democracy  
like a bucking bronco horse  
re-enters the ring*



### ARE YOU READY FOR THE WRANGLING TO BEGIN?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**RECAPPING** the last week is impossible in just one-thousand words!

If we weren't facing local rain that threatened to destroy post-fire properties with mud flows and debris, we trembled with trepidation about transition of power in Washington, D.C. as Donald J. Trump's presidential clock ticked down on inaugural day, Wed., Jan. 20, 2021. We asked:

*Will all state capitols be under siege as Joseph R. Biden replaces Trump as sole possessor of the potentially lethal "football" code that could deliver nuclear devastation?*

We breathed in relief at twelve o'clock high Eastern Time.

The Trumps arrived back home in Florida, Biden and Harris became the new leaders, and the world remained intact.

#### **We Also Wondered:**

*Will Biden really sign into law campaign-promised Executive Orders intended to kickstart more than the economy?*

*Will he put into place programs that give equal opportunity to all races?*

*And, will mass evictions be averted and shelter be found for the homeless?*

More questions:

*Will Biden order vaccination of 100 million people in 100 days?*

*Will he conquer Covid-19?*

Well, it appears that President Biden and Vice-President Harris not only hit the ground running, but, like metaphorical rodeo riders, mounted their saddles and began the bronco-busting that's democracy-at-work.

### **The U.S. Government Didn't Miss A Beat!**

I might be wrong, but I seemed to hear some pretty huge sighs of relief—or gratitude—from both sides of the political aisle as the noble political experiment of running the country Of the People, For the People and By the People continued before sundown on Wed., Jan. 20, 2021.

In rodeo terminology, “wrangling” is a technique for achieving an end.

### **Round-Up On The Monterey Peninsula**

Remember the homeless-related questions I asked all seven peninsula mayors a few weeks ago, which only Monterey's mayor Clyde Roberson and city manager Hans Usler answered? Well, I'm still waiting, although a reader called to give her version of the potential Marina position.

MM, 75, a retired nurse, said, *“Marina isn't a rich city. There are young families here and the city council focuses on programs to benefit the children. The Veterans Transition Center on old Fort Ord helps the homeless vets, and there's a Project Roomkey motel in Marina where homeless people are sheltered during the pandemic.”*

Staying in that motel is HC, a part-time homeless security guard who has lived in her vehicle on and off for five years.

HC, 74, knows a lot of people in the local community of unsheltered women, some of whom participate in the One Starfish Safe Parking & Supportive Services Program sponsored by Orphan Productions, Inc. ([www.onestarfish.org](http://www.onestarfish.org)) and others from the Gathering for Women, which has provided homeless women with supportive resources and a caring community since 2014 ([www.gatheringforwomen.org](http://www.gatheringforwomen.org)).

HC said that last week she learned two homeless women from Gathering for Women got free cars from Change a Heart Foundation after apparently meeting Todd Sondgroth in or near Dennis the Menace Park and telling him their true (?) stories. HC said:

*“Each had a car of her own, so they took the better cars from Todd and sold their old ones.”*

He was aiming to give 10 cars to ten women by January 31.

My last e-mail from Todd solicited donations for a cargo trailer he said has been “*on my heart*” for a while. Todd wrote:

*“Essentially, I want to turn this trailer into a mobile food and resource bank that can meet the needy where they are. . . Once we get the trailer, we'll be passing out pre-made meals and non-perishable goods, clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, water, socks and undergarments, tarps, tents, and more. . . Obviously, we'll need volunteers, partners and more. . . we're really hoping to not have to purchase a trailer outright and hoping that someone has one that they can part with.”*

He invites people to contact him at 831-905-0482.

I told DM, Pacific Grove, who'd previously contributed to Change a Heart Foundation, that two recipients allegedly used Todd and then sold their old cars after taking his gifts.

DM responded: *A gift is to be given and its giver should not be judgmental about how the recipient uses or disposes of the gift so generously given.*

As an independent journalist, I needed to be reminded of the non-sectarian adage: *Judge not, that ye be not judged,*

I now add an old saw of my own: *Caveat emptor. Buyer, beware!*

## So Where Do We Stand Now?

I'm like a volunteer bureau chief whose unpaid staff is an ever-changing team of roving reporters. This week's homeless highlights include insights from Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, District 4, Monterey County Board of Supervisors:

*As of Mon., Jan. 25, the Regional Stay-at-Home Order (RSHO) for Monterey County was lifted by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Monterey County now returns to the Purple Tier which allows outdoor dining, personal services and other restricted gatherings.*

For details, cut and paste into your browser: [California Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#).

*Also: the Eviction Moratorium to protect Californians impacted by Covid-19, which was extended last week by President Biden to March 30, has now been extended by Governor Newsom through June 30, 2021.*

For details, cut and paste into your browser: [Eviction Moratorium](#).

Finally, in today's non-sectarian national democratic political spirit, in which the Creator's "Holy Name" is invoked, the wrangling has begun not only in Washington, D.C. but here in our own backyards! It began with my question after former First Lady, Melania Trump, departed the White House carrying a \$50,000 black alligator-skin handbag. I asked:

*"What can an expensive purse hold that a black trash bag or paper sack wouldn't contain?"* The answer? *Nothing.*

An old-fashioned all-American bronco buster might holler, "Thank God!"

###

### CREDITS:

Poster courtesy of Google Free Images. Haiku by Wanda Sue Parrott.

###

"Homeless in Paradise" is a free public service self-funded and produced by independent journalist Wanda Sue Parrott. It appears in Facebook, Nextdoor, and *The Cedar Street Times* at [www.cedarstreettimes.com](http://www.cedarstreettimes.com) and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to 831-899-5887, [amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com](mailto:amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com). Copyright 2021 by Wanda Sue Parrott.