

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

October 5-11, 2018

CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 10



CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION CHAOS FOLLOWS SEASIDE COUNCILMEMBER KAYLA'S COCKADOODLEDO

By Wanda Sue Parrott

SPEAKING rhetorically, an Unknown Philosopher once said : For every action, there's an equal and opposite reaction.

If open to interpretation, you might prefer “The law of action and reaction,” “Karma” and “The Law of Retribution.”

Jesus said wisely, “Cast not thy pearls before swine, lest they turn and rend you.”

So, what does this mean?

Basically, that the local level reflects the national level of politics, or vice versa!

What are the karmic consequences of whistle-blowing cockadoodledoers in Washington or here at home? Loss of trust!

Can Trust Be Restored?

Kayla Jones' post-outburst chance of winning the mayor's race in Seaside may or may not have been compromised by the things she said at the city council meeting on September 6. The outcome of the mayoral race won't be known until November 8.

However, by September 20 the city council chamber was packed with people abuzz with allegations about Kayla's presumed efforts to bilk the city of unauthorized expenses.

Public opinions ranged from the excuse-her-because-she's-young type to the blame-placing conviction type of opinion from a woman who said the city manager should resign for not catching Kayla's erroneous act.

“Aw phooey,” I mused. “The Housing Crisis issue I hoped to discuss with City Manager Craig Malin, about whether or not a village of tiny homes might come to Seaside, has been subverted by the drama generated by the act I recently described as cockadoodledoing by Kayla.

So, did Kayla’s blurt blunt advances she was making by starting the Homeless Committee in an effort to find ways and means of approaching the housing crisis? Time will tell, regardless of whether she wins the mayoral race or remains on the council seat for the next two years.

She posted a press release on September 21, excerpted here as the words of a Summiteer speaking in her own defense:

Governance Should Reflect The Community It Serves.

By Kayla Jones

“Public service should never be limited to the retired, wealthy, or child-free, especially in a community with so many low-income families. . . I’m grateful that my City Council unanimously passed family-care reimbursements for Councilmembers ‘while in the line of duty’ in 2017.

“Progressive policies like that empower everyday people to run for office and win, knowing that we won’t be spending thousands of dollars during our term to work for our residents.

“For example, prior to this policy, I spent \$2,300 out of my own pocket to receive a three-day mandatory training for newly elected officials. I could not afford to serve on the Council without this policy.

“Serving on the City Council is basically a volunteer job. My stipend minus healthcare is \$161/month. I put in an average of 100 hours a month into Councilmember duties.

“Regarding my travel to attend four workshops and the trip to Texas to hire the Police Chief, I was away from my family for several days at a time. All of my activities were legitimate City business and were cleared by City staff. Any of the Councilmembers could have participated, but they chose not to.”

More than a week later, Kayla was slapped with a backlash of publicity in KSBW-TV 8’s report by Christopher Salas who, on September 29, said: “Seaside councilwoman fined for failing to disclose campaign contributions. . . Jones spent over \$20,000 on childcare, travel and food since the beginning of 2017. . . It’s been the subject of scrutiny and it’s in part why the city is now looking into all councilmember spending dating back to 2015.”

As such, democracy provides a demonstration of Article 19 of The United Nations’ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” as inspired by such events as the #MeToo movement.

Recognize Article 19 by its American equivalent? It’s the 1st Amendment “Right to Freedom of Speech.”

Article 19, The UN’s “Universal Declaration Of Human Rights

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Write With A Smile

Two weeks ago, Seaside joined Next Door, the online community of neighbors helping neighbors.

This post is currently running: “We are looking for volunteers for our Homeless Committee, Environmental Committee, Neighborhood Improvement Committee and Board of Architectural Review.

Know anyone interested?

More information or application here: <http://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/156/Boards-Commissions>

Last week's column predicted that Seaside is going to shine like it's never shone before. Why?

In my personal opinion, I believe Seaside's City Manager, Craig Malin, inspires public trust and participation in the democratic process through a slogan on his City of Seaside newsletter The Manifest: "Write with a smile."

The September 29, 2018, edition is an example of kindly coverage of an unkind incident:

"Item I. Got Added to the Consent Agenda Monday – Councilmember Jones expressed some concerns near the end of the last Council Meeting, and City policy and good practice requires a response."

<http://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/396/The-Manifest>

There is power in pure philosophy. My life was saved in 1952 by these smiling words from the Los Angeles Herald-Express.

Mistakes

By Ben Burroughs

Most everybody makes mistakes, some big and others small/
And, therefore, we should not be hard on those who slip and fall./
Instead, we should extend our hand and help to rectify/
The oversight or undersight they may have let pass by./
Sometimes it is hard to overlook a blunder made in haste/
Especially if that error caused a lot of grief and waste./
So that is why I say "think twice" and show a kindly sign,/
For, to err is human, but forgiveness is divine!/

The world's most-famous philosopher might simply say, "With love, all things are possible."

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Photo Courtesy of City of Seaside

Seaside city leaders are seen promoting the new PARKing Day in Seaside recently with #seaside love hashtag posters created by community development duo Gloria Stearns and Sharon Mikesell.

On September 6, council member/mayoral candidate Kayla Jones' accusations of sexual harassment toward fellow council members at the city council meeting cast Seaside into chaos. Allegations are under investigation, although Jones claims she only asked for sensitivity training for her male colleagues.

(L to R: Jason Campbell, Council Member; Dennis Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem; Craig Malin, City Manager; Ralph Rubio, Mayor; Don Freeman, City Attorney; Kayla Jones, Council Member; Dave Pacheco, Council Member. From City of Seaside website at www.ci.seaside.ca.us/

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