

HOMELESS IN PARADISE
July 5-11, 2019

PENINSULA PULCHRITUDE - Part 27



MIGHT TROLLOPS TREAD WHERE TOURISTS STROLL TODAY?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

LOSING Catherine Thoeni as executive director of the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers was such a shock that I woke from a nightmare on Tuesday and wrote a eulogy!

If you haven't heard the month-old news about Thoeni's sudden resignation on June 9, it's in the Monterey County Weekly "Squidfry" column headlined: *Squid wishes Monterey County's homeless organizations were built stronger than a house of cards.*

The online link follows, and so do a few highlights in case the link doesn't work for you:

www.montereycountyweekly.com/opinion/squidfry/squid-wishes-monterey-county-s-homeless-organizations-were-built-stronger/article_dd5da556-9c.

Excerpts From Squid:

"Thoeni has been the virtual glue that holds together Monterey County's complex web of homeless services."

Also, "Under Thoeni's leadership, the nonprofit Coalition has been the go-to agency to conduct the biennial homeless census count."

She also administered the Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) funding that will result in the family shelter that's coming to Seaside. Olympia Shelter will have beds for 35 to 40 homeless women (and maybe a few dads) and children.

No one mentioned Thoeni's resignation at the Friends of Homeless Women meeting on Wednesday last week, where featured speakers were Kate Daniels Kurz, interim executive director of the Gathering for Women. Kate came aboard in February following sudden resignation of previous GFW executive director Jennifer Dalton.

Also speaking was Robin McCrae, CEO of Community Human Services, a job she has held since 1994.

GFW and CHS, co-partnering recipient of HEAP funding, will administer the county-owned property's transformation from old mobile medical unit to the peninsula's first such shelter at 1292 Olympia Ave., Seaside.

If Kate and Robin were aware of the resignation of Catherine Thoeni, whose CHSP is handling the funding, they were respectfully silent, as Monterey County's Glorietta Rowland seemed to be also when I asked about the status of the homeless census at the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers.

Glorietta said, "They're working on it and the results will be released later this summer."

The mission of the CHSP is to eliminate homelessness in Monterey and San Benito Counties by promoting interagency coordination to develop and sustain a comprehensive system of housing and support services designed to maximize the self-sufficiency of low-income and homeless individuals and families of all races and ethnicities.

Is A Resignation Pattern Emerging?

No mention of Thoeni's resignation arose at last Thursday's Seaside Homeless Commission meeting either. At that meeting, which will be covered in depth next week, lengthy discussion was held about the law and growing homeless encampments in Laguna Grande Park.

Is there a pattern emerging in which women in positions of influence resign under pressure? For instance, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, former press secretary, resigned from the Trump cabinet in the past two weeks.

And don't forget city council member Kayla Jones, who started the Seaside Homeless Committee early last year. She resigned under pressure Dec. 1 when public pressure was brought to bear about her over-budget expenses.

Is there a correlation between strong, bright women who suddenly resign jobs they love and the rising wave of women speaking out about sexual abuse? What's going on?

Commissioner Kenneth Raye Murray, pastor of Oceanview Baptist church, said he had been down in lower Laguna Grande. "It's a jungle down there," he said, describing without detail some "pretty bad" things men are doing to women with sticks.

In last week's televised address to a coalition of Faith-based organizations, Vice President Mike Pence said California leads the nation in trafficking of sexually abused women and children.

Prostitution is defined as "Selling sex for money." However, when children are being trafficked, their "pay" is often an exchange of sex for favors or toys.

Treading Turf Trodden By Tramps

Although "sex work" (as prostitutes call their profession) is just coming to light in this area, it's prevalent in Vallejo, California's sex capital.

There, prostitution-fighting femmes fatale known alternately as “The Kentucky Street Watch Owls” and “The Ho Patrol” now tromp the “Supermarket for Sex” streets.

Am I kidding? No! See for yourself!

The turf trodden by trollops, and a billboard known as the “Hall of Shame” bearing images and identities of pimps, prostitutes, and johns, are featured in news stories on You Tube at:

www.videosofvallejoprostitution.com.

To help prevent a scene like Vallejo’s from arising here, make your reservations now for a workshop that can help prevent supermarkets for sex from appearing on our streets.

Avoid Future Nightmares

The Monterey County Rape Crisis Center will present “Beyond the Basics: Effectively Serving Survivors,” **Thurs., August 8, 2019, 9:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m., Marina Library, 190 Seaside Circle, Marina.** \$20 registration required. Water and coffee will be served. Lunch from noon-1 p.m. on your own. Seating is limited, so register early!

Survivors from Rising International’s Safe & Sound program will provide in-depth understanding of sexual violence and human trafficking, as well as practical crisis-intervention knowledge about rape culture and bystander intervention; sex and labor trafficking; handling disclosures; reporting and support and referrals.

Register at 831-373-3955 or online at www.mtryrapecrisis.org.

Returning to my personal nightmare, I woke to a voice saying, “You can take the preacher from the pulpit, but you can’t take the pulpit from the preacher.”

Might the muse have meant we haven’t seen the last of Catherine Thoeni, which explains why I penned only 55 words of a 100-word Story Stanza eulogy?

An Ode To Catherine Thoeni

Catherine Thoeni’s resignation impacts local homelessness like the atom bomb vaporized Japan, wounding all survivors while distributing healing duties to successors who struggle to wear her hats.

She served as advocate for all homeless folks.

She was like our Mother Teresa of the Monterey Peninsula.

Will there be enough shoes to match her single pair?

If I could ask her if she thinks trollops might tread where tourists stroll today, what do you think Catherine would say?

###

Bronze Sculpture “The White Slaver” by Abastenia St. Leger Eberle
triple haiku by Wanda Sue Parrott

*timeless tragedy
nineteenth-century sculpture
old man pimping child
one-hundred-thousand
american prostitutes
are sex workers now
schools are stepping up
trying to identify
children sold for sex*

This column appears in the weekly online edition of Cedar Street Times at www.cedarstreettimes.com.

Contact Wanda Sue Parrott 831-899-5887 amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com

Copyright 2019 by Wanda Sue Parrott