

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

June 18-24, 2021

### LET THE BOONDOGGLE-BUSTING BEGIN! -- Part 5

**Governor Gavin Newsom is seen on the Late Late Show with James Corden after opening California on June 15.**

**He addressed homelessness and announced that institutions for the mentally ill will be reinstated.**

**(click link below to view original video)**

**[Gov. Gavin Newsom Has Opened Up California!](#)**



### WHERE DO THE HOMELESS CAMPERS GO FROM HERE?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**BOONDOOGLING**, as a hypothetical team sport on the Monterey Peninsula, now has its first confirmed case of Covid-19 "Pandemium" in which both winners and losers emerged in a contest fans might call a *tie* and critics define as a *draw*.

If Seaside's Boondoggler Busters won by being the first peninsula city to welcome homeless campers during the pandemic, they also seemed to lose their title on Tuesday when dwellers in vehicles overstayed their welcomes and, therefore, became boondogglers who appeared to bust their benefactors.

I checked out the campsite of Seaside's future Campus Town twice on Tuesday, June 15, the day California reopened after 15 months of shelter-in-place lockdown.

AKA the "Ides of June," Governor Newsom celebrated reopening the world's fifth largest economy with ten \$1.5 million prizes drawn like lottery winnings for those who got vaccinated after May 27. Some call it a *bribe* and others a *boondoggle buster*. To me, it might fit the definition of a *Boonsplit*.

As author of the textbook that inspired this current Homeless in Paradise series, I've been doing field investigation of Boonsplits among the homeless, as described on page 66 of *The Boondoggler's Bible—How to Fight Like City Hall to Win!*

#### What Kind Of Player Is A Boonsplit?

*A Boonsplit is a combination of Boondoggler types,  
probably inwardly restless or actually experiencing turmoil  
or some other form of conflict,  
like having an itch you need to scratch  
but cannot locate.*

#### Would The Campers Be Out On Time?

At 2:30 p.m., my own unscratched itch (aka curiosity) took me up to Col. Durham Blvd., site of the future Campus Town. I counted 13 vehicles in the church parking lot across from Monterey College of Law, where 35 vehicles of the former Roberts Lake Community of homeless people had stayed during the pandemic. The

homeless community's agreement with the City of Seaside was they'd vacate the property on June 15. Most campers were gone.

When I communicated last week with Seaside City Manager, Craig Malin, about the plans for relocating these campers, he said the city had provided them with leads on RV parks and other services, but did not actually suggest places for them to go.

So, when I returned to check out the site a half hour before sunset on Tuesday night, 18 vehicles remained. A white-haired man was wiring his disabled camper.

"I'm with the press, checking out the last night here for members of the former Roberts Lake Community," I said. "Do you think you'll be out by sundown?"

"I'm sure trying," the man said, adjusting wires.

"Do you know where you're going from here?"

"No."

"Have you thought of Veterans Park in Monterey?"

"They charge a fee..."

"What about parking on Lapis Road in Marina, where people used to park?"

"I might try Laguna Seca..."

"How about Orphan Productions? It runs the One Starfish Safe Parking program that was in Marina and a church in Seaside?"

"They're all full... There is no place to go."

I thanked him, wished him well, and returned to my home office to start drafting this column, beginning with an e-mail Q&A I'd sent to Tia Sukin Fechter about Orphan Productions and One Starfish. My questions and her answers follow:

### **What's The Status Of One Starfish?**

Q. After 6-15-21, will One Starfish still operate Safe Parking for Women?

A. *Yes, and we haven't stopped operating through the pandemic.*

Q. If yes, how many women will be actively in One Starfish as it reopens?

A. *We have been actively open through the pandemic. We operate and have operated at full capacity with a total of 45 guests.*

Q. Will applications be taken from women who need Safe Parking, and how do they apply?

A. *Please find our intake phone lines at <https://www.onestarfishsafeparking.org/contact/>*

Q. Is Orphan Productions still the parent organization of One Starfish?

A. *Yes.*

Q. Are you, Michael and Tia Sukin Fechter, still running it?

A. *Technically, Michael is the Program Director, and Tia Fechter is a volunteer and President of the Board. Therefore, Michael runs the operational side of Orphan Productions.*

Q. Is Orphan Productions still operating safe parking for families living in campers and other vehicles?

A. *Yes. We still operate the County Safe Parking Program. We are still searching for a new location to accommodate RVs, so we are not actively enrolling new guests with RVs.*

Q. Is the safe parking program an option after California reopens?

A. Yes, and it always has been through the pandemic.

Q. How is it funded?

A. Orphan Productions is funded via grants, reimbursement for services, and individual donations.

Details at: <https://www.onestarfisshsafeparking.org/funding/> and  
<https://www.onestarfisshsafeparking.org/donations/>.

Tia requested I refrain from publishing locations of campsites to respect privacy and safety of guests.

### **The Morning After The Night Before**

At 10:00 AM on June 16, 18 vehicles were on the lot as were police cars, an animal control vehicle, trucks hauling off portable toilets, and a metal claw heaving trash into dumpsters.

No pets were present. Nor was the white-haired man, whose camper looked abandoned.

Did Seaside appear boondoggled in the homeless game because there was simply no place for the houseless players to go when they said they would?

Hours earlier, Governor Gavin Newsom addressed homelessness on James Corden's Late Late Show, announcing that institutionalized care for the mentally ill will be reinstated in California. See the segment here:

[Gov. Gavin Newsom Has Opened Up California!](#)

[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YM03A94oYE\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YM03A94oYE)

That seems a fair enough Boonsplit score!

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**CREDITS:** Photo courtesy the Late Late Show with James Corden.

*The Boondoggler's Bible—How to Fight Like City Hall to Win!!* (\$17 from author Wanda Sue Parrott, P. O. Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942-1821) or from amazon.com.

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