

HOMELESS IN PARADISE
August 26 – September 1, 2021

LET THE BOONDOGGLE-BUSTING BEGIN! – Part 15

***** SEE KSBW NEWS FLASH regarding MISSION BELL THEFT at end of this Column! *****

*here in monterey
project roomkey shuts its doors
in the next few days*

*santa cruz removes
its last king's highway marker
this coming weekend*

*truth is emerging
california's history
was a pack of lies*

*now's the time to vote
NO on changing governors
gav's job's not done yet*



DO YOU THINK THE GOVERNOR SHOULD FINISH HIS JOB?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

STARTING on Tues., Aug. 31, 76-year-old HC will move back into her van. If lucky, she won't spend a sixth year as one of the unknown numbers of homeless women on the Monterey Peninsula. Why? Because her name is finally high on the long list of homeless women waiting for affordable housing.

Since June 2020, HC has been temporarily sheltered in a Project Roomkey motel in Monterey County. Initiated last year by Gov. Gavin Newsom, PRK enabled homeless people to shelter indoors during the pandemic. The Exit Notice of August 10, 2021, says:

"This letter is to advise you that Project Roomkey (PRK) will be closing all operations. Your move-out date is scheduled for Monday, August 30th at 3:00 p.m. . . . Room keys will no longer be functional after the date and time."

During her 14-month stay in the motel, HC was offered help by the Housing Authority of Monterey County and Central Coast Center for Independent Living, whose Housing Navigation opportunities she declined.

According to HC, one opportunity was home-sharing through Covia Home Match. Also, through Community Homeless Solutions bridge housing, she could have shared a unit with a woman she knew to have a criminal record and/or an unknown married couple around whom she felt uneasy. She also had the chance for a unit in Salinas, too far from her doctors on the peninsula where she has lived since elementary school.

The exit notice affirms HC's acknowledged refusal of shared living opportunities, and continues:

"We understand that you are choosing to wait for the next available unit at Junsay Oaks (in Marina) and plan to reside in your car until then. Our staff will support you in identifying safe parking and ensure that you are connected to all available resources through that transition."

Unknown (to me) is the number of actual PRK guests whose temporary shelter ends this week, or the percentage of such homeless persons involved with CCCIL The 2021 Homeless Point in Time Census & Survey was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2019 homeless census undercounts Monterey County's homeless population as 2,422, yet a schools survey cites 4,500 homeless students for the same area!

Governor Gavin Newsom's next homeless-abatement program, Project Homekey (PHK), is set to include 42,000 affordable housing units. Its fate is unknown, pending outcome of the recall election results on September 14. See [CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN - gov.ca.gov](https://www.gov.ca.gov/).

The Governor's Boondoggle-Busting Apology

Turning back the clock to June 18, 2019, an executive order signed by Gov. Newsom formally apologized to California's Native Americans for historical mistreatment, violence and neglect that is being addressed in Santa Cruz this weekend as the last of the mission-bell highway markers in the city is removed.

An invitation states:

"Join us to witness the historic removal of the last standing 'El Camino Real' mission bell marker in downtown Santa Cruz and learn directly from California Indian leaders and scholars about the true history of the California Mission system. The City of Santa Cruz has unanimously resolved to remove all El Camino Real bell markers from public property, following requests by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band—and will now become the first city in California to do so."

Starting in 1908 in Southern California, mission bell markers were set up along the highways in California as historical guideposts to promote tourism. The legendary mission-building Father Junipero Serra's travels were romanticized. Truth has emerged since then.

For instance, between 1850 and 1859 the governors of California called for private and militia campaigns against Native peoples in the state. In 1851, California's first Governor declared in his State of the State address "...a war of extermination will continue to be waged between the two races until the Indian race becomes extinct..."

Back in 2019, for the first time, a state took dual action to correct historical records and acknowledge wrongdoings. California Gov. Gavin Newsom established the Truth and Healing Council to provide Native Americans a platform to clarify the historical record and work collaboratively with the state to begin the healing process that's being celebrated this weekend.

The governor is closely exploring the historical relationship between the state and its Native Americans through a Truth and Healing Council that reported draft findings to the Governor's Tribal Advisor beginning January 1, 2020, and will produce a final written report of findings on or before January 1, 2025.

A copy of the Governor's executive order can be found at <https://bit.ly/3mzbiNu>

El Camino Real Bell Removing Ceremony

Location of the historic bell-removing ceremony is Santa Cruz Mission Plaza, Awwaswas Territories (Santa Cruz, CA). Details and ride sharing/carpooling info from colleencabot@earthlink.net. Wear a mask and bring your own water to all activities.

Friday, August 27, 2021 - 1:00–5:30 p.m. Panel discussion on painful histories of California Missions that brutalized indigenous people. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Dramatic reading of Esselen memories from the Mission Period.

Saturday, August 27, 2021 - 1:00 p.m. Amah Mutsun ceremony to remove the last mission bell from the City of Santa Cruz. A public speaking event followed by a one-mile procession starting at 3:00 p.m., to reach the bell removal ceremony location. Shuttle service will be available for those who need a lift. The bell removal ceremony will conclude at 5:00 p.m. The day's events will also be live streamed at the new Remove the Bells Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/removethebells>.

Information on the three events scheduled for this weekend is at:

http://parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30648

<https://m.facebook.com/events/363807861861099>

The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is comprised of descendants of the Indigenous peoples taken to Mission San Juan Bautista and Mission Santa Cruz. Learn more about the Amah Mutsun at:

www.amahmutsunlandtrust.org

www.amahmutsun.org

www.protectjuristac.org

As to HC, the 76-year-old former Project Room Key guest who chose to live in her van until she gets housing. She says, "*I'd rather live in my car than put my life in danger living with people I don't know.*"

She will be a guest of the One Starfish Safe Parking Program, which hosts homeless women who live in vehicles in church parking lots from Carmel Valley throughout the Monterey Peninsula. See more at:

www.onestarfisshsafeparking.org

EDITOR'S NOTE: Less than 24 hours after Wanda Sue's "**Homeless in Paradise**" article was posted on her website page, she learned of a Mission Bell that was stolen from Soquel and Dakota avenues in Santa Cruz. The removal ceremony scheduled for Saturday, August 28, 2021, was held as scheduled. Representatives from the Amah Mutsun tribe told KSBW news on Saturday that what was important to them is that the bell is gone. Further details about the Mission Bell theft can be obtained at this link:

<https://www.ksbw.com/article/mission-bell-stolen-from-soquel-and-dakota-avenues-in-santa-cruz/37422309#>

CREDITS:

Photo: Mission bell sunset, from a Pinterest post: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/130393351680742994/>.
News Flash details by KSBW: <https://www.ksbw.com/article/mission-bell-stolen-from-soquel-and-dakota-avenues-in-santa-cruz/37422309#>

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

###

Website property of Great Spirit Publishing. Content copyrighted by Wanda Sue Parrott. For details on making contributions to support maintenance of the website, see Contact section at <https://homeless-in-paradise.yolasite.com/Contact.php>.

###

"Homeless in Paradise" is a free public service self-funded and produced by independent journalist Wanda Sue Parrott. It appears in Facebook, Nextdoor, and private e-mail lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to 831-899-5887, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com. Copyright 2021 by Wanda Sue Parrott.

###

For information about Clean Up California and other programs by Gov. Gavin Newsom:

Click this link: [CALIFORNIA COMEBACK PLAN - gov.ca.gov](https://www.gov.ca.gov/),

or copy and paste this full link in your browser bar:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CA-Comeback-Homelessness-Plan.pdf>