



Notorious Crimes:
Manhunt!—Tanko eludes hundreds of manhunters on crime spree 2

Central Council:
Dought & Sources of Water, Balboa Reservoir Housing 5



Mayor's Housing Scam?
Investigative reporter Patrick Monet-Shaw leaves no stone unturned 4

Quentin Kopp:
Trust in Government? Dont get too comfortable 4



Cherry Blossom Festival
And so much more—it all happens in the calendar 12

Crime Report:
Follow our intrepid officers in blow-by-blow accounts from the Taraval Station..... 10

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Last Gas Station West of Twin Peaks Endangered

By George Wooding

The San Francisco Real Estate Department may be about to push the Twin Peaks Petroleum gas station out of business by not negotiating the station's new lease in good faith. The gas station has been located on the corner of Portola and Woodside Avenue for over 60 Years. This piece of property is located on Department of Public Health (DPH) property. The gas station was originally leased to Mobil Oil and then transferred to British Petroleum. The station as been managed/owned for over 30 years by Nancy and Michael Gharib.

It's not often when a neighborhood business becomes an institution. It's even rarer when a gas station captures the hearts of surrounding neighborhoods.

After all, gas stations can be noisy, odiferous, and obtrusive. They are designed more for convenience than neighborhood appeal.

Besides being one of the last surviving independent gas stations in San Francisco, this gas station is the last gas station servicing the Twin Peaks neighborhoods for over one to three miles in any direction.

On average, the station's price per gallon of gas is approximately ten cents lower than chain gas stations. Beyond consumer convenience, these lower prices help to keep chain gas station prices lower due



to competition.

According to station owner Michael Gharib, "We have been great caretakers of Twin Peaks Petroleum for over 30 years and have always treated the City land as if it were our own.

"When I first set out as a service station owner 30-plus years ago, it was all about the word 'service.' We may have modernized and streamlined over the years, but that is still one past aspect of the industry

Cont. p. 14

Alcatraz Ferry Move to Fort Mason: Bad for the City

By John Farrell

We all read recently that the National Park Service (NPS) wants to move the Alcatraz ferry from its current long-term home at the Port of San Francisco to Fort Mason. This move may be necessary if the NPS cannot reach an agreement with the Port on a 50-year lease.

Per federal law, the NPS puts the Alcatraz ferry concession up for competitive bid every 10 years. Currently, the company that wins the Alcatraz ferry concession bid decides from where the ferries will depart. The current concession with Hornblower Yachts expires in 2016. The NPS now wants a minimum 50-year lease on the ferry piers for itself, and to sublease to whoever wins the future bids. The NPS has identified three possible locations - two at the Port (includes its existing location at Pier 31 ½ and 33) and at Fort Mason.

If the NPS moves the Alcatraz ferry to Fort Mason, the City will lose millions in revenue. Let's don't blow it like the Presidio did with George Lucas.

Why is this move bad for the City? First off, the Port will lose millions over the years from no longer receiving lease payments. Local businesses along Fisherman's Wharf will also lose millions in revenue as the result of the projected 1.7 million annual passengers of the ferry going to Fort Mason. This doesn't even take into account the effect on the traffic and congestion to Marina District residents.

The City will also lose millions over the years in property tax revenue for our General Fund. Let me explain this one. Most properties are reappraised upon ownership transfer or completion of new construction per Prop 13 by County Assessor's Offices. These valuations by the Assessor are pretty basic, since transfers are based on recorded deeds and new constructions are based on permits filed with the Department of Building Inspection (DBI).

However it is quite different when it comes to "possessory interests" when a private party leases, rents, or



makes payments for use of government-owned property, and is subject to a "possessory interest tax" (property tax). Keep in mind the Assessor relies on all government agencies (federal, state and local) to report their users. In many cases users are not reported and the Assessor staff needs to visit the properties to see what is there. Many times these assessments are not assessed or under-assessed, many times due to politics.

I recently talked with an appraiser from another county who handles possessory interest, and asked him about several assessments. He said they were aware of the potential assessments, but their county was not appraising since it was too political. This reminded me of when I worked in the Assessor's Office years ago and specialized in possessory interest. I remember going through numerous files and found one with a note from a prior Assessor stating, "Do not assess. Too Political." However, we picked up this assessment along with dozens of others that were never appraised before, such as shipping and cruise lines, advertising on MUNI and BART, naming rights at Candlestick, a towing service, stadium concessions, and numerous missed assessments resulting in millions in tax revenue to the City that would have otherwise not been received. Back then, Fort Mason users for private benefit were assessed. However, over the past ten years, they are no longer assessed. That means that the Alcatraz ferry concessionaire currently paying property tax at the Port will no longer pay if it moves to Fort Mason.

During World War II, Fort Mason was the headquarters for the "San Francisco Port of Embarkation" which controlled shipping facilities across the Bay Area. Over the years of WW II, two-thirds of our troops sent into the Pacific, and more than half of all army cargo moved through West Coast ports. This high volume continued in the 1950's with the Korean War, and through the early 1960's. In 1955 the "San Francisco Port of Embarkation" was renamed the "U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Command Pacific." In 1965 the headquarters transferred to the Oakland Army Terminal, and most of Fort Mason's embarkation facilities fell into disuse. Since Fort Mason was no longer being used for military purposes, the federal government transferred jurisdiction to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in the 1970's to be used for natural, historic, and cultural purposes.

Military installations are federal enclaves and are

Cont. p. 1

As Parents Get More Choice, S.F. Schools Resegregate

By Jeremy Adam Smith



San Francisco Unified School District board member Rachel Norton at the Mission District's Marshall Elementary, which has 81 percent Latino students. *Photoby Anna Vignet/ San Francisco Public Press*

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San Francisco faces a challenge: promoting educational options without undermining classroom diversity

Each January, parents across San Francisco rank their preferences for public schools. By June, most get their children into their first choices, and almost three-quarters get one of their choices.

A majority of families may be satisfied with the outcome, but the student assignment system is failing to meet its No. 1 goal, which the San Francisco Unified School District has struggled to achieve since the 1960s: classroom diversity.

Since 2010, the year before the current policy went into effect, the number of San Francisco's 115 public schools dominated by one race has climbed significantly. Six in 10 have simple majorities of one racial group. In almost one-fourth, 60 percent or more of the students belong to one racial group, which administrators say makes them "racially isolated." That described 28 schools in 2013–2014, up from 23 in 2010–2011, according to the district.

But the San Francisco Public Press has found the problem may be even more stark: If Asian and Filipino students are counted together — the standard used by the Census — together the number of racially isolated schools in the last school year rose to 39.

The drive toward racial isolation in the district parallels a larger trend in the city: With many wealthier families opting for private alternatives, the public school system is becoming racially and economically isolated from the city as a whole.

Why does it matter whether schools are diverse? One reason is academic performance. Recent studies from Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley, show that many students do much better on tests when placed in integrated classrooms, and that all kids are much less likely to grow up with racial stereotypes and prejudices. Far from being opposed to each other, excellence and diversity go hand in hand.

How did this resegregation of schools happen in a city where almost everyone from district leaders to parents supports the ideal of diversity?

Dramatic income inequality, shifting demographics, rising housing costs and the proliferation of language programs are fueling the trend. But the biggest culprit, say outside researchers and local education leaders, is the feature that defines the student assignment system: school choice.

The district provides parents with a dizzying amount of information about the schools. The application process requires time, language skills and access to technology — advantages that often come with education and financial resources. "Choice is inherently inequitable," San Francisco Board of Education member Sandra Fewer said at a December meeting on student assignment. "If you don't have resources, you don't have choice."

Cont. p. 8

Notorious Crooks of San Francisco

Manhunt!

“Tanko Invades City, Spreading Terror! Joe Tanko, murderer and terrorist, who, eluding hundreds of Sacramento man hunters last night, continued his spectacular holdups of Motorists in a desperate bid for freedom.”

There is nothing more exciting than a good manhunt! A notorious criminal is on the run! His picture stares out from the front page of the newspapers with a large reward attached. A frisson of excitement runs through the city. At any moment this desperado could appear, die in a shoot out with police or escape again into the shadows. When it came to being hunted, there was no man better than Joe Tanko.

It all began in September 1923 when 24-year-old Tanko and his 21-year-old crime partner, Floyd Hall, fatally shot San Bruno Police Chief Arthur G. Meehan. They were caught a few weeks later when a letter from Tanko to his brother, in which he admitted to 40 robberies and to killing Meehan, was given to police. Because of their youth and their guilty plea Tanko and Hall were spared the death penalty and received a life sentence instead.

While being transported to San Quentin the crime partners made their first escape attempt but they were foiled by an alert sheriff. A year later, on April 7, 1925, Tanko and Hall broke out of San Quentin by picking a lock and sliding down a jute rope. While police and armed posses searched for them, Tanko and Hall provisioned themselves with food, supplies, and firearms from store burglaries in Petaluma and Healdsburg. The pair then embarked on a spectacular crime spree.

Sacramento, California, May 11, 1925 2ND EDITION

\$1000.00 REWARD

Wanted for Murder and Assault to Murder on Two Charges.



TANKO HALL

Q Street, they entered the car where Frank Harlow and his four year old daughter were sitting and forced Harlow to drive them out of town. As police chased them, Tanko fired into the pursuing car, severely wounding police officer Clyde Nunn. The fugitives drove on until the car ran out of gas, and then they fled on foot. They were reported to be in Auburn, then in Grass Valley. A massive manhunt pursued them; posses searched the surrounding swamps, and riverbanks without success.

On May 5th the pair commandeered a U.S. Mail truck in the town of Gold Run and made a wild drive down the mountain towards Sacramento. A flat tire caused them to abandon the truck and they disappeared into the mountain area. Over 200 deputies surrounded the area but Tanko and Hall slipped through the dragnet, stole a car and re-entered Sacramento on May 14th. A reward of \$1000 was placed on their heads.



House where Tanko killed.

1373 McAllister after the shooting 1373 McAllister today

At this point Hall and Tanko decided that their chances were better if they separated. Hall was arrested the next day when an ex-con in whose room he was hiding turned him in to police for the reward money. Tanko disappeared.

By this time both men had achieved near mythic status. Hall was treated like a celebrity by a fawning press, “Captured desperado sobs at mention of his family,” was the subhead of the *SF Examiner* article.

While hundreds of armed men searched every rooming house in Sacramento, Tanko was reported heading for the Bay Area. On May 19th as accountant C.O. Buntly drove slowly through Golden Gate Park, a man entered his car and stuck a gun into his side. It was Joe Tanko. “Drive like hell! I don’t care where to,” he commanded. Buntly drove to North Beach and when the car became stuck in traffic on Kearny Street Tanko jumped out and escaped.

While Tanko was still at large, Hall was indicted for the murder of Litzberg and the shooting of Officer Nunn. He was convicted and sentenced to death, but the case was reversed on appeal and a second trial was scheduled. Hall was the ultimate “bad boy”- fearless, charming, and photogenic. In 1926, despite eyewitness testimony, Hall was acquitted of the shooting of Nunn. His courtroom groupies cheered mightily. After a second trial on the Litzberg murder proved inconclusive, authorities decided not to

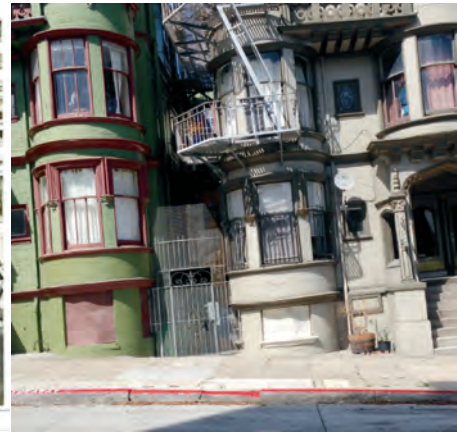


San Francisco Chronicle, May 19, 1925

On April 12th they carjacked a Santa Rosa rancher, on April 14th they held up a Sacramento cab driver and escaped after a shoot out with Sacramento Police.

A few days later, while police staked out the highways around Sacramento, Tanko and Hall robbed Harry Litzberg’s Sacramento store, killing him in the process.

Police from neighboring communities flooded into the capital city to aid the search, to no avail. On April 21st Tanko and Hall continued their depredations by robbing two cab drivers and taking their cars. Two days later, at 17th and



Also INSIDE

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|----|
| Drought Pricing | 7 | On Stage/Theater | 13 |
| Juan Gonzalez | 7 | Jack Kaye | 15 |
| International Film Festival | 4 | Boomer’s Legal | 15 |
| Old Friend Requim | 5 | Then & Now / Open Late | 16 |
| Artificial Turf/Cancer | 6 | Sudoku/Brain Füd | 16 |
| Will Durst | 6 | Kocivar / Education | 17 |
| Initiative Process | 6 | Real Travel | 19 |
| Calendar | 12 | | |
| At the Movies | 13 | | |

retry him, since he was already serving a life sentence for the murder of Police Chief Mehan.

Where was Tanko? For most of the next 18 months Tanko lived in Denver, supporting himself through robberies and other criminal activities. He kept his identity a secret and told his girlfriend he was a San Francisco businessman. He returned to San Francisco in October 1926 to see his other girlfriend, who knew his real identity.

On November 13th SFPD Sergeant Vernon Van Matre stood outside a basement apartment at 1373 McAllister Street preparing to arrest Willie De Bardalaben and his gang for an assault on a man and his wife. Van Matre did not expect trouble but he

It seems that Hall, who was paroled in the late 1960s, received a full pardon in 1972 with the help of a lobbyist who fell under his charm. “They took him to the Brass Rail, a lobbyist and legislative hangout, and Hall got acquainted with everyone within an hour. He was very personable.”

brought along three other policemen to block the other exits in case Willie decided to make a run for it. Sergeant Van Matre raised an outside window and saw De Bardelaben stretched out on a bed. He called out to Willie telling him that the building was surrounded and that he should come out with his hands up.

The suspect rose with his hands up and backed away from the officer saying, “I can’t. He’s got me covered.” As Van Matre shoved aside the screen to enter the room he was shot in the groin by Joe Tanko, who had been hiding out in the apartment. Tanko took the stairway leading to rooms above.

As he ascended the stairs, Tanko came face to face with Detective Sergeant Roney, who asked him to surrender. Tanko fired first, hitting Roney in the stomach. Though wounded seriously, Roney fired back five times, killing Tanko instantly.

When news of the shooting got out, crowds filled McAllister Street reveling vicariously in the recent drama. Almost 20,000 people visited the Coroner’s office over the few days to view the corpse of the man who had terrified Northern California. “He’s smaller than I thought he’d be” was the most popular observation.

Tanko was buried in Potter’s field in San Mateo. So, with Tanko dead and Hall in prison for life it looked like the story was over. But that wasn’t the case.

While going through the late Kevin Mullen’s files (Kevin was a SFPD Deputy Police Chief and noted crime historian) I found a letter from a retired Sacramento attorney with an interesting story about Floyd Hall, Tanko’s partner. It seems that Hall, who was paroled in the late 1960s, received a full pardon in 1972 with the help of a lobbyist who fell under his charm. “They took him to the Brass Rail, a lobbyist and legislative hang-out, and Hall got acquainted with everyone within an hour. He was very personable.”

“I am bewitched with the rogue’s company. If the rascal has not given me medicines to make me love him, I’ll be hanged.” William Shakespeare

Alcatraz Ferry (Cont. from p. 1)

exempt from state authority. Per legal counsel of the State Board of Equalization, a “federal enclave” is a property over which the federal government holds exclusive jurisdiction. The transfer of jurisdiction to the GGNRA negates the concept of “federal enclave” and “exclusive jurisdiction” since Fort Mason is no longer used for military purposes. Current users of Fort Mason include restaurants, art galleries, etc. Many users, such as those for educational purposes, would be tax-exempt by filing the applicable exemption.

The Alcatraz ferry move to Fort Mason is a bad move for the City, not

only financially, but because it hurts local businesses along Fisherman’s Wharf, and Marina District residents. The Assessor should revisit the assessment of private users of Fort Mason, and get a legal opinion from the State Board of Equalization, its governing body, on this matter. Or the Assessor can just leave it the way it is: unfair and inequitable taxation.

Everyone should pay their fair share.
John Farrell Broker/Realtor* – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former City Asst. Assessor-Budget/Special Projects, 5th Generation San Franciscan, Westside resident - farrell-reinvestments@yahoo.com

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SEE OUR PROGRESS

in San Francisco



Patrick Moore
Senior Customer Care
Implementation Manager
INGLESIDE RESIDENT




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At PG&E, our customers are our neighbors. The communities we serve as PG&E employees are where we live and work too.

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Together, we are working to enhance pipeline safety and strengthen our gas and electric infrastructure—for your family and ours.

SEE THE FACTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

-  **Replaced** approximately 28 miles of gas distribution pipeline
-  **Invested** more than \$167.5 million into electrical improvements
-  **Connected** more than 4,500 rooftop solar installations



Together, Building
a Better California

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Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



In September 1952, Adlai E. Stevenson, then governor of Illinois and Democratic Party candidate for president of the United States against retired General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, stated at the Los Angeles Town Club: “Public confidence in the integrity of the Government is indispensable to faith in democracy; and when we lose faith in the system, we have lost faith in everything we fight and spend for.”

That may explain polling results, which show dwindling faith in the federal government, whether it's the 40% or so who think President Obama executes his responsibilities laudably, or the 11% or so who evoke favorable reviews of the Congress. Similar poll statistics evolve from voter surveys about the state legislature, although Governor Jerry Brown, whose loss of his beloved older sister Cynthia Brown Kelly of Magellan Avenue saddened all who knew her, receives majority approval.

One example of why we disrespect public officials is Vice President Joe Biden, a favorite target of conservative radio and television commentators. In her October 23, 2014 column, New York Post writer Michelle Malkin observer about Biden's youngest son: “Everything you need to know about Beltway nepotism, corporate cronyism and corruption can be found in the biography of Robert Hunter Biden...” who made news last week after The Wall Street Journal revealed he'd been booted from the Naval Reserve for cocaine use. His drug abuse was certainly no surprise to the Navy, which issued him a waiver for a previous drug offense before commissioning him as a public affairs officer at the age of 43.

Despite the disgraceful ejection from our military, Hunter's Connecticut law license won't be subject to automatic review. Because, well, Biden!

Or, let me remind you of former California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger distorting and disgracing our criminal justice system in 2010 before they left office. Nunez' son was convicted of killing Luis Santos in San Diego County in 2008. Schwarzenegger, the Republican flash, commuted young Nunez' state prison sentence to but two years, leading Kern County's public defender to allow that the story “leaves me sick” and a Los Angeles Times reader to disclaim: “Shame on Schwarzenegger and Nunez for abusing the power of their offices to prove to the (victim's) family that there is one system of justice for the rich and powerful and another for everyone else.”

Meanwhile, an erstwhile San Francisco District Attorney, now California Attorney General but looking for the more powerful pasture of the U.S. Senate, Kamala Harris, falsely accused an impeccable professional United States Attorney (Melinda Haag) of “unethical tactics” and “bias” while representing as a private attorney (without charging a fee) an accused murderer in Los Angeles County in 2006. Late last month in an appellate court document Harris, a sworn officer of the court, admitted her accusation had been “improvidently filed” and her “spokeswoman” (don't you love these taxpayer-supported shields of elected public officials?) refused to explain while Harris uttered no apology to a genuinely non-political prosecutor, the only one in San Francisco.

Another example is the current local district attorney, George Gascon, former police chief and lawyer, who's never tried a criminal case in any court, but whose appointment served the interests of this mayor, former mayor Willie Brown, and Chinatown's vituperative Rose Pak, the puppet-mistress. After revelations of misconduct by deputies at the County Jail (encouraging inmate fist-fights), police officers exchanging racist and homophobic e-mails, and police department laboratory personnel failing DNA testing, the putative DA, seeking re-election this November, proclaims formation of a “task force” to investigate such allegations. He wants to upstage our Police Chief, Greg Suhr, whose Internal Affairs operation had already begun probing the e-mail episodes. A retired policeman and ex-police union president appropriately characterized Gascon “an ambitious lunatic.” It's common knowledge at the Hall of Justice that the Public Defender's Office, led by St. Francis Woods resident Jeff Adachi, runs circles around Gascon's office in criminal cases. Gascon's election year foray represents another abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, amidst all the staged agitation nationally, regionally and locally by the usual forces of victimhood over tragic shootings of blacks from New York City to California by mostly white police officers, no attention is bestowed on a study published online in the Journal of Experimental Criminology on May 22, 2014. Interviewing over 300 police officers, the academic researchers found the cops felt more threatened by black men but were less likely to shoot black or female suspects than white or Hispanic suspects. One researcher, a University of Missouri at Saint Louis professor, David Klinger, stated: “I've had multiple officers tell me they were worried in the wake of a shooting because they shot a black person, and I've had multiple officers tell me that they were glad the person they shot was white, because then they knew that weren't going to have to be subjected to the racial harangue.” That study demonstrates just the opposite of racial bias, but did you ever read or hear of it in San Francisco or Oakland? Heck, no!

Finally, let's extol City Attorney Dennis Herrera for suing, for money, Port Commission member Mel Murphy who allegedly, while a Building Inspection Commission member, violated multiple City ordinances on three different parcels and committed fraud with respect to permits and other official documents. Maybe there is a beam of integrity in City Hall. Let's call it “Herrera integrity” and venerate it as a beacon of repentance for Biden, Harris, Gascon and Murphy.

58th Annual SF International Film Festival By Tom Mayer

The 58th annual SF International Film Festival will be held from April 23 to May 7 at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, Castro Theater, and New People Cinema in SF, and at the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. This year's festival will feature film and filmmakers from all over the world, similar to last year's festival, presented 263 screenings of 158 films from 51 countries, and hosted 210 visiting filmmakers.

The opening night film will be *Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine* at the Castro April 23 at 7pm. The centerpiece film will be *The End of the Tour* at the Sundance Kabuki on May 2 at 6:45pm.

The closing night film will be *Experimenter* at the Castro on May 7 at 7pm.

On April 25 at 8pm at the Castro Theater, the Irving M. Levin Directing Award will be presented to director

Guillermo del Toro, with a discussion of his upcoming projects, and a screening of del Toro's *The Devil's Backbone*.

On April 26 at 6:30pm at the Castro Theater, the Peter J. Owens Award will be presented to actor Richard Gere, along with a screening of Gere's new film *Time Out of Mind*.

For more information and tickets, visit festival.sffs.org



November 2015 Housing Bond Mayor's Housing Scam, Redux By Patrick Monette-Shaw

When San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee rolls out his \$250 million general obligation bond measure for the November 2015 election, don't say you haven't been warned.

A year ago I covered Mayor Ed “Affordability Mayor” Lee's housing bait-and-switch in April 2014. Redux, he's brought back Olson Lee, Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD).. What a pair!

In 2012 voters handed the Mayor creation of the Housing Trust Fund, which will divert \$1.5 *billion* in general fund revenues to the Housing Trust Fund over the next 30 years. Apparently the \$1.5 billion isn't enough, and three years later the Mayor is back, hat in hand, asking for another \$250 million bond measure and \$100 million from the City employees' retirement fund, pushing the combined total to nearly \$2 billion.

\$1.5 Billion Trust Fund “Leveraged”

Voters were not told prior to the November 2012 election that the \$1.5 billion Housing Trust Fund would be “leveraged.” Although the Mayor wants voters to approve the November 2015 \$250 million general obligation bond, it is highly unlikely that the Mayor will tell voters prior to November that during 2014 he approved issuing bonds against the \$1.5 billion Housing Trust Fund, with the trust fund as collateral. According to page 5 in MOHCD's annual report for FY 2012–2013 and FY 2013–2014:

“In June 2014, Mayor Lee **directed his budget office to incur bonded debt with HTF** [the Housing Trust Fund created by voters in 2012] **as the repayment source** for the purpose of accelerating MOHCD's affordable housing pipeline and more expeditiously addressing the City's housing needs. The result is a doubling of the HTF's second and third years' available funds, from approximately \$25 million to \$50 million each year [emphasis added].”

There you have it: The Mayor is using the Housing Trust Fund as credit card debt to float bonds, with no public oversight of the bond funding terms and details, and no oversight of what the bonds will be used for, without approval by the voters. What is this? A raid of the general fund to float bonds?

No Middle-Class Rental Housing

Despite the Mayor's assertions that he has a plan to address the housing crisis in San Francisco (presumably including for the middle-class), Olson Lee admitted during a public meeting that the middle class apparently isn't in the plan. As Jon Golinger's op-ed article “Voter's revolt is two decades in the making” published in the *San Francisco Examiner* on March 15, 2015 reported, when asked about City Hall's plans to create desperately needed middle-class rental housing, Olson Lee replied, “We don't have a program right now to build middle-income rental housing.” At last, a candid admission.

The production of affordable housing during the past seven years has been deplorable, according to an op-ed Supervisor David Campos published in the *SF Examiner* on February 25, 2015, titled “It's still called trickle-down economics, even in San Francisco.” Campos noted that over the last seven years, 23,000 luxury units have been built in San Francisco compared to just 1,200 units for middle-class families; Lee has been mayor for three-and-a-half of those seven years.

Mayor's Proposed 2015 Housing Bond

When the Mayor delivered his “sharing prosperity” agenda during his

“The Mayor is using the Housing Trust Fund as credit card debt to float bonds, with no public oversight of the bond funding terms and details, and no oversight of what the bonds will be used for, without approval by the voters.

port our ambitious plans to rebuild SF's public housing, and will fund the acquisition, rehabilitation, and construction of homes for a range of households, from very low income to middle class, working families.”

Elsewhere, the Mayor's public relations staff has been promoting this bond measure, but has claimed it will be for low-to middle-income housing, with no mention that the bond is intended to rebuild public housing for the successor agency to the SF Redevelopment Agency. It will likely downplay rebuilding public housing.

MOHCD's Plan for Bond Use: Option 1

A series of e-mails obtained under public records requests includes a chart showing that as of January 27 MOHCD had proposed one set of planned uses for the \$250 million bond, including allocating \$166 million (66% of the bond) for approximately 710 low-to middle-income housing units (52.2% of the proposed 1,360 units), just \$70 million for 350 middle-income housing units (25.7% of the 1,360 units), and \$15 million for 300 upper-income housing units (22% of the 1,360 units) for households that earn up to \$203,800 of area median income for a family of four (or up to \$142,700 for a single person).

Why is a general obligation bond to rebuild public housing proposing to set aside funds to build 300 units of upper-income housing for three-person households who may earn up to \$183,400 (200% of the area median income), or higher?

Of the \$166 million targeted for 710 low-to middle-income housing units, \$20 million (12.1% of the \$166 million or 8% of the total \$250 million) is listed in the table as “Catalyst Fund Top Loss” program providing 100 units of housing for low-to middle-income housing. The Catalyst Fund is a problem in its own right.

Plan for Bond Use: Option 2

A week after MOHCD's January 27 proposal was e-mailed to various staff, the Mayor's Budget Director proposed a different allocation of the bond on February 3. An extract from a presentation to the Mayor shows a second proposal that reveals a different picture of the planned use of the \$250 million bond. For starters, while MOHCD proposed spending \$30 million to accelerate and shorten the HOPE SF housing program schedule from 20 years to 17 years, the Director's presentation proposed spending \$80 Million on the same acceleration of HOPE SF. So which is it: \$30 million, or \$80 million?

You can almost count on two probabilities: 1) That the language in the official ballot measure will be completely vague and not itemize precisely or accurately how the bond will eventually be spent, and 2) That there will be a clause in the bond language giving the Mayor's Office of Housing sole discretion over how the bond money will be spent.

WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL By Mitch Bull

The March meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council featured discussion about the drought and the use of local groundwater to augment the water that the SFPUC delivers to its customers, both in San Francisco, and far down the Peninsula.

Following the opening of the meeting by **President Roger Ritter**, and the monthly meeting items and officers reports, an update on the **Balboa Reservoir** project was given by Sunnyside resident **Lisa Spinali**. She explained that the project is still in the very early stages of planning, and in an effort to broaden and receive input from a diverse set of stakeholders, an ordinance was submitted to create a 9 person citizens advisory committee (CAC) to provide input and guidance to the Mayor and project planners in areas such as the impact of additional traffic, parking, open space and recreation, as well as the issue of affordable housing and the impact that the project will have on City College. (Note: The SF Board of Supervisors voted to approve the ordinance on March 24th.)

George Wooding spoke on Public Health and described the phenomenon of “robots” gliding through the halls of the new UCSF medical campus in Mission Bay. He described the units, about the size of a small refrigerator, having the ability to transport food, medications and other supplies throughout the hospital, and to “speak” in 25 languages when they encounter someone in the hallway who could be blocking or impeding their path. Wooding also described the technical aspects of the new facility including large flat screen televisions in the guest rooms, and other items.

Avrum Shepard gave a small update about the upcoming **Twin Peaks tunnel improvement project**, which will impact the West Portal and Castro areas for at least the next year. Although the work will mainly be carried out at night, the avenue will be severely impacted by the staging of equipment and supplies as well as the “bus bridges” that MUNI will operate during the periods when the metro cars are out of service.

Representatives from the **SFPUC** then took the floor to discuss the new plan to tap into the **local groundwater** through 4 wells to augment the water supplies that flow into the city from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park.

Alison Kastama, the PUC Regional Communications Liaison, and **Jeffrey Gilman**, the PUC Groundwater Project Manager, gave a presentation and took questions about the water system, the groundwater and the operation of the SFPUC in general.

A brief synopsis: The SFPUC (SF Public Utilities Commission) is responsible for 3 areas: Water, Power and Sewer. The agency is responsible for delivering fresh water to the citizens of SF, and additionally to contracted water districts throughout the Peninsula and several in the South and East Bay. Of all of the water that the PUC delivers each day, approximately **1/3 is delivered to SF residents and businesses**, with the other 2/3 being shipped to contracted customers and agencies outside of SF.

The tap water mix consists of approximately **85% of Hetch Hetchy** water and 15% from reservoirs in Sunol, Alameda County, and Crystal Springs Reservoirs in San Mateo County. As all of the water in the system from Hetch Hetchy to your kitchen is delivered simply by gravity, the PUC has the ability to run **hydroelectric turbines** to create power for SF, in fact *all* of the Municipal power needs for SF City Services are provided (including street lighting, city hall usage, MUNI usage, etc.) via this hydroelectric system. The presenters estimated that if the city were to purchase



Alison Kastama and Jeffrey Gilman from the SFPUC at the WOTPCC Mtg

the power generated from PG&E it would cost approximately \$42,000,000 per year. In addition the hydroelectric power plan is very green and clean as no fossil fuels are burned in electrical generation.

The third piece of the SFPUC triangle is the sewer portion. The city has a combined sewer and storm drain system that handles all **sewage and storm water runoff** in one mixed system. Typically treating 80 million gallons of water and sewage on a typical day, this figure can swell to over 500,000,000 gallons per day during a period of wet weather. The PUC spokesperson explained that even though much of this system was built in the 1940's and 50's, portions of the system date from the 1860's and is in need of major repair.

The SFPUC groundwater project is designed to use 4 wells on the Westside of the city to add up to 4,000,000 gallons of water per day to the roughly 70,000,000 gallons of water distributed daily through the system, or **no more than 6%** at any given time. Gilman explained that the use of well water will give some flexibility to the department in case of a major emergency, such as an earthquake, that could disrupt the flow of water from Hetch Hetchy. Several of the wells are currently being used to irrigate Golden Gate Park, but will be phased out when the recycled (grey) water system is fully operational. The city currently stores approximately 415,000,000 gallons of fresh water in local reservoirs, or enough to get their customers through 4-5 days in the event of an emergency. He added that Daly City has been using **well water** for over 60 years, pumped from the same aquifer as the SF wells. When asked about the taste, he cited a test conducted by the *SF Chronicle* Wine Editor and Food Editor, where they could not find a significant difference between the Hetch Hetchy tap water, and a “cocktail” of Hetch Hetchy and SF groundwater.

Questions were also raised about the feasibility of building **desalinization** plants. For now, the PUC is hoping that voluntary reductions of water use will be enough. Negative factors surrounding building desal plants are the high amount of electricity needed to complete the process, and the problems of the “waste” salt that is extracted from the seawater.

In other related activities, the WOT-PCC was asked to support a GWPNA request to return the **West Portal Play-ground hours** from the newly implemented 5AM to Midnight hours of operation to the former 6AM to 10PM schedule. It was approved unanimously. The delegates were also asked to support the Midtown Terraces resolution supporting the operator of the **Twin Peaks Service station**, who is locked in a disagreement with the city over being forced to be on a month-to-month lease instead of the long-term lease renewal that was promised. The delegates also approved this motion unanimously.

The final discussion of the night centered on the creation of a **proposed mural** on the long wall facing Forest Hills from the bluff in front of Laguna Honda Hospital. Artist Yukako Onodera of the Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center and officials from LHH were on hand to speak

Cont. p. 9

Requiem for an Old Friend

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

When Eugene Jeandeville “Gene” died at Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) last December, a part of old San Francisco passed with him. He was 85. Gene had come of age in the 1940s within a pack of kids whose friendships spanned 70 years



Some 17 years before, a fire blackened Gene's kitchen. Then he fell and broke his arm. Unable to care for himself, LHH took him in. Bereft of immediate family and decision-making capacity, he was assigned a Public Guardian to manage his affairs.

He got around with a walker or wheelchair and loved field trips to ball games, casinos and race tracks. His requests to “go home” subsidized, but he always

wanted to “see the guys.” For years, Gene's old friends; Larry the retired school teacher, Art the former insurance executive and cartoonist, and later Bob the Laguna Honda volunteer, brought gifts, news and memories on birthdays and holidays.

Gene's death, after a fall during a movie outing, left them mystified. Another old friend gone, then evasive responses to their inquiries. Though grateful for LHH's good-hearted care – despite the sticky-fingers that appropriated their gifts, the conversational drift from English to Tagalog and “no lounge” for volunteers – they felt something was being hushed-up. They asked *The Westside Observer* to peer through the fog.

Growing Up in the City

Born in 1930, Gene was raised by his Mom in Glen Park - 64 Chenery Street near Fairmont Elementary School. Mother was a nurse. Gene said his longshoreman father died during the 1934 Waterfront Strike. It was a time when folks were more inclined toward community than to self. A sharing economy emerged from the privations of the Depression and the War, marked by bartering of ration stamps and produce from Victory Gardens. Few owned cars, so people walked everywhere or hopped streetcars for a nickel. Kids met up to trudge to school. In a world without television and computers, playground directors handed out balls and bats for after-school activities until it was time to go home. Gene was a star playground athlete, the type of kid who made fast friends despite a developmental disability.

Pearl Harbor brought black-outs, when mothers covered windows as families huddled by candlelight until the sirens fell silent. Soldiers packed the Presidio and sailors flooded the streets when the fleet sailed in. Some fathers and big brothers went away, never to return. One afternoon, all the sirens went off, horns blared, and grown-ups cheered “It's over.” Some cried. Hopes soared when the United Nations Peace Conference met at the War Memorial Opera House. Then came Korea.

After Balboa High School, Gene was drafted. Chaffing under Fort Ord's “damned sergeants,” he'd go AWOL - in his khakis - to hang out with his startled buddies. They'd congregate in Art's Chenery Street basement, dubbed Club 9, to talk

“Gene's death, after a fall during a movie outing, left them mystified... then evasive responses to their inquiries... they felt something was being hushed-up.

sports, play cards, spin records, and drink beer. Instead of liberating Korea, Gene was medically discharged. Through adulthood he lived with his mother, eventually moving to Capistrano Avenue. Though

he toiled at the Post Office, odd jobs and janitorial gigs, his passion was playing the ponies - sorting out the odds on the horses, jockeys, trainers and the tracks. His basement was crammed with racing forms. Gene made a lot of money at Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields. Lost a lot too. His hardships doubled when his mother succumbed to Alzheimer's. So his buddies helped out, even arranging home care services. They kept in touch and re-visited annually at Club 9.

The Investigation

In September 2014, LHH's Activity Therapy Department began a transition from “provider” to “coordinator” of services that would augment patient bus-trips by 35% - without increased staffing. Days before Thanksgiving, Gene went on an outing as had a hundred times before. A band of patients supervised by 3 staffers took in a movie. While waiting for an elevator, Gene's wheelchair rolled backwards down a ramp and fell over. He struck his head. Someone had forgotten to lock the wheelchair brakes, or perhaps Gene unlocked them. He was conscious when paramedics bandaged his bleeding head and rushed him to Seton Hospital.

On 11/30/14 Seton notified Larry about the accident but withheld details pending an “investigation”. Upon returning to LHH, Gene's condition deteriorated and he was transferred to UCSF. He developed pneumonia, caused in part by a swallowing disorder. After several days, he returned to LHH.

On 12/4/14 someone called Larry: “Gene wasn't eating and we should visit ASAP.” Gene was weaker and bedbound. Then, Gene's Public Guardian reported he had died on 12/10/14, cause of death undisclosed pending investigation. His body went to Cypress Lawn for burial on 1/7/15. When his friends went to pay their respects, Gene's grave was unmarked. Another unanswered question.

We brought \$21 to the Department of Public Health's Office of Vital Records for a copy of his Death Certificate. It wasn't ready. A week later, same story. Turns out his case had been referred to the City Medical Examiner, something that's done whenever someone dies of unnatural causes. This referral argued against a cover-up. However, hospitals must also report injury-falls to the State, and we knew LHH had a history of down-playing adverse events. We notified the State Licensing and Certification Division on

Cont. p. 15



Old friends in 1954: Clockwise from upper left: Art, Larry, Grant, Mel, Gene and Bob

Commentary

Will Cancer Concerns Force Rec & Park’s Plans?

By Kathy Howard, ASLA

The SF Recreation and Park Department (RPD) has been using SBR rubber tire waste infill in all its artificial turf playing fields. For over six years, Rec and Park has been adamant that no other infill will work.

But something strange has happened over at RPD. If you had attended the RPD budget hearings over the last few months, you would have learned that RPD’s “New Requests for General Fund Capital Projects” report states that the Department will be looking for “natural infill materials” for artificial turf field replacement for a just a few fields that need renovation. Also strange is that RPD’s Planning Director, Dawn Kamalanathan, stated that when Beach Chalet fields are completed next winter, RPD will still be using the SBR tire waste as infill.

Neither RPD’s budget report nor Kamalanathan gave any reasons for using a different infill. This brings up some interesting questions:

“The Department should put the health of players ahead of all other considerations ... first, immediately replace all tire waste infill in all existing artificial turf fields with a safe and non-toxic infill; second, use grass at Beach Chalet.

Why the sudden Department decision to choose a different infill for a few fields now? Alternatives to the SBR tire waste have been available commercially for years. Yet Department staff has repeatedly said in public hearings that the SBR tire waste infill is not only safe but is also the best surface, and that any other alternatives just would not work.

Could this change of policy be due to the NBC investigative news reports that aired in October 2014? In those reports, University of Washington soccer coach Amy Griffin described taking one of her players in for cancer treatments. As they were waiting, a nurse came over to them and said, “Don’t tell me you guys are goalkeepers. You’re the fourth goalkeeper I’ve hooked up this week.”

According to Coach Griffin, “I’ve coached for 26, 27 years,” she said. “My first 15 years, I never heard anything about this. All of a sudden it seems to be a stream of kids.” Since then Coach Griffin has found over 126 players who play on the tire waste surface and developed various illnesses, including a high incidence of cancer.

Perhaps the change in RPD policy is being influenced by State Senator Jerry Hill’s (San Mateo) legislation requiring the state health agency to conduct a state-wide study of the tire waste infill and its impact on health. Senator Hill decided to introduce this legislation after viewing the NBC news and becoming concerned about the health of young players.

In his testimony for SB47, Senator Hill

said that Amy Griffin has so far “identified 126 athletes, 109 of which are soccer players, 10 were football players, 6 were field hockey/ lacrosse, who have developed different forms of cancers including lymphomas (51), leukemia (19), brain cancer (10), testicular (9), sarcoma (9), thyroid (6) and many more.”

If the reason for the RPD’s policy change is health impacts on players, and if the Department, after ignoring concerns from the public for over 6 years, has finally decided to look for a different infill, then why replace only the few fields listed in the budget report? What about replacing the new, reputedly noxiously fragrant, Min-

nie Lovie Ward playing fields? What about replacing the Mission Playground, where those brave youth stood up to the privatization of their park? Don’t they deserve a healthy playing surface?

And, of course, what about changing the contract for infill for Beach Chalet? This will avoid the Department having to spend more of its scarce funding (and your tax dollars) to replace the fields in just a few years, if the state-wide study finds a link between SBR and serious illness.

The Department should put the health of players ahead of all other considerations. Parents and players alike should contact RPD and demand: first, immediately replace all tire waste infill in all existing artificial turf fields with a safe and non-toxic infill; second, use grass at Beach Chalet.

Really, the best safe playing surface is grass. Not only is it environmentally superior, but also it can be maintained, if there is a commitment to do so. The Department is putting grass at West Sunset Playground, and grass is what should be put back at Beach Chalet.

The turf industry has its lobbyists fighting this bill. SB 47 needs the support of players and parents! Let’s find out the health impacts of this product! Send a letter of support to Senator Jerry Hill c/o Nate.Solov@sen.ca.gov .

Listen to expert witnesses and an eloquent soccer player/ cancer survivor. The SB47 hearing at the Environment

Cont. p. 16

It’s Our Right and Our Duty to Petition

As Californians we all have the power to make law. The initiative process gives us that power. It was adopted at the turn of the last century and it served to break the railroads’ monopoly at a time when elected politicians were firmly in the railroads’ pockets. Recent “citizen initiatives” — petitions by regular folks who have hit the streets to get signatures for various causes including saving our cable cars, raising the minimum wage, protecting neighborhood firehouses, limiting campaign contributions, bringing Sunshine to the backrooms of City Hall and stopping the growing height limits on the waterfront.

Now Supervisor Scott Wiener, another politician firmly placed among the powers that swing the purse, has taken it upon himself to “improve” the citizen initiative process. We’re not sure if he’s sore that his pet projects, like 8 Washington went down to ignominious defeat or that height limits on the waterfront were adopted — both via citizen initiative. Whatever it is, Supervisor Wiener wants to water down the process and make the signature gathering so difficult that only his wealthy special interests can participate, and ordinary citizens will have to go before the Board of Supervisors, hat in hand, to beg for the right to exercise their civic duty.

The City is changing fast, and monied interests are at the front of the line. The sway that highly capitalized campaigns have to persuade voters was very apparent in the last several elections. With local politicians dancing to the tunes that high priced lobbyists and contributors play it has never been more valuable to have the citizen initiative process available to solve the problems that elected officials refuse to confront.

As Quentin Kopp put it in last month’s *Westside Observer* column: “Wiener will undoubtedly persuade power-loving colleagues to present his anti-democratic measure to November 2015 voters; I invite all readers to join efforts to stop the silencing of voters by voting “No” on Wiener’s sly scheme this November.” This is important.



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2015

PROXY REMATCH.

Might want to stuff your pants pockets with sand and hang onto the rail as the ship of state lurches towards the distinct possibility that the election to next command the helm will be between Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton. The brother versus the wife. Sounds like a probate lawsuit. This promises to be a fabulous development for comedians everywhere, precipitating the resurrection of all our 1992 Bush/ Clinton material. It’s the green thing to do. Recycling meets nostalgia. Together again for the very first time. A rematch by proxy. Now, if only we could coax Ross Perot back into the fray. If Jeb does win his party’s nomination it would mean a Bush has been on their presidential ticket 7 out of the last 10 elections, which is way past dynasty; now we’re talking anti- trust legislation. If Democrats aren’t investigating the possibility of indicting the Bush Family as a monopolistic cartel infringing on the Sherman Act, they’re more clueless than we first thought. Which was considerable.

“The brother versus the wife. Sounds like a probate lawsuit. This promises to be a fabulous development for comedians everywhere, precipitating the resurrection of all our 1992 Bush/ Clinton material. It’s the green thing to do. Recycling meets nostalgia.

Meanwhile, the GOP is trying to nip all this dynastic chatter in the bud by pointing out that Hillary would be a sequel as well. But a sequel is not a dynasty. She’s only the 2nd Clinton to run. Different than three candidates from the same family by one. Doubt if a third Roosevelt could get elected.

Besides, Hillary is a woman. A concept Republicans aren’t overly hip to. The only woman the Tea Party would nominate is Barbara Bush. Not as a candidate, as a production facility. They fail to grasp how the first person with a y- chromosome deficiency to top a ticket is a big deal. Nor do they understand how disparate the nature is between the 3rd Bush and the 1st woman.

The problem is, Jeb has excited both donors and party regulars. More so than in eight years. You keep hearing, “no, no, you don’t understand, this is the smart one! He takes after mom.” And isn’t that typical? Finally trotting out the smart one the third time around. At least the Dems had the good sense to send up their smart Clinton the 2nd time at bat.

Jeb is the guy who famously said he disagreed with nothing his brother ever

did in the White House. Of course, when Hillary was Senator of New York, she stated she could not believe a sitting president of the United States would ever lie to her. Arguments can be made that neither one of them pays close attention. The GOP doesn’t realize how off- putting this whole dynasty thing is to ordinary Americans. Our whole system of government is based on not being a monarchy. As much as the Bush Family likes to hold hands with them, we aren’t Saudi Arabia.

“But Jeb is his own man.” Yeah, sure. An aide to the Right to Rise PAC said 21 members advising Jeb used to work in the Bush I or Bush 2 administrations. W ho’s he going to pick as VP, Dick Cheney?

One consolation about this whole sovereign ascendancy matchup is whoever wins isn’t going to need much of an orientation when it comes to figuring out the lay of the land at the White House. Look at that, we’re saving money already.

Will Durst is an award- winning, nationally acclaimed political comic. Go to willdurst.com for info about “BoomerRaging: From LSD to OMG,” the documentary film, “3 Still Standing,” and a calendar listing future personal appearances.

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Drought Pricing and Water Allocations

By Brian Browne



The current drought shows no signs of breaking. Water reserves are falling and there are few signs indicating any immediate or near term relief for the state's watersheds. Water is becoming relatively more valuable with each passing day. Economists have long preached that free trade and exchange between people can enhance the wellbeing of the participants and benefit the entire community (economy). Restrictions on trade and commerce imposed by politicized commissars (commissioners and committee members) will have the opposite effect.

Today's drought disruptions are not dissimilar to the earlier oil disruptions. The myriad of federal, state, and local rules and regulations are inhibiting the market adjustment processes required to optimally weather the drought. A good example is the SFPUC's inertia in disbanding its complex and non-operational make-work (for the usual suspects) approach to rate making.

The diamond water paradox comes to mind as an illustration of shifting valuations. Two people find themselves lost in the middle of a dry and barren desert far from any known water source. One has diamonds. The other has water. Assuming neither can overpower the other, trade and exchange will take place. The exchange ratio of water to diamonds will change drastically as a function of supply and circumstances. Both will benefit from this voluntary exchange which is often dubbed a Coasian exchange after Nobel Prize winner Ronald Coase. His writings and those of Harold Demsetz and Armen Alchian, especially on exchange and the theory of the firm should be mandated for all our high paid bureaucrats. Then they would have to do the heroic thing and fire themselves.

Higher water costs in an environment of supply uncertainty will have significant impacts on major macroeconomic factors. These impacts will be quantified in lower economic growth, albeit, employment, higher food prices and reversal for other major economic variables. These macroeconomic adjustments will not be dissimilar to what happened during the oil crises (supply interruptions) of the last century. Overlapping and poorly thought through regulations and laws stymied U.S. economic recovery by gluing up the automatic adjustment mechanisms of the market. The Invisible Hand was handcuffed by the regulators and lawmakers. When un-cuffed the economy roared back to life.

Today's drought disruptions are not dissimilar to the earlier oil disruptions. The myriad of federal, state, and local rules and regulations are inhibiting the market adjustment processes required to optimally weather the drought. A good example is the SFPUC's inertia in disbanding its complex and non-operational make-work (for the usual suspects) approach to rate making. 1996 Proposition 218 is clear and unequivocal; municipal rates must mirror the cost function for producing water. This is a simple directive that is rooted in orthodox economics. Such anachronisms and political lackeys as the Rate Fairness Board and Revenue Bond Oversight Committee must go.

There can be no other criteria for setting retail rates. Rates must be set that reflect both present and future costs in an equitable manner. This will mean eliminating the current ongoing financial games of holding off on rate amortization and only paying interest on unused capital. This may dampen current rates and hence immediately mitigate political angst, but unfair inter-generational debt transfers will negatively impact future growth.

In writing the Economic Section for the 2000-2002 Mayor's Infrastructure Taskforce I stressed the need to get the SFPUC out of the banking business. This was based on the lack of clarity surrounding its husbanding of 1997 A&B bonds for \$304 million. Now it may even pass \$15 billion in issuing revenue bonds and the fog of finance is even deeper. An election issue must be the continuation of this role for the SFPUC. At the Norman Yee meeting on coaching the Galileo HS soccer team, and other filibustered issues, I received a non-operational answer when I pressed him on SFPUC issues. But apparently he did a good job coaching soccer. This unfortunately is the mindset for most of our supervisors. It may take another Proposition H that limits their ratemaking ability.

Cont. p. 9

After 30 Years Leading CCSF Journalism Department, 'Not Over Yet' for Juan Gonzales

By Mary Strobe

Journalists, local newspaper publishers, instructors and students gathered on March 20 at Randy's Place in the Ingleside to honor Juan Gonzales for his 30 years as a faculty and chair of City College of San Francisco's Department of Journalism.

The mix of former and current students and colleagues attested to his dedication as they mingled, shot pool and enjoyed spaghetti and drinks in the cozy neighborhood bar.

"What Juan does, it's not an institution, it's a community," said Ingleside-Excelsior Light publisher, journalist and U.C. Berkeley graduate student Alexander Mullaney, who credits Juan for directing him toward the field as a freshman.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary of City College itself and its bi-monthly, student-run paper, *The Guardsman*, to which Gonzales serves as advisor.

One of the oldest community college newspapers in the country, the publication's mix of local and college-wide news coverage regularly wins top honors—along with the department's magazine, *Etc.*—at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges state convention.

"Juan emphasized the importance of learning by doing, holding us to a high standard but also encouraging our independence," said former student Jennifer Balderama-McDonald, today a Chicago-based freelance writer and editor who once served as book editor for *The New York Times*.

"Because I had an interest in editing, Juan pushed me in that direction, and his crucial nudge set me on a path that led from an internship with the Dow Jones News Fund to, seven years later, a job at *The New York Times*."

A community focus has always been part of Gonzales' work at the journalism department.

El Tecolote, the Mission-based bilingual newspaper Gonzales founded in 1970, will celebrate its 45th year this August, and many of his students gain experience through it or other San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association publications.

Mayor's Housing (Cont. from p. 4)

Even More "Leveraging"

The Mayor, his Budget Director, Kate Howard, and Olson Lee at MOHCD are using multiple forms of "leveraging" that when combined, are very worrisome.

Alphabet Soup: IFD's and COP's

First, the Mayor plans to create an Infrastructure Financing District (IFD) to leverage an increment at Potrero and Sunnyside. The presentation on February 3 notes that planned sources of revenue for housing in the pipeline includes creation of an IFD. IFDs are Tax Increment Financing (TIF) financing structures without redevelopment. IFDs are used as a strategy to leverage additional non-City resources. IFD revenues may only fund "public facilities" but cannot fund actual housing, except when facilities funded by an IFD demolish housing.

Second, the presentation also reveals an increase in revenues for housing in the pipeline by issuing additional COP's for HOPE SF. In addition to up to \$80 million from the November bond for HOPE SF, an as-yet undisclosed amount of COP's will be issued for HOPE SF.

COP's — Certificates of Participation — are a financing gimmick that the City of San Francisco developed to creatively bypass having to ask those pesky voters for approval at the ballot box to issue general obligation bonds (GOB), and to circumvent the maximum amount of GOB's that can be issued simultaneously at any one time.

Off Balance-Sheet "Catalyst Fund Top Loss" Fund

The Mayor's January 15 press release also claimed that he would create a new investment fund to launch more affordable housing projects:

"The Mayor will create an accelerator fund, with private and philanthropic partners, to accompany bond financing, seeding public-private partnerships that will enable nonprofits to act quickly and complete [sic; "compete"] on the open market to purchase land for construction of affordable housing and buildings to be improved as permanently affordable units."

It is thought that the proposed "accelerator fund" is the "Catalyst Fund Top Loss" program. A "Findings and Recommendations" document prepared by the Mayor's Housing Work Group 2014 reports that a "Housing Affordability Fund" — ostensibly separate and distinct from the Housing Trust Fund approved by voters in 2012, or within it — will be established via a public-private partnership.



"For 31 years, we got some of our best interns and reporters from City College," said former *San Francisco Bay Guardian* editor-in-chief Tim Redmond of his days at the now-departed weekly. Today, Redmond runs online newspaper *48 hills*—which has also published student articles—and guest lectures at the school in an investigative reporting class.

Dan Verel, another former City College journalism student and now a health writer at *MedCity News*, agreed that the department's high standards set him up for success after transferring to San Francisco State University in his mid-twenties.

"We were far ahead of other students," Verel said. "I don't mean to sound dramatic, but he was kind of a savior."

Today, Verel said his old friends from the department are all working in the field, a journey that began with Gonzales and fellow instructors Jon Rochmis and Tom Graham.

A longtime advocate for San Francisco's Latino community, Gonzales is a board member of the non-profit Accion Latina that provides educational and cultural services. He's received a "Heroes of Excellence" award from KGO-TV and a "Distinguished Service Award" from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Gonzales has no plans to retire, and said he would continue to work as long as he felt he was "helping folks move on and achieve their goals."

"It's been a fun ride," Gonzales told the crowd after being presented a Certificate of Honor from San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. "It's not over yet."

The Housing Work Group report states the accelerator fund will leverage limited public dollars for housing by pursuing development of the Housing Affordability Fund as an "off balance-sheet" fund. The Housing Affordability Fund would target leveraging a public and philanthropic investment at a rate of 4:1 or higher. Here comes trouble.

Investopedia.com's summary that explains off balance-sheet investing reports:

"For anyone who was invested in Enron, off-balance sheet (OBS) financing is a scary term. Off-balance sheet financing means a company does not include a liability on its balance sheet. It is an accounting term and impacts a company's level of debt and liability."

Other sources indicate that the term "top loss" refers to the liability structure in the mix of debt and equity in investment fund activities. They explain that various:

"... categories in a liability structure represent layers in the creditor hierarchy, with the top layer being the first to absorb a loss. Once a layer has been depleted, further losses are applied to the next layer and so on. This means that the liability categories closest to the top of the structure are the riskiest for investors and attract correspondingly higher rates of return. These instruments are also the most expensive sources of funding."

Given San Francisco's already overextended reliance on general obligation bond financing, to some observers it appears that the Mayor's Housing Work Group is well aware of the risks of off balance-sheet funding schemes, may already be anticipating losses to the Housing Affordability Fund, and determined that a "top loss" layer of funding may be necessary in such a public-private partnership.

Housing-to-Come Pipeline

The Mayor's January 15 press release also claimed he would expand the City's pipeline of middle-class housing:

"The Mayor will initiate the Public Lands for Public Good program, building mixed-income housing on surplus public land, including permanently below-market housing and housing for San Francisco's middle class."

How can a Public Lands for Public Good program develop housing for the middle-class, since this conflicts with Olson Lee's claim that the City doesn't have a program to build middle-income rental housing? What is this? More smoke and mirrors from the Mayor's office?

Of note, MOHCD staff members Kate Hartley and Olson Lee; the Mayor's Budget Director, Kate Howard; the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff, Jeff Buckley; and the Mayor

Cont. p. 19

School Segregation (Cont. from p. 1)

Orla O’Keeffe, the district’s policy director, said affluent, educated parents compete for the small number of seats at the highest-performing schools. Children from poor and working-class families, disproportionately black and Latino, often end up in underperforming schools.

The district currently has few tools to address the problem. “If you’ve got racially isolated choice patterns, then your capacity to create diversity using a choice mechanism is constrained,” O’Keeffe said. “There’s none of that in our system. It’s all about what families want.”

The choice system tries to make the schools diverse by giving more preference to students who live in neighborhoods with low average test scores, a proxy for measuring poverty. But some Board of Education members are acknowledging that mechanisms intended to promote diversity are flawed.

“The story of our efforts at student assignment is the story of unintended consequences,” said Rachel Norton, a board member since 2009. “In some ways, it’s a perfect mismatch of intent and results.”

Norton, Fewer and other education leaders are pressing for major changes to help re-integrate schools. One idea is to use language tracks to attract white and middle-income families to racially isolated schools, from both district and private schools.

Such changes could shape the city for decades to come, affecting its culture, income distribution and real estate patterns. But if parents have inadvertently helped to resegregate the schools by seeking the best opportunities for their own children, it may take individual and collective efforts by those same parents to create the diverse public schools many of them say they want.

Why are schools so segregated?

Money is the key factor. Parents are asked to navigate a system that is essentially a competitive marketplace, where affluence confers advantages.

Consider Carrie and Scott Tanabe. Carrie is a family therapist for the district; Scott is a planner with a technology company. Like many parents, they started researching kindergartens last October, nearly a year before their daughter would start school, starting online and then continuing with school tours and conversations with other parents.

The application the Tanabes submitted on Jan. 16 allowed them to rank all 72 elementary schools, including charters, if they chose to. From there, a computer algorithm will try to slot their daughter into their first choice, Grattan Elementary, near their Cole Valley home. Because Grattan usually has far more applicants than slots — 1,202 applicants for 67 kindergarten seats in 2013 — the Tanabes will face a series of tiebreakers under San Francisco’s school assignment system.

The system, often erroneously called a “lottery” because it contains an element of randomness, is in fact a carefully constructed and complicated set of rules that give preference to children who:

- Have siblings already at the school
- Enrolled in an attendance-area pre-kindergarten
- Come from a neighborhood where

the average test scores are low or

- Live in the school’s attendance area.

The Tanabes’ daughter satisfies only one tie-breaker, living in the school’s attendance area, and that may not be enough to keep her from being bumped down the ranked list they submitted, until she finally hits one where there is room. By law, the family’s Chinese-Japanese-Jewish heritage cannot be considered by the district in the assignment process.

The period from January to June, when the final notifications go out for those still on waiting lists, is one of high anxiety for many parents. Perhaps even more so for those who have done enough research about each of the schools to feel strongly about their options.

“I knew that the chances of getting into the school you wanted weren’t very good,” Carrie Tanabe said in her living room. “There were some parents we knew who developed these very elaborate spreadsheets, and put so much thought and time and energy into preparing to apply. I thought they were kind of crazy, honestly.”

“We have a spreadsheet,” interjected Scott, as their youngest daughter wiggled in his arms.

“But we didn’t make it,” she replied with a note of defensiveness. “We got it from another parent.”

The five-tab sheet includes test scores and information on enrichment activities, languages and afterschool programs for all elementaries. Shared over email through an informal network of affluent, educated San Francisco parents, the spreadsheet illustrates the advantage the Tanabes have in a competitive marketplace, one that Scott recognizes.

“We have options,” he said. “We can send our kids to private schools. We can travel across town. Not every parent can.”

May the best parents win

A San Francisco woman whom we will call Adalina Hernandez is one of those parents without many options. An undocumented immigrant who asked that her real name not be used, she does not own a computer or even have an email address. She arrived in the Mission District from Mexico in 2004 and is still learning English.

The older of her two sons attends third grade at Bryant Elementary in the Mission, which is almost 90 percent Latino, and she aims to send her four-year-old there next year. At school, her son qualifies for free lunch, a statistic used by researchers and administrators to measure poverty.

For her, choosing a school was simple: “I went in person to the school district, and they told me that Bryant was my neighborhood school,” she said.

A cousin already attended the school, but what Hernandez liked most was that many of the families at Bryant were also Mexican immigrants. She could communicate and feel part of a community. Test scores were not important, she said, adding that in any case she did not know what they meant or how to investigate them.

Bryant is in fact one of the district’s worst-performing schools, in part because so many students are learning English or come from extreme poverty.

Parents face many of the same

Cont. p. 18

Five Simple Ways to Improve Your Health

By Sharone Franzen, LAc



Many of us have had at least one grandparent who enjoyed a long, healthy life without the benefit of fad diets, calorie counters, or gym memberships. If we apply a few of their simple, time-tested principles, we too can enjoy better health. Most of these tips cost little or nothing, but their effects are profound. Add one of these practices into your life every few weeks, and prepare to be surprised at the difference they make in your overall well-being.

1. Sleep. Before the advent of the light bulb, the average American got ten hours of sleep a night. Nowadays the average is less than seven! This discrepancy has many unfavorable consequences to our health. Countless studies have shown that lack of sleep can lead to mood disorders, weight gain, driving accidents, and poor work performance. Those struggling with chronic health issues such as pain or allergies will seldom get lasting relief from any type of therapy if they do not consistently get at least eight hours of shut-eye per night. Adequate sleep is a drugless, effective, and economical way to treat many health complaints. Those who stay up late in an effort to “get more done” are often surprised at how much more productive they are during the day when they sleep more. And there is simply no easier way to drop five pounds of unwanted weight than getting to bed earlier!

2. Eat. This means: sit down, eat fresh foods, and don’t do other tasks while you are eating. Your digestive system requires a lot of energy to break down the food you eat into the nutrients you need to keep you happy and healthy. If you are splitting this energy between eating and, say, driving / watching TV / standing at the kitchen counter, etc., you are diverting your energy into too many directions. Giving yourself three or more time-outs from daily activities to eat a meal or a snack will give your mind and gut the rest it needs to recharge your batteries, which is the point of eating in the first place! Skipping meals not only depletes your energy, but also puts you at risk for slowing your metabolism and consequently causing unwanted weight gain. And make sure that what you eat counts as actual food. As Michael Pollan says *In Defense of Food*, if your great-grandmother wouldn’t recognize it as food, it probably isn’t.

3. Wear a sweater. It’s easy to forget that we are not impervious to the elements. Our homes are heated, our cars have seat warmers, and few of us really need to brave stormy weather all day long. But our bodies expend a fair amount of energy

keeping us warm, and if we are suffering from either pain or a cold, it’s best to conserve our internal resources. Parents who drop their young children off at school can see a daily example of insufficient protection: the kids who show up in a t-shirt and shorts on a classic foggy morning are the same ones with the perpetually runny noses. If you’ve caught a cold, you’ll get better more quickly if your body doesn’t have to struggle to stay warm AND fight a virus at the same time. If you have knee pain, keep it covered to promote circulation and give it a chance to heal.

4. Breathe. Most of us are “shallow breathers,” taking in air with just the uppermost portion of our chests. Unfortunately, this type of breathing stimulates the “flight-or-fight” aspect of our nervous systems, which we should really only be using in emergency situations. Constantly being on red alert leads to elevated stress hormones and related health issues. Bringing the breath lower into the abdomen is the hallmark of most meditative practices because it calms the nervous system. Reminding ourselves several times a day to breathe more deeply is an easy way to reset our systems and keep the stress responses under control.

5. Consult an expert. Health-related advice and information abound in books, on the Internet, and on Dr. Oz. The missing element in all of these resources is a practitioner who has taken YOU into consideration. Rather than risk your health by taking the vitamin or herb recommended on someone’s blog, enlist the personalized help of a professional. Well-trained herbalists, nutritionists, and naturopaths will spend a lot of time asking you questions about your health history and symptoms before prescribing any type of therapy. Even the most innocuous-seeming supplement may be contraindicated for someone with your physical constitution, or adversely react with other medications you are taking.

To your health!

Sharone Franzen is an acupuncturist and herbalist in Lakeside Village.

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Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Financial Checklist for Your Fifties

While 50 may be the new 40 in terms of lifestyle, vitality and longevity, it's important to take a more earnest and pragmatic approach toward your long-term financial health than you may have done in your 40s. Retirement may have felt far away a decade ago, but now it's approaching rapidly. Many people in their 50s also feel the financial pressure of being part of the "sandwich generation," a growing group of individuals who simultaneously support their adult children and aging parents in addition to saving for their own financial goals. Here are a few financial tips for people who are in their 50s.

Organize your financial priorities. At this point, saving aggressively for retirement should be at the top of your list. You likely still have other financial obligations, but it is critical that you don't put retirement on the back burner. Try to find a balance between funding your family members' needs – like college or assisted living expenses – and your personal savings. These decisions are often difficult, and may seem overwhelming, but having a written financial plan with guidelines for you and your family can help make them easier.

Kick your savings into high gear. If you're already saving for retirement but have the ability to increase the amount you're contributing to your 401(k) or IRA – do it! Know the maximum contribution you're allowed to make each year, adjust what you're saving accordingly and ensure you're taking full advantage of your company's matching program. If your savings are lacking, don't panic, but recognize that you might have some catching up to do. The good news is, after age 50 you can make catch-up contributions to most retirement plans.

Calculate what you'll need for retirement. Set aside some time to determine the expenses you'll likely incur during retirement. Keep in mind that the financial impact of healthcare costs and long-term care can be sizable, and that with the average lifespan increasing, you may need to rely on your retirement savings for 30 year or longer. Though they shouldn't replace the advice of a professional advisor,

“If your savings are lacking, don't panic, but recognize that you might have some catching up to do. The good news is, after age 50 you can make catch-up contributions to most retirement plans.

online resources like a retirement savings calculator can provide a baseline to get you started.

Be realistic. Retirement may be a possibility for you within five or 10 years, or it could be more distant. Regardless, now is the time to evaluate what you will spend your money on once you've retired and to discuss your retirement plans with your family. If you have a spouse or significant other, set goals together and make sure your plans are aligned. Consider where you might live, whether you plan to travel or work part-time. If you find that your retirement expenses are largely out of reach, adjust your savings, or make some decisions about how you'll prioritize your goals.

Anticipate bumps in the road. Your role as a parent and a child is never ending, but as your family grows and changes, so should the level of financial support you provide. Have candid conversations with any family member you're supporting financially and set realistic expectations. If your adult children or aging parents need help making healthy money decisions, provide advice but resist opening your pocketbook if it will put your own financial security in jeopardy. Also, be prepared for changes that may impact your plans, such as an early retirement offer or unexpected illness. While these can be difficult to prepare for, thinking through a variety of scenarios and establishing contingency plans can help ensure you're financially secure in any situation.

There are many milestones you might encounter during your 50s, like becoming an empty-nester, a grandparent, or dealing with the death of a parent, and all these things may have an impact on your finances. If you haven't already started working with a financial advisor, consider doing so. A professional can help you navigate the complexities of estimating what you'll need in the years to come, and help you organize, plan and save – regardless of what might come your way.

Brandon Miller, CFP is a financial consultant at Brio Financial Group, A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. in San Francisco, specializing in helping LGBT individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals



Browne / Water/Sewer Rates (Cont. from p. 7)

Market exchanges that benefit traders, and enhance the public wellbeing, can take place in the absence of City-appointed Commissars, whose objectives seem to be to please political ends without concern for ratepayer and aggregate community wellbeing. Trade without fiat-direction does occur in those water sectors that are free to trade and exchange without the oppressive hands of our USSR throwbacks interfering for their own narrow goals.

An example of this was reported in The Los Angeles Times on March 16, 2015 when it described Los Angeles offering San Joaquin rice farmers \$700 per acre ft. for their irrigation water rights. This market exchange would be more profitable to the farmers than selling rice and would help quench Los Angeles' thirst. It may not achieve the pre-drought level of economic wellbeing, but it will be better than a group of resume misfits taking hit and miss shots in an area in which they have no expertise.

The article goes on to say that San Joaquin rice farmers, by selling water to Los Angeles and leaving an acre fallow, would net the farmer a profit of \$2,100, versus a profit of \$1,000 to \$1,500 from irrigating the acre and growing rice. Economists refer to these type transactions as Coasian exchanges, and postulate under most conditions both traders benefit with a net welfare gain to society as a whole.

This Coasian exchange approach was never tried between the peninsula customers and San Francisco in producing the 2009 Master Water Sales Agreement (MWSA). San Francisco's pure Hetch Hetchy water was signed away by the secret negotiators, and San Francisco was contractually mandated to add qualitatively less (Brinegate) and significantly more

expensive well water to its drinking water to make up the difference. Unlike a voluntary exchange, wherein both parties benefit, the 2009 Master Water Sales Agreement made San Franciscans worse off and peninsula customers better off at the expense of San Franciscan residents and businesses.

The current severe drought will require something other than a business as usual approach to water allocations. Conservation measures will help. Conservation and voluntary water use reductions are not a free good. Reductions in water use will not greatly reduce overall delivery costs. A 10 percent voluntary drop in water use will still demand that all system costs are paid. The total cost for the 90 percent use will not be much different from the former 100 percent use. The paradox is that after voluntary conservation the cost per unit of water may (probably) rise.

Total revenues must equal total costs. An increase in rate prices will cut demand. This is not a sure fire way to maintain revenues equal to costs (revenue requirements). It depends on demand responses (elasticity of demand) to an increase in rates. If a 1 percent increase in rates is met with a more than 1 percent decrease in quantity demanded, total (SFPUC) enterprise revenues will fall. This could be calamitous for an enterprise that must cover all expenses, especially providing debt service on the billions borrowed.

Economics is a dismal science. It is more dismal for bureaucrats who try and out think the invisible hand.

Brian Browne was coauthor of 2002 Prop P and former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee it created.

Central Council (Cont. from p. 5)

about the project and to elicit feedback. For more information, or to provide feedback, the groups email address is: education@precitaeyes.org.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC: Monday, April 27th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. Police Chief Greg Suhr will be featured speaker. Info: www.westoftwinpeaks.org.

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Not all crimes are reported in the weekly reports. Reports below are partial excerpts from www.taraval.org

City’s New Public Safety Bldg Houses Police and Fire Crews

SF’s new state-of-the-art Public Safety Building campus will house SFPD headquarters, Southern District Police Station, Fire Station No. 4, Arson Task Force and a community meeting room. Construction began in October 2011 and was substantially completed in March 2015. Southern Police Station and Fire Station No. 4 will become fully operational on March 28, 2015.

Built to modern seismic standards, the Public Safety Building was designed to operate for up to 96 hours off the grid. It provides the necessary structural and operational resiliency to enable Police Department leadership promptly and efficiently coordinate public safety response after an earthquake or other major disaster.

The Southern District Police Station will serve the South of Market, China Basin, Embarcadero and Mission Bay neighborhoods. They are relocated from the Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant St., where they have been housed since the 1950s. The historic Fire Station No. 30 was renovated to house the Arson Task Force and a community room for use by neighborhood residents. The brick fire station is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Crews drove more than 200 piles into bedrock that is located 200 to 250 feet below ground to stabilize the building. The water table at the site ranges between 4 and 10 feet below grade.

The \$243 million project was funded by the 2010 Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response (ESER) bond, which voters approved with 79 percent support.

The Public Safety Building is part of SF’s 10-Year Capital Plan, and represents the City’s commitment to building a stronger future. The plan provides a financing strategy for the City to deliver infrastructure investments, without raising property tax rates or overburdening the General Fund.

Taraval Police Station will hold its community meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Taraval Police Station. All are welcome to attend.

Due to a temporary staffing issue, the daily crime reports for the days of Feb 27 to Mar 13 are very brief.

Friday – Feb 27, 2015

Robbery Reported 3:52 pm / 2600 Ocean Ave / bank

Suspect – White male :: 35-40 years :: 6’0” tall :: 190 lbs :: LSW light blue button up shirt, gray dress pants, black dress shoes, black long wig, and fake black beard.

Sunday – Mar 10 2015

Assault Reported 3:12 am / 2000 Noriega St / group fight

Suspect #1 – Asian male :: 23-27 years :: 5’6” tall :: 165 lbs :: LSW button up black shirt, acid gray jeans

Suspect #2 to #8: Asian male :: 18-30 years

Suspect #9 to #10: Asian female :: 18-30 years

Theft-Battery Reported 1:05pm / 2500 Ocean Ave

Suspect – Black male :: 45-50 years :: 5’10” tall :: 200 lbs :: LSW green beanie, red sweater, khaki pants, gray jacket, gray beard, gut hanging over pants

Tuesday – Mar 03, 2015

Theft Reported 7:39 am / 2300 Noriega St & 30th Ave

Suspect #1- Black male :: 40-50 years :: 6’2” tall :: 180 lbs :: black Hair :: LSW dark “Security” baseball cap,” blue jacket, black pants, black shoes

Suspect# 2 – Hispanic male :: 40-50 years :: LSW black Hair

Suspect# 3 – Black female :: 30-40 years :: LSW dark beanie, black jacket

Vehicle – White van trailer :: Plate Number 7V94601

Wednesday – Mar 04, 2015

Battery-Theft from Vehicle-Verbal Threats

Reported 7:04 pm / Broad St and Plymouth Ave

Suspect #1 – Black male :: 30-40 years :: 5’10” tall :: 190 lbs :: black hair, brown eyes :: LSW long dread hair, red t-shirt, grey pants, tattoos on neck, two tear drop tattoo under both eyes

Suspect #2 – black male :: 20-30 years :: 5’8” tall :: 225 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW handle bar mustache, grey sweatshirt.

Robbery Reported 9:08 pm / 100 Sad-owa St

Suspect #1 – Black male :: 20-30 years :: 5’2” tall :: 180 lbs :: LSW-Black hoody, blue jeans, and riding a chrome bicycle.

Suspect #2 to #4 – Black male :: 20-30 years

Burglary Reported 11:23 am / 2000 Irving St

Suspect – Black male :: 25-30 years :: 6’0” tall :: 170 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW black baseball hat, black t-shirt, black jeans, carrying black backpack, black bicycle

Friday – Mar 06, 2015

Theft Reported 7:38 pm / 1500 Sloat Blvd

Suspect – White female :: 20-30 years :: 5’3” tall :: brown hair :: LSW red T-shirt, black under shirt, blue jeans

Battery Reported 8:22 pm / 1400 48th

Suspect: Indian male :: 50 years :: 5’5” tall :: 134 lbs :: brown hair :: brown eyes :: LSW dark Jacket, dark pants, numerous tattoos on his body

Thursday – Mar 12, 2015

Robbery-Assault with Chemical

Reported 11:32 am / 900 Ocean Ave

Suspect #1 – Black female :: 20-29 years :: LSW white top, blue pants

Suspect #2 – Driver of vehicle

Suspect Vehicle – blue 4 door sedan, dent on the rear passenger door

Friday – Mar 13, 2015

Battery-Verbal Threats

Reported 12:45 pm / 3000 Taraval St

Suspect – White female :: 50-60 years :: 5’0” tall :: 200 lbs :: blond hair :: LSW black jacket, blue pants

Theft Reported 1:27 pm / 1700 Ocean Ave

Suspect #1 – Black female :: 20-29 years :: 5’5” tall :: 120 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW pink Jacket, black shirt with “Risqué” logo, white pants, white & black shoes, and a brown purse

Suspect #2 – Black female :: 30-42 years :: 5’6” tall :: 120 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW gray jacket, white tank top, tattoo on chest, blue jeans, black & gray shoes

Saturday – Mar 14, 2015

Battery-Arrested

8:49 am • 1800 Ocean Ave

Officers responded to a report of a battery. A male assaulted his spouse. He was arrested for battery.

Robbery 10:45 am • 700 Ocean Ave

Two suspects stole a woman’s phone and tried to steal her purse. They took the phone and fled.

Suspect #1 – Black male :: 18-20 years :: 6’0” tall :: 160 lbs :: LSW black hat with “CUSH” in white letters on front & marijuana leaf, white tank top, blue jeans

Suspect #2 – Black male :: 18-20 years :: 5’10” tall :: 175 lbs :: LSW blue & black 1998 Nike Air Max shoes, black hoodie, blue jeans :: crooked teeth

Theft from Building

4:21 pm • 3200 20th Ave

An unknown suspect stole a man’s personal belongings while he was at a gym.

Robbery 4:26 pm • 400 Gonzalez Dr

A man and his girlfriend answered a knock on the front door. Three suspects rushed in and at gun point demanded the man and his girlfriend get on the ground. They took property and then fled.

Suspect #1 – Black male :: 24-25 years :: 5’8” tall :: 170 lbs :: black Hair :: black eyes :: LSW black t-shirt, blue jeans, short hair, beard

Suspect #2 – Black male :: 25-26 years :: 5’10” tall :: 190 lbs :: bald :: hazel eyes :: LSW light skin, tattoo of red “Lips” on the right side of neck

Suspect #3 – Black male :: 26-30 years :: 5’9” tall :: 150 lbs :: black dreadlocks :: black eyes :: LSW red collared long sleeve polo shirt, blue jeans

Suspect #4 – Black male :: 20-25 years

Sunday – Mar 15, 2015

Theft 10:07 am • 2100 24th Ave

A group of high school students walked into Taraval Station to report a theft. They left their belongings in a campus office and walked away. The office was unlocked and unattended. Upon return they saw their belongings missing. Surveillance footage showed a known suspect who is a student unlawfully take the belongings and flee.

Suspect – Male

Tues – Mar 17

Battery 2:53 am • 500 Parnassus Ave

Officers responded to a report of a battery. An unknown number of numerous suspects attacked a man while he was walking at night.

Battery 12:51 pm • 3200 20th Ave

Officers responded to a report of a battery. A woman received threatening texts from a friend. The friend later confronted the woman. The friend then hit the woman numerous times and fled the scene.

Suspect – Black female :: 20-25 years

:: 5’9” tall :: 125 lbs :: bald :: brown eyes :: LSW black hooded sweatshirt, white T-shirt , blue jeans, gray backpack

Battery 4:47 pm • Geneva Ave & Louisburg St

Officers responded to a report of a battery. A juvenile victim had been chased by twelve other juveniles-most of whom she recognized as fellow middle school students, at a bus stop. During her attempt to run away, she was hit by one of the suspects. The suspects then fled on foot.

Suspect #1 – Black female :: 14-15 years :: 5’2” tall :: 105 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW brown leather jacket, dark pants, hair in cornrows to the side

Suspect #2 – Black male :: 14-15 years :: 5’6” tall :: black hair :: brown eyes :: thin build

Suspect #3 – Black male :: 14-15 years :: 5’3” tall :: black hair :: brown eyes ::LSW red & gray hoodie

Suspect #4 – Black female :: 14-15 years :: LSW light colored “True Religion” jeans

Suspects #5 to #12- Black males & females :: all 14-15 years

Fraud 5:42 pm • Buckingham Wy & 20th Ave

An elderly woman walked into Taraval Station to report a fraud. She was approached by Suspect #1 who convinced her she would be rewarded with a large sum of money if she chipped-in some of her money to a charity. According to Suspect #1 he had to donate to charity in order to inherit a large sum of money. Later Suspect #2 joined them under the guise that he was helping the elderly woman and Suspect #1. After the woman withdrew money and gave it to Suspects #1 & #2, the suspects fled.

Suspect #1 – Black male :: 50-55 years :: 5’8” tall :: 160 lbs :: gray hair :: black or blue trench coat, ‘well-dressed’

Suspect #2 – Black male :: 50 years :: 5’10” tall :: 180 lbs :: gray hair :: LSW button up long sleeve shirt

Wed – Mar 18

Fraud 6:51pm • 1200 15th Ave

Officers responded to a report of a fraud. Suspect #1 approached a woman at her apartment doorstep and claimed to be plumber. He demanded money for his service and that he was going to work on the rest of the residential units in the building. When she left him unattended, he fled with the money. A neighbor saw Suspects #2 & #3 in a vehicle parked in front of their apartment.

Suspect 1 – White or Hispanic male :: 30-40 years :: 5’7” tall :: heavy set :: LSW possibly wearing a hard hat

Suspect 2 – Hispanic male :: 30-35 years, 5’7” tall :: slicked back dark hair :: heavy build :: LSW mustache

Suspect 3 – Hispanic male :: 30-35 years :: 5’7” tall :: dark hair :: heavy build
Vehicle – red hatchback

Thur – Mar 19,

Assault 3:18 pm • Ocean & Faxon Ave

A woman walked into Taraval Station to report an assault. She was involved in a road rage incident where an aggressive driver nearly side-swiped, collided, and yelled offensive words at her while she was driving.

Suspect – Asian male :: 35-45 years :: black hair

Vehicle – black 2008 VW Jetta

Vandalism to Vehicle Reported 10:30 am / Sloat Blvd & Great Hwy / dark blue 2014 Dodge Century / window broken

Suspect – Black male :: 35-40 years :: 6’00” tall :: 210 lbs :: black dreadlocks :: LSW black hoodie, jeans

Vehicle – black 1969 Chevrolet coupe

Fri – Mar 20

Assault 11:31 am • Plymouth & Ocean

Officers responded to a report of a fight on a MUNI bus. A passenger tried to pass Suspect #1 who was standing in the aisle behind a baby stroller. They got into an argument because Suspect #1 refused to get out of the way. Suspect #2 jumped-in & hit the victim numerous times. Then, Suspects #1 & #2 exited accompanied by two

Conf. p. 17



Spring is upon us and with it comes lots of events and ways to spend our time. On the sports front, this month the World Champion SF Giants retake the field for the baseball season, and the Pacific Division Champion Golden State Warriors continue their push for the championship of the professional basketball world. If you are a Bay Area sports fan, this could be the new “golden age” as the Giants finally broke their World Series drought in 2010 (56 years), and the Warriors have claimed the Pacific Division crown for the first time in 39 years. While the 49ers and Sharks have had rough years in 2014, they have been very good quite recently but appear to be headed to the rebuilding line. Of course we will have to see what happens next year. The Oakland As? Competitive teams that are always shuffling players but still fun to watch. (No, I am not forgetting the MSL San Jose Earthquakes, but they are in San Jose...)

The season also brings us neighborhood centric events such as the **West Portal Avenue Sidewalk Arts and Crafts Festival** on April 10-12, and the **Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival** on April 11-12 and April 18-19 in San Francisco’s Japantown. In addition, the thriving artists community located in the



former shipyard at Hunters Point are holding their **2015 Spring Open Studios** event. The event, **Dream=Live With Art** offers the public a chance to meet the artists and tour their studios. Over 250 studios are featured. The event, now in its 26th year, will be held on April 25th and 26th. All of these annual events highlight our neighborhoods and are a great reason to venture out.

The MTA is Coming...The MTA is coming... the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency recently sent out information about the soon to start **Twin Peaks Tunnel Project**. Several public meeting have already been scheduled and held with more set to occur in the June-July timeframe. The actual project will commence in late July-early August and is estimated to go for about 12 months. During this time, MUNI will be running “bus bridges” to move riders, but West Portal Avenue will be impacted with construction traffic, workers and the staging of supplies. Inconvenient? Yes, but we need to support our local merchants to help them get through this difficult time



The project is an extensive one, including replacing the light rail track in the 97 year old tunnel, improving the structure supports between the West Portal and Forest Hill stations, and doing seismic upgrades and repairs as needed. When completed, the MUNI light rail trains will be able to travel faster within the tunnel. Did you know that MUNI averages over 223,000 passengers each weekday, making it the busiest light rail system in the U.S.? For additional information on the project visit the website at: www.sfmta.com/twinpeaks.

Do you have your car serviced at the **Twin Peaks Service Station**, or purchase gasoline there? The independent owners of the station (whose landlord is the City of San Francisco) are currently engaged in a real estate donnybrook with the city. It seems that the city has pulled back from promises of a long-term lease agreement and are possibly jeopardizing the continuing operation of this long time neighborhood merchant. We’ll be watching this situation closely.

One of our readers, **Robert Biby**, sent me a list of phrases showing why English is not an easy language. Here are a few of my favorites:
The bandage was wound around the wound.
The farm was used to produce produce.
They were too close to the door to close it.
How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?
While hunting, the dove dove into the bushes.
Writers write, but fingers don’t fing, grocers don’t groce, and hammers don’t ham.
If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn’t the plural of booth, beeth? One moose, two meese?...
Finally, “If vegetarians dine on vegetables, what do humanitarians dine on?”
Have fun in April!

Do you have an event or just an observation to share? Drop us a line at mitch@westsideobserver.com and share your ideas or just let us know what you think.



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- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

*Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

The Lands End Lookout

Be sure to visit the Lookout Cafe at the Lands End visitor center. Operated by the Cliff House team, the cafe serves delicious, locally sourced grab-and-go items. The center, operated by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, offers educational exhibits, stunning views, and the amazing Lands End Trails.

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Where Friends Meet

West Portal's 27th Annual Sidewalk Arts Show

Friday – Sunday, April 10-12, from 10 am to 5 pm • West Portal Avenue, 15th to Ulloa

West Portal's 27th annual Fine Arts and Crafts Fair takes place in the heart of one of San Francisco's well-known neighborhoods: bustling with activity, quaint retail stores, restaurants, bookshops and coffeehouses. Local residents and tourists alike flock to admire the works of more than 40 artists displaying everything from photography, paintings, ceramics, jewelry and much more.

INFO: West Portal Avenue Assn at (415) 566-3500 or Pacific Fine Arts Festivals at (209) 267-4394 or visit www.pacificfinearts.com on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PacificFineArts>



The Annual Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade



Sunday, April 19 • Post and Fillmore Streets

The 2015 Cherry Blossom Festival Grand Parade begins at the Civic Center at 1 pm on Sunday, April 19 and ending in Japantown at Post and Fillmore streets.

A number of performers — Japanese classical (Buyo) and folk dance (Minyo) groups representing the Bay Area will perform throughout the parade route like a myriad of floating butterflies.

World renowned San Francisco Taiko Dojo will keep the parade upbeat with the thundering sound of the taiko, and this year's Queen and her Court will cascade their way to Japantown. Anchoring the parade is the exciting Taru Miko shi, that will be hoisted by over one hundred strong individuals from throughout the Bay Area.

Botticelli to Braque / de Young Museum

Masterpieces from the Scottish National Gallery Through May 31 • Herbst Exhibition Galleries

Spanning more than 400 years of artistic production, this exhibition highlights works by many of the greatest painters from the Renaissance to the early 20th century. Some, including Sandro Botticelli's *Virgin Adoring the Sleeping Christ Child* (ca. 1490), have never before been seen in the US. Some of the most iconic images as they travel to SF from the National Galleries of Scotland. Painting masterpieces by Velázquez, Vermeer, Rembrandt, Raeburn, Church, Monet, Paul Gauguin, Seurat, Picasso, and Braque.



50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., Golden Gate Park. Tues–Sun 9:30 am – 5:15 pm. Open Late Fridays (After April 17) 9:30 am to 8:45 pm Adults \$10, Seniors \$7

(Shown) Sandro Botticelli, *The Virgin Adoring the Sleeping Christ Child*, ca.1490, Frederic Edwin Church, *Niagara Falls, from the American Side*, 1867. Paul Gauguin, *Three Tahitians*, 1899(Shown) Sandro Botticelli, *The Virgin Adoring the Sleeping Christ Child*, ca.1490, Frederic Edwin Church, *Niagara Falls, from the American Side*, 1867. Paul Gauguin, *Three Tahitians*, 1899



April CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am–1 pm | Stonestown rear parking lot: at Stonestown Galleria (19th Ave @ Winston).

EVERY TUE • COMPUTER SKILLS

Tue | 1:15-2:45 pm | Come get help with setting up email accounts, word processing and other basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Ask questions and learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

Every Tue Happy Hour | 4–8 pm | Que Syrah Wine Bar. Take \$1 off each glass, 10% off each bottle (consumed on site). 230 West Portal Ave 731-7000

EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

Every Thu | 6–10 pm | The Academy of Sciences brings live music, science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$12 (\$10 Members). calademy.org/nightlife.

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

Every Fri | 7–11 pm | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html.

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

Every Fri | 5–8:45 pm | Music, poetry, films, dance, tours and lectures. Cafe: special dinner, no-host bar. Art-making children/adults. deYoung Museum, GG Park. deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30 - Live Bands 7:30-10:30 pm | Off the Grid: Over 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? Now that's a party! 2 Marina Blvd.

TUE • POET JANE HIRSHFIELD

Tue Apr 7 | 7 pm | Jane Hirshfield *The Beauty: Poems*, a new collection from one of American poetry's most distinctive and essential voices. Using materials sometimes familiar, sometimes unexpected, to

explore the magnitude, singularity, and permeability of our shared existence. For this poet, "Zero Plus Anything Is A World." Hirshfield's riddling recipes for that world ("add salt to hunger," "add time to trees") offer a profoundly altered understanding of our lives' losses and additions, and of the small and larger beauties we so often miss. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

WED • WILD HISTORY OF THE TENDERLOIN

Wed Apr 8 | 7:30 pm | The Wild History of The Tenderloin | City History Lectures. Money! Crime! Vice! Politics! Moral Panic! Gender bending! The history of the Tenderloin, one of the least heralded and worst understood neighborhoods in town, has it all. Eric Quezada Center, 518 Valencia St.

WED • FREE E-BOOKS DROP-IN

Wed Apr 8, 15, 22, 29 | 1:30-2:30 pm | Do you have an eReader? You can check out more than 40,000 electronic books for free. Bring your Kindle, Nook, iPad or other eReader — we will show you how to use it to download books and other materials from the Library website. W. Portal Branch, 355-2886, 190 Lenox Way.

THU • THEORY OF EVERYTHING

Thu Apr 9 | 6-8 pm | Movie Night at the Ortega Branch Library features *The Theory of Everything*, depicting Stephen Hawking and his wife's relationship. Academy Award winning leading performance Eddie Redmayne. Ortega Branch Library, 3223 Ortega.

TUE • AUTHOR BRUCE HENDERSON

Tue Apr 14 | 7 pm | From bestselling author of *Hero Found* comes *Rescue At Los Baños* the incredible true story of one of the greatest military rescues of all time, the 1945 World War II prison camp raid at Los Banos in the Philippines. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

WED • ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Wed Apr 15 | 6:30-8:30 pm | This live-action sequel to the Lewis Carrol classic stars Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter, Mia Wasikowska as Alice, Helena Bonham

Carter plays the Red Queen and Anne Hathaway is White Queen. West Portal Library, 190 Lenox Way

TUE • AUTHOR CARA BLACK

Tue Mar 17 | 7 pm | Cara Black's *Murder On the Champ de Mars* is set in Paris, April 1999: Aimee Leduc—running her detective agency tries to be a good single mother to her new "bebe." The last thing she has time for now is to take on a personal investigation for a poor "manouche" (Gypsy) boy. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

FRI • TALE OF PRINCESS KAGUYA

Fri Apr 17 | 3:30-6 pm | Ortega's Teen Movie Matinee show's the princess confronting her punishment. Snacks provided. Ortega Branch Library, 3223 Ortega.

SUN • CONVERSATION - BARNEY FRANK

Sun Apr 19 | 4 pm | Beloved for his outspoken nature, dedication, and quick wit, he'll discuss his career and his memoir, *Frank*, with Judson True. Nourse Aud. 275 Hayes St. \$27. cityboxoffice.com

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Apr 21 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. 3rd Tue of the month. Taraval Police Station 2345 24th Ave. 759-3100.

WED • GREAT BOOKS GROUP

Wed Apr 22 | 6:30 pm | Join the discussion of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* which encourages readers to look into the recesses of sinful thought and behavior. West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lenox. Info: 587-0398

WED • WHAT TO EAT NOW?

Wed Apr 22 | 7 pm | Vegan, vegetarian, paleo, nutrition, low-fat or high protein—confused? Wendy Portnuff will share the benefits of eating holistically. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winslow Dr.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Apr 27 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Meets the last Monday each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave.

WED • ROLE OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Wed Apr 29 | 7-8:30 pm | Patricia Southard presents the story of US libraries and the influences that have

shaped them and the civic role of librarians . Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

THU • AUTHOR SAM QUINONES

Thu Apr 30 | 7 pm | American reporter Sam Quinones is known for his reports on Mexico. His *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* tells two tales of capitalism — young men trafficking cheap black-tar heroin vs Purdue Pharma's effort to corner the market in Oxycontin. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Apr 30 | 7 pm | Meets last Thu each month. This meeting is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds.

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

Sun May 3 | 10 am-5 pm | Every first Sunday is free at the Asian Art Museum (save \$12) -17,000 artworks spanning 6 thousand years. Special exhibitions may require separate charges. 200 Larkin St.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Apr 27 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Meets the last Monday each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave.

TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

Tue May 5 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | 4000 years of ancient and European art in the exquisite Beaux-Arts building in an unforgettable setting overlooking Golden Gate Bridge. 100 34th Ave. Free 1st Tuesdays.

TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

Tue May 5 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | Since 1895 in Golden Gate Park, the de Young Museum is a landmark art museum of 17th -20th centuries American art, and art of the native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden. Free first Tuesdays.

THU • AUTHOR COLETTE LAFIA

Thu May 7 | 7 pm | In *Seeking Surrender* an unlikely friendship between Colette Lafia and a silent monk at the Abbey of Gethsemani comes to life. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

Local event? editor@westsideobserver.com
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Now At the Movies / By Don Lee Miller

CHAPPIE

This film made in South Africa on the cheap does not deserve your time or money. The police force is being made up of robots. Deon: Dev Patel works at the factory creating the robots. From discarded scrap he constructs, without permission, a robot he calls Chappie: voice of Sharlto Copley. The villain opposing Deon is Vincent: Hugh Jackman in a 5-minute role. It is stupid, quite violent and cutesy simultaneously. Director Neill Blomkamp steals bits and pieces from several Grade C movies and TV series. Violence. Brief nudity. Profanity.

CINDERELLA IMAX

Lonely writer, recently widowed, Ella's father: Ben Chaplin takes a second wife who becomes Ella's stepmother: Cate Blanchett, frequently gowned in puke green. She comes with the baggage of two bratty narcissistic daughters, Drisella and Anastasia of marriageable age. He suddenly dies, leaving Ella: Lily James (Lady Rose: Downton Abbey since 2012) reduced to serving the ingrates and being treated like dirt. While strolling in the woods one day, Ella meets a handsome young man, little realizing when he says his father is a cook at the castle, that he is lying, he's really the prince: Richard Madden. The King: Derek Jacobi, is a dotty sweet soul who arranges a ball for young marriageable women to meet the Prince. Ella's fairy godmother/Narrator: Helena Bonham Carter puts the spell on the mice, lizards and pumpkin to get Cinderella to the ball, reminding all what happens at midnight. Cindy's slippers are the best crystal, fashioned specifically for her feet. In her hasty flight, one is left behind. The Prince searches the land for the foot to fill the slipper. Of course, her home is the last one for the test. Joyful ending. Director Kenneth Branagh and screenwriter Chris Weitz give a fresh coat of paint to the film for all ages. Mild thematic elements.

DO YOU BELIEVE?

A dozen parishioners of a New Jersey church find themselves interacting during the couple of weeks that the story takes place before a pileup on a bridge. The cast could almost be called a Who Was Who in Movies/TV? Tom: John McGinley runs the parish; a long-married couple (without character names): Lee Majors and Cybill Sheperd; the mother of a six year old daughter living in her car, Samantha: Mira Sorvino; a cynical emergency room Dr. Farrell: Sean Astin; an elderly street-corner preacher who lugs a wooden cross while spouting his Biblical message, Malachi: Delroy Lindo; a muscular, good-hearted guy in failing health, Joe: Brian Bosworth and two street thugs, Pretty Boy: Shwayze and Kriminal: Senyo Amoaku. Director Jonathan M. Gunn takes the script by Chuck Conzelman and Cary Soloman and makes it a two-handkerchief sermon that everyone can relate to. Thematic elements. An accident sequence. Some violence.

FOCUS

Professional con man, Nicky: Will Smith takes an amateur pickpocket Jess: Margot Robbie under his wing and into his bed. In a race track sequence, Liyuan: B.D. Wong cons Nicky into betting too much. After teaching Jess fully, Nicky suddenly concludes that love and deception don't mix well and dumps her. Three years later, Nicky and Jess collide. Is it worth another try? His mark, wealthy Owens: Gerald McRaney proves canny, not the pushover Nicky expected. Co-directors/writers Glenn Ficarra and John Requa give a big budget gloss to a seamy racket. Profanity. Some sexual content. Brief violence.

THE GUNMAN

The first hour provides exciting thrills and globe-trotting before it fizzles to a bore. Cont. p. 19



At the Theater / Flora Lynn Isaacson and Linda Ayres-Frederick

A Month in the Country

We are greeted with the sounds of birds chirping in the wings of Ken Rowland's lovely outdoor set, which quickly converts to an inner living room and dining room. The play begins with the entire cast offering themselves to the audience with what Director James Nelson terms their outstretched hand to come with them on the journey of their story.

We are about to see Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgenev's 1848 classic *A Month in the Country*. The setting is the Estate of Arkady Islayev in Russia.

Natalya (Shannon Veon Kase) is married to Arkady (Tom Hudgens), a rich landowner 7 years her senior. Bored with life, she welcomes the attention of Michael (Ben Ortega) as her devoted but resentful admirer, without ever letting their friendship develop into a love affair.

The arrival of the handsome 21-year-old student Alexsey (Zach Stewart) as a tutor to her son ends Natalya's boredom. She falls in love with Alexsey and so does her ward Vera (Emily Ludlow), the Islayev's 17-year-old foster daughter. To rid herself of her rival, Natalya proposes that Vera should marry a rich old neighbor, but the rivalry remains unresolved. Michael struggles with his love for Natalya as she wrestles for hers with Alexsey, while Vera and Alexsey draw closer. Misunderstandings arise, and after Michael begins to have his suspicions, both Michael and Alexsey are obliged to leave. As other members of the household drift off to their own world, Natalya's life returns to a state of boredom.

Both servants, Matvey (Johnny DeBernard) and Katya (Jocelyn Roddie), did an excellent job of adding some good physical comedy and romance.

Secondary characters include Arkady's mother Anna (Kim Bromley), her companion Lizaveta (Robyn Wiley),

a neighbor Bolshintsov (Frederick Lein), Dr. Sphigelsky (Wood Lockhart) and a German tutor Herr Schaaf (Mark Shepard).

Michael A. Berg's costumes are right on target, as is the effective lighting design by Frank Sarrubi which added much to the play's atmosphere.

According to Director Nelson, *A Month in the Country* is a play about the "destructive and incendiary nature of desire." There is a web of romantic pursuit involving every one of the 12 characters, and we see offers, rejections, dismissals, and evasions of love at every turn, providing a fiery contrast to the calm, polite setting of an isolated Russian country estate.

Runs through April 12, Thu: 7:30 pm on April 2 and 9 Fri: 8:00 pm on April 3 and 10, Sat., April 11: 2:00 pm Matinee and 8:00 pm, Sun: 2:00 pm on April 12. Ross Valley Players, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Ross CA. Tickets: 415-456-9555 x1, or www.rossvalleyplayers.com Coming up next is The Clean House by Sarah Ruhl and directed by JoAnne Winter from May 15 - June 14, 2015. Flora Lynn Isaacson

Fiddler on the Roof

Novato Theater Company brings Tevye's Russian village, Anatevka, to life with an outstanding cast, great choreography by Kate Kenyon, and excellent directing by award-winning Director Pat Nims and Musical Director, Carl Oser. The cast includes 24 actors and 5 musicians.

One of the most popular musicals in history, *Fiddler on the Roof* was written in 1964 with Book by Joseph Stein, Music by Jerry Bock, and Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick.

Fiddler on the Roof is the story of Cont. p. 17



Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick

Gas Station (Cont. from p. 1)

that I hold close and that is to provide the best service to my customers — many of whom are my neighbors and my friends.

“Thirty years ago there were at least eight other service stations in the immediate area. Now it’s just me. And if I were forced out by the City, the surrounding neighborhoods including Upper Market, Midtown Terrace, Glen Park, Diamond Heights, Miraloma, Forest Hills, and Forest Knolls to name just a few, would have no service or gas facilities anywhere from one to three miles!

“When we went ‘independent’ in 1994, we chose a name and logo that reflected the neighborhood, and colors that blended in with the surroundings. This was all thought out and planned because we are part of the surrounding communities and wanted to honor that connection.

“I don’t think we would have had so many negotiation problems with the Department of Real Estate if we were a big oil company with all of their lobbyists and attorneys.”

Twin Peaks Petroleum’s Good Intentions Are Punished by the City’s Real Estate Department

The City’s Real Estate Department’s standard 20-year lease with Twin Peaks Petroleum expired in July 2014. In anticipation of this lease expiration, the Gharib’s began renegotiating a new lease in 2012.

By June 2013, Twin Peaks Petroleum and the City Real Estate Department had negotiated a new lease allowing the station to plan and operate for another 15 years.

In July 2013, the station received a notice from the Department of Public Health (DPH) that the station site was officially deemed clean. Twin Peaks Petroleum had removed a leaky waste oil tank, cleaned the surrounding soil, and monitored the surrounding area for

contaminants for over 20 years.

The station’s “clean” land was now worth much more than if the Gharibs had kept the land contaminated. Suddenly, the City shortened the length of lease terms. Insurance deposits rose from \$10,000 to \$100,000, and station demolition time frames went from 18 months to 6 months. After two years of negotiations the Gharibs were placed on a month-to-month lease.

On March 23, 2015 the Department of Real Estate finally sent the Gharibs a lease that allows them to remain an additional five years. Twin Peaks Petroleum was offered a five-year term with a five-year option period, with mutual termination rights upon six months’ advance written notice. This basically means that the Gharibs will be allowed to remain for an additional five-year period if they sign the lease.

With only a five-year lease, Twin Peaks Petroleum will not be able to recoup the cost of repairs, permits, or basic station maintenance. The gas station will become a run-down broken mess.

One of Mayor Lee’s major goals is to build 6,000 housing units per year for the next five years in the City. Some of this housing, such as the proposed Balboa Reservoir housing project, will be built on leased City property.

Would 30 condominiums built on an old gas station site overlooking the Youth Guidance Center be worth more than a 65-year-old gas station? The City’s answer would be “Yes” while the neighborhood’s answer would be a resounding “No.”

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, “Since the economic recovery started in 2010, housing developers have initiated projects that would replace 23 gas stations across the city, including five on four blocks of Upper Market Street, four on Valencia Street, two on Sixth

Street and two on South Van Ness.”

Along with 13 sites of former gas stations that have already been developed or are under construction, by 2017 the City will have 40 percent fewer service stations than existed a decade earlier, according to City records.

Current gas station users and neighborhood groups are already angry with what the City’s Real Estate Department is doing on public property without any consultations or concerns about how neighborhood groups and residents feel about the removal of their gas station.

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WTPCC) and its 20-member neighborhood group voted unanimously to help save this gas station. Ironically, one of the reasons the WTPCC was formed in 1936 was to prevent the continued building of gas stations on the west side of town. Several neighborhood groups and residents are also planning to send letters to city hall. A sampling of neighborhood resident letters are shown below:

“I am a long-term Forest Knolls resident. In the past few years, I have watched more and more gas/service stations move out of our area. Not only do I rely on Twin Peaks Gas for the purchase of gasoline, I depend on the station for servicing and emergency repairs of my vehicle. As a senior, I will find it very inconvenient to drive around looking for a gas station. Also as more stations close their businesses in our area, the existing gas stations are impacted with long lines and waits.”

— **Norma Bell, Forest Knolls**

“We wish to send this email in strong support of the Twin Peaks Auto Care Business on Portola. We have lived in the neighborhood for 32 years. The Twin Peaks Auto Care Business provides an extremely valuable service to the many neighborhoods surrounding its central location. It is on a busy transit corridor

and is also located in a commercial district, and is rarely, if ever, without a bustling business and parade of vehicles and customers who need their service. It provides to this area of San Francisco fuel at fair-market pricing and a reputable, reliable auto mechanic shop. This business has been an asset to those of us who live on the west side of the City. On another level Twin Peaks Auto Care provides employment and a living to workers who are supporting their families. That, alone, is an outcome of great importance and value.”

— **Victor and Anne Pagan, Midtown Terrace Residents**

“I cannot imagine Twin Peaks Auto Care being gone and having to drive further out of the City to get gas. This would be a devastating loss.”

— **Kathy Saelor, Miraloma Park**

“Why on earth would they even think of closing down this station? It’s proving that with all the other stations closed down Twin Peaks is the only station left serving that area and beyond. This is the dumbest idea I’ve ever heard. I think the local so-called administrators should remove their heads out of their asses and allow Twin Peaks to continue on with the excellent service they have been giving.”

— **Sam Adams, Forest Knolls**

If you and or your neighborhood group want to send letters to City Hall to help save the Twin Peaks Petroleum gas station, please contact the following people:

Barbara.garcia@sfdph.org
john.updike@sfgov.org
norman.yee@sfgov.org
mattias.mormino@sfgov.org
Claudine.venegas@sfgov.org
Claudia.gorham@sfgov.org
Naomi.kelly@sfgov.org
Steve.kawa@sfgov.org

George Wooding, Midtown Terrace Homeowners Association



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sutterhealth.org/sanfrancisco

Sutter Health
We Plus You

California Pacific Medical Center
Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation

Second Thoughts / by Jack Kaye



When is Time Up?

It seems as though life is filled with time limits. They are the expression of entropy in a finite world. Everything that begins must end. But how do we know when that is?

This question is coming up with greater frequency of late.

In Oakland, a 13 year-old child died unexpectedly from complications during a tonsillectomy. She was pronounced absolutely brain dead by three top neurologists. Her body was kept alive mechanically. The family felt that since she was still warm, she was still alive and should be kept that way by hospital staff until the child regains consciousness. There was no way that would ever happen. They went to court to force the hospital to keep the dead child alive at hospital and taxpayer expense. After several court-ordered delays, the court finally allowed the hospital to do the obvious and take the dead teen off life support. The family has been able to keep her on life support at an undisclosed location and are petitioning for the State to pay to keep her on this support forever by declaring her not dead.

In Florida, a misguided hospital staff insisted a brain dead pregnant woman, whose fetus was 14 weeks old, must be kept alive until the baby can be born, going against the wishes of the family. A court finally ruled that the hospital staff had no idea what they were doing and ordered the woman taken off life support. The hospital then asked the family to pay the costs of keeping the woman alive against their wishes.

Years ago Congress got involved in a case of a brain dead woman kept alive for 15 years because her parents wanted her to recover. When she was finally taken off of life support, an autopsy was conducted. It found there was nothing left of her brain. The deceased was completely empty headed.

Thanks to the marvels of modern medicine, we are able to live much longer. Heart blockages leading to heart attacks can be opened while totally blocked arteries can be replaced. People with heart conditions can get bypasses, pacemaker/defibrillator implants, mechanical hearts and even new hearts through transplant. Most of our organs can now be replaced. Cancer fighting drugs have been developed that can target cancer cells and destroy them. Work is being done to replace external parts like ears, noses, arms and legs.

We have hundreds of thousands of people suffering in hospitals and nursing homes unable to take care of themselves and with no chance of ever improving. We have tens of thousands of people on end life dialysis, being kept alive daily with painful treatments which when ended result in almost immediate death. All dialysis costs are paid by taxpayers. Euthanasia is still illegal in most states.

The majority of national healthcare costs are for people in the very end of their lives in order for them to cheat death, our ultimate fear, just a little bit longer.

It is now the same with our favorite pets. While dogs used to last only a few years 50 years ago, with many killed prematurely in traffic accidents or by natural causes like cancer and heart disease, many now live

well into their teens. Pet owners will spend thousands to fight their pet's cancer or heart disease or to provide devices to enable their loyal furry friend to walk or, at least, roll. Dog owners are now finding themselves having to decide when their beloved canine must die. It is very painful decision and one that is put off as long as possible.

And end dates don't only apply to living creatures. When should a T.V. series end? Did The Sopranos, Seinfeld, X Files, Human Target, Fairly Legal, Covert Affairs, Body of Proof, et al, have to end so soon? When should a public policy end as we saw with affirmative action, school busing, segregated schools, discrimination against gays in the military and the military draft? These are difficult but necessary planning decisions.

Now we face new decisions about end dates.

When should we get out of Afghanistan? The vast majority of Americans say "immediately." But those who fought and sacrificed there want to see our troops remain for as long as ten more years to make sure that all they accomplished with 12 years of war would not be lost.

When should we have ended the extension of unemployment benefits to those who had already received benefits for more than six months? The extension expired in December, 2013 and has not been renewed. Should the extended benefits have been allowed to end when the unemployment had fallen to 5.5% from a high of almost 10%? We sometimes forget, and are never reminded, that under the best of economic circumstances, the unemployment will be between 4 and 5%, meaning millions of Americans will always be unemployed.

When should a relationship end? How do we know that it is really irreconcilable? Should couples stay together for the sake of the children or would everyone be better off if the two parted?

In today's journalism the question has been when should coverage of a story end. Clearly some stories go on much longer than they should because they help raise advertising revenues. We see this with natural disasters and perverse political stories as well as juicy crime sagas.

The media has been covering the ongoing protests near St. Louis since August, 2014. The people have been rioting and protesting about the death of a young man who was killed by a police officer after the young man had robbed a convenience store and tried to kill the officer who stopped him for the offense. The media has kept this disaster alive, not knowing when to stop covering it, giving fuel to this out-of-control fire of civil disobedience, mass looting, and destruction.

Some reporters and columnists seem so taken with their own verbiage that they extend their columns well past the needed length not wanting to end the experience. Not so with this column. It ends here.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

Gene Jeandeville (Cont. from p. 5)

1/20/15, just to be sure. An investigation was underway. As required, LHH had reported the accident.

Gene's Public Guardian was notified about the missing gravestone. Records show that Gene had pre-paid \$3,400 for a Cypress Lawn plot in 1998. In 2005, the Public Guardian collected \$760,000 from the sale of Gene's house at 178 Capistrano, assuring that his funeral expenses would be paid, including an engraved headstone.

Our first call to the Medical Examiner went unanswered. On 1/15/15 we were told that releasing Gene's Death Certificate would take at least 3 months. Toxicology tests had to be completed, medical records reviewed, reports typed up and approved. Plus, there was a back-log of 800 cases, some dating back to 2012, with only 2 pathologists to perform autopsies. On 2/21/15 San Francisco

hired a new Medical Examiner to slash the backlog. A month later we were told it could take up to 6 months.

On Saturday 2/7/15, LHH notified Larry about Gene's Memorial Service 3 days later. Larry was the only old friend able to attend on short notice. A chaplain officiated, there were flowers and a photo-collage of Gene and 2 other deceased residents. Larry was very impressed by the Service and the staff's heart-felt words of remembrance. However, why Eugene Jeandeville died on 12/10/14 remains "under investigation."

Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda Hospital Contact: DerekOnVanNess@aol.com

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Larry, Art Ness, Bob Coffey and Ken Sproul for inspiration & guidance.

Senior Smarts by Anise J. Matteson

Let's Talk Boomer Legal and Advance Care Planning

National Health Care Decisions Day

This year April 16 marks the 8th Annual National Healthcare Decisions Day and the 2nd Annual Healthcare Decisions Day in San Francisco.

National Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise awareness for the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end-of-life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important decisions so that fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

For more information, visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org

As Advocate for National Healthcare Decisions Day, I invited libraries citywide to participate in acknowledging April 16 National Healthcare Decisions Day in San Francisco with a books display the week of April 9 through 16 for Advance Directives, wills, trusts and estate planning.

Advance Directives are of such importance I have submitted a request for Mayoral Proclamation for April 16 as Healthcare Decisions Day in San Francisco.

Prepare for the unexpected. Set aside time on April 16—visit the library, discuss your wishes with your loved ones, primary care physician, or attorney. Name someone to speak for you when you cannot speak for yourself. When you have completed your Advance Directive, you may want to carry a wallet card that states you have advance directives.

BOOMER LEGAL Living Trust

Also known as a revocable trust, this is an estate planning device that allows you to fund a trust that you create with your property, be it real property, financial assets, or tangible personal property. You may make changes to the trust (amendments); you may add and subtract property, e.g., buy a new house and add it to the trust; sell stocks and buy different ones. You are usually the trustee of your trust; you will name successor trustees who will be able to step in and manage the trust assets should you become incapacitated, and at your death. The benefits of a trust in lieu of a will are several: there is an orderly succession of persons to manage it during your life, including your incapacity; you can arrange for distribution of income and principal for your beneficiaries over the course of their lives; you can set up separate trusts for spouse, children, charities. And, there is no probate of the trust assets at your death.

What Happens To The Estate If The Deceased Does Not Have A Will?

In California, if your estate is greater than \$150,000 in probatable assets, your estate will have to go through a process called probate. In California, the cost of probate will be about 8% of the value of the entire estate at death. In places like San Francisco and the Bay Area, that will be a considerable sum: some goes to the attorney; some to the executor, the rest to fees and the county court. Not only expensive, probate is also a time consuming and lengthy court-controlled series of petitions, hearings and filings that must take place when a California resident dies without a will, and surprisingly, when a California resident dies with a Will. Most people think, erroneously, that if they have a will, they can avoid probate. Not so.

The only sure way to avoid probate is not to die; or to die with a trust; or to die with each of your assets naming beneficiaries; or having 'pay on death' clauses, or 'in trust for' designations on each account. If you have real property in your name only, it will be a probatable asset. The only way to avoid probate of your home is to hold it in joint tenancy or as community property, not available to all persons, or desirable in all situations; or to place it in a trust.

Preparing for the Appointment if an Attorney Prepares Documents

Each attorney has her own intake procedure. Call the attorney or attorneys with whom you wish to meet. Ask them or their staff what you should bring with you. Usually an attorney will provide you with a list and/or a questionnaire that will help you organize your papers and think about the people you want to name as your agents for all of the documents.

The Difference Between "Revocable" And "Irrevocable" Living Trust

A **trust** is a way to hold property and arrange for its distribution at your death. A **revocable trust** is just that: it is a document that you may revoke (and/or amend) during your life, at any time, for any reason. You are the owner (set-tlor/trustor) of the property; you may also be the Trustee; and for all intents and purposes you are the beneficiary of your trust as long as you are alive and have legal capacity. An **irrevocable trust** is one that you make that you cannot revoke. These kinds of trusts are made for specific and complex purposes, among them, potential tax savings, and income but not principal distribution over a longer period of time. These kinds of savings are available in return for your giving up the authority to control them or change them at will. It is also customary to execute complex trusts where parts become irrevocable upon your death; but the trust is revocable during your life.

Last Month:

Power of Attorney: The Importance and Types of Designee

Advance Health Care Directive: How to Make it a Legal Document and Who Should Have a Copy

Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment

Living Will

Will

The Difference Between a "Living Will" and a "Will"

Reminder: For specific questions and advice, please contact your physician. If you require legal advice, you should seek the services of an attorney.

Helene V. Wenzel is a solo practitioner in Estate Planning and Elder Law. Her estate planning practice includes the preparation of wills, trusts, durable powers of attorney and advance health care directives; trust administration; and probate. Her Elder Law practice focuses on planning for incapacity; conservatorships; long-term and Nursing Home care; asset management and Medi-Cal eligibility.

Helene is past President of the Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (www.NAELA.org), the largest elder law association of attorneys in the country. Helene regularly addresses community meetings, attorneys and other concerned professionals about estate planning and elder law concerns.

Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician, Advocate – National Healthcare Decisions Day 2015, writer of reference books for seniors and Caring Boomers Newsletter. "Boomer Legal" was written by Helene Wenzel, Esq. for Caring Boomers Newsletter, mattesonecs@yahoo.com.

WEST OF TWIN PEAKS PROPERTIES SOLD SINCE 12/5/14

FACT: INVENTORY HAS NEVER BEEN LOWER WHEN COMPARED TO BUYER DEMAND

| ADDRESS | TYPE | BEDS | BATHS | PK | ASKING | SOLD | %OF ASKING |
|---------------------|------------------|------|-------|----|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 62 Castenada Ave | Forest Hill | 2 | 1.5 | 1 | 1,635,000 | 1,750,000 | 117.06 |
| 159 Castenada Ave | Forest Hill | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1,495,000 | 1,850,000 | 123.75 |
| 55 San Benito Way | St. Francis Wood | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2,150,000 | 2,430,000 | 113.02 |
| 135 San Leandro Way | St. Francis Wood | 4 | 2.5 | 2 | 2,475,000 | 2,908,000 | 117.49 |
| 225 San Anselmo Ave | St. Francis Wood | 5 | 4.5 | 2 | 2,995,000 | 3,817,000 | 127.45 |
| 14 Southwood Dr | Westwood Park | 2 | 1 | 2 | 798,000 | 1,085,000 | 135.96 |
| 2730 15th Ave | West Portal | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1,189,000 | 1,354,000 | 113.88 |

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Mound of sand at 32nd Avenue and Quintara Street in the Sunset District. Date: 1942 July 2.
Newscopy: "This is the problem no one is doing anything about: You are looking down 32nd-av from the corner of Quintara-st, the way Mr. Fixit saw it. The mound of sand is Quintara-st, and it gets bigger as it goes along. The barrier along the edge of the Anderson home on the corner is all that keeps Quintara-st out of their front yard. The houses here and on the other streets in this afflicted district, have to be painted sometimes twice a year because of their constant sand blasting. But so far the city hasn't found a legal way to do anything about it." by permission, SF History Collection, SF Public Library

BRAIN FUD

RE-Wording:
In English, "re" is a prefix usually meaning "again", such as in "rebuild" (build again). However, there are many words starting with "re" which have a totally different meaning without the "re". You will be given two definitions, one for a word starting with "re", and one for the remaining word without the "re" (either definition could be given first).

- Example: vehicle wheel / cease employment
Answer: tire / retire
1. newspaper employee / hotel employee
 2. one who belongs / bring past event to mind
 3. unit of money / not long ago
 4. money for the poor / kingdoms
 5. income / event location
 6. couple / fix
 7. arrived at / felt long-term pain
 8. at ease / cause sharp pain

- Answer
1. reporter / porter
 2. member / remember
 3. cent / recent
 4. alms / realms
 5. revenue / venue
 6. pair / repair
 7. reached / ached
 8. resting / stinging



By Julie Casson@toysalsa

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| | | 1 | 5 | | 6 | 8 | | |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | 1 | 7 | 9 | |
| | 7 | | 2 | | | 4 | | 3 |
| 8 | | | 7 | | | | | |

Rec & Park (Cont. from p. 6)

committee can be viewed online at: (minute 28:22): http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=2649
Watch the NBC investigative report on the potential link between cancer and artificial turf at: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/how-safe-artificial-turf-your-child-plays-n220166>
We are also glad to answer any questions. You can reach us through our website - www.healthysoccersf.org.

Cancer survivor, soccer player, and soccer coach, Casey Sullivan: "It was when I was a goalkeeper in college. I was 21 years old... I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma, I had a tumor in my chest, the size of a soccer ball in diameter..."

Katherine Howard, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance, www.goldengateparkpreservation.org

Education

Is there more money for schools?

Depends on how you are counting.

By Carol Kocivar and Mary Perry ©2015



The headlines say the budget news out of Sacramento looks great for schools. For next year, 2015-16, Governor Brown proposes increasing K-12 education funding by about \$7 billion.

Yeah!!!

That means more money for California schools – doesn't it?

Let's take a closer look.

Are we really investing MORE in our schools or are we just digging out of an economic hole? Figuring that out is a little like watching the stock market.

Let's say you bought a stock late in 2007 for \$100 per share. Then when the economy crashed, its value dropped by 30 points, to \$70. Fast forward to this year, over seven years later. The stock is back up to its original value.

The good news: you have recovered what you lost.

The bad news: no profit and your investment has lost ground to inflation, to say nothing of how the downturn affected the company you invested in. It was forced to cut key personnel, postpone pay raises or reduce salaries, and eliminate some key operations in order to make ends meet.

That is what has happened to school districts in California.

Back to even is not enough.

In the 2007-08 school year, this state's investment in its schools was at a high point. Yet even then, California lagged most of the nation in what it spent per student and also in student performance on national tests. In addition, the state had used a series of accounting tricks and I.O.U.s to schools to get through previous hard times.

We're about back to where we were before the great recession.

Based on data from Education Week, school district expenditures per pupil in 2007-08 (adjusted for the cost of living) averaged:

- \$8,852 in California;
- \$11,223 in the United States; and
- \$12,559 in Massachusetts, the state with the highest student performance.

Results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) are often used to compare student performance among states and in 2007-08 California's students were far behind most others.

The percentages of students who scored as proficient or above in 8th grade reading were:

- 29% in California;
- 34% in the U.S. as a whole; and
- 48% in Massachusetts.

After 2007-08 the bottom fell out of the state's funding for K-12 schools. Average school district expenditures per pupil in California had decreased to \$8,308 per student by 2011-12, even as the U.S. average went up to \$11,735.

Well, now it's 2015.

Yes, thanks to California's rebounding economy and Proposition 30, the state is restoring education funding. We're about back to where we were before the great recession.

There are clouds on the horizon.

Proposition 30 will soon expire,

which could mean a net loss to education funding of about \$3 billion, depending on the state's overall economy. That's a cut of about \$500 per student.

In addition, the state is finally addressing teacher pensions. That's a good thing, but it means school districts will have to pay more into the state's pension fund.

According to one estimate, that will total \$1 billion in 2015-16 and will rise to \$3.1 billion per year in additional payments by 2019-20. Those together nearly equal this year's increases.

What California settles for as "normal" other states would find completely unacceptable.

Other states, including high achievers like Massachusetts, continue to invest more in their schools while California struggles to keep the status quo.

The hard reality, however, is that the conditions we settle for as "normal" in California would be completely unacceptable in most other states.

Is California willing to invest in its children and its future?

It will take state-level decisions to address the question of how much money California is willing to invest in its schools.

Yes, the news is good this year, but the actual amount schools are getting only looks good compared to where we were a few years ago, not compared to what other states provide and what would enable our schools to provide the kind of educational programs our wish list reflects.

The future of our children and the economy of the state depend on how Californians look at the long-term options for strengthening our education investment.

Want to learn more about education funding and other important issues? Check out Ed100.org. Quick short lessons will help you out!

For nearly 20 years, Mary Perry served as deputy director of EdSource. A generation of parent leaders learned the vagaries of education finance from her. She is now an independent education consultant.

Carol Kocivar is former President of the California Parent Teachers Assn. and she lives in the Westside.

Crime Report (Cont. from p. 17)

other people. They fled in a getaway car.

Suspect #1 – Black female :: 25-35 years :: 5'5" tall :: 135 lbs :: black hair :: LSW Playboy bunny tattoo on neck, pushing a baby stroller

Suspect #2 – Black male :: 25-35 years :: 5'8" tall :: 160 lbs :: LSW orange sweatshirt, beanie cap

Vehicle – dark 2-door sports car

Theft 7:37 pm • 100 West Portal Ave

An officer responded to a report of a theft. A suspect had walked into a store, took cash from a donation collection box, concealed merchandise items, and exit without paying.

Suspect – a White female :: 40-50 years :: blond hair :: LSW black shirt, blue jeans, carrying black purse

Sat - Mar 21**Robbery** 2:23 am • 3000 San Jose Ave

Officers responded to a report of a robbery. Two suspects walked into

a convenience store, took merchandise items, & exited without paying. An employee tried to chase them but was stopped by a third suspect who blocked his path. All the suspects then fled in a getaway vehicle driven by a fourth suspect.

Suspect #1 – Hispanic male :: 20-29 years :: 5'10" tall :: 170 lbs :: brown hair

Suspect #2 – White male :: 40-49 years :: 5'10" tall :: 180 lbs :: long blond hair

Suspect #3 – Black male :: 20-29 years :: 5'5" tall :: 175 lbs :: black hair :: LSW black T shirt

Suspect #4 – Black female :: 20-29 years :: LSW pink lipstick, driving getaway vehicle

Vehicle – dark blue VW Jetta 4 door

For complete Crime Reports go to www.taraval.org

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Theater (Cont. from p. 13)

family, love, change and tradition. Its defining statement is spoken by the philosophizing milkman Tevye at the end of the first song "Tradition": "Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as a fiddler on the roof!" Based on the stories of Sholem Aleichem, who himself had to flee the tumultuous times of early 20th century Imperial Russia, *Fiddler* captures the heart of a people seemingly forced to be on the move. Set in 1905, *Fiddler* brings Aleichem's tales to life.

Michael Walraven stars as Tevye the milkman and carries the show with an outstanding performance. He is given able assistance by wife Golde (Paula Gianetti). Both must cope with the strong-willed actions of their three older daughters and each of their *miss-choice* for a husband. Tevye tries to arrange a marriage for his first daughter Tzeitel (Bouket Fingerhut) to the wealthy butcher Lazar Wolf (Patrick Barr) which he must undo when Tzeitel professes her love for the poor tailor Motel (James Gregory). When Tevye's second daughter Hodel (Gina Madory), falls in love with the poor student revolutionary Perchik (Ben Knoll), Tevye loses his dream again. As each of his daughters depart from their culture's long-time traditions, with the mild Tzeitel marrying for love to the severe Chava (played by Bessie Zolno) falling in love with a non-Jewish Russian Fyedka (Nicholas Moore), Tevye loses his dream yet again. Michael Walraven has some wonderful scenes as he talks to G-d about his dilemma.

From the first sweet notes of "Tradition" through the hearty "To Life To Life LeChaim" to the poignant spirit of "Anat-evka," Musical Director Carl Oser handles these famous songs with pleasing finesse. Director Pat Nims and Choreographer Kate Kenyon recreate the rough grace and exciting energy with gliding circles and boisterous folk dances.

Amy Dietz is a capable, bothersome Yente – the matchmaker – and Patrick Barr

is a reasonably solid Lazar Wolf, but it's the daughters who challenge and erode Tevye's treasured traditions and who provide the chief dramatic and musical joys, edging the shtetl's inhabitants into a new world.

The daughters' "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" is a delight; "To Life To Life..." and "Wedding Dance" explode with energy, and the swell of "Tradition" and "Sabbath Prayer" and "Sunrise and Sunset" work with unusual charm.

Fiddler on the Roof will run at the Novato Theater Company Playhouse March 27th – April 26th Fri and Sat at 8pm, with Sun Matinees at 2pm. Special Thur show on April 23rd at 8pm. Tickets: 415-883-4498 or go online at www.novatotheatercompany.org Coming up next: *Unnecessary Farce* by Paul Slade Smith, with Director Billie Cox, May 21–June 14. *Flora Lynn Isaacson*

Awards Gala Fetes Bay Area Theatre Community

Bay Area critics honor theater excellence and achievement at annual bash. The San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle celebrated theater excellence at its annual gala awards ceremony March 9, 2015 in San Francisco. Actor/comedian/playwright Reed Martin and dancer/choreographer/playwright Robert Henry Johnson served as hosts. Bryn Carlson, the reigning Miss Golden Gate, served as hostess for the event held at the Victoria Theatre, said to be the oldest continually operating theater in the city. More than 350 theater people attended the celebration, sponsored by the Actors' Equity Association. The SFBATCC, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and recognizing excellence in theater arts in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area, celebrated its 39th consecutive year presenting awards to Bay Area theater companies for dramas, comedies, and musicals.

This year's awards program included 22 separate categories representing excellence in production, performance, music, choreography, design and technical and

Cont. p. 18



Segregation (Cont. from p. 8)

linguistic and cultural barriers as their children. Despite having been through the process once before, Hernandez said many aspects of her younger son's application to go there next year confused her. She was unsure if she should give the application to the school or the district office. She did not know whether he needed a placement test.

Other Latino immigrants interviewed on Mission playgrounds shared Hernandez's confusion about the process, as well as her preference for proximity to home and a community of Spanish speakers. Yet they also said biculturalism was a major educational goal for their children.

"My kids learn more here than in Mexico," said Olga Ramirez, whose son and daughter attend Redding Elementary in Nob Hill. In San Francisco schools they can learn both English and Spanish, and encounter different kinds of people. Both women see the schools as a way out of isolation by race, language and social class.

Reducing isolation is a goal shared by Carrie Tanabe, who said she moved to San Francisco from Marin for the city's diversity. "I want our kids to be exposed to a lot of different cultures and ethnicities," she said. "So when I go to a school and I look at a classroom, I look to see how diverse it is."

Hernandez, Ramirez and the Tanabes want many of the same things for their children, but their different approaches reveal how some families end up at the district's most disadvantaged schools while others end up at the best.

The stakes are highest for kindergarten applications, because each elementary school feeds into a middle school, which will in turn feed into a high school.

But many black and Latino families do not even participate in the first round of applications, said the school district's O'Keeffe. Twenty-one percent of African-Americans and 15 percent of Latinos submit their applications late or not at all, compared with 4 percent of whites and 3 percent of Chinese-Americans.

"The irony is that a system that has very complicated, precise rules, that encourages you to go out and see and evaluate a bunch of schools, obviously benefits the most advantaged families," said board member Norton. "But many of the most advantaged parents think they're disadvantaged by that system!"

Schools diverge from neighborhoods

The Hernandez and Tanabe families are actually unusual in that they are aiming for their attendance-area schools. Last year, only 21 percent of families put their attendance-area school as their first choice, and district data show that most students leave their neighborhoods when they go to school. As a result, few schools look demographically like the surrounding

neighborhoods.

For example, almost half of students at Alvarado Elementary in Noe Valley live below the poverty line, while the median household income in the neighborhood is \$115,700 — 53 percent above the city median. Only one-tenth of Noe Valley residents were Latino in the latest census, but last year 43 percent of Alvarado's students were Latino.

This pattern holds throughout the district: Poor students of color are embedded in many high-income, high-cost neighborhoods where residents are either childless or send their children to private schools. Though San Francisco has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and one of the highest income levels, 58 percent of its public school students are poor. And almost all the poor children are Asian, Latino or black.

Though the number of racially isolated schools jumped by 22 percent over three years, according to a district study, to date none are more than 60 percent white. Yet in a broader sense, white children are the most isolated in the city.

Whites are 42 percent of the city's overall population, 33 percent of the children but only 12 percent of public school students. Why aren't more white children in public school? Again, money appears to be the key factor: The average white San Franciscan makes three times more money than the average black resident. Whites on average also make 66 percent more money than Latinos, and 44 percent more than Asians. Possibly as a result of this wealth, white children are much more likely to be enrolled in private schools than other racial groups.

Since the new assignment system went into effect, the white children who do attend public schools have started to concentrate in just a few. In the 2009–10 school year, there were no schools in which whites were the simple majority. By last year, there were five, including Grattan. Meanwhile, at half of elementary schools, the white student population is now at or below 10 percent. At one-quarter of elementaries, the student population is 2 percent white (or less) — making them "apartheid schools," according to some researchers.

Costs of racial isolation

Can't schools just be great regardless of who attends them? In general, no.

In 2009, SF Unified asked Linda Darling-Hammond at Stanford University to study the academic effects of racial isolation. She found that black and Latino

to the Forbidden Planet," a collaborative production by Curtain Theatre and Marin Onstage in Novato; "American Buffalo," presented by Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley; and "Show Boat," presented by the San Francisco Opera.

The SFBATCC also presented special achievement awards to the Pear Avenue Theatre of Mountain View; performance artist/playwright Marga Gomez of San Francisco; and playwright/actor/director Dezi Gallegos of Petaluma. Margie Belrose of San Rafael received a two-minute



Eileen Goldberg



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students did better at diverse schools than they did at ones where their race was in the majority. And black and Latino students at racially isolated high schools were 11 percent less likely to graduate than their counterparts at diverse schools, even after controlling for other factors such as poverty. (She did not study white children.)

Darling-Hammond also found that the achievement gap between different racial groups was widening, and subsequent developments have confirmed her insight. From 2010 to 2013, according to district reports, the number of racially isolated schools that have performed at the bottom third of standardized tests rose by 56 percent.

One possible reason: San Francisco schools with a majority of Asians, Latinos or blacks are far more likely to have inexperienced teachers compared with similar schools across California, according to a 2014 report from the U.S. Department of Education. The data also show that teachers in the city's racially isolated schools are among the lowest paid in the state.

Not all racially isolated schools underperform. KIPP Bayview Academy, a charter middle school, outperforms the other predominantly black schools, making it one of a handful of outliers. In addition, almost all of those dominated by Asian students test in the upper third — the inverse of the picture at black- and Latino-dominated schools.

In San Francisco, "there's a lot of pride in the Chinese community in having created educational enclaves," said Prudence Carter, a Stanford sociologist who studied parent choices for the district in 2010.

But a San Francisco Public Press analysis of school district statistics found that achievement correlates with income, not race. On average, Asians at racially isolated schools are more affluent than blacks and Latinos. Class seems to matter for all groups. Poor Asians struggle almost as much on standardized tests as do other impoverished students.

Asian students may also fare better at diverse schools. At the city's most diverse high school, Ruth Asawa San Francisco

School of the Arts, the academic performance index (which rates schools on a scale of 200 to 1,000) for Asian students is almost 900. But at the two high schools where the Asian population is highest, Galileo and George Washington, they score closer to 800.

UC Berkeley economist Rucker C. Johnson analyzed the life trajectories of 8,258 children born between 1945 and 1970 to understand the long-term nationwide effects of racial segregation. He found that minority children who attended segregated schools were not as likely to graduate from high school or go to college. As grown-ups, they also were more likely to be poor or go to jail. Importantly, whites showed no measurable disadvantages after attending integrated schools.

But all students had one thing in common in Johnson's study: Attending a segregated school made it more likely that they would live in a segregated neighborhood when they grew up. And their own children were more likely to attend segregated schools — thus perpetuating a cycle of social isolation.

Part of a national trend

San Francisco hardly exists in a vacuum.

Last year marked the 60th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark Supreme Court decision that ended government-sponsored segregation in America.

This is a shortened version of the report. For a complete story and for more stories on public school segregation from the winter 2015 edition of the San Francisco Public Press, visit sfpublicpress.org/schooldiversity.



Jeremy Adam Smith has led two reporting projects for the Public Press that won excellence in explanatory journalism awards from the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. In 2010-2011, Jeremy was a John S. Knight journalism fellow at Stanford University.

Theater (Cont. from p. 17)

creative specialties for stage productions presented in 2014. Critics Circle awards are presented in three tiers, determined by size of theater. There were 64 award recipients including "Ensemble" awards for "Of Mice and Men," presented by Cinnabar Theater in Petaluma; "Journey's End," presented by Ross Valley Players in Ross; and "The Taming of the Shrew," presented by the College of Marin Drama Department. "Entire Production" award recipients went to "Return

standing ovation when she accepted a lifetime achievement award honoring her contributions as dance and drama teacher, actress, director, producer and as owner and operator of The Belrose Theatre, located at 5th Avenue in San Rafael since 1962. "This year's awards gala prompted nearly-universal praise from hundreds of attendees," said SFBATCC President Barry Willis. "We owe a huge debt to Critics Circle webmaster Harry Duke, who put in an ungodly number of hours organizing and promoting the event. Circle VP

Linda Ayres-Frederick also went above and beyond with securing the theater and necessary licenses, and arranging the feast. The entire theater community is eager to see what we'll do next year, our 40th anniversary." The SFBATCC has approximately two dozen members dedicated to promoting and recognizing excellence in theater arts in the Bay Area. For more info and the entire list of 2014 nominations and award recipients visit www.sfbatcc.org **Linda Ayres-Frederick**

Mayor’s Housing (Cont. from p. 7)
meeting on February 3 to discuss the pipeline of housing projects. Ms. Howard’s PowerPoint presentation discussed above reveals other worrisome details.

First, fully 20% of affordable housing units in the housing pipeline will be set aside for the homeless. It’s too bad there’s not a matching 20% being set aside for middle-class housing.

Will the Mayor tell voters — honestly — that his \$250 million bond measure in November will steer fully 20% the bond to our homeless?

Pitting Pensioners Against Low-Income Housing

The Mayor’s January 15 press release also claimed he plans to tap the City employee’s retirement fund for \$100 million to increase down payment loans for moderate- and middle-income San Franciscans:

“With the support of San Francisco’s Retirement Board as a partner, we will increase loans for first-time homebuyers by \$100 million dollars over the next 10 years. This will translate directly into homeownership for up to 150 more families every year.”

First, three months after the Mayor’s premature claim he plans to tap the retirement fund to invest in downpayment loans, the San Francisco Retirement Board still hasn’t formally considered approving pension funds for potentially risky and highly illiquid loans, or approved of such investment of pension fund assets, pitting pensioners relying on their pensions against low-income people seeking housing.

Second, the pension fund is there to pay pensions to former City employees. Using it for downpayment loan schemes is simply wrong, and an unwise investment.

Show Us the Money

The Mayor and City Hall owe a full accounting of how MOHCD is spending money in the housing trust fund (HTF).

For starters, the MOHCD annual report notes on page 2 that the HTF has received \$42.8 million between July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2014, and will receive another \$25.8 million on July 1, 2015. During its first three years the HTF will have received a total of \$68.6 million. What was it spent on?

Next, considering that the Mayor approved in 2014 issuing bonds against HTF revenues as collateral, the “doubling”

of revenue to the HTF in Years 2 and 3 to \$50 million each year (a \$25 million increase each year by issuing bonds against the Housing Trust Fund), that suggests the fund has been leveraged to a total of \$118.6 million. What is that \$118.6 million being spent on?

Burned (More Than) Once, Twice Shy

As I reported in April 2014, Harvey Rose — the Board of Supervisors Budget and Legislative Analyst — weighed in, however unintentionally, on performance of the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development. Rose uncovered that MOHCD couldn’t account for what happened to \$2 million from a rent stabilization fund entrusted to it.

If MOHCD can’t accurately account for \$2 million of its funding, why do voters believe MOHCD will be a judicious fiduciary steward of \$1.5 billion in Housing Trust Funds, plus \$250 million in a bond measure in November 2015 and \$100 million of funding from the retiree’s pension fund if the Employee’s Retirement Services board of directors grants approval to tap the retirement fund at the Mayor’s whim, and various “leveraging” schemes being advanced at City Hall, including IFD’s, COP’s, and “off balance sheet” top-loss schemes?

As I asked in April 2014, over the next six years as the City drags its heels on the Housing Trust Fund, how many more thousands of San Franciscans will no longer be living in the City displaced by the bait and switch in the Mayor’s “affordability agenda” (and his new “sharing prosperity agenda”), given the glacial inaction in — and the ineptness of — the Mayor’s Office of Housing?

Voters have been warned: If for no other reason, given the absence of an oversight board or commission monitoring either the operations of the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development or its Housing Trust Fund, vote against this \$250 million bond measure come November.

Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California’s First Amendment Coalition. He received the Society of Professional Journalists–Northern California Chapter’s James Madison Freedom of Information Award in the Advocacy category in March 2012. Feedback: <mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver>.

Caleb: Ansel Elgort, Peter: Miles Teller, Johanna: Octavia Spencer, and Andrew: Tony Goldwyn aid in their escape. Peter turns to a trusted position next to Jeanine. As their ideologies grow more intense, war seems imminent between the factions. Tris must fully embrace her Divergence without knowing what she may lose by doing so. Director Robert Schwentke, screenwriters Brian Duffield, Akiva Goldsman and Mark Bombback work from Veronica Roth’s novel. Intense violence and action throughout. Some sensuality. Thematic elements. Brief profanity.

MCFARLAND, USA

High school athletic coach Jim White: Kevin Costner thinks he’s hit the bottom rung until he decides to put together a winning team of runners from the Latino grape-pickers he’s teaching. He lost the last job after throwing his shoe which bounced, hitting the player in the face with whom he was arguing. Putting together a championship team isn’t as easy as White thought. Wife Cheryl: Maria Bello and blond daughters, Julie: Morgan Saylor and Jaime: Elsie Fisher are cheering for the home team. Palo Alto figures prominently in the heart-warming plotline. With Jim as coach, the team goes on to win nine state titles over 14 years, even running in international meets. This true tale is directed by Niki Caro from a screenplay by Grant Thompson with story and written by Chris Cleveland and Bettina Gilois. Some violence. Thematic materials. Profanity.



Starting Over

If you thought that last year’s post season was a nail biter for the San Francisco Giants, then hold on to your baseball caps! I had the pleasure of spending a few days recently in Scottsdale, and our World Series champs still have the look and feel of champions but the big question is “can they repeat?” The team is virtually intact, except for a few new faces that will only add new energy and excitement to the lineup, and with Pablo’s trash-talking now off the sports pages it’s back to the daily grind. Yes, it’s true that an unfortunate wild pitch did do serious harm to Hunter Pence’s left arm, but look at how strong Buster Posey returned after that knockout hit at the plate. As a team leader his enthusiasm on and off the field will be missed, but if anyone can bounce back quickly, Hunter certainly will.

The Giants ownership group gathers in Scottsdale once a year and I had the opportunity to spend some time with a few of them. They’ve already polished their ring fingers for a third diamond-encrusted World Series ring, but there’s certainly plenty of room for a fourth one at the end of this season. Are they aware that this is an odd year after two even year wins? Are the odds against them? Are they concerned? Yes, yes and yes, but they’ve all gotten a bit spoiled and the thought of another team walking away with the title this year is not even discussed. Hopefully the team won’t feel pressured that every game is a playoff game, but considering what they battled last year they can definitely handle the pressure.

The team certainly looked loose and relaxed at the yearly gathering on Friday night as the players, owners, and guests gathered at the Hyatt Gainey Ranch for some great food, a few cold ones, endless autographs, and enough photographs to rival the red carpet at the Academy Awards. The following evening we all gathered at Don and Charlie’s, where after two heartfelt invocations by both Rabbi Dan Feder and Franciscan Father John Hardin, we enjoyed a few more libations followed by their world-famous ribs and steaks. Next came the comments from the sports commentators, encouragement from the coaches, and of course the main event of the evening when Allan Byer disclosed his much anticipated “word of the year.” With bated breath we listened as Allan proclaimed this year’s choice “Havaball” and trust me, in the past there have been some real winners. And if that wasn’t enough it also happened to be my Brother



Willie Mays and Father John Hardin

Larry’s 70th birthday so we had plenty to celebrate. Both Mike Krukow and Duane Kuiper did a great skit on the number 70 that had us all in stitches, and the cake that followed was one of the best that I’ve had in a long time. In the past Willie Mays had always been a fixture at the party, but as much as his presence was missed, we had the opportunity to talk some baseball with past greats Orlando Cepeda, Joey Amalfitano, Dave Dravecky and Gaylord Perry.

So now, as we anxiously await April 6th for the season opener in Phoenix, we can only hope we will all participate in that grand parade down Market Street one more time. The team is in place, the spirits are high, the energy is there and thankfully Bruce Bochy never looked better. The greatest joy is watching how well the team interacts and the respect that they all have for one another. Unlike our southern neighbors who seem to be spending more time battling with their friends and girlfriends off the field, the San Francisco Giants are for real, and another world championship is just a few short months away. Let’s all hear it, “Go Giants.”

RUN ALL NIGHT

Former Brooklyn mob hit-man Jimmy Conlon: Liam Neeson finds himself at odds with best friend-former boss Shawn Maguire: Ed Harris when he learns of a contract on his son Mike Conlon: Joel Kinnaman. All night long they are fighting for their lives against corrupt cops, mobsters and contract killers. The large cast includes Danny Maguire: Boyd Holbrook, Pat: Bruce Magill, Detective Harding: Vincent D’Onofrio, Andrew Price: Common, wife Gabriela Conlon: Genesis Rodriguez, and mother Margaret Conlon: Lois Smith. Director Jaume Collet-Serra oozes all the tension from writer Brad Ingelsby’s high action script. Strong violence. Profanity including sexual references., drug use.

THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL

Muriel: Maggie Smith keeps the books for Sonny: Dev Patel so that the hotel runs smoothly. However, they could use a second hotel since the original is now full nearly all the time. Long-married couple, Douglas: Bill Nighy and Jean: Penelope Winton have drifted apart. Norman: Ronald Pickup is in a new relationship.

Madge: Celia Imrie has two wealthy suitors. Evelyn: Judi Dench, a recent widow, is engaging in a successful fabric business.

Eight months later, the sequel finds Sonny and Muriel cruising along in a convertible on Route 66 in Arizona to meet an investor Ty Burley: David Strathairn who’ll help finance Sonny’s dream of expansion. Once back in Jaipur, they are expecting an inspector sent by Burley. Guy Chambers, 65: Richard Gere says he’s there to work on a novel, but instead falls for Sonny’s mother, Mrs. Kapoor: Lillette Dubey. Sonny marries Sunania: Tina Desae in an elaborate ceremony. Life goes on. John Madden directs the rich screenplay by Ol Parker. Some profanity.

Here Come the Bikes!

Bay Area to Get 7,000 More Bike Share Bicycles

The Bay Area’s Metropolitan Transportation Commission will dramatically expand the Bay Area Bike Share program by adding as many as 7,000 bikes by the end of 2017.

The Bay Area Bike Share program, provides a fleet of bicycles for short-term rentals from secure docking stations 24 hours a day. Bike share bicycles can be rented from and then returned to any station, There are currently 700 bicycles available in participating Bay Area cities.

Movies (Cont. from p. 13)

Sniper Terrier: Sean Penn seems more interested in showing off his fit six-pack than in the tale he co-wrote. He’s shirtless more than necessary. Much of the time, he’s on the run after killing the Congo’s minister of mines. In Spain, he reconnects with the girl friend Annie: Jasmine Trinka he deserted suddenly in the Congo. That she is now married to Felix: Javier Bardem doesn’t stop him from bedding her. A hit team has found Terrier; but he believes he’ll find safety in seeking out the surviving members of his old assassination team: Stanley: Ray Winstone, DuPont: Idras Elba and Cox: Mark Rylance. Thinking years later he has been forgotten, he unwisely returns to the Congo. Director: Pierre Morel (Taken), writer Don MacPherson, novelist Jean-Patrick Manchette with screenplay writers Penn and Pete Travis who lost interest midway. Strong violence. Profanity throughout. Some sexuality.

INSURGENT IMAX

The further adventures of Tris: Shailene Woodley and Four: Theo James are chronicled in this mid-chapter between what was in Divergent and what is forthcoming in the next episode. Mostly, they are on the run, with some exciting stunts provided, as Tris (under drugs administered by Jeanine, the ruthless leader of the Erudite elite: Kate Winslet) leaps to save her mother, Natalie: Ashley Judd from a floating burning building. A male leaps in front of a speeding train. Get the picture?

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