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Norman Yee's Coyote Hearing: Can't We All Just Get Along? Experts Encourage Coexistence at Board of Supervisors Meeting on Coyote Populations By Maya Lekach

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors met on March 24th to address the growing concerns about the coyote population in local parks and open spaces. Experts from organizations like The Presidio Trust, SF Parks & Recreation, and Animal Care and Control all agreed that the foremost method of dealing with this is through coexistence between humans, their animal companions, and the local coyotes.

The local coyote population — which had previously been locally extinct since the 20s — has returned, causing a number of reports of attacks on small dogs and resulting in the deaths of at least two dogs, including 7-pound Multi-poo, Buster in Stern Grove.

Although there have been 69 sightings in San Francisco this year, this problem is not one that is specific to San Francisco or even the Bay Area. Jonathan Young, an ecologist with the Presidio Trust, noted that considerations surrounding the habitats for these animals are being held in cities like New York, Chicago, and Vancouver. Urban coyotes are different from rural coyotes and these distinctions must be taken into account when dealing with the animals.

While local residents are afraid for their pets, there are no simple or straightforward solutions. Much of this is due to the simple fact that our city's open spaces are exactly the habitats necessary for these animals to thrive. There are, however, certain factors that make this less an issue of excessive population growth and rather an issue of understanding

and coexistence.

Coyote populations are self regulating. There are only as many as can be supported by the available habitats and resources. Coyotes often live in bonded pairs, with a pupping season between March and September. With the habitat restraints, it has been noted that there is only space for two bonded pairs in The Presidio.

As Virginia Donahue, Executive Director of Animal Care and Control, said, "When you kill a coyote, two come to its funeral".

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Enough is Enough!

By John Farrell

It seems every time I read the paper someone at City Hall is pointing the finger at someone else for not taking care of business. Several of the Supervisors blame the Mayor for the homeless situation getting out of hand. Per the *Chronicle's* City Insider dated March 13, Supervisor Campos said "Lee has failed to respond adequately to the growing homeless crisis and City Hall has failed to make him accountable." All I can say is that you are elected officials as well and where were you?

The Mayor has his hands full and it is easy to point fingers at issues such as the homeless situation and an affordable housing crisis which has gotten totally out of control since 2012. Not to mention a \$100 million deficit in the next fiscal year after years of prosperity, which is disturbing.

But you have to give credit where credit is due. Under the Mayor, the first Navigation Center opened around a year ago near 16th St and Mission. This center brought street encampments of homeless people to shelter. The Mayor has plans to open a second within the next six months. On the other hand, the street encampments should

have never been allowed in the first place.

Early March, Supervisor Campos introduced a resolution declaring a State of Emergency on Homelessness in San Francisco. This resolution calls for the City to evaluate existing locations around the city where more shelters and Navigation Centers could be built in the imminent future. This is a hot potato, because how many neighborhoods want a homeless shelter in their backyard?"

Per a letter dated March 15th from our District 7 Supervisor, the City currently has hundreds of public sites that are underutilized. There were two parking lots in West

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Homeless Navigation Center at 16th and Mission



District 4 Supervisor Katy Tang (left) listens to Asst. District Attorney Marc Massarweh talk about crime issues facing Districts 7 and 4, during a recent community meeting at the Ortega Branch library, along with Taraval Station Captain Denise Flaherty and officer Daniel Rosiak (right).

Burglaries and Homeless Worry Westside

By Thomas K. Pendergast

Police say homeless people and burglaries are hot issues on the west side of the city, with recent spikes in residential and auto break-ins.

At the first of what for the time being will be regular quarterly community meetings, Taraval Station Captain Denise Flaherty said that since the last community meeting in September, burglaries of both residences and autos have risen dramatically.

“...they are committed when people aren't around... they're not reported until hours later. There, in most instances, isn't crime-scene DNA evidence or anything. It's not like fingerprints are all over the car. They are tough cases to prove.”

“Throughout the City there's been a 17 percent increase for residential burglaries,” said Capt. Flaherty. “In the Taraval, I just looked up the numbers tonight - we're up 47 percent. And that tells me that the criminals have figured out 'let's go into the Taraval.’

“We've seen an increase in auto burglaries. Citywide that increase has been about 31 percent. Within the Taraval, it's 34 percent,” she said. “What I'm seeing is those auto burglaries, the break-ins, they're happening on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and they start from 12 in the afternoon 'til midnight.”

She says the northern portion of District 4 is getting hit the hardest from burglaries and auto-break-ins. She connected the dramatic rise in residential burglaries to a sharp spike in garage burglaries.

“Because of the auto break-ins, they take your garage door opener out of your car. Don't leave it on the visor. Don't leave it inside the center console,” she cautioned. “We're seeing people break into cars just for those and then start walking around. (A garage door) pops open and that's how access (is)

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SFPD Body-Worn Cameras – Who's Watching Whom?

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

The publicized purpose of body-worn cameras (bodycams) is to bring transparency into police activities – especially when police misconduct is suspected. Like two-way mirrors, bodycams can be used to watch law-abiding individuals who are deemed “suspicious”. Policies alone cannot prevent bodycams from impinging on privacy rights and First Amendment protections. Their use must be transparent and accountable. That means public oversight - and access to recordings.

Privacy Protections: To protect privacy, the SFPD bodycam policy prohibits filming law-abiding citizens outside of legitimate investigations or beyond what officers “could lawfully hear or record”. Officers cannot access the recordings for personal use – only for “a legitimate law enforcement purpose”. That way, victims or witnesses of crimes won't fear calling the police because a camera-bearing cop may enter their homes. The policy requires notifying subjects that they are being filmed “when feasible”, though civilians cannot direct a cop to stop filming. A red light should appear when the camera is

activated. Officers are required to turn on cameras for specific encounters such as use of force incidents, arrests, pursuits, searches and traffic stops. However, filming strip searches, victims of sexual assault or child abuse,

Cont. p. 6





Will Privatization Take Out Another Public Park?

By Katherine Howard

The Recreation and Park Department is once again selling your public facilities to the (lowest) bidder. In March, the Rec and Park Commission approved a permit for 5 years for the use of Kezar Stadium by a private, for-profit, professional soccer organization. In addition, the professional team will be practicing on Rec and Park fields during the week, including the Polo Field and Boxer Stadium.

Kezar was once a professional sports venue, but it was rebuilt in 1989 to serve the public with “informal community access to the stadium ... a priority use...” as well as for “public and private schools” (1991 Operation and Permit policy). Members of the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee have protested the proposed commercial use, because “. . . the proposal amounts to a partial takeover of a public facility and is a move towards partially privatizing the stadium. . . .” (Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee minutes, 2-16-16).

Cuts into field use time for the public

RPD representatives have stated that the use by professional teams of Rec and Park’s fields will not deprive people of hours of soccer play, because RPD will schedule the games and practices around the hours usually used by schools. However, that statement is not accurate. The use of Kezar, Boxer, and the Polo Field by

the pros will deprive school kids and the general public of hours of play on those fields. The reason is that the fields are all grass fields. We learned from the World Cup games that professional soccer players prefer grass fields.

There is a limit to the total number of hours that a grass field can be used. How do we know that? Because Rec and Park has stated it over and over again. Rec and Park has said that grass fields need time to rest, grass fields require heavy maintenance, grass fields need to be taken out of play for long periods of time. In fact, the limit on usage of grass fields is the reason given by Rec and Park for replacing so many grass fields in San Francisco with artificial turf.

Therefore, any grass field playing hours used by a professional team are hours on healthy grass fields that are lost

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By the Numbers

Do SF Employees Receive Equal Protection?

By Lou Barberini, CPA



Our society relies on trust. We put our faith in restaurants to serve us the freshest food, we rely on our neighbors to watch our homes, and we trust our lives to traffic controllers and pilots when we are 30,000 feet in the air. Yet, when it comes to financial advice, too frequently financial advisors put their commissions before the interests of their clients. To address this conflict, the Department of Labor has a proposal before Congress that requires financial advisors to “act in the best interest of their clients.” Yet, while our federal government moves to increase investor protections, the San Francisco Retirement System (SFERS) has failed to keep pace with this trend.

“...there is great consistency here between this deferred comp insurance product, and the Retirement System’s desire for hedge funds in the taxpayer funded pension: seek the most fee-laden, opaque investment, in an environment with the least government oversight.”

San Francisco public employees are covered by a traditional public pension that is funded by taxpayer and employee contributions. Employees also have access to an optional, 401k-type account that is commonly referred to as “deferred comp.” The money that goes into deferred comp comes 100% from the sweat equity of the employees. Unfortunately, through a quirk in the tax law, deferred comp receives no protections from the Department of Labor and the proposed fiduciary law.

SFERS has used a small Santa Monica investment consultant as traffic controllers to both the \$20 billion pension and the \$2 billion deferred comp plan. Per the firm’s SEC filing, none of its other clients have been directed to the same investment runway to which SF employees have been steered. That is just one of the many issues that should raise concerns amongst San Francisco employees on whether anyone has assumed a fiduciary responsibility over their deferred comp account.

1) Per a Retirement Board member and the Santa Monica firm’s SEC filing, the consultants have only one public pension plan as a client- San Francisco,

2) The Santa Monica consultants have chosen to direct participants to mutual funds packaged in a life insurance product. This maneuver obviates the SEC with the weaker Department of Insurance. It is like putting a few car parts in an airplane and claiming your jurisdiction should be moved from the FAA to the California DMV- an agency with lighter regulation standards,

3) Is a consultant qualified to recommend insurance if they do not possess an insurance license?

4) As disclosed at a public meeting, not one city employee has ever received a death benefit from this life insurance over the past 30 years,

5) Unlike mutual funds, these life insurance contracts do not allow the purchaser to receive a volume discount for the size of their account,

6) Over the past 30 years, deferred comp has been churned from Hartford

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Spring into action.

Learn more for free about maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle at the Saint Francis Spring Health Education and Wellness Series. The specialists at Saint Francis are available to help you learn more about how you can keep that spring in your step.

Update on Breast Health
Anne Peled, MD
April 6, 2016

ACL (knee) Injuries: Rehab or Repair
Robert J. Purchase, MD
April 20, 2016

All classes begin at 5:30 p.m. and are located at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital. Food and beverage will be served and parking is validated. To learn more or to reserve your seat, visit dignityhealth.org/saintfrancis, call 415.353.6755 or email robin.oconnor@dignityhealth.org.

Hello humankindness™



West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

Coyotes (2.0), public safety, hikers, the homeless and police conduct were the main topics of the March 28th meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council.

President Roger Ritter kicked off the meeting at 7:35 in front of a large crowd and following the roll call and officer reports, **Vice President Sally Stephens** gave several updates relating to Open Space and Parks; In regards to the (Supervisor) Farrell sponsored **Parks Bond**, the Open Space Committee still has reservations about the legislation as they feel it has no real accountability of how **Rec and Park** will use the money, and a lack of transparency. Secondly she reminded the attendees that the GGNRA is still taking input about their proposed changes to the rules governing “on and off leash” areas within the GGNRA. If the GGNRA prohibits or severely restricts dog areas, there could be a resulting negative effect on the city’s parks. Finally, it was noted that the MTA has reduced its **towing fees** (as reported in the media), but is looking for ways to recoup the revenue and is considering implementing **parking meter rates at night** to offset the monies lost.

Twin Peaks Improvement Association (TPIA) delegate **Denise LaPointe** presented a proposal asking the WOTPCC to support (with a letter) the efforts of the TPIA to oppose the SFPUC in enlarging the trailhead under **Sutro Tower**. The neighborhood group has cited this expansion as a violation of the PUC land use provisions for the site, as well as issues with tree removal and potentially large increases in crowds and public use. In addition, the TPIA cites that there has been no public input or outreach. Their letter is being distributed to the PUC, the SF Rec and Park Department and the Parks Commission.

Following discussion, the WOTPCC members voted 12-0 with 3 abstentions to submit a **letter of support** of the efforts of the Twin Peaks Improvement Association to oppose the expansion of the PUC land under Sutro Tower as an expanded hiking trailhead.

The issues of **coyotes** moved again to the forefront of the meeting, in response to the recent coyote attack in **Balboa Terrace**. Recent attacks by the wild animals have resulted in several injuries to dogs in the area, with at least one canine being fatally injured. There have been over 60 reported sightings this year in SF of the coyotes. **Supervisor Yee** has called for a hearing in front of the government oversight committee to address the public concerns over the lack of tracking and management by the city. (See story p. 1)

The **Presidio Trust** is conducting a study on the number of and migration

patterns of the coyotes and the supervisors are hoping that the study is expanded to allow for the “tagging” of coyotes to try and determine the actual number of animals in the city. Currently, SF Animal Control is tracking coyotes that have died, but no one is tracking or tagging the live ones. The public is being asked to politely **co-exist** with the wild animals, which were “re-started” in SF by the placement of two sets of adult coyotes within the Presidio.

Public safety and the SFPD was the next topic, as **Martin Halloran, President of the San Francisco Police Officers Association** (SFPOA), spoke to the delegates and attendees. He opened his comments by acknowledging that the officers of the SFPD are in the “hot seat” due to the “Ferguson (Mo) effect,” and in his opinion “knee-jerk” reactions from members of the Board of Supervisors are painting the entire SFPD with a broad brush and are equating the recent shooting in the Bayview with the events that occurred last year in Ferguson, Missouri. He feels that the police officers are not being given their right of due process through statements made by some of the public officials.

Halloran stated that the video footage from the scene is troubling, but may not present the entire story of the events, and that since the matter is still under investigation there is more information to be considered. He spoke of his long tenure with the SFPD and the ramifications of what happens when officers are involved in an event which results in a fatality.

He cited new policies, one that will implement the use of **body-worn cameras** on each officer in the field. Footage will be downloaded after each shift. This collection and review of data will require the hiring of more officers to backfill those who are processing the data after their shift ends. Another policy is the review and implementation of a new “**use of force**” doctrine that will examine, define and provide new guidelines on when and what is appropriate for officers to do when confronted in a street situation. Halloran also mentioned that the SFPOA has asked the city for the implementation of **tasers** three times, but they have not been approved.

The union chief was also critical when asked about **D.A. George Gascon’s “Blue Ribbon Panel”** to investigate the SFPD, stating that there is no standing in either the California Constitution or the SF City Charter to give the D.A.’s office the authority for this type of investigation.

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Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



An understated President labeled “Silent Cal” by 1920’s media, and whose birthplace in Plymouth, Vermont, now a national shrine I visited in the 1990’s, declared in his inaugural address on March 4, 1925: “I favor the policy of economy, not because I wish to save money, but because I wish to save people. The men and women of this country who toil are the ones who bear the cost of the Government. Every dollar that we carelessly waste means that their life will be so much the more meager. Every dollar that we prudently save means that their life will be some much the more abundant. Economy is idealism in its most practical form.”

San Francisco’s government, with its annual budget of approximately \$9,000,000,000, should constitute an exquisitely relevant subject for application of those commonsensical statements. On January 15, 2016, the Board of Supervisors Budget Analyst Harvey M. Rose, at the request of Supervisor John Avalos and in accordance with a Board of Supervisors motion adopted on January 12, 2016, issued to the public and their elected supervisors an 18-page report revealing that general fund expenditures for services provided to the National Football League’s “Super Bowl 50” public events would cost city taxpayers \$4,881,625. The unimpeachable Mr. Rose also reported that city departments had been requested by Mayor Lee to identify \$4,375,765 of surplus in their budgetary allocations, and redirect that money, staff time, and other resources from planned projects to support the NFL billionaires and their league, which incidentally, pays its Chief Executive Officer (Roger Goodell) approximately \$45,500,000 per year. Mr. Rose further noted the lack of any written agreement between city government and the NFL or the so-called “Host Committee,” an entity formed locally for promotion of the Super Bowl, which raised about \$50,000,000 for its activities!

Our Budget Analyst also noted the City of Santa Clara, unlike San Francisco, obtained a written agreement with that same Host Committee to reimburse all Santa Clara expenses associated with Super Bowl 50, namely \$3,597,300, to pay all additional Santa Clara public safety and other governmental services. Mr. Rose recommended the Supervisors request the Mayor immediately enter into an enforceable written agreement, subject to Board of Supervisors approval, with the Host Committee to obtain full reimbursement of the taxpayer expenditures of \$4,881,625, and iterated that failure to secure such agreement “would result in a subsidy to the NFL and the Host Committee...” (Mr. Rose also noted the NFL reported 2013 profits of \$9,200,000,000, larger even than the aforementioned 2015-16 City Hall budget of about \$9,000,000,000.)

After a flurry of pronouncements by Supervisors Jane Kim, Avalos, David Campos, and Aaron Peskin over introduction of non-binding resolutions to urge our reluctant Mayor to do so, with resulting publicity, no such resolution has been heard in any Board of Supervisors committee and no plan exists for the Host Committee or NFL to reimburse even the Sheriff’s Department for providing additional security at City Hall for the NFL owners’ sumptuous dinner the night before the game! How about that, sports fans?

Meanwhile, the California First Amendment Coalition and San Francisco Taxpayers Association have transmitted a California Public Records Act demand for production of all records relating to Super Bowl 50 and San Francisco government, the Host Committee, and the NFL.

..... City Hall predictably has requested a two-week extension of the state-mandated ten days within which to produce all such documents. Stay on alert for public exposure of such documents and resultant revelations of the gouging of taxpayers.

Some ten years ago, certain members of the Board of Education successfully abolished the Junior ROTC program at San Francisco’s public high schools. Among abolition leaders were then-Commissioners (now Supervisors) Eric Mar and Norman Yee. Supporters of Junior ROTC literally revolted, qualifying as voters an initiative on the 2008 November ballot, Proposition V, and then securing its passage. The measure requires the Board of Education to restore the Junior ROTC program as it previously existed, which included physical education credit for student participation and so-called “central funding” from School District headquarters to defray those costs not covered by the Department of the Army. A majority of the Board of Education has for eight years defied the voters’ will. As a result, the School District supports only one JROTC instructor at several schools in which the Federal government requires two (one instructor supervises over 100 Junior ROTC students). Board of Education Commissioner Emily Murase, a Merced Manor resident and product of San Francisco public schools, now leads an effort to restore physical education credit for Junior ROTC participation and central funding, noting that graduation, suspension and expulsion rates of Junior ROTC students are better in all respects than such rates for students not in Junior ROTC. Commissioner Murase is joined by Commissioner Jill Wynn, the senior member of the Board of Education and devoted public school advocate, and Commissioner Rachel Norton. The Board of Education Budget Committee on March 7, 2016 referred Commissioner Murase’s proposal to the full board with “no recommendation.” On April 6, 2016, that same Budget Committee will hear the resolution again. On April 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Board’s headquarters, the matter will be presented to the full seven-member elected Board of Education for decision. I urge people to communicate to the other four members of the Board of Education support for complying with Proposition V, the voters’ will in 2008. I intend to testify personally. Incidentally, Junior ROTC is available at Lowell, Washington, Burton, Balboa, Lincoln, Galileo and Mission High Schools.

There will be two contested Board of Supervisor elections involving incumbents in November. One will occur in our own District No. 7, presently represented by Supervisor Yee (not Leland). Three non-incumbent aspirants have already met with me, namely Michael Young, Ben Matrangola, and Joel Engardio. Andy Lee, a prior candidate, has also filed his candidacy. In due

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Take the Next Step!

DBI works closely with property owners to improve the seismic safety of their buildings, protecting the lives of tenants and families. Through the Mandatory Soft Story Program, property owners of multi-unit Type 5 wood frame buildings are required to seismically strengthen their property within the next five years.

Ensure your property is seismically retrofitted by turning in your permit application today!

Compliance Tier	Submittal of Permit Application with Plans	Completion of Work and CFC Issuance
1	09/15/2015	09/15/2017
2	09/15/2016	09/15/2018
3	09/15/2017	09/15/2019
4	09/15/2018	09/15/2020

You may be able to add accessory dwelling units to your property when undergoing a seismic retrofit. Financing opportunities are available. Visit sfdbi.org/softstory for more information.

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Laguna Honda's "Mission Statement" Changed, Again!

Appalling Shortage of Skilled Nursing Beds

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

After decades of planning, how can city officials say that there are no beds for elderly and disabled San Franciscans, saying there are not enough skilled nursing facility (SNF), board and care, and post-acute care beds?

A new report from the Department of Public Health (DPH) — “Framing San Francisco’s Post-Acute Care Shortage” — calls for yet more planning, since previous planning has been meaningless.

The *Westside Observer* has covered the loss of our skilled nursing beds — and the utter lack of planning for SNF care — in a series of articles over the past seven years, including “*Laguna Honda Hospital: Pot-bellies vs. Beds*” (July 2009), “*Who’s Dumping Grandma?*” (June 2013), “*The Big Squeeze: Dys-Integration of ‘Old Friends’*,” (July 2014), and “*Detrimental Skilled Nursing Cuts*” (June 2015). Other articles going back to 2004 also touched on the loss of SNF beds.

Despite our previous reporting the situation has y grown worse over the past seven years, since we now appear to be facing a 1,745-bed SNF shortage 14 years from now in 2030.

How did we get to this point?
Media Coverage of New Report

To its credit, the *Examiner’s* article in February by Joshua Sabatini discussing the “*Post-Acute Care Shortage*” report presented to the Health Commission. Unfortunately, it failed to place the story in perspective on a variety of levels.

First Sabatini quoted Sneha Patil, a Health Program Planner in DPH’s Office of Policy and Planning, “San Francisco is at risk for an inadequate supply of skilled nursing beds in the future” to inform the Health Commission. But Sabatini missed the context — the commission had previously been warned that the shortage of SNF beds constituted an *unmet need* for skilled nursing care in the City.

It’s not just that there is an inadequate supply to meet demand. It’s that the *demand isn’t being* met after years of inadequate and poor planning. How long before the Health Commission “gets” it?

Second, Sabatini reports that “health officials are *attempting*” to *reverse* the lack of beds by “working with hospital officials and other health care service providers.” There is no evidence whatsoever, that efforts have been made to increase beds, by DPH, or other providers, or that any efforts have been successful, or even exist.

Third, Health Commissioner David Pating, MD — a psychiatrist and Chief of Addiction Medicine at Kaiser Medical Center (appointed by Mayor Ed Lee to the Health Commission in 2014) — appears unaware of the severe SNF bed shortage looming long before he was appointed.

Sabatini quoted Pating that the city had “a gap here that is looking to be solved.” The SNF-bed “gap” has been brewing looking to be solved for a decade.

Further, Commissioner Pating said: “*It’s just not clear to me if we are going to need 500, or 1,000 [additional SNF beds] — whatever the number that we are going to have — [whether we are going to have] enough room in The City to build these number of beds.*”

Does he know the City owns 62 acres at Laguna Honda Hospital with plenty of room to build more SNF beds (in fact, another 420 SNF beds that had been planned, were eliminated, due to the cost overruns of the new facility)? There would be no additional cost to acquire property to build out more SNF beds.

This isn’t about a 500-bed, or a 1,000-bed, shortage. It’s almost double that, at a 1,745-bed shortage.

Even worse, Pating said: “*I hope we will consider out-of-city [i.e., out-of-county] and maybe even multicounty [discharge placement] options.*”

More out-of-county patient dumping, including elderly and disabled who need long-term skilled nursing care? Pating also informed Sabtini that hospital officials have difficulty in placing patients in sub-acute care beds. “*There are a handful of facilities in the greater Bay Area. But some discharge planners have reported having to send patients as far as L.A. county due to a lack of beds in the Bay Area.*”

Fourth, Sabatini reported that Abbie Yant, St. Francis Memorial Hospital’s Vice President for Mission, Advocacy and Community Health, said that the new report “represents the *first time* The City is addressing post-acute care at large.” Yant continued “We need to protect what we now have. The problem is here today. We do have some urgency around that.”

It’s a refreshing admission that this is the *first time* the City addressed post-acute care needs, over 20 years into the crisis!

If we “need to protect what we now have,” why did Yant advocate on behalf of St. Mary’s to close its SNF beds in 2015?

Since her appointment in January 2011 to the Mayor’s Long-Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC), she allowed the closure of 90 SNF beds between St. Francis, CPMC, and St. Mary’s.

LHH’s “Mission” Changed Again

Just before the Health Commission debated the new report on the critical shortage of skilled nursing care beds to care for a quickly increasing population of elderly residents, a Health Commission subcommittee called the Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committee (LHH-JCC) quietly changed Laguna Honda’s mission statement from providing long-term care to “post-acute” services.

It’s not a mere shift in semantics. It allows LHH and DPH to determine which post-acute care services it offers, and it may allow the hospital to say, “Our mission isn’t to provide long-term skilled nursing care, so we’re not going to admit you and you should go shop elsewhere, even if it means out-of-county placement.”

LHH’s new mission statement changed from caring for long-and short-term care patients to becoming a “*leader in post-acute care.*” And completely absent from the January 2016 revised mission statement is any mention of long-term care *or* rehabilitation services, both of which have now been completely excised.

Out-of-County, Out of Mind

Pating’s hope to increase out-of-county and multi-county patient-dumping placements to deal with our so-called “post-acute care challenge” is very troubling, given DPH’s own data.

DPH has stalled disclosure for over two years on the aggregate number of out-of-county discharges from LHH, and only in the past month has it provided limited data. DPH and the Department of Aging and Adult Services have shared the *SF GetCare* database for years, which tracks the discharge destination of patients from LHH and SFGH, or patients who were “diverted” via a court-ordered Diversion and Community Integration Program.

Healthcare providers can’t do post-discharge patient follow-up to check on patient outcomes without knowing where patients are, and how to contact them.

The report’s Table 1 shows at least 85



Privatizing Kezar (Cont. from p. 2)

to San Franciscans - kids and adults.

It is not as if there is extra field time available for everyone who wants to play. At the March Recreation and Park Commission meeting, in testimony separate from the Kezar Stadium issues, a large group of coaches and players complained that Rec and Park is discriminating between teams, and denying some teams precious field time.

Furthermore, soccer players tell me that Kezar’s playing field has not generally been made available for ordinary games or practices, because Rec and Park wants to keep it pristine. But now a professional team will have it for 40% of the Saturdays a year, as well as access to other grass fields for practice games — taking those playing hours away from daily players.

As a community member said at the RPC hearing, “I believe the highest and best use for Rec and Park facilities is for activities for children and youth, not for professional sports.”

A poor bargain for the City

Rec and Park is not even getting a good deal financially. The pro soccer group will help to “upgrade” the stadium with \$500,000 over five years, but the upgrades are self-serving for the teams. Kezar already has night lighting; however, the professionals require lighting appropriate for television — that will use up \$300,000 of the promised \$500,000. An additional \$50,000 will be used up to install a fiber optic network — also to benefit the team. The rest of the \$150,000 will be used for small upgrades — this works out to \$30,000 a year for use of a prime stadium in Golden Gate Park! There will be a very small income from ticket sales for RPD, and no revenue sharing for merchandise sales.

Encourages alcohol use

One issue that rankled community members at the RPC hearing was the fact that Kezar Stadium was rebuilt “to serve as a community and school recreational facility and one of the fundamental premises of our position was no alcohol.” The professional games will be the first time since its rebuilding as a community facility in 1991 that beer, wine, and hard liquor will be served in the stadium during games. At the PROSAC meeting, an RPD representative had no problem with this, excusing it by saying that people would “sneak it in anyway.”

It is unfortunate that a department that should be setting high standards for youth will now be encouraging alcohol use by implying that a game is not fun unless the spectators can drink. **The deal is part of the Rec and Park trend towards privatizing our public commons - and it is up to the public to put on the brakes**

For those readers who are OK with the Kezar Stadium deal because it does not affect you directly, remember: your clubhouse is gone or soon will be; the once-public Palace of Fine

Arts is on the path to becoming a private hotel; and a once-verdant part of Golden Gate Park has been lost to the general public with the building of the Beach Chalet Soccer Complex. San Franciscans need to stick together to protest privatization, or all of our public facilities will continue to be picked off one by one.

But wait - more deals to come!

The June ballot contains a 30-year set aside for RPD worth almost \$5 billion — and eliminates any outside controls on how the money will be spent. More about that in the next issue.

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

Table 1: Out-of County Patient Discharges

Fiscal Year	Laguna Honda Hospital	SFGH*	Private Sector Hospitals	Total
FY 2006–07 — FY 2011–12**	?	?	?	?
FY 12–13	26	7	?	33
FY 13–14	28	1	?	29
FY 14–15	25	68	?	93
YTD (7/1/15 – 12/31/15)	6	0	?	6
Total	85	76	?	161

*San Francisco residents discharged from SFGH but not admitted to Laguna Honda Hospital.

** Although DPH’s SF GetCare database likely has discharge destination data prior to FY 12–13, the City refuses to provide it

patients from LHH have been discharged out-of-county in the past three-and-a-half fiscal years, alone but DPH may be withholding release of the data. It also shows that, in the same period, SFGH discharged another 76 San Franciscans to out-of-county facilities, bringing the total to 161.

LHH and SFGH operate only 1,172 beds of the estimated 5,483 total beds citywide, but no data is available on the number of out-of-county discharges made in the past three-and-a-half years in the remaining 4,311 citywide beds. Why DPH didn’t collect and report complete discharge data for all our hospitals and SNF facilities illustrates it’s a flawed analysis that obscures the severity of SNF needs.”

On October 2015, 11 people were on LHH’s wait list for long-term care, and 100 people were on SF’s Jewish Home wait list. The report that also noted that of our ten acute-care hospitals surveyed, including SFGH, approximately 67 patients were waiting to be placed in a SNF.

“*For now, out-of-county SNF placement is and will continue to be a reality for San Francisco residents due to limited bed availability, [limited] community-living alternatives, and higher care costs in San Francisco,*” the report states.

Health Commissioner Cecilia Chung,

asked if “San Francisco provides assistance to individuals re-entering the City after leaving [being discharged from] their out-of-county placements.”

No one provided a direct answer to Commissioner Chung’s question. Since many patients dumped out-of-county for short-term skilled nursing care or rehabilitation may indeed want to return to our City, and not be permanently disenfranchised and displaced out-of-county.

Chung’s question was astute, in part, because neither the City nor the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) has a preference priority in place for people discharged out-of-county to be eligible for either public-housing, or so-called “affordable housing” to gain access to priority placement and return to San Francisco.

Once they’re discharged out-of-county, they are out of mind and essentially handed a one-way ticket elsewhere, expected to never return.

Monette-Shaw is a *Westside Observer* columnist. He received a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists–Northern California Chapter in 2012. He can be contacted at monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

Commentary

Undergrounding the M Streetcar

By Glenn Rogers, PLA

This new reconfiguration of the M streetcar going underground is an improvement over the previous plan, where staff was directed to provide an elevated solution. With both M and K streetcars going underground, it removes congestion at the St. Francis Circle and the Ocean Avenue crossing. The M line is improved with elimination of the 19th Ave. crossing beside Stonestown, and the crossing over Junipero Serra would be improved dramatically by an underground route. Instead of a one streetcar track, which is present today and part of the old solution, there would be two streetcar tracks going in either direction. A streetcar would make grade, emerging from underground, at Randolph St. where the road widens.

Both the old and new M streetcar alignments avoid a stop at the Senior Center located at the Temple Methodist Church. It is inappropriate to foster a care facility in San Francisco, have the public depend on that center's care, then abandon the center by no longer providing public transportation for seniors and the disabled."

Where the new M streetcar fails:

Where the new alignment fails in its analysis is that it ends the M streetcar at Parkmerced, where a J streetcar receives passengers moving into the Oceanview district. The opportunity for less service into Oceanview is likely since it is not a well-connected neighborhood. Both the old and new M streetcar alignments avoid a stop at the Senior Center located at the Temple Methodist Church. It is inappropriate to foster a care facility in San Francisco, have the public depend on that center's care, then abandon the center by no longer providing public transportation for seniors and the disabled. Presently there is a stop at Beverly Street where the senior center is located. Service to this center should be demanded by the neighborhood. Additionally, the stop at the existing Lakeside business districts is considered optional. The elimination of this stop could have a dramatic effect on the existing businesses there. Most important, the J streetcar traveling downtown could just change its sign from J to M at the Parkmerced station instead of having passengers leave the streetcar and find new seating on the M streetcar. In returning home, if this same procedure could occur, it would improve J ridership dramatically. The Parkmerced project was always been about providing more market rate housing for the City tax coffers. This plan to treat J streetcar riders as second class citizens needs to be brought to the attention of the City and SFMTA.

Why the new M streetcar line is better:

In my opinion, this underground solution was necessary because the 18,000 new residents of Parkmerced would appear to be poorly served by the transportation provided by the past plan. The past plan had no solution for the St. Francis Circle congestion, which would be both difficult for traffic and the M and K streetcars alike. In the old plan, there was only one

track going each way, this new design has two. With only one track in the old plan, this could lead to lines of streetcars going downtown, one after the other. The first car picking up passengers and the second one trailing behind empty. Then, the elevated track over the Junipero Serra/19th Ave. exchange would have had numerous failings. First, the noise created in an elevated platform would have been hard to ameliorate, causing blight in at least two nearby Towers by the noisy streetcar regularly passing by. Today, the plan is to have the streetcar land on the narrow part of Randolph Street (39'-6" wide). This would leave 11'-6" for two rows of parking and for two lanes of cars to pass each other, obviously, not nearly enough space for either activity. Therefore, the plan with the ramp ending at 19th Avenue, near Randolph St., is the preferred plan between these two.

Oceanview's difficulties:

Another hardship the Oceanview neighborhood has endured in the past has been Highway 280 providing an impassable barrier along its southern border. The entrances into the neighborhood have been minimized by traffic engineers more interested in traffic flow than economic opportunity for the residents. Many parts of the Oceanview neighborhood were designed with super blocks that are 3 to 4 times larger than regular blocks in San Francisco. These giant blocks, popular in the early part of the 1920's, minimize an opportunity for commerce by having fewer intersections. Typically, family and other businesses occur at street corners. Super blocks have been abandoned by City planners today. The Oceanview district does not need another obstacle to its success like a separate J streetcar line. 1.

1. www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/projects/19thAve_final_report.pdf

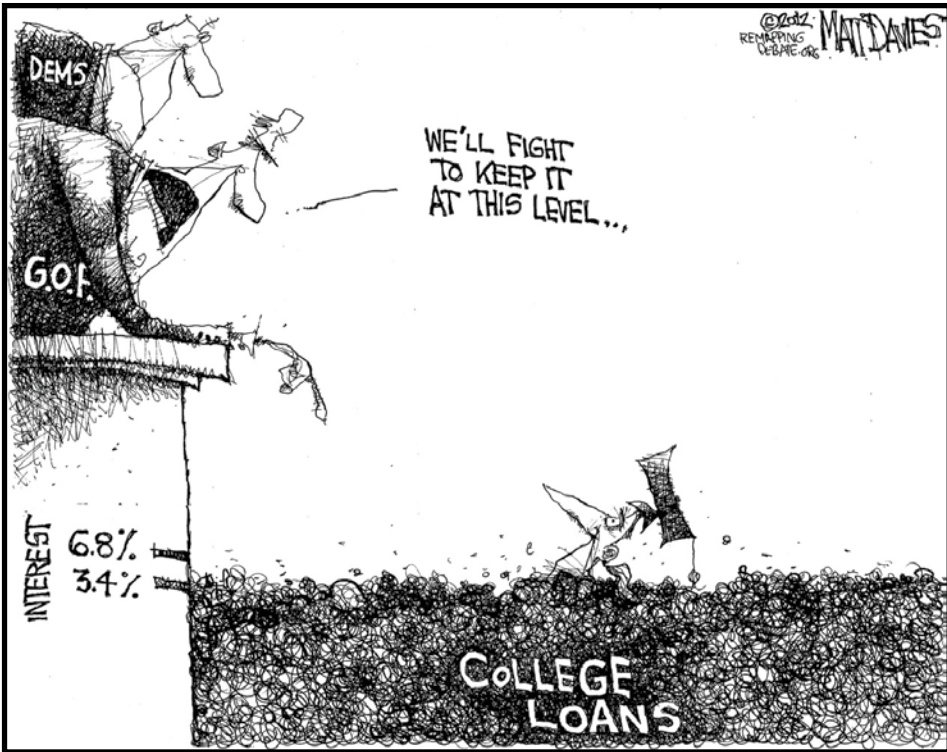
Glenn Rogers is a landscape architect who lives in the Westside.

Letters to the Editor



I believe I have identified the location in this photo from your site page: westsideobserver.com/remember.html Photo with the caption "Ingleside Terraces." This is from South side of Urbano St looking North up Victoria toward Ocean Ave.

Christian Mancinetti



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2016



PLUMP GRUMPS HUMMING TO DUMP TRUMP.

A single Stop Donald Trump movement first developed into a trickle but now the number of GOP groups intent on preventing the New York real estate developer from becoming their presidential nominee is about to exceed broken March Madness brackets. Thanks, Michigan State.

To many Republicans, Trump versus Cruz is way beyond rock and a hard place; closer to rampaging rhinoceros and train wreck on fire."

There's the Never Trump Movement, the Anybody But Trump Group, Death Before Trump, Plump Grumps Humming to Dump Trump, the Id Rather Chew Leeches Crew, People for Responsible Hair, and a group opposed to anybody with UMP in their name.

Rumor has it a group of Hollywood conservatives tried to recruit Tom Hanks to team with Sally Field and create a Super Pac called Forrest Trump, whose motto would be "Don't run, Donald, don't run."

As excited as Trump's supporters are over his unorthodox candidacy, his detractors are equally if not more passionate about its necessary demise. And with incumbent Senators, other down-ticket candidates, and people who just enjoy a party, the Anti-Trump Express has gotten as crowded as the last free beer bus to the game.

Chances are folks would flock onboard faster if the welcoming committee wasn't hosted by Ted Cruz. To many Republicans, Trump versus Cruz is way beyond rock and a hard place; closer to rampaging rhinoceros and train wreck on fire.

Each rival group has separate concerns. The establishment elites are naturally wary of any candidate not beholden to their help and influence. Especially since when discussing their *raison d'être*: tax cuts, Trump has been all over the map. All over a lot of maps. Not necessarily English-speaking maps.

Some worry he could permanently damage the party brand. Others disparage him as a bloated, bigoted, misogynistic, narcissistic oaf, but emphasize they are not opposed to other bloated, bigoted, misogynistic, narcissistic oafs from holding public office. Mostly a one-time thing.

What we are witnessing is no less than a fight for the soul of the Republican Party,

which is like a jurisdictional dispute over the Poetry Wing of the Federal Reserve. Wrestling for the fur of an eel.

Marco Rubio, speaking of Trump's refusal to denounce David Duke, said, "There's no room in the Republican Party for racists." Wow. Knew there were a lot of them; who would of thought all the slots were full? Must be an affirmative action program. Go to Mitch McConnell's office, take a number, wait your turn.

All sorts of strategies have been floated. Manipulating the rules at a contested convention. Organizing a third party. Staging a write-in campaign. Exhuming the body of Ronald Reagan. Kidnapping the Donald, then substituting Paul Ryan, John Kasich or Carol Channing. And something darkly referred to as "The Kennedy Solution."

Activity intensified after an earlier strategy of the Anti-Trumpers backfired. Mitt Romney gave some silly sanctimonious speech patiently explaining to legions of insurrectionists why they should fall in line and take their marching orders from a loser like him. Wolves have given more charitable speeches to sheep.

What these desperate party regulars fail to realize is getting Trumpeteers to toe the establishment line is beyond futile. You'd have a better shot of herding drunken cats on ice in a hurricane. Best to think of these renegades like venomous ticks. The harder you pull, the more tenaciously they dig in.

Copyright © 2016, Will Durst. Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comedian and former Pizza Hut assistant manager. For sample videos and a calendar of personal appearances including his new one-man show, *Elect to Laugh: 2016*, appearing every Tuesday at the San Francisco Marsh, go to willdurst.com.

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Body Cameras (Cont. from p. 1)

and confidential informants is prohibited, except in “exigent circumstances”. Before releasing videos publicly, the SFPD may get consent from the subjects or blur their images to respect privacy. As for police officer privacy, the ACLU opposes anonymizing videos of officers involved in misconduct. It also warns that videos reviewed for SFPD performance assessments could be scrutinized for minor infractions to retaliate against department activists and whistleblowers.

First Amendment Rights: SFPD policy prohibits the filming of citizens engaged in First Amendment protected activities such as peaceful demonstrations. However, the bodycam policy allows filming “any citizen encounter that may become hostile” or anytime it “would be valuable for evidentiary purposes”. Loop-hole alert: one angry protestor or an undercover SFPD “infiltrator” could provoke a “citizen encounter that becomes hostile”. That could justify filming law-abiding protesters, and assembling dossiers on civil rights activists and social movements

“...our activities are already tracked and stored by hundreds of government agencies and private companies. Given the state of National Emergency, repeatedly re-enacted since 9/11/2001, and the growing tendency to view “others” as threats, bodycams could end up watching communities rather than police.”

“for evidentiary purposes”. Capturing “evidentiary” footage is also problematic. The Police Executive Research Forum defines “evidentiary” as data that “could prove useful for investigative purposes”. That could mean anything or everything.

More troubling is how counter-terrorism policies are merging with domestic policing. The purview of FBI Fusion Centers has expanded from terrorism to crimes to “all hazards” including “suspicious activities”. For example, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI viewed the Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter movements as “domestic terrorism” or “criminal activity” and coordinated with local police departments to monitor law-abiding participants. These intrusions were justified as “providing situational awareness of activities that may lead to violent action”. Similar rationales drove the FBI “Cointelpro” abuses during the Civil Rights era.

Each year, the SFPD reports its collaboration with the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force and denies any transgressions. Yet, SFPD may be violating its First Amendment obligations by interrogating, for the FBI, a resident who filed a Freedom of Information Act request regarding his air-travel issues. Recall how the Oakland Police Department “Domain Awareness Center”, a \$10 million anti-terrorism surveillance project, marketed as a crime-fighter, was primarily deployed to track political protests. Public outrage halted the city-wide spying and led to a Privacy Advisory Commission to check police overreach.

Public Access: Who watches whom depends upon access to bodycam footage. The SFPD Risk Management Office

will control access to the data and release recordings “to the greatest extent possible” – unless doing so would violate privacy rights, endanger witnesses, or “jeopardize the successful completion of an investigation”. The Office of Citizen Complaints, operating under the Police Commission, will also have access to bodycam videos to pursue complaints of police misconduct. Since the bodycam recordings will likely be stored in TASER International’s cloud data base, the SFPD should ensure that neither the vendor nor hackers can access them.

Bodycam videos will be public records under the California Public Records Act and the SF Sunshine Ordinance. In practice however, police dash-cam and bodycam videos are withheld unless a dogged attorney sues for release. Typically, police withhold evidence of misconduct by citing “an ongoing investigation”, while quickly releasing videos that exonerate them. Time will tell how the SFPD determines which video disclosures would jeopardize “the successful completion of an investigation”.

Related to public access is the integrity

of video data. SFPD officers are prohibited from deleting or tampering with bodycam recordings. Disciplinary actions follow violations of SFPD policy, but it’s unclear how non-compliance will be monitored and redressed. In incidents where an officer is subject to investigation, the commanding officer “shall take” immediate custody of the camera. Retention of bodycam videos will be in accord with Assembly Bill 69; at least 60 days for routine encounters, and at least 2 years for arrests, crimes, use of force incidents and citizen complaints. But recordings may be saved “for a longer or indefinite period of time...if deemed relevant to a criminal, civil or administrative matter”. It will be important to audit retention times to ensure that footage isn’t held just because it might come in handy someday.

Without transparency and public oversight, bodycams could reinforce an architecture of mass surveillance that includes automatic license plate readers, Hi-Definition cameras, drones, “Stingray” cell-phone tower simulators that capture nearby calls, “TrapWire” facial recognition technology, and social media monitoring software. Plus, our activities are already tracked and stored by hundreds of government agencies and private companies. Given the state of National Emergency, repeatedly re-enacted since 9/11/2001, and the growing tendency to view “others” as threats, bodycams could end up watching communities rather than police.

Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda Hospital where they exposed wrongdoing by the Department of Public Health. Contact: watchdogs@westsideobserver.com

Enough is Enough! (Cont. from p. 1)

Portal that were initially assessed as feasible by the Department of Real Estate. Subsequently, this was clarified and it was determined that the sites did not meet the size requirement. The City’s Director of Real Estate noted that even when the site meets the size requirement, there are many other factors that would be taken into consideration.

When I read this I felt like Laughing Sal at the long gone Playland at the Beach. No way would this ever happen. Do you have any idea the effect this would have on this family neighborhood, children, and the businesses? Are you out of your freakin minds?? Our Supervisor, to his credit, made it clear that West Portal does not meet any criteria to be considered a potential location.

The *Chronicle* Insider further noted “In the coming weeks, Campos will also

Barberini (Cont. from p. 2)

Insurance -to Aetna Insurance -to ING Insurance -to Great West Insurance -to Prudential Insurance. If a retail financial advisor switched insurance carriers every time a client’s contract terms matured, they would lose their license.

7) The SEC website warns against using these life insurance policies inside a pension plan (*Google: “SEC Variable Annuities”*),

8) For the deferred comp plan, the Santa Monica consultants selected a money-market type fund, called a “stable value fund” that lost \$100 million during the financial crisis. The fund lost money not from market fluctuation, but from investing in exotic, risky investments that became totally worthless,

9) As exposed in the *Financial Times of London’s* blog (12/16/14), the husband of one of the partners at the consulting firm accepted numerous bundled political campaign contributions from financial institutions right around the time those financial institutions’ products went into the SF pension. Subsequently, the Santa Monica firm’s contract was not renewed for the \$20 billion pension. However, they still manage the SF deferred comp plan.

10) As discussed in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (11/29/99), there has been a history of lobbyists getting paid to influence which financial institution earned the deferred comp account. If our consultants and Retirement System are making recommendations purely in the best interests for the public employees’ benefit, why are lobbyists in the background?

SFERS had two almost identical, boilerplate contracts drawn with the Santa Monica firm, identical down to San Francisco’s condition that the firm avoids using tropical hardwood. But, despite the specificity of flooring, in item #5 on page two of each contract,

propose the creation of six new Navigation Centers within a year, including one where alcoholics can imbibe (drink) inside and one where intravenous drug users can legally shoot up.” I guess there is no liability in doing that, Supervisor.

It is positive to see out City officials address this crucial homeless problem. But as everyone knows who as ever worked at City Hall, it seems that before any elected official takes action something has got to get out of hand, or a massive protest has to take place, before the issue gets addressed. How many tents, mentally ill, and defecation incidents on our streets did it take to finally say “enough is enough.”

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*

the wording radically diverges. For the taxpayer/employee funded \$20 billion pension, the consultant agreed to offer a “fiduciary relationship.” But for the employees’ deferred comp plan, “fiduciary” was replaced with the concession to only: “act in good faith and in a professional matter.” This difference in wording hardly seems inadvertent and goes against the entire federal trend of enhanced consumer protection. Hardwood floors seem to matter more than the fiduciary protection of employee assets.

For San Francisco deferred comp participants, first the tax laws did not include them under Department of Labor protection; then the Santa Monica consultants eliminated SEC oversight; and finally, on a \$2 billion account, the city failed to negotiate for a “fiduciary standard.” It is similar to a pilot navigating through a blinding fog, radioing the tower his instruments aren’t working, and curiously, the traffic controllers directing the plane to the one runway blacked out by an electricity failure. This is the reason *Forbes Magazine* (2/14/13) described government deferred comp plans as the “investment backwater-the Wild West of retirement planning.”

As it stands now, a San Francisco public employee can walk up to a random financial storefront and receive a better federally-imposed standard of care than they would receive by investing with the full strength of the City and County of San Francisco. But there is great consistency here between this deferred comp insurance product, and the Retirement System’s desire for hedge funds in the taxpayer-funded pension: seek the most fee-laden, opaque investment, in an environment with the least government oversight.

If you are still confused about these deferred comp issues, email me: Lou.barberini@gmail.com.

Lou Barberini is a San Francisco CPA living in West Portal

WOTPCC (Cont. from p. 3)

The SFPD and **Department of Justice** are already working together to investigate the actions relating to the “racial texts” issues in the SFPD, and the “gladiator fights” within the SF jail by the **Sheriff’s Department**. He noted that there has been no “Federal Civil Rights Report” investigation such as was conducted in the Ferguson case, and the current DOJ inquiry is less involved.

The delegates in the room asked questions about “use of force” and other topics and were mainly complimentary of the interactions with the SFPD. Halloran said that there are instances of officers who “shouldn’t be in this line of work” and the POA works with the SFPD to help remove those who are not upholding the ethics of the SFPD. He also cited the facts that the SFPD is still about **300 officers short** of their mandated employment



levels, but that the city is conducting more “academy” classes to fill these positions. In addition he spoke on the diversity within the department and that women and non-white offices make up more than 50% of the workforce.

In the final discussion of the evening, **Erica Maybaum from Supervisor Norman Yee’s office** addressed the group and gave an update on the issues on which Supervisor Yee is working. Much of the

Westside Worries(Cont. from p. 1)

gained) through the garages.” Assistant District Attorney Marc Massarweh said that without witnesses or neighbors alerting police to suspicious activity, it’s hard to get arrests, much less convictions.

“These are tough crimes. These are difficult to catch,” said Massarweh. “They are crimes where, for the most part, they are committed when people aren’t around. When they’re committed at night, they’re not reported until hours later. There, in most instances, isn’t crime-scene DNA evidence or anything. It’s not like fingerprints are all over the car. They are tough cases to prove.”

Captain Flaherty noted that some spots are hotter than others, like at 16th Avenue and Moraga Street, where tile stairs attract tourists and, in turn, they attract thieves.

“Auto break-ins are a crime of opportunity. When everyone stops leaving valuables in their cars that are visible, you are going to start to see a decrease in crime,” she said. “But tourists, they come here. It’s beautiful; it’s San Francisco. The tourism industry, they’re not really going to tell people ‘hey, it’s not so safe. Put your valuables away.’ ... Unfortunately the tourists park their vehicles. They go visit and then they come back and find out that their laptops and computers, iPads have been stolen.”

The other issue that is getting a lot of attention throughout the City, including the west side of town, is homelessness.

Officer Daniel Rosiak is the Taraval Station’s homeless resource officer, and he told the more than 50 people gathered in the Ortega branch library that the situation has actually improved during the last few years but remains a concern to many.

“I’ve been doing this for about a year and a half. And I’m really surprised on what I see. I’m pulling people out of trees,” said Rosiak. “When I first started at

Taraval, about four years ago, there was a huge problem on Great Highway ... with large RVs. I mean, we had school buses of hippies. It looked like nineteen-sixty-something down there, right around the Great Highway Inn, it was just awful.

“Since that time we’ve gotten signs to help us with the RV’s, to scare people away from parking those RVs down there. Unfortunately, that kind of moves them into other parts of the district.”

And if signs don’t do the trick, this too can result in more homeless on the streets.

“If they’re caught between the hours of ten and six — ten at night, six in the morning — then their vehicle will be cited and their vehicle could possibly be impounded, which, unfortunately, is their home,” he said. “So now you’ve just taken someone’s home....”

“I know some of you want it strictly enforced, towed and all that but in my experience here you have to be compassionate to a point. I mean it’s not just letter-of-the-law all the time. OK? You have to build rapport with these people or else you’re not going to get compliance.”

Brenda Meskan works for the City’s Department of Public Health on its Homeless Outreach Team.

“People don’t aspire to be homeless. You have to realize that,” said Meskan. “People in RVs, that is their home; we’re taking care of poor people, basically, that don’t have a place to live....”

“A lot of people on the streets, that

have been chronically homeless for three-plus-years, suffer from a lot of medical issues that you may not see. Cancer is one of the biggest things, hypertension, stroke, abuse, traumatic brain injuries; they have no memories so to get them to appointments, they really have to be taken to appointments to have anything happen.”

She explained that if homeless people leave their tents or belongings somewhere to go get treatment or keep an appointment, then other homeless or the SF Department of Public Works will come along and take their tents or whatever other possessions that they might have.

“So it’s really difficult and challenging.... It’s not that they don’t want the services but if we can’t load everything into the van to take them to the appointment, it

takes time for us to do that and then we’re off the street.”

The precinct captain’s community meetings used to be monthly, but this one marked a shift to quarterly meetings throughout the year.

“The reason I did that is because at my community meetings I maybe had 10 to 15 people and they were the same 10 to 15 people, and it was always me just being a talking head,” Capt. Flaherty explained.... “I’m working in partnership with Supervisor Katy Tang and Supervisor Norman Yee, and I’m doing that because when the meetings are monthly and they’re in the same place like Taraval, people can’t make them all the time.

“So my hope is to engage more people.... Instead of just always having it on Taraval, I’m moving it to four different locations throughout the district to get more people,” she said.

“Those that were not happy with my decision, I encourage them to join together and organize as a community group and they can still utilize Taraval on a monthly basis to gather and share their ideas. And I would always have one of my lieutenants or sergeants present during that meeting if they want.”

Thomas Pendergast is a local journalist.



“The precinct captain’s community meetings used to be monthly, but this one marked a shift to quarterly meetings...”



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Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Consider Donating Stock Instead of Cash to Charity

Giving to charity is an important financial priority for many people. Most often this takes the form of donating cash or material goods to a favorite nonprofit. A less common strategy – but one that may be worth considering – is to give the gift of appreciated stock. When managed correctly, donating appreciated stock can be beneficial for the charity and the donor, allowing the donor to make a larger gift while potentially claiming a higher tax deduction.



By not selling the stock first, the couple would not have to recognize tax on the gain ... Neither the couple nor the charity would be required to pay tax on the appreciated value when the sale occurs.

How it works

Generally speaking, a contribution to a qualified charity allows you to claim a tax deduction if you itemize deductions. (See IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions for additional information.) When a stock has increased in value over time and you intend to make a donation with the proceeds, you can approach it in two ways as illustrated by this example:

A married couple holds a stock valued at \$10,000. The stock was purchased five years earlier for \$5,000. The couple would like to liquidate the stock as a way to make a substantial gift to a local charity. They can either:

Sell the stock, generating \$10,000 in proceeds and then make the gift. Assuming that they owe long-term capital gains taxes at a rate of 15 percent¹ on the \$5,000 long-term capital gain, their net proceeds would be \$4,250. (This does not assume any state taxes.) In this case, the total after-tax proceeds available for the charity would be \$9,250. This is also the maximum value of the tax deduction they could claim (the actual deduction available will depend on their income level).

Give the shares of stock directly to the charity. By not selling the stock first, the couple would not have to recognize tax on the gain. Ownership would be transferred to the charity, which would generally be able to sell the stock at any time. Neither the couple nor the charity would be required to pay tax on the appreciated value when the sale occurs. The charity would receive a larger donation because the stock would be valued at \$10,000. The couple would be able to claim up to a \$10,000 tax deduction² based on the fair market value of the stock on the day the gift is made (based on the average of the high and low selling price of the security on the date of transfer). Keep in mind that

the stock can move in value, and future gains for the charity after you gift the stock are not guaranteed.

Other considerations

If you have appreciated assets that might be appropriate to donate to charity, here are other factors to consider:

- The stock must be held for more than one year to qualify as capital gain property for the scenarios listed above.
- The maximum amount you can deduct in a given year is limited to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income (known as AGI, or your total gross income minus specific deductions), because it is appreciated capital gain property³. However, you can carry forward unused deductions for five years. You do have an option of deducting only the cost basis (purchase price adjusted for stock splits, dividends and return of capital distributions) of the security, which would raise your deductible limit to 50 percent of your AGI.
- The total deductions you can claim in a year may be reduced if your income exceeds certain levels.
- Consult with your tax advisor to make sure your gift is handled properly in order to claim your tax deduction. Additionally, talk to your financial professional to see how you can make donations that are aligned with your financial goals.

¹ Assumes ordinary tax bracket of between 25-35 %

² Deductions for charitable contributions may be limited based on the type of property donated, type of charity and the donor's AGI.

³ Other limitations to the amount you can deduct in a given year may apply.

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.

Coyotes (Cont. from p. 1)

This speaks to the urban coyote's inherent population maintenance. Although there are the limiting factors of available habitats and resources, the death of a coyote in a pre-existing den will only create a vacuum that will soon be filled by another animal from a nearby population.

In order to manage the population and protect families and their pets, as well as this native species, experts like those at the Presidio Trust, Animal Care and Control, and SF Recs & Parks, have come up with plans to ensure safety for humans and their companions, and humane lifestyles for these coyotes who are as native to San Francisco as the California poppy.

Some of the more direct action to be taken has included building fences — not so much to keep the coyotes or humans out, but rather to condition them away from certain areas like well-trodden trails.

Another action is the use of hazing, or recreating the natural fear that animals



continuously caused problems.

These direct action items are all for extreme cases. For the most part, the bulk of control will take place by the education of citizens and better understanding by both local residents as well as the area experts.

Both the experts and the residents will have to work together to ensure adequate and robust reportings of sightings. Websites like iNaturalist as well as open calling policies allow residents to report sightings,

We, as humans, must adapt our behavior as well as that of our pets." We cannot expect our desire for pleasant and leash-free strolls to overcome the needs of local animal populations.

have of humans. While this may seem inhumane, it is simply a counter-effort to the habituation that coyotes have learned to humans and their food. The fences are a part of this hazing as are the use of paintball guns. The paint has a twofold purpose: to give them the physical sensation that is critical to conditioning and to notably mark the bolder, problem coyotes with paint that will remain visible for some time.

Coyotes, just like beloved family pets and humans themselves, are individuals with distinct personalities. Just as some dogs are more aggressive or confrontational, so too are coyotes. When considering lethal action, which must only be considered in the most extreme cases, experts wish to focus on individual animals and be sure to only take action against those that have

interactions, encounters, or attacks. Notably, local outdoors groups will also be creating heavy signage, creating educational brochures online and off, and organizing meeting with dog owner groups like SF Dogs to educate local owners.

Donahue said it best: "We, as humans, must adapt our behavior as well as that of our pets." We cannot expect our desire for pleasant and leash-free strolls to overcome the needs of local animal populations. To the coyotes, we humans are just gentrifiers who have been here far too long. We must take responsibility for our actions and learn how we can live together with our fellow local-inhabitants.

Maya Lakach is a local journalist.

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Oxalis Uber Alles

By Jake Sigg

The brash yellow of *Oxalis pes-caprae* can almost break the sound barrier. And—have you noticed?—there is more and more of it every year? The damage yellow oxalis is doing to our wildflower fields is huge and increasing.

This short article is an attempt to draw attention to the consequences of the massive takeover of our land by this pest plant. We should be taking it far more seriously, and I ask the public to focus attention on its behavior and rate of spread. Where it grows, the public may see masses of pretty yellow, but perhaps they don't think of what until very recently occupied that same space. Lacking any natural controls—it left those controls in its native South Africa—there is nothing to stop it here. To boot, it

...it practices chemical warfare by exuding chemical compounds that prevent germination of seeds of other plants and inhibit growth of existing plants. Advent of oxalis in a given area is followed by decline and elimination of other plant species in a short time.

is allelopathic; that is, it practices chemical warfare by exuding chemical compounds that prevent germination of seeds of other plants and inhibit growth of existing plants. Advent of oxalis in a given area is followed by decline and elimination of other plant species in a short time. The endgame is a



monoculture. This is a more serious situation than people credit. If it kills off all competitors, what is to clothe the ground during oxalis's dormant period during the summer and autumn months? Nothing.

When its takeover is complete, hill-sides will be bare, without vegetation. This is a tap-rooted plant which lacks a network of fibrous roots; it takes over and excludes soil-binding perennial grasses and forbs. That means there is nothing to hold the soil against erosion. Worse, it means there will be nothing for wildlife, nothing for foragers such as hawks, owls, and coyotes, nothing for bees and butterflies to pollinate or lay their eggs on. It will be an ecological tragedy: the ecosystem, once gone, cannot be recreated. What was once a rich and diverse area sustaining grasses, wildflowers and a large and varied wildlife community now becomes a biological wasteland. Public assumption that the pretty mixed flowers and grasses of our wild areas will always be there will be shocked when this monoculture happens. That realization will be too late.

Are we really ready to be deprived of these animals and wildflowers?

To refer to work that preserves the diversity of plants and animals that have lived here as a community for thousands of years we use the term restoration, for lack of a better word. It consists primarily of removing aggressive invasive plants like thistles, broom, and oxalis that are displacing our natural heritage. If this heritage is once gone it cannot be re-created. The fabric consisting of a complex relationship between above-and below-ground organisms (including large animals) is gone, and humans are unable to recreate them..

...it takes over and excludes soil-binding perennial grasses and forbs. That means there is nothing to hold the soil against erosion. Worse, it means there will be nothing for wildlife, nothing for foragers such as hawks, owls, and coyotes, nothing for bees and butterflies to pollinate or lay their eggs on.

How can we prevent this loss of our wildflowers and wildlife? We don't have many tools in our toolbox. It is necessary to kill the bulb, and the only current technology we have for killing the bulb is herbicide. The reason we still have a few grasslands and wildflowers on Mt Davidson is because the Natural Areas Program has prevented the takeover by employing herbicides. There is no other way presently known, and it is acting in the interests of the public, which values its natural heritage.

Jake Sigg is an unabashed tree-hugger who lives on the Westside.



Golden Violet (*Viola pedunculata*) - host for Callippe Silverspot butterfly, formerly abundant on Mount Davidson, is now virtually gone, a victim of the chemical warfare of yellow oxalis, *Oxalis pes-caprae*

MUNI FORWARD

THE BRAND NEW 28R: ALL-DAY RAPID SERVICE ACROSS THE WESTSIDE!



REVAMPED LINE WILL PROVIDE NEW, RAPID NORTH-SOUTH CONNECTIONS

Traveling in, out, and through the Sunset District is going to be easier than ever! Starting April 23rd, the 28 19th Avenue Rapid will undergo a major transformation. The new route will provide **Rapid service every 10 minutes 7 AM to 7 PM** Monday through Friday, connecting the western neighborhoods to key destinations and transit lines. The 28 local route will continue to serve Daily City BART to the Marina District.

Project Benefits:

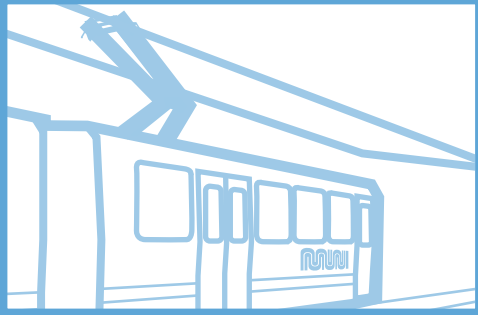
- Rapid service from the Richmond District to the Excelsior District
- Direct connections from 7am-7pm
- 10 minute frequencies



MORE RAPID CONNECTIONS:

Excelsior/Outer Mission	Stonestown
Balboa Park BART	Taraval Street
J Church	L Taraval
K Ingleside	Lincoln High School
M Ocean View	Inner Sunset
City College	N Judah
Parkmerced	Golden Gate Park
SF State	Geary Boulevard
	Richmond District

PLUS, ALL MUNI METRO LINES WILL RUN AT HIGHER WEEKEND FREQUENCIES STARTING APRIL 23RD.





The month of March marks my year anniversary as the Commanding Officer of Taraval Station. As the Captain, I am often asked by community members and by members of the police department, “How do you like it?” My response is, “It’s great. I am very lucky to have hard-working officers, a community that wants to be involved and a Board of Supervisors who work closely with me to address concerns of the community that we all serve.”

As the Commanding Officer, it is important for me to evaluate and re-evaluate how I am doing as a Captain and how my officers are performing. In my experience, I have seen that, overall, the officers of Taraval Station are working hard and truly believe in their commitment to the residents of the Taraval district. With that being said, there is always ways to improve. As a department, it is vital that we evolve in our strategies to address crimes trends and how we engage with the community.

Throughout the city we have seen an increase of property crimes. Many are frustrated as they have become victims of auto break-ins and residential burglaries. In a press release by the SFPD dated March 16, 2016, it states:

Increased Property Crimes

“The 2015 numbers reported by the San Francisco Police Department to the FBI as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting program has been released. The overall number of the Part 1 crimes in San Francisco increased 15.30 percent in 2015 when compared with 2014 data, largely due to the 17.55 percent increase in Property Crimes.

Although Part 1 crime is up, Violent Crime was actually flat when compared to 2014, and gun violence (injuries and death attributed to firearms) in 2015 was down 6.15 percent; a trend that has continued over the last several years.

“Property crimes were up 17.55 percent, most notably a 21.31 percent increase in larceny/theft. Theft from vehicles, which is included in the Larceny/Theft category, saw the largest increase of 30.62 percent over the previous year. San Francisco is not alone in California as many major cities are experiencing similar increases in this category.”

As the Captain, when I read data that shows increases in crimes, I need to evaluate the best use of our resources. In my opinion the best prevention of crime, is high visibility by uniformed officers, partnered with residents taking an active role in the safety of the community. I often speak of being a “Good Neighbor;” this simply means watch out for each other. Communicate with one another and get to know your neighbors. If you are interested in creating a neighborhood watch group, SFSafe can assist in the creation and coordination of your watch group. I strongly encourage residents to utilize SFSafe: www.sfsafe.org.

In recent weeks, the officers of Taraval Station have conducted extraordinary investigations with great success. There are four cases that I would like to highlight:

Soccer Referee Suffers Serious Injury

On February 21, 2016 a soccer referee was violently attacked by a player who was ejected from a game. The game was played at Minnie and Lovie Ward Park and was adult soccer league. The suspect fled prior to the arrival of the responding officers. The victim in this case, suffered serious injury and was transported to the hospital.



The initial investigation was conducted by the responding officer and the follow up investigation was handled by **Sgt Jesse Farrell** and **Sgt Kevin Healy** of the Taraval SIT. Through interviews and computer queries, Sgt Healy and Sgt Farrell were obtained a search warrant for the residence of the suspect. During the service of the search warrant, officers collected a key piece of evidence and obtained a confession and an apology from the suspect. Due to excellent work done by Sgt Healy and Sgt Farrell, a violent individual was arrested.

Robbery of Female Victim

On February 28, 2016 at approximately 1945 hours, on the 1600 block of 34th Avenue, a female fell victim to two male suspects. The two suspects, armed with a firearm, committed a robbery and sexual assault against the victim. Responding officers arrived on scene quickly to discover the suspects had fled in a vehicle. During the course of the Robbery, the suspects stole the victim’s cell phone. Officers quickly determined the location of the phone and responded to the area. Due to the quick thinking, officers located the vehicle which was still occupied by the suspects. After a brief pursuit, both suspects were taken into custody along with the firearms used in the crime. **Sgt Scott Hom**, was the designated investigator to conduct the follow up investigation. During his investigation, he was able to obtain a confession from one of the suspects and exercise a search warrant that has potentially linked these two suspects to other crimes.

Theft of Vehicle

On March 5, 2016 as a family was moving utilizing a rental van, a suspect stole the van with the family’s belongings inside. The family was devastated by the loss and the case came to the attention of **Lt. Ed DelCarlo**, of the Taraval SIT. Lt. DelCarlo made contact with the family when he received notification the van had been recovered in another city. Initially, Lt. DelCarlo was told by the agency no property was recovered during the recovery of the van. Lt. DelCarlo met with the family to deliver the disappointing news. So impacted by the grief of the family, Lt. DelCarlo continued to investigate to determine if there was possibly anything recovered. With due diligence, after numerous conversations, Lt DelCarlo was able to locate most of the property that was stolen from the family. Lt. DelCarlo’s actions serve as a prime example of officers going above and beyond to find resolution for those that are victimized.

Auto Burglaries at the Tiled Stairs.

If you are a resident who lives in the neighborhood of 16th Avenue and Moraga, you have witnessed an increase of auto burglaries in that area. This location is known for the “Tiled Stairs” which have become a huge tourist attraction. As with many tourists, we have seen victims leaving valuables in their rental car, leaving the vehicle to enjoy the area only to return and find their items have been stolen. Auto break-ins have impacted this neighborhood greatly. On March 15, 2016, members of the **Taraval Neighborhood Team** (TNT) conducted a plain clothes operation to conduct surveillance on possible suspects in the area. During their surveillance, they witnessed a possible suspect looking into numerous vehicles, but never broke into a vehicle. As the officers identified the possible suspect’s vehicle, they remembered a crime alert that was distributed. In the crime alert, it described a vehicle used during an auto

burglary by a suspect. Once officers realized the subject they were watching was driving a vehicle that matched the crime alert, they conducted a traffic stop and detained the subject. Upon identifying the suspect, officers determined he was on felony probation and during a probation search of the vehicle located burglary tools. The suspect was placed under arrest. During the interview with the suspect, the suspect admitted to committing the auto burglary that was described in the crime alert. Due to the great work of the officers, they were able to take a suspect into custody who no doubt would have victimized more citizens.

These are four excellent examples of the type of work and dedication the officers at Taraval Station display on a daily basis.

Tuesday, March 1

Battery – Arrested

9:18 pm | 10th Ave & Lawton St

The battery victim said she and the suspect got into an argument in the garage and the suspect pushed her, causing her to hit her head and left her on the floor. Both were drinking. Responding officers arrested the suspect.

Assault

2:42 pm | Lincoln Way & 14th Ave

The assault victim was riding his bike when he noticed a vehicle driver staring at him. After he passed the vehicle he felt a “bump” which caused him to unbalance and fall to the ground. The victim believes it was intentional. The suspect fled.

Wednesday, March 2

Under the Influence – Resisting

8:33 pm | Randolph St & Bright St

Patrol officers saw a man holding an open bottle of beer on the street. The suspect exhibited signs of intoxication and began yelling aggressively when questioned. His father’s attempts to calm the suspect caused him to become more irate and he pushed him. A computer check revealed a warrant for his arrest. He was arrested on multiple charges.

Assault with a Gun

11:26 pm | Head St & Sergeant St

Officers arrived on scene of a shooting and located the victim with a shot wound, which was not life threatening. A witness said the suspect had their face covered with a mask, and approached the victim after he left his vehicle, but did not see a gun. Suspect fled in a waiting vehicle.

Thursday, March 3

Assault – Parole Violation – Arrested

9:18 pm | 100 Font Blvd

A witness said the suspect was running across the street before diving under her vehicle. He was heard saying that “someone” was after him and trying to kill him. Then, he went into a laundry room of the building and locked himself inside. Officers convinced the suspect to unlock the door but he did not believe they were real police. However, he admitted to taking some “speed.” The suspect began fighting with the medics during the ambulance ride and pushed one of the medics completely out of the ambulance while it was stopped. He was sedated and taken to the hospital. Once he is cleared by medical staff, he will be arrested.

Battery – Resisting

9:56 pm | Faxon Ave & De Montfort Ave

Responding to a reported fight, officers located the victim/suspect but as the officers exited their vehicle, the suspect fled. Officers located the suspect hiding in a neighbor’s backyard. A witness said she heard the suspect threaten and hit the victim several times, the victim herself denied the assault. After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

DUI Drugs – No Driver’s License

10:16 am | Lee Ave & Ocean Ave

A witness reported a drunk driver. She saw the suspect swaying back and forth and seemed to have difficulties walking as he walked to his vehicle. The suspect almost hit other vehicles and drove onto the curb. Officers located the suspect at a gas station with his daughter in the baby seat. The suspect passed a preliminary alcohol screening test which led the officers to suspect drugs. The suspect was arrested.

Friday, March 4

Battery – Arrested

7:45 pm | 250 Thrift St

After an argument the suspect punched the victim, who called the police. Officers arrived and arrested the suspect.

Battery

4:48 pm | 24th Ave & Santiago St

The victim said she was trying to help a cat stuck in the middle of a street. The suspect accused her of trying to steal her cat. The suspect attacked her. The suspect claimed that the victim followed her and began taking photos of her, her cat, and her vehicle. The suspect was detained but released.

Saturday, March 5

Threats

12:08 pm | 1800 Irving St

Cont. p. 18

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Next Neighborhood Safety Community Meeting has not yet been announced,
check with taraval.org for time and location.

28th Annual

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APRIL 8·9·10

Friday - Sunday | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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The gift that keeps on giving......even though “**Super Bowl 50**” has come and gone we are waiting for some sort of resolution on the millions of dollars that the City had to pay out without a plan to be reimbursed by the NFL. Columnist **Quentin Koopp** details the specifics of the \$4,000,000+ city expenditure for security, etc. It’s a good read.

“I find it hard to believe that “little” Santa Clara had the wherewithal to craft a contract where they were reimbursed by the NFL for all city expenses relating to the game, while “The City that knows how” elected officials allowed themselves to be played like a rube in the tourism game, by the NFL.”

While I am sure that the Bay Area reaped millions in game related spending and the good will afforded to the entire local area, I find it hard to believe that “little” **Santa Clara** had the wherewithal to craft a contract where they were reimbursed by the NFL for all city expenses relating to the game, while “The City that knows how” elected officials allowed themselves to be played like a rube in the tourism game by the NFL. Tourism is one of our largest industries, yet the City again ended up shelling out millions to subsidize billionaires, much like the **America’s Cup** event. While both events brought tourists and income into the city, I cannot understand why the **Mayor** and his administration couldn’t secure a contract for the reimbursable security costs to be paid back to the city. Just my opinion, but I would expect that someone in the city knows how to write a contract that gives SF an even break on the expenses. (I guess 4 million bucks isn’t much in a budget of 9 billion...)

MUNI furor... last month over 200 people packed the room at the Dianne Feinstein School to make their feelings known about the SFMTA’s proposal to eliminate stops along the L-Taraval Muni route to make the trains run faster. Citizens trying to stop the elimination of the stops are circulating new petitions. Make your voices heard and keep your input flowing to MUNI.

59th SF International Film Festival...the San Francisco Film Society has announced that the venue for the upcoming SF International Film Festival will be moving to a variety of venues in and around the Mission district, anchored by screenings at the Alamo Draft-house/New Mission theatre, the Castro Theatre, the Roxie Theatre and the Victoria Theatre, as well as the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. The festival runs from April 21 –May 5. Visit “festival.sffs.org” for more information.

SFMOMA is almost here... The expanded and remodeled San Francisco Museum of Modern Art will reopen to the public on May 14 from 10 AM to 8 PM. The opening day will be free and “timed” admission tickets will be available online starting on March 30. All visitors will require a timed ticket for the opening. Visit “sfmoma.org” for ticket information. The museum is triple the size of the former building.

Native Plant Tour... The California Native Plant Society is holding their “Annual Native Plant Garden Tour” on Sunday, April 24, from 11AM to 3 PM. For information visit their website: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org.

Protectwestportal.com...District 7 Supervisorial candidate Ben Matranga has organized a petition-signature drive to record opposition to the concept of potentially placing homeless shelters in the commercial districts of West Portal Avenue and Ocean Avenue as part of the “Homeless State of Emergency” legislation crafted by several of the Board of Supervisors. For information visit the website: protectwestportal.com.

While we can all agree that the situation in San Francisco regarding the thousands of homeless is a crisis, declaring a “State of Emergency” can cut out zoning and permit processes and allow city government to enact measures with little or no public input or consideration. An earthquake, fire, or flood can trigger a “state of emergency,” but an



SPRING AT THE CLIFF HOUSE

Join us for these Cliff House Weekly Favorites

- Wine Lovers’ Tuesday – Half Priced Bottled Wines*
- Bistro Wednesday Nights – \$28 Three-Course Prix Fixe
- Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge
- 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.

Open daily from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Located at Point Lobos and Merrie Way



1090 Point Lobos 415-386-3330 www.CliffHouse.com



ongoing, confounding problem that requires multi-level assistance with housing, physical and mental health evaluations and substance abuse counseling is only an “emergency” because it is a most difficult problem with no easy solutions, one that will require not just governmental action, but societal action as well.

Walk to Work Day...WALK SF is hosting its annual Walk to Work Day on Thursday, April 7. Join in by walking just 15 minutes of your commute. Snap a quick picture and post it to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag #Walk2Work for a chance to win prizes. The SF REC AND PARK Department will be set up at Justin Herman Plaza from 7:30 AM to 9:00AM for free Zumba, refreshments and giveaways.

Gardening 1-2-3... with spring here, a reminder that The Garden for the Environment Center is offering classes in March at their 7th Avenue and Lawton Street center. Classes on Urban Composting; Growing your own Food; Gardening in a Drought; Gardening with Greywater and Permeable hardscapes will be offered. Contact them at 415.558.8246, or visit their new website at: www.gardenfortheenvironment.org

Do you have an event, a neighborhood fact 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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49TH ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL • SAT & SUN APRIL 9-10 / APRIL 16-17

10 am – 5 pm | Post Street (Laguna–Fillmore) | Free | Parade: Sun Apr 17–City Hall to Japantown



One of California's most prominent celebrations, over 200,000 people attend the celebration of Japanese culture including food booths, cultural performances, martial arts, live bands, the Queen Program and Parade. The event is free and open to the public. Vendors will be charging for their food goods and some retail products; and some

specialized events will require a fee. Check: sfcherryblossom.org for events and times.

ANNUAL BUG DAY AT THE RANDALL MUSEUM

Mon Apr 18 | 10 am – 2 pm | Look out! The bugs are back! Check out the incredible extravaganza of insects at the Randall Museum's annual Bug Day. Do you adore arthropods, or do creepy crawlies make you queasy? Kids and their families are invited to join in the insect-inspired fun and learn how important the huge variety of bugs is to the earth and our survival here. Live entertainment and bring a picnic lunch to take advantage of the Randall's lawn with a view. The SF Beekeepers Assn. will have a hive of live honeybees on display with honey collected from hives all over the city and other bee-made products for sale. Free. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, 554-9600



DECORATOR SHOWCASE 2016

298 Chestnut Street • Apr 30–May 30

Tue – Thu, Sat: 10 am – 3 pm

Fri: 10 am – 7 pm

Sun and Memorial Day: 11 am – 4 pm.

This year's Showcase home is an exquisite Mediterranean-style North Beach home known as "Villa de Martini" near Coit Tower. More than two dozen interior and landscape designers along with artists and photographers have been selected to makeover 30+ rooms and outdoor spaces. The Decorator Showcase has taken place at some of the most prestigious addresses in some of the city's most breathtaking neighborhoods.

It began in 1977, when Nan Rosenblatt, a former SF University High School parent and an accomplished interior designer, and Philip Fernandez, the first president of the school's Parents Association, conceived the first Showcase to raise funds for University's financial aid program. In its first year, the Showcase netted \$26,000. The Showcase is widely considered to be the West Coast's premier design showhouse event. All the funds raised through the Decorator Showcase go directly to support the San Francisco University High School (UHS) Financial Aid Program. Since 1977, over \$14 million has been raised in tuition assistance.

\$35 general; \$30 seniors (60+) at the door (or online) decoratorshowcase.org. Group rates (415) 447-5830



EARTH FESTIVAL • APRIL 23RD

Sat Apr 23 | 10 am | 22nd St. (Mission – Valencia) | Free

Promoting community involvement, solution based green initiatives, eco activism, social justice, health and well-being, the arts and earth justice, in celebration of our mother earth and all her inhabitants. This one-of-a-kind event promises to be a robust celebration of everything "Green, Fun and Sustainable" Check out earthdaysf.org for events, times, etc.



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 SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

Sundays | 2 pm | Victorian era architecture of the city's first suburb in the neighborhood of Lafayette Square. San Francisco's illustrious history and some steep streets. Many fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations OK. MUNI 1, 3. sfcityguides.org

EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

Tue/Thu | 8:30 am | Sat: 9 am | Get into shape, improve your health. FREE exercise classes. Kinesiology students from SF State in partnership with SF Rec and Park. Turf field at Minnie and Lovie Ward Park, 650 Capitol Ave. 100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com, www.100citizens.org

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. cliff-house.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. deyoungefamsf.org/deyoung/fridays

SATURDAYS • FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

Every Sat | 11 am | Come play outdoors, in nature. Enjoy a rejuvenating morning flow and meditation for body, mind, and spirit. GG Park, Big Rec Baseball Field (across from the Botanical Garden). Bring a mat or blanket, FREE. Cancelled if raining. Dog OK

DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Learn Basic Computer Skills. Choose a topic—searching databases, setting up email, or surfing the web. Basic mouse skills required. Call 355-2825 to make an appointment. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

THU • AUTHOR RHYS BOWEN

Thu Apr 7 | 7 pm | Rhys Bowen discusses *Time of Fog and Fire*. Her award-winning mysteries have garnered an impressive array of awards and nominations, including the Anthony Award for her novel *For the Love of Mike* and the Agatha Award for *Murphy's Law*. Bookshop W Portal, 80 West Portal Ave.

THU • WALK TO WORK DAY

Thu Apr 7 | 7:30 - 10:30 am | Walking just 15 minutes of your commute counts! And get rewarded at one of the Walk to Work Day "hubs" across the city.

Stop by for a FREE Clipper Card, totes, coffee, or breakfast snack, and much more! Info: walksf.org

SAT • AUTHOR PAM PIERCE

Sat Apr 9 | 10:30 –12 pm | Author of the classic *Golden Gate Gardening* will show how to get the most from small gardens, from timing and crop choice to microclimates and pests. Her books will be available for purchase and signing after her talk. Ortega Branch, 3223 Ortega St.

SAT • RECOVERY OF A SPANISH GALLEON

Sat Apr 9 | 1–4 pm | William Mathers and Dr. Henry Parker recall their archaeological recovery of a Spanish Galleon. Wrecked on the reefs of Saipan in the Mariana Islands with 300 of its crew & untold treasures. Maritime Museum, 900 Beach St. \$6–12.

SUN • WILDFLOWER WALK / MT. SUTRO

Sun Apr 10 | 1 –3 pm | Join Sutro Stewards on a guided habitat tour showcasing Mt. Sutro's native plant communities in bloom this spring! Donation \$5-25. Space limited—get your ticket today! liza@sutrostewards.org for questions or for waitlist if full. Parking free at the Woods, 100 Medical Center Wy.

SUN • RANDOM KINDNESS RACE

Sun Apr 10 | 2– 5 pm | Random Acts of Kindness Scavenger Hunt, basically, an afternoon running around solving puzzles, doing social good challenges and getting involved. Dolores Park, meet at 19th and Dolores. Look for the girl with the tophat and trophy for clue packet. Ticket eventbrite \$50

MON • POET BOB KAUFMAN

Mon Apr 11 | 4 - 5:30 pm | Does the Secret Mind Whisper? This reading, writing, and poetry program will feature poets Anne Waldman, Will Alexander, David Boyce & Kevin Carnes. Main Library, 100 Larkin

TUE • PAPER FLOWER CRAFT NIGHT

Tue Apr 12 | 7 – 8:30 pm | Create pretty blooms on real branches. For adults; please call 415-355-5770 or email psimgr@sfppl.org to register starting 3/29/16. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval St.

WED • BLACK PANTHERS IN SF

Wed Apr 13 | 6–8:30 pm | The Black Panther Party in SF, an in-depth program about its history and legacy, as well as how it continues to inspire and invigorate in the Bay Area. Calif. Historical Society, 678 Mission St.

FRI • THREE LIVES OF THOMASINA

Fri Apr 15 | 1:30 – 3 pm | Walt Disney love story between a veterinarian and a charmer who saves his daughter's cat in early 1900's Scotland. Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr. Sensory friendly —accepting and understanding environment for individuals with autism or other special needs and their families. Brighter room, lower volume and audience may move around, talk, and sing. Everyone is welcome.

SAT • GROWING HEALTHY KIDS

Sat Apr 16 | 10 am – 1 pm | Free family fair. Join

hundreds of local families in learning fun and easy ways to improve your family's nutrition and physical activity, and further your child's development! Children's Council of SF, 445 Church Street

TUE • VIETNAMESE JICAMA ROLLS

Tue Apr 19 | 7 – 8 pm | Learn to make your own authentic Jicama Rolls! Khanh Lu, will provide the ingredients, written recipes, and on-site demonstrations. Space is limited. Register: 355-5770 or email psimgr@sfppl.org. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval St.

TUE • MUNI BUDGET

Tue Apr 19 | 1 pm | The SFMTA's budget, will go into effect July 1, & must be adopted by the SFMTA Board of Directors by the end of April. Presentation, public hearing and possible Board vote. City Hall, Room 400

WED • VIETNAMESE SPRING ROLLS

Wed Apr 20 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Make Vietnamese Fresh Spring Rolls—fresh, healthy, delicious delicacies, adaptable to virtually any palate or diet. Khanh Lu will demonstrate. Ingredients and written recipes will be provided. Limited space. Call 557-4388 or stop by Main Library to sign up. 100 Larkin St.

WED • POET JUDITH OFFER

Wed Apr 20 | 7 – 8:30 pm | National Poetry Month, writer Judith Offer will use her own poems — and a few by better-known poets — to clarify what poetry is meant to do. Her poems are about family, political issues, and, love. Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr..

WED • SPOILS TO SOILS /COMPOSTING

Wed Apr 20 | 6-7:30 pm | Discussion, slides and video clips. We can improve soil health and turn farms into carbon sinks. If all countries participate, experts say we could offset 70 % of carbon emissions! Main Library, Koret Aud. 100 Larkin St.

WED • LOST BOOK OF MOSES

Wed Apr 20 | 7 pm | Journalist Chanan Tigay discusses *The Last Book of Moses*, a notorious 19th century archeological hoax rocked the Holy Land. Jewish Community Ctr., 3200 California St. RSVP: arts@jccsf.org or 292.1233.

THU • INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Thu Apr 21–May 7 | SF Film Society presents live music & film Programs at 58th SF International Film Festival. Live Performances by Cibo Matto and Kronos Quartet and five spotlight films. Various times, venues. Info, previews: www.sffs.org/sfiff58

SAT • ADULT LEARN TO RIDE A BIKE

Sat Apr 23 | 10:30 – 1:30 pm | You're never too old to learn to bicycle! One-on-one - the basics of balance, starting, stopping and steering, helmet fit and adjustment. We'll help get you rolling in no time. Register online at sfbike.org/edu. Waller St. (at Stanyan)

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Apr 25 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside

residents. No meeting in December. Meets the 4th Mon each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

MON • STATE SENATOR DEBATE

Mon Apr 25 | 7 – 8:30 pm | Supes Jane Kim and Scott Wiener are opposing each to represent the 11th State Senate district. (Mark Leno is term-limited out.) County Fair Building near Lincoln and Ninth in Golden Gate Park. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

THU • BIG BANG GALA/PARTY

Thu Apr 28 | 6 pm–midnight | Explore the tastes, sounds, and creatures of the night during these two events benefiting the California Academy of Sciences. Dinner, speakers, music, late-night bites, open bar. \$75 & up, 379-5411, Info: calacademy.org/big-bang-gala-2016

THU • AUTHOR FRED MARTIN

Thu Apr 28 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm | Author Fred Martin discusses his latest book on Lincoln. He is Director of The Abraham Lincoln Institute in Washington, DC, a group that fosters current scholarship on Abraham Lincoln. West Portal Library, 190 Lenox Way.

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

Sun May 1 | 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.

THU • TALKING SEX TO YOUR KIDS

Thu May 5 | 7–8:30 pm | Are you ready to answer your children's questions about sex with calm confidence? What conversations to initiate and how to start them? Lead by Anya Manes, parent coach and educator. West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lenox Way.

TUE • CONSERVATORY FREE DAY

Tue May 3 | 10 am–4:30 pm | An intimate, up-close experience with over 1,700 species of rare, exotic and endangered plants. Opened in 1879, the wood and glass greenhouse is the oldest existing conservatory of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. 100 J F Kennedy Dr. Free every first Tuesday.

TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

Tue May 3 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | Art from 17th-20th centuries, native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive. Free first Tuesdays.

TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

Tue May 3 | 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 first Tues.

WED • GWPNA MEETING

Wed May 4 | 6:30 pm | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way. GWPNA.org.

Local event? editor@westsideobserver.com
Priority: Westside Events

Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller

BATMAN v SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

Batman: Ben Affleck squares off against Superman: Henry Cavill in this noisy, long (151 minutes) digital, destructive, overcrowded, fully stuffed bag of story arcs, when one would have sufficed. Eighteen months earlier, General Zod: Michael Shannon attempted to build an entire world within the time limits of the film, causing major collateral damage. Bruce Wayne/Batman: Ben Affleck blames Superman/Clark Kent: Henry Cavill for the millions of lives lost and shattered buildings in Gotham City. The film is very depressing and dark. Director Zach Snyder seems preoccupied with setting up the fall release of "Man of Steel." The Caped Crusader is presented as an over-the-hill jaded vigilante who brands villains with the bat logo. Over the past two decades his battles with the bad guys seems never ending; he remarks to his loyal butler Alfred: Jeremy Irons, "I'm older now than my father ever was." He senses a growing threat from Superman, so he pursues a chunk of kryptonite. He plans to steal it from Lex Luthor: Jesse Eisenberg who is calculating Superman's death. Subplots include: 1) a power-hungry senator, June Finch: Holly Hunter who uses Luthor to gain the kryptonite for her own devious purposes; 2) Luthor holds Lois Lane: Amy Adams to lure him to LexCorp Tower, telling him that he has his adoptive mother, Martha Kent: Diane Lane captive; 3) Superman and Batman battle with Superman, wounded by a kryptonite spear, pleads to "save Martha" [would you believe that Bruce's late mother just happened to be... Martha, which clears everything for Batman so that he comes to the conclusion that Superman is not a threat to humanity.] Any one of these subplots could be a stand alone movie; instead, they're all crammed into this one.

Diana Prince/Wonder Woman: Gal Gadot, a 5'10" ex-Miss Israel brings two years of experience as a combat instructor + nine months of rigorous prep in sword work and martial arts to the role; enough to turn the head of Bruce Wayne. She also steals this picture from the superheroes. Her fighting skills and glamorous image project a win-win. Next year, Wonder Woman will be back with her own flick, co-starring Robin Wright, Connie Nielsen and Chris Pine. Some prurient profanity. Brutal violence, and frightening scenes for under 12 though very little blood. Ideas may be too adult for younger audiences. Partial nudity.

THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT

When a ruthless battle threatens all humanity, Tris: Shailene Woodley and Four: Theo James venture beyond the wall enclosing Chicago. This sequel saga barrels forward haphazardly growing increasingly more complicated as it dives for a conclusion of sorts. While this is the third film based on Veronica Roth's trilogy, it's only the first half of her 2013 book. (You know how much more money studios made by this practice with "Harry Potter" and "The Hunger Games.") Unfortunately, Jeanine's recent death has opened the portals for a new leader almost as bad: Four's "factionless" mother, Evelyn: Naomi Watts, barely recognizable. She starts a civil war with what's left of the faction system, now called the Allegiant led by Johanna: Octavia Spencer. Tris, with pals Peter: Miles Teller, Caleb: Ansel Elgort, Tori: Maggie Q, and Christina: Zoë Kravitz, escape from Chicago. Tris is selected by the director of the Bureau of Genetic Welfare, David: Jeff Daniels for special attention. Director of this and the previous film, Robert Schwentke, couldn't find any subtlety, feeling or nuance within his busy storyline. He won't be directing the next one; Lee Toland Krieger gets that assignment for "Ascendant." Let's pray that it's not as redundant. PG-13: Intense violence/action. Thematic elements. Some partial nudity.

EDDIE THE EAGLE

Scottish youth Eddie Edwards: Taron Egerton perseveres in his goal to ski jump in the 1988 Berlin Olympics. He takes the family vehicle and goes to the continent. The reluctant coach he has to persuade is an almost over-the-hill former champ, Bronson Peary: Hugh Jackman. With Bronson's training, he improves as he becomes a crowd favorite. He wears the goggles over his glasses. The BBC commentator: Jim Broadbent begins to notice Eddie. His upward move to become the best starts to be a reality. The director Dexter Fletcher gets realistic performances from his actors. Sean Macauley and Simon Kelton wrote the screenplay with the story also by the latter. The snowy scenery is always inviting. PG-13: Some suggestive material, partial nudity and smoking.

45 YEARS

A British couple celebrates their 45th wedding anniversary; the action spans the week of, culminating in a gathering of friends in a meeting hall for dancing, cake and champagne. Both Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtney deliver perhaps their all time best performances as a doting retired pair. The screen time is equally divided and shared. Her character is more interesting; he's rather matter-of-fact and one note. One thing troubled me: Ms. Rampling's face is void of any lines, making her look more 45 years old, rather than 45 years married. R: Profanity. Brief sexuality.

Awards: Best Actress Oscar nomination: Charlotte Rampling + 11 Best Actress wins in U.S. and Europe.

Quentin Kopp (Cont. from p. 3)

course I expect to endorse one of the non-incumbents for good reasons. Supervisor Yee canceled his appearance at the West of Twin Peaks Central Council on March 28, 2016 claiming a "conflict." On March 17, 2016, he announced he would "convene a working group to reduce chronic absenteeism in San Francisco schools." That's strange. The School District, as noted, is governed by an elected seven-member Board of Education whose responsibilities are not those of the Board of Supervisors or any of its members. Yee's activities will waste taxpayer money and duplicate administrative time and efforts as he attempts to perform duties of elected Board of Education members. A salutary action by Yee would consist of assisting Commissioner Murase in her efforts to restore all Junior ROTC program features to their prior status as required by Proposition V in 2008. Will Supervisor Yee do that? I doubt it. (The other incumbent with a well-qualified opponent is Board President London Breed, opposed by

Dean Preston, a Yale graduate.)

If it hasn't already died a deserved ending, the effort by Supervisors David Campos, Kim, Avalos and others to declare a "homeless emergency" and install homeless shelters in such location as the public parking lot in the 200 block of West Portal Avenue, at property adjacent to Lake Merced Boulevard, and a space on Claremont Boulevard will be a subject of next month's column. Meanwhile, I still await from the newly elected Sheriff her order revising the edict of her predecessor forbidding Department employees from notifying federal immigration personnel before releasing from county jail any illegal alien who is wanted by the I.C.E. for deportation. On March 23, 2016, I was informed by her Chief of Staff that City Attorney approval of the alleged revised policy would occur any moment. Let's see if it occurs this month and in what form, or if this is just another empty gesture to lull the public.

Retired former Supervisor, State Senator and Judge Quentin Kopp lives in District 7



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At the Theater • Flora Lynn Isaacson & Linda Ayres-Frederick

SWIMMERS

Marin Theatre Company has just opened *Swimmers* by **Rachel Bonds**, with a superb cast and outstanding Director **Mike Donahue**. The *World Premiere* of *Swimmers* is a fast-moving, compelling and fascinating slice of life that could be yesterday, today or tomorrow. The documentary-level realness of the performances, all powerful and yet completely grounded, became a perfectly unified mechanism for carrying Rachel Bonds' gently persistent ideas and thoroughly believable dialogue. It has really stayed with me.

When the play opens, some of the characters are peering through an office-building window – at *coyotes* in the parking lot! Nearby billboards are predicting the *end of the world*. It's a very strange day at the office, and it's only 9 a.m.! Running about two hours, the entire performance is composed of nine mini-plays taking place in an office building – beginning in the basement, with another play up one floor higher, until we get to the roof.

This "slice of life" ensemble play explores relationships among 11 characters, representing those with whom we might work every day, and take for granted. Each character metaphorically *swims* through surreal suppositions and interrelationships to get to the other *shore* (the end of the day) with psyche intact.

For example, Tom (**Aaron Roman Weiner**) periodically *escapes* to the basement. Vivian (**Kristin Villanueva**), not-so-politically-correctly, blurts out what others are thinking. Randy (**Max Rosenak**) sneaks a toke off a joint on the 2nd floor. Farrah (**Jessica Bates**) is *torturing* Yuri (**Brian Herndon**) on the 7th floor – and the 4th floor lavatory is flooding.

Two well-known Bay Area actors; **L. Peter Callender** is Walter, the custodian who holds the entire play together from the basement all the way up the floors, and **Charles Shaw Robinson**, plays George in

a remarkable supporting performance. Other fine performances include **Jolly Abraham** (Priya), **Ryan Vincent Anderson** (Bill), **Adam Andri-anopoulos** (Dennis), **Sarah Nina Hayon** (Charlene).

Dane Laffrey deftly designed both the office building (in an industrial park) as well the appropriate costumes. **Kurt Landisman** designed the effective lighting (alternately very bright or very dark), and **Theodore (Teddy) Hulsker** gets credit for the sound design.

This critic heartily agrees with Artistic Director **Jason Minadakis**, who lauds Rachel Bonds' ability to gracefully bend "the sweet melancholy notes of loneliness to create gentle affection and empathy that lifts and releases. . . [she] has created a contemporary American fugue of loneliness, connection, and open with her detailed, very human characters who ache and struggle to get through the day at their suburban office park."

Performances began March 12th through March 27, at the Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley. **Coming up next** at Marin Theatre Company, from April 14 through May 8, will be the West Coast Premiere of *Anne Boleyn*, by **Howard Brenton** and directed by **Jason Minadakis**. **FLORA LYNN ISAACSON**



Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick

Joe Weatherby 6/28/46 – 2/6/16

The San Francisco theatre community has suffered an irreplaceable loss with the passing of Joe Weatherby, actor, director, writer, producer and all around good guy. Born on June 28, 1946 in Nova Scotia, Joe "shuffled off this mortal coil" on February 6, 2016, comforted by his beloved sister Jeannie, recent visiting friends, lovers, and his dear brothers Al and Bruce.

Joe truly loved live theatre, from the inside as much as from the outside. He would often travel to New York or London and see as many shows as he could, sometimes seeing two (or more) performances in a single day. He was a fine writer and his plays were always well received. Also an excellent director who showed great insight into whatever scripts came his way, while always taking very great care of his actors. Anyone who had the great good fortune to be his friend can attest to what a wonderful, generous and fun-loving friend he was. Joe was a founding member of The San Francisco Actor's Theatre, where he directed the West Coast premiere of *The Women*. Other credits include three shows with Z Collective, directing for Eastenders and Calvary Theatre, being a member of the improv troupe Global Riot, and work at the Magic, Cowell, Exit, Zephyr,



Phoenix, Rhinoceros, Josie's, Marsh, Mason Street, Actor's, and Mission Cultural Center Theatres. Recently awarded Bay Times 'Best of the Year' for directing, Joe Weatherby and Best of Fringe awards three times.

Also known locally as 'The Tax Guy', Joe served the art community with his business Taxes 4 Artists. A recent member of the Monday Night Playwrights, Joe was one of the original actors at the beginning of Kaiser's continuing education program to improve communications between doctors, their patients and colleagues. Born Joseph Anthony Weatherby, he held a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Central Michigan University. Joe is survived by a host of loving friends. He will be sorely missed. **Linda Ayres Frederick**

The SFPUC's Illegal Tier Pricing

By Brian Browne

I have long lamented the lack of real oversight in San Francisco, but may indeed have a remedy in the form of the state constitution and the limits placed on the taxing power of local government agencies to tax without voter approval. Using this power for taxpayer wellbeing will require concerned citizens to step forward and ask the courts to constrain the current runaway taxing efforts (under the guise of utility charges) of the Administration and its enterprises.

It is time for the citizens of San Francisco and the SFPUC (they possibly will issue \$15 billion in bond debt) to realize retail water, wastewater, and garbage services are taxes under the California Constitution (Articles XIII D, sect. 6 (a) 7 (b)) thanks to the passage in 1996 of Prop 218 (no vote, no taxes). The State Supreme Court in 2006 (Big Horn Decision) agreed with the proponents of Prop 218, that retail water, wastewater, and garbage charges by local government agencies are taxes. Tax increases or new tax funded purposes must be approved by the voters. The self-regulatory powers given to local government are significantly limited by this 1996 addition to the state constitution.

In 2006 the California Supreme Court (Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency v. Verjil [July 24, 2006, S127535]) affirmed that water, wastewater, and garbage services are taxes and are subject to the changes made to the state constitution by Prop 218. In April 2015, the California 4th Appellate court declared the San Juan Capistrano ascending tier structure for retail water sales was illegal and must be reworked to be consistent with actual costs. The Court did not say ascending tier pricing is illegal. The court stated ascending tier pricing must reflect actual costs. The expected probability of this happening is probably close to zero. I would guess even more unlikely with the SFPUC tinkerers who have this well paid assignment.

In 2007, one year after the Court affirmed that rates are taxes and must be put to a vote prior to an increase; the SFPUC instituted an ascending tier rate

structure. It is difficult to see any way that SFPUC's ascending tier pricing can be compliant with Prop 218.

I have long argued that the ascending tier structure adversely effects conservation. This may not satisfy social engineers who ignore the fact that the intention of these taxes is to provide utility services, not finance welfare. These are specific taxes for specific purposes and should not be usurped elsewhere.

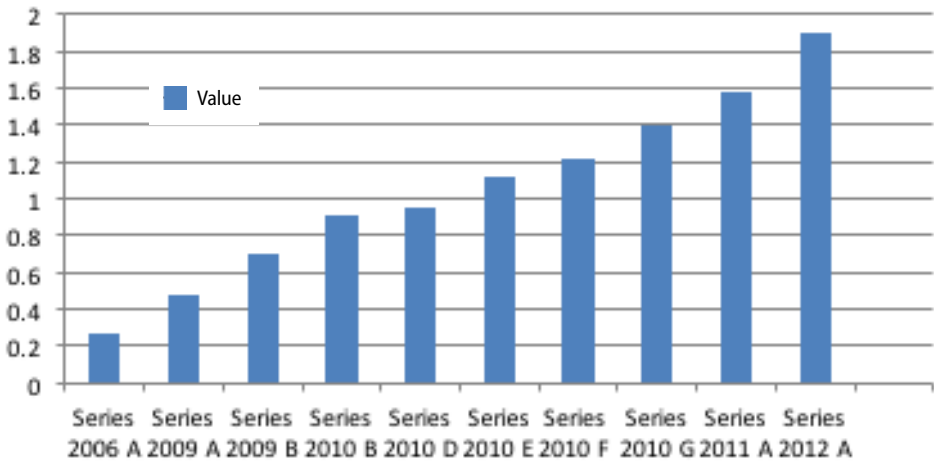
The SFPUC has issued \$4.039 billion in revenue bonds for its Water Supply Improvement Program (WSIP). Of this amount only \$1.6 billion (SF 2002 Prop A) in revenue bonds were approved by the voters. SF's Prop E in 2002 dispossessed the voters of the right to issue revenue bonds and gave it to Board of Supervisors. At that time a lot of Prop 218's inhibiting power over municipal taxing were yet undiscovered. These powers may need to be invoked as the SFPUC marches toward a possible revenue bond debt of \$15 billion.

SF's Prop E, in transferring the right to issue revenue bonds from the voters to the Board of Supervisors, is illegal.

Revenue bond debt is repaid through increased consumer-costs for water, wastewater, and garbage services. These services are determined to be taxes by our constitution. It states that these types of tax increases require a vote. No local ordinance may override the state's constitution, especially one that has successfully withstood court challenges.

Prop 218 was specifically created to offset the abuses by taxing authorities. The transfer section of Prop E must be

Increasing \$/Unit debt service of Revenue Bonds 2006-12 Total \$4.039 B



Above: The horizontal axis (X) shows the timing of the individual SFPUC revenue bond issues. The vertical axis (Y) shows the dollar impact of cumulative debt service (utility/tax charges) on ach 748 gallons (1 unit) of water.

immediately nullified and the right to vote on tax (utility charges) increases must be returned to the electorate. All future SFPUC revenue bonds repaid through user charges must be approved by the voters. This is not a decision for the Board of Supervisors. An interesting element of Prop 218 is that it is retroactive to 1996.

Since the passage of Props A and E the SFPUC has issued revenue bond sales totaling \$4.039 billion, with interest payments of \$3,400,632,183. This has a significant impact on the delivered price of water to consumers.

The \$4,039,972,893 debt is the cumulative amount of the ten separate revenue bond sales for the WSIP. The orthodox method for blending these charges into the rate structure is to capitalize work-in-progress, on project completion, issue revenue bonds, and then amortize the debt-service over a fixed period in equal annual amounts. This annual debt service is divided by the annual volumes produced to calculate a dollar per unit (748 gallons) increase in production costs.

I replicated this approach using 30 years and 4.5 percent, and amortized each of the SFPUC's revenue bond issuances at time of sale, and divided each level annual

debt-service amount by an estimated annual output level to produce an annual dollar per unit pass through cost. I used 250 million gallons per day (MGD), an amount that has historically been delivered.

The chart above shows how blending the debt service into the rate structure creates an increase in the cost of water. Each bar is a cumulative of present and prior unit costs associated with correlative debt service charges (repay bonds) to be embedded in the rate structure. The WSIP capital cost for the SFPUC acquiring water for retail purposes increases from approximately \$0.22/748 gallons (2006) for the first revenue bond issue to nearly \$2.00/748 gallons (2012) for the tenth revenue bond issue. The \$2.00/unit amount is the sum of all 10 incremental amounts. The voters, not the Board, should have approved these sales and related debt.

The SFPUC must eventually repay the present value of its total issued debt, and as an enterprise entity, it only can do this through the rate/taxing mechanism. And as such, under state law, must be approved before the fact by the voters.

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


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Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye

Trumping the GOP

The GOP establishment, along with the mainstream media, the Democrats and high tech executives, fear a Trump candidacy and are conspiring to stop Trump from winning the GOP nomination, and possibly the presidency.

The mainstream media, already not known for integrity or objectivity, has been blatant in its attempts to derail this candidacy. *Huffington Post* adds a footnote to every article about Trump saying that he is “a serial liar, rampant xenophobe, racist, misogynist, birther and bully.” Even Fox, the GOP network, has been openly against him from the start.

Why?

Some will say that he is a sexist because he said some insulting things about Rosie O'Donnell. Some say he is racist because he said that illegal immigrants are bringing illegal drugs and crime to our land. He is said to be xenophobic because he wanted to pause immigrating Muslims, especially from radicalized countries, until we can better evaluate who they are and what they want.

Usually being labeled as racist, sexist, homophobic or xenophobic makes the accused the subject of discrediting ridicule and permissible intolerance - our way of silencing and sanctioning those with whom we disagree. Such labeling for the Donald seems to have the opposite effect.

Some say that Trump is too vulgar, outspoken, narcissistic and dishonest. He is definitely not politically correct. That is part of his appeal and his problem.

But few are saying much about his terrible income tax reform ideas or his empty thoughts about replacing the Affordable Care Act or his plans to defeat radical Islam.

But what is it the GOP leaders *really* don't like about Mr. Trump? What is Trump advocating?

He wants to seal our southern border, immediately repatriate those still caught sneaking in, and force businesses to EVERify all of their employees to ensure that they are authorized to work. He also wants to get many of those here illegally motivated to return to their homeland and has questioned whether children born to undocumented immigrants should be automatic U.S. citizens. Only one other developed country allows for this, Canada. (Ted Cruz was given birthright citizenship in Canada as a natural born citizen. One can't be a natural born citizen of more than one country.)

Does that make Trump racist, anti-immigrant, anti-Latino or just against illegal immigration?

Should we continue to have a broken border allowing hundreds of thousands of people to enter our country illegally? Does

a country have a right to decide who comes through its borders or to instead use its available funds to help its own citizens before it takes on the world's poor? But the Democrats want open borders and eventual citizenship for all interlopers out of compassion and the desire to expand their base. The Republican establishment wants open borders to provide cheap labor while keeping other labor costs down as well. Lower labor costs means more profit, which means more money, which means more power, which means greater freedom and access to luxury.

Looking at the experience of our European allies with refugees pouring in from the Middle East and Africa, should the U.S. let the same thing happen here before setting up a system to fully vet all applicants and develop priorities for admission to our shores? Is our country responsible for taking in refugees

from more than 7,000 miles away when most of their regional neighbors, who share their religion, culture, language, values and beliefs, refuse to provide refuge?

Is it anti-Muslim to want to ensure that our people are safe from the terrorism that has spread cancer-like through the Middle East and Africa? Do we have an obligation to take in more people needing our aid when we have tens of millions of Americans that need our attention and our tax dollars?

Mr. Trump has had the temerity to say that the emperor has no clothes to his fellow Republicans, recalling that Bush's invasion of Iraq and sloppy coverage in Afghanistan have led to the spread of jihadist brutality throughout that region. Republicans have amnesia regarding George II's eight years. They just remember how nice he seemed and how Republican he was. They forget that he almost destroyed our economy and got us into two unnecessary wars that cost us trillions of dollars and thousands of young American lives.

Mr. Trump is against American interventions in different parts of the world. He would close many of our 700+ foreign military bases and make the host countries that want us to remain pay the entire cost of our presence. The GOP wants to expand our military and intervene in more struggles around the world. The GOP hawks want more war not less. Mr. Trump would threaten their blood lust.

Mr. Trump is for free trade, but against many of our free trade pacts that have cost Americans millions of factory jobs and our

Cont. p. 16

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

It's hard to believe, I know, but it's true. Last year more Americans were killed by prescription drugs than by guns, AIDS, suicides and terrorists combined...But we'll get to that in a minute.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know when I meet people in town they usually say, “Oh yeah, I know you, you are Doctor Meakim. You have been on the corner of Beach and Jones for years”...(and we just moved to our new office on Clement Street). Well, that's me. I'm also the woman hugging her niece at the jersey shore in the picture.

17 years ago something happened that changed my life forever. I was a young woman living in Philadelphia when it happened. I was driving with a friend when she missed a stop sign and rammed into the side of another car. We were all shaken up. The police were called and we all went to the hospital. No one was bleeding, so the doctors took some x-rays of our neck, gave us pain meds and sent us on our way. The next day I woke up with pain everywhere and it just kept getting worse. For years I tried everything that I could find. For an escape from the pain, I went to medical doctors, physical therapists, acupuncturists, I tried special pillows, and anything I thought might help. I spent a lot of time and money. Along the way I had two more car accidents and the pain kept getting worse and worse. I had developed fibromyalgia, neck pain, mid-back pain and low-back pain with tingling and numbness down my right arm and leg. I was scared that something was really wrong with me. This could not be normal. I was only 33 years old and felt like I was 100. That is when someone told me about a chiropractor that they thought could help. As a matter of fact, after the first person told me about him, two more people did that same week. So I made an appointment with the chiropractor. Thank goodness that they took the time to help me! I went to his office where he asked me about my problems, did an exam, and took some x-rays of my head and back. After that he pointed out where my nerves were pinched and adjusted them. The adjustment was so light I barely felt it. I began crying as I felt the pain leave my body for the first time in years. It may sound strange, but I was so happy and grateful for the relief that I still thank him every day! After that, I knew what I had to do. I had to become a chiropractor, and that's how it happened!

I have adjusted many children within the first 15 minutes after birth. They obviously didn't complain of neck pain or back pain; I adjust them to keep them healthy... as with all the hundreds of children I care for in my office.

You see, it's not normal for kids to get ear infections, asthma, allergies or a number of other illnesses we see clear up in our office everyday.

When the nervous system is working correctly your internal resistance and healing powers are enhanced.

A healthy family does NOT rely on medication to make them well. My family does not turn to medication to seek health and we don't have a “medicine chest” in our home. Due to years of advertising saturation from the pharmaceutical companies most Americans do seek health from outside- in and most families have a “medicine chest” filled with an average of 16 different medications.

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5 million hospitalizations due to medication. Last year the WHO reported 350,000

deaths due to medication people took... and 160,000 were when the drugs were prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medication than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing huh?

If drugs make people well, then those who take the most should be the healthiest, but this simply isn't the case.

Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within. This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, your body can heal itself. Your body doesn't

need any help; it just can't have any interference. With chiropractic, we don't add anything to the body or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it thus enhancing the healing capacities of the body.

We get tremendous results... it really is as simple as that.

For the past eight years, people from San Francisco and the surrounding area have come to see me with their pinched nerve problems.

- Headaches
- Migraines
- Chronic Pain
- Neck pain
- Shoulder/arm pain
- Whiplash from car accidents
- Backaches
- Numbness in limbs
- Athletic injuries just to name a few.

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

“I had back pain for 15 plus years and two back operations. Now I play tennis, sit at my computer and enjoy an active pain free life! Thank you Dr. Meakim!” — A. McGrath

“All possible medicines and doctors, you made a miracle taking away my pain!! I am a happy wife and mother again!” — L. Igudesman

“I have had chronic neck, shoulder and arm pain for the last 4 years. After seeing Dr. Meakim I can now twist off caps, button/zip my own pants and there is no longer a need for me to ice my arm in the morning and night! I feel more energetic, and can move my arm and neck pain free!” — C. Brubaker

My qualifications:

I am a graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic, I have published articles in leading chiropractic journals and taught chiropractic to chiropractors! I've been helping your neighbors in San Francisco since 2004. I've been entrusted to take care of tiny babies to athletes that you may know.

My assistants are Marcy and Raquel and they are friendly and helpful and ready to assist you to set up an evaluation. Our clinic is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have wonderful service at an exceptional fee. Our clinic is called Healthy Life Chiropractic and it is at 101 Clement Street (at the corner of Clement St. and 2nd Avenue). Our phone number is 415-751-7071. Call today for an appointment. We can help you.

Thank you. —Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first family member, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$17.

P.P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor's office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That's why we have a no-wait policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

P.P.P.S. Of course, all people respond differently to care.



Janet Moyer
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120 Ulloa St	Forest Hill Extension	3	2.5	1	1,495,000	1,700,000	113.71
587 Mangels Ave	Sunnyside	3	2	2	995,000	1,010,000	101.51
155 Monterey Blvd	Sunnyside	2	1	2	879,000	1,255,000	142.78
269 Joost Ave	Sunnyside	3	2	2	998,000	1,430,000	143.29
2455 14th Ave	West Portal	4	3.75	2	1,525,000	1,525,000	100
45 Ardenwood Way	West Portal	2	2	3	1,295,000	1,630,000	125.87

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Remember When?



Construction along West Portal Avenue - (Not Dated-) Published by permission of the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

Kaye (Cont. from p. 15)

self sufficiency.We now depend on foreign countries to provide for our needs with electronics, appliances, clothing, and even children’s games. He says that we are being taken advantage of by the Chinese and Mexico. Is he wrong? We are running huge trading deficits with each country.

The GOP establishment cannot forgive him these trespasses from party doctrine. But there are a few of his views that they might dislike even more.

The GOP establishment fears that Trump with his “New York City values” is not really against abortion, no matter what he says. Pro-life is one of the pillars of the modern GOP. The GOP refuses to realize that legal abortion is a *fait accomplis*. They believe that Trump is not against gay marriage. This again is a moral issue for Republicans and also is a done deal that will not be reversed.

The GOP started this season with 17 candidates, each flawed in a different way. We are now down to three, soon it will be two and then, perhaps only one - Trump.

The GOP appears to be Trumped. Could the Democrats be next?

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

Sudoku-fun!

Rules:
Each puzzle is a 9 by 9 grid of squares divided into nine 3 by 3 square blocks, with some of the numbers filled in for you.

The Object:
Fill in the blank squares so that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row,column and block.

Answer:
The answer appears below.

8	9	4	2	1	5	6	8	
1	8	2	4	6	5	8	9	2
2	6	5	8	9	2	1	4	
5	1	6	9	4	8	2	8	2
4	8	2	6	1	2	9	8	5
8	2	9	2	5	8	6	4	1
6	4	8	5	8	2	1	2	9
9	5	1	8	2	6	4	2	8
2	2	8	1	9	4	8	5	6

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



BRAIN FUD

Drop A Letter...
Each pair of definitions is for two words, where the second word is the first word with a letter deleted (example: brand & band). The length of the first word in each pair is provided, along with the position of the deleted letter to obtain the second word.

1) a baked food made from flour (5 letters) & (delete 3rd letter) a thin metal nail with a small indented head
2) of or relating to groups of people with common characteristics and customs (6 letters) & (delete 4th letter) the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation
3) very small in size or amount (5 letters) & (delete 5th letter) to examine or look over carefully
4) the raised line that winds around a screw (6 letters) & (delete 2nd letter) to step or walk on or over

Answer: Right

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Answer
1) bread & brad
2) ethnic & ethic
3) scant & scan
4) thread & tread

Senior Smarts

April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day!

By Anise J. Matteson

This year marks the 9th Annual Healthcare Decisions Day and the 3rd Annual Healthcare Decisions Day in San Francisco with healthcare Decisions Week from April 9 through April 16. During the week, neighborhood branches of the San Francisco Public Library acknowledge advance care planning with books/materials display for Advance Directives, wills, trusts and estate planning.

“The purpose is to inform patients of their rights regarding decisions towards their own medical care, and ensure that these rights are communicated by the health care provider. Specifically, the rights ensured are those of the patient to dictate their future care (by means such as a living will or power of attorney), should they become incapacitated.

I would like to thank last year’s participants: Bookmobile (Library on Wheels/ Seniors), Excelsior, Glen Park, Merced, Mission, Mission Bay, Visitation Valley, and Western Addition.

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. (Since April 16 is a Saturday, schedule an appointment April 11-15.) Name someone to speak for you when you cannot speak for yourself.

Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA)

Passed by the U.S. Congress in 1990, it became effective on December 1, 1991. The purpose is to inform patients of their rights regarding decisions towards their own medical care, and ensure that these rights are communicated by the health care provider. Specifically, the rights ensured are those of the patient to dictate their future care (by means such as a living will or power of attorney), should they become incapacitated. The PSDA requires information to be given to adult patients

about their rights under state laws governing advance directives, including: 1) the right to participate in and direct their own healthcare decisions; 2) the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment; 3) the right to prepare an advance directive; 4) information on provider’s policies that govern the utilization of these rights. The act also prohibits institutions from discriminating against a patient who does not have an advance directive. The PSDA requires institutions to document patient information and provide ongoing community education on advance directives.¹

California law provides individuals the ability to ensure that their health care wishes are known and considered if they become unable to make these decisions themselves.²

End of Life Option Act

The “End of Life Option Act,” ABX2-15, permits terminally ill adult patients with capacity to make medical decisions to be prescribed an aid-in-dying medication if certain conditions are met. On October

5, 2015, California became the fifth state to allow physicians to prescribe terminally ill patients medications to end their lives.[3]

An Advance Directive is a part of *patient-centered care*—a treatment plan specific to the patient’s needs.

Your Story

In March, I asked readers: *Why should you have written instructions for end-of-life care? And, to share your experience if you have recently experienced the loss of a loved one who did not have an Advance Directive.* No responses have been received in time for this article.

I also wrote the Medical Director at UCSF Emergency Room to describe a case involving a patient brought to the Emergency Room who did not have an Advance Directive: *Protocol; Medical team’s decision for plan of care; Family’s reaction; Family’s decision.*

And, the Medical Director at St. Mary’s Medical Center to please provide information on: *What patients and family members should know about Catholic hospitals honoring the patient’s wishes who have advance directives when there is a change of condition? Will a Catholic hospital honor the patient’s wishes conveyed by a family member orally that this is what the patient would or would not want when he or she became unable to speak for themselves? Are Catholic hospitals aware of the Secular Health Care Directive?* No response has been received in time for this article.

April 16 is a day to “inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning.” I hope you find the information in the March and April articles helpful to make an informed decision about completing an Advance Directive.

NOTICE: I have an advance directive

Name: _____

My health care agent is: _____

My health care agent’s phone number is: _____

A copy of my advance directive can be found: _____

When you have completed your Advance Directive, you may indicate this with the wallet card that states you have advance directives

RESOURCES

My Life, My Choices™. Planning for Future Healthcare Decisions. Hospice of Marin® Community Education Program. www.hospicebythebay.org/index.php/about/speakers-bureau.

Hospice by the Bay. (415) 626-5900. Community services: include Advance Care Planning Seminars, Estate Planning Seminars and Community Grief Counseling and Support Groups. www.hospicebythebay.org/index.php/locations/san-francisco.

Good to Go RESOURCE GUIDE. Compassion & Choices MAGAZINE, Special Issue, 2012 Reprint, (800) 247-7421. www.CompassionAndChoices.org. Chapters include: How to Make Your Health Care Decisions Known, Your Wishes, Glossary, The Conversation.

1. <http://definitions.uslegal.com/p/patient-self-determination-act-of-1990>

2,3. www.cmanet.org/about/patient-resources/end-of-life-issues/

Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician, writer of reference books for seniors, and Advocate, National Healthcare Decisions Day. Information is educational only. For specific questions and advice, consult your physician and an attorney. matte-sonecs@yahoo.com.

SRG

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Education

A Quick Peak at the New Education Law:
Every Students Succeeds Act
By Carol Kocivar © 2016

One of my favorite quotes about education concerns pigs. That's right. Pigs.
"Just weighing a pig doesn't fatten it."

You can weigh the pig all the time but it doesn't make it fatter."

You can weigh the pig all the time but it doesn't make it fatter. The reference, of course, is to the much maligned "test, test, test" theory of educational improvement in "No Child Left Behind" This is commonly called NCLB by those who just can't resist an acronym.

The point:

Testing by itself does not improve education. Call it high stakes or low stakes or strip steaks or Kansas City steaks, not matter how you slice it, testing does not make our kids smarter.

Well, NCLB has just been replaced by the new Every Student Succeeds Act. Yes, they call it "ESSA", but what can I say?

A little history here...the important role of the federal government in education is to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. Under President Johnson's War on Poverty, the federal government's role increased by giving states extra money to help our most needy students.

The challenge, of course, is how do we spend that money wisely and how do we measure success.

Fast forward to NCLB. The core goal of NCLB was for all students to meet state proficiency targets by the year 2014. Like the students of Lake Wobegone, NCLB envisioned an America "where all the children are above average." (Spoiler Alert: It did not happen.)

The new law takes a different direction.

Instead of an accountability system based on high stakes testing and mission control in Washington DC, states are now given a great deal more flexibility in how to get the job done.

Here is a quick run down of

some of the important features of ESSA:

States can set their own goals for student achievement, graduation rates and English language proficiency—with an eye to closing the achievement gaps.

- They can use "multiple measures" to see how they are doing. (This is "code" for saying that high stakes tests no longer rule.)

- They can also look at other indicators of school quality: student and educator engagement, opportunities for advanced coursework, postsecondary readiness, and school climate/safety.

States have to provide help to low performing schools. If things are not going so well, the states—not the federal government—decide the strategies they think will help.)

Schools provide targeted help for students who are falling behind.

States must have challenging academic standards. (It is their choice as to which standards to use.)

A biggie: Teacher evaluations are no longer tied closely to student test scores.

And yes, students still need to take tests in reading and math in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school, but the high stakes use of those tests has been significantly reduced.

The good news:

This new system is starting to look a lot like what California has long championed, with greater local control of education decisions and more parent and community involvement.

Dr. Carol Kocivar is former President of the California PTA. and she lives in the Westside. Feedback: kocivar@westsideobserver.com

WOTPCC (Cont. from p. 6)

discussion centered on the listing of properties that was released in the SF media pertaining to locations that could be considered for **homeless shelters** and "navigation centers," including the neighborhood parking lots on West Portal and Ocean Avenues. She said the issue was that Supervisor Avalos's office released the list without scrubbing the list of locations that wouldn't work, such as the parking lots. She said

that **Supervisor Yee** does not feel that any of the locations in District 7 are appropriate. The tenor of the discussion within the WOTPCC meeting was that the residents expect the Supervisor to push back strongly on this proposal as related to a declaration of a "Homeless Emergency."

Please Note: The next regular meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, April 25th at 7:30 PM at the **West Portal Playground Clubhouse**. For more information see www.westoftwinpeaks.org.

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Police Report (Cont. from p. 10)

The suspect, violating a court stay away order at a Starbucks, was reported as belligerent and violent. Officers detected an alcoholic odor and he appeared intoxicated, so officers conducting a pat search locating two open bottles of alcohol. When officers arrested him the suspect verbally threatened the officer. The suspect was booked on the above the charges.

Trespassing

2:32 pm | 4500 Irving St

Officers questioned a suspect on the stairwell between the 2nd and 3rd floor of the building of a reported trespass. He said he was visiting a "friend." Failing to locate the friend, he changed his story. Tenants said he gained entry through the front door. Officers located a clear glass pipe that had white residue of suspected narcotics. Tenants said they did not know the suspect and who was identified by his SF Jail Bracelet. He was arrested for trespassing.

Sunday, March 6

Theft – Possession Of Stolen Property

10:51 am | Taraval St and 21st Ave

The victim was on her way to her car and was alarmed that her rear passenger door was wide open. She saw the suspect close the door who had her property. He apologized and fled into the back seat of a black car driven by a female. She called 911 and followed him. An officer nearby followed until he observed a female driving with and a male ducking down in the back seat. The suspect was arrested.

False Vehicle Registration

4:00 am | Plymouth Ave & Broad

Making a computer check on a suspicious pickup truck, officers found it had last been registered in 2014, despite a valid 2017 registration sticker. They conducted a traffic stop and the driver admitted the registration was expired but he did not put the sticker on. He was cited and towed.

Monday, March 7

Trespassing – Vandalism

3:52 am | 400 Wawona St

A minister saw the suspect on the premise of a care home and notified security, whodetermined that the suspect had broken a window to gain entry and detained him. The suspect was cited.

Battery

9:17 am | 300 Bright St

The victim said the landlord's daughter grabbed onto her hair, her body and her backpack and shook her around. The suspect said she was helping to evict the victim due to unpaid rent and was explaining to the victim that she was being given a notice for not paying rent. The suspect was cited.

Tuesday, March 8

Robbery with Force

11:20 am | Grafton Ave & Capitol Ave

Officers met with the victim of a robbery at a hospital. She said she was waiting for the bus at the bus stop when a suspect approached her and pulled her purse from behind her and fled. The force caused her to fall onto the ground and hit her head.

Robbery Attempted

1:11 am | 100 Lobos St

The victim said that he and his passenger just pulled into the driveway when the suspect opened the rear passenger door and entered the car, pointed something that looked like a gun wrapped in a white cloth, demanding money. Failing to obtain money, he got into a second vehicle driven by another and fled.

Thursday, March 10

Burglary – Possession of stolen property

4:18 am | 2400 23rd Ave

The victim woke up to someone in the bedroom picking up his his roommate's backpack. Attempts to detain him failed. The victim's roommate said his cell phone was also missing and the officers tracked the cell phone to the Tenderloin area where officers located a match. When Taraval officers called the stolen cell phone the suspect's pocket to begin ringing. He was arrested.

Battery

9:26 am | 1900 20th Ave

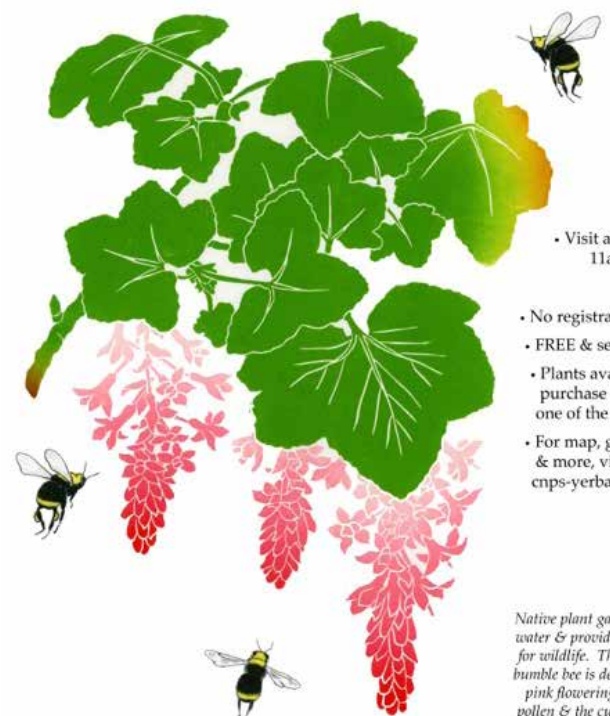
A battery victim said she rented a room to the

Cont. p. 19

San Francisco
Native Plant

Garden Tour

Sunday, April 24, 2016



Presented by the Yerba Buena Chapter
of the California Native Plant Society

• Visit any time from
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- No registration required
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Native plant gardens conserve water & provide native habitat for wildlife. The yellow faced bumble bee is dependent on the pink flowering currant for pollen & the currant relies on the bumble bee for pollination. Come meet the gardeners that sustain them & relish the peak of springtime.

Pink Flowering Currant &
Yellow Faced Bumble Bee
by Margo Bors

Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi



The Verdict

Bruno Magli shoes, a Ford Bronco, a pair of leather gloves and dueling attorneys. A perfect mix for a 10 part series on FX reliving the drama appropriately called “The People vs OJ Simpson.” The trial was hyped as “the trial of the century” and it certainly grabbed everyone’s attention, including ours. The verdict was read on October 3, 1995 around mid-morning, but for us it was dinner time in Vienna and we didn’t dare leave our hotel room until the unanimous decision was read. The verdict? “Not guilty.”



The adventure for us started in London, moved to Rome, Florence, Lucca, Venice, and finally ended in Vienna. September the 18th 1995 was my 60th birthday, and with a group of friends, family and relatives we celebrated the occasion in Lucca, Italy where I was born all those many years ago. It was an unforgettable celebration in the Tuscan hills where we had rented a villa named “Fattoria di Fubiano” situated in the small village of San Genareo, about 30 minutes outside the walls of Lucca.

The celebration ran late into the night while the more than 100 guests enjoyed the delicious food, wine, and music sprinkled in with a few remarks, all under white canvas tents which shielded us from the unexpected rains that evening. After all these years, people still comment on the food and surroundings, truly an unforgettable evening.

A short distance from the villa is a village called Collodi where Pinocchio Park is located, perfect for a day trip with our young grandchildren. For the adults we ventured off to Montecatini Terme, where



we drank some of the curative waters, and then made our way to Montecatini Alto on the 100 year old funicular for a spectacular view of the surrounding area.

The week’s stay went by much too quickly, but it did give us the opportunity to relive some of the more pleasant moments of the past few days. After the usual tourist stops in London, we found our way to Rome where again, we were treated to the splendor of the Vatican where Michelangelo’s Pieta is beautifully displayed just to the right of the entrance, carefully protected by a bulletproof acrylic glass panel. During our first visit to the Vatican in 1971 we did see this amazing piece of art while it was displayed out in the open in the main church before a mentally disturbed geologist from Austria walked into the church in 1972 and attacked the sculpture, doing great damage. A trip to the Colosseum and a stop at the Trevi Fountain to toss a coin and make a wish, then it was time to head to Florence for a visit with David, another one of Michelangelo’s masterpieces.

After a stroll on the Ponte Vecchio and a visit to the Duomo, we drove to Lucca where we all settled in for the celebration.



Venice came next, where a gondola ride was a must for all of us after an evening stroll through Saint Mark’s Square, where the best entertainment of all was watching the pigeons that outnumber the tourists, who are the biggest pigeons of all.

Our train ride to Vienna was relax-



ing and prepared us for the last push before heading home. Our stay was at the Hotel InterContinental, and our three day Metro pass gave us access to all the sites and sounds of this beautiful city which is a mix of old and new. Our first stop was St. Stephen’s Church, followed by a visit at the Schonbrunn Palace and its marvelous gardens, and of course a stop at the Kunsthistorisches Museum to admire the two rooms full of Rubens. The next day was spent at the Belvedere Palace, where we just had to see Gustav Klimt’s painting of The Kiss, an oil painting with applied layers of gold leaf considered Klimt’s most popular work. And what better way to wrap up our trip than with a boat ride down the Danube River, and a bumper car ride in Prater Park?



With hours on the plane we had the opportunity to discuss the trip, compare sites, and decide on what we enjoyed the most. Was it the Vatican, the Villa, Vienna or watching the grandchildren playing on the swings and slides? We took a vote, opened it up for discussion, polled the jury and patiently waited for a decision. The verdict? A hung jury! At that point we had no choice but to dismiss the jurors and start over. The simplest solution was to repeat the process, which we did a few years later, and relive the adventure, after which we took another vote. How did that go? I don’t know yet...the jury is still out.

Sergio Nibbi gets around—the world.



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Police Report (Cont. from p. 18)

suspect and asked about rent that was due. Suspect punched the victim in the face before fleeing.

Friday, March 11

Theft

1:23 pm | 10 Diaz Ave

The suspect, who matched a reported thief appeared nervous and agitated; officers handcuffed and arrested him for possession of stolen property, including properties from an auto boost in Lafayette, CA. Arrested for three counts.

Battery

9:48 pm | La Playa St & Judah St

The victim said he was exiting the Muni when the suspect he did not know punched him and fled on foot. He could recognize the suspect if he saw him again. A search proved negative.

Saturday, March 12

Robbery with Gun

12:41 pm | 2000 Irving St

The bank teller was approached by the suspect, who lifted up his sweater to reveal a fanny pack with an unknown item inside, demanding all the cash. After the victim

handed over several hundred dollars, the suspect left the bank. The crime is under investigation.

Sunday, March 13

Robbery

9:44 am | 1300 9th Ave

One victim said that he went outside to throw out the trash when two suspects forced their way into the back area of the bar. One held a gun as they took some alcohol before tying the victims up in the basement. They pried the safe out of the wall and took it with them as they fled.

Battery

7:02 pm | Portola Dr & Kensington Way

The victim said she went out drinking and requested an Uber Pool to drive her home. When she got in there was another passenger inside. During the ride, the victim threw up and she “may have gotten some on the other passenger.” The passenger got angry, punched her on her face and pushed her out of the vehicle. She also lost her cell phone during the incident.

Editors Note: Police Reports are printed as space allows. For a complete report go to: taraval.com



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