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## Park Department Math: 9 – 1 = 7 Drones

by George Wooding

According to a recent 2016 Google survey the average American is filmed at least 50 times per day by Closed Circuit Security Cameras (CCSC).

Closed-circuit TV cameras are installed almost everywhere today, due to increasing security concerns, and because the price of equipment has fallen dramatically over the last several years. As a result, the average American consumer has their image recorded by dozens of cameras every day.

“The sales of commercial drones will rise as high as 2.7 million (from 600,000) and the number of hobbyist drones will increase from 1.9 million to 4.3 million between now and 2020.”

Here is an example of a typical day, with a running total of 58 CCSC views, and the number of cameras likely present at each stop:

- 8:00 a.m.: 4 Cameras – Get a cup of coffee; 4 cameras in Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts
- 8:30 a.m.: 20 Cameras – School or office; cameras in parking lot and interior, you will be picked up at various angles.
- 12:15 p.m.: 10 Cameras – Stop at ATM before lunch for cash. Bank will have exterior cameras, ATM will have close-up camera
- 12:30 p.m.: 8 Cameras – Go get lunch; 4 cameras at lunch spot, plus easily 4 more at surrounding businesses
- 5:00 p.m.: 7 Cameras – Leave work, go to gym to work out. Camera at check-in desk, plus 6 to 8 in workout area
- 5:45 p.m.: 1 Camera – Stop to pick up dry cleaning. Camera at front register
- 6:00 p.m.: 6 Cameras – Stop for gas. Cameras at pumps and in store
- 6:15 p.m.: 2 Cameras – Quick car wash. Cameras at entry and in bay
- 7:00 p.m.: 4 Cameras – Pick up kids from game practice. Cameras in school parking lot or on building exterior

Add in traffic cameras and other city cameras in urban areas, and you will easily be picked up at most major traffic intersections and often simply walking down the street.

Weekends may be a different schedule, but a single trip to the mall or a large shopping plaza can easily add in hundreds of additional cameras, and an individual can regularly be caught by dozens of them.

### Drones, the New Eyes and Ears in the Sky

Drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are small aircraft that can fly by remote control without an onboard human

Cont. p. 1

## It's Budget Time Again

by John Farrell

On Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee approved Mayor Ed Lee's FY 2017-18 budget proposal of \$10.1 billion —an approximate 5% increase over the FY2016-17 budget of \$9.6 billion. Good news is that this budget will be balanced and will not depend on revenues from a ballot initiative, like the increase in the sales tax that the voters rejected last November.

The Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for review of the mayor's budget proposal, making cuts, and then adding back monies to spending priorities of the Board of Supervisors members. The Board's Finance Committee Chair, Supervisor Malia Cohen, worked with the Mayor's Office to reduce \$32.7 million from the mayor's \$10.1 billion budget proposal to provide add-backs for the next fiscal year.

Of course there is always political drama. It was reported that Supervisor Aaron Peskin attempted to join Supervisor Cohen in negotiations with Mayor Lee, but the mayor refused to meet with him. Supervisor Peskin no longer wanted to serve and withdrew from the Committee. He was frustrated, since

he wanted the Mayor's Office to cut more from its proposed budget in order to provide for more add-backs.

I don't understand. The job of the Budget and Finance Committee is to review and make applicable cuts. Don't expect the Mayor to do the job for you.

I have a better idea. Why doesn't the Mayor just set aside \$30 million in next year's budget proposal for add-backs for the Board of Supervisors, since the budget appears to be just formality.

*John Farrell Broker/Realtor\* – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former Assistant Assessor – Budget & Special Projects, 5th Generation San Franciscan, Westside resident – farrellreinvestments@yahoo.com*

## West Portal Business Outlook Calm—for Now

by Tony Taylor

While Hayes Valley, parts of Divisadero, and Valencia Street have become hot destinations for new businesses regardless of rent increases, West Portal remains an undiscovered gem. Many businesses along the three-block shopping strip have seen a loyal customer base for decades. Residents have also seen other businesses come and go. Though few storefronts remain empty, a transportation innovation threatens to disrupt the entire solemn, familial corridor.

“We are thrilled with the recently opened businesses that are not only new, but are appreciated by a cross-section of the neighborhood” says West Portal Merchants Association President Deidre Von Rock-Ricci.

Recent openings include Noe Valley Bakery (28 West Portal), Lemonade (16 West Portal), Pilates Story (183 West Portal), the Coder School (231 West Portal) and Tutu School (239 West Portal).

Mary Gassen of Noe Valley Bakery says West Portal is a neighborhood where she has spent a lot of time and loves the “vibe.”

“It feels like a genuine San Francisco original neighborhood and the people here are friendly and welcoming,” says Gassen, adding that many of Noe Valley Bakery's West Portal neighbors have patronized the original Noe Valley Bakery on 24th Street.

While West Portal has been successful at filling vacancies, some storefronts have been vacant for years. The former Radio Shack at 123 West Portal, a 2400 square-foot space, has been vacant since 2015. According to Frosch's Yelp page, the travel company formerly occupying 314 West Portal, is “very much in business, but their West Portal office has closed and the empty space is up for lease.”

Recently, fragrance boutique Scent Pack covered their windows before clearing all merchandise and fixtures from 201 West Portal Ave. The interior is under construction.

In the window of the former AT&T Authorized Retailer at 244 West Portal, a Duffin Construction sign hangs next to a Notice of Nonresponsibility dated June 14, 2017. Fashion boutique The Art of Style at 260 West Portal has closed as well.

But empty retail spaces aren't the only opportunities for construction.

“The bigger concern has been the Twin Peaks



Tunnel project, which SFMTA starts and stops in fits,” says Von Rock-Ricci.

As reported in our June issue, the possibility of the M streetcar going underground is still getting into gear. While the end result would benefit street traffic and commuters, disrupting noises, fumes and dust during construction would hurt businesses. Reduced and detoured street traffic could present hardships for merchants. And with the possibility of eliminated stops post-construction, slower foot traffic would create a fiscal decrease in revenue for business.

“This project would literally stop the trains for at least two weeks at a time, in multiple intervals, over the course of a year,” Von Rock-Ricci continues. “We just learned that this project is now going to be delayed yet another year. I can't imagine an underground M actually being accomplished anytime soon.”

She says West Portal would welcome a hip new coffee shop, retail boutique, or artisanal cocktail bar. Those businesses would be part of a long established corridor focused on providing a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all.

“West Portal won't be ‘gentrified,’” she adds, “it will just continue to evolve with our community.”

*Tony Taylor is a San Francisco Journalist*

## FBI Probe Plunged DPH into Turmoil, Intrigue

by Dr. Derek Kerr & vr. Maria Rivero

The March 2017 *Westside Observer* reported on the FBI probe of a pay-to-work scheme involving janitors in the Department of Public Health (DPH). Payments had allegedly been solicited in exchange for jobs, exam questions, promotions and shift assignments. Since then, new sources and documents revealed that the FBI investigation dug longer and deeper than initially reported, miring the DPH in recriminations and intrigues.

“Adding to the impression that dirt was being hidden was a series of break-ins, intrusions and thefts from DPH executive offices at 101 Grove Street. The DPH reportedly stalled on activating or installing security cameras. Key documents, including promissory notes ... vanished.”

Starting in 2011, DPH janitors were questioned by the FBI and City Attorneys about payments for jobs and the hiring of janitors with unverified qualifications from China. Who notified the FBI is unclear. According to confidential DPH sources, a janitor who reportedly paid \$5,000 for a position that didn't materialize demanded a refund then complained after receiving just \$4,000. Another janitor allegedly paid \$10,000 for a position. No

legal action ensued as the victims declined to testify. However, the DPH introduced multiple-choice exams for hiring janitors. The FBI kept watching for potential human trafficking.

**Hostile Work Environment:** In 2011-12, the DPH launched 3 investigations targeting its General Services manager, Willie Crawford, who oversaw janitorial and other facility services. Several

Cont. p. 6





Oversight Committee Provides Scant Oversight

CGOBOC Fails Monitoring Change Orders

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

San Francisco's Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee (CGOBOC) has a performance problem and an image problem. Most San Franciscans have no clue of what this Committee is supposed to do, despite being created by a vote of citizens at the ballot box.

Only a handful of citizens currently attend CGOBOC's bi-monthly meetings, derisively called the "usual suspects." That may soon change, because CGOBOC will start broadcasting its meetings on SFGOV-TV Channel 26 beginning July 17, 2017 after being prodded by open government



Until a new CSA oversight audit committee is formed, the overwhelmed, understaffed, and overworked CGOBOC committee will never provide true oversight on bond measures."

advocates to do so, over opposition of initially-hesitant CGOBOC members. Stay tuned starting July 17, 2017 to learn what CGOBOC does, and how ineffectual it has been since its creation in 2002!

**CGOBOC: Overburdened, Understaffed**

Oversight and transparency sound great, but how many tasks can a single citizens' committee provide meaningful oversight over?

**Bond Oversight Tasks**

On March 5, 2002 voters passed Proposition F, the *Citizen Oversight of Bond Expenditures Initiative*. Prop. F established CGOBOC as a committee of nine members to oversee all general obligation bonds passed by voters.

For most of its now 15-year history overseeing bond spending, CGOBOC has relied mostly on the City Controller's Office, which provides administrative support to the Committee. Only in 2015 did CGOBOC finally use an external auditor to conduct external audits of three bond programs.

When CGOBOC was formed to provide

oversight of bond spending, the City had a handful of (or perhaps just one) active general obligation bonds to monitor. Today CGOBOC is charged with oversight of almost a dozen bond measures totaling \$3.6 billion in bond funding, for which CGOBOC has been awarded \$3.6 million

to oversee.

**Shoveling Additional Oversight Tasks: CARB**

As if the 11 current bonds weren't enough work to effectively monitor, just 17 months after CGOBOC was created in March 2002 the Board of Supervisors voted on July 15, 2003 to place Proposition C on the November 2003 ballot to create the City Services Auditor (CSA) function within the Controller's Office, piling additional oversight responsibilities onto CGOBOC.

When voters passed Prop.C in November 2003 adding that CGBOC serve as a Citizens Audit Review Board (CARB) to review *all* CSA audits, voters ended up opening Pandora's secrecy box, or a can full of unintended worms.

Over the five-year period between February 28, 2012 and January 18, 2017 the Controller's CSA Unit performed 233 audits. How could the CGOBOC have been expected to have read and digested 233 CSA audits, in addition to overseeing bond expenditures?

The CSA is not meeting requirements

established in 2003. CGOBOC is aware reports and analyses required by City Charter Appendix F aren't being conducted by the CSA. Why does this continue?

**The City's "3% Solution" Change Order Quagmire**

Change orders are a big, big, deal. The main types of change order include: 1A) Design Errors; 1B) Design Omissions; 2) Unforeseen Site Conditions; 3) Client Requests to add, change, or delete scope to the project after design was completed; 4) Code Changes; 5) Quantity Adjustments to incorporate savings; 6) Alternates (a.k.a., "Cost Savings") to incorporate cost savings, and/or additional work submitted as *alternates*; and 7) Liquidated Damages and Fines (ostensibly against contractors or sub-contractors).

I had no idea DPW may have an internal goal of holding change orders involving design errors and design omissions to just 3% of project costs. It doesn't seem the 3% "solution" ever occurred for errors and omissions!

Change orders have been big deal on a variety of bond-funded projects.

**2008 and 2012 Neighborhood Parks Bonds:** Across the 17 neighborhood parks funded by both bonds completed to date, there has been \$14.7 million (10.8%) in change orders across the \$136.4 million budgeted for the 17 projects. At least \$2.8 million (19.1% of the change orders) were attributed to design errors and design omissions. Another \$4 million (27.1% of the change orders) were client-requested changes. The \$14.7 million in total change orders could have improved two, three, or more additional neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

To my knowledge, CGOBOC has not examined in-depth park bond change orders. There are 10 more neighborhood parks still to go on the 2012 bond.

CGOBOC should do so, if for no other reason than change orders on the 17 Neighborhood Park bond projects to date have ranged from 3.3% to 45.8% of individual project budgets, suggesting great variability across projects. Five of the 17 have had change orders over 14% of initial project budgets. Isn't that excessive?

**SFGH Rebuild Bond**

There's another change order category known as "Base Scope Buyout," in which a Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) bids subcontract work and purchases materials and equipment, and negotiates prices.

The SFGH replacement hospital project manager presented to CGOBOC in January 2017. The data presented show change orders on the SFGH rebuild are problematic, for many reasons.

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City and County of San Francisco  
Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee  
Brian Larkin, Chair  
Brenda Kwee McNulty, Vice Chair

November 2016

Honorable Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
City and County of San Francisco  
City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
City and County of San Francisco  
City Hall, Room 244  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Honorable members, I am pleased to present the General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee's report.

# MUNI PRICE CHANGES JULY 1, 2017

<b>ADULT SINGLE RIDE FARE</b> (CASH AND LIMITED USE CARD)  \$2.75	<b>ADULT SINGLE RIDE FARE</b> (CLIPPER® & MOBILE TICKETING)  \$2.50	<b>ADULT "M" MONTHLY PASS</b> INCLUDES CABLE CAR  \$75.00	<b>ADULT LIFELINE MONTHLY PASS</b> INCLUDES CABLE CAR  \$38.00
<b>DISCOUNT SINGLE RIDE FARE</b> YOUTH/SENIOR/PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (CASH AND LIMITED USE CARD)  \$1.35	<b>DISCOUNT SINGLE RIDE FARE</b> YOUTH/SENIOR/PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (CLIPPER® & MOBILE TICKETING)  \$1.25	<b>ADULT "A" MONTHLY PASS</b> INCLUDES CABLE CAR & BART WITHIN SF  \$94.00	<b>DISCOUNT MONTHLY PASS</b> YOUTH/SENIOR/PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (INCLUDES CABLE CAR)  \$38.00

sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes

311 Free language assistance / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков /  
Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / 무료 언어 지원 / Libreng tulong  
para sa wikang Filipino / การช่วยเหลือทางด้านภาษาโดยไม่เสียค่าใช้จ่าย / خط المساعدة المجاني على الرقم





West Of Twin Peaks Central Council

By Mitch Bull

NEWS AND VIEWS...

The June meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council focused on new officers and a spirited and entertaining musical performance from a relatively-unknown San Francisco institution.

President Sally Stephens opened the meeting at 7:30 at the Forest Hills Clubhouse with a large turnout of delegates and attendees, and everyone immediately understood that the evening would be different than most as music stands and instruments were arranged on stands at the front of the room, usually reserved for the seated officers.



David Reffkin of SF Community Music Center

Stephens started by briefly welcoming everyone to the meeting and having the roll call, which resulted in enough delegates being present for a quorum, necessary as the newly **nominated officers for 2017-18** were in line for election later in the evening. Following two short committee reports, Public Health report by **George Wooding** advising pet owners (specifically dog owners) about the probability of an extremely **heavy tick season** and the complications that can arise from a tick bite, such as Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; and Technology Committee report by **Matt Chamberlain** discussing the update of the website and outreach to the various homeowner groups for delegate information, President Stephens called upon nominating committee representative **Dave Bisho** to discuss the ballot for the WOTPCC board election.

The importance of the WOTPCC (since 1936) was stated as Bisho read accomplishments of the council over the eight decades of its existence were highlighted, from advocating having schools and other improvements brought to the Westside of the city, as well as being the main advocating group for zoning adoption and preservation through the years.

Following the brief rundown, Bisho announced the slate of nominees for 2017-18 as put forth by the nominating committee, consisting of **Paul Conroy**, **Matt Chamberlain** and **Bisho**. The nominees are as follows: **President Sally Stephens**, **Vice President Matt Chamberlain**, **Secretary David Goldman**, and **Secretary Carolyn Squeri**, with the appointed nominee for Parliamentarian, **Dena Williams**. With no additional nominations from the floor, the nominees were approved unanimously by a voice vote to serve as the board officers from September 2017 through June 2018.

After the vote, Carolyn Squeri gave a brief introduction of the “entertainment” for the evening, a performance by several instructors and students of the **San Francisco Community Music Center**. The two instructors, **Scott Feichter** and **David Reffkin**, playing guitar and violin respectively, treated the crowd to a delightful evening of musical history ranging from waltzes, jugs, hornpipes and reels, to jazz, samba, blues, ragtime (and its predecessor “cakewalk”) and the music of guitar extraordinaire Django Reinhardt, known as gypsy jazz.

It was a veritable history lesson on music and had the attendees clapping and applauding for more. Several students from the school joined the instructors to present the last several pieces, as the 7-piece combo “approximated” the feeling one would have at Reinhardt’s Hot Club in Paris in the 1920’s.

The Community Music School can trace its origins to the founding of the music department of the Dolores Street Girls’ Club settlement house by Gertrude Field in 1912. The CMC was officially established and moved to its current location at



Scott Feichter of SF Community Music Center

**544 Capp Street** in 1921, marking their 96<sup>th</sup> year of teaching students of all ages the joy of music, whether through instrumentation and choral celebrations. Approximately 50% of their students are under age 18, while 19% are over the age of 65. The school offers both private lessons and ensemble learning in styles ranging from western classical music, jazz and Latin, to Eastern European, Middle Eastern and Chinese.

Their catalog is full of wonderful course offerings and events to hear the musicians as well. For more information on the school contact them at: 415.647.6015 or their website at [www.sfcmc.org](http://www.sfcmc.org).

President Stephens followed with a call for adjournment, and with that, the WOTPCC takes its annual summer recess. The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, September 25th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website ([www.westoftwinpeaks.org](http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org)).

Planning Commission Hearing

Proposed Medical Cannabis Dispensary

At 2505 Noriega Street

The proposal to establish a Medical Cannabis Dispensary(MCD) at 2505 Noriega Street (between 32nd and 33rdAve) requires a Conditional Use Permit authorization from the Planning Department, and the hearing — originally scheduled for June 8th — has been rescheduled for July 13th. Planning Commission meetings begin at noon and take place in room 400 in City Hall. Please check the Planning Commission website to find out when this item will be on the agenda.

If you have any further questions or cannot attend any of the public hearings but would like to weigh in on the proposed MCD, please contact the Planning Department staff handling this project (Andrew Perry) by calling 415-575-9017 or emailing [Andrew.Perry@sfgov.org](mailto:Andrew.Perry@sfgov.org).



Ruminations From a Former Supervisor

By Quentin Kopp



In an era of regrettably diminishing newspaper readership, I’m grateful to the *Westside Observer*, *Richmond Review*, the *Sunset Beacon*, *Ingleside Light*, *Marina Times* and other neighborhood newspapers which enlighten readers. Walter Lippmann, a *New York Times* columnist, once observed in 1920: “For the newspaper is in all literalness the bible of democracy, the book out of which people determine its conduct. It is the only serious book most people read. It is the only book they read every day.” Although our current President and conservative media members have seemingly popularized the notion of “fake news” in the last two years, that’s not a new concept. A. J. Liebling was a famous journalist who wrote chiefly for *The New Yorker* from 1935 until his 1963 death. He also in 1956 wrote *The Sweet Science*, named by *Sports Illustrated* as the greatest sports book of all time (it was about boxing). He was, nevertheless, a press critic who declared: “People everywhere confuse what they read in newspapers with news” and “the function of the press in society is to inform, but its role in society is to make money.” About the First Amendment, he noted: “Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one.”

Although our current President and conservative media members have seemingly popularized the notion of “fake news” in the last two years, that’s not a new concept.

In that respect, an anonymous writer stated: “We’re thankful we have free speech here in America – and equally thankful that there’s no law requiring us to listen to it.” The last month or so has reminded me of that useful bromide. In early May, the *San Francisco Chronicle* featured a front page story by Heather Knight designed to pull a reader’s heartstrings. She alleged that a young African American woman in San Francisco was cited for fare evasion on a MUNI bus, with a resultant \$75 fine, which a year or so later had ballooned to \$2,500! The following day, in fine print at the bottom of Page 2, the *Chronicle* admitted the story wasn’t true, and blamed the Tax Collector’s office as the source of Knight’s “fake news.” The MUNI cheater was in a vehicle accident and was sued successfully for about \$2,500 in damages which appeared on her credit report. No governmental Grinch had turned \$75 into \$2,500, and Knight’s sorrowful, untrue story has been conveniently removed from *Chronicle* records.

There’s more. San Francisco State’s alumni magazine for Spring/Summer 2017 discusses and wrings its hands over the current President’s ability to bash the media. A Professor of Journalism, John Funabiki, notes: “The major hurdle facing journalists is their inability to understand the true diversity of people in this country. Journalists aren’t really able to get down to the grassroots level and understand what people are interested in, what they’re concerned about, and what they want from their journalists.” The magazine notes that the public “has been losing trust in the media for years and that fissure deepened during the 2016 election after many mainstream news outlets failed to foresee a Trump victory.” It added: “Many people mistrust the media because they don’t feel represented...” admitted Associate Professor of Journalism Venise Wagner. Assistant Professor of Journalism Laura Moorhead reported that community newspapers are disappearing, so there’s a growing disconnection between the media and communities they’re supposed to serve.

Along the same line is a bulletin from the Association of Los Angeles Deputy District Attorneys about a witness testifying in support of State Senate Bill 620 on April 25, 2017, which described to Public Safety Committee members a robbery case purportedly showing the unfairness of mandatory increase of a criminal conviction sentence for using a gun. Not under oath, Kim McGill of the Youth Justice Coalition represented to State Senators

that one Travis Manning was a 19-year-old without any arrest record who entered a store, asked for a \$100 game while holding a BB gun, and then returned the game to the store a month later. McGill alleged the trial court judge announced he couldn’t lower the sentence under California gun law because of the defendant’s cognitive disabilities or lack of a criminal record. *PBS NewsHour* repeated such statements, and made the defendant Manning a “poster child” for Senate Bill 620, which would reduce sentences for using a gun in a crime. McGill lied, and so then did PBS. Manning was a 23-year-old convicted felon. He pointed a real gun in committing the robbery, didn’t demand a “\$100 game,” but robbed the store of a Wii console, games, accessories, and \$600-\$700 in cash. He didn’t return the same game to the store. Instead, he sold some stolen items to another such store. McGill also lied about the sentencing judge’s remarks. Defendant Manning was on probation for a prior robbery. That’s why Manning received a sentence based on being a felon who used a gun in an armed robbery. There’s more. The Association of Los Angeles District Attorneys contacted the *PBS NewsHour* reporter to request a correction, but was informed that the Senate author of SB 620 repeated McGill’s lies about defendant Manning. PBS never corrected its fake news.

Michael Goodwin, Chief Political Columnist for *The New York Post*, former political columnist for *The New York Daily News*, and *New York Times* City Hall Bureau Chief, and Professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, delivered a speech April 26, 2017 in Washington, D.C., sadly concluding: “I’ve been a journalist for a long time. Long enough to know that it wasn’t always like this. There was a time not so long ago when journalists were trusted and admired. We were generally seen as trying to report the news in a fair and straightforward manner. Today, all that has changed. For that, we can blame the 2016 election or, more accurately, how some news organizations chose to cover it. Among the many firsts, last year’s election gave us the . . . revelation that most of the mainstream media puts both thumbs on the scale – that most of what you read, watch, and listen to is distorted by intentional bias and hostility.” The jury’s out on whether the media can reestablish its credibility.

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

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## By the Numbers

Deferred Comp<sup>3/4</sup> Id@nt!ty Theft Target

by Lou Barberini, CPA



In mid-June I was transferring a portion of my Prudential San Francisco Employees' Deferred Comp account to another institution when I stumbled upon something I had overlooked: Prudential has never issued me, nor the other 25,000+ San Francisco public employees, individual account numbers. Prudential instead uses participants' social security numbers as the sole point of reference, which increases the vulnerability of San Francisco city employees' to identity theft.

The financial website, *Investopedia's* perspective on account numbers is:

"At one time, it was common to use a Social Security number as the primary identifier. Because of the proliferation of identity theft, however, this practice has been all but eradicated. It is not a good idea to use a Social Security number for any type of account, or as a user name or password for electronic identification."

confirmed that no such account exists. By not issuing account numbers, Prudential has increased the difficulty of following the money trail to where Prudential has actually invested San Francisco city employees' money.

The San Francisco Civil Grand Jury recently released a report on SFERS' other \$20+ billion pension, the one that is funded to a 77.6% level. The report recommended

And, when Prudential's contract is up for renewal next year, San Franciscocity employees will again be corralled into a fresh, overly-complex life insuranceannuity – probably another one without account numbers. It sure seemssuspect that the crew with no members having passed the life insurance exam,when selecting investment vehicles for city employees, only fish in the small lifeinsurance annuity pond, instead of the ocean of other investment companies."

So if the practice of using social security numbers in lieu of account numbers has been eradicated, why is Prudential so far behind the times? Prudential probably wants to save the costs of this extra step.

The irony is that Prudential takes the unnecessary step of converting every San Francisco employee's purchase of mutual fund shares into a secondary fictitious share price, unique to Prudential a second set of books. Prudential can spend money to keep two sets of books that confuse investors, but cannot spend money to create a secondary point of reference — like an account number — to protect investors.

Contrast Prudential's behavior to your typical credit union. When I access my credit union account from my computer, I need to have a pass code texted to my phone. This ensures that two of my devices have to be stolen before my account can be compromised. This extra hurdle is burdensome, but it conveys to me that my credit union is looking out for my interests — unlike Prudential and the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS). Why can a credit union pay for dual sign-ins, while Prudential — which has an asset base 1,000 times larger — can't afford to simply create unique investor account numbers?

Prudential's response will be that their representatives ask security questions to mitigate identity theft. This is not a true safeguard against identity theft. With the proliferation of social media (Facebook, Linked-In, etc.,) identity thieves will have absolutely no problem answering the two screening questions Prudential asks customers: What is your birth date and what is your zip code?

Not creating account numbers also supports my narrative that Prudential does not invest city employees' money in the investment options to which Prudential claims. It is suspicious that SFERS' contract allows Prudential to ignore city employees' investment instructions to invest in a Golden State Warriors' mutual fund, and instead put that investment in an inept San Francisco Giants' mutual fund. For the city employees, the performance of the Warriors' fund shows on their statement, while their money is actually invested in the Giants. If Prudential were truly transferring city employees' money to American, Fidelity, T. Rowe Price, and Vanguard <sup>3/4</sup> the Warriors-type mutual funds — an account statement would exist at those mutual fund companies titled to SFERS. Public record requests to SFERS have

that a public oversight committee be formed to monitor the large pension fund, and the new committee's members should possess experience in "life insurance."

Considering that the Civil Grand Jury is recommending committee members have experience in life insurance, it would be interesting to see which SFERS administrators have life insurance experience that could be applied to decisions on deferred comp. After all, SFERS has churned its deferred comp plan through five different life insurance companies over the last 20 years.

It turns out that, per the California Department of Insurance website, *neither* SFERS' Chief Investment Officer, Bill Coaker, who was the City's highest-paid public employee at \$512,485 in the year ending June 2016; its Executive Director; its Deputy Executive Director; its Deferred Comp Plan Manager; its chairman of the Deferred Comp Committee; nor its entire seven-member Retirement Board of Trustees have passed the insurance exam (by the way, I did pass that exam).

SFERS is never going to address, or respond to, the numerous red flags I have raised in the *Westside Observer* about Prudential's deferred comp annuity over the past year. Executive Director Jay Huish still has not answered the three questions I posed to him in November 2016. And, when Prudential's contract is up for renewal next year, San Francisco city employees will again be corralled into a fresh, overly-complex life insurance annuity <sup>3/4</sup> probably another one without account numbers. It sure seems suspect that the crew with no members having passed the life insurance exam, when selecting investment vehicles for city employees, only fish in the small life insurance annuity pond, instead of the ocean of other investment companies. If the deferred comp plan is churned to another company that also uses social security numbers rather than account numbers, city employees will remain at identity theft risk.

I purposely misspelled "Identity" in the title of this article. It's my effort to try to be informative to readers, without attracting hackers' searches. After all, someone has to watch city employees' backs.

*Lou is a CPA living in the West Portal area. He has an MBA in Tax and worked for a Big Four firm and investment companies before his 20-year career with SFPD. He can be contacted at: lou.barberini@gmail.com*



## Drones (Cont. from p. 1)

operator. Drones usually cost less than \$1,000.

They can be part of a system that includes a digital network and personnel on the ground, and can be equipped with high-powered cameras, or infrared devices that sense objects through walls, and with laser radar that can see through trees and foliage, the Congressional Research Service said in a 2013 report.

On April 1, 2014 Wisconsin State Representative Christine Taylor warned the citizenry about eyes in the sky and attacks on privacy by drones.

Taylor stated, "Drone technology now allows an individual to be recorded in their homes by drones as small as birds and immediately uploaded to the Internet."

California Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced legislation called, *The Drone Federalism Act* that would give San Francisco and other local governments far greater authority over drones. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee plans to introduce a resolution Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Miami to support Feinstein's bill.

Feinstein's legislation is aimed at dissuading the federal government from preempting any laws a city might enact, such as outlawing drones over parades.

A January 2016 study by Oxford University called the *Hostile Use of Drones by Non-State Actors Against British Targets* states, "There is no doubt that unmanned vehicles are here to stay and will have a considerable impact on society, both beneficial and detrimental. Although there is still a large gap between the capabilities of military and civilian drones, commercially available drones are giving hobbyists, companies and hostile groups access to capabilities previously only available to the military. Law enforcement agencies and policymakers are struggling to respond appropriately to this development. This report is a contribution to countering that threat."

Drone usage is currently controlled by the FAA. Local municipalities have limited say in drone oversight.

According to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) figures, there are currently 2.7 million drones in the United States. The FAA estimates that 7 million drones will be in use by 2020.

The sales of commercial drones will rise as high as 2.7 million (from 600,000) and the number of hobbyist drones will increase from 1.9 million to 4.3 million between now and 2020.

In San Francisco it is currently illegal for drones to fly through residential areas; however, it will be easy for drones equipped with cameras and listening devices to do so.

If you buy a new drone in the United States to fly non-commercially, you no longer have to register your drone with the Federal Aviation Administration, according to a decision issued by a federal court in Washington, D.C. on March 17, 2017.

The court ruled that the FAA's drone registration rules, which have been in place since 2015, were in violation of a law passed by Congress in 2012. That law,

the FAA Modernization and Reform Act, prohibited the FAA from passing any rules on the operation of model aircraft — in other words, rules that restrict how non-commercial hobbyist drone operators fly.

Drones are currently being sold with legal settings and no-fly zone area maps. According to a local Best Buy sales representative, "an experienced drone operator can easily circumvent these settings and reprogram the drone."

Under current FAA rules, a drone must be flown within the line of sight of the operator, less than 400 feet above the ground, during daylight conditions, inside uncontrolled airspace, and more than five miles away from any airport or other location with aviation activities.

I recently had a drone hover over my house in the Midtown Terrace neighborhood for over two minutes and I don't know why.

According to a June 24 article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "At least 78 drone flights were detected during the June 15 NBA championship parade in downtown Oakland, even though police tried to make the celebration a no-drone zone, according to San Francisco startup Dedrone, which was enlisted to track the devices."

Will Mayor Lee use drones flying above City Hall's rotunda to deliver his City budget to the Board of Supervisors?

The little known "San Francisco Committee on Information and Technology" just passed a series of rules which will dictate City drone guidelines. The committee has been working on these drone rules for over two years. Where has the Board of Supervisors been? Has there been any public transparency?

The CCSF CITY EMPLOYEE DRONE POLICY (DRAFT) states, This Drone Policy ("Policy") is intended to guide officers, employees, and contractors of participating departments with pre-approved drone programs. This Policy is subject to a one-year evaluation period. After the evaluation period, a Drone Oversight Committee composed of representatives from the Mayor's Office, the City Administrator, and Committee on Information and Technology COIT will review the drone programs of all participating departments and provide recommendations to COIT on revisions to this Policy, as necessary.

Five City departments will initially have the authority to use the devices: The Controller's Office, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Port Commission, Fire Department and Recreation and Park Department (RPD).

Has anybody asked why the Controller's Office would need to use drones? They want an aerial view of areas affected by disasters or emergencies. If an emergency requires squeezing the last dime out of citizens pockets, Controller Ben Rosenfield will be a great pilot.

The RPD has certainly played the "fool" in the drone regulation process. The 15-member Committee on Information and Technology began studying the drone issue in 2015, after one of the RPD's nine drones was stolen from a city vehicle after just one test flight.

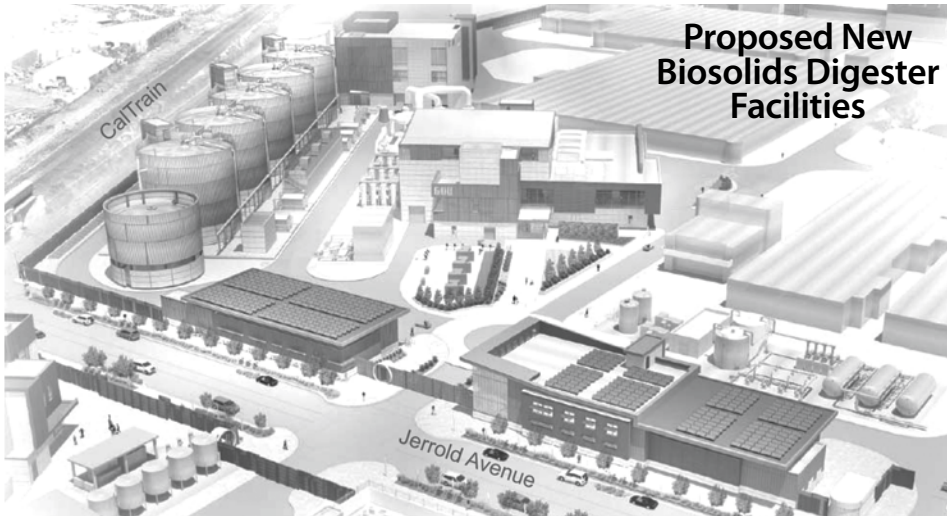


Commentary

Digesting the Environmental Impact Report

By Steve Lawrence

Environmental review of a project requiring an EIR now takes more than a year to complete and costs tens of thousands of dollars. In the case of one large SFPUC project, the result is a document of more than 1100 pages.



Does anyone read such a tome? Does it serve a purpose other than employing bureaucrats and experts?

A generation ago major projects could complete environmental review in a month. Surely we value the environment more today, and are more careful. But really?

The large project for which more than a thousand pages was written is for new biosolids digesters. Digesters are tanks that deal with (“digest”) sewage solids. Unfortunately, the stomach analogy is a good one: Bugs in these tanks devour the solids, then die. Bug bodies become sewage sludge. Generally, sludge is spread on agricultural land to fertilize. Digesters are at the heart of a sewage treatment plant.

There is no question that new digesters are needed and will be built. The old ones are too old, having lasted for 65 years so far. So the environmental review (EIR) is not for deciding whether to go forward with the project. At best it is for identifying least impactful ways of doing it, and for deciding on mitigations for unavoidable harms.

The new digesters aim to serve City needs through 2045. They will be fully functional, if the schedule holds, by 2025. Twenty years covered. About \$1.5 billion cost. Not to mention road closures for years during construction, neighborhood disruption, noise, and other environmental effects during six years of construction.

The new digesters have been years in planning. Staff traveled to Europe to assess the new technology that will be used. Committees reported and recommended. Artists rendered. Siting people relocated shops, and studied the site. (The site is very tight.)

With the new digesters, once they begin operating, good to suffice for twenty years, will planning for the next twenty years begin shortly after operation of these new ones begins?

One wonders, too, whether the new digesters will indeed be adequate until 2045. Recently San Francisco’s population and employment has grown faster than predicted. Projections keep getting revised

upward.

The owner, SFPUC (water-sewer-power), does have a Commission, which is supposed to oversee and assure adequate planning for the future. Trouble is, the commissioners need not (and in some cases do not) know much about treating sewage. Questions during meetings occasionally evidence embarrassing ignorance. The Commission oversees and guides; but real planning for the future is up to staff and outside experts.

Outside experts do not mind steady work. Planning for a mere twenty years means that another round of planning is just around the corner. How nice.

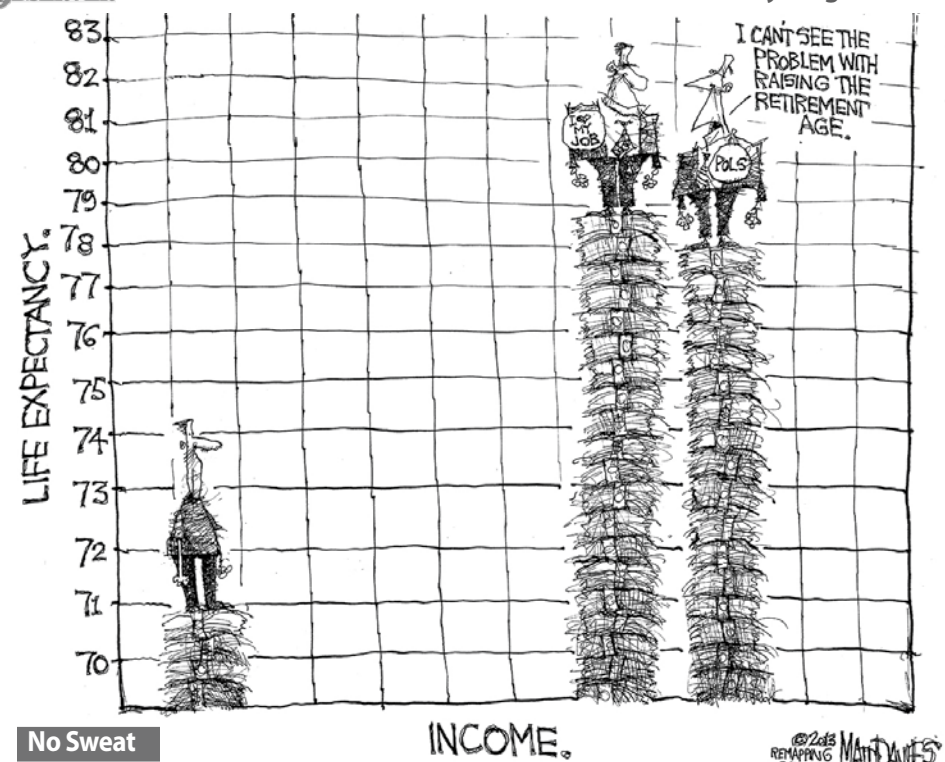
Some matters seemingly not considered in sizing the new digesters to serve until 2045 include: higher projections for population and jobs (since 2013); whether the sewage load per person may increase; whether more salt water intrusion will affect the process; and whether more street trees (on land not presently residential) may increase sewage load, especially during first storms in Fall. (Sewage load per person might increase as humans grow larger, or if in the future more food waste goes down the garbage disposal.)

Ultimately it is the ratepayer who bears the burden of decision-making and planning for the future. So far rate rises have generally been kept to under ten percent per year. The long-term hope is to keep the cost of water and sewer service to less than 2.5% of median household income. (It is about half that today.)

Big projects generate big costs, and, unfortunately, have the potential for big cost overruns. The largest project in the recent, smaller water improvement program overran by more than 100%; the average overrun was 25%.

Let’s hope that the biosolids digesters, subject of that thousand page tome, do serve adequately for what seems like a surprisingly short planning horizon of twenty years.

Steve Lawrence is a Westside resident and SF Public Utility Commission stalwart. Feedback: lawrence@westsideobserver.com



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2017

MAKE AMERICA JURASSIC AGAIN.

President Donald Trump possesses a style described by friends as virile and intuitive and by foes as oafish and oblivious. Some see him a breath of fresh air, with a disarming directness and others consider him a blustering bully with the grace of a pile of crumbling cement blocks cascading off a flatbed truck. Passionate versus fool-hardy. Eager slash hasty. Swift or rash.



GM, GE, Chevron, Shell, Apple, Exxon-Mobil and BP favor the agreement, because they have come to the opinion that the extinction of the human species might not be good for business.”

But these are principally domestic arguments. The international community is not so divided. They view our new Chief Executive as a brutish barbarian whose goal is to antagonize the rest of the planet. Not just the other nations of the world, but Mother Earth herself.

45’s first overseas trip initially dropped him successfully in Saudi Arabia and Israel where he mostly antagonized his wife. Then the reality TV star traveled to a NATO meeting where he scolded its members, and demonstrated how to put America first by shoving the Prime Minister of Montenegro to the side in order to rush to the front of a photo shoot. “Out of the way, pal.”

Arriving home, Trump leaped back onto the Twitter Train, shooting out a midnight tweet ending with the words “press covfefe.” He either spelled the word “coverage” wrong or was rhapsodizing about the java coming out of his French Press. Or both.

What happened after that, nobody knows. Perhaps he drifted off, confident that he had rallied the troops. Or maybe he realized his mistake and tried to correct the spelling but was betrayed by his undersized digits and ended up hitting “send.”

We’ve all done it. Most of us would have stopped, deleted and started over. But President Golden Canopy not only left aloft this incoherent muddle, the next day he doubled down with another incomprehensibility, “Who can figure out the true meaning of “Covfefe” ??? Enjoy!” Unable to resort to his usual lame obfuscation: “the tweet speaks for itself,” because it didn’t, Spokesperson Sean Spicer insisted the president and a small group of people knew what the post meant but couldn’t

keep a straight face when saying it. Because the president is incapable of admitting a mistake. Ever. Not even a misspelled word. Simply put, the malignant orange narcissist is purposefully messing with us. The President of the United States is screwing with his constituents over a typo. He’s 12.

Later he told Planet Earth to take a hike, announcing America was pulling out of the Paris Climate Accord. His reasoning for joining Syria and Nicaragua to stand against 194 signers of the pact is it would handicap our country economically. And with him in charge, the fewer handicaps, the better.

Trump is intent on fulfilling his campaign promise to Make America Jurassic Again, even though over forty major US corporations including GM, GE, Chevron, Shell, Apple, Exxon- Mobil and BP favor the agreement, because they have come to the opinion that the extinction of the human species might not be good for business.

Liberals fear a hidden agenda of the GOP’s Plan is to step up global warming to raise ocean waters, thereby flooding California coastline cities turning the state’s 55 electoral votes reliably red. Then again, maybe, when the President mentioned that he doesn’t want other countries laughing at us anymore, what he was really saying is he’s ready to step down. Fingers crossed.

Will Durst is an award- winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comic and former clerk in a porn store in Waukesha Wisconsin. For a calendar of personal appearances including his new one-man show “Durst Case Scenario” every Tuesday at the Marsh San Francisco starting July 11: willdurst.com.

Letters

Glen Rogers hails the certification of the biased, inadequate, and inaccurate Environmental Impact Report for Natural Resource Management Plan and adoption of that Plan as “a victory for conservation.” (Love ‘Em Or Hate ‘Em, Eucalyptus Trees Still Remain At Center Of Controversy, Westside Observer, February 2017)

In fact, the Plan is to cut down 18,500 trees (plus uncounted smaller ones) at the cost of \$5.4 million a year for 20 years (SF Legislative Analyst, 2007), most of them on steep slopes, many in windy areas, some near freeways - to convert “forested areas to native scrub and grass habitat...”

The plan is to treat the stumps of killed trees with most toxic herbicides - so the herbicide use would drastically increase. Some people have the nerve to call this “conservation.”

Mr. Rogers states that in Sharp Park “the non-native grass of the golf course requires

pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers which are affecting wildlife and tainting nearby water, causing genetic mutations....There have been numerous incidents of endangered wildlife being killed by mowing the lawn or gopher control.”

In fact, no pesticides or herbicides have been used in Sharp Park since August 2010. The five fertilizers used there are OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) Listed. In response to a Sunshine Records Request, I learned that there are “no records of deaths of red-legged frogs or

Cont. p. 17

WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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PO Box 27176, SF 94127 • 415 517-6331

**Publisher: Mitch Bull**  
mitch@westsideobserver.com  
**Editor: Doug Comstock**  
editor@westsideobserver.com  
**Ad Sales • Mitch Bull**

**Contributors:** Linda Ayres-Frederick, Lou Barberini, Mitch Bull, Julie Casson, Matt Davies, Will Durst, John Farrell, Jonathan Farrell, Flora Lynn Isaacson, Dr. Derek Kerr, Carol Kociwar, Quentin Kopp, Anise J. Matteson, Brandon Miller, Patrick Monette-Shaw, Sergio Nibbi, Dr. Maria Rivera, Glenn Rogers, Tony Taylor, George Wooding  
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**FBI/DPH (Cont. from p. 1)**

of his subordinates had complained about his “harassment”, resulting in counseling and reduced responsibilities. Crawford, a 35-year DPH employee who is African American felt that underperforming employees had issued “false allegations” resulting in a “hostile work environment” that reflected racial discrimination. His 2011 complaint to the DPH Equal Employment Opportunity office was rebuffed. So, in July 2012 he contacted the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), adding retaliation to his discrimination claim.

To calm tensions, Crawford was assigned new supervisors. One was Ron Weigelt, hired as the new DPH Human Resources chief in May 2013. Crawford says his mistreatment continued - including the deletion of 3 months of his e-mails from DPH servers. So he filed a retaliation claim with the City's Civil Service Commission. It was denied. However, the State DFEH granted permission to sue. In March 2015, he filed suit in federal court.

DPH sources say that in 2015, Crawford was being surveilled by several subordinates who were to report irregularities to Weigelt. Records show that in August 2015, Crawford petitioned to fire 2 clerks for “not following procedures” - allegedly disclosing contents of confidential documents and insubordination. Instead, Weigelt reassigned them to his department. Crawford accused Weigelt of siding with employees he deemed unfit, undermining his authority and rendering him “invisible” as a manager. One of the clerks reported Crawford to the Controller's Whistleblower Program for threatening behavior.

**Investigative Zeal:** Remarkably, the Whistleblower Program and the City Attorney pounced on the case, interviewing 15 witnesses from August to December 2015. Crawford's deputy and “right hand woman”, Amanda He, turned against him and sought reassignment. In October 2015, Crawford was placed on Administrative Leave for “alleged misconduct”. His replacement, a Payroll manager with no janitorial experience, was David Palma. Palma lobbied to bring back Amanda He as his deputy. That move was reportedly opposed by DPH Director Barbara Garcia and some janitorial staff who longed for change. But Weigelt, who protected informants, supported it and prevailed. Palma and He then purged half a dozen employees and supervisors, including witnesses to ongoing intrigues, thereby provoking more outcries over retaliation and discrimination.

The City's investigation stated that Crawford had “accepted money from a subordinate”, “misused City resources” and “threatened bodily harm”. Labeled an “administrative retaliation ploy” by Crawford, it resulted in an “Intent to Dismiss” notice on 12/18/15. Crawford had been taken aback by a grilling on his personal finances, bank accounts, real estate and even his Chinese-American wife's business. Moreover, he had been ordered to undergo interrogation without his attorney present, and to attend a disciplinary hearing while on Medical Leave - a breach of procedures. Further, the City Attorney was investigating Crawford - while defending the DPH against Crawford's retaliation lawsuit. Crawford's attorney protested “a biased investigation designed to terminate him” and successfully moved

to disqualify the City Attorney from the case. That's why Louise Renne's Public Law Group began defending the DPH in January 2016, thereby collecting \$187,158.

**FBI Behind the Scene:** The City's investigation wasn't autonomous. By November 2015, the FBI had submitted a list of janitors it wanted to interview. FBI agents also interviewed DPH Human Resources Director Ron Weigelt and City HR Director Micki Callahan. The DPH scrambled to review complaints janitors had filed since 2011. In December 2015, Weigelt crafted a memo encouraging janitors to cooperate with the FBI and promising immunity for truthful information. This memo sparked contention between Weigelt and cagier City Attorneys who worried that it would tip off managers suspected in the pay-to-work scheme. The FBI asked to search Crawford's office but City Attorneys demanded a warrant. The FBI argued that it simply needed DPH's permission since the office was DPH property. Still, City Attorneys held FBI agents at arm's length. The FBI did not force the issue, but agents grumbled openly about the lack of cooperation.

Instead of an FBI search, the DPH's Weigelt directed a search of Crawford's office and computer. Meanwhile, the City Attorney's investigation reportedly bypassed the As Needed janitors who were more likely to encounter pay-to-work pressures. Adding to the impression that dirt was being hidden, was a series of break-ins, intrusions and laptop thefts from DPH executive offices at 101 Grove Street. The DPH reportedly stalled on activating or installing security cameras. Key documents, including promissory notes allegedly showing that janitors had signed over portions of their wages, vanished. Months of Crawford's emails also disappeared.

Concurrent investigations by the FBI, the Whistleblower Program, the City Attorney, and the DPH fomented damage-control, paranoia and intrigue. Coworkers suspected each other of being FBI informants. The DPH General Services Division became a hive of spies, prowlers, document-shredders, and whistleblowers.

**Litigation Outcome:** In pre-trial motions, Judge Claudia Wilkens deemed the City's investigation legitimate, striking Crawford's racial discrimination and wrongful termination claims. However, she allowed his claims of retaliation and violation of the Family Medical Leave Act. In mediation, a settlement was reached and approved in February 2017: Crawford resigned in exchange for \$100,281 plus retirement benefits. The City agreed to forego \$37,000 in legal fees and pay mediation expenses. Astoundingly, the FBI was never mentioned in extensive court filings despite its omnipresence through November 2016. That omission allowed the settlement to bury DPH payola skeletons while upraising the City's anti-corruption efforts.



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

**Teacher Housing at Francis Scott Key Annex**

SF's \$44 million commitment to build teacher housing at the former Francis Scott Key Annex site (1360 43rd Avenue) to address the need for teacher housing brought stakeholders to a June meeting, where concerns that these rental units would not solve the problem surfaced. Staff are exploring other tools — increasing teacher salaries — affordable rentals and homeownership that are accessible to those earning teacher salaries.

The Francis Scott Key Annex site was chosen among several owned by SFUSD due to its large size, flat topography, and public zoning. The project may have approximately 130-150 rental units that are 1, 2 and 3-bedroom; and will be built at a neighborhood scale and incorporate open space, parking, and car-share pods. The site will need to be re-zoned from a public land use to a housing land use.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a developer/architect team has not been issued. Design will begin in early 2018 and a series of community meetings will be held to hear from the neighborhood and incorporate feedback and ideas.

**Sloat Boulevard Resurfacing Project Update**

Caltrans, in cooperation with the SFMTA, has initiated a major safety enhancement project on Sloat Boulevard (State Highway 35) between 19th Avenue and Lakeshore Avenue. Among the improvements are updated signalization, ADA compliant sidewalks, installation of a HAWK crosswalk system, curb extensions (bulbouts), and high visibility crosswalk markings. This project will also grind and replace the current pavement with rubberized asphalt that utilizes recycle automobile tires in the mix.

There will be some minor modifications to bus stops including relocation of some of the bus shelters. The Caltrans contractor, Graniterock, is currently performing pothole repairs along Sloat Boulevard in preparation for the construction, which is set to begin on April 17, 2017.

Caltrans and SFMTA anticipate a completion date in October 2017. Questions can be directed to Public Information Branch Chief Robert Haus at Robert.haus@dot.ca.gov

**Drones (Cont. from p. 4)**

Currently, the only City department with any drones is the RPD, which now has seven drones that have been grounded until the policy is adopted. Was drone number eight sold at a yard sale? Did it crash into Lake Merced, or into the side of McLaren Lodge?

A new provision that would have allowed RPD to fly drones to monitor large events was deleted altogether. A regulation that would have permitted the RPD to use drones for security purposes like “boundary patrols” of properties and assets was also eliminated. People's right to privacy is deemed more important than the RPD's right to compile private information.

Despite the RPD's efforts, the Committee on Information Technology's drone policy focuses on privacy rights, spelling out how any City agency or employee can use a drone even for seemingly benign flights like search-and-rescue missions or pier inspections.

If any department is destined to fail and abuse drone guidelines and privacy rights, it will be the Phil Ginsburg-led RPD. This is the RPD's drone mission:

- **Construction Management:** Inspection of SFRPD project sites for contract and environmental compliance.
- **Disaster Response & Recovery:** Inspection of properties, facilities, and assets during and after disasters.
- **Emergency Response:** Park Rangers rapid response to emergencies on park land.
- **Environmental Monitoring:** Flora and fauna type and health, spills and leaks, erosion.
- **Inspections:** Surveys and assessments of SFRPD properties, facilities, and assets.
- **Mapping:** Digital elevation models, land use maps, 3D models, contours.
- **Marketing:** Capture videos and still photographs.
- **Search & Rescue:** Reconnaissance and assist during an emergency, both for water and land operations.

The great thing about the RPD flying drones all over the City parks is now its administration will never have to leave the office.

Between the drones, closed-circuit TV cameras, social media, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in cars, smart televisions, smart phones, computers, laptops

and notebooks which allow navigation and transit monitoring, electronic credit cards and financial transaction monitoring systems, your entire day and your life can be reconstructed. There is no privacy left.

A great Google joke submitted one month ago by *hellohibyee*:

Google's Pizza

Hello? Gordon's pizza?

No, sir, it's Google's pizza.

So it's a wrong number?

No sir, Google bought it.

OK. Take my order please.

Well sir, you want the usual?

The usual? You know me?

According to our caller ID, in the last 12 times, you ordered pizza with cheeses, sausage, thick crust.

OK! This is it.

May I suggest to you this time ricotta, arugula with dry tomato?

What? I hate vegetables!

Your cholesterol is not good.

How do you know?

Through the subscribers guide. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

Okay, but I do not want this pizza, I already take medicine ...

You have not taken the medicine regularly. Four months ago, you only purchased a box with 30 tablets at Drug Sale Network.

I bought more from another drugstore.

It's not showing on your credit card.

I paid in cash.

But you did not withdraw that much cash according to your bank statement.

I have other sources of cash.

This is not showing as per you last tax form, unless you bought them from an undeclared income source.

WHAT THE HELL? Enough! I'm sick of Google, Facebook, Twitter, What's App. I'm going to an island without Internet, where there is no cell phone line and no one to spy on me!

I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport as it expired 5 weeks ago.

Beware of drones! They will soon fill the skies, and invade neighborhood privacy.

George Wooding, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN)

**Do you qualify for a No Charge Curbside Collection?****No Charge Residential Curbside Collection**

• The BulkyltemRecycling.com - No Charge Residential Curbside Collection program is only available to SF residents.

• Participating properties must have an active residential or apartment account with Recology Sunset Scavenger or Recology Golden Gate.

• The account must be active for minimum of 30 days.

Recology  
Sunset Scavenger  
(415) 330-1300  
Recology  
Golden Gate  
(415) 626-4000







TARAVAL STATION Crime Report



Scam Spoofs the Police Phone Numbers

Officials are informing the public about a consumer scam where aggressive telephone calls are being made by scammers posing as San Francisco Police Officers. Concerned residents that received these calls today reported the scam to 9-1-1 dispatchers. These callers claim they have a warrant for the call recipient’s arrest and demand payment in gift cards in order avoid arrest. Technology allows the scammer to “spoof” or alter the Caller ID to make it appear that the call is coming from the San Francisco Police Department’s Non-Emergency Number which is 415-553-0123. Neither the San Francisco Police Department nor any other City and County of San Francisco agency will call you to demand payment and threaten arrest for any matter. If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the SFPD or any other law enforcement or government agency demanding payment, immediately HANG UP. Under no circumstances should you engage them in conversation or provide any personal information. Make notes about what the caller said and do one of the following: If you’ve been targeted by this scam, please report the incident by completing the following online report: [sanfranciscopolice.org/reports#file-report](http://sanfranciscopolice.org/reports#file-report). You may also call 311 to file a harassing phone call report or go to any SFPD District Station to file a report. NOTE: This is an abridged version of the full message available at [taraval.org](http://taraval.org)

Friday / June 2

**Auto Burglary**  
8:09 pm | 2500 25th Ave  
Officers were investigating a broken window when the suspect, who initially denied any knowledge of the crime was told that his finger prints were located on the vehicle and identified, he recanted his statement, and was cited at the station.  
**Threats – Resisting Arrest – Intoxicated**  
8:54 pm | 3900 Noriega St  
The victim said his customer had become too intoxicated to be served more alcohol and was told to leave. When he refused to leave, he slapped the victim and walked away. When officers found him, he refused to cooperate. After multiple attempts to de-escalate aggression, officers deployed pepper spray and handcuffed him. After an ambulance arrived to evaluate and further investigation, he was arrested.

Saturday / June 3

**Discharging Firearm / Occupied Building**  
9:18 am | 1200 Ocean Ave  
Officers heard the shattering of glass from a nearby store and bus shelter but were unable to located suspects. A witness said he heard a small caliber shot going off and a second witness saw the suspect pacing around the area before the shots were fired. No injuries, damages or additional shots were reported or documented.  
**Assault – Resisting Arrest**  
9:33 am | 1800 8th Ave  
The victim said her caretaker, her son, constantly uses alcohol and PCP purchased with the money for her in-home support, so she told him to leave, but he returned, and when confronted, the suspect head butted her. Officers found him sleeping on the couch, but he denied harming her. However, he attempted to flee but was detained by officers at the door. After further investigation, he was arrested.

Sunday / June 4

**Commercial Robbery**  
12:37 am | 1400 8th Ave  
The victim was waiting for the last two shoppers to finish before closing up the store, when the two customers brought their items up and pointed a gun at the victim demanding the money from the register before fleeing the store.

Monday / June 5

**Child Neglect – Child Abandonment**  
7:30 pm | 2800 Great Hwy  
The SFFD medic heard screeching tires, and saw a victim being pushed out of the vehicle moving very fast. The victim said she and her parents had just moved to California two weeks ago, but they were arguing and her father left. Her mother, then started yelling that she did not want to be the victim’s mother anymore before pushing her out the moving vehicle. Special Victims Unit investigated and convinced the suspect to turn herself in.

**Battery**  
12:15 am | Lincoln Way & 17th Ave  
The victim opted to share a ride on Uber, and the suspect was already in the vehicle. During the ride, the suspect moved his hand to touch the victim’s knee before apologizing. She asked him not to touch her again but he put his hand on her leg several again. She screamed and exited the vehicle, at their destination. The suspect also exited into a store. Officers arrived and he was cited.

**Battery**  
6:15 pm | 1700 39th Ave  
The victim was driving when he heard a noise and then felt something painful. Reaching to where the painful area, he found a BB pellet. He did not know where the pellet came from. Officers searched the area but did not find a suspect.

Tuesday / June 6

**Impersonation – Burglary Tools**  
3:34 pm | Lincoln Way & 40th Ave  
Officers saw the suspect testing car door handles but when he noticed the officers he immediately ducked down between two vehicles. When questioned, the suspect gave false information which impeded a computer check and he was detained and transported to Taraval Station. A finger print check identified the suspect and a search of the suspect located a flashlight, a glass punch tool, gloves and multiple glass shards suspected to have come from broken vehicle windows. He was arrested.  
**Sexual Battery**  
2:53 pm | L Taraval LRV  
The victim was on an L Taraval LRV where people were crowded in. She felt something pressing directly against her buttock area and she looked behind to see the suspects genitalia exposed. She pushed him away moved. He exited at the next stop.

Wednesday / June 7

**Attempted Burglary**  
1:15 pm | 300 Byxbee St  
The victim heard his front gate opening and then banging on the front door. He saw two suspects trying to break in. He got a kitchen knife for protection when one of the suspects, who was also holding a knife, demanded money but he said he did not have any, and made a call the police while the suspects fled.

Thursday / June 8

**Battery – Vandalism**  
7:31 pm | Address Confidential  
The victim answered the door after hearing the doorbell but the suspect remained behind and yelled and spit at him, then walked back down the stairs and vandalized his car. The suspect also threw a brick, which missed. Officers arrived and detained and arrested the suspect.  
**Burglary of a Store – Property Vandalism**  
11:45 am | 1800 Ocean Ave  
An SIT sergeant investigated a previous

store burglary and through evidence recorded on a video camera, the suspect was identified, located and arrested.

**Robbery of a Service Station**  
11:14 pm | 1700 Noriega St  
The victim said the suspect knocked on the door and asked help counting his rolls of coins. He let him enter the garage area, where he purchased cigarettes and gas, then put on gloves and pointed a gun, grabbed the money from the cash register and fled in his vehicle.

**Robbery - Commercial Establishment**  
10:16 pm | 1300 46th Ave  
The victim said the suspect tried to check the numbers on a lottery ticket. However, the ticket machine was not working and he got angry and throw things around. The suspect refused to leave when asked. Then pointed a gun and demanded money. The victim gave all the money in the register. The suspect then exited the store and fled.

Friday / June 9

**Battery**  
11:27 pm | 1200 48th Ave  
The victim said she returned home while intoxicated and told the suspect to leave the house because she was not in the mood to deal her drama. The suspect started to gather her belongings but suddenly stopped and started to hit and push the victim before eventually leaving the area. Officers found her, and she was arrested.

**Parole Violation**  
11:00 am | 36th Ave & Judah St  
An officer recognized the suspect, via a recent department e-mail, as someone who was wanted for a parole violation pushing a wheelchair towards a waiting MUNI bus. Since the parole had been revoked, the suspect was arrested.

Saturday, June 10

**Attempted Arson**  
10:01 am | 2200 Taraval St  
The witness said the suspect attempted to light paper on fire that was wedged against a building multiple times because the wind kept blowing it out. Officers arrived and recognized the suspect, who had a known history of drug usage. The officers detained him, located the stack of burnt paper, and he was arrested.

**Probation Violation – Theft of a Bicycle**  
7:50 am | 00 Juan Bautista Cir  
The victim was in his kitchen when he saw suspicious movement and saw the suspect riding away on his daughter’s bicycle. He stopped and detained the suspect and called police. A computer check revealed that she was on probation. She was arrested.

**Arrest Warrant**  
10:57 am | 3500 Great Hwy  
A witness observed the suspect jumping over the fence at the water plant to private property. Officers found the suspect and a computer check revealed that three warrants out of San Mateo. The suspect was arrested.

**Shoplifting – Warrant Arrest**  
2:39 pm | 1700 Taraval St  
The witness saw the suspect put a jacket

inside a bag and walk out of the store without paying. The witness followed her outside and grabbed the bag, she let go of the bag and fled. The witness followed her and gave officers her location. Officers detained the suspect and a computer check revealed a warrant for her arrest. She was arrested.

**Warrant Arrest – Resisting – Drinking Alcohol in Public**

4:47 pm | Funston Ave & Irving St  
An officer saw a suspect drinking a can of beer in public and approached him, he dropped the can of beer and walked away. The officer gave chase and detained him. A computer check revealed a warrant for his arrest out of Marin County. The suspect was arrested.

**Battery**  
7:24 pm | 3200 20th Ave  
The victim attempted to process a sale from the suspect but the credit card presented did not clear the transaction. The victim tried to retain the merchandise but the suspect pushed the victim and grabbed all the items and fled.

Sunday / June 11

**Assault with Caustic Chemical**  
8:08 am | 1600 48th Ave  
The victim said her neighbor sprayed pepper spray into her building while she was smoking by an open window, causing injury to herself and her children. She also said she had a history of problems with the suspect. The suspect said the victim had been harassing him the previous day by rushing at him in the early morning. He admitted to purchasing pepper spray in case he needed to defend himself. After further investigation, he was arrested.

Monday / June 12

**Stay Away Violation – Trespassing – Warrant Arrest**  
5:32 pm | 700 Gonzalez Dr  
Parkmerced security said a vacant apartment unit was being occupied. Officers arrived as the suspect was walking out of the unit. He said the door was open and he spent three days there. A search located two boxes of ammunition and a computer search revealed a stay away order prohibiting possession of ammunition. He was arrested.

**Kidnapping – Arrested**  
9:24 am | 19th Ave & Irving St  
Officers responding to a missing Montana juvenile report searched the area and found the victim in a van with two suspects. Suspecting that the victim may have been coerced into going with the suspects, the investigation will be ongoing in conjunction with the Montana Police department. The two suspects were arrested.

Tuesday / June 13

**Arson**  
2:44 pm | 100 Lenox Way  
Officers responded to a report of a fire. The witness reported that an unknown suspect set fire to the toilet paper in the bathroom at the library. SFFD successfully extinguished the fire.

Cont to page 10

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Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Finding Financial Stability After a Divorce

Managing finances following a divorce can be emotional and overwhelming. Even the best-laid financial plans may seem complicated as you adjust to your new situation and next steps. No matter how complex your financial circumstances may feel, the following steps may help you secure your financial future:

“Do you wish to visit every continent? Pay off your mortgage before retirement? Open a small business? Whatever your dreams, determine the cost of each one so you know how much you’ll need to save. Save what you can each month, and keep in mind that even small amounts will add up over time.”

**Adjust your budget to match your current lifestyle.** Start by calculating your new monthly income, including spousal or child support if applicable, and estimate what you expect to earn over the next year. If you are a stay-at-home parent or spouse, you may decide to re-enter the workforce to bolster your income. Or the time may be right to switch careers or seek a promotion.

Next, look at your spending to see if you need to adjust your patterns. Whether you’ve decided to remain in your home or seek new living arrangements, crunch the numbers to see how much house you can realistically afford. Also, evaluate your lifestyle spending, including entertainment, dining out, and activities for your kids, to see if it’s necessary to trim your expenses. If possible, avoid making any major purchases until you feel comfortable with your updated budget.

**Consider your children’s future.** If you have children, they will understandably take center stage in your planning. It’s important to start thinking about how you’ll handle future financial milestones. Milestones may include paying for private grade school, college tuition, the down payment on a home, or a wedding. If you’d like to help your children with such expenses, consider these questions: Will you receive financial support from your former spouse? Do you expect your kids to contribute? As each event approaches, be up front with your kids about what you can afford so they can set realistic expectations.

**Prioritize saving for retirement.** No matter how close – or far – you are to retirement, make it a priority to update your retirement goals and continue building your nest egg. You are responsible for your own savings, and the biggest challenge you face financially is having enough money to cover what could be several decades of expenses. While retirement saving can feel overwhelming as you balance competing financial priorities, having a plan can help you feel more in control.

**Ensure you’re protected.** An important step following divorce is to maintain, replace or establish insurance that will help secure your financial future. All forms of

insurance should be reviewed and considered, and your beneficiaries should be updated if needed. Make sure you understand the specific benefits that you and your former spouse are entitled to, as well as the life, health and disability insurance policies that you both own through your employers. If you have children, whose health insurance plan will be used to cover them? Work quickly to establish an insurance plan to avoid financial risk of being uninsured.

**Consider the tax implications of your new marital status.** Review your situation with a tax professional to see if you need to revise your tax strategy. Divorce can affect your tax situation in several ways. Impacts may include entering a different income tax bracket, providing or receiving child or spousal support, your investment strategy and your process for handling future tax returns.

**Dream and plan for the future.** Once you have a handle on your new day-to-day finances and retirement, allow yourself to dream and plan for other milestones that are important to you. Do you wish to visit every continent? Pay off your mortgage before retirement? Open a small business? Whatever your dreams, determine the cost of each one so you know how much you’ll need to save. Save what you can each month, and keep in mind that even small amounts will add up over time. If you’re tempted to spend the money elsewhere, consider establishing a separate savings account.

**Don’t go it alone.** Professional guidance from an attorney, tax professional, estate planner and financial advisor can ease the burden of managing your finances. It’s hard to start over, but you can do it. A financial advisor can help you with the complex decisions you face during a divorce and offer strategies you get on track to meet your new financial goals.

*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*



Brio Financial Group wins “Top 50” Award

by Mitch Bull

The Brio Financial Group was recently named as a “Top 50” LGBT owned business in the San Francisco Bay Area by the *San Francisco Business Times* media group. We caught up with Brandon Miller, Brio Managing Partner and Co-founder to discuss what receiving this prestigious award means to the firm, and to him personally.

I started by asking about his personal satisfaction with the award:

*Mitch: What does being ranked in the “top 50” revenue mean for you personally?*

Brandon: “It reminds me of all the wonderful clients we’ve helped – and continue to help on their unique journey. This recognition means they’ve stuck with us, which is deeply gratifying. From a business prospective I’m happy people want quality and consistent advice, not just investment advice. That’s how we’ve structured and positioned our business from the very beginning. We are really proud of the collaborate work we have done to help our clients build wealth, protect their assets and most importantly – to be an intimate part of their lives.”

*Mitch: Give me a little information on Brio, tell me about your Brio Financial Group – what are you known for within the financial planning and investment management?*

Brandon: “When you do financial planning, which has always been our core business model, we create a partnership with our clients to set a strategy first and track the progress. We don’t just expect a planning relationship – we turn away business that doesn’t include a holistic approach to their financial lives - despite the number of assets they may have. We are consistently educating our clients on the choices in front of them – giving them confidence they are making the right decisions, and reminding them to expect the bumps along the way so they don’t quit. In fact, getting through the difficult times is

sometimes the most rewarding part of this work, and I’m really proud to be included in the journey.”

*Mitch: To be named as a Top 50 firm in the LGBT business community says a great deal about the company. How did you forge a solid reputation as an LGBT financial services practice?*

Brandon: “As far as our reputation as an LGBT practice? When my former business partner, Joanne Jordan and I started this firm, we both found a natural market in the LGBT community very quickly – as we both are gay and experienced firsthand the difficulties of navigating through our own personal lives. The lack of marriage protection and other legal and tax roadblocks were a real challenge, of course. This made filing your taxes, doing your estate planning and financial analysis much more difficult. Prior to gay marriage in CA, we had to exercise a very academic approach to non-traditional planning for hundreds of same-sex couples. But even now, after same-sex marriage recognition – the nuances and differences of LGBT couples still exist. I’m happy we are still recognized within the LGBT community for our expertise, and strong community support within the Bay Area.”

*Mitch: What makes your firm different than other firms?*

Brandon: “At Brio, we spend many, many hours with our clients and really understand their hopes and dreams, and the

Cont. p. 18



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# THE SOURCE OF OUR WATER

by Glenn Rogers

**L**yell Mountain and the Lyell Glacier are at the head waters of the Tuolumne River. The Lyell Glacier, once the largest glacier in Yosemite National Park, is expected to disappear in the next 5 years. Safe to say, the additional water from the glacier when absent will be missed. Primarily, San Francisco gets its water (85%) from the Tuolumne River with the notable exception of the reservoirs in the Peninsula and Alameda counties which provide an additional 15% of San Francisco water supply. Today, we will discuss where savings in water use can be found, short of urban water conservation, which is where government often finds their solution.

## NEW RESTRICTIONS:

San Franciscans are being asked to come into compliance with environmental laws that did not exist when San Francisco's water transportation system was first built. State law requires water consumption to be reduced by 20% by the year 2020 by urban areas but there are no similar requirements for agriculture. Locally, increased releases of water are now required in San Mateo and Alameda Creeks that total 7-8 million gallons per day. The Tuolumne River is currently the subject of negotiations at the State Water Board. Currently, about 80% of the river's flow is diverted for agricultural use and 10% for urban uses. However, the Board wants to increase spring flows which will require additional release. To provide streams and rivers with more water is the explanation for the blending of groundwater. The question arises, is this small savings of water worth it when so many other uses of water could provide more water savings? Yearly, water use in San Francisco has dwindled. Today, San Francisco uses less water than it did in 1977. Yet, we are asked to do more.

## WHERE THE WATER GOES:

California is said to be a desert, so why are farmers growing crops here that are so water intensive? Alfalfa for example, which is often flood irrigated, is actually a crop that would grow best in the Southern part of the United States. It is said that the South could increase their acreage by 5 million acres. Alfalfa in California can be harvested 3 to 5 times a year but in the lower South, harvests can occur 6 or 8 times a year! Clearly, that is the best place to grow alfalfa, not California.

The good news is that growing cotton, another water intensive crop, has fallen by 46% between 2006 and 2010 as less expensive water in the South and the Midwest make this crop more profitable. That being said, if water is cheaper elsewhere for cotton, it should also be cheaper to grow rice and alfalfa elsewhere as well.

With the demand for milk in Japan and

water to grow, while walnuts require 4.9 gallons of water. The nut industry will find it very difficult to allow their investment in trees to parish, with yearly investments in both time and water, should water become scarce. However, are the cities to make sacrifices to satisfy all the needs of farmers?

## INCENTIVE PROGRAMS:

When it comes to how water is being used in San Mateo, Alameda and Santa Clara counties, which are included in the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) service territory, half of this water is being used in the landscape. San Francisco, on the other hand, uses water very differently. Because San Francisco uses so little water for landscaping, it is one of the reasons it has such a low rate of water use. In San Mateo, Alameda and Santa Clara counties, the many programs to replace lawns with drought tolerant California natives or Southwestern landscape designs have had some success in reducing water consumption. However, more should be done in this area.

Drip irrigation used in farming has more than doubled since 1991 and is a good place to begin to conserve more water. It was previously believed that crops such as alfalfa could not be watered by drip irrigation, but now it is being done—saving 2/3 more water than by flood irrigation. Previously, drip irrigation systems were damaged during farming. Today, with tractors with GPS, drip irrigation systems can be used over and over. One barrier to drip irrigation has been the cost. Every farmer, when converting to drip irrigation, needs to invest in each acre \$1,000 to \$3,000. Now, State grants pay 50% of the cost of converting to drip irrigation, which



Peter Drekmeier, Photo: The Daily Journal



Comparison of Lyell Glacier from 1883 (public domain) and 2015 (photo: Pete Devine, "Yosemite's Melting Glaciers") U.S. Geological Report

asked to blend ground water 15% in the year 2020 is because of a study by David Sunding in 2014. That study was presented to the SFPUC, influencing decisions that were made in error about our water needs. Due to the drought in 2015-2016, water demand in San Francisco dropped lower than rates we consumed in 1977 or 30% below what David Sunding predicted. His study convinced the SFPUC that San Francisco needed more water prompting the Blended Water program. Other false predictions included serious job losses of 188,000 in the Bay Area and \$49 billion in decreased sales due to water rationing. Instead, 125,400 jobs were created in San Francisco during the year 2010 and 2015. On December 16, 2016 Peter Drekmeier made a presentation to the State Water Board correcting the misinformation. We should all thank Peter for his work.

## SAN FRANCISCO'S WATER SOLUTION:

First, the SFPUC should be more transparent and forthcoming in their relationship with the public. When a spokesman for the SFPUC was asked about the public outreach for the Blended Water Program by a Supervisor, he explained 700 people took part in a taste test. In my opinion, this is not an outreach program. Safe to

say, had Blended Water gone to the ballot, it would have failed. Moreover, SFPUC should be more careful about the studies they adopt to generate policy. Even when the Sunding study's flaws were exposed, they responded with excuses and justifications for the incorrect data. Is this a good public policy process?

Secondly, federal farm subsidy programs should be a guiding and controlling force in agricultural management, not a cash cow providing farmers money for whatever crop they can make the most money on. This is a classic case of the, "tail wagging the dog." It is especially disappointing to have a heavily watered crop e.g. alfalfa, be purchased in California and sold overseas. Whatever subsidy that farmer is receiving from the government, it should be eliminated. The government needs to manage better where and what crops are grown. Therefore, we are in desperate need of federal farm subsidy reform.

Lastly, drip irrigation would be our best solution to minimize water use by farmers. This program does need the help of an incentive program from the State of California. Maybe some of the \$25 billion in federal farm subsidy money could be added to the \$100 million in drip irrigation State incentives. It would seem money well spent.

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

Footnote: Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director, Tuolumne River Trust - Socioeconomic Impact of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan on SFPUC customers: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJQ5Rhdu6vY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJQ5Rhdu6vY)

**“Farmers in California are free from most water regulation, can use all the water they want and export products abroad, while Californians living in the cities, must reduce their water use?”**

China increasing, many foreign buyers come to California where water is not sold at its true value, to purchase alfalfa inexpensively and ship it home. In fact, the price of shipping alfalfa to China from Long Beach, CA is said to be cheaper than transporting it within California. Therefore, the incentive to purchase some crops in California is that they are very inexpensive to ship by freight over the ocean.

Is this the way a free market system should work in California? Farmers in California are free from most water regulation, can use all the water they want and export products abroad, while Californians living in the cities, must reduce their water use?

The problem of excessive water use is not just with alfalfa, cotton and rice but also with almonds and walnuts. Today, more acreage is used to grow almonds than hay (alfalfa). According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, "California alfalfa hay acreage has fallen from about 1.1 million acres in 2006 to under 820,000 acres today. In the same time frame, California almond acreage increased from about 750,000 acres to one million acres plus." Today, one almond requires 1.1 gallons of

provides farmers an incentive. Over a 5 year period, \$100 million in grant money from the State has been provided to convert farms to drip irrigation. In one water district, that has converted to drip irrigation, water use has declined 40% to 60%. Surplus water can be sold to neighboring water districts. It is with drip irrigation that the best savings of water can be realized.

One incentive that should be removed, however, is federal farm subsidy programs that pay farmers to overproduce crops, distort land use, distort choice of crops and inadequately control cost. Farmers have benefited greatly from this system and earn on average far more than most Americans. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) spends \$25 billion or more a year on subsidies for farm businesses. Some say farm subsidies are welfare for the rich. Certainly one thing we can all agree on, any federal subsidy that supports the incorrect use of water in California should be abolished. Defeating the lobbyists that support federal subsidies in California could be the answer to our water dilemma.

## DAVID SUNDING'S FLAWED STUDY:

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Police Report (Cont. from p. 7)

Driving While Intoxicated – Vehicle Collision

2:19 am | 19th Ave & Eucalyptus Dr  
Seeing that a solo vehicle had struck a parked vehicle, officers detected a moderate odor of alcoholic beverage on the suspect's breath. The driver failed a field sobriety test and was taken to the hospital for further testing. Later, the driver was arrested.

Shoplifting – Warrant Arrest – Check Fraud

7:35 pm | 3200 20th Ave  
Store security saw a suspect take a pair of sweat pants from a rack, and walk out without paying. When officers searched him, he had numerous checks from different people. A computer check revealed two warrants for his arrest. He was arrested.

Carjacking

9:00 pm | 00 Fuente Ave  
The victim said she was unloading her car when three suspects approached her brandishing a knife and demanded her car. One of the suspects grabbed the key from her while she victim ran away. The suspects fled in the victim's vehicle.

No driver's License – Possession of Burglary Tools

11:47 am | Lincoln Way & Great Hwy  
A sergeant saw two suspects suspiciously inspecting many cars. While one drove the vehicle, the other scrutinized several cars on foot before returning to their car. They then moved forward a short distance and repeat. After several cycles of this, the suspects were questioned. A computer check on the driver revealed that he did not have a driver's license. Officers also located a rescue tool, which is also commonly used to commit vehicle burglaries. Both subjects were cited.

Robbery with a Firearm – Warrant Arrest

3:00 pm | Santa Rosa Police  
Santa Rosa Police informed SIT that a suspect was apprehended from a robbery incident that occurred several days earlier in the back of a u-haul truck. They located additional evidence linking the suspect to two other, separate, robberies. He was arrested.

Friday / June 16

Warrant – Narcotics Paraphernalia – Heroin Offense

10:20 am | 2000 15th Ave  
The witness saw a suspect jump over several fences. Officers found the suspect appearing to be under the influence of narcotics and unable to answer questions. A search of the suspect revealed a glass pipe with a black tar

like substance — most likely heroin. A syringe needle was also found in his pocket. A computer check found a warrant for his arrest. The suspect was arrested.

Assault

12:53 pm | Address Confidential  
The victim came home and found the suspect asleep in their bed and believed that he had been drinking. He got up and locked himself in the bathroom, then pushed her when he opened the bathroom door, punched and grabbed her when she attempted to flee. The suspect then called the police and reported that she had a knife. Officers investigated and arrested the suspect.

Saturday / June 17

Shoplifting with Force – Assault

12:40 pm | 3200 20th Ave  
The victims said two suspects walked into the store, selected merchandise and tried to walk out g. A store clerk, attempted to detain a suspect but the second suspect attacked the victim with a large can of pepper spray. The suspects fled.

Probation Violation – Vehicle Burglary – Resisting or Delaying Arrest

12:20 pm | 800 Lincoln Way  
Rec. and Park Rangers detained a possible auto boost suspect they saw stopped at a car looking around trying to open the doors. The suspect suddenly charged the Rangers in an attempt to flee. A search revealed a wallet containing credit and ID cards belonging to others. A computer check revealed he was on probation for burglary. The suspect was arrested.

Sunday / June 18

Battery – Possession of a Switchblade

1:11 pm | 500 John Muir Dr  
Officers serving a restraining order on a suspect involved in a domestic incident were in the elevator to his apartment when he entered the same elevator. They detained him and served the restraining order. Asked if he had any weapons in his possession, he said he had a pocketknife which later was revealed to be an illegal switchblade. The suspect was arrested.

Shoplifting with Force

8:21 pm | 1600 Ocean Ave  
A Walgreen's manager saw the suspect walk immediately to the electronics aisle and briefly disappear from view before walking rapidly back out of the store. The suspect was apparently trying to conceal a box inside his jacket and he tried to stop him. The suspect responded by hitting

the manager three times, and the victim to backed away. The suspect left the store and entered a nearby Target to change clothes. A Target employee notified the police who found the suspect with the stolen items from Walgreen's. He was arrested.

Monday / June 19

Shoplifting – Possession-Burglary Tools

2:00 pm | 3200 20th Ave  
The witness, a store employee, saw the suspect select merchandise and put them into her purse and attempt to leave. The suspect was detained and the witness said she had previously stolen approximately three hundred thousand dollars worth of merchandise in past incidents. Officers found that she had a warrant for her arrest. The suspect was arrested.

Tuesday / June 20

Warrant Arrest

7:52 pm | 19th Ave & Lincoln Way  
Report of a passenger harassing a MUNI Driver and acting strangely brought officers into contact with the subject who immediately placed his hands behind his back without prompting. He said he had four shots of alcohol and wanted to harm himself. A computer check revealed a warrant for his arrest out of Orange County. He was transported to the hospital to be evaluated and was later arrested.

Wednesday / June 21

Stolen Property – Burglary Tools – Methamphetamine

12:24 am | 1400 La Playa St  
The owner, who had just come home while the suspect was breaking-in said he had met the suspect a week before when the suspect had ridden by on his motorcycle and asked questions, but the victim believed the motorcycle was stolen. A witness also said the suspect was shaking a gates to see if they were unlocked and continued to watch him look into a nearby parked truck. A computer check on the motorcycle confirmed that it was stolen, that the suspect was on probation and a search located numerous items that are commonly used to break into homes and vehicles as well as Methamphetamine on the suspect. H was arrested.

Assault – Shoplifting

7:42 pm | 1200 Irving St  
The victim, an employee, said the suspect came into the store who had a history of shoplifting in the store. When he walked out with two bottles of wine, he was detained,

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LUCY W. | Film, Television & Electronic Media Major

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..... JULY / AUGUST 2017 .....

**Time flies department...** Here we are and it's suddenly...summer! Although that means a good helping of coastal fog and wind, it's time to get out and enjoy the bounty of things to do around the city and the bay. Outdoor dining, farmers markets, sailing, hiking, taking in the local 9's (that's baseball), checking out the museums and galleries, or taking a day trip to the wine country, we are fortunate to have so many things to entertain us, and many of them affordable.

**Basketball heroics...** congratulations to the Golden State Warriors on their NBA championship takedown of the foes from Cleveland. It was a great season and everyone is a little sorry to see it end, as we now turn our attention to the (lost) baseball season. Did I hear someone ask when the NFL training camps open? (It's in mid-July.)



**Library doings...@the Merced branch...**the Merced branch of the SFPL is showing the film "To Sir, With Love" starring Sidney Poitier on Wednesday, July 19 at 6:30 PM to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Summer of Love. They have many other summer programs as well. Check out their calendar at: [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**Indian music and Sufi Poetry...** The main library will be presenting an afternoon of Indian music and Sufi poetry on July 9, 2017 in the Koret Auditorium from 3-4:40 PM. Classical singer Ayesha Nadir Ali will sing classical Indian music set to the poetry of classical poets. Location is at 100 Larkin Street @ Grove. For more information call: 415.557.4401



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Where's who?  
Waldo, of course!  
BookShop West Portal is sponsoring its fourth annual Where's Waldo Shop Local treasure hunt! The hunt runs from Saturday, July 1st through Monday, July 31st. The store will be handing out exactly 250 passports. Once they've been distributed, there will be no further official entries, so don't delay. Each passport lists the roughly two dozen participating merchants where Waldo hunters can seek their elusive prey.  
Unlike in years past, the store will not be hosting a prize-awarding party at the end of the month. Rather, every

child turning in a completed passport will receive an instant prize--be it a gift certificate from a local merchant, a free ice cream cone, or for one lucky child, the custom designed quilt on display in the bookstore.

This annual event has been popular with both customers and merchants for the past several summers. Bands of diligently searching children canvassing the West Portal neighborhood draw smiles from all. Full details and passports can be found at BookShop West Portal at 80 West Portal Avenue, SF (415) 564-8080.

**Summer Gardening...** the team over at the Garden for the Environment has many workshops, events and volunteer days throughout July and August. In July they have scheduled: Urban Composting; The Edible Garden; Worms! and Summer Fruit Tree Pruning.



Located at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lawton St. they have been "growing" the urban garden since 1990. For more information: 415.558.8246 or [www.gardenfortheenvironment.org](http://www.gardenfortheenvironment.org).



**Music for all...** I recently attended the West of Twin Peaks Central Council meeting and was exposed to performers from the San Francisco Community Music Center, located at 544 Capp St. The school, in operation since 1921, has to be one of the "best kept secrets" in the city. They have an extensive catalog of individual and group classes both in instrumental and choral training and serve students in ages from 1 to 100. Want to learn accordion to violin? They can teach it. Hammered dulcimer, Euphonium, Mandolin? They have you covered. An unknown terrific resource for people of all ages. Check them out at [www.sfcmc.org](http://www.sfcmc.org). Take a class, volunteer, or make a donation. Let's get the word out!

**GoBike - From Ford Motor Company and Motivate...**the Metropolitan Transit Commission announced this week that a regional bike sharing system, called GoBike, will be rolling out a five-city build out over the next year. When fully installed next year, the system, formed by bike share leader, Motivate, and Ford Motor Company will feature 7000 bikes at 546 stations in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Emeryville and Berkeley. This venture will require no public financing and is being sponsored by Ford, as well as sponsoring partners, City National Bank, Alaska Airlines, and Motivate. Annual memberships will provide unlimited short (45 minute) trips. 24 hour and three-day access passes provide unlimited 30-minute trips. Bike Share for All offers \$5 per year introductory memberships as well as a cash-payment option for low-income residents. For more information visit: [www.FordGoBike.com](http://www.FordGoBike.com).



**Shopping "local"...** this is just a reminder to shop local when you can. Our city is unique with many "village-like" commercial venues such as West Portal Avenue, Ocean Avenue, Irving St., Columbus Avenue, Taraval St., etc. With online shopping chipping away at sales, and the cost of rents skyrocketing, we need to continue to support our neighborhood "retail-warriors" while they are here for us. You don't have to look closely to see increasing vacancies in all of the districts, from the Sunset to the Castro and everywhere in between. I know that parking can be problematic, but if you can shop locally, it helps everyone. Studies show that over 50% of the dollars spent at locally owned establishments stay in the local economy.

Do you have an event, a neighborhood fact or just an observation to share? Drop us a line at [mitch@westsideobserver.com](mailto:mitch@westsideobserver.com) and share your ideas or just let us know what you think.

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- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

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

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July / August Calendar



80TH ANNUAL STERN GROVE FESTIVAL • 19TH AVENUE AND SLOAT BLVD. • 2 PM

**SUNDAY July 9 | SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY | Edwin Outwater, Conductor**  
San Francisco Symphony returns for its annual summer appearance at Stern Grove Festival. Led by conductor Edwin Outwater, the afternoon’s program features Mozart, French chansons, and more:

**SUNDAY July 16 | Eric Burdon and The Animals and The Stone Foxes**  
Eric Burdon has one of the most powerful and distinctive voices in rock and roll. Forging new territory while also topping the charts for more than five decades, his hits include “House of the Rising Sun,” “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood,” the Vietnam-era anthem “We Gotta Get Out Of This Place,” the psychedelic San Francisco classics “San Franciscan Nights” and “Monterey.”  
Popular San Francisco rock band The Stone Foxes have a sound that is blues infused and a little bit countrytinged with punk, surf, and Americana. NPR’s World Café notes they “...have an energetic style that’s rooted in swampy, foot-stomping rock...ambitious arrangements with diverse moods.” This performance is a nod to the on-going “Summer of Love” anniversary celebration in San Francisco this summer.

**SUNDAY July 23 | Los Angeles Azules and Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco**  
Los Angeles Azules (Blue Angels), pioneers of Mexican romantic tropical Cumbia music, was founded by four brothers in Iztapalapa, Mexico City in 1976 and have been officially active since 1983. They will be joined on stage by Latin American singer/musician/songwriter Jay de la Cueva, lead singer for the rock band Moderatto, and GRAMMY-nominated singer/songwriter Ximena Sariñana. Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco The dancers are all committed to the continuation of one of the richest manifestations of tradition and culture in Mexico—Folkloric dance. They plan to debut two new works and will feature 35 dancers with a dozen musicians. Presented in association with the Mexican Consulate, part of the MexAm Festival, showcasing the best performing ideas from Mexico.

**SUNDAY July 30 | San Francisco Ballet with Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson**  
Renowned for its incomparable level of innovation, the San Francisco Ballet is one of the three largest ballet companies, not to mention the longest-running, in the United States. Since its early years under the direction of American dance pioneers and brothers Lew, William, and Harold Christensen, San Francisco Ballet now presents more than 100 performances annually, both locally and internationally. **SUNDAY August 6 | Amadou & Mariam and Ibibio Sound Machine** Amadou & Mariam This popular blind couple from Mali have managed to joyfully combine their love story with a musical career, all the while becoming ambassadors for Malian and African music all around the world. Leading the songs to the dance floor and underlining their intrinsically danceable AfroPop. Amadou & Mariam have played the world’s biggest festivals, from Coachella to Glastonbury. Fronted by London-born Nigerian singer Eno Williams, Ibibio Sound Machine is a clash of African and electronic elements inspired in equal measure by the golden era of West African funk, disco, modern postpunk, and electro.

**SUNDAY | August 13 – WAR and Malo**  
WAR began as Eric Burdon’s American backup band when he left The Animals to go solo. Their Latin-flavored song “Spill the Wine” became a worldwide hit and launched the band’s career. WAR has featured numerous, rotating band members are known for the hit songs “The World Is a Ghetto,” “Why Can’t We Be Friends?” “Slippin’ Into Darkness,” “The Cisco Kid,” “Gypsy Man,” “Low Rider,” “Summer,” “Outlaw,” and “You Got the Power.” The evolution of WAR began in 1969 and WAR has been evolving ever since.  
Malo is a San Francisco-based Latin-tinged rock and roll group born in the Mission district in the early ‘70s and led by vocalist Arcelio Garcia, Jr. and guitarist Jorge Santana (brother of Carlos). Today they front a lineup that features full horn and percussion sections delivering their signature ballads to high-energy Latin grooves. Their 1972 hit single “Suavecito,” a mellow romantic tune, became a low-rider classic and is called “The Chicano National Anthem.”

**SUNDAY | August 20 – Brazilian Girls and Moon Hooch**  
GRAMMY-nominated Brazilian Girls, known for their eclectic blend of electronic dance music reflecting styles as diverse as reggae, jazz, boss nova, world, reggae, and lounge. Founded in 2003, the NYC-based quartet (with no Brazilians and only one girl) are the descendants of New Wave pioneers. Veterans of Coachella and Bonnaroo, Brazilian Girls know how to ignite a crowd with a jazzy, seductive dance beat. In just a few short years, the horn-and-percussion trio Moon Hooch have gone from playing on New York City subway platforms to touring with the likes of Beats Antique, They Might Be Giants, and Lotus, as well as selling out their own headline shows in major venues around the country. The dynamic trio blend elements of virtuosic jazz, groovy funk, and pulse-pounding electronic dance music.

**SUNDAY | August 27 – Mavis Staples and Kev Choice Ensemble**  
Mavis Staples is living, breathing history, weaving herself into the very fabric of gospel, soul, folk, pop, R&B, blues, rock, and hip-hop over the last 60 years. From the Delta-inflected gospel sound she helped create in the 1950s with her father, Pops, and her brother and sisters as The Staple Singers, to the freedom songs of the Civil Rights era, to pop radio stardom during the Stax era with hits “I’ll Take You There” and “Respect Yourself,” to The Last Waltz. Now in her seventh decade, with the release of her new album Livin’ on a High Note, she is only gaining momentum.  
Kev Choice of Oakland wears many hats—pianist, emcee, producer, sideman, music historian, and bandleader. He leads a jazz-hip-hop-funk big band, the Kev Choice Ensemble, performing classical, jazz, soul, rock, and funk-inspired hip-hop.

**Concerts start promptly at 2 pm, and end between 4:30 and 5:30 pm. Stern Grove is located at 19th Ave. and Sloat Blvd. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Arrive early for best seating.** Benches are reserved for seniors and disabled patrons and seats are first come, first served. Share the Space! To ensure visibility for all patrons, tents and large shade structures are not allowed. If you have a small umbrellas be aware that it must be down prior to and during the performance. Please bring only lawn chairs that are low to the ground with backs at shoulder height. Please be considerate so everyone can enjoy the day! No pets, no smoking, no barbecues no video or audio recording equipment, no professional still camera equipment, no skateboards, scooters, weapons, fireworks or illegal substances.

INFO: [sterngrove.org](http://sterngrove.org)



**EDVARD MUNCH AT SF MOMA JUNE 24 - OCT 9**  
As a young man in the late 19th century, Edvard Munch’s (1863–1944) bohemian pictures placed him among the most celebrated and controversial artists of his generation. But as he confessed in 1939, his true “break-through came very late in life, really only starting when I was 50 years old.” One of Munch’s last works, Self-Portrait. Between the Clock and the Bed (1940–43) — with its themes of desire, mortality, isolation and anxiety — serves as a touchstone and guide to the approximately 45 works in the exhibition. Together, these paintings propose an alternative view of Munch as an artist as revolutionary in the 20th century as he was when he made a name for himself in the Symbolist era. Tix / Info: [sfmoma.org](http://sfmoma.org)

**EVERY SUNDAY • 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 - Lafayette Square. SF’s illustrious history, steep streets & fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations OK. MUNI 1, 3. [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org)

**EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!**  
**Tue/Thu | 8:30 am | Sat: 9 am** | Get into shape. FREE exercise classes. SF State & Rec and Park. Turf field at Minnie & Lovie Ward Park, 650 Capitol. [100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com](mailto:100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com), [www.100citizens.org](http://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 \$15 (\$12 Members). [calademy.org/nightlife](http://calademy.org/nightlife).

**JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE**  
**Every Fri | 7–11 pm** | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. [cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html](http://cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html).

**FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG**  
**Every Fri | 5–8:45 pm** | Music, poetry, films, dance, tours and lectures. Cafe: special dinner, no-host bar. Art-making children/adults. deYoung Museum, GG Park. [deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays](http://deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays)

**FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON**  
**Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30/Bands 7:30-10: pm** | Over 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? That’s a party! Free. Ft. Mason Ctr. Two Marina Blvd.

**SAT • FREE E-BOOKS**  
**Sat 3-4 pm** | More than 40,000 free eBooks with one-on-one help from a librarian. Bring your Kindle, iPad, smartphone etc. 20 minute appointments available. RSVP: [info@sfppl.org](mailto:info@sfppl.org) with preferred date/time, and device. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.



**SUN • COMMUNITY YOGA**  
**Every Sun | 10 am** | Bring Your Own Mat for some outdoor yoga at Playland at 43rd Ave. All classes are

FREE and DROP IN. (Rain cancels.) 1360 43rd Ave & Judah. Info: [Playland Yoga Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/PlaylandYoga)

**DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN**  
Learn Basic Computer Skills—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.



**Ongoing - Jul 9 | Various times** | American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) will extend the run of Broadway’s acclaimed musical A Night with Janis Jo-plin at Geary Theater (415 Geary St.) “Me and Bobby McGee,” “Piece of My Heart,” “Mercedes Benz,” “Cry Baby,” and “Summertime,” — one of rock and roll’s greatest legends. [www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org).

**ONGOING • HAMILTON**  
**Ongoing - Aug 5 | Various times** | Hamilton made its New York debut Off-Broadway at the Public Theater in 2015 and was extended three times due to public demand. President Obama himself deemed it good enough for two visits! In 2016, it won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and scooped 11 Tony Awards. Tix: \$300-500 Range [theatersanfrancisco.com](http://theatersanfrancisco.com)

**ONGOING • ROAD TO SUMMER OF LOVE**  
**Ongoing – Sep 10** | Summer of 1967, young people converged on SF’s Haight-Ashbury district. California Historical Society’s exhibit of the counter-cultural movement through photographs—from the Beat poets to the art scene CHS, 678 Mission St. [californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://californiahistoricalsociety.org)

**WED • ORIGAMI**  
**Wed Jul 5 | 3 pm** | A special program with origami artist Shinta Arifin. Create a variety of interesting ob-jects by folding paper. For children and tweens ages 5 and up. Merced Library, 155 Winston Dr.

**WED • FREEDOM FROM FRACTURES**  
**Sat Jul 8 | 10 am - 2 pm** | The 2nd Saturday in July as an annual national fracture risk screening day to raise awareness about the risk of fractures and help keep bones strong for life. Main Library, 100 Larkin.

**SAT-SUN • END BREAST CANCER WALK**  
**Sat Jul 8 - Sun Jul 9** | San Francisco 39ers will feed their hearts as they walk through the city by the bay. Trek gorgeous neighborhoods like Pacific Heights and the Presidio, cross the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, and take in beautiful views of the bay and the ocean. Info: [www.avon39.org/san-francisco](http://www.avon39.org/san-francisco)





**TUE • LOOM WEAVING**

**Tue Jul 11 | 7 pm** | Learn the basics of the art of weaving using a loom made from a cardboard box. Create a mini woven wall hanging with beautiful yarns and beads. 355-5770 or email [psimg@sfpl.org](mailto:psimg@sfpl.org) to register. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval St.

**TUE • MEET A PARK RANGER**

**Tue Jul 11 | 2 pm** | All ages will delight in learning about the flora, fauna, and tales of San Francisco through masterful storytelling from your local National Park Service Ranger. West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lenox Way.

**TUE • NERT TRAINING**

**Tue Jul 11 | 9 am - 4 pm** | Learn hands-on disaster skills that will help as members of an emergency response team, preparing to respond to a personal emergency or as an adjunct to the SFFD response. The 20 hour training consists of six class sessions that are approximately 3 hours each. Free to the public. California College of the Arts, 1111 8th St. July 18; Class 3 & 4 July 25, Class 5 & 6. [sf-fire.org](http://sf-fire.org)

**WED • DISABILITY ACTIVISM**

**Wed Jul 12 | 6 pm** | The successful 504 occupation of SF's Federal Building for nearly a month 40 years ago—could it happen today? Disabled organizers to consider the legacy of the 504 protests and the current state of disability activism. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

**THU • 40TH PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**

**Thu Jul 13 - Sun Jul 23** | Extraordinary new plays in an intimate setting, enjoy panels, cocktail parties, discussions, and networking events (free with your ticket). Schedule: [bayareaplaywrightsfestival.org/](http://bayareaplaywrightsfestival.org/).

**THU • FLOWER PIANO**

**Thu Jul 13 - Jul 24 | 9 am - 6 pm** | Flower Piano



is back for its third year, celebrating music, nature, and creativity. 12 pianos are placed at dramatic, picturesque locations throughout the Garden's 55 acres for 12 days, for anyone to play, except during performances. FREE for SF residents with proof of residency (\$8 non-residents) SF Botanical Garden, GG Park.

**THU • COOL HAND LUKE**

**Thu Jul 13 | Noon** | In a Florida prison farm, Luke (Paul Newman) doesn't play by the rules of either the sadistic warden or the yard's resident heavy, (George Kennedy) "What we have here is a failure to communicate..." Main Library, Koret, 100 Larkin St.

**SAT • PARK TRIP!**

**Sat Jul 15 | 11 am - 3 pm** | Join us on a trip to Baker Beach, a mile-long sandy shoreline in the Presidio with amazing views of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge — it never gets old! The beach is perfect for a barefoot stroll along the surf. Bring a picnic blanket and — of course — extra layers! at West Portal Branch Library, 2 pm ranger talk. Register today [njelks@sfpl.org](mailto:njelks@sfpl.org)

**SUN • AIDS WALK SF**

**Sun Jul 16 | 9 am-2:30 pm** | Walk this 10K to remember those lost, help those affected, and continue the fight to end AIDS. Benefits Bay Area HIV/AIDS organizations. Free (general walkers), 615-9255, [aidswalk.net](http://aidswalk.net) Starts/Ends: Sharon Meadow, GG Park.

**SUN • SUMMER OF LOVE & HAIGHT**

**Sun Jul 16 | 1 pm** | The countercultural revolution of the hippies during the Summer of Love is revealed in *Revolution*— sex, drugs, philosophy and lifestyle. Music: Country Joe & the Fish, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Steve Miller band and others. A panel discussion follows the film. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

Related exhibition: Summer of Love & Haight, Main Library, Jewett Gallery, Jul 15 – Oct 29.

**WED • BATS!**

**Wed Jul 18 | 2 pm** | Come learn all about our night time neighbors with presenter Corky Quirk and her rescued bats! Norcal Bats, located in the Central Valley of California, promotes the importance of bats through education of the public and wildlife rescue. Merced Library, 155 Winston Dr.

**WED • TO SIR WITH LOVE**

**Wed Jul 19 | 6:30 pm** | To mark the Summer of Love, one of the hit films of 1967 starring Sidney Poitier, *To Sir, With Love*, tells the story of an engineer who accepts a teaching post in London's East End slums. Merced Library, 155 Winston Dr.

**THU • BONNIE & CLYDE**

**Thu Jul 20 | Noon** | A small-time crook tries to steal a car and winds up with its owner's daughter, dissatisfied small-town girl. Their crimes quickly spiral from petty theft to bank robbery, but tensions between the couple and the their gang could destroy them all. Main Library, Koret, 100 Larkin St.

**THU • BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY**

**Thu Jul 20 | 6 pm** | Award-winning *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* - the outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern women's movement, from the founding of NOW, with ladies in hats and gloves, to more radical factions of the street theatrics of WITCH (Women's International Conspiracy from Hell!) Tix / Info: [californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://californiahistoricalsociety.org).

**FRI • KITE MAKING**

**Fri Jul 18 | 2 pm** | Join us to create your own unique kite and test run it at the park next to the library. For age 5+. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval St.

**THU • IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT**

**Thu Jul 27 | Noon** | Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier) is arrested on suspicion of murder by Bill Gillespie (Rod Steiger), the racist police chief of Sparta, Mississippi. Tibbs proves his innocence tracks down the real killer. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St.

**THU • ENGAGING IN DEMOCRACY**

**Thu Jul 27 | 6 pm** | League of Women Voters SF on the current political climate. Featuring clips by We the Voters re: civic engagement issues such as running for office and voting, with a lively panel. Learn how to take action in the democratic process. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

**SUN • DRUG TAKE-BACK**

**Sun Jul 30 | 10 am - 2 pm** | Get rid of old prescription medications that are cluttering up your medicine cabinets! Bring them to the MED-Project Prescription Drug Take-Back that will take place outside the entrance to the Merced Branch, 155 Winston.

**SUN • HEALTHCARE FOR EVERYONE**

**Sun Jul 30 | 1 - 4 pm** | *Now is the Time: Healthcare for Everybody*, a documentary film by Terry Sterrenberg and Laurie Simons, talks about what's happening with America's healthcare system and what you can do about it. Discussion following: Jeff Gee, MD, Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), Barb Ryan, RN, California Nurses Association (CNA), a representative from the Healthy California Act (SB 562). Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

**TUE • AUTHOR FORREST LEO**

**Tue Aug 1 | 7 pm** | A funny, fantastically entertaining debut novel, *The Gentleman* in the spirit of Wodehouse and Monty Python. A popular poet in Victorian London, learns from his butler that they're broke, he inadvertently sells his wife to the devil—then recruits a band of adventurers to rescue her. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

**SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY**

**Sun Aug 6 | 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 • THE APARTMENT**

**Thu Aug 3 | Noon** | C.C. Baxter (Jack Lemmon) lends his Upper West Side apartment to company bosses to use for extramarital affairs. Baxter is disappointed to learn that a mistress is Fran Kubelik (Shirley Maclaine), the elevator girl at work he is interested in. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

**TUE • CONSERVATORY FREE DAY**

**Tue Aug 8 | 10 am-4:30 pm** | An intimate, up-

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**TUE • DISABILITY & AGING RESOURCES**

**Tue Aug 8 | 2:30 - 4:30** | The Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) provides free services for older adults 60+ and adults with disabilities: info, referrals, benefits assistance, housing resources, translation filling out forms and much more. Info: 415 202-2982. Atrium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

**TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY**

**Tue Aug 8 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm** | Art from 17th-20th centuries, native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagi-wara Tea Garden Drive. Free first Tuesdays.

**TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY**

**Tue Aug 8 | 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.

**THU • AUTHOR RHYS BOWEN**

**Thu Aug 10 | 7 pm** | In *On Her Majesty's Frightfully Secret Service*, her cousin the queen is in need of a spy to attend a house party in the Italian lake country. The Prince of Wales and the dreadful Mrs. Simp-son have been invited, and Her Majesty is anxious to thwart a possible secret wedding. at Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

**THU • A SHOT IN THE DARK**

**Thu Aug 10 | Noon** | Inspector Clouseau makes his first appearance in this quintessential '60s comedy. Starring Peter Sellers, directed by Blake Edwards, with music by Henry Mancini. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

**THU • YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**

**Thu Aug 17 | Noon** | Respected medical lecturer Dr. Frederick Frankenstein (Gene Wilder) learns that he has inherited his infamous grandfather's estate in Transylvania and begins to recreate his grandfather's experiments. Main Library, Koret, 100 Larkin.

**SAT • HARLEM OF THE WEST**

**Sat Aug 19 | 2 pm** | Celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Harlem of the West*. Authors Elizabeth Pepin and Lewis Watts will discuss the rich history of the Fillmore District and its musical legacy that vanished abruptly due to redevelopment in the 1960s. Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

**SUN • UNLOCKING THE CAGE**

**Sun Aug 20 | 1 - 4 pm** | *Unlocking the Cage* follows animal rights lawyer Steven Wise. Steve and his legal team, the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP), recently filed the first ever lawsuits seeking to trans-form an animal from a "thing" with no rights to a "person" with legal protections. Koret, 100 Larkin St.

**TUE • AUTHOR MATT RICHTEL**

**Tue Aug 22 | 7 pm** | Matt Richtel is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist with the New York Times by day, and he lives right here in the neighborhood. In *Dead on Arrival* (Launch) "Michael Crichton meets Stephen King at their finest ... with the creepiest opening I've ever read." — *Lisa Gardner*. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

**THU • THIS IS SPINAL TAP**

**Thu Aug 24 | Noon** | This "mockumentary" finds a metal band's struggle to get back on the charts, i—ups and downs, name changes and undersold concerts, along with groupies, promoters, hangers-on. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

**THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION**

**Thu Aug 31 | 7 pm** | OMI-NIA General Meeting is the last Thu each month. Temple UMC, 65 Beverly.

**THU • MOTHER**

**Thu Aug 31 | Noon** | A neurotic, twice-divorced sci-fi writer (Albert Brooks) moves back in with his mother (Debbie Reynolds) to solve his personal problems. Brooks and Reynolds are a wonderful comic team and anyone who's had a mother will find something to laugh about here. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

**Local event? Priority for Westside events editor@westsideobserver.com**

**BOOKSHOP**  
WEST PORTAL

**June 2017  
Bestsellers**

**WHAT ARE YOU READING?**

1. *Underground River* by Martha Conway \*
2. *Al Franken, Giant of the Senate* by Al Franken
3. *Murder in Saint-Germain* by Cara Black \*
4. *Theft by Finding: Diaries (1977 - 2002)* by David Sedaris
5. *Unreliable* by Lee Irby \*
6. *Golden: The Miraculous Rise of Steph Curry* by Marcus Thompson
7. *The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne \*
8. *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World* by Chelsea Clinton
9. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* by Arundhati Roy
10. *Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel* by Adam Rubin
11. *Camino Island* by John Grisham
12. *The Unbreakable Code* - Jennifer Chambliss Bertman \*
13. *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur
14. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
15. *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz

\*Spoke at BookShop West Portal; signed copies available.



At the Theater • Flora & Linda

The Legend of Georgia McBride

Bay Area Premier of Matthew Lopez's Sparkling Hit Wraps Up MTC's 50th Anniversary Season

In stark contrast to other work in **Playwright Matthew Lopez's** award-winning repertoire, this is a fast-paced and charming 90-minute comedy, directed by the prestigious **Kent Gash**, who helmed other MTC productions (Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Choir Boy* in 2015 and August Wilson's *7 Guitars* in 2011).

Marin Theatre Company is thrilled to have this fabulously raucous comedy to wrap up its 2016-2017 Season. *The Legend of Georgia McBride* premiered in 2015 at the Denver Center Theater for The Performing Arts and has since been produced nationally at the off-Broadway Theater MCC in New York, the Ringwald Theater in Michigan, the Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia, and most recently at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. Matthew Lopez is also the author of the *Whipping Man*, one of the most widely-produced new American plays of the last several years. It was produced at MTC several years ago.

When this Critic took her far left seat in the front row, she saw in front of her a stage covered with a lovely curtain. (Throughout, the headset was not working well, so the dialogue was hard to hear, but the non-stop-action was so broad it was obvious as to what was going on.) Casey (**Adam Magill**, also in MTC's recent productions of *Native Son* and *Christmas at Pemberley*), an Elvis Presley impersonator, is barely making a living when he finds a path to prosperity by becoming a lip-syncing drag queen. He is young, broke, his landlord is knocking at the door, and he just found out his wife is going to have a baby. To make matters even more desperate, Casey is fired from his gig as the Elvis Presley impersonator in a run-down, small-town Florida bar. When the bar owner, Eddie (**John R. Lewis**), brings in a B-level drag show to replace his act, Casey finds he has a whole lot to learn about show business and himself!

Casey is a decent Elvis Presley impersonator; however, the tiny snippet of his act isn't enough to form much of an impression, although it does tell us he is the kind of impersonator who lip syncs instead of singing. We also know he is dedicated... performing in the Florida dive bar is his passion (and the closest thing he has to a job). The problem is that nobody comes to see his act, so he is being replaced by the owner's brother's drag show. Right after that, he finds out his wife is pregnant, and they're on the verge of being kicked out of their home for bounced rent checks! Played with an endearing awkwardness, Casey is sort of aimless and irresponsible – not really thinking things through, but he and his wife Jo (sympathetically portrayed by **Tatiana Wechsler**) clearly adore each other, even though she's frustrated by having to be the responsible "bad cop" all the time.

**Kraig Swartz** is marvelously wry as Casey's drag mentor and performing partner Miss Tracy Mills, a middle-aged drag queen who comes down in the world and clings to this gig as her last chance. **Jason Kapoor** (recently in MTC's *Guards of the Taj* and last year's production of *The Invisible Hand*) is hilariously sharp-tongued and prickly as the full-time drag queen Remy. Kapoor also plays Jason, Casey's amusing bad-luck landlord.

At first, Casey is supposed to be awful at drag, yet, for much of the play he and Joe and Tracy have the hesitancy of interlopers, always withholding a bit rather than fully owning "awful." (Ironically, when the more seasoned performers criticized Casey, they could be saying as much about the show's acting.)

**John R. Lewis**, as the club manager would be a comic standout in another show. As an inept MC, he clumsily grips his cue cards as if expecting to be booed for the way he undermines the success of the drag queens backstage before their entrances.

The Lopez script requires us to sit through a drama that can be summed up in 3 words: rent, landlord, and pregnancy. He tries to make Casey's wife Jo seem more than a nag, by having her identify herself as such. The excellent (and ludicrous)

costumes (by **Kara Harman**) were entertainment all by themselves and did much to compensate – for example, a revealing trench coat with adorable plastic rain covers for strapping onto shoes. Fringe on one of Casey's coats evokes images of whirling brushes in a carwash, particularly with the mechanical swiveling by **Dell Howlett's** choreography. Still, drag requires much more than great attire. "It's not," as Miss Tracy says, "a J Crew sweater. You can't just pull it off and on as easily as that."

**Kent Gash** directs the entire show with a deft touch for over-the-top sprinkled with outlandish. He tries to ensure laughs will be had by all and provide moments of soul-searching truths with some sort of self-discovery.

There are a lot of radical transformations during the course of Matthew Lopez's *Legend of Georgia McBride* – physical, career, family fortune, and more importantly a sense of self-image and self-worth. This play takes time to make important points about the bonding and love that happens behind the scenes among stage performers -- even among sassy drag queens.

**Marin Theatre Company** is blessed with a number of highly capable drag performers who might have been tapped for this production (and that is true). Clearly part of the fun for us is seeing actors who aren't known for drag performances step up to the roles in high heels! I doubt that the team intended to slight anyone in choosing not to hire working drag queens, but some of us will wonder if this was the best choice and is a point that should be raised and thought about. Still, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* is full of heart and provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Pride month at the theater.

This is not a work of theatrical art that should be judged as such. The *Legend of Georgia McBride* legend is entertainment – a show, pure and simple. As such, it depends on the ability of the performers and director to persuade us to overlook the author's inadequacies, and decide that their efforts (irrespective of any shortcomings that they also might have) are worth watching. Go, and judge for yourself. You might just judge it fantastic!

Credit goes to **Jason Sherwood** as Scenic Designer, and **Kurt Landisman** as the Lighting Designer, and Chris Houston as Composer and Sound Designer, as well as Jessica Berman as the Dialect Coach, and Laura Brueckner as Dramaturg. As for the music in the show, the song "Lost in Sound" has lyrics by Matthew Lopez and music by **Joe Lippett**, **Chris Houston** and **Adam Magill**. The *Legend of Georgia McBride* is wildly entertaining and pure fun.

Its run began June 8 thru July 9th at the home of the Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley. There are no more performances.

Coming up next, starting September 28 will be the opening of the 2017-2018 (51st) Season, with *Thomas and Sally* by Thomas Bradshaw and Directed by Jasson Minadakis

Flora Lynn Isaacson



Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick

CGBOC (Cont. from p. 2)

First, neither the Quantity Adjustments change order category to incorporate savings from actual quantities installed during construction, nor the Alternates (a.k.a., "cost savings") category were reported to maximize bond proceeds and effect cost savings.

Second, the data presented involved \$38.9 million (5.5%) in change orders, including \$20.7 million in design errors and design omissions that were lumped together, obscuring how much was attributable to errors versus how much was attributed to omissions.

In 2008, then-Director of Public Health Mitch Katz admitted that when an initial set of poster-sized floor plans was unveiled

“Laguna Honda Hospital's cost overruns ... there were no change orders in the alternates/cost savings category.”

in SFGH's former main lobby, nurses noticed the floor plans didn't show nursing stations on each floor having patient rooms. Katz admitted they requested a change order to correct the problem. It's unknown whether it was attributed to a "client requested," or a "design omission," change order!

An expenditure and encumbrance table in the project manager's report noted the project involved \$159.4 million in soft costs, fully 18% of the \$887.4 million project total. It's not known if CGBOC questioned why the SFGH soft costs, such as professional fees for architects, designers, surveyors, engineers, lawyers, and others, appeared to be excessive.

• Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) Bond – Alameda Siphon No. 4

This project was funded by the WSIP bond. The project's total budget was \$39.2 million, and had \$6.8 million in change orders, 17.3% of the total budget. CGBOC should have asked why change orders reached 17.3% of the budget to determine whether the change orders led to reduction in the project's scope.

Failure to Audit Change Orders

CGBOC's current chairperson, Brian Larkin, may not give a rat's patootie about change orders driving up cost overruns of bond-financed construction projects, but taxpayers funding these bonds certainly do.

CGBOC's bylaws states in Article I, Section 4, *Activities and Powers*:

"Section 4 ... (5) Review efforts by the City to maximize general obligation bond proceeds by implementing cost-saving measures, including, but not limited to (a) mechanisms designed to reduce the costs of professional fees and site preparation and design, and (b) recommendations regarding the joint use of core facilities and use of cost-effective and efficient reusable facility plans, and (6) commission independent review of the disbursement and expenditure of the proceeds of general obligation bonds approved by voters ..."

Since CGBOC is charged with maximizing bond proceeds, it should be monitoring, if for no other reason, the Quantity Adjustments change order category to incorporate savings from actual quantities installed during construction, and the Alternates (a.k.a., "cost savings") category to incorporate cost savings to maximize bond proceeds. When I researched Laguna Honda Hospital's cost overruns in 2010 there were no change orders in the alternates/cost savings category.

Nor were there any alternates/cost savings change orders on the SFGH rebuild project. DPW and the City appear to have no incentives, or interest, in seeking cost savings on bond-funded projects.

Has CGBOC Reconsidered Oversight Over Change Orders?

Following its years-long foot-dragging avoiding actively examining how change orders may intersect with CGBOC's duties to oversee expenditures

of bond-funded program, it appears CGBOC may finally be willing to more closely monitor change orders. It remains to be seen whether CGBOC actually will.

When asked whether CGBOC has any serious intention of ever monitoring change orders on each bond-funded project, one source noted that this reticence has been addressed and now has the full support of all CGBOC members. We'll see.

Where Do We Go From Here?

It appears doubtful CGBOC ever asked itself: "Why are change orders for bond-funded construction projects such a large percentage of total project costs?"

Taxpayers should demand a new citi-

zens' committee be created to provide oversight and advice on the City Services Auditor function, so CGBOC can return to focusing exclusively on of bond measure oversight. CGBOC simply cannot perform both oversight roles effectively. CGBOC must actively start investigating change orders in detail. Until a new CSA oversight audit committee is formed, the overwhelmed, understaffed, and overworked CGBOC committee will never provide true oversight on bond measures.

Fifteen years after it was created, CGBOC has yet to develop a standard template for bond-project quarterly reports, including reporting change orders. During CGBOC's May 25 meeting, Controller Rosenfield claimed a template is being developed, perhaps using the 2011 Road Repaving bond presentation last March that included change orders. That's problematic, because the RRSS bond presentation condensed reporting nine different types of change orders into just four categories, and excluded reporting change orders for two of the bond's sub-projects.

On June 23, Peg Stevenson, City Performance Director in the Controller's office, replied to another records request, indicating "no new template has been worked on or proposed," and opined that the 2012 Neighborhood Parks bond quarterly report presented May 17 has the "common consistently used format and elements." That's nonsense: The Parks bond May 17 report contained not one word about change orders! Which is it: A template "is being developed," or "no new template has been proposed"? The Controller's Office can't have it both ways!

This calls into question whether another Grand Jury should be convened to follow up examining what the 2012-2013 Grand Jury explored about only being able to manage what you measure. Until CGBOC aggressively measures change orders, it can't manage them. Although the Grand Jury recommended benchmarking of San Francisco City departments against comparable cities, benchmarking appears to still not being done — five years later. It's clear if CGBOC isn't measuring, monitoring, or benchmarking bond-funded change orders, it is incapable of managing them. CGBOC should ask the City Services Auditor to benchmark San Francisco's change orders to other jurisdictions!

Hopefully, a future Grand Jury may use reporting in this article to launch a whole new inquiry long overdue, and sorely needed.

The full version of this article posted on [www.stopLHHdownsize.com](http://www.stopLHHdownsize.com) contains expanded information and active hyperlinks to background material.

Monette-Shaw is a columnist for San Francisco's Westside Observer newspaper, and a member of the California First Amendment Coalition (FAC) and the ACLU. He operates [stopLHHdownsize.com](http://stopLHHdownsize.com). Contact him at [monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com](mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com).



## Senior Smarts

### Who Takes Care of the Caregiver?

by Anise J Matteson

**E**arly on as a writer, I wrote, WHO TAKES CARE OF THE CAREGIVER? STRESS – DIET - EXERCISE designed for non-medical caregivers providing at-home care to the elderly or ill.



The purpose was to encourage focusing on remembering that you are the number one priority while committing to being a good caregiver.

#### RESPITE

Webster's New World Thesaurus identifies *respite* as reprieve, postponement, pause [delay].

Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary defines *respite* as short-term, intermittent care, often for persons with chronic or debilitating conditions. One of the goals is to provide **rest** for family members or caregivers from the burden and stress of sustained caregiving.

#### HIATUS

Webster's dictionary defines *hiatus* as a lapse in continuity.

#### CAREGIVER STRESS

Can you recognize the signs of caregiver stress?

Anger, denial, insomnia, health problems, depression, anxiety, withdrawal, exhaustion, loss of concentration, irritability. (Senior World Online – Southern California Article. Ten Signs of Caregiver Stress. [www.seniorworld.com](http://www.seniorworld.com).)

#### STRESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

##### • Take care of yourself

Remember that you are the #1 priority.

##### • Take rest breaks

Enjoy a cup of herbal tea, tea, coffee, (your favorite beverage).

Enjoy the outdoors—your favorite beverage, a good book and a lawn chair.

Listen to music.

Take a walk.

Involve: Family members, friends, co-workers.

##### • Outside interests

Get a hobby.

Involve: Family members, friends.

Attend: Community programs.

##### • Communication devices

Designate a pager or cell phone EMERGENCY ONLY.

Communicate at your convenience: telephone, visit, or write a letter.

Accept phone calls and visits during prearranged times.

Involve: Family members, friends.

##### • Take a respite

Respite Registry for short-term temporary assistance.

Adult Day Care.

Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center.

Grocery delivery.

Home cleaners.

Meal delivery.

Transportation.

Resources: Health care professionals, support groups, auxiliary services.

(©2003. Who Takes Care Of The Caregiver? Stress – Diet – Exercise.)

For years as a health care professional, I have been helping others address self-care

and/or caring for an aging loved one.

I refer to my absence as a short-term hiatus.

My column has been absent for May and June. I am addressing a family matter. For information, email [matte59@lycos.com](mailto:matte59@lycos.com).

Enjoy the summer. Maintain a healthy diet, exercise, and minimize your exposure to stressful situations.

The weather is getting warmer. Remember to keep hydrated and refer to my article "Weather Forecast Preparedness: Hot Weather" on heat-related illnesses, (hyperthermia), protecting older workers, heat stress and older workers, sunstroke, heat exhaustion, sunburn. (Sept. 2016, pp. 9 & 22. Fully annotated version: [www.westsideobserver.com/health.html](http://www.westsideobserver.com/health.html).)

See you in September.

#### RESOURCES

**Alzheimer's Association.** [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org). (800) 272-3900. Provides information and services for individuals, caregivers and families. The *Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter Newsletter* is published twice yearly in June and December.

**Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA).** [www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org). (866) 232-8484. *AFA Care Quarterly*. A quarterly publication for caregivers of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related illnesses.

**Department of Aging and Adult Services.** [www.sfhsa.org/DAAS.htm](http://www.sfhsa.org/DAAS.htm). (415) 355-6700. Coordinates services to seniors, adults with disabilities, and their families to maximize self-sufficiency, safety, health, and independence so that they can remain living in the community for as long as possible and maintain the highest quality of life.

**Safeway.** <http://shop.safeway.com>. All your groceries, including produce, meats and frozen foods arrive in refrigerated delivery trucks. Grocery Delivery: (877) 505-4040.

**Resources for Older Adults, People with Disabilities, Caregivers and Agencies Serving Seniors, Services for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities.** Prepared by the City and County of San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services Intake Program. (150 pages.) [www.sfdass.org/asset/Guide\\_2015.pdf](http://www.sfdass.org/asset/Guide_2015.pdf).

**Senior Smarts – Alzheimer's Awareness** by Anise J. Matteson, Westside Observer, (Nov. 2014, pp. 9 & 18. For a complete and extensive list of support groups and resources: [www.westsideobserver.com/health.html](http://www.westsideobserver.com/health.html).)

*Anise J. Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician and writer of reference books for seniors.*

## 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 Miranda and Nancy 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.*

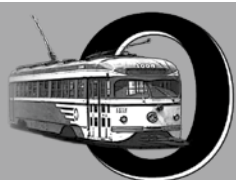
P.S. When accompanied by the first family member, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$17.

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.



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Men standing in a field, West Portal Avenue. Dated 1917 Published by permission of the San Francisco History Center of the SF Public Library

### BRAIN FÜD

**Mission: Possible**

The five words in the group below have something special in common.

To discover what this is, continue reading this message.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to transform each of the following five words, so as to create a group of five new words, by applying exactly the same change to each word.

Good Luck! This message will self-destruct in 5 seconds... 4... 3... 2... 1... (“boom”).

men  
no  
opera  
ova  
viola

.....

viola + tion <==> violation  
ova + tion <==> ovation  
opera + tion <==> operation  
no + tion <==> notion  
men + tion <==> mention

The special thing that these words have in common, is that for each word, if the suffix “tion” is added to it, the result is a new word which is completely unrelated in meaning to the original word, as follows:

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

### 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:** appears right.

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

OPEN LATE

Welcome to my ice cream shop!

Thanks son! I love sand-I mean ice cream!

And I have your favorite flavor.

Oh yeah?

And what flavor is that?

BEER FLAVOR!!  
HAHA - HA - HA!!

By Julie Casson @toysalsa

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## Local Author Martha Conway

by Jonathan Farrell

San Francisco-based author Martha Conway read from her historical novel, *The Underground River*, on June 20 at Bookshop West Portal that Tuesday evening. The enthralled audience was impressed. This reporter talked to her after the gathering. “With this third historical-mystery novel, are you secure in your niche as a writer?” I asked her because *Thieving Forest* was a departure from what she had initially been accustomed to, a mystery ‘whodunit’ story. Yet with *Thieving Forest*, Conway surprised everyone, including herself, as her work is emerging, prolifically, on a path all her own. I also wanted to know if she had an inkling towards writing in another genre. Here is what she shared with me.

She replied, “I’ve gone from writing mystery to historical mystery to historical fiction, and so I’m afraid to say I will stay within any one genre. But I love historical fiction. Use of historical genres are more and more fluid, so people like me can explore different ways of telling a story without getting penalized. It’s a great time for genre-bending fiction.”

In *Underground River* the year is 1838, “so there is no war going on, said Conway. But there is a lot of tension between the North and the South. The Ohio River, which is the natural division between the North and the South, is a common place for runaway slaves to cross over to get to freedom.”

“I approached this novel thinking, how does a person go from being a bystander in a political movement like abolitionism to being an active participant? This question is relevant for us today,” she added.

Fellow writer Carole Bumpus, who also wrote a historical novel, applauded Conway and is eager to read *Underground River*. Bumpus shared her thoughts about using history to tell a story. “(Historical) facts give you structure, but also can provide pitfalls if you don’t have your facts accurate! Readers will not continue to read if they feel you have lied to them! This form of storytelling can be tricky, but also worth the challenge.”

The genre of historical fiction is something that has been going on for centuries, and is something that has been used throughout world literature. Historians cite the ancient epic *The Iliad* as one of many examples. They also point out that use of history to form a novel is not exclusive to our Western culture. The *Tale of the Genji* and *Romance of The Three Kingdoms* are ancient stories from Asia which provide a glimpse of life during various dynasties and eras from the 12th to the 16th Century.

Conway’s confidence and self-assuredness is undeniable, and it has been wonderful to recognize the creative changes that have occurred over the years as she has progressed and grown stronger in her writing. Yet naturally I wanted to ask...was it any easier/harder this third time? “Every novel is hard in a different way, Conway said. You think you learn the tools, and then find that with your

next novel you need different tools. It keeps the process interesting.”

What did she see as the most important challenge she faced putting this novel together?

“Trying to understand how people could rationalize slavery. That was hard for me to imagine,” she said.

Any similarities with the three that she might see? “They all feature strong female protagonists who get the job done,” she said. Conway, even with that very first mystery story, *12 Bliss Street*, has always had a deep and profound sense of what women bring to any situation.

I told her I saw her ability to bring up the subject of cultural/ethnic diversity within common ground. The *Los Angeles Times* mentioned her latest novel and its subject, the Underground Railroad was a “powerful symbol of resistance.” It is a subject that can be examined even more closely than ever before, especially now in this age of information and furthering forensic technology.

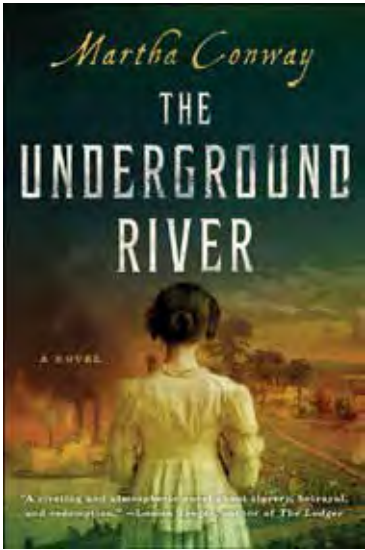
Conway said, “Yes, I’m very interested in how characters in different cultures or ethnicities relate to each other. The search for the common ground is key. This isn’t always possible. I want to show all sorts of interactions, even the failures.”

Are you more confident to write about these things now than when you began with *Thieving Forest*? “Yes,” she said, and by the reviews (some describing it as “a page-turner”) her audience will only grow, eager to read what more she has in store.

Bookshop West Portal is pleased with Conway’s work, as it has been selling and attracting people to reading/book signing events. Located on West Portal Avenue at the very heart of San Francisco’s West Portal neighborhood, it is among the few but vital book stores that have survived the impact of the digital/tech revolution.

Will she do a bit of genre-bending? Her readers and I among them are eager to find out. To learn more about author Martha Conway and her latest novel *Underground River*, visit her web site - [www.marthaconway.com](http://www.marthaconway.com)

Jonathan Farrell is a local journalist



### Letters (Cont. from p. 5)

garter snakes, or their juvenile equivalents, or their eggs or egg-masses, as a result of the operations and maintenance of Sharp Park” in last 10 years.

Mr. Rogers writes that alleopathy is “the agent that poisons the ground” and “inhibits other plants from growing under eucalyptus.”

In fact, alleopathy is a biological phenomenon by which an organism produces one or more biochemicals that influence the germination, growth, survival, and reproduction of other organisms. These biochemicals can have beneficial or detrimental effects on the target organisms.

As an illustration of “native” vegetation under eucalyptus I’m attaching a photo of “native” toyon under “non-native” eucalyptus (Albany Hill).

There are five little (although they are already 10 years old) oak trees growing next to the 36 bus stop at Myra Way / Dalewood Way intersection. Most likely they are doing so well in this area because of protection provided by big eucalyptus trees under which they grow.

Mr. Rogers blames (spectacular) lack of success in “the reintroduction of native plants” on eucalyptus trees. He ignores the Pacific reed grass - a species that the Natural Resources Program wants to protect - that is indeed growing under eucalyptus, and which is frequently associated with these trees because of the moisture they

Mr. Rogers cites a study stating that 85% of the 18,500 trees slated for elimination are in poor health - and therefore might burn down within the next 100 years.

In fact, that (questionable) study looked at a very small number of trees on the edges of Mt. Davidson. The sweeping conclusions are erroneous, and there are experts’ statements to the contrary. Moreover, the 2015 presentation by SFFD stressed that vegetation fires are 12-13 times more likely to occur in grass and brush (to which many of our forested areas are to be converted, according to the plan) than in forests, and the real fire danger in San Francisco is from structure fires because of closely placed wooden houses.

Mr. Rogers asks readers to remember eucalyptus trees that fueled the fire in Oakland.

The readers might also remember that the Oakland fire started in dry grass, that there were many reasons why it became so destructive, or that the wildfires in California are fueled by “native” trees.

While Mr. Rogers’ main concern on Mt. Davidson is the “prevalence of non-native species,” for many Mt. Davidson neighbors the main concerns in connection with pending implementation of the plan are very different:

- the threat of the mudslides on newly deforested part of the mountain (the mudslides have been happening on the grassy part during the rainy seasons);



provide.

In fact, the same lack of success in reintroducing native plants can be observed on the grassy part of Mt. Davidson and in other “natural” areas. It is most likely due to the changes in the environment since the time (about 250 years ago) when the “desirable” (by Natural Resource Division) vegetation had allegedly grown here.

(I’m attaching a photo of French Broom on a trail in East Bay after 10 years of eradication effort.)

- the threat of flooding;
- increased wind and noise;
- drastically increased use of the most toxic herbicides (particularly in view of the groundwater blending into our tap water;)
- destruction of wildlife habitat.

One third of the currently forested area on Mt. Davidson is destined to be converted to grass and scrub.

Anastasia Glikshtern lives near Mt. Davidson

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**BRIO Financial** (Cont. from p. 8)  
specific roadblocks and emotional issues getting in their way. When we say, “comprehensive financial planning”, we mean a detailed approach to solving complex financial opportunities for each and every unique client. Our work is not just about the numbers, the law, or the product mix a portfolio may look like – but also about the confidence to stay in the market when everyone has left. We are there for them – no matter what and their interests come first. We also have grown this practice primarily through referrals, which gives me a great sense of pride for our whole team, which has grown to 14 professionals.”

*Mitch: Your byline columns in the local newspapers are focused heavily on financial education and asking readers to find good advice. Where do you go for expertise to make sure your delivering quality insights to our readers and your clients?*

Brandon: “All of us are constantly being trained and seeking new solutions that might enhance our client experience. This is often done with educational conferences for our advisors, on-line courses, financial analysis, commentaries and periodicals – anything and everything, including professional organizations like the Financial Planning Association. The advisors here at Brio also have a collaborative approach to case analysis, so each advisor has great team of resources for real estate, tax efficient strategies for investments, Medicare, estate planning or any number of core specialties. Most of us also have advance degrees and other designations in our field, such as Certified Financial Planner (CFP®). We have also instilled in the

culture of our firm “education” so everyone on our team is always striving to learn more each and every day.”

*Mitch: Do you believe LGBT individuals seek LGBT advisors?*

Brandon: “Yes, absolutely. Most of it is just familiarity – especially the simple nuances of life that are similar.”

*Mitch: What three people, things and roles that you have played have contributed most to your success?*

Brandon: “I am fortunate enough to have found a career and subject matter that I’m passionate about and it is never boring. Helping people achieve their financial hopes and dreams is very motivating to me personally, so the “hard work” of building this business has always been rewarding. We also have talented, fun, loving, and smart people on our team and that makes each day special and rewarding as well.”

*Mitch: Finally, in 10 years from now, where do you hope to be personally and professionally?*

Brandon: “Personally, someday I’d like to find Mr. Right – but not banking on that. I’d like to have another child or two in the next 10 years, probably living in the same house in Duboce Triangle. I really want to continue growing intellectually, and continuing to help my clients. I’d be pretty darn happy with that,” concluded Miller.

The firm is getting ready to move to new offices. By the time you read this, they will be unpacking in their new home at 333 Bush Street, Suite 1400.

INFO: [www.ameripriseadvisors.com/team/brio-financial-group](http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/team/brio-financial-group).

**Police Report** (Cont. from p. 10)

but he threw some pieces of wood, that were nearby at him and fled.

Thursday / June 22

**Threats – Vandalism**

10:23 am | 00 Farallones St  
The victim, a SF Water employee, was working when the suspect accused him of

being a fraud and threatened to kill him. The victim went to his work truck and called the police. Officers found the suspect with a machete. He was arrested.

**Editor’s Note:** This is an incomplete report as space allows. For the entire report go to: [www.taraval.org](http://www.taraval.org)

Education Carol Kocivar ©2017



**Thinking about Summer Reading**

I am in the middle of a book called *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman. When I grabbed it at the Book Shop West Portal, I assumed it had something to do with education. Any book with “thinking” in the title certainly must have something to do with how we learn. And if you read the small print, the author is a winner of the Nobel Prize in economics. I bought it anyway.

Fast decisions are frequently based on emotion and intuition and personal experience. Slow decisions are based on data and analysis. Fast decisions are easier. They don’t take as much effort.”

I call it one of my sandwich books. I read a few chapters...slowly... because it makes you think...a lot. Then I slip in a quick read, say a mystery by Lisa Scottoline, and then go back to *Thinking, Fast and Slow*.

The last book I slipped in as a break from *Thinking* was *The Undoing Project: A Friendship that Changed Our Minds* by Michael Lewis. It’s a fascinating story of two Israeli psychologists whose work wins the Nobel Prize in economics for investigating how we think.

I must of had brain freeze. It took a reference at the very end of the book for me to realize this was the real life story of my sandwich book. I tell you this because this is the perfect combination of books to read. First, read Michael Lewis’ book with the personal story. Meet the people... get emotionally involved. Then read *Thinking*.

So what’s it about? Anyone remember “Plastics” from The Graduate? Or “Stella” from Streetcar named Desire? Or “Phone Home” from ET?

The one word from *Thinking* is heuristics. Yes, I had to look it up. This is a short cut way of solving a complicated problem. And lots of times our

conclusions are just plain wrong. And all kinds of people make these mistakes.

It’s how we think and make decisions. Fast decisions are frequently based on emotion and intuition and personal experience. Slow decisions are based on data and analysis. Fast decisions are easier. They don’t take as much effort. And very often, a personal experience trumps data as we jump to a conclusion. And even if we are wrong, we are convinced we are right.

Whoa. Heavy duty. Well... just a little.

But this decision-making plays out not just abstractly but in business as well as public policy. Trump vs. Clinton comes to mind. In this election, competing political styles--emotion vs. data --slugged it out for our votes.

*Thinking* helps you understand how your mind works. How it can be manipulated.

What factors influence our decisions. How experts can be fooled. It reminds us that we need to be vigilant in balancing our fast and slow thinking.

Carol Kocivar is a children’s advocate and lives in the Westside. Feedback: [kocivar@westsideobserver.com](mailto:kocivar@westsideobserver.com)



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# Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

## Basking in the Sun

With global warming in full bloom, we figured that we had better visit Alaska one more time before it turns into Palm Springs. So with a dozen friends tagging along, we all gathered aboard Crystal's Harmony, located the cocktail lounge and readied ourselves for the beautiful view out the windows as we steamed out of San Francisco Bay and under the magnificent Golden Gate Bridge. We passed the Farallon Islands, following the setting sun as we settled in and prepared for our first stop, **Victoria**, British Columbia.

Following a full day at sea we arrived bright and early, put on our best tourist faces, and helped the local economy while still managing a quick bite of lunch and a respite at the local ice-cream store. Refreshed and fortified, we grabbed a ride on the **Harbor Tour Boats** that look like

something out of a child's coloring book. After a mandatory visit to the ageless **Empress Hotel**, it was back to the shelter



and comfort of our ship.



The next morning we arrived in **Vancouver** with its sweeping canvas roofed terminal reminiscent of the Opera House



in Sidney. With a local driver named Billy, we got the tour of a lifetime as he showed us a couple of the mega yachts docked at the harbor and then headed to the **Capilano Suspension Bridge**. The footbridge



time, and although the height did not scare us, the swinging and swaying made for a very uncomfortable feeling. Getting across was great except for the fact that we had to cross it again in order to get back. We made it and even got a certificate proving the fact. The last stop was at **Grandville**



**Market**, an old industrial area that was converted to artist's studios, shops and a phenomenal market and food court that is the envy of all its visitors.

The following day it was Sitka, but not before enjoying a delicious dinner at Kyoto where we were treated to a lovely display of appetizers skillfully arranged on a 3-foot long bamboo rowboat with chopsticks for oars. It started out great, but unfortunately, the later it got, the bumpier it got and somewhere between the Kobe beef and the green tea ice cream most of the dining room opted for an early exit. By show time, it got so rough that the Captain decided to cancel the show and drain the pool and spas to keep the water from splashing all over. It did not take long to figure out who owns this ocean—it's not the Americans and it's not the Russians, it's a gal named Gale. With 20-foot seas and gale force

winds we bounced around all night long, but oddly enough, we glided into Sitka the next morning under overcast skies but flat, calm seas.

Sitka has about 8,000 residents and the same number of shirt shops and souvenir stands. Our first stop was at the Bishop's house. A lot of history was passed on to us during the tour and we came away in awe of the strength and stamina that the people had in those days. Next was at the National Park, where we hiked a 2-mile trail enjoying the view of the harbor while stopping along the way to watch the thousands of salmon swimming upstream, spawning, and then dying along the creek beds, fulfilling their natural cycle.

The city of **Skagway** looked newly decorated, considering its age and stage in its



history. Most of the shops sport brightly colored clapboard exteriors, dazzling flags and signs, and nicely decorated windows. The shopkeepers are very polite and honestly admit to the fact that the end of the season is here and would like to get rid of all their merchandise. We helped them clean out their stock, making two trips into town in the breezy and wet weather.

The capital of Alaska is **Juneau**, which can only be reached by ferry or by plane. Our arrival Saturday morning brought heavy rains but fairly mild temperatures. Fortunately, we tied up right across the street from the center of town and made our first stop at the Red Dog Saloon, where sawdust on the floor remains along with the usual signs requesting that firearms be checked at the door. After another afternoon of shopping, it was back to the ship



and we all agreed that we really enjoyed Juneau, but found the people a little more impersonal, and the shops a lot less likely to negotiate.

Sunday it was all day in **Glacier Bay**, described as "The Gem of Alaska's Inside Passage" and "God's Gift to Mankind." One has to see it to appreciate it, no matter how many photos, video or adjectives. At 7 am, we slowed down to pick up the

three park rangers, and by mid-morning we started to see the splendor of our surroundings. Over the ship's PA system, the rangers kept us up to date on the various highlights, occasionally pointing out bears, cubs, mountain goats and all sorts of exotic wildlife. The John Muir glacier was the largest of the many that we saw and the most awe-inspiring. Having reached the end of the inlet, the ship paused reverently, almost religiously, her bow pointed straight ahead, her engines barely audible. Then as if ready to genuflect, she started a ballet like 360 degree spin so all aboard could see and feel the power and beauty of this spectacle. When it was over the ship sat there motionless for the longest time as if waiting for applause to break out, then silently started the trek back, all with the highest respect for its surroundings. One of the greatest things this country has ever done was to designate Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve a national monument in 1925, and what a what a treasure it's been.



Early the next morning we arrived in Ketchikan and tied up at the dock right in the middle of town. Last chance for shopping and we certainly didn't let the opportunity slip idly by. Our first stop, Dolly's House, where the most infamous madam in these parts still draws visitors to her tiny cottage on Creek Street. A raised wooden pathway houses a handful of small buildings selling other, more appropriate ware. Sadly, by midafternoon it was off with the lines and on with our return to reality.

So sometime early in the morning, under the cover of darkness, we passed under the Golden Gate Bridge and back to a normal, routine life on land. What a great adventure, and hopefully it will be there for years to come and certainly better than Palm Springs.

*Sergio gets around — the world!*



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