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Celebrating Our 31st Year

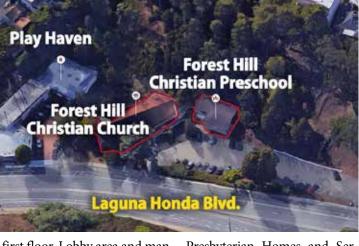
250 Laguna Honda Housing Project Makes No Sense by George Wooding

he people who live on the West side of San Francisco support assisted lower income senior housing. We are humane, charitable, and understanding of the needs of others.

The October 4,2016 Preliminary Project Assessment (PPA) report for the 250 Laguna Honda assisted senior living project is described as follows: "The proposal was to demolish the existing 12,330-square-foot (sf) church and child care facilcenter."

"The proposed new building 150 senior housand 3,148 sf of church and community center

common usable open space in grade." a first floor garden and second Cont. p. 5 in the parking garage on the profit and Northern California



ity and 49 space surface parking first floor. Lobby area and man- Presbyterian Homes and Serlot and construct a five-story, agement offices are proposed at vices (NCPHS), a non-profit. 49-foot-tall senior housing the second floor. Repurposed The project is primarily funded apartment building incorporat- stained glass from the exist- by the Mayor's Office of Housing a church and community ing church is proposed at the ing and Community Devel-

It is easy to spend taxpayers' for housing. MOHCD ing dwelling units, 62 money. With a green light from the has become San Franparking spaces (57 standard, two compact and Mayor's office and almost no public overthree accessible spaces), sight of funds loaned, leased or spent,.."

floor podium garden. Trash and ter is being built by Christian infrastructure of San Francisco's mechanical areas are proposed Church Homes (CCH), a non-

opment (MOHCD). a city financing source ing finance gorilla. They are in a hurry: "financing the development, rehabilitation and purchase of

space. In addition, the pro- lobby. Soil would be excavated affordable housing in San Franposed building would include to approximately 16 feet below cisco, coordinate the City's housing policies and strengthen the The proposed senior cen- social, physical and economic low-income neighborhoods and

Cont. p. 5

Cannabis Green Rush: Public Health Impacts

by Dr. Derek Kerr and Dr. Maria Rivero

alifornia Proposition 64, the "Adult Use of Marijuana Act", ended cannabis prohibition in November 2016. Garnering 57% of votes statewide - and 74% in San Francisco - it legalized the sale of recreational marijuana. Medical marijuana has been legal in California since 1996. Prop 64 allows adults aged 21 and older to possess 1 ounce of marijuana, or 8 grams of marijuana concentrates, and to cultivate 6 plants at home. To sell marijuana to adults - not just patients - retailers need both State licenses and City permits. Detailed State regulations were issued. On 12/6/17 the City's Cannabis Consumption Ordinance installed the Office of Cannabis with regulations and equity policies for recreational cannabis

Department of Public Health (DPH) disruptions. Based on these guidereported the potential negative publines, the DPH reviewed the scienlic health impacts of legal cannabis, tific literature, consulted experts and focusing on youth exposure and conducted surveys to come up with neighborhood quality of life. The key findings and recommendations. 20-page "Health Impact Assessment on Legalization of Adult Use Canna- law applies to adults, youth may be bis" aims to minimize health risks,

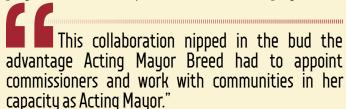
In December 2017 the City's youth exposure, and community

Youth Impacts: Although the new

How Bout Them Progressives!

by John Farrell

ll footballs fans are familiar with former Dallas Cowboy Couch Jimmy Johnson's rant "How bout them Cowboys!" Well in the case of City Hall "How bout them progressives." Whether you are conservative, moderate, progressive or whatever, you have to hand it to the progressives.



Supervisor meeting the pro- Mayor as the result of Gavin gressives (Supervisors Pes- Newsom becoming Lieutenkin, Kim, Ronen, Fewer and ant Governor. He emphasized Yee) along with moderate Supervisors Mark Farrell and biggest fumble in the his-Jeff Sheehy collaborated to appoint Supervisor Farrell the Interim Mayor until the June election.

said, "This is the greatest progressive fumble I have seen in a long time. "I don't think so, Supervisor Cohen down deep thinks that as well. This was a smart move for the progressive Board members.

progressives held the majority step for progressives in June, on the Board of Supervisors

At the January 23 Board of and appointed Ed Lee interim "We are about to witness the tory of progressive politics in San Francisco." And he was right. Ed Lee gave his word that he wouldn't run, and he Supervisor Malia Cohen did, and won with the help of incumbency.

This appointment was not about race, gender, sexual Supervisor. And I don't think orientation, etc... It was pure politics. The progressives were backed up against the wall and knew no progressive would get the 6 votes needed. Former Supervisor Chris They understood that a small Daly made a similar com- step backward for the next 5 ment back in 2011 when the months will result in a giant

Cont. p. 12

Time's Up: City Hall's Dirty Little Secret

Sexual Harassment in City Government

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

an Francisco City government is no more immune from sexual harassment scandals than other jurisdictions. The Time's Up and #MeToo movements need to focus on our City government.

The sexual harassment bombshell that exploded around Harvey Employment Weinstein and the entertainment Opportunity business quickly spread to Wash- Commission ington, D.C. ensnaring Senator Al (EEOC)declared Franken, among others. It spread to sexual harassour state legislature in Sacramento, ment a violawhere five sexual harassment set- tion of the Civil tlements cost \$950,000 over two Rights Act in

In contrast, at least 34 sexual

Attorney time and expenses fighting the lawsuits cost \$5.2 million was paid as settletiffs.Eight lawsuits remain outstand-

and total cases to 39.

The 1980.

Why are Civil

harassment and sexual discrimina- Rights Act violations tolerated 38 tion lawsuits filed by City employ- years later in City government? ees against the City have cost at Why has San Francisco retained at ate sexual harassment. The City has least \$9.1 million since 2007. City least 22 (52.4%) of the 42 Defendone minimal sexual harassment

Why has San Francisco retained at least 22 (52.4%) harassment. (57.2%), and \$3.9 of the 42 Defendants accused of sexual harassment or Back on March million (42.8%) sexual discrimination across the 34 separate lawsuits, ments to plain- who are still on the City's payroll ..."

five sexual harassment unlitigated or sexual discrimination across the City supervisors and managers.It claims added another \$565,946, 34 separate lawsuits, who are still on was a PowerPoint-based presentabringing total costs to \$9.6 million, the City's payroll rather than being tion made in live training sessions. terminated?



"Time's Up" in San Francisco

San Francisco appears to tolerprevention training. The City must

enact a zero-tolerance policy for sexual

8, 2005 San Fran-Department of Human Resources (DHR) rolled out its sexual harassment

ing, so costs will increase. Another dants accused of sexual harassment prevention training program for

February 2018 WESTSIDE BSERVER

Smash-and-Grabs Draw Westside Ire

by Jonathan Farrell

he neighborhood group Stop Crime SF brought into focus the increase in "smash and grab" car break-ins at a meeting on January 10 hosted by Sunset Heights Association of Responsible People. Former San Francisco Police Chief Anthony

icle, City 911 dispatch statistics show that rehabilitating offenders," said Ribera. over 25 thousand calls came in regarding car break in incidents. And, that statistic was for the first six months of 2017.

Ribera said it's more like 30,000 breakins because many go unreported. Occurring at epidemic levels, many people have been victimized several times.

Stop Crime SF board member, Joel Engardio, noted that "West Portal area station. suffers from the epidemic of car break-ins the Westside Observer after the meeting.

can be a small group of two or three, yet it modern-day raiding parties. The crime itself is Neighborhood is a collective usually carried out in less than a minute; one Association." - like a gang." suspect keeps a lookout, another smashes the "Stop Crime A Civil Grand carvindow and grabe." Jury report carwindow and grabs." in 2016 con-

cluded that a majority of auto burglaries year as one example, we helped pass two are committed by professional criminals. laws involving rental car companies," They are organized into work groups, Engardio said. Rental car companies now like modern-day raiding parties. The crime itself is usually carried out in less than a minute; one suspect keeps a lookout, another smashes the car window and grabs.

Ribera believes, that crime can be combated effectively if citizens band together ers encourage residents to participate in and fight back. "Taking the time to follow up and file a report is important - it helps law enforcement," he said. Persistence is key.

Even with law enforcement keeping up the pace, arresting culprits, etc. the rate of recidivism is still high. The community needs to pay close attention. "We need our

According to the San Francisco Chron- correctional system to be more effective in

But as Engardio pointed out, "West Portal has also been traumatized by some heinous acts over the past year or two. This includes an attempted kidnapping of a teenage girl from the sidewalk back in March of 2017. And this past summer, a woman was attacked with a hammer walking home from the West Portal MUNI

"There have also been home break-ins. that many neighborhoods face," he said to Residents are rightfully scared and want action taken to pursue, arrest and pros-The increase, Ribera said, is group-ori- ecute criminals. Stop Crime SF is proud

combat attacks on tourists. Last

must warn customers to not leave valuables in car. And now, rental car companies must eliminate advertising and prominent bar codes on the car that make it a vulnerable target.

Ribera, Engardio, SHARP and othpolice-community outreach and never under-estimate the empowerment it can provide in combating crime. To learn more about community involvement to fight crime visit stopcrimesf.com

Jonathan Farrell is a local reporter.



Hoping to cut down on car break-ins, the City recently spent \$9000 to install 30 signs around town, including, this one at the stairs in Golden Gate Heights. Tourists often aren't aware of the problem residents know well. We'll soon know how effective they are.

Dirty Secret (Cont. from p. 1)

DHR upgraded and switched on November 20, 2007 to an on-line-based training program.

Effective October 28, 2013, DHR recommended departments require employees provide copies of their certificates of completion for placement in their personnel files.It shouldn't have taken another six years for the City to require signed certificates.

Unfortunately, DHR confirmed the sexual harassment prevention training program isn't required for all City employees; non-supervisory employees aren't required to take the training.

Data presented below were obtained from public records requests to the City Attorney's Office for lawsuits since 2007 and the City Controller's payroll database, which were cross-referenced to public records of lawsuits available on the San Francisco Superior Court's web site.

That 21 (61.8%) of the 34 cases listed "retaliation" as a "cause of action" is really disturbing.

The 34 cases named 40 Plaintiffs, 17 (42.5%) of whom appear to have retained their City jobs, and named at least 42 Defendants, 22 (52.4%) of whom appear to have retained their jobs. Another 7 of the Defendants (16.7%) retired, collecting City pensions. Fully 69% of Defendants continued collecting City salaries or pensions.

These 34 cases represent the tip of the proverbial iceberg, since many City employees may not have the financial means to file lawsuits, or may choose to remain silent to prevent further harassemployment income.

At least 31 of the 34 lawsuits were filed after the prevention training program was implemented.

Sexual Harassment and Wrongful Termination

Although wrongful termination lawsuits don't generate community outrage as sexual harassment lawsuits do, there are parallels between the types of lawsuits. The nexus is retaliation.

Fully 54 wrongful termination lawsuits have been settled since 2005, at a cost of \$17.8 million between settlement awards and City Attorney time and expenses fighting the lawsuits. Another 9 wrongful termination cases remain pending, with additional costs to come. Combined with the 39 sexual harassment and discrimination cases, that brings us to a total of 102 lawsuits between the three lawsuit

categories.

Of the 54 wrongful termination cases settled, 27 (50.0%) alleged retaliation as a cause of action. Four of the cases involved "free speech" violations. Eight (14.8%) of the 54 wrongful termination cases settled explicitly named retaliation against whistleblowers.

The number of wrongful termination lawsuits jumped from 23 before Ed Lee became mayor to at least 40 after he became mayor in January 2011. That's a 74% increase in wrongful termination lawsuits during Lee's "watch."

A January 8 Baltimore Sun article by Aaron Jordan noted that for the #MeToo moment to last, we must significantly strengthen whistleblower protections. Jordon observed: "we must mold our laws so that the sexual misconduct whistleblowers of tomorrow have less to fear and more to gain from coming forward."

The nexus between the 102 sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, and wrongful termination lawsuits is that fully 54 (52.9%) explicitly named retaliation as a cause of action. At combined costs of \$27.5 million since 2005, these lawsuits cannot simply be ignored, especially not the cases naming retaliation.

Anemic City Efforts

The City's Whistleblower Protection Ordinance (WPO) is supposed to prevent retaliation against City employees.

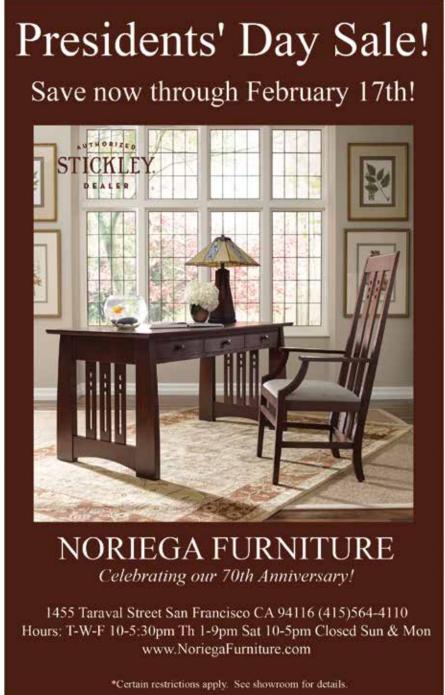
In May 2015, San Francisco's Civil Grand Jury recommended strengthening the WPO.The Ethics Commission developed WPO amendments - including allowing whistleblower complaints ment and retaliation, and retain their to be submitted to external agencies, not just in-house in the City — and in March 2016 and submitted them to the Board of Supervisors, where they have languished for almost two years after Supervisor London Breed latched onto them. The amendments became inactive in October 2017, and Breed had to revive them. The WPO amendments need to be adopted and implemented immediately.

> DHR's "Sexual Harassment Policy" states DHR must submit annual written reports to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Human Rights Commission, and Commission on the Status of Women on the number of sexual harassment complaints filed, including the number of complaints pending, and the number of complaints against each City department.

> Responding to a records request, DHR failed to provide annual sexual harassment reports.Instead, the Clerk of the Board of

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Everything You Need to Know About Urgent Care

Picture this: You're cutting strawberries and you accidentally slice your thumb. The pain isn't terrible, but the cut looks deep. It's bleeding badly. So, what do you do? Do you visit your local emergency room (ER)? Or head to the nearest urgent care center? This is a type of dilemma many people face. Urgent care centers are popping up across the country, but most people don't know what makes them different from emergency rooms. When should you head straight to an ER vs. going to an urgent care? Let's get to the bottom of these questions.

When should I go to urgent care?

The biggest difference between urgent care and emergency rooms is the severity of the health problem. Urgent care centers provide treatment for non-life threatening illnesses and injuries and unlike your primary care doctors office, which is open Monday to Friday, most urgent care centers are open 7 days a week, including nights, weekends and holidays. Urgent care centers are staffed by doctors, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners, with most centers equipped with X-ray and lab services. So whether it's the flu, a broken ankle, upset stomach, a high fever or severe allergies, urgent care centers are a one stop shop to get you back on your feet quickly. Other non-life threatening injuries and illnesses include sprains, sore throats, headaches, cuts, burns, UTIs, vomiting, ear aches, rashes, and dehydration.

If your condition is life-threatening, such as chest pain, coughing/vomiting blood, poisoning, seizure or difficulty breathing, that would require you immediately visit your nearest emergency room.

If the condition is a minor illness or injury, take advantage of the convenience and affordability your local urgent care center has to offer.

Why should I go to urgent care?

You may be thinking, "An emergency room will treat these non-life threatening problems, too. Why go to urgent care?" Here are a few reasons: 90 percent of urgent care patients wait 30 minutes or less to see a provider. 84 percent of urgent care patients are in and out within an hour. Walk-ins are welcome, and there's no need to schedule an appointment ahead of time, though doing so can get you in and out more quickly. What's more, urgent care is more affordable and convenient, while still taking most insurance plans. An ambulance ride to an ER can cost around \$1,200 or more, and urgent care can be found in convenient locations in nearly every neighborhood in San Francisco.

Where can I find urgent care in the Bay Area?

Dignity Health has partnered with GoHealth Urgent Care in a joint venture to bring high quality, consumer-focused urgent care centers to the Bay Area. We place the needs of our patients first - by providing an effortless patient experience and a welcoming culture of care in state of the art facilities with a clean, contemporary design engineered for your comfort and privacy. We are in-network with most major insurance plans, and the amount due ranges depending upon your chosen plan. Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care also has a self-pay rate if you do not have insurance or otherwise choose to pay for your urgent care services upfront; our centers are cashfree and accept debit and credit card payments.

If you're in need of urgent care services, you're able to check in online to view wait times or simply walk into one of our conveniently located centers to receive worldclass care. There are currently 10 Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care locations throughout the Bay area, including one in Marina, which offers convenient parking directly across the street, with the shortest urgent care wait times in the area.

Why Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care?

With flu season upon us, urgent care centers are a great option for getting your flu shot that fits your schedule. Additionally, Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care allows for seamless and affordable school physicals, without the wait or hassle of scheduling an appointment – simply walk in or check wait times online, which is great when you need to fit the doctor into your busy schedule! Stop in for your kids' sports physicals, TDAP shots, vaccines, or when your child has an unforeseen illness such as an ear infection or cough.

Finally, when choosing an urgent care center, proximity as well as reputation is important. Choose urgent care centers with hospital affiliations to ensure quality care and ease of integration of your medical records. The Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care collaboration enables Bay Area patients to receive the appropriate level of care for their needs, when and where they need it. Please do not hesitate to call your local Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care center to learn more!

Christopher Bialecki heads Business Development in the San Francisco Bay Area for Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care, the largest urgent care provider in the San Francisco Bay Area. Come visit your neighborhood centers at 4598 Mission St. and 2895 Diamond St., or call 415-965-7941, and learn how Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care can serve your urgent healthcare needs. Read more at GoHealthUC.com.

This article is sponsored by Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care.

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor by Quentin Kopp

lbert Camus predicted the death of Europe in 1957 in a lecture at the University of Uppsala, Sweden: "My conclusion will be simple. It will consist of saying, in the very midst of the sound and the fury of our history: 'Let us rejoice. Let us rejoice, indeed, in having witnessed the death of a lying and comfort-loving Europe and it being faced with cruel truths."

"stimulus" legislation, and a total esti-

2008, the Authority board contemplated

funding from the state bond, plus federal

and regional funds from areas along the

route which wanted high-speed rail for

commercial development and consequent

employment increases. The estimated cost

was about \$32,000,000,000. Now, the non-

electrified segment actually from Chow-

chilla to Wasco, about 30 miles north of

Bakersfield (the Authority will bus pas-

sengers to downtown Bakersfield) is over

\$10,100,000,000, the remaining state bond

money is approximately \$7,000,000,000,

federal funds are expressly barred by Con-

gressional legislation, dedicated right-

of-way is barred by state legislation, no

regional investment exists, and private

Los Angeles from San Francisco is over

\$69,000,000,000. Governor Brown has

diverted "cap and trade" state revenue to

the project and, now, it's revealed the cost

of the state bond (principal and inter-

est) is being paid from gas tax revenue

in the State Highway Fund. (Because of

interest, those costs reportedly are about

\$18,000,000,000.) Construction of the

Central Valley's non-electrified segment

began last year with the typical political

ground-breaking ceremony to misrep-

resent the bastardization of high-speed

rail. It began even though all the right-

of-way by eminent domain from farmers

and ranchers was not secured. It still isn't.

Yet the Governor in his State of the State

message last month rhapsodized over

the project, with the fiction that it's true

high-speed rail, ignoring "cruel truths."

The estimated current cost to reach

equity firms are absent.

The California High-Speed Rail \$3,600,000,000 from President Obama's Authority exists because of legislation I sponsored as a State Senator in 1996, and mated cost of about \$6,900,000,000. In then approval by 52% of California voters in November 2008 of a \$9,950,000,000 state general obligation bond issue to build it. High-speed rail began operating in 1964 in Japan in time for the Olympic Games. It's an electrified system on steel rails with steel wheels. In 2008, California taxpayers were promised a genuine highspeed rail system as exists in 11 nations in Asia and Europe, with the first segment from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 2 hours 40 minutes, a system which couldn't be operationally subsidized by taxpayers. That was realistic. Most high-speed rail systems in France, across the English Channel, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and China operate in the black. Most were built with private investors, together with public funds. One essential is operating on track dedicated only to high-speed rail, not shared with commuter or freight

After a term of four years on the Authority governing board, I departed as Governor Jerry Brown returned to the State Capitol in 2011. The Authority board had decided the first segment would travel the San Francisco Peninsula, then over the San Luis Pass to Merced, Fresno, Bakersfield, and Los Angeles, using the U.S. Highway 99 trail, rather than Interstate 5, which possesses no cities with potential ridership for revenue to pay operating expenses. That meant acquisition of an additional 50 feet of right-of-way on the Peninsula to avert sharing the Caltrain right-of-way. In the aforementioned countries, to cover costs, high-speed rail must operate 10-12 trains during peak hours of 7:00-10:00 a.m. and 4:00-7:00 p.m. It's impossible with Caltrain now needing four trains per

(San Francisco, Merced, Bakersfield)

Moreover, 2017 legislation increasing the gas tax and motor vehicle registrations for roads is the subject of a proposed initiative hour during those periods. ballot measure for repeal in either June or November, 2018. While the Governor In 2011, with Brown appointees, including its chairman, the Authoraccurately minimized litigation against ity changed the plan presented high-speed rail, which occurred mostly on to taxpaying voters in 2008, environmental grounds, a suit set for heardeciding to build a dieing on February 8 in Sacramento County sel energy service Superior Court alleges unconstitutionalfrom from Madera ity of 2017 legislation which rips, without Wasco with voter authorization, \$715,000,000 from the 2008 bond issue to donate to Caltrain approximately Sacramento O for its \$3,000,000,000 electrification project, having ripped in 2016 \$400,000,000 from the 2008 state bond measure to build a \$400,000,000 "train box" in the San Francisco real estate project known as the Transbay Terminal," which will be for buses, not railroads. Oh, those cruel Retired former Supervisor, State Senator Quentin Kopp lives in Fresno District 7 Kings/Tulare Bakersfield LEGEND illicon Valley to Central Valley Line lurbank to Anaheim Corridor Improvements Los Angele Riverside licon Valley to Central Valley Extension

Commentary

Wading in Dangerous Water?

By Steve Lawrence

t's perhaps hard to be concerned about water supply during the winter rainy season, especially after last year's big water year. Yet concerned we should be. Water supply will take a number of hits.

provider to our southern and southeastern because right now, and for the next few neighbors. Ensuring adequate water supply is a key SFPUC concern. But we the ingly low demand. Short-term we want people and our elected representatives better be watching too. The risks are multiple. two more customers we could be wading A UC climatologist predicts that California will get 10-15% less rain than it is used to. Moreover, climate change will bring wholesale customers that up to 184 mgd high pressure ridges that keep storms to (million gallons per day) will be available

In the long run we need luck, or, better, we need to take action, and the earlier the better. We" is SFPUC, our water provider, and them kept. Cutting them is made tougher years, we have plenty of water, and surpristhat business. But long-term? By accepting into deep and dangerous water.

SFPUC has assured its out-of-town

A UC climatologist predicts that California will get 10-15% less rain than it is used to. Moreover, climate change will bring high pressure ridges that keep storms to the north and west.

last December. We'll have more deluge and snow storage, the best type. No one wants more reservoirs, but do we have a choice?

Then there is a multiplicity of manmade risks to our water supply. The state will require more water to come down the Tuolumne River so that the Delta gets no more salty, and fish have a better chance of survival. The current state plan would have rationing at a ridiculous 50% during drought, SFPUC says. Imagine that. SFPUC has countered with a less impactful plan. Negotiations proceed.

FERC, a federal regulatory body, must re-license Don Pedro, a major storage facility, creating another risk. Don Pedro holds about a third of the water our system can store. Relicensing is primarily the responsibility of irrigation districts, which own Don Pedro. Fish are again the concern. Water will be released, but also other steps will be taken to improve habitat. Relicensing is to be completed by 2020.

Replacement water for water lost to instream release requirements must be found. An instream release is required to protect natural bounty.

Expectations for supply from groundwater and recycled water have diminished. Lake Merced's requirements are uncertain.

Two provisional customers, San Jose and Santa Clara, are to be accepted or rejected as full customers. SFPUC staff wishes

the north and west. We experienced this to them, subject to reduction (up to 20%) during drought. In the future wholesale drought. Warmer conditions mean less customers estimates they will take 3% more per year than they do. San Francisco fills its own needs only after delivering to its customers. So not only are our water rights to Tuolumne River water subject to the primary rights of the irrigation districts, the state's requirements, and FERC's, but also San Francisco fills its needs only after out-of-city customers get their growing drink.

> We've got supply troubles aplenty: local, state, federal, and even heavenly.

One hundred and five years on, one still reads laments about how San Francisco stole Hetch Hetchy Valley to quench the City's thirst. First of all, two-thirds of the system's water goes to those outside the City. Imagine if, suddenly, the system did not have a dam and reservoir in the Valley. Our water supply troubles would instantly go from daunting to unimaginable. History happened. Right or wrong, let's take it from here. Maybe San Francisco and the Bay Area should be smaller, less populated and possessed of less water. It isn't; it is a great city and area blessed with pure water from a still wonderful national park. It's time to move on. It's time to worry about the future, not the past.

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

fter reading Plan to Protect Neighborhoods from Fire Abandoned, in the November Westside Observer, I was alarmed. Fearing the worst, I asked for an interview with the Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) and the Fire Department (SFFD). Generously, on January 31, both agencies provided the most recent update on fire protection in San Francisco. Instead of the SFPUC and the SFFD being at odds with each other, I found just the opposite, after speaking to the Assistant Deputy Chief Anthony Rivera and John Scarpulla from the SFPUC. Improvements of the system include:

- provide reliable information about what producers. damage can occur in a 7.8 earthquake. • Today, fire hose is not limited to 150 After a designed 7.8 earthquake, the exist-feet for each fire engine but instead can ing system was realized to be 47% reliable be as long as one mile or 5,280 feet with and many improvements were needed.
- Provide enough water to put out fires. The three existing reservoirs were repaired so they did not leak. Repairing these leaks saved 150 million gallons a year.

The existing system had 11.5 million gallons, to which the Sunset reservoir will be added to provide another 11.5 million gallons. Then, the University Mound Reservoir will be added providing another 70 million gallons of water. Lastly, the water from Lake Merced will add another 1 billion gallons of water to the system. Now, there is enough water to fight fires!

- In addition, there are 3 fire boats instead of one. These boats can pump water to pipe along numerous locations beside the Embarcadero, adding salt water to an AWSS system beside the Bay.
- *After inspecting the Flexible Water Service System (FWSS) the pipe was found to be too heavy and this system abandoned. Each segment of pipe weighed 350 pounds

• A robust hydraulic model system to and was actually designed for oil well

- pressure being added to the hose making it even more useful.
- The AWSS pipe proposed for the new system is called Kabota pipe. This pipe has movable joints on sliders and did not fail in Japan with a 9.0 earthquake.
- A date for he installation of the Kabota pipe in the Sunset/Richmond district is set for 2019. This pipe will be part a loop system that can be separated with valves, so that should one portion of the pipe be broken, pressure can be maintained elsewhere to fight fire.
- The new fire fighting system must be flexible so that new technologies can be added to the new system in the future.

Needless to say, after hearing these improvement planned for our new fire fighting system, I was very impressed.

Glenn Rogers is a Landscape Architect working on the west side of San Francisco.



My 24 • Will Durst 0 2018

REIGN OF ERROR.

t's been quite a year. The exact reverse of that whole "time flies when you're having fun" thing. These last twelve months have slogged by like cold molasses riddled with bat guano dripping through a tightly woven bamboo sieve. Seems like decades since Donald Trump became the 45th President of the United States. Shouldn't he be termed out by now?

lacktriangle 100% of White House insiders believe their boss is a couple of sandwiches short of a picnic, if you catch his drift. The wheel is spinning but the hamster is dead.

have stacked up like a bouquet of bombs from the Acme Co. being wafted aloft by helium balloons approaching an archery range for easily distracted pre-teens. Anybody who watched the televised White these are quotes) that he is "like, really House bipartisan meeting can tell you the former reality TV star exhibits a mastery of his office on the level of a duck-billed platypus playing a harpsichord.

His administration has been marked by division, derision, indecision and a distinct lack of supervision. Confusion, seclusion, delusion & collusion. Lazy, hazy, crazy: cheesy, sleazy, wheezy, breezy and enough turmoil to make the entire world both uneasy and/ or a little queasy.

During the first 365 days of Dopey Donald's Reign of Error, we have survived an unending stream of blatant lies, graphic insults, myopic intransigence, illiterate evangelical community is forced to reconcile a porn star payoff with its own staggering sense of self righteousness. Futiley.

Michael Wolff intimated that 100% of but the hamster is dead. Snuck into the folks, it's going to be a bumpy year. gene pool while the lifeguard was chatting up the girl who runs the hot dog stand. Has the same mental capacity that God gave a bucket of hair.

Then, as if to stamp the book with his own fuzzy seal of approval, the former New York City real estate developer demonstrated that no matter how many allies he antagonizes, family members he insults,

After a mere 12 months, his problems staffers he impugns, fellow Republicans he alienates, or conventions he flaunts, his own worst enemy remains... himself.

> Attempting to stem backlash from Wolff's book, the president tweeted, (and smart." And a "stable genius." A statement that most experts interpret as meaning he's really good with horse manure. Which probably comes in handy when interacting with Sloppy Steve Bannon.

> Trump also twisted himself into a rhetorical battle with Kim Jong Un over whose nuclear button is bigger. When we all know it has to be Ivanka's dad, who needs the larger expanse to accommodate his diminutive hands. These two should be locked into a cell on an abandoned freighter in the South Pacific so that they can measure and get it over with.

Then the brief government shut down cluelessness, overt racism, monumental precipitated an eruption of the Blame chaos, nuclear intimidation and a general Game that witnessed both Republicans coarsening of the culture to where the and Democrats flinging mud at each other with so much excess hitting the president, many referees questioned the actual target.

Senate Majority leader Mitch McCon-In the recent book, Fire and Fury, author nell said "I'm looking for something the president supports" making it sound like White House insiders believe their boss is a mythical beast. Less unicorn-more dodo a couple of sandwiches short of a picnic, if bird. And all this has gone down in the first you catch his drift. The wheel is spinning three weeks of 2018. Fasten your seat belts

> Copyright © 2018, Will Durst. Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comic and former bicycle messenger in San FranciscoCalifornia. For past columns, commentaries or a calendar of personal appearances, including the newly updated Durst Case Scenario: Midterm Madness, please visit willdurst.com.

WESTSIDE BSERVER

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Award Winning News for the Neighborhood - Society of Professional Journalists



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The ideas and opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or publisher of this paper. The Westside Observer is a free monthly newspaper serving the entire West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco. Circulation is 18,000 copies, distributed 10 times a year. 16,000 are distributed -to-door, 2000 are distributed via free distribution racks in the West of Twin Peaks area, as well as libraries and other akin to pavilions rather than a slab along the street frontage, more like a campus."

250 Laguna Honda (Cont. from p. 1) communities in need."

It is easy to spend taxpayers' money. With a green light from the Mayor's office and almost no public oversight of funds loaned, leased or spent, the MOHCD can make funding mistakes. So far, no predevelopment funds have been spent.

City Planning hated the proposed 250 Laguna Honda design...and so did many of the surrounding neighborhoods.Kava Massih Architects were forced to redesign the project.In quick order, the \$73.5 million project will be reduced from 150 units to 100 units according to Eugene Flannery, Environmental Compliance Officer for the (MOHCD).

The minute that the City announced a 150 unit low-income housing unit was going to be built at 250 Laguna Honda Boulevard, the local media framed the development as a battle between the "rich" Forest Hill residents and the "poor." The Forest Hill neighborhood was immediately portrayed in the local media as evil wealthy people oppressing the elderly

On November 16th, The San Francisco Chronicle published a story on the project titled, "In a wealthy SF Neighborhood, residents fight low-income housing."The Chronicle was so busy framing the project that basic facts became irrelevant.

In reality, the proposal had been misrepresented to Supervisor Yee. The Supervisor was originally approached by the leadership of the Forest Hill Church who asked for his support in building a 50 unit senior housing project.

To receive funding under Proposition A Bond requirements, a minimum of 50 new, affordable senior housing units had to be submitted for any senior housing developer/applicant to be eligible to submit an application for funding. However, this did not mean that 50 units were the minimum number of units that made this project profitable. This is just a threshold requirement for funding eligibility.

The MOHCD may not even use Proposition A Bond funding for the 250 Laguna Honda project

Imagine the Forest Hill Neighborhood's and the Supervisor's consternation when it was announced that the 250 Laguna Honda Boulevard project had been increased to 150 units. The childcare center would be destroyed and the church would be destroyed.

The proposed building would feature a 16 foot deep parking garage that would hold 62 cars. Additionally, the space is currently zoned as a residential housing, single-family detached (RH-1D) lot that has a height limit of forty feet. The project developer wants a height exemption of 49 feet. This exemption does not count the additional height of items such as air conditioning units placed on the roof.

Supervisor Yee's office is currently facilitating a discussion between the church, developers, and community in the hope that consensus can be reached on an ment from projects relying on "residual

acceptable project.

Mitigations and project design issues are at the heart of the community discussion of this complex project. There is no single mitigation that would make the project acceptable to the community or the Supervisor. At this point, Supervisor Yee is acting as a facilitator to ensure that all of the communities issues are properly addressed and that the design and any mitigations are adequate.

Currently, the child care facility will remain and be increased to 70 children. The church may be relocated to a "better" location on the existing property.

Planning also supports saving the Forest Hill Christian Church, "an exceptional, rare, and intact example of Expressionist architecture in San Francisco and a local monument of mid-century modernism west of Twin Peaks."

As such, Planning's preliminary review suggests relocating the church building on-site, with enough space left around nues the project receives in excess of operating costs, such that if projects claim high operating costs on no residual revenue left ter within its walls. over, MOHCD has no expectation of loan repayment.

Before seeing an EIR or evaluating new project cost estimates, Kate Hartley said amazing how irresponsible people can be with the taxpayers' money. The new knows how much this project will cost.

much more expensive to build than the first planned 150 unit building. Excess project costs litigation is a serious consideration.

In 2003, the Board of Supervisors passed the Precautionary Principle Ordinance.A central element of the precautionary approach is the careful assessment of availscience. An alternatives assessment exam-

ines a broad range of options in order to ...the Department is recommending the proposed development be redesigned so that it doesn't form a "street wall" near the road and incorporates the wooded setting into its design, "perhaps incorporating a massing strategy more

the church "to allow it to be seen and appreciated." Maybe the church should just stay in place.

The largest problem by far with the project is the site geology. The adjacent hill/cliff is unstable. The hillside has been weakened by vertical and lateral "creep" of the underlying sand dune, and many of the houses located above the site are in jeopardy.General construction, excessive water saturation, or a seismic event could cause a collapse of the hill.

According to the Chronicle, the developers' engineering report recommends the developer use "deep soil mixing," where existing soil is mixed with cement grout. In addition, Langan Engineering recommended the installation of a buttress at the bottom of the slope, which, along with the stronger soil, would "resist lateral soil movement."

Both the failed 5th Avenue/Kirkham Heights development and the Claremont development show similar site conditions as the 250 Laguna Heights site.Private developers could not make a profit and did not build. The MOHCD is not concerned with making a profit and is prepared to spend as much money as it takes to subsidize the 250 Laguna Heights project. The project is currently on hold waiting for an Environmental Impact Review (EIR).

In response to questions raised by the Citizens General Obligation Bond Oversite Committee CGOBOC members, Kate Hartley as Director of MOHCD) informed CGOBOC members that typically MOHCD does not expect loan repaypresent the public with different effects of different options considering short-term versus long-term effects or costs, and evaluating and comparing the adverse or potentially adverse effects of each option, noting options with fewer potential hazards. This process allows fundamental questions to be asked: "Is this potentially hazardous activity necessary?" "What less hazardous options are available?" and "How little damage is possible?"

It's time to look for a new site location.

As proposed by Christian Church Homes, and much to the chagrin of neighbors, the Forest Hill Christian Church and adjacent school at 250 Laguna Honda Boulevard will be leveled and a five-story

Cannabis (Cont. from p. 1)

affected by the legalization of recreational use. Marijuana use among youth has been associated with learning difficulties, lower school performance and occasionally the national average, partly because of low use rates among Asian students. For example, in 2013-2015, just 2.8% of Chinese students used marijuana versus 43% of African-Americans, 33.6% of Whites and 28% of Latinos/Hispanics. LGBT students buses in November. The Golden Gate

receipts." Residual receipts are those reve- building will rise across the 1.6-acre site, with 149 units of senior housing, a 62-car garage and a new church/community cen-

While the Planning Department's preliminary review of the plans, which was just completed, "supports using this large site that is within 900 feet of underground that the project is "definitely still on." It is and bus stops for senior housing," it also supports saving the Forest Hill Christian Church, "an exceptional, rare, and intact project has not been designed and no one example of Expressionist architecture in San Francisco and a local monument of The smaller 100 unit building will be mid-century modernism west of Twin

> As such, Planning's preliminary review suggests relocating the church building on-site, with enough space left around the church "to allow it to be seen and appreciated."

In addition, the Department is recomable alternatives using the best available mending the proposed development be redesigned so that it doesn't form a "street wall" near the road and incorporates the wooded setting into its design, "perhaps incorporating a massing strategy more akin to pavilions rather than a slab along the street frontage, more like a campus."

Also noted, the site is currently only zoned for development up to 40 feet in height versus 49 feet as proposed, which would require a legislative amendment to change. And a Senior Housing Special Use District (SUD) would have to be approved as the site is currently only zoned for a single-family home.

In other words, it's back to the drawing board for Kava Massih Architects and Christian Church Homes.

Virtually everyone agrees that San Francisco, and the region, needs more affordable housing - defined as tenants paying no more than 30 percent of their income, and divided into brackets based on a percentage of area median income. But the obstacles to making this happen are considerable.

George S. Wooding, President, Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods. Feedback: wooding@westsideobserver.com.

Young people are especially susceptible to advertising, a vulnerability longexploited by the alcohol and tobacco industries. Conversely, restricting advertising is a proven strategy for preventaddiction. Recent City surveys cited by the ing drug use. Although Prop 64 restricts DPH show that 17% of our high-schoolers advertising by licensed marijuana busiuse marijuana. That number is lower than nesses, there's a loophole. Advertising agencies and Internet platforms that do not directly sell marijuana can freely promote marijuana. That's why local vigilance plays a role. The SF Municipal Transportation Agency stripped marijuana ads from

A particular concern is poisoning by edible forms of marijuana like cookies, chocolates and candies. When comparing cannabis poisonings between 2006-2010 and 2011–2015, ER visits increased from 133 to 251 while hospitalizations, indicating more serious impairments, rose from 21 to 52. ... And, unlike other drugs, marijuana has never been fatal.



use marijuana at twice the overall rate. The Bridge, Highway and Transportation Dis-DPH advises adding cannabis prevention programming to middle and high school curricula.

Since marijuana has long been tolerated in San Francisco, its formal legalization is unlikely to raise usage or risks for young people. Back in 1991, nearly 80% of San Francisco voters approved Proposition P supporting medical marijuana - 5 years before California legalized it. And in 2006, the Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance 297-06 giving adult possession of marijuana the "lowest law enforcement priority". In 2011, the SFPD reported just 11 arrests for misdemeanor marijuana possession - and all were secondary to other charges. Per the DPH, cannabis legalization in Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska has not resulted in increased use among young people, or adults. That could change with uncontrolled advertising and marketing.

trict, followed suit. The DPH recommends regulating the content and placement of ads as the City does with tobacco and alcohol.

Medical Impacts

Even before the legalization of recreational cannabis, "cannabis-related" hospitalizations and ER visits were increasing. However, from 2011-2015 City hospitalizations and ER visits directly caused by cannabis each numbered about 100 annually. In comparison, alcohol-driven hospital visits were around 80 times higher. The majority of the marijuana cases involved young people under 24 years of age. Interestingly, hospital visits attributed to marijuana were 5 times higher for African-Americans than for the overall population.

A particular concern is poisoning by edible forms of marijuana like cookies, chocolates and candies. When comparing

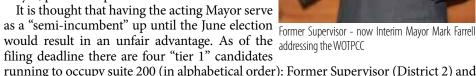
Cont. p. 7



Fire Aftermath... the City's Department of Economic and Workforce Development has activated the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund to assist the owners of the three businesses damaged in the 3-alarm blaze on West Portal Avenue last week. Papenhausen Hardware, West Portal Daily and Sloane Square Salon were heavily damaged by the blaze, which started at approximately 10:30 PM on Tuesday, January 23. All of us at the *Observer* hope that the businesses can recover and reopen again in the near future.

Challengers all line up for "the great Mayor's race"...

With the sudden and untimely passing of Mayor Ed Lee, the city is headed for a special election in June to elect the next Mayor of San Francisco. After much jockeying and inter-supervisor deal making, the moderate and progressive factions made an attempt last week to try and level the "playing field" for the election by naming Supervisor Mark Farrell as the interim Mayor, displacing acting Mayor and President of the Board of Supervisors London Breed, who had been serving in that office as set forth by the S.F. Charter upon Mayor Lee's passing. The Charter also allows for the Board of Supervisors to appoint an interim Mayor, prior to a special election to fill the office.



running to occupy suite 200 (in alphabetical order): Former Supervisor (District 2) and Board President Angela Alioto; current Board President and Supervisor (District 5) London Breed; Current Supervisor (District 6) Jane Kim; and former Supervisor (District 8), State Assembly member and State Senator Mark Leno.

Meet the Candidates... The Irish Caucus of the California Democratic Party will be holding a forum where you can meet the candidates on the 28^{th} of February at 7pm at the United Irish Cultural Center. The center is located at the corner of Sloat Boulevard and 45^{th} Avenue. Attendance at the event is free, but those wishing to attend are encouraged to RSVP to forum4mayor@outlook.com. (See the story on page 14.)



History Unmasked... Vanessa Garcia, local entrepreneur, music impresario and owner of the venerable watering hole and music venue, the 7 Mile House, can add a new entry on her lengthy resume- author! She has recently completed and published a long-awaited historical volume about the historic bar and restaurant with coauthor Regina Abuyan. See you at the 7 is

a compilation of stories and history of the last remaining Wells Fargo stagecoach "mile house" in its original location. Located literally on the county line of SF and San Mateo Counties, at 2800 Bayshore Blvd., the 7 Mile House is the last remaining Wells Fargo stagecoach stop in its original location, 7 miles from the SF Ferry Building.

Owing to its "rich and notorious" history, a book about the bar has been long-awaited and should be a great read. Opened in 1858, it has survived numerous incarnations, many owners, noteworthy patrons, F.B.I.

raids, motorcycle gangs, stagecoach robberies, wars, economic booms and busts all while slinging suds as the oldest business in San Mateo County. A favorite hangout of those working in southern San Francisco, it is recorded that in August 1876 members of the Hayes Valley Gang, while on the run from robbery, assault and manslaughter in the Mission District, holed up at the saloon.

Still going strong, the 7 Mile House just celebrated the book launch at its 160th anniversary party on January 26. More information? Visit their website @ 7milehouse.com.



Randall Museum set to reopen...the long-awaited reopening of the Randall Museum is finally here! The museum, located in Corona Heights Park, has been under renovation for over 2 years, and is celebrating with a grand reopening on February 11. The \$9 Million renovation of this one-of-a-kind museum will bring new exhibits, a state-of-the-art STEM lab,

updates to the live animal exhibits, studios, classrooms and the lobby. A new café and ADA improvements including an elevator have been implemented through the process. A ribbon cutting will be held at 10am by the SF Rec and Parks and the Randall Museum Friends (RMF), followed by a special family festival, live entertainment and more. For more information go to their website at: www.randallmuseum.org.

SF Decorator Showcase location announced for 2018...the 41st San Francisco Decorators Showcase has announced the location of the house that will be transformed by Northern California's top interior and landscape designers into the West Coast's premiere design event, running from April



28-May 28, 2018. For the first time, the Marina will be represented with the showcase presented at 465 Marina Boulevard. All proceeds raised at the showcase go to supporting the San Francisco University High School Financial Aid Program. Tickets will be \$40 at the door / general admission, with senior tickets (60 and up) available for \$35. For more information visit the website: www.designershowcase.org.

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

WESTSIDE DECIDES!

SAN FRANCISCO MAYORAL FORUM at the

United Irish Cultural Center, 45th & Sloat Blvd., San Francisco, CA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH at 7PM (Doors open @ 6pm)

A panel discussion and Q&A with candidates for San Francisco Mayor:



Angela Alioto



London Breed



Jane Kim



Mark Leno

Attendance is FREE but RSVP is required to secure your place at the Forum
Please e-mail your name & address to:
FORUM4MAYOR@OUTLOOK.COM by February 15th

By the Numbers

Laundering Influence: SFPD's Charities by Lou Barberini, C.P.A.

hile I was a member of the San Francisco Police Department there were whispers that accounting irregularities existed within the San Francisco Police Athletic League's (the PAL's) financial books. PAL is a youth sports charity, so the organization's tax returns are accessible on the

PAL board of directors grew from two retired police officers to ten board members from SFPD. Along with the influx of law enforcement to the board came SFPD's chain of command. While all board members shared equal fiduciary responsibility, the subconscious SFPD's pyramid became embedded in the PAL's board-controlled

The 2012 PAL tax return indicates the (detailed in my longer digital version) with three tax CPAs, two of them a partner, who said the PAL tax return portrays events that could not possibly have happened.

There is more to this story than sloppy accounting or potential fraud.It was not lost on SFPD street officers that the PAL board was considered an exclusive club and a springboard to promotion and a lucrative retirement. While at the same Around this same time, the PAL went time SFPD officers understood that the from local CPAs preparing its tax return Deputy Chief assigned the role of SFPD's to an enrolled agent who maintained an disciplinarian and protector of the depart-

l Around this same time, the PAL went from local CPAs preparing its tax return to an enrolled agent who maintained an office in a Fresno strip mall. And, with the exit of the CPAs, the PAL's accounting fees increased 400% while the integrity of PAL's tax returns slid."

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Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, dolumn 報知を到VED	606,098.	704,357
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Total assets (Part X, line 16)	1,310,275.	1,342,893
otal liabilities (Part X, line 26)	of 8,720.	35,836
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exit of the CPAs, the PAL's accounting fees increased 400% while the integrity of PAL's tax returns slid.

It appears a possible felon, Benjamin F. Tan, or someone who coincidently shares the unique name of a South Bay youth charity embezzler, signed the 2013 PAL tax return. It's unclear in what capacity Tan is affiliated with PAL.If this is the one-in-thesame Benjamin F. Tan, how did he snuggle up to SFPD and the PAL? And how could the same upper circle of SFPD's command staff — who were self-assured enough to deny SFPD members with professional licensed skill sets from filling technical SFPD positions — simultaneously lack the confidence in their fiduciary capacity to

The quality of the PAL tax returns continued to deteriorate in 2014. That year the PAL went on a three-year streak of changing its accounting period.In 2014, the PAL reverted to a fiscal year basis, only to switch back to a calendar year basis in 2015, and back to a fiscal basis year in 2016. This is largely unheard of.I shared this and other glaring red flags in PAL's 2014 tax return

office in a Fresno strip mall. And, with the ment's honesty was the same person who signed the sketchy, if not completely false, 2014 tax return.

> The PAL was the codification, and an example, of a tiered SFPD department:formally layered by rank, subliminally structured, absent merit, and proximity to the sources of power.The result is a police force that became more concerned about protecting its backside from other member's petty grievances, than from the squirrelly characters that sometimes surface on our streets.

Meanwhile, at another taxpayer-funded San Francisco youth charity, a "Benjamin F. Tan" is listed on the Mission Graduates' website as the Chief Financial Officer.Could it possibly be the same person question the background of Benjamin F. infiltrating three youth charities? The Mission Graduates' Benjamin F. Tan has not returned my phone calls.

Please read my full article at:

westsideobserver.com/news/barberini.

Lou Barberini is a CPA residing in the West Portal Area.He has an MBA in Taxation and worked for investment companies and a Big Four CPA firm. He can be reached at Lou.barberini@gmail.com



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Cannabis (Cont. from p. 5)

cannabis poisonings between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, ER visits increased from 133 to 251 while hospitalizations, indicating more serious impairments, rose from 21 to 52. These are small numbers as they cover 5-year periods. And, unlike other drugs, marijuana has never been fatal.

Not mentioned in the DPH celebration in the Mission

District. Nineteen people were taken to the hospital complaining of confusion, dizziness and lethargy. They had eaten gummy-bears containing tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the psychoactive agent in cannabis. Of the 19 patients, most between 6 and 18 years old, 12 were hospitalized. All recovered within days. According to the UCSF Poison Control Center, 51% of all poisonings afflict children under 5 years of age. Accordingly, the DPH recommends "strong regulations for cannabis edibles". State regulations already prohibit products that appeal to children, require child-resistant packaging and limit the THC content of edibles to 10 mg per serving. Adding the Poison Control Center's number 1-800-222-1222 to packaging could help.

Not addressed in the DPH report is the rate of marijuana dependence: 9% overall and up to 17% among teenagers according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Nation-wide, some 138,000 people required costly detox and counseling services in 2015. There's no mention of the 5-fold boost in the potency of today's marijuana strains compared to those of past decades. That raises the risk of intoxication for those who partake after a long absence. Drugged driving isn't mentioned. That may be because research has not yet proven that marijuana significantly increases crash risk. Nevertheless, marijuana can impair critical driving skills. While traffic fatalities fell where medical marijuana became legal, recreational marijuana-linked crashes and fatalities have risen steeply in Colorado and Washington.

Also missing is a Kaiser Permanente study of 35,000 pregnant women. In 2016, 6.6% tested positive for cannabis - rising to 19% among those between 18 and 24 years old. Fetal development may be affected. A 2016 international study of 5,588 women showed a 5-fold rise of preterm births among those who continued using marijuana during pregnancy. Most medical marijuana dispensary physicians discourage marijuana during pregnancy or when there's a history of addiction or mental illness. And because marijuana harbors bacteria and fungi, patients with compromised immune systems are advised against smoking it. Recreational purveyors won't be so careful. The DPH will launch a pub-



report is the August 2016 Owners of 2505 Noriega have filed in court after the Supervisors upheld an appeal by incident at a Quinceaniera neighbors to deny the permit granted by the Planning Department.

women, youth, parents and seniors. For now, it has issued a fact sheet.

Community Impacts:

Like retail outlets for alcohol and tobacco, marijuana dispensaries gravitate toward lower income neighborhoods and communities of color. As of August 2017, there were 38 medical marijuana dispensaries in the City, 10 of which were deliveryonly services. Of these, 64% were located in 4 neighborhoods: South of Market, Mission, outer Mission and the Financial District. Commercial zoning laws and community participation in the approval process determine this distribution. The Westside's sole approved retailer is Barbary Coast Collective due to open at Irving and 22nd Avenue. Check WeedMaps.com for dispensary locations.

Because alcohol and tobacco outlets are associated with increased youth exposure as well as loitering, altercations, traffic, vehicle accidents, and crime, the DPH is concerned about the impact of marijuana outlets. Although data is sparse, most community complaints mention malodorous marijuana smoke. The risk of robberies is heightened as cannabis retailers are cashonly enterprises with lots of it at hand. Cannabis tourism may impact communities. Nearby retailers may be adversely affected. Importantly, the DPH reports that; "... none of the stakeholders representing organizations serving communities of color, or living in these communities, believed cannabis legalization would benefit communities of color, and instead would have a negative *impact...*". While the DPH advises limiting cannabis outlets in neighborhoods burdened by drug abuse, it doesn't address the opposition from segments of the Chinese community where cannabis use is very low.

The DPH promotes a "measured approach" that mitigates disparities - and fears - by urging outreach and engagement, especially in lower-income, highercrime neighborhoods. Health and safety inspections will be conducted jointly with the Office of Cannabis, Fire Department and Department of Building Inspections. Complaints can be lodged by calling 311.

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. Conlic education campaign targeting pregnant tact: watchdogs@westsideobserver.com



MAGNIFICENT MAGNOLIAS

SF Botanical Gardens | Thru March 31st

One of SFs great sights only takes place once a year during the cool and crisp days of winter where nearly 100 towering magnolias, many rare and historic, defy the chill and erupt into a riot of pink and white blossoms. Velvety silver buds on the often bare branches of these elegant trees open into saucer-sized, vibrant flowers, filling the wintery Garden with dramatic splashes of color and sweetly fragrant scents. The annual floral spectacle, with trees reaching 80 feet, peaks mid-January - March.

Open every day

7:30 am to 5 pm (Feb – early Mar) SF Botanical Garden, Golden Gate Park @ 9th Ave SF Residents: FREE with proof of residency

Non-residents: \$8 general, \$6 youth 12-17 & seniors; \$2 children 5-11;

The Garden is free daily 7:30-9 am and all day on second Tuesdays of the month

SFBotanicalGarden.org, (415) 661-1316

February Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

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

EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

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

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

EVERY THURS - NIGHTLIFE

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

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

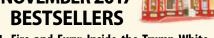
Every Fri | 7–11 pm | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. cliffhouse.com/home/jazz

SATURDAYS • FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

Every Sat | 11:30 am | Come play outdoors, in nature. Enjoy a rejuvenating morning flow and meditation for body, mind, and spirit. GG Park, Big Rec Baseball Field (across from the Botanical Garden). Bring a mat or

NOVEMBER 2017

Vic-



- 1. Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White **House** by Michael Wolff
- 2. The Monk of Mokha by Dave Eggers*
- **3. Sing, Unburied, Sing** by Jesmyn Ward 4. Gnomon by Nick Harkaway*
- **5. Lincoln in the Bardo** by George Saunders
- **6. Manhattan Beach** by Jennifer Egan 7. Trumpocracy: Corruption of the Ameri-
- can Republic by David Frum
- **8. A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles 9. We Were Eight Years in Power by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- **10. Leonardo Da Vinci** by Walter Isaacson
- 11. Grant by Ron Chernow
- 10. Sourdough by Robin Sloan*
- 13. Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann
- **14. The Woman in the Window** by A.J. Finn
- 15. Slow Medicine: The Way to Healing by Victoria Sweet*
- * Spoke at BookShop West Portal; signed copies available.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

blanket, FREE. Cancelled if raining. Dogs OK

DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Learn Basic Computer Skills. Choose a topicsearch databases, set up email, or surf the web. Basic mouse skills required. Call 355-2825 to make an appointment. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

| WED • WHY THE CIVIL WAR STILL MATTERS

Wed Feb 7 | 6-7 pm | Bill Doggett examines the role ebration. This year's celebration of racism during the Civil War and during the Trump features Chinese acrobatics and year. Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

WED • EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Wed Feb 7 | 6-7 pm | Professor Matt Springer from UCSF Dept. of Medicine's precautions to minimize damage from earthquake. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St



Thu Feb 8 | 5:30-8 pm | Jeff Adachi's feature length film about the vital role for social justice of the public defender. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

SUN • JIM CROW IN THE WES





Sun Feb 11 | 2-3:30 pm | Aliyah Dunn-Salahuddin shares her research on the Black Freedom Struggle in the West. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

TUE • SIX ROSES JAZZ PERFORMANCE

Tue Feb 13 | 7 -8 pm | A pleasant evening of jazz THV • CANDLEMAKING with Six Roses duo David Boyce and Michael Cavaseno. Parkside Branch 1200 Taraval. Free to the public.

WED • LOVING

Feb 14 | 6-8pm | Richard and Mildred Loving, a to register. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way couple whose arrest for interracial marriage in 1960s Virginia began a legal battle that would end with THU • AUTHOR LEE BRUND the Supreme Court's historic 1967 decision. PG-13. Ortega Library | 3223 Ortega Street and 39th Avenue.

THU • HEROS & HEARTS LUNCHEON

Thu Feb. 15 | 11:30 am-1:30 pm | AT&T Park Honoring community heroes and features heart art created by local artists as well as a special performance of Beach Blanket Babylon to benefit the SF General Hosp. Foundation. \$500, 415206-5928, sfghf.org

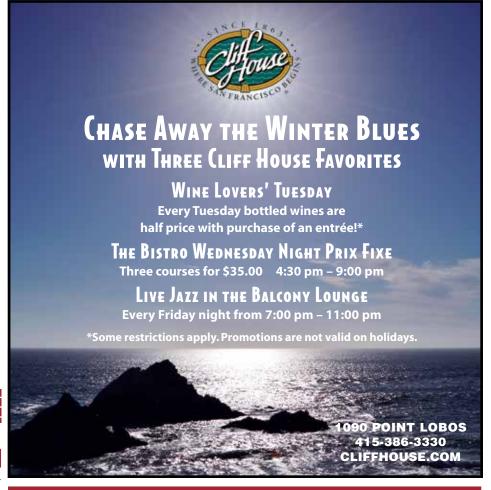
THU • TWIN PEAKS TUNNEL CENTENNIAL

Thu Feb. 15 | 7-9 pm The centennial of the opening of the Twin Peaks Tunnel when Mayor Rolph drove the first MUNI streetcar from Eureka Valley



to West Portal. From conception and construction to legacy. Free to Western Neighborhoods Project members — space is limited. RSVP: outsidelands. org or email to woody@outsidelands.org

SUN • LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE POG



Sun Feb 18 | 10:30 am -**4 pm** | Roll in the Year of the Dog with talented dancers, musicians and storytellers Cellion dance drumming with lo-



cal favorite Red Panda Acrobats. Author Oliver Chin's story about the zodiac calendar and Year of the Dog characteristics! Your name written in Chinese calligraphy- developed and led by Art Speak teen interns. Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St. asianart.org

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Feb 20 | 6-7 pm | Meet with Captain Robert Yick at Taraval Station. Taraval Community Relations Forum Meeting: 2345 24th Ave.

TUE • REAL NEWS OR FAKE NEWS?

Tue Feb 20 | 6-7 pm | Ziva Branstetter, Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting and Puitzer finalist—how journalists work and how to recognize real news. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

WED • BLACK HISTORY PIONEERS

Wed Feb 21 | 7-8:30 pm | Ranger Rik Penn on the history of African Americans in San Francisco, California and the National Parks. Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

|WED • GET ORGANIZED-GET HEALTHY

Wed Feb 21 | 6:30-8 pm | Identify goals for work, money, love life, family, spirituality, friends and self. Learn how habits and choices influence your life and come up with a life-changing plan to reach your ultimate goals. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

Thu Feb 22 | 6:30 - 8 pm | The West Portal Artistry and Craft Club meets the third Thursday of each month for conviviality and craft-making. Join us! Space limited. Signup starts on Feb 8. 415 355-2886



Thu Feb 22 | 7 pm | Lee Bruno - *Misfits, Merchants* & Mayhem: Tales from SF's Waterfront, 1849-1934 stories of exceptional newcomers and outliers, whose intrepid spirits helped to transform a small port into one of the most beautiful, unpredictable, and beloved cities in the world. The famous (and infamous) characters. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal Ave.

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Feb 22 | 7 pm | OMI-NIA General Meeting, the 4th Thurs of the month. Temple UMC, 65 Beverly.



FRI • THE OLD MINT TOUR

Fri Feb 23 | 3 pm | Journey through 150 years of history with a trained CHS docent who will share unique stories, discuss the architecture, and answer questions about the Old U.S. Mint. Meet at ground level of Mint Plaza, 88 Jesse St at 5th St.

FRI-SUN • 66TH PACIFIC ORCHID EXPO

Feb 23-25 | Fri-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm | Opening Gala Preview Night celebration held on Thur, Feb 22nd pm. "Curiouser and Curiouser, Orchids in Wonderland." The theme plays off the story of "Alice in Wonderland," and the Mad Hatter Tea Party will be the theme for the Gala. The Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park! 1199 9th Ave. Tix: \$8-35 @ eventbrite.com





SAT • CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE

Sat Feb 24 | 6-8 pm | One of the top ten Parades in the world the SF tradition started in the Gold Rush as a means to educate the community, the Parade and Festival have grown to be the largest celebration of Asian culture outside of Asia. Elaborate floats, lion dancers, folk dancers, costumed elementary school groups, marching bands, stilt walkers, Chinese acrobats, and a 268 foot long Golden Dragon. Market/2nd to Kearny / Jackson. ("Gum Lung"). Live on KTVU.

ISAT • COMPUTER HELP FOR ADULTS

Sat Feb 24 | 2 - 4 pm | Drop-in and get help with a teen tech savvy volunteer! Bring your laptop, ereaders, gadgets, digital cameras, tablets or cell phones and we can help you learn how to use it.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Feb 26 | 7 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss local topics on the 4th Mon each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

MON • VICTORIAN OR EDWARDIAN?

Mon Feb 26 | 7 pm | Architect James Dixon will address the distinguishing differences between the Victorian and Edwardian styles and the radical change in residential design with the "1890 Pivot." Dixon is expert on bay area styles and frequently lectures on that subject. sharpsf.org - 1736 9th Ave.



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

Manfred Wolf: Holocaust Documentarian

by Charles Pfister hen Manfred Wolf published his 2014 Holocaust memoir, Survival in

Paradise, he did not realize that he was helping to fill out the story of a Holocaust hero who had not yet had a Spielberg to tell his story.

Wolf's memoir begins with the story of how his Dutch Noach's assistance in Jewish family escaped the descending darkness of the fixing documents for Holocaust of World War II in Europe and arrived at their Wolf's family so that final sanctuary in the Caribbean island of Curacao.

Although only seven years old when his family fled the Spain. Wolf recalled Nazis, Wolf had vivid memories a few months of uneasy sanctuary in the summer of 1942 in Vichy France – where the invading Nazis briefly allowed a puppet French government to rule – while his family plotted their escape film, Oskar Schindler. from Europe.

War refugees there found a landscape of shifting alliances. Where you could never be sure who your friends were. Where life or death decisions had to be made every day. Wolf's family made several desperate attempts to leave Vichy France.

Once they were taken into custody by the French police and only escaped because Wolf's mother charmed a certain officer and convinced him to let the family leave custody. They finally were able to cross into Spain in the nick independent business man.

Noach provided Wolf's father with the travel documents needed to leave France just days before the Nazis invaded Vichy France and the border to Spain closed for

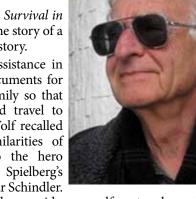
of a major UK film studio, Pinewood Studios, which was making a documentary about the life of Sally Noach. Wolf was recently contacted by the producer and director, who scheduled an interview with him when the film crew like Wolf, whose lives had been saved by Noach.

Soon, Wolf found himself on camera in his Sunset residence being interviewed by Noach's daughter, Lady Irene Hatter, about her father.

Wolf had a child's image of a dashing, chameleon-like figure, fluent in French and with shadowy relationships to government officials, who could procure travel papers. He could help refugees fleeing the Nazis find safe routes out of France.

He recalled that his father made more than one desperate approach to Noach before he was able to gain

they could travel to some similarities of Noach to the hero of Steven Spielberg's



Noach had many sides, was self-centered as well as benevolent. He enjoyed his prominent role in the community as a fixer for desperate refugees.

In conversation with Wolf, Lady Hatter filled out the profile he had of her father as being a can-do type, not so much a thinker as a doer, and relatively fearless. Lady Hatter showed Wolf a 1942 letter to Noach that his father had signed along with a dozen other refugees thanking him for his role in saving their lives.

Noach was active for almost two years in France assistof time thanks to a Dutchman named Sally Noach, an ing Dutch refugees escape Europe. His connections and daring were such that he was even sometimes able to get refugees freed from detention camps and save them from deportation. Like Wolf's family, Noach himself escaped days before the Germans overran Vichy France in 1942.

Like other young Dutch men of fighting age, Noach fled Mention of Noach in his book attracted the attention to England. After recovering from psychological trauma caused by so many close calls in Vichy France, he spent the rest of the War in intelligence work for the Dutch government in exile.

After the War, Noach lived a relatively quiet life, runwas touring the U.S. hunting down Holocaust survivors ning a small business. Although recognized by the Queen of the Netherlands for his service in Vichy France, he never gained widespread recognition as a Holocaust hero.

The movie Schindler's List helped throw a spotlight on other heroes that helped Jewish refugees escape the Holocaust. But unlike Schindler and most of the other figures later gaining public recognition, Noach was himself Jewish. Wolf believes that the British documentary about Noach may help show that there existed Jewish Holocaust heroes and not just victims.

Charles Pfister and Manfred Wolf live on the Westside



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— Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Does the new tax law help or hurt you?

he President called the new tax law a "big, beautiful Christmas present" for Americans. Now that we've had a little time to unwrap the impact of the new tax code, let's see if you got a shiny diamond—or a lump of coal.

Here are some of the major changes:

• Lower income tax brackets. There are still seven brackets, all of which are going down except for the very lowest earners. Sounds great, except other changes may offset what you save here. And in 2026, the rates go back to 2017 levels unless Congress extends them.

As you can see, the new law is a mixed bag. Some things work in your favor; others against you.

If you're confused about whether to itemize or not given all these changes, it may make sense to go see a tax professional. But don't try to deduct their fees from your taxes. That break has been eliminated as well.

- A higher standard deduction. The deduction rises to \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for joint filers. With this increase, most filers—94% according to the Joint Committee on Taxation¹—won't bother itemizing their taxes (but they still won't be able to file on a postcard). See below for why you're getting this "gift."
- Elimination of most itemized deductions. Yep, you'll need a higher standard deduction, because there are fewer items that you can use to lower your taxes. That \$4,150 personal exemption you used to be able subtract for each person claimed? Gone! Moving expenses for a job relocation? No more unless you're in the military. Deductions for alimony payments? Not if you get divorced this year or any year thereafter. Writing off the interest paid on your home equity debt? Kiss that goodbye. What all this means is that for many income brackets, the higher standard deduction won't offset these lost deductions.
- Caps on deductions of state and local taxes—including property taxes. If itemizing still works in your favor, you can now only deduct up to \$10,000, not the unlimited amount that used to be eligible.
- Lower mortgage interest deductions. Homeowners who bought prior to 2018 aren't affected, but new owners can only deduct the first \$750,000 of mortgage debt—not the \$1 million that used to be eligible. This change is particularly painful for us in the San Francisco Bay Area given that the median home price was \$787,000 in December 2017.²
- **Higher AMT threshold.** Fewer people will have to deal with the dreaded alternative minimum tax now that the exemption has been raised to \$70,300 for singles and \$109,400 for joint filers.
- **Doubled estate tax exemptions.** Fewer large estates will be subject to the estate tax now that the threshold is twice the former amount of \$5.49 million for individuals and \$10.98 million for married couples.
- Expanded credits for dependents. The child tax credit doubles to \$2,000 per child, 17 and under. It's now available to single parents earning up to \$200,000 and married couples making up to \$400,000. And there's a new \$500 credit for taxpayers claiming non-child dependents, such as an elderly parent or adult child with a disability.

As you can see, the new law is a mixed bag. Some things work in your favor; others against you.

If you're confused about whether to itemize or not given all these changes, it may make sense to go see a tax professional. But don't try to deduct their fees from your taxes. That break has been eliminated as well.

FOOTNOTES

- www.fool.com/taxes/2017/12/30/your-complete-guide-to-the-2018-tax-changes.aspx
- $^2\,san francisco.cbs local.com/2017/12/29/bay-area-median-home-price-november-2017/12/29/bay-area-median-home-price-n$

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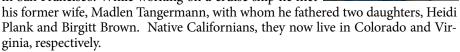
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Gerd Peter Tangermann

September 12, 1942 — January 9, 2018

eter Tangermann worked until the week before he died at the age of 75. For decades he managed delivery operations and circulation for publications in the Bay Area, including the View, West Portal Monthly, Richmond Review, Sunset Beacon, Westside Observer, Castro Courier and Alameda Sun, among others. He's remembered by many for his unflagging dedication to hard work and easy-going nature.

Born and raised in Oldenburg, Germany, Tangermann immigrated to the United States in the late-1960s, settling in San Francisco. While working on a cruise ship he met



"He grew up running river boats with his uncle," said Plank. "He always loved the water. He never lost his love for boating."

Plank recalled fond memories of helping her father with deliveries on weekends, along with her sister. In the mornings before venturing out on the route, Tangermann would cook them a big breakfast. When not working, he took them camping and on other outdoor adventures. Both Tangermann and Madlen kept close ties with family in Germany, and would frequently take their daughters there for visits during summer vacations.

Tangermann pursued his boating hobby throughout life, and was an active member of the Alameda Yacht Club. Most recently, he lived on a boat at the Fortman Marina with his girlfriend, Judy Schilling. In addition to boating, Peter had a great passion for woodworking and canine companions. Though unable to have a dog on his boat home, he'd enjoyed having many of the animals throughout the years.

"He would build wooden model ships from scratch on the weekends," said Brown. "He was very handy with wood. There's a storage unit full of boats he made."

Tangermann began his delivery service in 1968, steadily expanding over the decades, from distributing samples to flyers and, ultimately, many of the region's newspapers. Arron Clark, who volunteers for Martin de Porres House of Hospitality, worked for Tangermann for 19 years, and warmly remembers his great sense of humor and the patience he showed people from all walks of life.

"He employed a lot people and was willing to give anyone a job who wanted to work," Clark said. "He never got to retire and not long ago was loading bundles of papers. Those of us who worked with him didn't get a chance to share how much he meant to us."

"The last time I saw him, a few months ago, while he was delivering the *View*, I joked with him about when he was going to retire," said Steven Moss, *View* publisher. "He told me he had a few more good years in him. I wished that'd been true."

A memorial gathering in Tangermann honor was held on Sunday, January 21 at the Alameda Yacht Club.





n Monday Taraval Station hosted a press conference to announce the department's plan to address the increase in auto burglaries. In 2017, the reported number of auto burglaries increased 24% to approximately 30,000 citywide.

The Taraval District was not immune and the number of reported auto burglaries in the district increased 10% to 1,783 in 2017. A review of the December 2017 auto burglary statistics revealed that property was left in plain-view 70% of the time. Items of significant value were left in vehicles 90% of the time. In 75% of the incidents, the property Captain Robert Yick taken was valued in excess of \$950.00.



Please remember to "Park Smart" and take all of your valuables with you, including wallets, passports, cell phones, tablets, laptops and cameras. Auto burglaries happen in seconds and it is difficult apprehending subjects that are involved.

We will be conducting enforcement operations and an educational outreach program to address the increase in auto burglaries.

— Taraval Station Community Meeting —

Tuesday, February 20 | 6 pm -7 pm • Taraval Police Station • taraval.org

Saturday, December 2

Assault with a Knife - Resisting

7:21 pm | 1000 Ocean Ave Multiple witnesses said the suspect, reversing his car, almost hit a pedestrian, who hit the vehicle with his hand to caution the suspect. While there were no damages to the car, the suspect angrily confronted the pedestrian with a knife. The victim Firearm Possession in School Zone intervened attempting to take away the knife but was cut during the struggle and punched in the face. The suspect resisted obeying lawful orders. After a struggle he

Wednesday, December 13

Burglary - Conspiracy

7:32 pm | 3200 20th Ave

Officers responded to the victim, a loss

was successfully handcuffed and arrested.

with the detained suspect. A witness said three suspects put merchandise into a large plastic bag and ran out of the store. The other two suspects fled the store with stolen items. A suspect search found over three thousand dollars in merchandise. The suspect was arrested.

Tuesday, December 19

Officers responded to Lincoln High School in regards to a firearm possession. It was found that the firearm possessed eight rounds in the magazine. He was arrested.

Friday, December 21

Robbery

1:37 pm | 3000 26th Ave

The victim said he parked his car in front of his home and was walking towards it prevention employee, who was struggling when three suspects ran from a nearby property. He said a car passed by during foot. the incident and honked it's horn, which made them run to their car and flee.

Saturday, December 23

Theft From a Vehicle / Burglary Tools 6:10 am | 1300 46th Ave

The witness noticed someone inside his neighbor's car. The suspect told him to go away — he had knife. When he confronted the suspect and detained him, he admitting he was inside the car, but only took loose change and sunglasses. However, a search found several tools used to break into cars and property belonging to other victims. He was cited.

Tuesday, January 2

Robbery of a Store

11:10 am | 200 Winston Dr

The victim, an employee at a Target store, saw juvenile suspects stealing items. One said that they had mace and to "not touch them," frightening the victim. They left with multiple items of merchandise.

Wednesday, January 3

Heroin - Methamphetamine Offense 2:20 am | Noriega St & 20th Ave

The suspect, an unknown male on Post Release Supervision was found by officers responding to a wellbeing request inside a vehicle. A search found a can with a false bottom containing methamphetamine and heroin. Further he had fraudulently rented his vehicle. He was cited.

Thursday, January 4

Robbery with a Knife

6:13 pm | 1500 Kirkham St

The victim was walking home when the suspect came from behind and took a backpack and jacket when the victim saw a knife. The suspect fled the area.

Robbery with a Gun

6:54 pm | 41st Ave & Pacheco St

The victim was walking and talking on his cell phone when the suspect was ran up to him with a small handgun. A second

car. Suspects grabbed him, pushed him suspect grabbed his property from his down and rifled his pockets and took his back pocket. Both suspects then fled on

Burglary - Stolen Property - Resisting 2:54 pm | 2100 24th Ave

The witness was cleaning rooms at Lincoln High School when she saw the suspect going through drawers in class rooms. She confronted her but she fled. She chased after her. The suspect resisted officer's orders and refused to comply. Eventually, she was successfully detained and a search revealed possession of property belonging to multiple victims. She was arrested.

Monday, January 8

Marijuana Offense

3:15 pm | 2300 Noriega St

The witness, a store employee, said the suspect came to mail a package, alleged to contain clothing and needed to be mailed overnight. Per store policy regarding any suspicious packages, a search revealed marijuana in the box.

Wednesday, January 10

Assault - Brandishing - Arrested

11:02 am | 700 Taraval St

Recognizing the juveniles who assaulted him across the street from him, the victim asked a nearby store to call the police. He walked back out and one suspect started laughing and took something out of his pocket. The victim removed his own knife and held it for protection when one suspect used a BB gun firing twenty shots at the victim. He was not struck by the shots and they fled. Officers found one of the suspects, a wanted person for a robbery in the Mission District. He was arrested.

Robbery With Force

11:55 pm | West Portal Ave

The victim said the suspect grabbed his iPhone X from his hand on a MUNI LRV and ran out on to the platform at the next stop. He chased after her but was unsuccessful in catching her. Shortly after, the he was attacked by three other suspects. All four suspects then fled.

Cont. p. 13

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Dirty Secret (Cont. from p. 2)

Supervisors provided seven DHR annual reports.DHR provided the remaining seven years in quarterly report format, with different data elements in a different format. Some of the data was totally redacted. Piecing the data together shows a staggering 240 complaints were filed across the 14 fiscal years.

Fully 33 (13.8%) of the 240 complaints were filled "externally" with either the U.S. EEOC or California's DFEH. This is significant because San Francisco's current WPO doesn't provide anti-retaliation protections for employees who file complaints with external agencies outside of City

Another 41.6% (86) of the 207 internal complaints were classified as "pending." It's unknown how pending cases were eventually resolved. And 14.5% (30) of the complaints were classified as "insufficient evidence," meaning those complaints were investigated, but there was insufficient evidence to establish sexual harassment occurred. And 24.2% (50) of the complaints were classified as "not investigated."

Most damning, just two — a mere 2% of the 207 sexual harassment complaints filed internally resulted in terminating the

Separate from its annual reports, DHR asserted it located records of 423 sexual harassment complaints it determined after investigating had no merit and weren't sustained.

Sadly, although San Francisco's Commission on the Status of Women (CSOW) receives DHR's annual and quarterly reports, it appears CSOW hasn't held any hearings on sexual harassment of City employees in the past five years.

It's thought City employees alleging sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and wrongful termination must first submit claims to the City Controller's Claims

Division.Since 2007, the Claims Division received 108 claims across the three categories, and paid just one claim (for sexual harassment). Had the Controller paid more of those claims, perhaps the \$26.5 million across the 95 lawsuits filed might have been avoided.

Unfortunately, our Human Rights Commission reported it had no records of DHR's annual reports.

Zero Tolerance in San Francisco

If the U.S. Congress, State legislatures, broadcast and print media, and entertainment industries can rapidly expel or terminate employees accused of sexual misconduct, why can't San Francisco, too?

San Francisco should adopt a zero-tolerance policy, and terminate all Defendants found by Courts and juries to have engaged in sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and wrongful termination of other City employees.

We must stand with victims and survivors of sexual assault.San Francisco city employees should start their own #MeToo-SF-City-Employees Twitter campaign to document the magnitude of this problem in City government.

As Oprah Winfrey implied accepting the Golden Globe's "Lifetime Achievement Award" on January 7, City employees deserve "leaders who take us to the time when *nobody ever has to say 'Me Too!'* again."

Or have to say "Time's Up," City Hall!

A link to an expanded version of this article will be provided on the Westside Observer's web site.

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.Contact him at monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

Progressives (Cont. from p. 1)

and an potential to lead our city for the next l 12 years.

If the progressives didn't make this move then Acting Mayor Breed would have a major advantage of incumbency through June. This collaboration nipped in the bud the advantage Acting Mayor Breed had to appoint commissioners and work with communities in her capacity as Acting Mayor, such as courting Asian voters in Chinatown by proposing to rename Portsmouth Square after Ed Lee.

The moderates were not united behind Breed, which raises a red flag that there is a problem in the moderate camp which is good news for the progressives. We can speculate that breakdown of unity, but that doesn't matter. The moderates better get their act together for the June election. This provided Supervisor Farrell, who was termed out at the end of the year, a once in a lifetime opportunity to be Mayor. And he took it. He now has the opportunity to appoint his now vacant seat in District 2.

Many believe that this was an unfair move to replace Acting Mayor Breed. Since no one put up a fight when then-Board President Diane Feinstein became Mayor as the result of the assassination of Mayor

George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978. Per Sec 13.101.5 (b) Vacancies – If the Office of the Mayor becomes vacant due to death, resignation, recall, permanent disability or the inability to carry out the responsibilities of the office, the President of the Board of Supervisors shall become the Acting Mayor and serve until a successor is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Feinstein became Supervisor as the result of citywide elections, and the top vote getter became President of the Board back then, not like District elections today. A totally different time.

It is too bad we have to deal with this rank choice voting crap, as votes are split and not everyone's vote counts in the end. In my opinion, we need to return to the runoff between the top two candidates. This gives the voters an opportunity to vote for the person they prefer most, or the lesser of the two evils, whichever applies.

Turns out, however, in the June election, you have to hand it to the progressives this time around for not fumbling the ball.

Farrell Broker/Realtor® – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former Assistant Assessor – Budget & Special Projects, Westside resident - farrellreinvestments@yahoo.com

Easy Breezy Frozen Yogurt Moves to West Portal

After three years in Castro neighborhood, Easy Breezy soft-serve, frozen yogurt shop is moving to West Portal. They will relocate to 44 West Portal Ave., the former Tuttimelon / Quickly.

The owner, Ariel Ford "the climate on the streets of the Castro have made it increasingly difficult for us to conduct a family-friendly business." She also confided that she worried about her employee's safety.

The 3-alarm fire on January 23rd at neighboring West Portal busi-



nesses came close to the new Easy Breezy location, but stopped right next door.

The new location is slated to open sometime in February, but two other Easy Breezy locations, one in the Inner Sunset (718 Irving St.) and the other in Noe Valley (4028 24th St.) remain open for business.

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

Last year more Americans were killed by deaths due to medication people took...

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

me. I'm also the woman hugging her niece at the Jersey Shore in the picture.

Seventeen 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 Francisco and the surrounding area have 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, midback 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 computer and enjoy an active pain free life! 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 goodlight 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 Chiropractic, I have published articles in 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!

first 15 minutes after birth. They obviously know. didn't complain of neck pain or back pain; 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

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 it 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 medica-It's hard to believe, I know, but it's true. tion. Last year the WHO reported 350,000

> 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 beginning to understand that health within.

new office on Clement Street). Well, that's 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 come to see me with their pinched nerve

- 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

"I had back pain for 15 plus years and two back operations. Now I play tennis, sit at my 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 ness that they took the time to help me! I arm pain for the last 4 years. After seeing Dr. went to his office where he asked me about Meakim I can now twist off caps, button/zip my problems, did an exam, and took some my own pants and there is no longer a need x-rays of my head and back. After that he for me to ice my arm in the morning and pointed out where my nerves were pinched night! I feel more energetic, and can move and adjusted them. The adjustment was so my arm and neck pain free!"— C. Brubaker

My qualifications:

I am a graduate of Palmer College of 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 I have adjusted many children within the care of tiny babies to athletes that you may

My assistants are Miranda and Nancy I adjust them to keep them healthy... as and they are friendly and helpful and ready with all the hundreds of children I care 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

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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17th Street L Taraval Stop Retained!





Opening Day Celebration for the K Ingleside Line with Large Crowd at Portola Drive and West Portal Avenue Half of Panorama | February 3, 1918 | Published by permission of the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Agency Photo Library

Friday, January 12

Homicide 10:37 pm | 300 Randolph St

A witness said the suspect and Regarding the Taraval his mother were constantly arguing, this time over a video that he $\,$ 1800 Block of 34th Ave | 4:37 PM showed her. Picking up a kitchen knife, he fataly stabbed her. He fled but was located and arrested.

Monday, January 15

Robbery - Brandishing Firearm 2:25 pm | 3200 20th Ave

The witness, a store agent, said three juvenile took multiple jackets then exited without paying. Store employees caught up on the sidewalk just outside. The suspects dropped the merchandise and two of the suspects fled. but the third was handcuffed. However, he began screaming for help as another pulled up in a vehicle They released him while still handcuffed.

Friday, January 19

Homicide

Responded to a report officers found a 65 year-old woman suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Aid was not successful, and she succumbed to her injuries. The suspect at large and considered armed and dangerous. Identified as 67 year-old Winston Hue, an Asian man with black hair, brown eyes, appx. 5'9", weighing 170 pounds, possibly driving a Blue Kia Sol with CA license plate 5BJY341.

Update Jan 19 | 9:48pm:

Friday night police officers found the car matching the description at 47th and Lincoln Ave. with a

Police Report (Cont. from p. 11) with a gun pointed at the agents. man matching the description inside. Confirming that he was armed they contained the area. Hostage negotiators arrived, but the subject refused to comply' orders, barricading himself in the vehicle. During the course of negotiations, he fired his weapon upon himself. When a diversionary device failed to solicit a response, officers found the him suffering from a gunshot wound. Officers administered CPR and medical personnel attempted to treat his injuries. Winston Hue was pronounced deceased at approximately 10:19 pm. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the SFPD anonymous tip line at 415-575-4444.

> Editor's Note: These are highlights of the crime report. For the complete reports, visit taraval.org

OPEN LATE









Education Carol Kocivar ©2018

Our Local Ulloa Elementary School one of top schools in the nation

n case you missed it, one of our local elementary schools was just chosen as a National Title I Distinguished School. It's quite the recognition. Only one hundred schools throughout the nation win this.

Ulloa Elementary won for exceptional student parents who don't performance.

Test scores are significantly higher than the average state and city scores.

Check out the school's scores above:

Ulloa is the only Title 1 School in the Sunset. Many students are low income (60 per cent) and enter school not

■ The National Title I Distinguished Schools award adds to the list of honors for Ulloa, which won National Blue Ribbon in 2011, California Distinguished School in 2008 and 2011, and California Title I Academic Award from 2001 to 2009."

fluent in English (about 48 per cent). The school features a Chinese bilingual pathway.

The children are predominantly Asian. It is tucked away on 42 Avenue just off Sloat Blvd. Right next door is the South Sunset playground, which boasts a new turf field and a fully remodeled playground as well as a clubhouse that hosts after-school and sports programs.

I recently had a chance to talk with principal Carol Fong about what happens at Ulloa to support student success. Here are some highlights:

• The school strategically looks at the needs of the students and parents beyond academics.

This includes special outreach to

speak English with parent education nights. Staff is bilingual. Communication

is regularly sent home in the parent's language.

• A strong PTA — with parents who are bilingual helps new parents. School community activities are designed that don't require English fluency to help parents feel welcome

• The school stresses high expectations, emphasizing daily that students need to come ready to learn.

Students feel safe, routines are clear, and students know how to get help outside of the classroom if needed

• Attendance is critical.

The school has a 99.8 per cent attendance rate.

• Staff collaboration in integral and includes weekly grade level meetings and monthly team meetings.

Teachers work as a team and review student work to calibrate expectations for all students.

The National Title I Distinguished Schools award adds to the list of honors for Ulloa, which won National Blue Ribbon in 2011, California Distinguished School in 2008 and 2011, and California Title I Academic Award from 2001 to

You can listen to the interview with Principal Carol Fong on KALW 91.7. Click on to Looking at Education with Carol Kocivar kalw.org/programs/looking-education

About Title I:

Title I is the largest federally funded pre-college education program in the United States and provides funding to school districts across the country to aid in the education of economically disadvantaged students.

Carol Kocivar is a children's advocate and lives in the Westside. Feedback: kocivar@westsideobserver.com

California Assessment of Student Pertormance and Progress Results for All Students

ULLOA ELEMENTARY	Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding State Standards						
SCHOOL	School		District		State		
Subject	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	
English Language Arts/Literacy (grades 3-8 and 11)	79	79	52	53	44	48	
Mathematics (grades 3-8 and 11)	84	87	47	49	34	36	

Westside Mayoral Candidates Forum at Irish Cultural Center

by John O'Riordan – Northern Chair, Irish Caucus California Democratic Party

he tragic passing of Mayor Ed Lee in December shocked San Francisco and has resulted in a special election to replace him.

During Mayor Lee's tenure, San Board of Supervisors in November Francisco underwent significant housing boom. At the same time, Mayor Lee was also the main minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Mayor Lee had a special affinity with the Westside, capturing huge support in his two Mayoral elections. Now the race to replace Mayor Lee has begun and the Westside residents will have the chance to meet the candidates at a special forum at the **United Irish Cultural Center on** 45th@Sloat Blvd., on 28th Feb**ruary.** The forum will begin at pm (doors open @6pm). If you Angela Alioto would like to attend, please RSVP to forum4mayor@outlook.com, attendance is free.

While there are several people who have filed to run, there are four top tier candidates:

Angela Alioto is a native of San Francisco and is the daughter of former Mayor Joseph Alioto. She attended Lone Mountain College and subsequently received a J.D. Jane Kim from USF School of Law. She was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1988 representing District 2, which includes Cow Hollow, Marina, and Pacific Heights neighfor President Campaign in 1992.

2012 representing District 5, which change including a remarkable includes Western Addition, Hayes Valley, Haight-Ashbury, Cole Valley, and Inner Sunset neighbordriver behind the increase of the hoods. In January of 2015, her colleagues elected her President of the Board. A native of San Fran-









Mark Leno

grandmother in public housing in the Western Addition. She graduated with honors from Galileo borhoods. She served as Board High School and attended the Uni-President from January 1993 to versity of California, Davis, earning January 1995. She also served as a Bachelor of Arts in Political Sci-California Chair of the Jerry Brown ence/Public Service with a minor in African American Studies. She London Breed became act- went on to earn a Master's degree ing Mayor on the death of Mayor in Public Administration from the Lee. She won first election to the University of San Francisco.

Jane Kim, the daughter of South Korean immigrants, was born and raised in New York City. Kim attended Stanford University, where she majored in Political Science and Asian American Studies. She went on to receive her law degree from UC Berkeley School

of Law. She was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2010 to represent District 6, which includes South of Market, Mission Bay, the Tenderloin, Civic Center, Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island neighborhoods. Jane Kim lives in San Francisco's SoMa neighborhood.

Mark Leno grew up in Wisconsin and attended the University of Colorado and the American College of Jerusalem. Leno also spent two years in Rabbinical Studies at The Hebrew Union College in New York. Leno is the owner of Budget Signs, Inc. From 2002-2008, Leno served in the California State Assembly, representing the eastern portion of San Francisco. From 2008-2016, he represented San Francisco in the

cisco, London was raised by her California State Senate, chairing the Senate Budget Committee for six years. Prior to his public service in the legislature, he served for four and a half years on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors representing District 8, which includes Castro, Glen Park and Noe Valley neighborhoods.

> Questions about the Mayoral Forum? Contact organizer John O'Riordan: oriordan@hotmail.com



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Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

Homeless

do not remember why but I do remember when. It was in 1970 and we decided to leave the comfort of our home and venture north to spend 10 days in a rented motorhome. With our three young children, we packed our Winnebago, maps in hand, and headed out. Our first

night was spent at a campsite along the Sacramento River outside of Corning, and at that point all was good. We had done some research on stops along the way, but obviously GPS did not exist and certainly no Google. One of the first things we learned was that every day we had to stop and empty the holding tank and refill our water. We also found

out that you just didn't start cooking in the tiny galley while speeding down the highway. The campsites that we visited were comfortable and the people friendly, but we had to make sure that we had all our provisions with us, there were no 7 Elevens at the campsites and going shopping meant unhooking the electrical, water and sewer and driving to the closest town and risking the chance of not finding another spot at the campsite for that evening.



As we continued north, we made brief stops Heritage RV Park in Corning

in Red Bluff and Redding, and then wit- nice, clean, warm hotel for 2 days to give nessed the majesty of Mount Shasta and our tired backs and stomachs a muchit at the time, but in later years, Ashland became one of our favorite destinations as Oregon Shakespeare festival to enjoy not food and lovely accommodations.

A stop in Portland allowed us the opportunity introduce our children to Karen's grandparents, aunts and uncles while enjoying a home cooked meal and doing some much need laundry. Our final destination was Victoria, British Columbia and in

order to get there we put our trusty home away from home on a ferry from Anacortes, Washington to Victoria, which took us through the San

Once in Victoria our first order of business was to jump ship, which in our case

of our must-see destinations in later years.

the beauty of Lake Shasta. We did not know needed rest. One of the most famous sites in Victoria is the Butchard Gardens located on Vancouver Island, and what a treat that we returned on several occasions for the was. With its beautiful sunken garden, waterfalls, statuary and its massive Italian only the performances, but also the fine garden it is truly worthy of its designation as a Canadian National Historic Site.

So once again, it was time to squeeze our belongings in our home on six wheels and head back. The one thing that I still remember was the excellent condition of the roads that we





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San Juan Park, Washington

Washington and Oregon, and how quickly we realized when we were back in California, and that was 48 years ago. Where do all those tax dollars go? And speaking of dollars, why are we in a trade dispute ing to make "Canada" great again!!! with Canada that may result in as much

as a 25% import tax on newsprint which is mostly produced in Canada? Are we "Making America Great Again" by putting our newspapers out of business? Perhaps they got it backwards and our Pres is try-

Sergio gets around—the world.



Butchart Gardens



San Francisco passed a new law that will help business and property owners better comply with state and federal disability access laws. If your business serves the public, this new law may apply to you. The Department of Building Inspection's Accessible Business Entrance Program requires that your business have all primary entrances accessible for people with disabilities. Contact us today to learn more! First deadline for compliance is May 2018!

Call: 415-558-6128

Visit: 1660 Mission Street, 1st Floor, Window #8

ARE YOU A SMALL BUSINESS?

The City's Office of Small Business is a resource for you. They can assist you with accessibility requirements and information on financial assistance. Call (415) 554-6134 or visit sfosb.org.

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