

GOOD NEWS

for...



PHOTO BY RYAN THAYER

Planting the roof garden at TNDC's Curran House.

TNDC RESIDENTS The low-cost housing giant recently expanded its community gardening project for 372 low-income and formerly homeless residents in three TNDC apartment buildings: Curran House, 145 Taylor St., Yosemite Apartments, 480 Eddy St., and senior housing at 990 Polk St. The greening brings a cornucopia of new vegetables and herbs as part of TNDC's healthy eating and education drive for its tenants. The Curran House rooftop garden, which had 25 3-foot-oblong pots, got a dozen 6-foot-by-2-foot planters. Yosemite Apartments' backyard garden got six 4-foot-by-12-foot raised beds. And 990 Polk got a huge addition on its eighth-floor balcony: four 9-foot-by-10-foot planters and a 5-foot-by-25-foot planter. Ryan Thayer, who oversees the projects, said the second-floor balcony might get enough vegetable planters to triple the building's output, if the residents support the idea. The garden project began in 2010 when TNDC transformed a vacant city-owned lot at McAllister and Larkin streets into the Tenderloin People's Garden. More than a ton of food has been harvested and distributed to 400 people.

BOEDDEKER BUFFS The twice-delayed renovation of Boeddeker Park is to begin Nov. 13. Officials from Rec and Park and the Trust for Public Land, partners in the design, will begin a groundbreaking and party in the park, 1-to-4 p.m. The Board of Supervisors approved the park's \$5,360,000 reconfiguration cost Oct. 18. Administrative costs over several years raised the price tag to \$6 million. The new park will feature a glassy new clubhouse, a walkway circling a large lawn, an athletic court and children's playground with a garden and exercise area in the northern part. The redo is expected to take 14-16 months, not counting rain delays, with the park opening in summer 2014. Trust Project Manager, Alejandra Chiesa told the Friends of Boeddeker Park meeting in October. Boeddeker officially closed Nov. 2. But Rec and Park's Steve Cismowski said the clubhouse will be open to serve as a polling place election day, Nov. 6. The 2-4 p.m. groundbreaking party will feature music from park regular Mel and the Mellotones — and free food. The Trust will have a booth with a park map and Rec and Park will give away Boeddeker's plants. "If it rains," Cismowski said, "we'll have this under tents." Friends of Boeddeker Park will continue to meet monthly, but in the police station Community Room, Chair Betty Traynor said. As a volunteer and advocate for Boeddeker Park — vital in the renovation scheme — Traynor, a finalist in the 2012 Cox Conserves Heroes Awards, won \$2,500 for the park's playground development.

MARKET ST. BLIGHT CityPlace looked doomed last year, mired in bankruptcy. Now along comes Cypress Equities, a Dallas real estate developer, which bought the rights to the project, including the city's approval to build 167 underground parking spaces at Stevenson Street off Fifth, with revised plans for a six-level, 250,000-square-foot retail mall on Market between Fifth and Sixth streets. Cypress hopes to attract major retailers — J.C. Penney is rumored to be interested — having been assured by Mayor Lee that the city's current 90,000-square-foot limit per single retail establishment can be tweaked. Construction is to start this year with an anticipated spring 2015 opening under the name Market Street Place. The Extra's offices across Market will offer a bird's-eye-view of the razing of the boarded-up 935-65 Market St. buildings and the rise of a five-story glass-front shopping mecca. Info: marketstreetplace.com.

Artist who Burning Man got sent to jail for 2 years jumps in front of BART train

BY MARK HEDIN

SAN FRANCISCO playwright Paul Addis, perhaps best known for igniting the iconic Burning Man sculpture five days before it was due for immolation at the 2007 festival in the Nevada desert, has died after a final chaotic and contradictory action in a lifetime full of them. He was in his early 40s — 40 or 42 — when he jumped in front of a westbound BART train at Embarcadero Station Saturday evening, Oct. 27.

Although Burning Man and its parent organization, Black Rock City LLC, has become a multimillion-dollar business based on its embrace of alternative culture, it fully engaged with the justice system in seeing that Addis paid for his stunt. He was convicted of felony arson charges in Pershing County, Nev., sentenced to up to four years behind bars and ordered to pay \$25,000 in restitution, Burning Man communications manager Andie Grace blogged in June 2008. Addis served two years of his sentence before being paroled in 2010.

Although Addis had informed at least one member of Burning Man's inner circle of his plans to burn the iconic structure during the lunar eclipse that occurred on the Tuesday night of that year's weeklong festival, no one lifted a finger to intervene.

The organization's determination to punish Addis for his actions, particularly given the general knowledge that he had been medically diagnosed with psychiatric issues, was met with considerable debate within the "Burner" community, where some saw his actions as self-aggrandizing and dangerous, while others viewed it as a statement that had been widely suggested but never attempted to protest the mainstreaming — "Disneyfication," as Addis commented in a video still circulating on YouTube — of an event that had strayed far from its anarchistic roots.

Prior to his conviction, Addis was cagey about his role in the prank, saying, "It's virtually impossible to know what's the truth and not the truth these days no matter where it's being disseminated." Burning Man representatives said their hands were tied. Addis' case required them to fully cooperate with local authorities who have jurisdiction over their annual gathering. At press time, Black Rock City LLC is suing Pershing County over increased permit fees.

While on bail in the Burning Man case, Addis was arrested for allegedly plotting to burn down San Francisco's Grace Cathedral, atop Nob Hill, when he was found with a backpack full of fireworks after having told a friend the cathedral "wasn't going to be there anymore." He eventually pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor about six



PHOTO BY PERSHING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Paul Addis at his booking for arson and destruction of property charges in 2007.

months later, and was ordered to undergo counseling and stay away from the Episcopal church, which a friend, Amacker Bullwinkle, told the San Francisco Appeal was, ironically, among Addis' favorite places. His death came on the fifth anniversary of that arrest.

Addis had been trained in the legal profession — he told the Chronicle in 2007 he'd been an intellectual-property lawyer but retired in 2000 — and turned to the stage. Among his productions was the one-man show in which he portrayed the late writer Hunter S. Thompson, "Gonzo, A Brutal Chrysalis." Plans to take the production to stages in the Pacific Northwest following its premiere at the SoMa Climate Theater in 2007 were scuttled when he ran afoul of the law following his Burning Man stunt just before Labor Day.

After the parole board unanimously voted in 2009 to release him from custody, he produced another solo show, "Dystopian Veneer," in the Mission District's Dark Room, which lampooned the changing face of contemporary San Francisco.

On the Web, people who knew him remembered Addis as a stand-up guy who, though troubled and at times misunderstood, was unfailingly kind and supportive of his friends.

At press time, memorial services for Addis were still in the planning stages, but friends were gathering to honor him at the Mission District's Day of the Dead celebration Nov. 2.

In April 2011, taking advantage of the city's payroll tax exemption for businesses moving into the neighborhood, Black Rock City LLC leased 19,000 square feet of space at 995 Market St. for its new headquarters site. ■

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA!

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SAN FRANCISCO

CENTRAL CITY EXTRA is published monthly by San Francisco Study Center Inc., a private non-profit serving the community since 1972. The Extra was initiated through grants from the S.F. Hotel Tax Fund and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. The contents are copyrighted by the San Francisco Study Center, 944 Market Street, Suite 701, San Francisco, CA 94102.

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