

Extra staffer brutally attacked during delivery

Suspect arrested in sidewalk assault

By TOM CARTER

A LEADING CENTRAL CITY EXTRA reporter since the newspaper began in 2000, serving additionally as its distributor, was brutally clubbed from behind on his rounds in a cowardly act stemming from a road rage incident minutes before.

Newsman Mark Hedin, for six years also our delivery guy, collapsed unconscious on the sidewalk when struck Oct. 8 after crossing O'Farrell Street carrying bundles of Extras to deliver to several of the 200-some distribution points in the Tenderloin.

"The next thing I know I wake up in an ambulance taking me to S.F. General," Hedin, 56, said.

Days later, suspect Darryl Bolden, 37, of San Francisco was arrested, Tenderloin police said.

The attack put Hedin into critical condition. He was in S.F. General's intensive care unit for three days with a traumatic brain injury and nose and skull fractures from his fall, the result of being hit with a blunt object allegedly wielded by the man he previously had words with.

Hedin had driven his car down Jones Street at about 5:15 p.m. with a load of Extras in the backseat and started to back into a tight parking spot in the 500 block.

"I pride myself in being able to (negotiate) tight spots, but (to inch in) you have to tap the car in front and the one in back," Hedin said.

And in back was a brown Mercedes-Benz. When Hedin's car gently tapped it, its only occupant, in the driver's seat, went "crazy," Hedin recalls. Seeing a larger space up the street, Hedin drove off and parked there. A 6-foot-4 man with dreadlocks between 35 and 40 "jumped out" with a camera to take pictures of Hedin's license plates.

"I don't see any damage here," Hedin, a wiry 6-2, said he told the man, looking at where the cars had touched. "That's why they call them bumpers."

"I got the whiplash," Hedin said the man replied.

"I didn't respond and I went about my business" — up Jones Street, then back to the car and across Jones to the Coast Hotel and Joey's Laundromat on O'Farrell. "When I came back for more papers, he wanted to see some ID. I ignored him. There was nothing going on here."

Hedin crossed the street with a bundle of papers in each hand en route to the San Francisco Senior Center, O'Farrell Towers and the Winton Hotel. Then the lights went out.

"I woke up in an ambulance, confused," he said, with no idea what had happened or how long he had been out.

Sgt. Alex Rodatos of the Tenderloin Station visited the crime scene after officers had found Hedin unconscious and the Mercedes gone. Rodatos appeared at Hedin's hospital bedside that night with six mugshots to look at.

But the former Chronicle copy editor didn't recognize anyone. Rodatos told Hedin that the police had a video.

"I'd like to see that video," Hedin said. "The tip of my spine still hurts, and I want to see how I fell."

An SFGate report called it a "road-rage fight" over a "fender bender" — "a minor accident with the driver of a late 1990s Mercedes-Benz," it said, quoting police.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

NO. 161

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HOMELESS: NEW CHIEF IS FROM TL

Navigation Center
— his bright idea

PAGE 3

PIANO IN THE PARK

Music alfresco
at Boeddeker

PAGE 5



BENEFIT FOR THE CADILLAC

Historic SRO hit
by costly repair

PAGE 8

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA!

s a n f r a n c i s c o

'CHANGING FACE OF HUNGER'



St. Anthony's Dining Room chef Pepe Sanchez adds ingredients to his Mediterranean salmon stew in one of the kitchen's six huge steam kettles. St. Anthony's feeds up to 3,000 people daily.

COOKING FOR 3,000

Inside St. Anthony's new dining room with the chefs

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PAUL DUNN

EARLY ON THE SECOND DAY of his four-month tenure at St. Anthony's Dining Room, chef Pepe Sanchez awoke with a smashing idea. He wanted to prepare a nutritious vegetarian dish for St. Anthony's guests that would be tasty and easy to eat.

But the diners that day ignored Sanchez's well-intentioned side dish because, oddly enough, they had no way to eat it. And that's where our story begins ...

On a recent sunny morning in the Tenderloin, Sanchez hovers over a 55-gallon stainless steel steam kettle. It looks like a giant dreidel sans Hebrew lettering. Using a long wooden paddle, he stirs his new concoction — a rose-red, delectable-smelling Mediterranean salmon stew.

"I get paid to cook, and I get my exercise at the same time," he says, the wiry muscles in his shoulders and arms straining against the stew's current.

The 49-year-old — who sports a dark Mohawk and handlebar mustache — was similarly using his muscles that day as he alternately stirred two steam kettles filled with 50-cent-size carrot "coins."

To those carrots — "a shit load of 'em," he says — he added butter and curry powder,

then power-blended the mixture into a puree. He figured the dish would be perfect for St. Anthony's clients and offer some variety after three straight days of blanched carrots with salt.

"I was all happy with myself and wanted to really wow my guests, because a lot of them don't have teeth," Sanchez said. "I thought it would be great because it would be easier for them to eat."

But about halfway through the day's first food service — reserved for seniors — a volunteer told Sanchez that nobody was eating his prized dish.

They had no spoons.

St. Anthony's guests receive forks only — because the soup kitchen cuisine never requires spoons, eliminating a logistical complication in the complex operation.

"I was embarrassed," Sanchez now recalls with a grin as he gazes at today's pot of chunky salmon stew. "It was an epic failure."

By all accounts, though, Sanchez's episode, which he laughs about now, has been the exception since St. Anthony's opened its new dining room a year ago.

The dining room has been on the same Tenderloin corner, Jones Street and Golden Gate Avenue, since 1950. Originally it was in the basement of an old auto repair shop. That structure, demolished in 2012, was replaced with a new \$22.5 million building.

The dining room, open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, seats 300 and serves up to 3,000 free meals a day. Guests can have as many helpings as they wish.

The dining room has had operational challenges in its first year — such as how to get food trays from the dining room back to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Christian Cagigal's "The Pandora Experiment" shows at EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy St., through Nov. 21.

SPECIAL EVENT

Cadillac Hotel fundraiser, Nov. 14. noon-5 p.m. 380 Eddy St. 10 musicians from a range of genres play to help fund essential hotel electrical work. Free event, donations accepted. The Cadillac, a historic SRO, hosts free concerts weekly.

ARTS EVENTS

"The Pandora Experiment" by magician and EXIT Theatre artist in residence Christian Cagigal, described as an alchemist of the imagination. EXIT Theatre, through Nov. 21, EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy St. Info and tix: brownpapertickets.com.

Bubblegum Garbage Party. Guest comics answer questions, tell their jokes, improvise scenes at PianoFight, 144 Taylor, Nov. 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Info and tix: piano.ghl.com.

Aurora Mandolin Orchestra, Nov. 8, 2-4 p.m., Main Library, Koret Auditorium. Free concert by this orchestra of professional and amateur musicians playing classical, contemporary and popular pieces on mandolin, mandola, mandocello, guitar, string bass, accordion, flute and percussion. Info: sfpl.org.

Thursdays at Noon film series, Main Library, Koret Auditorium, noon-2 p.m. Nov. 12: North by Northwest (1959); Nov. 19: To Catch a Thief (1955). Info: sfpl.org.

"Building the Golden Gate Bridge: A Workers' Oral History," author Harvey Schwartz reads from his new book, book signing, Nov. 12, Main Library, 6-8 p.m., Latino/Hispanic Rooms A & B. Info: sfpl.org.

A Place of Her Own, Nov. 19 Dec. 11, SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan. Exhibition of visual artworks, large-scale installations, sound sculptures and more by 20 artists, ages 24-89, expressing their hopes and dreams for how and where they'd like to live. Free public opening event Nov. 19, 6-9 p.m. Info: somarts.org.

REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of each month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Client Council, 3rd Tuesday of month, 3-5 p.m., 1380 Howard, Room 515. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 255-3695. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarding and Cluttering Support Groups, weekly

meetings at various times, conducted by Mental Health Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 928. Info: 421-2926 or mentalhealthsf.org/group-search.

Legal clinic, 4th Thursday of the month, 507 Polk St., 10 a.m.-noon. Legal help for people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities who need help with an SSA work review, sponsored by People with Disabilities Foundation. Sliding-scale fee. By appointment only: 931-3070. Info: pwwdf.org.

Mental Health Board, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday, 3 p.m., Kelly Cullen Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium or 5th floor gym. Public invited to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica.healthyretail@gmail.com, 581-2483.

SAFETY

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x202.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Info: 882-3088, http://central-market.org.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., park clubhouse, Eddy and Jones. Info: Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 5 p.m., 55 Taylor St. Info: 292-4812.

Safe Haven Project, 4th Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m., 519 Ellis St. (Senator Hotel). Contact: 563-3205, x115, or centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario, 701-5580.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Info: 820-1412.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor's Disability Council, 3rd Friday of month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior & Disability Action (formerly Planning for Elders/Senior Action Network), general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1010 Mission St., (Bayanihan Community Center). For info about SDAs Survival School, University and computer class schedules: 546-1333, www.sdaction.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim, member, Land Use Committee, School District, Transportation Authority; chair, Transbay Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors; vice-chair Transportation Authority Plans & Programs Committee

Legislative aides: Sunny Angulo, Ivy Lee and April Veneracion

Jane Kim@sfgov.org, 554-7970

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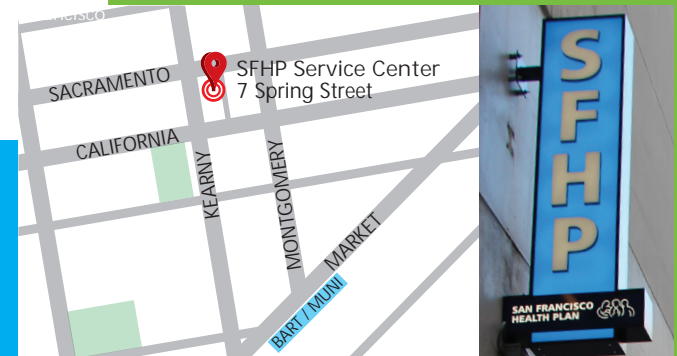
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