Native son of the Mission lived in a tent blocks from his old family home

By Mark Hedin

Robert Guerrero III was born at St. Luke’s Hospital in 1971. Much of his childhood was spent blocks away in a house at 19th and Capp streets that his grandfather rebuilt after the 1906 earthquake and fire.

Recently, he was living in a tent about a block away from there.

Now, he’s making his home at the city Navigation Center at 1950 Mission st.

“I’m thankful I have somewhere I can eat, do laundry,” Guerrero told The Extra. “I love it. Just to have somewhere to go come and go as I please, to be able to eat instead of going to soup kitchens.”

The 19th and Shotwell campsite where he’d been living became notorious when police fatally shot fellow camper Luis Gongora on April 7. Called by an outreach worker trying to help the homeless, the officers had their gun drawn within seconds of arrival.

“I was right on the corner that morning. I heard it happen. I used to kick the ball with him,” Guerrero said. “It was a shame what happened to him. He never did any harm.”

Guerrero came to live there after years of bouncing around all over the Bay Area. His family had lived in San Mateo for a while and then Concord while his grandparents were living on Capp Street. “I was always in that house,” he recalled of visits there as a child.

After his grands passed, his family lived there from 1980 to 2006. They had to sell for reasons Guerrero said were too difficult to detail. “It was a devastating thing for me,” he said. “I never thought that would happen.”

A ‘driver by trade,’ Guerrero worked at various jobs. One was at Northwest Cheese Distributors in the Bayview until it was sold and he was laid off, he said. For two years, he drove for a furniture warehouse in Circus Heights — now Sacramento.

His work history, though, was erratic, interrupted by bouts with alcohol and methamphetamine. “I’d end up getting drunk, not going in to work, and losing a job,” he said. “I’m my own worst enemy.”

He was living with his mom and step-dad in the East Bay, when one day in 2009, they packed up all his stuff and he was laid off, he said. For two years, he was living on Capp Street. “I was always in that house,” he recalled of visits there as a child.

He lost that job and soon after the Pacifica home, but Guerrero found a room with an older man and his dog in a house off Ocean Avenue. That lasted a year or more, he said — until he lost his job and got behind on his rent as he awaited unemployment benefits. He couldn’t keep up car payments.

The Extra’s focus is on longtime San Franciscans who have become homeless in their hometown.

Tenderloin ghosts

Haunted images of old commerce have tales to tell

By Lisa StampaII

The Tenderloin Museum honored Castle with a May 6 opening reception for a five-day exhibit of a dozen of her images. Of the 100 ghosts in her collection, 25 are — or were — in the Tenderloin. One, for Zubelda Cigarettes, a popular brand around 1910, was on a larkin street, cashed in on the Orientalism craze of the time.

Castle calls herself an urban archaeologist, saving the ghosts as photo records of how people lived, what they spent money on, what advertising messages appealed to them. Because the ghosts defined a neighborhood’s character, film or theater designers and art directors can use the photos for period detail.

Castle learned quickly that every ghost has a story. Her process includes prowling the streets and following up on tips from friends or real estate professionals — she heard about a wall advertisement for White Owl cigars from a friend whose back garden had a view of the vine-covered ghost. Once she photographs the ghosts, she researches the products and services, using her skills as a former real estate attorney to look up ancient business records and licenses and track down out-of-business companies’ headquarters.

One, an ad for Omar Cigarettes on Mason Street, cashed in on the Orientalism craze after Chicago’s 1893 World’s Fair, citing the “joy of life” — American companies co-opted legends and created new ones loosely based on Middle Eastern themes. In old magazines, Castle found ads for Omar Cigarettes that quoted 11th century poet and mathematician Omar Khayyam.

While some ghosts promote small luxuries like tobacco products, soft drinks and chewing
Kim snags Sanders’ blessing, shares his spotlight

Senator’s endorsement a bonanza for D6 supe’s campaign fund

By Mark Hedin

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR Jane Kim made national news in May when Bernie Sanders endorsed her bid to replace termed-out Mark Leno in the California Senate.

Kim was one of eight state-office candidates nationwide who got the Vermont senator’s nod. His press release cited her work as a civil rights attorney and advocate for affordable housing and fair wages in San Francisco.

Sanders, who has Kim’s backing in his presidential bid, didn’t mention Kim’s leading role in the Twitter tax break, or that she made the Citizens Advisory Committee a rubber stamp for city deals with tech companies.

Kim is running to replace Leno who’s being termed out after eight years in Sacramento. Her chief rival is District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener who also got a U.S. senator’s endorsement, Dianne Feinstein’s.

Besides Kim, Sanders spoke up for House of Representative candidates in South Carolina, Justin Bamberg and Terry Alexander.

Kim is running to replace Leno who’s being termed out after eight years in Sacramento. Her chief rival is District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener who also got a U.S. senator’s endorsement, Dianne Feinstein’s.

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Lots of jobs going to pot — industry on hiring spree

Bud tenders, delivery drivers most in demand — tech workers, too

By Tom Carter

S
AY YOU WANT to vacation in sunny California lodgings that are marijuana-friendly and might even provide the stuff — if your medical card is in order. Bud and Breakfast, operating worldwide like Airbnb, can book you out. Just browse its listings and choose.

“Sure, someone in the Tenderloin could rent out a room through us,” said George Ludwig, chief tech officer, managing an exhibit at the GreenRush Can-

navas Job Fair April 30 in the nearby Regency Hotel’s fancy ballroom on Van Ness Avenue. “Maybe charge $100 a night, or more.” Ludwig was looking to hire a Web designer.

His service is one of many new approaches to medical cannabis, reflecting dizzying growth, especially in dispensary-to-doorstep delivery services and tech innovations that are creating thousands of jobs.

The Exxxa was there to report on the job options for Tenderloin residents. Ludwig was one of 32 exhibitors each paying $420 to meet a stream of job-seekers and collect resumes for interviews later. Only a few exhibitors were based in San Francisco, one the 5-year-old Green Cross delivery service. None was from the Tenderloin (see sidebar).

The line waiting to get in for $420 wrapped around the corner. Those who paid $29 could skip the line. The final head count for the eight-hour event was 2,767.

The mood was upbeat as the throngs threaded along three rows of tables, hoping for new careers in a $2.7 billion industry in California last year. ArcView Market Research, a cannabis investor group, predicts it will be $6.6 billion in 2020. By that time, one industry executive estimates, up to 500,000 new jobs will be in order.

Employee pay in most of the state is moderate, according to salary data from indeed.com. The highest paid, can-nabis doctors, average $116,000 a year, about the same as a tech worker. Dispensa-

ry managers make $55,000, delivery drivers, $39,000, and bud tenders, those front line retail sales clerks at the counters who know potencies and other details of their dispensary’s inventory, $24,000. But these are averages. Bud tenders in the Bay Area can make up to $52,000.

Marketing specialists, accountants, head chefs, executives and lab technicians range from $60,000 to $80,000 and higher.

A freelancer who designs music post-

certs, Debray Carpenter of Bayview-Hunters Point, said she was picking up business cards, looking for a steady paycheck. Stephanie Miller, a Starbucks employee in Sonoma, sought a new career in customer service, having learned of the fair at the 4/20 celebra-

tion at Golden Gate Park.

But just some wanted to get a sense of the expanding industry and its burgeoning services, especially for shut-in patients and hobbled old-timers. Now patients can find relief from among an estimated 25,000 products, including scores of bud strains and a range of edibles from cannabis-infused chocolates to sublingual spray, sometimes helpful for epileptic children.

The turnout was short of GreenRush’s strategist Eddie Miller’s hopes of up to 4,000 but, still, he says, it’s the biggest cannab-

us job fair ever.” Miller said the major-

ty of exhibitors were “technology-related, reflecting the Bay Area environment.” But GreenRush, an online marijuana delivery service for 250 dispensaries statewide, was looking for drivers.

California’s medical marijuana indus-

ty is getting a boost in the pot laws that regulate medical cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, transportation, testing, distribution and the state will issue 17 different licenses.

“In one year the industry has gone insane,” said Richard California U.S. Attorney away from the crowd bunched at his ta-

table. He co-owns Alta Supply with Jessica Luga. Their 18-month-old delivery business with a staff of seven was looking to add three 40-hour-a-week drivers and two sales reps.

There was a strong sense among the job seekers that California will vote to approve recreational pot in November and they want to be in the forefront and find job security in an industry set to explode.

Christopher Lilga, an owner of Alta Supply, said he wanted to speak with two representatives from the Berkeley Patients Group, one of the oldest dispensaries in Northern Cali-

ifornia. The 2,500-square-foot cooperative on San Pablo Avenue with 50 employees recently added delivery.

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

2013-2014 Seismic Safety

Compliance Tier Submission of Permit Application with Plans Completion of Work and CFC Issuance

1 09/15/2017 09/15/2017

2 09/16/2016 09/16/2016

3 09/16/2016 09/16/2016

4 09/16/2016 09/16/2020

Jane McKay, of Berkeley Patients Group talks with Christopher Hind, an applicant looking for a cannabis-related job at the April 10 GreenRush Cannabis Job Fair.

Tom Carter

Why Tenderloin has no pot clubs — and when it might get one

The Tenderloin has no medical cannabis dispensary. The neighborhood had two, but lost them in unsettling ways when Cafe.com at 120-24 Mason St. closed in 2007 and Sanctuary at 669 O’Farrell St. shut down in 2012.

Cafe.com’s landlord, CitAptments, told the Planning Commission in a May 2007 appeal that the site had been underoccu-

ped and in violation of tenant restrictions when it wasn’t the know-it-all pot club was even there, though previously CitAptments had signed off on it with the city. The small, discreet club in back of the Inter-

et cafe had 800 clients, 80% of them from the Tenderloin, owner Tariq Alazarie said. The nearby Hilton Hotel, wary of such things, had ‘leased on’ the landlord to shut it down. Alazarie said, though a hotel official denied that.

Northern California U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag put Sanctuary and its eight employees out of business with a letter to the landlord saying his building could be seized because he was harboring a federally illegal operation. Sanctuary, which had a key until 2010, had taken compassion to a high level. It had fewer than 1,000 patients and gave away medical pot to the poor- est of them, subsidized rents of 10 of the neighborhood’s neediest up to $600 a month, and each week made and distributed thousands of free sandwiches. Such caring was lost on Haag. She forced Sanctuary to close in January 2012 and the storefront became a pet store.

There’s a good chance the Tenderloin will get a new pot club. Currently, 23 applications for new dispensaries are pending, one at 1276 Market St. at N. by FMSI Inc. Another application is Delta Health Center’s bid for 110 Sixth St. So far, the Tenderloin has none.

Approvals take five months to a year, but there’s no limit to the number of dispensaries the city can have, according to the Health Department. In January, San Francisco had 25. — Tom Carter

Take the Next Step

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

Ensure your property is seismically retrofitted by turning in your permit application with plans.

Compliance Tier Submit of Permit Application with Plans Completion of Work and CFC Issuance

1 09/16/2017 09/15/2017

2 09/15/2016 09/16/2016

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Take the Next Step

DBI | Protecting Building and Life Safety

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Fading images on old buildings hint at TL’s character

Tenderloin love affair runs deep

Honoring ground zero

City pays tribute to transgender riot on tough Turk & Taylor block

By MaryEllen Reggs

For GROUND ZERO in the gay-end rights movement, look not to New York City’s Stonewall riots of 1969 but to San Francisco’s own hot corner, Turk and Taylor Streets, in an almost identical resistance to S.F. police harassment, drag queens beat New York to the punch by three full years.

That was 50 years ago, 1966, when the “werewolves,” as Chronicle columnist Herb Caen described the late-night denizens of Gene Compton’s Cafeteria at 101 Turk St., got up with police pack-
ing on them and, in a barrage of dish-
ware, hot coffee and window-breaking, resisted a wee-hour raid.

Compton’s, a chain of all-night din-
ers, was one of the few places to get away from the constant hassle grown to be too much. When police came in that August evening and started, as Elizondo put it, “meeting their quota” at Compton’s the first person they accorded splashed him cup of coffee at the officer. And then it was on. Sugar shakers went through the restaurant’s plate-glass windows, plates and saucers and such went flying and of-

100 Turk St., got fed up with police pick-
ing on them and, in a barrage of dish-
ware, hot coffee and window-breaking, resisted a wee-hour raid.

It’s hard to imagine, but people were arrested all the time just on the basis of what you were wearing,” Ellinger said.

The Hotel Toronto, on the 300 block of Geary, and the advertisement for the Turkish blend cigarettes —2 packages for $156 — both are gone. The P. Lorillard Co. introduced its Zubelda smokes in 1912, named in honor of the Khedive of Egypt’s wife. The blend tobacco cigarettes — 2 packages for 15¢ — both are gone. The P. Lorillard Co. introduced its Zubelda smokes in 1912, named in honor of the Khedive of Egypt’s wife.

Clockwise from top: The safety of “intellectual frame” reinforcing the Hor-
old Hotel at 308 Eddy, built in 1910 and the largest tourist host in the Tend-
erloin at the time, would have been a plus for potential residents since so many buildings had to be razed after the ’06 earthquake and fire. This location marker has been repainted recently, but the date is ambiguous. Nan Castle says this original sign probably what made it special. The Hotel at O’Farrell and Jones call atten-

By Marjorie Beggs

2008 to Up From the Deep. Ellinger is part of the tradition of helping us celebrate our surroundings. How many are drawn to the visual beauty of the Tenderloin, none more so than photographer and neighborhood histo-

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Remembering TL’s all-but-forgotten riot

“It’s so vague,” Elizondo said. “I try to remember, but at that time we were all trying to survive, on drugs, prostitution. We didn’t know we were making a statement. We were tired of being harassed. We were called the ‘Gutter Girls’ because we had no education, no skills,” she said at the Cadillac event. “Prostitution and selling drugs is the only career we had because they would not hire us. We had to do something to survive!”

“The kids of today don’t know how easy they have it. We didn’t know if we were gonna come home, who was gonna pick us up. But we had to survive. We had the balls to be who we were. Nobody could take that away from us.”

In a year when transgender issues have moved into the national spotlight, San Francisco is honoring a barely known ground zero in the long campaign for safety, respect and fair treatment.

On June 24, Vicki Mar Lane, aka the 100 block of Turk Street, will meet Gene Compton’s Cafeteria Way, when the 100 block of Taylor takes on a new identity, per the Board of Supervisors’ May 17 unanimous vote approving Supervisor Jane Kim’s proposal to honorarily rename that block.

Today, the tide is changing, but there’s also pushback — North Carolina comes to mind, former Assemblyman Tom Ammiano said outside the Cadillac after speaking at the LGBT Elder Life Conference. “Those people in North Carolina have to understand that their words cause violence. They have blood on their hands.”

Nonetheless, “I got 14 felony arrests for drug sales on that corner, in front of the 21 Club,” Stryker said. “It was bigger than a bar fight, smaller than a military invasion,” Stryker said. “Compton’s was completely trashed, a general havoc was caused that night in the Tenderloin.”

Styley’s film won an Emmy for Best Cultural or Historical Special and aired repeatedly on PBS. She was just in time, “Compton’s was completely trashed, a general havoc was caused that night in the Tenderloin,” Styley said. “It was bigger than a bar fight, smaller than a military invasion,” Stryker said. “Compton’s was completely trashed, a general havoc was caused that night in the Tenderloin.”

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Compton’s riot

3rd-generation man from the Mission goes homeless

In one city attempt to calm things, it’s now illegal to park on the first block of Turk, approaching the intersection.

either so he had to let his car go too. He stayed with a friend of a friend in a flat on Shorenville at 18th for six or seven months. Helping with maintenance in lieu of paying rent. But a roommate he said a bipolar, meth-using, domineering sex worker was tough to deal with and he had to move on.

“...I decided to go to Walden House in the Fillmore, he said, and “almost made it six months to graduation.”

In March 2014 “I was permanently on the streets then.”

While speaking with The Extra, on a sunny afternoon at a picnic table under the Mission goes homeless.

2012 Tenderloin Housing Clinic study found Turk’s first block had eight more times violent crime than the average in the rest of the neighborhood and 55 times as much as the rest of the city.

In one city attempt to calm things, it’s now illegal to park on the first block of Turk, approaching the intersection.


doing battery service for a tow truck company didn’t help.

He went back to Shorenville. “I was partying here and there,” he said, and his roommate got mad at him, “started taking control of the living situation there. There was a lot of abuse. I wouldn’t put up with that, won’t put up one bit,” he said.

“Finally I ended up getting a tent.” It was March 2014 “I was permanently on the streets then.”

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ARTS EVENTS


Concerts at the Cadillac, 380 Eddy St., June 11, 12:30 p.m. Jazz and blues vocaled Larry Smith and the Jules Brincoin Trio featuring trombonist Danny Armstrong play the free monthly concert. Info: cadillaclive.org.

#SFPublicCanvas, June 16-18, Hastings Demonstration Gardens, 303 Golden Gate Ave. 6 p.m. Free outdoor, multimedia collaboration between vertical dance group BANDALOOP, media artist Jonathan Rovey of The Village Impacts, producing partner (Humbante, TL), residents, and guest performers Campo Sano, Taeane Wilks and Youth Speaks artists. Info: sfpubliccanvas.org.


Hand Bookmakers of California’s Annual Members Exhibition, June 19-Sept. 3, Main Library, Skylight Gallery, sixth floor. Works, from miniscule to mammoth, of more than 40 of the organization’s members. Info: sfpl.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., 1780 Howard, Room 515. Consumer advisors from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 255-3969. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of month, 1101 Mission St., Bayview Community Center, 7 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call Lizis Montane, 546-1335 x415.

Hoarding and Cluttering Support Groups, weekly meetings at various times, conducted by Mental Health Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 920. Info: 421-2506 or mentalhealthsf.org/group-sched.

Legal clinic, 4th Thursday of the month, 567 Polk St., 10 a.m.-noon. Legal help for people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities who need help with an SSDI work review, sponsored by People with Disabilities Foundation. Sliding-scale fee. By appointment only, 201-2070. Info: pwdf.org.

Mental Health Board, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CMAB 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

SFPD Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies, to receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x032.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., police station community room, 301 Eddy St. Call Lisa Black, 345-7300.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District, 2nd Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 400-1469 or sl_dlsclty6@hotmail.com, a districtwide improvement association.


Friends of Beedecker Park, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3 p.m., park clubhouse, Eddy and Jones. Info: Betty Traynor, 911-1216.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SFPD resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Ferguson, 554-5920.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District, Full Board meets 3rd Monday at 6 p.m., 50 Taylor St. Info: 292-4812.

Safe Haven Project, 4th Tuesday of month, 3 p.m., 519 Eddy St. (Senator Hotel). Contact 563-3206, x 15, or centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com.

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

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Thursday of month (from new day as of Feb. 2016), 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Info: 600-1412.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor’s Disability Council, 2nd Friday of month, 1-5 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-3676. Open to the public.

Senior & Disability Action Committee (formerly Planning for Elders/Service Action Network), general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1101 Mission St., (Bayview Community Center). For info about SDA’s Social Structure School, University and computer classes.

Industrial Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Monday, 3 p.m. Info: 576-2270.

Mental Health Board, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. Info: CMAB 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

SFPD Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies, to receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x032.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., police station community room, 301 Eddy St. Call Lisa Black, 345-7300.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District, 2nd Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 400-1469 or sl_dlsclty6@hotmail.com, a districtwide improvement association.


Friends of Beedecker Park, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3 p.m., park clubhouse, Eddy and Jones. Info: Betty Traynor, 911-1216.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SFPD resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Ferguson, 554-5920.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District, Full Board meets 3rd Monday at 6 p.m., 50 Taylor St. Info: 292-4812.

Safe Haven Project, 4th Tuesday of month, 3 p.m., 519 Eddy St. (Senator Hotel). Contact 563-3206, x 15, or centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com.

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