Fake cash on upswing with bills just blowin' in the wind

The Extra stumbles onto funny money and checks it out

By Mark Hedlin

The Secret Service, everyone knows, protects the safety of presidents and president wannabes. They’re in charge of dead presidents, too. The Secret Service is the lead agency in the government’s battle against counterfeit currency.

And here in the Bay Area, we’re keeping them busy. So much funny money is circulating, one can almost trip over it.

On a hot July afternoon, the smell of urine wafted strong on the wind blowing east down Natoma Street from Sixth. Near the corner, a little piece of paper coated in chlorophyll tumbled toward the ink-stained wretch walking the other way. He quickly bent down to snatch it up, and another rolling along right behind it.

On their face was the scowling visage of the scoundrel President Andrew Jackson, slave owner, Indian conqueror and renowned racist. Jackson is soon to be banished from U.S. currency in favor of a hero again.

But Satwinder “Bill” Multani, the event coordinator Harriet Tubman, but this afternoon, he was a hero again.

CHECK OUT TRUMPTY DUMPTY
He could be ready for a very big fall

New American’s dream
Eritrean survives adversity, finally finds a good life

Story and Photos By Tom Carter

S PICY, PUNGENT AROMAS from a steaming dinner platter 2 feet in diameter throw Abraham Weldeselasie gleefully back in time and into a reverie.

The highly seasoned East African food swirls in his head before it hits his mouth. Succulent chunks of lamb, beef and chicken surrounded by an array of delicately seasoned vegetables fill the platter — in the middle, to counter the heat; the traditional scoop of yogurt.

“All mothers in Eritrea cook this way,” Abraham says and smiles, his dark eyes wide and gleaming, his hand inviting. “This is our culture.”

One other table is occupied at 5:30 p.m. as Mathews Johannes, who opened Asabi Eritrean restaurant on Geary Boulevard near Masonic Avenue 13 years ago, comes by with steaming plates of injera. This spongy flatbread is made of teff, the ancient, tiny, gluten-free grain grown in the Horn of Africa. Teff is a new specialty crop in four states, including California.

The meal is the zenith of the Eritrean experience that Abraham has promised me following many hours over months discussing his history. He’s a diminutive, sincere man of 64 given to reminiscing about his homeland and proudly pulling up pictures of it on his mobile phone.

Even so, he’s in the land of his dreams. He has put his rocky times behind him — he has a criminal record dating to his early days in San Francisco — and has settled into his Curran House studio in the Tenderloin. He lives on a thin income as a part-time cabbie but is secure in his Eritrean community that extends to cousins in San Jose and a niece in Seattle.

Abraham fills us in about the Bay Area’s close-knit Eritrean community. There’s another Eritrean restaurant in town, over on Ninth Avenue, but Oakland has the mother lode, more than a dozen. And Oakland, with 6,000 Eritreans, is the center of the Bay Area Eritrean community and its 12,000 population. San Francisco has an estimated 2,000, but Abraham isn’t sure how many, if any others, live in the Tenderloin.

Besides their food, Eritreans love their Independence. After 32 years of fighting, Eritrea, the size of Indiana with 5.3 million people, in 1991 shook free from Ethiopia’s annexation. On May 24, the celebrated day, countrymen from San Jose, Santa Rosa and hundreds from San Francisco flocked to Oakland’s Eritrean Community Cultural Center to celebrate.

Abraham and 10 others took the nation’s red, green and blue flag with centered gold olive branches to Mayor Libby Schaff’s third-floor office, asking her to display it in the hall next to the California flag.

Abraham left his homeland with his father’s blessing when the conflict heated up. Young men in Asmara, Eritrea’s capital where the family lived, were getting drafted, or shot
Counterfeit bills passed regularly

‘Widespread problem’ with 75 probes yearly in region, Secret Service says

satwinder “Bill” Multani holds some of the counterfeit money his workers mistakenly accepted. He keeps these two and other fake bills taped to the wall behind the register to remind them to be more careful. He knew right away that the $20 bills The Extra found blowing down a South of Market alley weren’t the real deal. He even has a phony $5 bill in his collection.

$61 MILLION SO FAR

Counterfeiting in general, Thomas added, ‘might not get much attention because the victims are spread so thin,’ but nationwide so far this fiscal year, he said, the Secret Service has collected $61 million in phony currency. In his jurisdiction, which ranges up the coast from San Mateo to the Oregon border, it’s $2.5 million since Oct. 1.

The inland district, including Fres no, San Jose and Sacramento, he said, has taken in another $2.25 million in the same time period.

‘It has become so easy to do with the increase in technology capacity for copying,’ Thomas said. ‘Sixteen-year-old kids might do it for fun.’ The maximum sentence on counterfeiting charges, Thomas said, is 20 years. In colonial times, under British rule, counterfeiting was a capital crime.

Counterfeiting cartels

Beyond mischievous teenagers with sophisticated computer ware, a bigger problem, Thomas said, lurks in the jungles of South America, where, he alleged, drug cartels have set up sophisticated printing operations to exploit their countries’ ‘dollarized’ economies.

‘It’s easy for them to have these large-scale printing operations in the jungle manufacturing high quantities of U.S. currency.’ Thomas said ‘some of that makes its way into the United States.’ The Secret Service, he said, has 25 foreign offices, besides its presence in all 50 U.S. states. More sophisticated off-set presses, he said, can change the bills’ serial numbers during the press run, to make them seem more authentic.

President Lincoln signed the legislation that created the Secret Service, Thomas said, on April 14, 1865, just hours before he was assassinated at Ford’s Theatre. At the time of the Civil War, counterfeiters accounted for 30-50% of the money circulating, and combating that was ‘the sole purpose’ for the agency’s creation, he said.

And combating financial crime remains a key element of the Secret Service’s assignment. Nowadays, that’s grown to include things like credit card and bank fraud and cybercrimes for financial gain, Thomas said.

The Secret Service didn’t begin protecting presidents until 1901, after Pres ident McKinley was murdered. Decades too late for Honest Abe. ■

The Extra's Jacksons looked pretty natural, he said, ‘primarily from police depart- ments or bank deposits.’

Bank tellers, he said, are the best at spotting counterfeiters. Also, Thomas said, they do better at confiscating them when they’re presented, given banks’ generally better security than what mom-and-pop stores have. ‘We would prefer that they (shopkeepers) do take it,’ Thomas said, but ‘our No. 1 concern is for their safety,’ and the official recommen-dation is that merchants report attempts at passing fake currency, with descriptions of the persons of interest.

Despite his efforts, Tip Top’s Jack says he regularly gets notified by his bank that not all of the money he’s de-posited is acceptable. That money, he says, he never sees again. It’s not a lot, $40-$100 every month or two, but it’s consistent, he said.

‘Most of the victims are going to be smaller businesses.’ Thomas said. ‘It’s like that old game of hot potato. Who-ever’s got it last loses.’ Sometimes, he said, they get odd-looking money that’s actually the real deal ‘A 1935 series bill looks very different,’ he said.

Twenties are the most commonly faked currency, he said, followed by 10s, but he’s seen ‘em all. Multani showed The Extra a fake $5, a $10 and a $20.

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Counterfeiting is such a wide-spread problem,’ said David Thomas, special agent in charge of the Secret Service’s San Francisco office. ‘We con-duct an average of 75 counterfeit cur-rency criminal investigations per year in Northern California,’ G-man Thomas told The Extra. ‘Those investigations re-sult in about 30 arrests per year by the Secret Service.’

Counterfeit currency-passing ac-tivity has increased in Northern Cali-fornia from $4.6 million worth in 2012 to $6.5 million in FY 2015, he wrote in an email. ‘It appears we are on track for right around $6 million for FY 2016,’ which ends Sept. 30.

Local law enforcement agencies too, prosecute counterfeiting. ‘Not all are federally prosecuted,’ he said. ‘We work very often with state and local agencies.’

Back in April, for instance, in a Cu-pertino apartment across the street from Apple Computer offices, the santa Clara County sheriff arrested a suspect, Eric Aspden, 45, alleging he’d been making six-figure bank for the past year or two, sending bundles of $20s across the country. Santa Clara extradited him to Virgin ia, one of 40 states he’s alleged to have distributed to. He’d made them, the six felony charges say, on inkjet printers and 100% cotton paper, stuff easily pur-chased at any office supply store.

Turns out, just holding that phony currency is a crime, too, like possession of other controlled substances.

BANK TELLERS’ KEEN EYES

‘We try to collect all the counterfeit currency that gets passed around the world,’ Thomas said. It comes to them, he said, ‘primarily from police depart- ments or bank deposits.’

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9 businesses clear 1st hurdle to legacy status

By Jonathan Newman

MORE THAN A YEAR after the Board of Supervisors directed the city’s Office of Small Business to establish a registry of legacy businesses in San Francisco — longstanding community-serving businesses valuable for their cultural assets — the first nine candidates for legacy status won their applications win the unanimous approval of the Historic Preservation Commission on July 20.

Next and final stop a public hearing before the Small Business Commission on Aug. 8.

Collectively, the nine have racked up nearly 400 years of business activity in San Francisco.

The rollout of the registry has been frustratingly slow, developing the byzantine rules and laws for a new program suddenly thrust upon its already busy staff — struggled to channel money to qualifying legacy businesses in San Francisco.

Richard Kurylo, the newly appointed Legacy Business program manager, shepherded the nine in their presentations before the commission, highlighting the “generously portioned” meals served at Pacific Cafe, the monthly “throwback night” when two Jack’s Nik’s Place Seafood charges 1977 prices, the treasures of memorabilia on display at Toy Boat Dessert Cafe and Specs’ Twelve Adler Museum Cafe, the oldest private museum in the city, and the oasis for “working-class gay men” provided by Lone Star Saloon.

The Small Business Commission must now determine if each of the nine businesses has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in operations exceeding two years, or more than 20 years if the business is in danger of displacement, as is the case with Lone Star Saloon, whose building was recently sold.

The commission must also determine whether the business has significantly contributed to the history of its neighborhood and is committed to maintaining its appearance and the traditions that have defined it in the past.

Community Boards opened for business in 1976 when the neighborhood movement was booming. It claims status as the oldest running public conflict resolution center in the country. Forty years ago, when rents were cheaper, Community Boards maintained nine small offices throughout the city, a network of sites where neighbors met in mediation to resolve common problems. Now, it operates from one location in Opera Plaza, staffed by one full-time employee, three part-time workers, a rotating handful of temporary interns and a volunteer army of nearly 400 trained mediators, translators and facilitators.

Many community-serving enterprises lost two leases in the past 14 years. Communications Director Jim Garrison tells the story: “We were at Market and Van Ness Avenue when our rent doubled in the first dot-com boom. Then, we moved to 24th Street at Falomo and fell victim to the Google bus pressure. We watched the corner tacquicia close and, again, saw our rent doubled. For us, the possible yearly grant for our one full-time employee isn’t significant, but we hope the legacy recognition will convince our landlord to extend our lease for 10 years beyond its end next year.”

Kurylo cautions that grant guidelines for businesses and landlords are still in development and notes that any legacy business or landlord must be free from delinquent taxes, fines, penalties, interest, assessments or fees owed to the city before receiving grant money.

Despite the slow start of the legacy program, Kurylo has another 10 businesses ready to go before the Historic Preservation Commission on Aug. 3, including two in District 6 — SF Party on Post Street, the three-story emporium of all the bells, whistles and novelties needed for a proper celebration, which traces its ancestry to 1901; and Image Conscious, a 36-year-old publisher and distributor of fine arts posters, now on Tenth Street.

“My goal is to get 50 more applications passed on to HPC by year’s end in addition to the 19 now working their way through the process,” Kurylo said.

The legacy business ordinance caps the number of legacy status approvals at 300 in any fiscal year, so there’s plenty of room for more before June 30, 2017.

Erratum

In the July issue, The Extra misstated that the 65 nominations before the Office of Small Business were applications. Also, misstated was that legacy status is restricted to businesses with 100 or fewer employees. The employee limit applies to the maximum grant an enterprise could receive once recognized by the registry.
Eritrean-American: ‘I stay busy, pay the rent’

Abraham Weldeselasie, above left, holds a sheet of records in the Curran House courtyard. He pays $220 a month in rent on Pier 76 and keeps it in his wallet. In the building, a cousin chipped in for the down payment and a friend in Eritrea helps him with the rent. At Curran House, he is yet another resident who is openly friendly, greeting people on the stairs. On shore, a judge sentenced them to 30 days in jail or paying $200 for each of them, but the fine was dropped. After six months, his mother came to get him. “The war was over, back he went.”

Abraham Weldeselasie, above right, chats about old times with Abraham in the Fillmore Coffee Shop. They met in the 1970s working in the Port of Sudan when Abraham was a young man trying to get in to America.

Abraham Weldeselasie

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Escape to America

East African teen takes 12 years to realize his dream

Abraham Weldeselasie, a 55-year-old Oakland truck driver who left Eritrea in 1985, calls his life a “nice guy, an honest guy. He likes to talk about the history of Eritrea and how he lived there for a very tough time.”

Since settling in San Francisco 28 years ago, Abraham made mistakes that paid for early on. His financial highs and lows seemed to stabilize in 2007, when a friend suggested he drive for Yellow Cab. Working five days a week, he made decent money. But now he drives part-time. “It’s better than nothing. Be your own boss. I stay busy. I pay the rent. It’s the best job ever. They love me. Best job ever. They love me.”

The community bought the one-story, 1,800-square-foot Beach Ave. townhouse that he bought in 1987, the year he arrived in San Francisco. The deed title “honors a family and a community,” according to a plaque nearby.

“When I first came to San Francisco, I met the wrong people in the wrong place in the Tenderloin,” he said.

The city’s Tenderloin neighborhood, which is also the city’s poorest, is where he lives. The Tenderloin has the most diversity at a single address anywhere in the neighborhood, which is also the city’s poorest.

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Eritrean American realizes his dream living in Tenderloin

He asked for and got another lawyer, Brendan P Conroy. By that time, Abra- ham had already spent 2½ months in jail. “Don’t let me back up here, he told me,” Conroy said that with a costly city trial he’d lose. Instead, he’d meet with the first lawyer and the judge and try to forge a better agreement. He succeeded. (Conroy is now a San Francisco Su- perior Court judge appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown in December 2012 to fill a retirement vacancy.)

Abraham spent three months, minus time served. He was out in two weeks, so grateful, but pinned to three years pros- ecution and a felon forever. Abraham, 26 years later, still keeps Conroy’s now limp and frayed business card in his wallet.

“I don’t want immigration to come and get me,” I tell Conroy. It was (already) the worst time of my life. But I never for- got him.”

BEEF OVER WALKMAN

On a TL street in another wrong place-wrong time incident more than a year later. Abraham was in an argument over the price of a Walkman another man said they were selling. They had agreed on $20. Abra- ham said, and now the man wanted $30, and was yelling when a motorcycle cop stopped to check it out and ran their IDs. Finding that Abraham was a felon, the cop handcuffed him and hauled both men into jail. In court, Abraham told the hearing judge that he had witnesses to vouch for the $20 agreement. He pro- duced them, and “the judge threw the case out.” But viewing the heavy convic- tion he says “he’s revoking my probation.” Devastated, Abraham was taken to San Quentin in handcuffs to serve two years.

“Amazing,” he says, still stunned. In San Quentin, he stayed at “the ranch,” a dormitory-style prison for low- end criminals. He learned to operate a forklift and made $1.06 a day. His time was shortened to six months. At a half- way house on Indiana Street in San Fran- cisco, he had to choose a job and create the mandatory bank account. He said he worked in a Goodwill store. With ½ months to go, two immigra- tion officials came to the halfway house and told Abraham there had been a mis- take: “They take me back to San Quentin,” he said. “I was there two months.” He was released after six months. But immigration officers were at the gate waiting to take him into custody. That detention lasted 22 more months, into 1994. He was bused to a detention cen- ter in Yuba City, from which he was shut- tled back forth to the federal Immi- gration Court at 630 Sosume St. where eventually a judge told him, “You’re ex- cluded from the U.S.” that ordered that he returned to Athens where his U.S. passport was issued. He was taken to the Oakland airport and put on a plane “with many Latinos,” thinking he was being deported. But the flight was surprisingly short. The plane landed in Kern County where a deputy sheriff was waiting.

“They didn’t tell me this,” Abraham says. “But I was so happy not to be de- ported. I was talking to God, cementing his good fortune, and laughing through tears.

Still, he languished in the Mesa Verde Detention Facility for months wonder- ing why authorities were ignoring him, and started thinking that maybe he’d never get out.”

“This taxed my mind, oh Lord. But there are so many knowledgeable peo- ple in custody. And I go to the library every day, 9 to 11 a.m.”

An U. S. Al borh schooled him, en- couraged him to write letters to a pha- lune of top officials. So Abraham created a resume describing his bio and the fabricated charges,” asking why he couldn’t get bailed out. He mailed it to 10 in all, starting with President Bill Clin- ton and Attorney General Janet Reno and also to Amnesty International and the Inter- national Red Cross in Switzerland.

One replied. A week later I get letter from Red Cross he said. “They say they appreciate my letter and will help me any way they can. They will work for me, for my right hand.”

Abraham says his jailers read all cor- responding and, perhaps it was just coincidence, but a week later immigra- tion officials met with him. He says they told him it cost $65 a day to keep him there, and that he could get bailed out for $5,000.

REHAB HOUSE IN BAYVIEW

It was good to finally get noticed, but the price stunned Abraham Where could he touch money like that? A few weeks later, he said, the cost was knocked down to $1,000.

A minister, Bishop George Lee, had regularly visited the San Francisco jail when Abraham was there. He told in- mates about support available at his storefront Sheltered Full Gospel Church on Third Street with its rehab house on the second floor. Lee started it in 1988 and reportedly helped hundreds of people. Abraham called him.

Lee and three others from his con- gregation came up with $1,000 and freed Abraham. He had restrictions, though. He couldn’t leave the country. He had to en- ter a drug program. He had to report to Immigration monthly, a condition even- tually reduced to once a year, and pay $380 a year to the Immigration and Natu- ralization Service for work authorization. And when the INS released Abraham in 1995, he went to live at Shaloh, staying there for 1½ months. He had gotten a job at the San Francisco shipyard, Pier 70. He joined the Machinists Union, Local 1414 in San Mateo, making $22.50 an hour “Good money. Overtime, big checks.”

But Lee, who had extended other help to Abraham, such as once furnishing out-of-town transportation to visit a relative, had been lost. His church burned down in 2011, displacing 25 men. The Extra couldn’t locate him in the Bayview. INS sent Abraham to a six-month program at Walden House where he was required to have a job. His heart raced when he saw that on his job list was dis- mantling retired ships for scrap at the old S F Naval Shipyard. He was a shove-in because of his range of work on ships on the Red Sea When his success was an- nounced before 120 people at a Walden House meeting, he said they all stood and applauded. “They loved me.”

Eventually, the dock work dried up and he was just getting sporadic work. He ended up at the S H Hof, an SRO at 34 Turk St. The bathroom down the hall became difficult. Abraham had a medical condition that had him tripping to it four times a night. He told Monique, the social worker, about it, and with a phone call she rented one studio with a bathroom left at Curran House. Abraham grateful for the prize, moved in that Year 2007, he became a Yellow Cab driver.

“A VERY HARD WORKER”

Late on a June afternoon, the sun low and golden in the Fillmore District, Abra- ham walks up to the Fillmore cafe and shakes hands with an Eritrean man at an outside table, goes inside, shakes another hand and continues to the back where three men sit over their coffee. They all greet him, me, too, and we sit. The clos- est, Alem Gilbere, first met Abraham 42 years ago in the sweltering Port of Sudan where he worked on the pier and Abra- ham on an Italian ship. What can you say about Abraham? I ask Alem. He peers over his glasses and says: “A very hard worker.”

They’ll all go to the community fes- tival in Oakland, Kesete Abraha and Mu- thios Jijonnes, also, a gathering of the Er- tirrean diaspora with songs and dancing and East African culinary excellence. And from scores of vendors they’ll pick over T-shirts, CDs, DVDs and traditional attire. It’s not to be missed. ■
T. CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS
‘A joyful man’

The death of Christopher Edwards at age 58 on June 19 was still reverberating through the Alder Hotel on Sixth Street. He had been a waiter here for 18 years, but had begun; she’d been upstairs cooking for him. He became a nice person. He was a real gentleman. In the Bishop Swing Community House, a home for 134 formerly homeless men and women in Decem-
ber. His neighbors knew very little about him.

James Schelske moved into Commu-
nity House, a home for 134 formerly homeless men and women in December. His neighbors knew very little about him.

Juanita Kolacia met Mr. Schelske — Jonathan Newman

— Jonathan Newman

would have written. ‘He was one who had an
awesomely personality. He would come to my
office to express his obliga-
tions, joy and fears with a smile.’

Slubber attended the memorial, too.
‘He’d come by my office every day,’ he said. ‘Most of the time it was about his
overnight violations. He’d talk to it the edge and bring it right back.’

He was always positive toward
me,’ said a man named Lewis, a near
neighbor of Mr. Schelske’s, standing outside the hotel’s third floor. ‘I saw the friendship he had with
Tyrone. That was a special bond. We all need that.’

Tyrone had sat in the front row of
the two arrays of chairs, seemingly too
too broke to speak. Toward the end of the memorial, though, he addressed the
photography: ‘Hey big brother I love you, I miss you. May you rest in peace.’

‘Chris always shined,’ said a young
man named Max, who was present with his little Chihuahua mix Lucy. ‘He’d quote I love Lucy whenever he’d see
us. Lucy you got some splashin to do!’

‘He was really doing something for
himself. Not a lot of people here take
care of themselves that much. I’m not a very social person, but Chris was one of
the people I’d always say hi to, have
short conversations with’ — Mark Hedlin

JAMES SCHARDELK
‘A real gentleman’

James Schelske died July 8 at his res-
idence in the Bishop Swing Community
House on Seventh Street. He was 50.

A memorial for Mr. Schelske was held there July 18.

In a room filled with light from a
collection, and seemingly too

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In a room filled with light from a
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS
Main Library lectures. Koret Auditorium. Salve and effective use of medical marijuana. Aug. 9, 6-7:30 p.m., Dr. Laurie Volken. Is nuclear disarmament achievable? Aug. 13, 6-7 p.m., Dr. Helen Caldicott, author of more than a dozen books about the dangers of nuclear power. Foods that promote healing and vitality. Aug. 16, 6 p.m., K.J. Landis, author of “Superior Self: Reaching Superior Health for a Superior Self.” Book sale and signing follows the program. Info: 571-6707.


Health and Mental Health
CBSF Client Council. 3rd Tuesday of month, 3-5 p.m., 1380 Howard, Room 515. Consumer advocates from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 539-3056. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

Healthcare Action Team. 2nd Wednesday of month, 1010 Mission St., Bayview 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 Lida Montano, 546-1500 ext. 105.

Hoarding and Cluttering Support Groups. Weekly meetings at various times, conducted by Mental Health Association of San Francisco, 810 Market St., Suite 308. Info: 421-2569 or mentalhealthsf.org/search.

Legal clinic. 4th Thursday of the month, 507 Polk St., 11 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 Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 928. Info: 255-3474.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition. 4th Thursday, 3 p.m., Kelly Cuilen Community Building, 225 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: 931-3070. Email: rasc@map.org.

SAFETY
SoMa Police Community Relations Forum. 4th Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: 536-8105 x522.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
Alliance for a Better District 6. 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 600-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.


Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board. 3rd Thursday of each month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sutro St., Info: Toni Figurez, 536-9332.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District. 3rd Thursday of the month, 6-8 p.m., South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board. 3rd Thursday of each month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sutro St., Info: Toni Figurez, 536-9332.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District. 11th Avenue Recreation Center, 3rd Thursday of each month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sutro St., Info: Toni Figurez, 536-9332.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee. 3rd Thursday of the month, 6-8 p.m., 1231 Market St., 3rd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario, 701-1580.

SENATORS AND DISABLED
Mayor’s Disability Council. 3rd Friday of month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 536-6749. Open to the public.

Senior & Disability Action (formerly Planning for Elders/Seator Action Network), general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m. room, Universal Unitarian Church, 1197 Franklin St. SDA

Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1101 Mission St. (Bayview Community Center). For info about SDAs Survival School, University and computer class schedules: 546-1332, www.sactoin.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR
Jane Kim, chair. Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Thursday Joint Powers Authority Finance Committee and S.F. County Transportation Authority Vision Zero Committee; temporary member, Budget and Finance Committee; member, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), legislative aide: April Vences. Barbara Lopez and Ivy Lee. Jane Kim_SF@gov. 554-7710.

The Adventures of
Trumpty Dumptry
Don’t miss his next move

JimBo Trout & the Fishpeople. a 25-year-old “bluegrassish” band, performs at Mint Plaza Aug. 25, as part of People in Plazas’ free music series.


Mental Health Board. 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 218. CBRS advisory committee. open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition. 4th Thursday, 3 p.m., Kelly Cuilen Community Building, 225 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: 931-3070. Email: rasc@map.org.

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