

U.C. Hastings board rejects officers' plea to be armed

3rd time since '92 campus cops told they can't carry guns

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

NO Christmas gift awaits the 14 members of the UC Hastings Public Safety Officers Association as the school's Board of Directors voted 7 to 2 to adopt an ad hoc committee's recommendation to maintain the status quo — no firearms for the officers — at its final meeting of the year Dec. 2.

In submitting the recommendation, board member Thomas Gede noted that to make its decision the committee had reviewed an internal Web survey of Hastings' faculty, staff and students conducted in the past year. Input from alumni as well as the Tenderloin community contributed to its decision to take no action "to enhance the presence of firearms on campus." This marks the third failed attempt by Hastings safety

officers since 1992 to gain the right to carry firearms on duty.

After the board meeting, Hastings Chancellor and Dean Frank Wu said the policy decision on firearms "was the result of careful deliberation" that

had taken into account Penal Code section 830.4(d), "the California statute that creates our safety officer force and indicates it is not authorized to carry firearms." Hastings will continue to contract with the SFPD for an armed officer to patrol the campus weekday evenings at an annual cost of \$110,000.

A review of the statistical analysis of the Web survey in which 8 of 10 responders were current law students showed that arming the officers, either with firearms or Tasers, was favored by 54.7%, although surprisingly only 48.9% said that the presence of armed security would make them feel safer in the Tenderloin campus setting. Only 5% of responders had been victims of violent crimes, but 27.9% had been solicited to buy narcotics on their way to and from campus, and a similar segment had been the victim of property crimes, with the theft of laptops, cell phones and auto break-ins the major causes of loss. In 1992 a less detailed survey of faculty, staff and students also found a majority in favor of arming the officers.

John Rueppel, a San Francisco attorney and 2009 Hastings graduate, prepared an extensive report on the firearm question at the request of the school's general counsel, Elise Traynum. The report, cited by the ad hoc committee in its recommendation to the board, suggested that the answer to the firearm question rested in a determination of whether additional campus security was warranted and, if so, did arming safety officers meet the bedrock values of the Hastings community. Nationwide, Rueppel noted, 77% of colleges and universities authorize campus police to carry guns. ■

The decision "was the result of careful deliberation."

Frank Wu

HASTINGS CHANCELLOR, DEAN

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

POT TENSION



PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

Isaac Crumey minds the store while owner Michael Welch fights for survival from his hospital bed. About 1,000 mostly HIV/AIDS, cancer and hepatitis patients are clients.

Sanctuary under siege

Feds threaten neighborhood's last pot shop

BY TOM CARTER

HOSPITALIZED marijuana dispensary owner Michael Welch has the wolf at his door in January while his pleas to the feds for help to spare the Tenderloin's last pot shop go unanswered.

Welch is the owner of Sanctuary on O'Farrell Street and felt the sting of federal threats in November.

U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag sent a certified letter Nov. 23 to O'Farrell Properties LLC, owner of 669 O'Farrell St. where Welch's Sanctuary club occupies the storefront, citing federal law the dispensary violates. It asks that marijuana sales and distribution be discontinued "within 45 days of this letter," or face penalties.

That deadline is Jan. 7.

The letter also says the property is "subject to seizure and forfeiture" to the U.S. government.

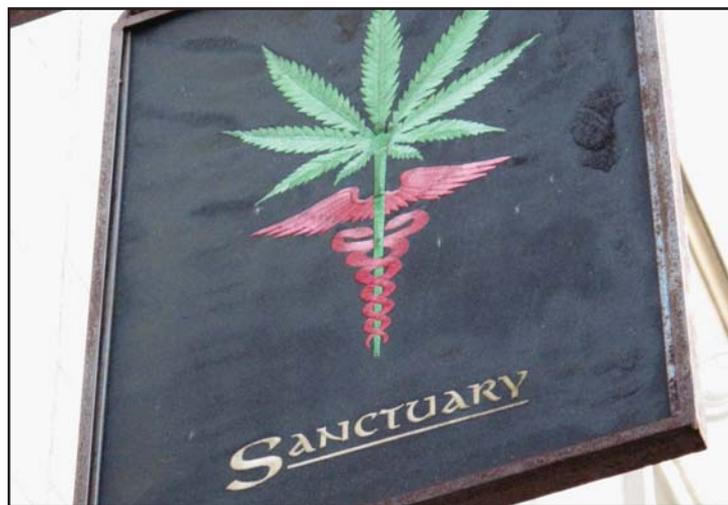
Welch is bedridden at UC Hospital recovering from complications from an aorta blood clot that nearly killed him.

"If they close us down, I think all of us (eight employees) will be homeless," Welch said in a telephone interview. "It's hard to fight from a hospital bed."

Sanctuary is a small, low-key dispensary with fewer than 1,000 patients, the majority of them suffering from HIV/AIDS, cancer and hepatitis. As part of its compassion goal, it has a giveaway program for destitute patients and donates HIV/AIDS medical supplies to hospitals and helps the homeless find housing.

Haag's letter came after others from California's four U.S. attorneys earlier this year to select dispensaries throughout the state that also threatened to prosecute pot club operators and seize the buildings where they operate. California's Proposition 215 legalized the use of medical marijuana in 1996 as have 15 other states, plus Washington, D.C. But growing, selling or using grass is still a federal crime.

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



On the building, this 16- by 16-inch sign IDs the shop, where time is running out.

Needy seniors get what they want for Christmas

BY TOM CARTER

LONELY and needy Tenderloin seniors will receive gifts of their choosing, and a little companionship too, Dec. 19, thanks to Curry Senior Center and Walgreens, which are collaborating with Home Instead Senior Care.

For Home Instead's "Be a Santa to a Senior" program, Curry center identified isolated elders from among its clients, many of them Tenderloin residents, who then could request a gift. Those requests, along with the senior's first name, began showing up Nov. 28 on carded ornaments dangling from Christmas trees at 11 Walgreens throughout the city.

Holiday shoppers snapped up the names and bought the gifts, and turned them back to Walgreens. As a tree lost names, more were added. By Dec. 15, the presents had all been sent to Curry center where volunteers recruited by Hospice By the Bay gift-wrapped them and wrote cards.

Seniors unable to pick up their present at the center Dec. 19 get theirs delivered by case managers who planned also to visit awhile. Last year, 200 San Francisco seniors received presents, up 50 from 2009, the first year Curry was involved.

Home Instead Senior Care, based in Omaha, Neb., is a network of international franchises begun in 1994. It describes itself as "the world's largest provider of nonmedical in-home care and companionship services for older adults."

The San Francisco office expects higher numbers of gift requests this year.

"One law office, Bingham McCutchen, called and doubled last year's number of

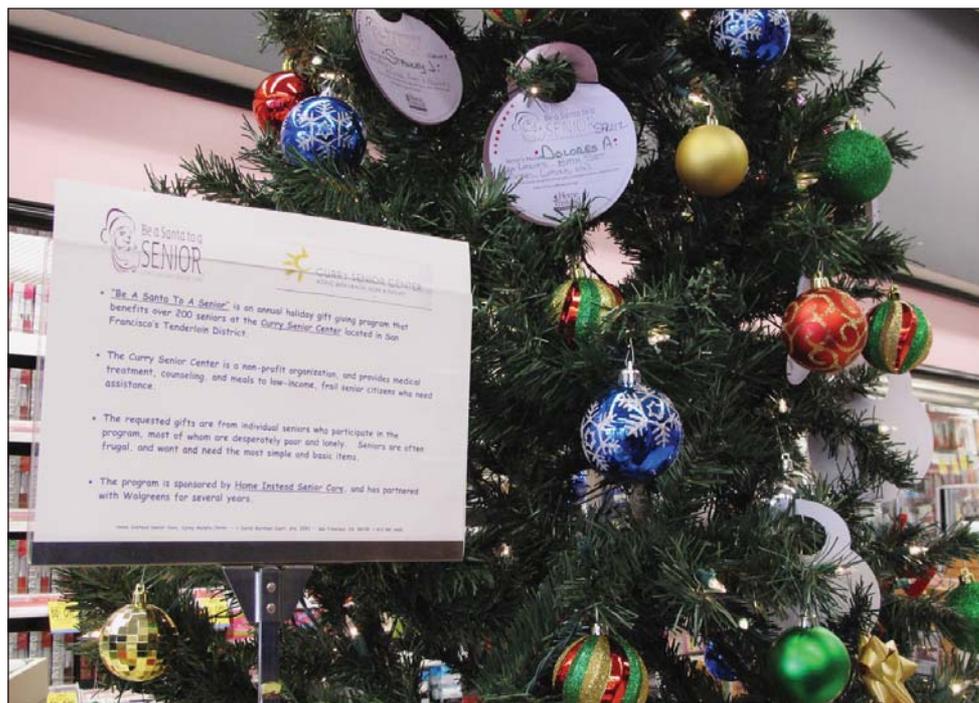


PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

The Be a Santa to a Senior tree at the Market and Ninth street Walgreens is one of 11 city-wide helping to match senior's needs with gifts from generous shoppers.

ornaments they wanted for their employees," said Laurette Foggini, Home Instead's community services representative.

On Dec. 2, the Walgreens at Market and Ninth had 13 names left on its tree. Requests ranged from a rain poncho and handkerchiefs to shaving cream and Depends for women. But the sign alongside explaining the program neglected to give directions on how to participate.

The giveaway arrives as seniors' dollars continue to shrink. According to the Annual Survey of Senior Costs from the Senior Citizens League, seniors have lost 32% of their buying power since 2000, Home Instead said.

In seven years, Home Instead says it has delivered 1.5 million Christmas gifts to needy seniors in the United States and Canada. ■

Where to put a porto-potty in the TL?

Most anywhere, people tell CBD, 'there's a crying need'

BY TOM CARTER

THERE was no lack of suggested locations for portable public toilets in the Tenderloin at a public brainstorming meeting. Who hasn't been offended by human waste on the neighborhood's streets and sidewalks?

The Nov. 10 meeting, sponsored by the Tenderloin CBD, featured the staff of

Hyphae Laboratories. They explained their goal to build an ecological toilet prototype, then asked a crowd of 25 in St. Anthony's Poverella Room to recommend a site.

In the CBD's campaign to address the human waste problem within its 30-block boundaries, it has given the small West Oakland firm \$20,000 seed money. But \$80,000 more will be needed to complete the project in the next few months, according to Hyphae Labs founder Brent Bucknum.

During Bucknum's presentation, he showed an "incident" map of the top 15 outdoor waste sites people used in the Tenderloin in 2010, as compiled by Clean Cities, the outfit the CBD pays to clean its sidewalks. (See "Top 10 for No. 2," November Central City Extra.)

"Put a toilet at all of them!" blurted a man in the audience.

Two staff of nonprofits said they would welcome a toilet in front of their buildings.

"That was really good to hear," said Gia Grant, Clean Cities executive director. She said property owners generally oppose porto-potties anywhere near their business.

Grant has been pushing for more public toilets for several years. Last year, she was able to track "incidents," giving the CBD ammunition to bolster its campaign. In March, the CBD contracted with Rescue Mission to open its toilet to the public, and in June signed a contract with Hyphae to build a compostable, "dream" toilet.

"There's a crying need for them in the Tenderloin," said Michael Browne, Youth With a Mission staffer who favored a toilet in front of its drop-in center at 357 Ellis St. Its toilet is open to the public weekdays. "From the time we open at 9:30 a.m. until we close at 4:30 p.m. someone has the toilet key in their hand — maybe 45 people a day."

"Our plan is to use parking places, have the toilets open 24/7 and have them movable," Bucknum said. "We need to find the places and design (a toilet) around the

immediate area."

Jan Couvillon, a senior peer advocate at Tenderloin Self Help, said her clients would also welcome a toilet in front of 290 Turk St. Her facility has three toilets and a urinal that had to be replaced two months ago because someone jammed a piece of steel down it. The toilets are flushed 45,000 times a month, she said, causing big water and plumbing bills. Her own poll of 40 clients, she said, recommended toilets at Turk and Jones, Turk and Leavenworth, Leavenworth and Golden Gate, and Leavenworth and Eddy. They also advised that the toilets be "made of steel."

Another often-recommended site was near the Jones and McAllister Muni stop.

One man said no matter how great the design, a toilet will need "a human presence" to monitor usage so people aren't "camping out" inside. Bucknum agreed.

People were seated at five tables. Each table had a 24-by-34-inch aerial map of the Tenderloin on it plus a stack of smaller, less detailed maps. Attendees were asked to place color-coded dots on the little maps indicating where they felt safe, where people gathered during the day and at night, their favorite place to be, and where they had seen human waste.

Terry Zukoski, Glide's facilities director, pored over the big neighborhood map to find a niche to recommend. Glide has about 2,000 clients a day using seven toilets and two urinals. What's needed, Zukoski said, is an outdoor portable at the southeast corner of Glide's parking lot on Ellis, near Taylor.

Hyphae sprung for a nice spread of sandwiches of cold cuts and cheese and sodas for the 2 p.m. session and one at 5:30 p.m., which was expected to be bigger but drew only 10 people, according to the CBD.

Bucknum said he plans to meet in December with city officials on safety issues and with design and business model experts. He will report the results at a public meeting in January, he said. ■

CENTRAL CITY
EXTRA
SAN FRANCISCO

NEWS IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Voter turnout in the Tenderloin

Precinct	Registered voters	Ballots cast*	Turnout
3601/02	1,757	534	30.3%
3603	779	269	34.5%
3604/05	1,671	486	29%
3606	775	285	36.7%
3610/12	1,478	466	31.5%
3613/14	1,458	510	34.9%
3616	609	218	35.7%
3617/18	1,440	397	27.5%
3619/21	2,054	619	30.1%
3651/3611	1,806	570	31.5%

Source: S.F. Department of Elections (Small precincts are grouped together for reporting purposes)
* Ballots cast includes early voting at City Hall and mail-in

How the Tenderloin voted for mayor

Precinct	Ballots cast	Ed Lee*	John Avalos*	Dennis Herrera*
3601/02	534	122	127 (23%)	69
3603	269	70	72 (27%)	33
3604/05	486	151 (31%)	84	57
3606	285	100 (35%)	39	22
3610/12	466	96	116 (25%)	42
3613/14	510	229 (45%)	52	34
3616	218	39	29	47 (26%)
3617/18	397	81	86 (22%)	47
3619/21	619	175 (28%)	137	46
3651/3611	570	183 (32%)	105	71

Source: S.F. Department of Elections (Small precincts are grouped together for reporting purposes)
* Number of voters' first choice for mayor

Tenderloin voter turnout 32.1%, next to last in the city

Vote-by-mail edges citywide average; Lee beat Avalos by two precincts

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

IN the Tenderloin's 17 election precincts, 13,827 residents were registered to vote in the Nov. 8 election. When the numbers were in, less than a third of them cast ballots, far below the citywide turnout of 42%, but a shade higher than Bayview-Hunters Point, the neighborhood at the bottom of the turnout barrel at 32%. The most voters were West of Twin Peaks, 55%.

Within the Tenderloin, the highest-turnout precinct was the easternmost 3606, the blocks bounded by Powell, Taylor, Market and Post, where 36.7% of the 775 registered residents voted. The lowest turnout — 27.5% of the 1,440 registered voters — was in precincts 3617 and 3618, Leavenworth to Larkin, McAllister to Eddy.

The neighborhood as a whole hit 32.1%.

In the ranked-choice voting for elected officials, TL residents weren't as smitten as the rest of the city by interim Mayor Ed Lee, who ran against 15 other candidates and finished first in 71% of precincts citywide. Only nine of the 17 Tenderloin precincts went for Lee as their first pick. Seven chose Supervisor John Avalos, and one, precinct 3616, the area just east of City Hall, bounded by Van Ness, Leavenworth, Market and McAllister, opted for Dennis Herrera.

In the other electoral races, TL residents mirrored fellow San Franciscans and chose those with the highest name recognition: Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi for sheriff and former Police Chief George Gascón to be district attorney.

Tenderloiners also followed the rest of the city — indeed, the country — in continuing the upward trajectory of voting by mail and early voting, rather than casting ballots in person on election day at their assigned precinct.

A whopping 58% of TL votes were "vote-by-mail," a term used for both mail-in ballots and early voting at City Hall that in 2007 the state mandated to replace the term "absentee." The citywide vote-by-mail percentage for the November election was 57%, way up from the 41% in February 2008 and more than double the 28% of 10 years ago.

The vote-by-mail percentage changes

with each election: Two years ago it hit 62% in a San Francisco election for which the overall turnout was a dismal 28%. Even in the 2008 presidential election when 81% of registered San Franciscans voted, the highest turnout since the 1960s, almost half did so by mail.

"In recent years vote-by-mail turnout has been somewhere in the neighborhood of 50%," Evan Kirk, Elections management assistant, wrote in an email to The Extra. "I can't speculate on the significance of these numbers."

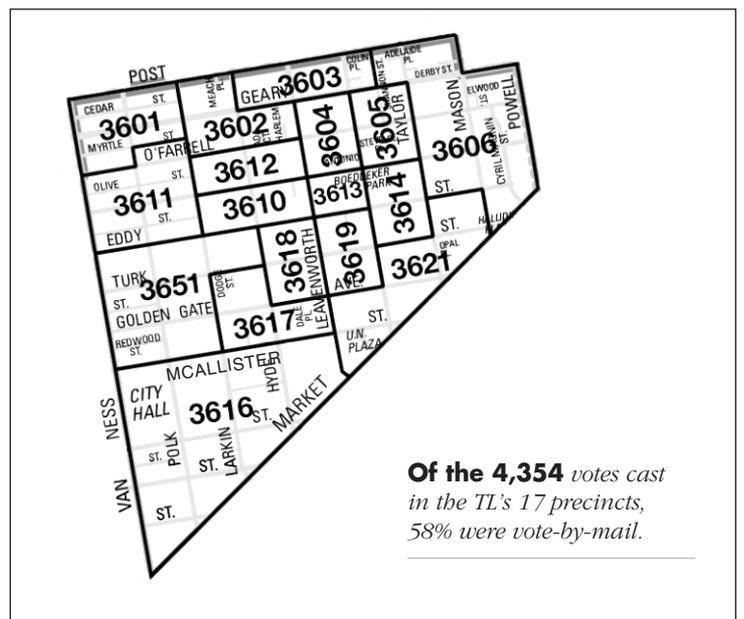
Turnout should be a concern in the Tenderloin. In the presidential election, the TL came in dead last — 66%.

Among the eight measures on the November ballot, Proposition H had the potential to affect the many families and children in the Tenderloin. It would have changed how students are assigned to schools, making neighborhood proximity the highest priority.

In the Tenderloin, kids are kept close, and parents and grandparents walk them protectively to Tenderloin Community School at 627 Turk St. — the only public school in the neighborhood. But Prop H, which needed 50% plus 1 vote to pass, narrowly failed here, as it did citywide.

In the 17 TL precincts, nine nixed the measure and eight voted aye; in many precincts the difference was only about 20 votes. A week after the election, Prop H appeared to have passed, 50.07% to 49.93%. But seven days later, the final election numbers came in at 50.04% against and 49.96% for.

Opponents of H included all the school board members, state Sen. Mark Leno, and Supervisors Eric Mar and Jane Kim. In their ballot guide arguments against the measure, they called H "well-intentioned [but] fatally flawed" because it would be costly to implement, was poorly written and was "unnecessary." ■



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Double-duty edition

CENTRAL City Extra is making this a two-month edition, December 2011 and January 2012. The holidays are a hard time to work, lots of people take time off and lots of people party this time of year, and it's too tough to squeeze in another edition.

So, the first Central City Extra of 2012 will hit the streets in February. ■

New home sweet home

SAN FRANCISCO Study Center, nonprofit publisher of the Central City Extra, is moving to 944 Market St. in January after 39½ years in the Grant Building at 1095 Market.

Coming with us are Office of Self Help and S.F. Mental Health Clients Rights Advocates, which have been a part of the Study Center for many years.

The February issue will be published out of our new home. ■

Henry Infant

Henry Infant, a barber at 7th and for 54 years, talks about his trad life in an interview conducted Feb

HENRY Infant was one of 165 city residents of 65 neighborhoods interviewed for San Francisco Study Center's 1978 Neighborhood Oral History Project. The project was conducted under contract with CETA, the federal Comprehensive Education and Training Act, a productive government stimulus effort of more than 30 years ago.

Study Center dispatched 17 interviewers and three photographers to cover that year's important neighborhood events and interview people who make each neighborhood unique.

Infant, born in Castellace, Italy, in 1885, landed in New York City in 1900 and moved to San Francisco with his wife in 1923. Within a year, he began work at Gordon Barber Shop at 106 Seventh St. Infant was interviewed by Oral History Project staffer Edward Beggs, founder of Huckleberry's for Runaways.

Mr. Infant, you've been cutting hair since . . . ?

I started to learn the [barber] trade in 1898 and I've been doing that ever since. I've been in this shop 54 years this May — that's hard to believe, it's peculiar. Yes, sir, hair styles have changed considerably, [especially] in the last seven or eight years. I don't agree with men running around with ponytails. I don't want you to misunderstand me — I respect their rights, but still I do not approve of their looks.

In the old days, they used to put oil in your hair. What do you use — Vitalis? Talc?

Most people don't know the reason us regular barbers use talcum. By nature, your skin is rather damp, so to speak, and loose hairs stick to your skin. Talcum eliminates a lot of unnecessary trouble or discomfort. Of course, in the last 15-20 years we've been having the vacuum, but the talcum facilitates the suction to draw this loose hair.

And you wash hair?

Shampoos aren't too frequent anymore. All the homes nowadays have a shower or tub, whereas in the olden days many homes didn't have such luxuries, and, in fact, in the big cities there were public bath houses. Shaves? They seem to be mostly a thing of the past.

You must like this location, having stayed 54 years.

The conditions [in this neighborhood] were entirely different in 1924 than today. Very, very peaceful and not too many people. No violence at all. To be precise, the beginning of the [violence] was right after the Second World War.

All the buildings you see around here (the Main Post Office and small tourist hotels) were all here when I came here. But the population has grown considerably. The Greyhound Bus [Terminal] made a big difference — increased traffic here at least 1,000%. As you understand, traffic or transportation when it's concentrated in certain places is bound to bring all sorts of people — rich, poor, young, old — mendicants and good and bad.

SOUTHSIDE

What's the secret of having been here so long?

My philosophy is I come in contact with people and assume there's some difference [from me]. I don't get upset quickly and I'm very tolerant. If anybody hurts me through his talking, maybe he is not intelligent or is excitable, but I tolerate him.

No sir, I've been fortunate and never experienced violence in my shop. Never been robbed.

You're 93. Do you have any relatives around?

Sons and daughters of my brother and sister, in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and a nephew and niece in Los Angeles. I live by myself, since my wife died nine years ago. That was hard for me — she was the most wonderful woman in the world to me. And losin' her I lost everything in the world. I feel just as bad now as the night when she died. But I try to do my best. It's something we'll all have to go through.

When you get home tonight, what will you eat for dinner?

Tonight I'm going to have a cheese omelet. To my taste, I'm a pretty good cook and do know how to prepare a good meal. You see, I don't buy any cheap stuff, and I do a lot of vegetables, although I eat meat, fish, chicken, beans, and I drink seven ounces of wine every night. I've been doin' that for almost 60 years and don't drink at any other time.

Feds crackdown leaves San

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The crackdown has outraged Assemblyman Tom Ammiano who authored a bill that failed to legalize recreation marijuana and state Sen. Mark Leno. In an Oct. 19 statement, they demanded the federal government end the attack on pot dispensaries.

"Instead of supporting state efforts to effectively regulate medical marijuana in accordance with Prop 215, the Obama administration seems committed to recriminalizing it," Ammiano said.

In a recent December meeting with the U.S. attorney, Ammiano said he cleared the air, espe-

cially about the San Francisco dispensaries that were in complete compliance with local and state regulations. Yet, there remains tension between state and federal regulations, he said.

"I appreciate her (Haag's) concerns and the challenges that we face," he wrote in an email to The Extra. "And it is clear that our federal representatives need to weigh in to protect the rights of California patients. Moving forward, my priority is to end this unjust federal enforcement and create effective statewide regulation for medical marijuana to reaffirm our state's rights."

Supervisor Jane Kim is equally concerned. There were 13 pot clubs in District 6 as of Dec. 1, according to the Department of Public Health. But only Sanctuary is alive in the Tenderloin. In an email to The Extra Dec. 15, Kim wrote:

"Our office has been working closely with medical marijuana small businesses to address these ongoing federal actions, and I joined my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors in passing a resolution condemning the federal crackdown on MCD's. We are very cognizant of the impact that neighborhood closures are having on patients in District 6, particularly those struggling with HIV/AIDS."

The scare has caused an estimated 2,500 dispensary employees statewide to lose their jobs since late September, 50 in San Francisco, a Nov. 25 Chronicle story said, quoting figures from the United Food and Commercial Workers' national medical cannabis division.

Three of San Francisco's 26 dispensaries closed recently: Med Thrive Co-op, 1933 Mission St., Nov. 12; Mr. Nice Guy, 174 Valencia St.; and The Divinity Tree, 958 Geary St., Nov. 11. With the shuttering four years ago of Tariq Alazraie's Mason Street dispensary because the building owner, Skyline Realty,

objected to the license, that leaves Sanctuary the last Tenderloin dispensary standing.

When Welch got a copy of Haag's letter from the landlord Nov. 28, he desperately reached out for help.

"I have written Haag, called her and her staff and emailed her," Welch says, "and she hasn't answered."

He called District Attorney George Gascon's office and City Attorney Dennis Herrera's. He wrote the White House and called Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

None replied, he said, adding that he was hospitalized within days and could have missed a communication.

Pelosi had written Welch just after his dispensary was licensed in March 2005, saying she supports medical marijuana. Moreover, she said she was "a strong supporter" of a House bill then called The States' Right to Medicinal Marijuana Act, which would have prevented "federal interference with state laws on the use of medical marijuana." But it failed.

Her view differs slightly from then President-elect Obama's support in late November 2008. He favored states legalizing the use of medical marijuana, but said it should be regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He had earlier said he was against the Justice Department prosecuting pot users.

A Pelosi aide in Washington told The Extra she is "very pro-medicinal marijuana and hasn't changed her position."

A damning point in Haag's letter says the dispensary is subject to "enhanced penalties" because it operates "within a prohibited distance of a playground," Tenderloin Children's Playground on Ellis Street. The south end of Sanctuary's building is near the playground's north side, an apparent city law violation. The Board of Supervisors adopted the nation's first-

Sanctuary's
vaporizer is a
smokeless device.



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

l Mission
le and his
b. 3. 1978

Neighborhood
ORAL
HISTORY PROJECT

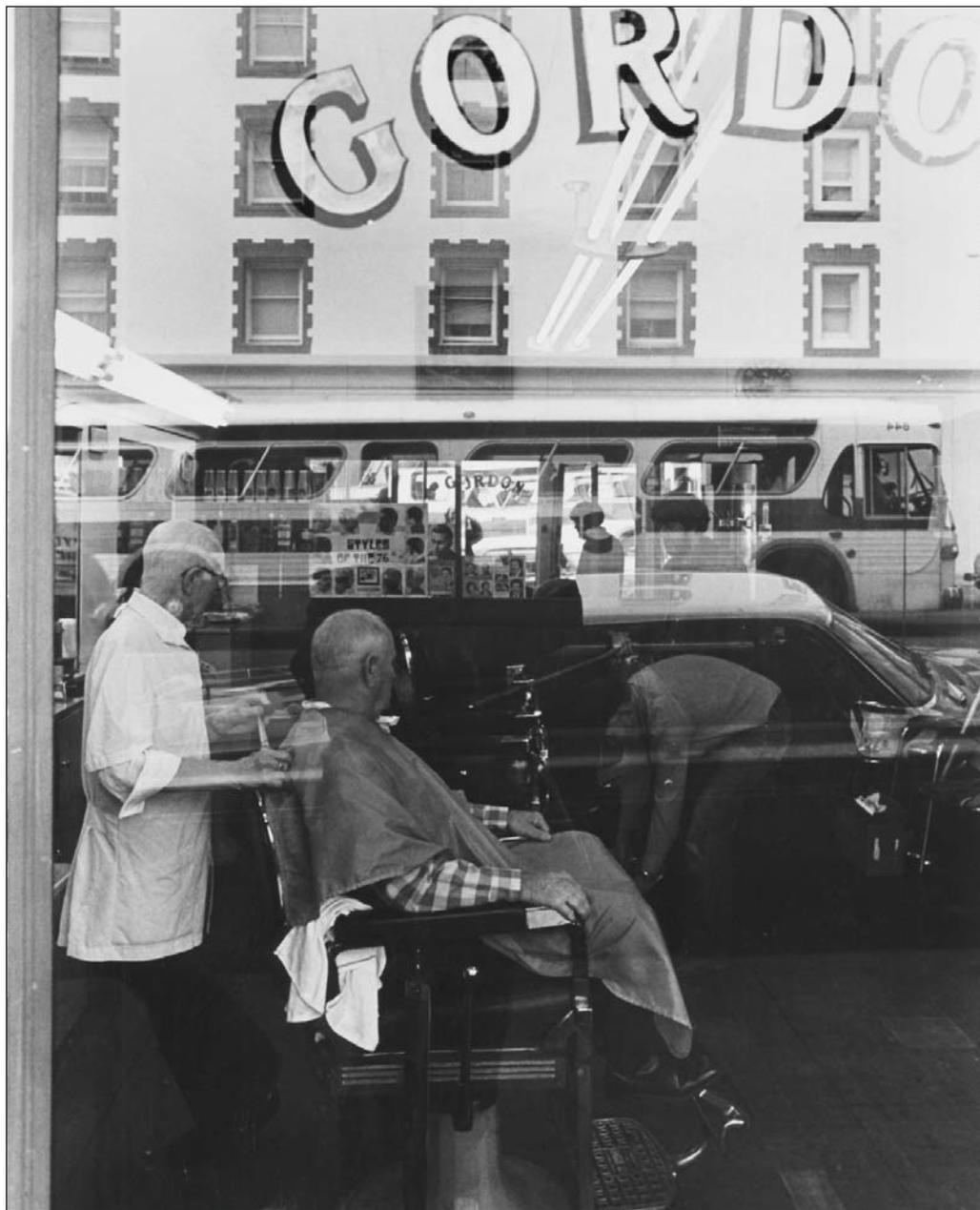


PHOTO BY BILL CARLSON

When you're not working?

Sundays, I shower, shave, eat breakfast, get dressed, do a little cleaning, then go to Mass at St. Paul's at 29th and Church. Then I go from there to the cemetery — that's one of the things I don't miss, putting fresh flowers on my wife's grave. Then I do my food shopping, go home and cook dinner. About 6 o'clock, I'm at Artichoke Joe's in San Bruno to play poker.

You go there Sunday nights?

I go Thursdays and Sundays. One night I won \$359, the most I ever won, and one night I lost \$107, the most I ever lost. I have a system. In playing poker you have to use a lot of judgment. You have to almost read the other guy's mind, and when the other guy beats me, it's because I misjudged for that particular time. Once in a while I bluff. I got caught several times. But I got my system — when I do win, I win nice, and when I lose, I don't lose much.

You said that next year you'll have been a barber for 79 years.

I don't think there's anyone else [I know] who's worked 79 years doing nothing but just barber. That's a heck of a long time. ■

Henry Infant died June 3, 1982, in San Mateo County. The Gordon Barber Shop site has gone through many incarnations. Today it is the Sidebar wine tavern and restaurant, the ground floor of the Good Hotel.

This is the first of a series of excerpts from Oral History Project interviews that Central City Extra will publish.

Sanctuary as TL's last pot shop

ever comprehensive pot club regulations, introduced in April 2005 and passed in November. It banned new clubs operating within 1,000 feet of a school or community center. Sanctuary opened March 2005 and Welch says he was "grandfathered in."

Welch said his lawyer, Patrick Goggin, has advised that this is a land issue, but Welch isn't clear what the implications are.

Even so, Welch is hoping his history as a model owner can save Sanctuary at its present location.

He has never had a complaint since opening, he says, and he's sensitive to the spirit of the law. The storefront is tastefully understated on the street behind a wrought iron gate that has a small plaque listing its three awards. One is the Harvey Milk Club's award for HIV/AIDS compassion.

Among Sanctuary's philanthropic projects over the years have been finding housing for a speech-impaired mom with four kids after her husband committed suicide and making 400 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches twice a week to deliver to children with families in shelters. It has bought baseball tickets for veterans groups. (Welch is a former Marine.) Over the past three years, the dispensary has sent three loads of HIV medications to St. Elizabeth Hospital in Malawi, Africa, worth \$300,000, Welch says.

A concern of DPH has been smoke escaping from dispensaries because the smell offends some people.

"We have no smoke that can escape," Welch says. "Patients use our vaporizer." Also known as a volcano, the device turns weed into vapor contained in a bag and can be sucked through a mouthpiece.

The dispensary insists customers not resell what they buy, or they will lose their privileges.

Same goes for smoking outside, Welch says.

"And they (the feds) are coming after us when there are people down to the bus corner and smoking crack," Welch says, perturbed. "It seems unfair."

Sanctuary's lease runs until 2020 and has

been under a new owner since last year.

Welch and his crew earned points with the previous owner by finding a dozen solid renters for the 14 units upstairs in recent years.

"He doesn't want us to go," Welch says. "But she (Haag) is out for blood." ■

Last MacCanDo Tenderloin track clinic for a while



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Nov. 22 was graduation day at an 8-week track clinic for kids age 6 to 13 led by Rob McDaniels, formerly with Rec and Park for 23 years, coach of its track and field camps, and now an independent contractor. The clinic is likely to be the last track event for a while at Boeddeker, undergoing a \$5 million, 18-month renovation in spring of 2012. McDaniels founded the MacCanDo Tenderloin Youth Track Club eight years ago; in the last few years, the team has sent dozens of qualifying youngsters to the national Junior Olympics.

JESSE MORRIS
Talented rock 'n' roller

Family, friends and fans of musician Jesse Morris are mourning his early death and struggling to understand what happened. He took his own life in his Ellis Street apartment the evening of Nov. 4. Two days later, he would have turned 27.

"His death was a disaster," said Joe Dean, guitarist in Mr. Morris' backing band, the Man Cougars, who knew him six years and was a mentor to him. "I've been through suicides — my dad committed suicide — but this was tragic as could be."

Hundreds turned out for a wake Dec. 4, when musician friends took turns singing Mr. Morris' songs while the Man Cougars backed them. A week after his death, at Oakland's Uptown nightclub, at what had been scheduled as a gig for Mr. Morris and the Man Cougars, friends and admirers raised the money to pay for his cremation.

"Everybody liked him, he had a lot of friends," said Carole Lennon, owner of Lennon Rehearsal Studios in SoMa, where the wake was held. "A very warm, wonderful person."

Mr. Morris packed a lot into his lifetime. He played music in a variety of genres, in several bands including HeP.Si, in which he used the stage name Jesse Jaundice, the U.S. Kings, the Tenderloin Two and, for the past few years, the Man Cougars. He was a familiar sight at the 24th Street BART Station, singing and playing his father's Guild acoustic guitar for commuters.

Many clips of him survive on YouTube to validate astonished testimonials to his uncannily faithful renditions of Johnny Cash songs — and his popularity. His Cash-sounding version of Kris Kristofferson's "Sunday Morning Coming Down," filmed at 24th Street BART, had almost a quarter-million page views at press time.

"He could mimic anybody," Dean said. He had a voice like "honey on tits. He could do me better than me, he could do Cash better than Cash."

BART featured him in a video on its website and the SF Weekly named him "Best BART Musician" in 2008. Dean said that Mr. Morris could bring in \$180 in a few hours' work at BART, and that other BART buskers said Mr. Morris "showed us that we could do this — everybody in BART stations loves and thanks Jesse." Over the years Mr. Morris played at BART stations more than 1,000 times, he told the online magazine Alarm Press in 2010.

At the Board of Supervisors' Nov. 15 meeting, Supervisor John Avalos paid tribute to Mr. Morris, screening a YouTube video, paraphrasing "Folsom Prison Blues," to wit: "I hear the BART train comin' ..." and remembering "a big tattooed guy singing Johnny Cash songs with an uncanny impression of his baritone. While his appearance may have been intimidating, he was a warm and friendly guy with a great sense of humor. ... For years, commuters enjoyed his songs echoing up the walls. He was a much-loved member of the community."

"Jesse Morris and the Man Cougars" was the group's only album released during Mr. Morris' lifetime, but Dean says they recorded another, which he expects to come out in 2012. "This was a good band," said Dean, who, at 43, was its next-youngest member. For the first time in his career, he said, instead of the usual drill of calling around for gigs, he was fielding offers and picking and choosing from among them. Opening for the Dwarves, he said, "we would absolutely slay crowds of a thousand people. ... We have a record contract. In this day and age, who even has a record contract?"

Before meeting Mr. Morris, the members of the Man Cougars had toured Europe repeatedly and been

hired by the U.S. Department of Defense to play for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. The band got its name when Mr. Morris teased them about their appeal to younger women.

The band produced its own album. A friend in Los Angeles played it for Jimmy White, national sales director of Cockroach Media, an independent record label distributor.

"I just flipped over it; it really is an amazing record," White told The Extra, and he got in touch with the band to talk about pushing the album.

The record is selling particularly well in Japan, Dean said, and seems to be experiencing the all-too-typical surge in sales in the aftermath of Mr. Morris' death. White said it's sold in at least 11 European countries, South America and Canada.

The album is available only on vinyl or as a download, not on CD.

"He was an old school vinyl junkie, and saw no use for a CD version," White says.

"We measure success a whole lot differently than bigger record companies," White told The Extra. "Being involved with the release of this album was a labor of love for me, 'cause God knows there's no money in selling LPs by a local artist who plays at BART stations. Still, I felt compelled to sit people down and make them listen."

Mr. Morris was a commanding presence, 6 feet 4 and heavily tattooed. Though at one time he weighed 390 pounds, his mother, Julie Augustine, said that the medical examiner weighed him in at 230. The weight gain was due to his prodigious appetite — and perhaps his mom's "amazing" cooking — but when he decided to lose it, he worked it off through diet and exercise over about 18 months.

Mr. Morris also worked the door at Divisadero Street's Minibar, which is where his fiancée, Apphia Williams, a writer, met him in 2010.

Mr. Morris was bipolar and struggled with depression and had been prescribed medications for these conditions since he was a teenager, and was known to self-medicate. He'd been hospitalized in September after a suicide attempt thwarted by Williams with the help of their next-door neighbor, Jesse Harper, another musician and close friend.

Mr. Morris lingered in an induced coma after that incident, and his mother said he subsequently entered a rehab center in Burbank dedicated to musicians, a visit that was paid for by an admirer. He was apologetic in person and online — his Facebook page linking him to hundreds of "friends."

The page also hints at his sense of humor, stating, for instance, that he "studied ADD at GED."

"He does have that quick, wicked, sorta dark sense of humor," said Dina Silver, who knew Mr. Morris since he was "about 4."

"He had a 'don't give a damn attitude' — shake 'em, and if they're still standing then maybe they're worth talking to."

"It was fun playing with him, he was a great kid," recalled longtime friend, guitarist Jimmy Crucifix, citing as fun years the "hardcore punk thing" when Mr. Morris performed as Jesse Jaundice. But he said that Mr. Morris "was uncomfortable in this world."

"I just saw him always as a great

kid. He seemed a little lonely, depressed. He wasn't afraid to sit down and cry." His emotional side, Crucifix said, was in part "what made him such a good player. Playing music put him in a different world."

He said Mr. Morris eventually told his friends he had blacked out and that the September suicide attempt "was a stupid thing to do" and blamed it on a bad mix of chemicals. "To me," Crucifix said, "it means he was hiding something."



PHOTO BY HEIDI ZUMBRUN

Jesse Morris, two nights before he died.

Williams said they'd been enjoying a romantic evening together when it happened. She went to the bathroom, came out, he went in, she heard a noise and found him hanging.

"He had a perfect moment and figured that's when he wanted to leave," Silver theorized.

"There was so much more to Jesse than his music," said Sunny McEwing, who has a son a bit older than Mr. Morris, knew him since his early teenage years, housed him at different times in his life and traveled and became "best friends" with him. "I can't tell you how many times, wherever we went, he'd just get crowds around him — people he didn't know. He'd get everybody laughing."

"He wasn't inhibited at all. That was part of the wonder of Jesse. The flip side of that was that he was incredibly sensitive, really, really sensitive and he did care," McEwing said.

"He was a very charismatic guy. I didn't mean to fall in love with the guy, but I did, and always will be," Dean said. Dean said his band was looking for a frontman when they met Mr. Morris, and that they worked with him to get him to be less derivative, and comfortable with his own identity.

When they started working together, Dean said, he could hear Mr. Morris' influences — Flipper, the Buzzcocks, Merle Haggard, Cash — in his songs. "We kept pushing him to try to find his own voice," Dean said. "Fortunately, in the last year of his life he had gotten further away from the mimicking and got to where he sounded like himself."

"We had a lot of success," Dean said, citing how quickly they'd risen to headliner status at the now-dark Folsom Street Annie's Social Club, where they'd get \$500 for a show — unheard of for a band that's been together less than a year.

"He was never comfortable here unless he was performing," Dean said.

"I think he was scared of himself, unsure of how to be," Dean said. "He said that over and over again."

When he hanged himself, he was alone. After trying to reach him all weekend, Williams found him Nov. 7. "I was worried that it would happen again," she said. But "he assured me many, many times that it wouldn't. I don't believe that there was any forethought decision-making that led up to this. It was a moment of despair."

Although he left no suicide note, Dean said, "over and over and over, in 80% of every song that he wrote," he'd cite how he had everything to live for and yet felt hopelessly despondent. "If you try to kill yourself once on dope, and once when you're sober, that's a decision that I have to respect," Dean said.

Working with him in a business mode was enervating, Dean said. "It's the completely insane people that have the talent. If I was half as talented as he was — I'm two times as skilled, but there's a difference — maybe I would've killed myself," Dean said. "He used up all his fuel."

"Suicide is about pain," said Eve Meyer, executive director of San Francisco Suicide Prevention, the city's most knowledgeable suicide expert. "Most of the people who die of suicide die on the first attempt." She pointed out that in San Francisco, suicide takes half again as many

lives each year as homicide — 110-120 compared with 75-80. Her organization's research found that ratio generally holds throughout the United States.

"There are a lot of stereotypes about suicide because we don't talk about it very much," Meyer said. Repeated attempts, she said, are "not typical," but "that does happen." Up to 10% of those who attempt suicide once ultimately die by their own hand within 10 years, the organization estimates.

"It often happens with somebody who may not have totally wanted to. It's a final thing; people understand that. People love life and are in pain and have not made that decision yet but work their way toward it by making one attempt after another until they get to the point that the part of themselves that wants to live is not there."

Meyer didn't know Mr. Morris but said, "He must have been in tremendous pain, and you worry that he couldn't find his way out of that."

"What you really need to concentrate on is trying to nurture the part of them that wants to live. And try to remove the pain, because the pain is what gets in the way of them wanting to live." Attempting suicide "absolutely" is a cry for attention, Meyer said, "and that's appropriate. If they're in pain and crying out for help, they need help and you try to help them get help."

"No matter what anybody said, he would have done what he wanted to do," Silver said. "He was done; he wanted to leave." If you believe that people should be allowed to live freely, she said, "they should be able to leave in any capacity they like, as long as they don't take anybody out with them."

"The one thing Jesse failed to realize in his life," Crucifix said, "was that a lot of people loved him."

Mr. Morris was born in San Francisco and raised largely in Pacifica. From a very young age, his love of

music was evident. Augustine recalled him at the age of 2 saying, "Mom, I gotta sing you a song," then fetching a hairbrush from the bathroom to use as a microphone, climbing on a chair and singing her the Beatles' "Love Me Do."

He was a quick study, good with words and mimicry, his mom said, articulate at an early age and always highly responsive to musical stimuli. They would sing together in the car, and "even though he didn't like doing his homework, his writing skills were pretty amazing."

Mr. Morris' father, Jim, separated from Augustine when Jesse and his older brother Jamison were toddlers. He stayed close and visited them every weekend while their mother was working. Augustine worked evenings at the Cliff House and Ritz Carlton and the boys were often in the care of "amazing babysitters" — two sisters who lived nearby in Pacifica and cared for them over the course of many years.

"I wasn't the best mother, but I wasn't the worst," Augustine said. She and others freely admitted that her youngest son "was a mama's boy" and said that they were in constant contact.

Jim Morris died when his sons were teens, Augustine said, of a heart attack in his sleep. Sixteen-year-old Jesse found the body. "That was devastating," Augustine said.

Jim Morris, a contractor, was a hobbyist musician. Augustine said that when Jesse was about 8, when the boy's love and aptitude for music began to emerge, his dad bought him a guitar.

He announced later, "I want a keyboard."

"But you don't play piano."

"I'll learn."

And he did, she said. Drums, too.

"He loved punk, country, reggae," his fiancée said. "Any music that had soul and energy."

Augustine said that Jesse's father resembled Johnny Cash, and that Jim's Memphis heritage also probably had an influence. On his left bicep alone, Mr. Morris had tattoos of Hank Williams, Cash, Iggy Pop and others.

"Every time I saw him, he had a new tattoo," Jamison Morris said. He got his first at 18, "as soon as it was legal," and was so outgoing and friendly that he was able to get tattoo artists to work on him almost at will. He'd get new ones on a whim, sometimes "just to mock his friends."

Mr. Morris was diagnosed as bipolar and prescribed Zoloft while a teenager, and attended alternative schools in Serramonte.

He held a job at one point at Tower Records, where his gregariousness made him a "great salesman," Augustine said. But he couldn't hold a job. "He'd have a job for a while and be OK, then depression would hit and he couldn't get up and he'd lose his job."

For a while, he was a resident at Catholic Charities' Guerrero House in San Francisco and also worked in the Job Corps on Treasure Island. For the past several years, after he qualified for disability benefits, he lived on Ellis Street in the subsidized apartment where he died.

Mr. Morris did attempt suicide as a teenager, swallowing an entire prescription bottle of Wellbutrin. "I had to get him in the system," Augustine said. Mr. Morris participated in Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous programs and had counselors in addition to medical interventions throughout his life. "He was better when on his meds," she said. "His lows were pretty awful. The older he got, the worse they got."

In the past, Jamison Morris said, his brother had reached out for help when he needed it — often when he was "really drunk. ... When he would become suicidal, he would check him-

self into hospitals. It happened," his brother said, "more times than I can count."

Mr. Morris had a long history of addiction to prescription opiates, his brother said. "He was able to hide it from some people with the same old bullshit stories you hear from prescription addicts," for instance, that the drug use was no cause for concern because it was prescribed.

"Addiction just runs in the family," he said.

Like so many others, though, Jamison Morris said that despite all of his brother's issues, he was stunned by his death. "He had a lot of people he could've called, and had in the past," he said. When they last saw each other, at Halloween, Jesse had played him a reggae song he'd recorded and was "really happy and positive, talking about the future. People who are suicidal don't talk about the future," he said.

"Every moment that I spent with Jesse was a gift," Williams said. "He experienced love deeply, he experienced pain deeply, and unfortunately, the pain seemed to take precedence a month ago."

"We both invested in our relationship. We were rich in love. Other than that we had enough to sustain ourselves," she said. The couple had a cat, Odin, that Mr. Morris had adopted after it had been abandoned. They loved dogs and spent time together in dog parks, smoking, drinking coffee and talking. "Low-cost activities," Williams said.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions," Williams said. "That is the result of suicide, and each person has to learn to make their peace with that."

Mr. Morris left scads of journals, now in his brother's possession. "Eventually I'm going to go through it and try to compile it, but it's a lot. He wrote on napkins and transfers and everything." His ashes will be divided and shared among his many friends who have expressed a desire to have a part of him, his brother said, "because he pretty much shared himself when he was alive." ■

— MARK HEDIN

**DONALD CONNELLY
HERBERT BROWN
Civic Center Residence tenants**

Two of Civic Center Residence's tenants died within a day of each other in September, one peacefully in his room, the other in the hospital after a long, painful struggle with cancer that had hobbled him.

Donald Connelly was found dead in his room Sept. 29; he was 52. Cause of death was pending. Mr. Connelly had come from the Boyd Hotel on Jones Street next to St. Anthony's Dining Room less than a year ago. Little was known about him other than he battled diabetes, said a mourner at the hotel's Oct. 11 memorial for the two men.

Herbert Brown died Sept. 28 at UC Medical Center after being in and out of the hospital for cancer treatments. He was 67.

"Herbert had cancer bad," said Donald Nadile, one of eight mourners in the SRO's downstairs community room. "He said chemotherapy wasn't doing him any good."

Tanya Wells knew him the six years she's lived at TNDC's Civic Center Residence.

"He had it rough in the beginning," Wells said. "He was a funny little guy, always rushing to the elevator in pain. I'd yell, 'Make it, Herbert, make it!'"

Wells said the thin, 5-foot-6 Mr. Brown was always well dressed and kept his hair combed. In recent months Mr. Brown walked bent over and with a cane. Wells, a large woman with a pretty smile, walks with two canes herself.

Once she saw him in the hospital's emergency room when she was in for

a shoulder problem. He smiled at her across the room when she said, "I'll see you back home."

Mr. Brown was home one week before returning to the hospital for the last time.

"He was a good person, but he couldn't take care of himself at the end," Wells said. "This last year he was more nourished than before, though. It was a change. He was accepting it. He decided to live his life as a sick person. He made the transition, and he smiled a lot. I miss him running around here." ■

— TOM CARTER

**LORAINE MCGEE
A 'diva's' ill-timed death**

The last thing on earth Loraine McGee wanted was to cause her 4-year-old great-grandnephew pain, but it was in fact her final act. Approximately 4 a.m. on Nov. 14, the boy, who was visiting overnight, as he often did, woke the West Hotel's third-floor residents with his crying and screaming. He couldn't wake his aunt, who had died during the night.

"A sad trauma," Rev. Glenda Hope commiserated with four mourners at Ms. McGee's Dec. 2 memorial in the SRO's community room.

"I was so sad to hear the boy was there," said one woman. "He'll remember that the rest of his life."

"The paramedics and child services came right away," said Vanessa Sacks, a social worker who had come to work at 8 a.m. The boy was turned over to his mother, who had been at work during the night.

"She (Ms. McGee) seemed so happy and healthy," said her friend Geraldine Krause. "She wasn't like many people here who are suffering and stay in their rooms. And the boy was always running around. But she

made him behave."

The mourners didn't know the boy's name and they thought he was her grandson. Ms. McGee, who was a West resident 3½ years, has a daughter and sons in the area, they said. But the desk clerk later said emphatically he was her "great-grandnephew."

"I saw her every day," Krause said. "I liked to go outside and she did, too."

Ms. McGee made an impression every time, too. Her friends called her "the diva of the West." A stocky woman who smoked cigarettes tooling around on a motorized wheelchair, Ms. McGee wore a nose ring and was a nonstop fashion statement — color-coordinated every day from wardrobe to wigs, which never failed to match her boots. "Even the fuzzy pink ones," her friends said. Blue and brown ensembles were other memorable statements, they added.

"I asked her once how many pairs of boots she had," Krause said, "and she said, 30."

Ms. McGee was also a vision with her light brown, beautifully groomed Pomeranian at her side. Feisty one minute, the eager hotel gossip the next. "Vibrant," Ms. McGee's friends described her.

"She wanted to move to another neighborhood, and we were working on that," Sacks said. "But it was a bit difficult with Section 8 vouchers because they are for one specific place."

Ms. McGee, who was 59, was the seventh death at the West in 11 months. "All from natural causes, but she was a surprise, and it's pretty hard on all of us," Sacks said. Eighty-five low-income residents live at TNDC's West Hotel. ■

— TOM CARTER

Want to make a difference? Join us!

The North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District works to make the Tenderloin a cleaner and safer neighborhood for all.

Get involved with us:

- Join our Board Meetings (all meetings are open to the public),
- Join our Board of Directors (property owners, business owners, and residents), or
- Join our Committees (Public Rights of Way, District Identity & Streetscape Improvement, or Community Advisory Board)

For more information contact Dina Hilliard **415-292-4812** or dinanomtlcbd@att.net

All meeting and committee information is available on our website: nom-tlcbd.org



north of market
tenderloin
community
benefit district

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Glide Church Holiday toy giveaway, Dec. 20, 9-11 a.m. for children through 11 years.

Glide prime rib luncheon, Dec. 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Annual Christmas eve luncheon sponsored by Joe Betz and the House of Prime Rib.

City Impact / Rescue Mission toy giveaway, 230 Jones St., Dec. 25, 10 a.m.-noon.

ARTS EVENTS

Free holiday concert at Boeddeker Park, Dec. 21, 2-3 p.m., featuring M.B. Hanif and the Sound Voyagers jazz group, and sponsored by Friends of Boeddeker Park and the North of Market/Tenderloin CBD. In case of rain, concert will move to the Clubhouse, 240 Eddy St.



M. B. Hanif

WritersCorps holiday book sale, buy one, get one free at the online bookstore, startscommision.org/WC/store, through Jan. 5. Proceeds support WritersCorps' free student programs.

Thursdays @ noon films, free at the Main Library, Koret Auditorium. Dec. 22 *Keeping Score: Stravinsky's Rite of Spring*; Dec. 29 *Keeping Score, Ives' Holidays Symphony*. Films presented as part of the celebration of the San Francisco Symphony's 100th anniversary; library exhibitions through Jan. 9.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister. Call: 421-2926 x304.

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 p.m., 1380 Howard St., room 537, 255-3695. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market St., Suite 928. 421-2926 x306.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the 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.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough St., 5th Fl. Call: 905-6264. Family member group, open to the public.

SAFETY

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. www.sfgov.org/sffdnert, or Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

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

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the 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, 1st Wednesday of the 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 the month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

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

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at noon. Call 292-4812 for location or check nom-tlcbd.org.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario 749-2519.

South of Market Project Area Committee Housing Subcommittee, 1st Wednesday of the month, bimonthly 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee 1st Wednesday after the 1st Monday bimonthly, 1035 Folsom, 6 p.m. 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

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. Information: 928-6209.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the month, 842 Geary St., 5 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

Senior Action Network, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Action Committee, 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Call for health program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim

Chair of Rules Committee, member of Budget & Finance Committee and Transportation Authority.

Legislative Aides: Matthias Mormino and Viva Mogi. Jane.Kim@sfgov.org, 554-7970

City and County of San Francisco December, 2011 Monthly

Mayor's Office of Housing Community Development Division

The Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) is pleased to announce the availability of the RFP for 2012-2013 programs under three funding sources: Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant and San Francisco Redevelopment Agency tax increment funding for homeownership counseling. The RFP is available electronically on MOH's website at www.sfgov.org/moh **Proposals must be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm on Monday, December 19, 2011.** Please visit www.sfgov.org/moh for more information.

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

What to Make Public Art?

The San Francisco Arts Commission's Public Art Program will host a FREE Artist Workshop on **Thursday, December 1 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, located at 2868 Mission Street, San Francisco. Learn what it takes to be a public artist and get some helpful tips on how to create a strong application.

The San Francisco Arts Commission has issued a call for artists for the Central Subway 4th and Brannan Platform Station Public Art Project. Applicants are required to apply online. **The deadline is December 15, 2011 at 11:59 p.m. PST.** Visit startscommision.org/pubartcollection

SAN FRANCISCO DEPT. of PUBLIC WORKS Thank you San Francisco!

Here's what we accomplished together

In 2011, more than **6,600** volunteers:

- Swept and cleaned **415** blocks of sidewalk, curb and/or alleyways.
- Planted **2,215** trees, bushes and/or plants.
- Distributed over **290** cubic yards of wood chips on center islands, on lots and in parks.
- Removed graffiti on **90,000** square feet of public property and space.
- Removed **75,250** pounds of green waste and debris from the public right-of-way for composting, recycling and/or proper disposal.

Special thank you to [Recology Sunset Scavenger](#) and [Clean City](#) for collecting unwanted household items from residents and diverting recyclable materials from the landfill as part of Gigantic 3.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) receives **17,000 reports** of illegal dumping and hauls off an **10,000 tons** of illegally dumped materials every year; costing taxpayers millions to pick up couches, televisions, mattresses, yard waste, garbage and other unwanted household items that are tossed on the streets and sidewalks.

DPW has launched the Don't Leave It on the Sidewalk!

Gigantic Three Program is a program that gives residents the opportunity to drop off bulky household items for FREE every month; it is coordinated with DPW's premier volunteer event, the Community Clean Team. Learn more: www.sfdpw.org

Bulky Item Collection is a free service that is offered to ALL residents within San Francisco at no additional charge (it is paid for by residential collection fees). Call Recology Sunset Scavenger at 415-330-1300 or Recology Golden Gate at 415-626-4000 to schedule an appointment.

RecycleMyJunk.com is a low cost hauling and clean up service offered to residential, multi-family and commercial customers. More information: www.RecycleMyJunk.com.

EcoFinder is a free guide to help you donate items that are in good and working condition to local organizations. The database offers drop-off and pickup services for a variety of unwanted items. To learn more, please visit www.sfenvironment.org

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

CNS#221649

HOSPITALITY HOUSE'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART SALE

DECEMBER 14 - JANUARY 20, 2012

RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 5 - 7 PM

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