TWO PEOPLE INJURED IN SEPARATE SHOOTINGS

By Allison Havermale

SAN FRANCISCO—Two people were injured in two separate shootings in San Francisco. The first incident occurred on Tuesday, October 13, and the second incident occurred on Wednesday, October 14.

On October 13, at around 9:30 p.m., officers from the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) responded to a report of a shooting that occurred between Otis and Gough Streets. When officers arrived on scene, they found a 20-year-old woman who was struck by a bullet. She was transported to a local hospital, where her injuries were non-life threatening. She is expected to make a full recovery the police department noted.

The second shooting occurred three hours later, around 12:40 a.m. between Ellis and Jones Streets in San Francisco’s Tenderloin neighborhood. During that incident, police said they responded to the scene and found a 51-year-old man suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. He was transported to a local hospital and remains in critical condition.

On October 14, the SFPD Tenderloin Station posted an update about the second incident via Twitter that read: “Man shot at Ellis & Jones: This morning at 12:37 a.m. officers heard gun shots & found a 51 Y.O. man shot on this corner. The victim is in critical condition, the suspect is not in custody.”

Both incidents are under investigation, but authorities do not believe they are connected. Descriptions or identities of the suspects or the victims have not been released to the public.

Anyone who witnessed either incident is asked to call the SFPD’s anonymous tip line at 415-575-4444.

FIREFIGHTER DEATH CAUSED BY WATER BLAST

By Tamayo Muto

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco firefighter and paramedic Jason Cortez, 42, died after a training exercise accident on October 7. A report released by the San Francisco Fire Department on Sunday, October 11, indicates that he died after he was knocked off a fire escape over the fire escape.

Cortez was participating in the drill at 10 a.m., working on a third-floor fire escape of the Division of Training on Folsom Street, when he opened the valve. A hose was not attached to the valve, so a blast of water struck him in the chest, knocking him backwards over the fire escape.

Cortez was treated on scene for critical, traumatic injuries and taken to the San Francisco General Hospital. He was later pronounced dead later in the day.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the loss of one of our own. This morning, the San Francisco Fire Department lost one of our own in a Line of Duty Death.

Jason Cortez was a beloved 13-year veteran with the SFFD who tragically lost his life at the age of 42. (Cont.)

The San Francisco Fire Department started an official GoFundMe for his wife and children. While they set the goal as $75,000, a total of $244,506 had been raised by Monday, October 12.

Cortez leaves behind his wife Patricia, children Jackson and Greyson and other family members. He grew up in Potrero Hill and played D1 basketball at St. Mary’s in Moraga. After completing paramedic school at City College of San Francisco and working for American Medical Response in Oakland, he joined the SFFD in 2007.

In January 2019, Jason moved to Station 3 in the Tenderloin District. He had been working for Engine 3 as a firefighter and paramedic. The GoFundMe description by SFFD Station 3 reads: “He was especially known for always conducting himself with professionalism and integrity. He worked hard, was respected by his colleagues and loved by all.”

FIREFIGHTERS RESCUE FORT FUNSTON HIKER

By Simone Babudarian

SAN FRANCISCO—On Monday, October 12, park rangers rescued a man in distress on the trail of Fort Funston.

According to a Twitter release from the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) at 10:31 a.m., rangers found the man “blue, not breathing, and saved his life.” The victim was taken to the ER and is expected to recover.

Lieutenant Jonathan Baxter, Public Information Officer for the SFFD, reported live from the John Muir trail gate as the individual was located at 10:08 a.m.

“Just hiking around and you take one wrong turn, and the next thing you know, the sand takes away leaves your feet, and the next thing you know, you’re halfway down the cliff.”

After the father and son’s rescue, Lt. Baxter told ABC 7, “Although this resulted in no injuries and a successful rescue, it could also in injuries or death. We ask that you please stay on the trail.”

GIANT FERRIS WHEEL IN GOLDEN GATE PARK SET TO OPEN

By Allison Havermale

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco’s long-awaited observation wheel in Golden Gate Park will open to guests on Wednesday, October 21. Observation wheel was supposed to open in April to celebrate the park’s 150th anniversary, but had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The wheel, named “SkyStar Wheel” was installed earlier this year. It is located at the Golden Gate Park’s Music Concourse, located near the de Young Museum. It is 150 feet high and features 36 fully-enclosed gondolas that hold 6 riders each. A full rotation lasts 12 minutes, and offers views of downtown San Francisco and the ocean.

According to a statement on SkyStar Wheel’s website, the attraction has implemented strict coronavirus safety measures to keep visitors safe while they enjoy the ride. Some of the measures include sanitizing gondolas between rides, opening vents to allow complete air-flow during rides, and non-contact temperature checks for anyone entering the facility. In addition, everyone is required to wear masks, and gondolas are private and will not be shared with any customers outside of a party.

Tickets cost $18 for adults, and $12 for seniors and children under 13. Reservations must be made in advance on the website. The attraction is expected to run until October 2021, but could run longer depending on public reaction, SkyStar Wheel indicated.

To view prices or make a reservation, visit skystarwheel.com.

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1.) Provide a community newspaper that tells all the news honestly without any political agenda, slant or spin.
2.) Allow commentary writers the freedom to express their opinions and views without interruption, censorship or persuasion.
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4.) Abstain from printing anything demeaning, calumniatory or potentially harmful to any living being.
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