



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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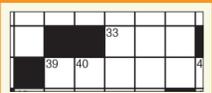
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JoanAnn Radu-Sinaiko

**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:24	17:00
Jan. 2	07:25	17:01
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Photos by Richard Bangert

Members of Tau Beta Pi remove weeds near the least tern nesting area in November.

Volunteers Put Work into Least Tern Site

Endangered birds get assistance at Alameda Point roost

Richard Bangert

Volunteers at the Alameda Point nesting site of the endangered California least tern continued their efforts this fall after a successful 2014 nesting season.

The first recorded use of the airfield by the least terns was in the mid-1970s when the Navy began efforts to protect their nesting area from vehicle and personnel disturbance. Today, Alameda Point is one of California's endangered species success stories.

The least tern colony at Alameda Point produced more than 350 least tern fledglings this year, and a record number of the nests had three eggs, as opposed to the usual two.

The 45 nests with three eggs may be due in part to better-than-normal availability of small fish in nearby waters. The birds arrive at their nesting site on the long-closed Naval Air Station airfield in early April. By mid-August the terns have headed south to Mexico and Central America.

When the terns are gone, volunteers organized by Golden Gate Audubon Society's Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve perform monthly housekeeping



An adult least tern with two chicks viewed through a chain-link fence last spring.

chores in and around the 9.6-acre site on the old airfield. Weeds are a perennial problem and removing them is important for maintaining a clear sightline beach-like landscape for the terns.

At the end of each year, volunteers help gather and set aside the shelters made of drain tiles and wooden A-frames. These shelters play an essential role in protecting the least tern chicks.

Volunteers also gather up the oyster shells spread around the site. These shells play a valuable

role, serving as camouflage for the young chicks and protecting

WORK: Page 4

EBMUD Steps In

Sun Staff Reports

Laterals are pipes that connect a building's plumbing to a sanitary sewer line. All too often these laterals crack or develop leaks.

Cracked laterals allow rainwater and groundwater to infiltrate the sewer system. Excess water in the system can overwhelm wastewater treatment facilities. This causes untreated or partially treated sewage to be released into San Francisco Bay.

Property owners, not the city, are responsible for maintaining these laterals. Beginning today the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) will be making certain that property owners do just that.

A new ordinance requires that anyone buying or selling a property; building or remodeling at a cost in excess of \$100,000, or changing the size of a water meter obtain a compliance certificate from EBMUD. Before issuing that certificate, an EBMUD inspector will check the property's sewer lateral to make certain that the pipe does not leak.

Property owners can learn more about this new program by logging onto www.eastbaypsl.com/eastbaypsl/about.html or by calling 866-403-2683.

AUSD Now Accepting Applications for Board

School trustees need to fill seat left vacant after election of Mayor Spencer

Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) is now accepting applications for the Board of Education seat vacated by Trish Spencer when she became mayor on Dec. 16.

Applications are available on the AUSD website and at the front desk of the district office, 2060 Challenger Dr. The deadline for submitting the applications is Friday, Jan. 9 at noon.

According to board policy, when a board member resigns, the remaining board members can choose to fill that seat by appointment or by special election. At its Dec. 9 public meeting the board voted unanimously to fill Spencer's seat by appointment.

Residents of Alameda who are registered to vote and have no criminal record are eligible to apply. The board will review the applications and interview the

applicants, in public, at a special meeting on Thursday, Jan. 22. The board will also vote on the new member at this meeting.

"We encourage any Alameda resident who cares deeply about children, public education and the well-being of the Alameda community to apply now for this open seat," said Interim Superintendent Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.

"The Board of Education plays a crucial role in the governance of our school district, and we welcome a diversity of voices and perspectives."

Completed applications should be returned to: Office of the General Counsel, Attention: Magdalene Tatum, 2060 Challenger Dr., Alameda CA 94501 or emailed to mtatum@alameda.k12.ca.us. Call AUSD General Counsel Chad Pimentel at 337-7188 with any questions about the selection and application process.

CERT, AFD Team Up to Find Missing Teenager

Sun Staff Reports

At 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21, the Alameda Police Department (APD) issued a missing-person alert for 16-year-old Anthony Michael Brown. Among the responders to the alert was a 12-member search-and-rescue team from the city's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Alameda Fire Department (AFD) Capt. Sharon Oliver coordinated the search.

Four hours after APD issued the alert, CERT notified its team that it

found nothing," Di Salvo said. Di Salvo decided to drive his second assigned area by car. CERT knew Brown liked to frequent the donut shop just outside the former Navy base's East Gate.

"About 2 a.m. Wade and I spotted someone walking on Atlantic near the jet just inside the gate," Di Salvo said. Di Salvo called out the missing teen's first name, which coincidentally matches his own.

"Who wants to know?" Brown

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2014: Year in Review

Sun Staff Reports
Part two of two

July

At the July 1 City Council meeting Mayor Marie Gilmore read a proclamation that declared the week of June 29 to July 5 "Lil Arnerich Week" to honor the former vice-mayor and perennial volunteer. Arnerich's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren turned out to witness the family matriarch, Norma, expressed her delight that she was able to get Lil to the council chambers without him knowing about the proclamation. She stood by his side at the dais as Gilmore read the city's decree.

Alameda's Fourth of July parade attracted spectators and participants from far and wide. Judges had to choose from among more than 160 entrants to determine which float would take home the coveted Mayor's Trophy, the parade's top honor. The home-grown Rhythmix Cultural Works float won the trophy for fourth time in the past five years.

City Council ended the city's ban on coin-operated pinball machines. The move came in light of plans to move the Pacific Pinball Museum into the former Carnegie Library across from City Hall. The ban stemmed from an arcane ordinance prohibiting these machines within the city limits.

Glenn Steiger took over the task as Alameda Municipal Power's new general manager. Steiger replaced Girish Balachandran who left the utility in December 2013.

Housing advocates Renewed Hope show fired the first salvo in the rising-rent debate. The organization release a the results of a survey that showed that about two-thirds of the 189 survey respondents said their rent has increased over the past 12 months, and 15 percent said their rent has gone up more than 10 percent — the ceiling typically recommended by Alameda's Rent Review Advisory Committee, which offers non-binding mediation for rent disputes.

August

Election season got off to a typical start as voters complained about a political poll making the rounds. They reported receiving negative campaign messages targeting former Councilman (and Council Candidate) Frank Matarrese. On the other hand, voters said questions about two other candidates — incumbent Councilman Stewart Chen and first-time City Council candidate Jim Oddie, an attorney and staffer for Assemblyman Rob Bonta — were neutral.

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Bertholf* returned home to Alameda after a 140-day deployment. The crew spent more than four months at sea. They seized more than \$183 million worth of illegal drugs while deployed on the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Veteran Alameda schools administrator Sean McPhetridge took the school district's helm. He stepped in to fill the slot left void when

former Alameda Unified School District superintendent Kirsten Vital departed for the Southland.

In other school district news, school board incumbent Mike McMahon, teacher Solana Henneberry and accountant Gary Lym filed papers to run for a seat on the board. Board president Margie Sherratt announced that she has decided to forgo a run for re-election.

The city mourned the death of former Vice-Mayor Hadi Monsef and celebrated the appointment of Alameda Sun founding editor Julia Park Tracey as the city's new poet laureate.

September

A partnership of Alameda Municipal Power, the Park Street Business Association and Rhythmix Cultural Works unveiled 10 utility boxes around town decorated with local artist's work. A private company wrapped the power boxes

in colorful vinyl reproductions of the green-living themed artworks selected by a panel of local judges.

A real-life arrest punctuated the opening of Capone's Speakeasy on Park Street. Alameda police officers arrested the establishment's owner, Mark James Strachen. After Strachen reportedly grabbed one of the officer's arms. According to the police Strachen was very intoxicated. He caused a disturbance and almost got hit by a vehicle when he ran across the street, police said.

The city hosted a meeting with four developers it has chosen as finalists for Sites A and B at Alameda Point. The city announced that it has chosen Brookfield Residential and Alameda Point Partners as the two teams to develop the residential mixed-use Site A. Catellus Development Corporation and Mission Bay Development Group were in the running for the commercial development of Site B.

A string of arson fires started the city awake in the early morning hours of Sept. 28. Before the sun was up the Alameda Police Department announced its officers had arrested Stephen Michael Petersen, 27, of Alameda and Andrew Resto Gutierrez, 22 a transient. They booked the men into Santa Rita Jail. The suspects were arraigned and charged with willful and malicious arson.

October

The city hosted a groundbreaking to celebrate the construction of the Shore Line Bikeway. When completed, the new bikeway, planned as one of the longest protected bikeways in the Bay Area, will include a buffered space between bicyclists and motorists.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county Bay Area, awarded the city a \$2.23-million grant to build the segment of the Cross Alameda Trail that runs through Jean Sweeney Park.

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File photo

Left to right: Norma Arnerich, Mayor Marie Gilmore and Anthony "Lil" Arnerich himself celebrated "Lil Arnerich Week" earlier this year.



Courtesy photo

Schools superintendent Sean McPhetridge started his new job in August.



Kevin Francis Barrett

The whirring gears of the award-winning Rhythmix Cultural Works parade float accompanied the rousing sounds of the Taiko drums and other musical instruments in this year's July Fourth Parade.