



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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INSIDE

HOMETOWN

Fire Wire
page 2

Police Blotter
page 3

All the doings of
Island safety and
law personnel



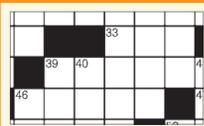
SPORTS

All about the Jets Page 5
Lady Jets nail down a
win at the Nailhouse.



ISLAND ARTS

Musical students Page 6
Lincoln Middle School
performers attain awards.



PUZZLES

Crossword Page 8
Sharpen your pencils for that
famed newspaper tradition.



HOMETOWN NEWS

Cooking Contest Page 8
Islamic Center hosts
deliciously successful event.

CONTENTS

- HOMETOWN NEWS... 2
- LOCAL HAPPENINGS... 4
- SPORTS... 5
- OPINION... 6
- PUZZLES... 8
- CLASSIFIED... 9

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**Alameda Sun
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Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:25	17:02
Jan. 4	07:25	17:03
Jan. 5	07:25	17:04
Jan. 6	07:25	17:05
Jan. 7	07:25	17:06
Jan. 8	07:25	17:07
Jan. 9	07:25	17:08

Potential ACLC Move Stirs Wood Middle Parents

Michele Ellison
The Alamedan

Families at Wood Middle School (WMS) say they're frustrated about the possibility of a charter school being added to their campus. The move has stoked both rumors and fears that WMS is slated for closure.

"We feel this is just another nail in the coffin," said Diane Stohner, a WMS parent. Stohner said that she's concerned about having the Alameda Community Learning Center (ALCLC) charter school on the WMS campus.

"I don't feel comfortable having my daughter around high-schoolers," Stohner said. "We didn't sign up for this."

Stohner and other parents said they first learned about the possibility of a move from the charter's parents and students. They said that they think it would be a bad deal for families at both schools. They also questioned whether the WMS campus has the parking and other facilities the charter school will need.

ALCLC, which serves more than 300 middle- and high-school students, needs to move off the Encinal High School (EHS) cam-

pus at the end of this school year to make way for the "Junior Jets" middle-school magnet slated to open there in the fall. And while district officials aren't saying that the charter has asked for space on the Wood campus or that they are planning to offer it, they're saying they don't have anywhere else to put the school.

Ongoing facility challenges find the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) in its current position where WMS is the only school with declining enrollment, district officials stated in an e-mail to people who have inquired about the rumored move.

"This makes Wood Middle School the only school with sufficient space to share facilities with ACLC, as other campuses currently are doing," AUSD officials said.

Paul Bentz, who heads the non-profit entity that manages ACLC, declined to discuss the specifics of the charter's space request until after the district makes its offer. That offer is due tomorrow, Feb. 1. Bentz said that if it were up to him, he'd prefer that ACLC stay in its home of 17 years on the EHS campus.

★ **ALCLC:** Page 6

Teachers Call for Mediator

Dennis Evanosky

The Alameda Education Association (AEA), the union that represents Alameda's teachers, has reached an impasse in contract talks with the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD).

"AUSD teachers are among the lowest-paid in Alameda County," the union stated in the press release that announced the stalemate. The union requested that a mediator step in after AUSD put what AEA called "paltry salary increase" on the table, and then did not respond to the teachers' counterproposal.

"We haven't had a raise in over four years and it is time for Alameda Unified to make teachers a priority," said Gray Harris, presi-

"AUSD teachers are among the lowest-paid in Alameda County."

— AEA Press Release

dent of the 524-member AEA. "In light of voters passing Proposition 30 and the good financial health of this school district, it's time for the district and Superintendent Kirsten Vital to demonstrate that they value retaining and recruiting our excellent teachers."

The union pointed out that AUSD's proposal of a 2 percent pay increase for the current school

★ **TEACHERS:** Page 9



Courtesy photo

The yellow line marks the approximate extent of the Coast Guard's proposed expanded security zone on the south side of Coast Guard Island. Local ship captains argue this decision would reduce the navigable width of part of the estuary, creating a choke point for boat traffic.

Coast Guard Edict May Limit Estuary

Ekene Ikeme

The U.S. Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit is proposing to expand the security barrier along a strip of Coast Guard Island (CGI). The expansion of the security barrier will reduce the navigable channel width for commercial and recreational vessels traveling in the Oakland Estuary between CGI and Alameda.

"The purpose of the proposed action is to deepen the boat basin and expand the security barrier to accommodate home porting of up to four national security cutters at Base Alameda," stated Dave Stalters, Environmental Division Chief for the U.S. Coast Guard in a scoping letter dated October 2012. "The vessels need a homeport that would provide a dedicated berthing space,

adequate water depths, utilities, access to fuel delivery services, and a central point of operation."

The proposed changes are a result of the U.S. Coast Guard's environmental assessment report. Roy Clark, a civil engineer for U.S. Coast Guard who worked on the assessment, said the security barrier change is needed.

"These cutters are 450 feet long," said Clark. "The barrier is made to withstand boat attacks."

The new proposal seeks to expand the barrier to 75 feet south of CGI — Clark said he was unsure

of the current security barrier size. There were rumors the expansion was to be 200 feet south of CGI, but Clark told Alameda Marina Harbormaster Brock de Lappe at a public hearing meeting on Jan. 23 that figure was a mistake. Nevertheless, the addition of the security barrier has brought on concerns from Alamedans.

"The increased wake from passing recreational and commercial vessels in the narrower channel will result in property damage to boats berthed in the Alameda

★ **ESTUARY:** Page 2

Family Sues over Fatal Accident

Dennis Evanosky

The Arnold James family has filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the city. The suit, which the family filed last Thursday, Jan. 24, alleges that the Alameda Police Department (APD) forced James and his companions to walk on a darkened street in the early morning hours of Jan. 30, 2012, after one of its officers ordered their Mazda towed.

As a result, the suit states that a Lexus struck and killed the 42-year-old James as he, Roberts and their two female companions walked along Doolittle Drive near Langley Street in Oakland ("APD Towed Victim's Car," Feb. 2, 2012).

An APD officer had stopped the car for speeding at Otis Drive and Mound Street in Alameda about 4:45 a.m. When the officer discovered that the driver, Donnel Roberts, had a suspended license, he cited

Roberts. The officer then followed state law and impounded the car. The officer offered to call a cab for the driver and passengers, but they declined, police said.

Friends later stated that the four did not have enough money for a cab.

The four walked south across the Bay Farm Island Bridge and along Doolittle Drive. The accident happened about one hour and 15 minutes after the traffic stop, some two miles from the stop.

James' family and friends later stated that the victim's bad knees forced him to walk behind his companions.

The suit claims that APD "negligently left him (James) in an unsafe environment without adequate safety measures and/or alternative means of transportation in place."

Contact Dennis Evanosky at editor@alamedasun.com.



Courtesy photo

Encinal High School teacher Brian Rodriguez, pictured here surrounded by some of his students, was recently named a top 10 Claes Nobel Educator of the year.

EHS Teacher Among Nation's Best

Jeffrey R. Smith

The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) recently announced that Encinal High School (EHS) teacher Brian Rodriguez has been selected as one of the top 10 2012 Claes Nobel Educators of the Year.

Rodriguez teaches history and sits as the EHS social science co-chair. He is a guiding member of the Junior Jets Program and 2008 Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Teacher of the Year.

NSHSS presents this award annually to 10 exemplary educators in the country who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to preparing students for success in college and life.

These 10 educators are among NSHSS's student-nominated Claes Nobel Educators of Distinction program. The program recognizes educators who have consistently modeled best practices in teaching, and who are a positive influence and inspiration for students and as well as peers. Those selected,

'I am excited every day to be in the classroom, challenging, encouraging and facilitating growth in my students.'

— Brian Rodriguez

for what is arguably one of the most prestigious awards a public school teacher can receive, have demonstrated outstanding leadership and sustained excellence in education.

Claes Nobel is a member of the Nobel family who established the Nobel prizes. He is the chairperson of the NSHSS Advisory Board.

"I am proud to honor these top 10 educators and announce these 2012 Educators of the Year," Nobel said. "This program embraces my family's tradition of recognizing world-class minds and supports the vision of NSHSS to help students build

on academic success and grow the skills and desire to have a positive impact on the global community."

Nobel's description of what signifies a top educator accurately describes Rodriguez. He has worked assiduously for the school district for the last 18 years. His primary responsibility has been Advanced Placement courses in American, European and world history. Last summer Rodriguez conducted a motivational "AP Boot Camp" designed to induct a wider, more diverse, range of students into the rigorous Advance Placement courses at EHS.

"I am honored that Mr. Nobel has chosen me for this award. I really believe this award is a tribute to the terrific students I have had at EHS over the years," Rodriguez said. "My philosophy has always been that no one rises to low standards, so I keep my standards high. I am excited every day to be in the classroom, challenging, encouraging and facilitating growth in my students."

Help APD Catch Armed Robber

Sun Staff Reports

At 8 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, an adult suspect wearing a ski mask robbed the Papa Murphy's Pizza restaurant, 1929 Broadway.

The suspect, armed with a semi-automatic handgun, ordered the employees to lie face down on the floor. He then demanded the money from the cash register and safe.

The suspect was unable to get any money from the safe but he did get money from the cash register. The suspect also took cash from one employee and wallets from two other employees.

"The suspect then punched one employee in the head and struck another three times in the back of the head with the handgun," APD stated in its Nixle report.

The victim, whom the perpetrator struck in the head, sustained a broken orbital bone and required stitches to the ear.

The suspect fled the scene on foot.

APD is asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the department's violent crimes unit at 337-8350 or leave an anonymous tip at 337-8450.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Rep. Lee holds Alameda office hours
Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) will hold office hours at the Main Library, 1515 Oak St., from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Lee, rather than Pete Stark, now represents Alameda.

On Aug. 15, 2012, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission approved a move that shifted

Alameda from Pete Stark's 13th Congressional District to Lee's Ninth District.

Learn more about Alameda's new congresswoman at <http://lee.house.gov>.

Track Club meets at Point

Don Grant's Alameda Point Youth Track Club will hold its first practice from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the Alameda Point gymnasium, 1101 West Red Line Ave.

★ **BRIEFS:** Page 9