



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 13 No. 28
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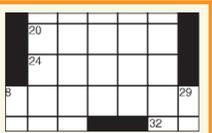
All the doings
of Island law and
safety personnel



SUMMER CAMPS

Special Guide Inside

Loaded with puzzles for the
kids and info for the adults.



CROSSWORD

Puzzles Page 7

Sharpen your pencils for the
crossword and sudoku!



SPORTS

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Pilot golfers are raking in
the wins on the greens.



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

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Don't miss the screening of
Gasland: Part II tonight.

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JoanAnn Radu-Simako

Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:32	19:46
April 18	06:31	19:47
April 19	06:29	19:48
April 20	06:28	19:48
April 21	06:26	19:49
April 22	06:25	19:50
April 23	06:24	19:51

Immunization Opt-Outs Grow

Michele Ellison
The Alameda

A dramatic jump in measles cases in California has prompted readers to ask what Alameda Unified School District's (AUSD) vaccination requirements are and how many families are opting out. State law requires children to be vaccinated against a list of diseases before entering school, but parents can obtain waivers if vaccinating their children would violate their personal beliefs.

School district spokeswoman Susan Davis said 75 AUSD students have signed waivers exempting them from shots, which is less than 1 percent of the district's total student body. Still, immunization data collected by the California Department of Public Health show that use of the waivers here is on the rise.

Families for seven incoming kindergartners had signed waivers saying they weren't going to be vaccinated for measles, whooping cough, polio and a host of other diseases during the 2009-10 school year, the data show; this year, 43 incoming kindergartners had signed waivers, including 11 each at Paden and Ruby Bridges elementary schools — more than the total number at all of Alameda's public schools just two years ago.

Parents have resisted immunizations due to fears over their efficacy and safety, with many questioning whether one vaccine — to fight measles, mumps and rubella — may cause autism. In a guide to physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics said that studies in the U.S. and Europe haven't found a link between the vaccination and autism; a 1998 study in the British medical journal *Lancet* that claimed a link has since been retracted.

AUSD's goal is to adhere to a "no-shots, no-school" policy and to follow state law, according to Jodi Biskup, a school district nurse. And she said a new state law may bring the district closer to that goal.

Starting this year, families who don't want to immunize their children will be required to present documentation showing they've talked to a health-care practitioner about the benefits and risks of immunizations and the risks of communicable diseases before getting a pass on immunizations. Previously, families could sign a form objecting to vaccinations without taking that step.

California is one of 20 states that allow families to opt out of vaccinations for philosophical reasons, an analysis of the bill says. Assemblyman Richard Pan, D-Sacramento, its author, said he's concerned lower immunization rates will mean more disease outbreaks.

"Exposure to these preventable diseases not only places the individual child at risk, but the entire community,"

— Assemblyman Richard Pan

"Exposure to these preventable diseases not only places the individual child at risk, but the entire community," said Pan, a pediatrician. "This measure would rectify this problem by creating a process where parents would be able to make an informed decision for their children."

A recent EdSource story on the new law published Sunday stated the near-elimination of many communicable diseases has reduced fears of those diseases, which resulted in hundreds of deaths a year before immunizations against them were widespread.

OPT-OUTS: Page 10

Point Moving Forward with Development Plans

Richard Bangert

At last Tuesday's meeting the city council considered a staff proposal to begin a major construction effort at the eastern entryway to Alameda Point, formerly known as the East Gate. The proposal seeks approval to solicit qualified developers for two parcels totaling 150 acres that would bring 800 new homes and a major sales-tax generator.

The quest for developers is being proposed "in order to facilitate new residential and commercial mixed-use projects that are of a sufficient scale to support major infrastructure investment," said Jennifer Ott, chief operating officer for Alameda Point. "It will create a catalyst for additional new development and investment elsewhere" at Alameda Point.

The proposal seeks a single developer for an entire 68-acre parcel, dubbed Site A, which extends along West Atlantic Avenue from Main Street to the Seaplane Lagoon. It would feature a mixed-use, 800-home development that is consistent with the recently approved Town Center Waterfront Plan. The plan requires ground-floor retail along certain blocks and public plazas and amenities at the heart of the area. Hotels and office development will also be highly encouraged.



Scramblin' for Eggs

Dennis Evanosky

The Easter Bunny brought smiles and delight to last Saturday's Egg Scramble at Crown Beach. The cutest among the "scramblers" were the ankle biters in the "just learning to walk" category, like these children looking for any goodies that the Easter Bunny just might have left behind. The bright sunny weather brought a large crowd of children, their parents and those just wanting to enjoy watching the children "scramble."

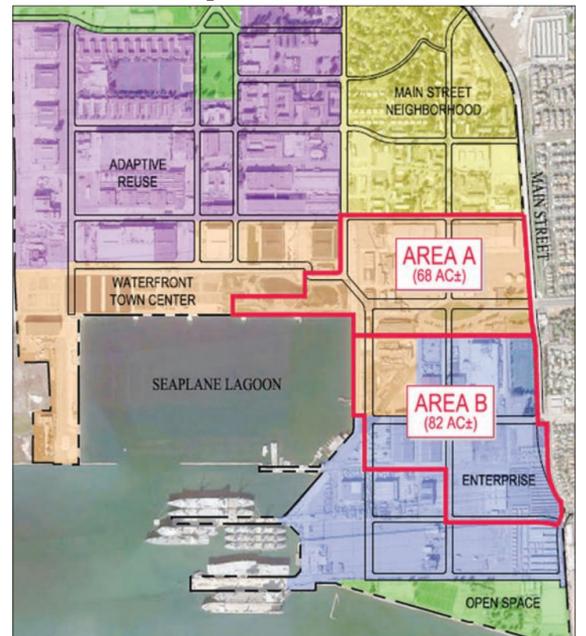
"City staff ... is actively pursuing, other long-term investment opportunities, such as the recently approved Google lease..."

— Jennifer Ott, Chief Operating Officer for Alameda Point

Site B is composed of 82 acres on southeastern Alameda Point. Part of the site is within the commercial Enterprise Zone and part is within the Town Center Waterfront Plan area. Unlike Site A, the proposal for Site B will entertain multiple developers. "This approach allows the city to potentially attract interest from a large corporate user or retail outlet operator, who may not be interested in the entire area," stated the staff report. Preference will be given to developers who furnish letters of interest from a corporate user or retail outlet operator.

The staff report notes that significant early phases of development can commence around a 33-acre area that is undergoing environmental cleanup by the Navy.

POINT: Page 10



City of Alameda

The city is planning a mixed-use, 800-home development on the 68-acre parcel, Site A, along West Atlantic Avenue from Main Street to the Seaplane Lagoon. Part of the adjoining 82 acres, Site B, lies within the commercial enterprise zone and part in the Town Center zone.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Welcome Home, Stratton

Friends and family were excited to greet their loved ones aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Stratton* as it returned home to Coast Guard Island last Sunday. Since departing Jan. 6, *Stratton* completed a 22,000-mile patrol in support of joint counter-drug operations off the coast of California and in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

First Lady Michelle Obama commissioned the *Stratton* at Coast Guard Island on March 31, 2012. She is the official sponsor of the *Stratton* and is the first First Lady to sponsor a Coast Guard cutter.

The cutter is named for Dorothy Constance Stratton, the director of the SPARS, the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve during World War II.

City Hires Economic Development Manager

The city announced on Tuesday that it has hired Darrell A. Doan as the new economic development manager.

"With this new position, the city will be able to build on recent economic development initiatives," stated Debbie Potter, director of the city's Community Development Department in the press release announcing the appointment.

Potter stated that these initiatives include the Islander Shopper Campaign, regional marketing of Alameda and the mayor's business visitation program.

Doan is a native Californian, who comes to Alameda from Baltimore, Md., where he worked as that city's director of economic development and managing director of real estate development.

"The city of Alameda is very fortunate to have someone of Darrell's caliber and experience join our team to enhance Alameda's competitiveness as we work to generate jobs and increase sales tax revenue to pay for the City's parks, streets and public safety services," Potter stated.

Rosenblum Leaving Town

Rosenblum's Cellars, a West End fixture for the past 27 years, is moving its operations across the Oakland Estuary to Jack London Square.

Doctor Kent Rosenblum founded the winery in 1978 and moved the company to its current location in 1987. He sold the winery to Diageo in 2008 for a reported \$105 million. Diageo moved Rosenblum's wine-production to Napa in 2010. *San Francisco Business Times* writer Chris Rauber stated that Rosenblum "scooped" at the move saying, "This is what happens when you let bean counters run a company."

In press release announcing the move, Diageo called finding a new location for the Alameda tasting room "a top priority. The Main Street lease expires in June and Diageo stated that it planned to open the Jack London Square venue in July.

How Do You Get to Carnegie Hall?

Local cellist plays for second time at New York institution

Bara Waters



Alameda Community Learning Center sixth-grader Isabelle Brown-Lyden (left), performed the Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major by J.S. Bach at Carnegie Hall on March 25. She recently won second place in the American Protégé Competition for Piano and Strings.

Brown-Lyden's performance marks the second time she has taken the Carnegie Hall stage, and her third New York City performance.

She has performed as an honors soloist at the Colorado Suzuki Institute and the Stanford Suzuki Institute, as well as in benefit concerts throughout the Bay Area since she was five years old. Brown-Lyden also plays jazz and the fiddle with an all-girl group called the Flaming Strings.

She studies weekly with teacher Andy Luchansky, and daily with her cello-playing mother, Marcie Brown.

Courtesy photo