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Alameda Sun is a publication of Stellar Media Group, Inc. 3215J Encinal Ave. Alameda, CA 94501

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	05:56	20:33
July 12	05:57	20:32
July 13	05:58	20:32
July 14	05:58	20:31
July 15	05:59	20:31
July 16	06:00	20:30
July 17	06:01	20:30



Qing Dynasty kiln supervisor Tang Ying's works feature innovative forms and designs with carefully decided splashes of color.

Auction House Sets New Sales Record

Artifact sells for order of magnitude above expected price

Deanna Der

The sale of a rare and important soapstone carving from Imperial China's Qing dynasty at Michaan's Auctions Fine Asian Works of Art auction on June 23 helped break both national and international records. Imperial porcelain kiln supervisor Tang Ying created the piece that made the auction Michaan's highest-grossing event to date.

The auction brought in more than \$4.67 million, due in large part to the unexpected sale of a Tang Ying soapstone carving. The work of art was the highest estimated lot in the sale at \$100,000 to \$150,000, but even with such high expectations no one could have guessed that it would ultimately sell at a price nearly 20 times that amount.

The carving broke auction records when the auctioneer's gavel finally fell at \$2.36 million. The price

made the figure the highest-selling Asian soapstone carving ever auctioned in this country, as well as Michaan's highest single selling lot to date.

Bidding for the piece drew buyers from all over the world with floods of Internet, phone and absentee bids. After intense floor and phone bidding, the selling price reached \$2 million, closing with an anonymous phone bidder taking home the piece.

According to Laura Baker of Michaan's Auction House, numerous factors come into play when determining estimated prices for auction pieces.

"Research is often conducted for similar pieces sold within the last

The carving broke auction records when the auctioneer's gavel finally fell at \$2.36 million.

five years," Baker said. "The art work's quality, rarity, condition, authorship and historical significance as well as current market trends are all considered in determining estimates."

Baker speculates that the piece sold for much higher than expected because Tang Ying is regarded as a rare subject matter in Asian works of art. This caused the carving to reach a collector-worthy price and status.

"Collector passion and appreciation for its cultural and historical significance and the fact that the piece is a wise investment choice were all viable reasons that drove Tang Ying to perform as well as it did," said Baker.

Some credit Tang Ying, who created the soapstone, as the most innovative and successful Qing Dynasty imperial porcelain kiln supervisor.

Porcelains created under his supervision exhibited artistically innovative forms and designs with carefully decided splashes of color. Tang Ying transformed the world of porcelain, creating porcelains resembling other materials to such a realistic state that they were often mistaken for the real thing.

Known as the last imperial Dynasty, the Qing Dynasty was considered the pinnacle of porcelain production with Tang Ying at the helm of these creations. Jingdezhen,

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Planning Board Approves Alameda Landing Design

Michele Ellison
The Alamedan

The Planning Board approved the design of the remainder of a Target-anchored shopping center at Alameda Landing. The decision marks the final administrative approval the project needs before construction can start.

Target is slated to open in October. Developer Catellus is hoping the remainder of the shopping center will open for business next summer.

"We've been working on this for many years," Catellus's Sean Whiskeman said.

The city got the 77-acre property in 1999 and approved the retail and housing development in 2007, but the plan stalled for five years due to a deep recession and ownership shifts at Catellus. The project restarted in earnest in 2012, with the developer gaining approvals for 275 homes and for the Target store.

In addition to Target and Safeway, the development's 11 commercial buildings are set to include a Michael's craft store, the Corner Bakery Café, Habit Burger Grill and Panda Express eateries. City leaders have said a Sleep Train store is also planned.

The design includes a broad palette of building materials becoming more common for shopping centers. Managers are seeking to create a more visually appealing Main Street feel. They also want to appease national retailers whose design concepts don't always fit neatly into a uniform shopping center design.

Catellus is also planning public gathering spaces with benches and climbing rocks. They will also include game tables nestled under Mexican fan palms adorned with string lights intended to create "a nice, soft glow."

"The goal is to make this a very

special place with a lot of great things to do," Whiskeman said, and not just a place where people come to buy things.

But some residents from the adjacent Bayport development said they're concerned the new stores could bring more crime into their neighborhood. They sought assurances that security would be hired for the shopping center. Residents held a meeting with police in late June following a spate of break-ins. A June 30 message from the Alameda Police Department said evening break-ins had increased city-wide.

"We have private streets and security," Bayport resident Cliff Tong said. "Are there measures the developer will take to enhance security?"

Board member Lorre Zuppan asked what assurances the city would have that the tables, trees and other amenities to be installed at the shopping center will be maintained.

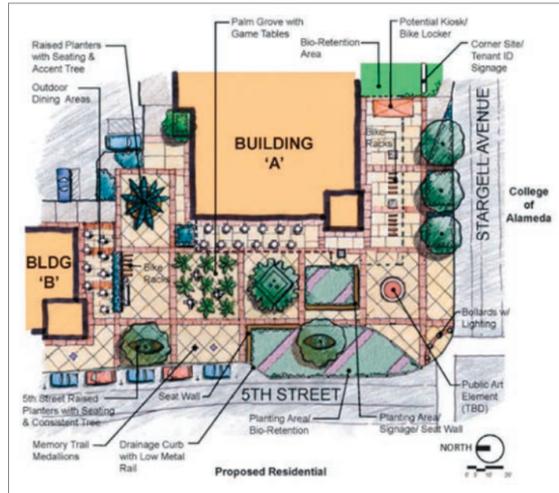
Whiskeman said the shopping center will have security as needed and that maintenance standards are included in the covenants, conditions and restrictions that were recorded with the deed to the property.

"The shopping center, once up and operational, will be professionally managed (and) maintained in a first-class way," he said.

Separately, the board agreed to allow a Safeway store to be constructed as part of the shopping center to remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Delivery trucks would only be permitted between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Zuppan said she wanted more justification for Safeway to be 24 hours a day, saying it will be closer to residences than the Safeway at Alameda South Shore Center, which

• DESIGN: Page 7



The Planning Board gave its formal nod to this plan for Alameda Landing. The developer hopes to have all shops open for business by next summer.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Bank of Alameda acquired

The Bank of Marin's parent company, Marin Bancorp, has announced that it is acquiring Bank of Alameda's parent company, NorCal Community Bancorp. The acquisition will create a new bank with \$1.7 billion in assets.

The new bank will operate 21 branches in Alameda, Marin, Sonoma and Napa counties, as well as in the City and County of San Francisco.

Bank of Alameda, which was established in 1998, currently has two branch offices in Alameda, and one each in Oakland and Emeryville. The bank has assets of \$264.7 million on its books and \$228.7 million in deposits.

With assets of some \$1.4 billion the Bank of Marin operates 17 branches in Marin, Napa and Sonoma counties and in the City and County of San Francisco. Marin Bancorp shares are traded publicly on NASDAQ. Tuesday's intra-trading pegged the stock's price at \$42.50.

The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2013.

College names interim president

Peralta Community College District recently announced the appointment of Dr. Eric V. Gravenberg, Ph.D., as College of Alameda's interim president. He begins his appointment July 15.

Gravenberg has served as Merritt College's vice president of stu-

dent services at Merritt College. He has also worked as the associate vice president for enrollment management at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and as the director of admission at the University of California at Riverside.

Cancer research needs participants

The Bay Area Chinese Bible Church on North Loop Road has joined with the American Cancer Society in inviting Bay Area residents to take part in the society's Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS3).

Enrollment begins this Saturday, July 13 and runs through Saturday, Aug. 10.

You must be 30 to 65 years old, have never been diagnosed with cancer and be willing to make a long-term commitment to the study.

Participants provide a small blood sample, waist measurement and health history survey. "If you aren't eligible to participate, you can still make a difference by telling everyone you know about CPS3," said Melinda How, the school's outreach director. Enroll in the study by visiting www.cps-3BayArea.org.

"This is a research study that looks at lifestyle, genetic, and environmental factors that can cause or prevent cancer," How said.

Accused child molester returns to Alameda

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Department released Alameda resident Arnold Luz, 46, from custody on Tuesday, June 25. Luz had served 10 months in the Sonoma County Main Adult Detention Facility in Santa Rosa.

Luz had sat in jail since deputies arrested him on Aug. 10, 2012,

• BRIEFS: Page 7



Dennis Evanosky

Island City Celebrates Independence Day

With more than 170 entries this year, the Mayor's July Fourth Parade in Alameda drew thousands of onlookers along its 3.3-mile route. Above, Park Street was packed with viewers of the parade. Right, the color guard announces the arrival of the parade along Central Avenue. For more photographs from the parade, turn to pages 11 and 12. For a complete list of parade trophy winners, turn to page 6.



Eric J. Kos