



IT'S LIEF ERICSON DAY!

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 14 No. 2
October 9, 2014

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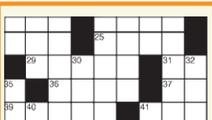
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All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



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Often overlooked teams get chance to shine at Island Bowl.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE
And Sudoku Page 9

Sharpen your pencils for that newspaper tradition.



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See *A Place at the Table* film on hunger in America.



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Mr. Dog Breath found his way to a new home.

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JoanAnn Radu-Sinaiko

Alameda Sun Almanac

Date Rise Set

Today	07:11	18:42
Oct. 10	07:12	18:40
Oct. 11	07:13	18:39
Oct. 12	07:14	18:37
Oct. 13	07:15	18:36
Oct. 14	07:16	18:34
Oct. 15	07:17	18:33

Shooting Victim's Family Sues Sheriff

Ekene Ikeme

The mother of a man shot and killed by an off-duty Alameda County deputy while allegedly robbing a convenient store in Alameda filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the county last Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Alberta Williams wrote in her suit, filed with the Alameda County Superior Court, her son Laroy Brown, who was 42 at the time of his death, "did not deserve to be killed based on the circumstances."

Williams is seeking \$500,000 in damages from the county and sheriff's department, according to the suit, although Williams wrote in court papers that her "pain can't be itemized."

The botched robbery started at 10:30 p.m. on July 18, 2013, when, according to police, Brown, and Marc Traylor of Alameda entered the Bonfire Market at 1505 High St. armed and wearing masks. An off-duty Alameda County Sheriff's deputy was reading a magazine when the two entered.

When the armed robbers demanded the clerk hand over money, the deputy used his department-issued weapon to shoot both men. Brown was killed, while Traylor managed to flee despite his wound. He entered a car driven by Elbert McBride and the two fled the scene. Alameda police were able to track down Traylor when he checked himself into the hospital for his bullet wounds.

When asked how he got his wounds, Traylor, 42, lied about his whereabouts at the time he was shot. However, police were able to determine his alibi "did not corroborate with physical evidence." Traylor was formally arrested on Aug. 7, 2013, on charges of special-circumstances murder. The change holds an accomplice responsible when a crime partner acts in a way that leads to any death whether it is a witness or another suspect. Traylor later accepted a plea deal with prosecutors and was sentenced to four years in prison for attempted robbery.

The deputy, a 20-year veteran and SWAT team member assigned to Oakland International Airport wasn't harmed during the incident. His name has not been released.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at eikeme@alamedasun.com.

Updates on Development

Oak Street, Mapes Ranch, Alameda Point properties move toward new uses

Michele Ellison
The Alamedan

This week's update has details on plans for shops and townhomes in an old Oak Street warehouse, a planning extension for Mapes Ranch and the latest news about Alameda Point.

1835 Oak Street

Southern California developer City Ventures has been working with the city on a plan to tear down most of this 73-year-old warehouse at 1835 Oak St. at Eagle Avenue. The plan is to fill the 2.58-acre site on with 47 new two- and three-bedroom townhomes — some with "work space" inside — plus 4,860 square feet of commercial space and a 2,900-square-foot "commercial courtyard" for temporary commercial activities.

Under the developer's current plans, each of the homes would contain a one- to two-car garage, and 10 parking spaces would be available for shoppers and visitors.

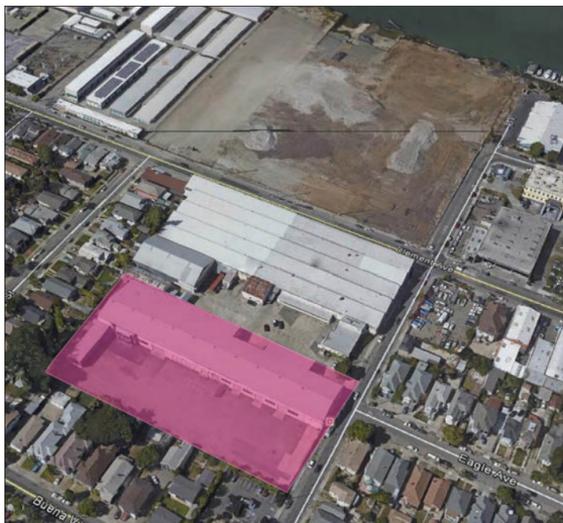
The city is seeking some design changes that include shorter buildings and a different design, and city staffers want the developer to eliminate the garages in favor of a common, shared parking area. They want the developer to charge residents and business owners separate fees for their parking in order to reduce car ownership of potential residents.

The Planning Board will discuss the development proposal and proposed staff changes at its meeting next Monday, Oct. 13. The confab begins at 7 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave. and will be televised and webcast live. Decisions about the project are not slated to be made at this meeting. Both the Planning Board and the Historical Advisory Board are expected to make recommendations at a future date and the City Council will decide whether to rezone the property to permit the proposed development.

The staff report and exhibits, including the development proposal, are available on the city's website.

Mapes Ranch

Clifford Mapes — the owner of the proposed Mapes Ranch development in the triangle formed by Tilden Way, Fernside Boulevard and Versailles Avenue — is asking for an extra year to finalize a map that shows how he plans to subdivide the property. The City Council approved a tentative subdivision map in 2012 that split the property into 11 lots where Mapes hopes to build custom homes, but that approval expired this month.



Courtesy Google Maps

The 73-year-old warehouse at 1835 Oak St. (highlighted in pink) could become the site of 47 new two- and three-bedroom townhomes.

The City Council was scheduled to vote at its Oct. 7 meeting whether to extend its approval of Mapes' tentative map to Oct. 2, 2015.

City staff was recommending approval.

Alameda Point plans

Steeltown Winery is seeking to

lease space at 2440 Monarch St., across from Rock Wall Wine Company. If the City Council approves the lease — a 10-year deal with two five-year extensions is on the table — the winery will be rechristened the Building 43 Winery, after its new space.

Secondly, the city — with a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in hand — is seeking out a firm to develop a specific plan containing development standards for Alameda Point's Main Street neighborhood. Among other things, the plan for the 100-acre neighborhood is expected to address reuse of 68 existing "Big Whites" and reconstruction and consolidation of 200 units of housing for formerly homeless people spread out across 34 acres of Alameda Point onto 10 to 12 acres in the Main Street neighborhood.

The City Council was scheduled to consider leasing the winery a portion of Building 43 at its Tuesday, Oct. 7, meeting. The city already released a request for proposals to plan the Point's Main Street neighborhood; they're due Oct. 13, and interviews of firms that submitted proposals are scheduled for Oct. 27.

Read more Alameda news at <http://webh.it/alamedasun>.

Shake, Rattle, and Ignore

Deadline to speak up for resident seals is Friday, Oct. 17

Irene Dieter

Harbor seals have been coming to Alameda Point to find food and a suitable breeding habitat and resting area in recent years, taking up residence at a site adjacent to Enterprise Park and the Bay Trail. Rather than encouraging their homestead, the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) wants to kick them out. It will be a permanent loss for the seals and a lost asset for the community and visitors to enjoy.

WETA is applying for a permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service that would allow temporary harassment of the seals while it tears down the seals' haul-out site and builds a new ferry maintenance and operations facility in its place. The service is tasked to determine whether the project would negatively impact the marine mammals and, if so, to institute mitigation measures to offset the negative impacts. The deadline for public comment is Oct. 17.

Other than a temporary loss of foraging habitat during the construction, according to WETA the only harassment the seals will experience will be from the shaking and noise from the expected pile driving

and pile removal activities that will take place over a two- to three-week period during the construction project.

Thus, they plan to minimize the sound levels and do a "soft start" technique of vibrations to "allow the seals to vacate the area before the pile driver reaches full power" and will pause if the seals appear disturbed.

The fact that WETA will be permanently destroying the seals' haul-out site has been ignored in their environmental assessment report. They brush off the concern because observations show that only about 20 seals at a time are in the area. Thus, they make no provision for building a new haul-out site to mitigate the loss of breeding area.

Imagine what San Francisco would do if WETA wanted to remove their sea lion docks by Pier 39.

It's bad enough that our city chose to allow a ferry maintenance facility directly next to what could have been a serene atmosphere for a campground and park.

I so hope I'm wrong, but park goers and/or potential campers will now wake up to the rumbling engines and diesel exhaust from ferries. Kayakers, boaters and fishermen will also have to adjust. The least WETA could do is build another haul-out site for the seals. It should be added as a mitigation measure before construction begins.



Courtesy National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

A harbor seal pup

Isle Say

Imagine what San Francisco would do if WETA wanted to remove their sea lion docks by Pier 39.

The National Marine Fisheries Service says it will fully consider public comments received in response to the proposed harassment permit. I say we ought to make some noise before WETA does.

Send comments via email to itp.guan@noaa.gov or via postal mail to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Read more of Irene Dieter's writings online at islesay.wordpress.com.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

AMP Warns of Scam

Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) has reported that it has received multiple complaints from local businesses that someone impersonating a utility representative (either on the phone or in person) is claiming that electric accounts are past due and will be disconnected.

The individual goes on to provide payment instructions via Green Dot MoneyPaks or NetSpend prepaid debit cards.

AMP advises its customers to be suspicious of anyone demanding immediate payment on their accounts. AMP never asks for credit or debit card numbers and only provides automated courtesy calls to accounts that are already delinquent.

AMP customer service representatives are available at 748-3900. AMP also maintains an automated system that enables its customers to check their balances 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you suspect you have become a victim of this scam, AMP recommends that they call the Alameda Police Department at 337-8340 and file a report.

Bikeway Groundbreaking on Saturday

The city will host a groundbreaking to celebrate the construction of the Shore Line Bikeway. The new bikeway, planned

as one of the longest protected bikeways in the Bay Area, will include a buffered space between bicyclists and motorists.

Mayor Marie Gilmore will join Bike Walk Alameda board member Donna Eyestone, Public Works Director Bob Haun and Transportation Commission Chairperson Jesus Vargas at the ceremony, which will take place at 11 a.m., this Saturday, Oct. 11, at Pedal Beach on Shore Line Drive, next door to McDonald's.

"This project will greatly improve the safety and enjoyment of cross town bicycling," said Gilmore. "It will also invite more community members to get on their bikes and enjoy the beautiful bay in Alameda."

For more information about the project, visit <http://alamedaca.gov/public-works/shore-line-drive-westline-drive-cycle-track>.

City Awarded Grant for Jean Sweeney Park

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

The city will begin designing the trail though the park early next year as a multi-use recreational trail for walkers and bicyclists.

Amenities in Jean Sweeney Park will include nature-based playgrounds; an open lawn area adjacent to a gazebo and covered picnic pavilion. Plans for the park also include a community garden, as well as an urban orchard and demonstration gardens for a bay-friendly landscape.

Daysog Office Hours

Councilman Tony Daysog will hold office hours this evening, Oct. 9 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Blue Danube Café, 1333 Park St.

He will also be available this Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Farmers' Market at Haight Avenue and Webster Street. Reach him at tdaysog@alamedaca.gov or 747-4726.

Alameda Landing Hiring

Alameda One Stop Career Center is hosting a job fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., next Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the College of Alameda, Building F, 555 Ralph Appezato Memorial Parkway.

The center has formed a partnership with Catellus Development to help fill positions at Alameda Landing. Employers will be recruiting to fill positions that include accounting, customer service and sales, as well as security, technical and warehouse workers.

Target has already hired new employees who took advantage of this partnership.

Learn more at 748-2208 or www.alamedaca.gov/one-stop.

Farming at the Point

Richard Bangert

As I was driving around Alameda Point last Saturday, I came upon Alameda Point Collaborative's (APC) farm. The gate was wide open and work was going on. I decided to check it out.

I met three volunteers from the Junior League busily transporting mulch chips from a pile at the gate to a crop row. A few dozen yards away, farm supervisor Evan Krokowski was running a rototiller down crop rows where harvesting was complete. Workers were tidying up the greenhouse as they carried sprouted plants inside.

Krokowski set up the farm from scratch seven years ago. It's right next door to the Ploughshares Nursery. You can see it from Main Street, but the entrance is at 2600 Barbers Point Road.

APC runs a program at the farm called Farm2Market, which provides individuals with marketable job skills. The program sells produce on a subscription basis with the proceeds plowed back into the farm.

Point Report

While there I learned that once the workers harvest asparagus spears they allow the plant to grow so that the root system can store up energy for next season. I would never have guessed that the six-foot-high, wispy, herb-like hedgerow was actually asparagus.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. APC is hosting its annual Harvest Festival, a traditional celebration of the harvest and the bounty at APC's three-acre urban farm. The fun includes pumpkin carving, a children's carnival, tasty treats straight from the farm and more.

Krokowski said that the day is "a celebration of community and our shared vision of a brighter future and healthier world for us all to enjoy for generations to come."

Richard Bangert hosts the blog "Alameda Point Environmental Report."