



INSIDE

HOMETOWN NEWS
Fire Wire Page 2
Police Blotter Page 9
 All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



SPORTS
Year in Review Page 5
 Island City motocross champ wins in second half of 2019.

7	1	6	3
4	8	2	5
6	9	8	1
3	2	7	4
1	5	4	9
2	7	3	8

THE PUZZLES PAGE
Sudoku & more Page 4
 Sharpen your pencils for that newspaper tradition!



GOOD DEEDS
Local generosity Page 4
 Island adults and kids make a difference for locals in need.



ISLAND ARTS
West End News Page 10
 Local poets to gather at Frank Bette Center for the Arts.

CONTENTS

- HOMETOWN NEWS... 2
- THE CITY PAGE... 3
- PUZZLES & KIDS... 4
- SPORTS... 5
- OPINION... 6
- CLASSIFIED... 7
- LOCAL HAPPENINGS... 8
- POLICE BLOTTER... 9

Alameda Sun is a publication of Stellar Media Group, Inc. 3215J Encinal Ave. Alameda, CA 94501
Locally Owned, Community Oriented
 News: (510) 263-1470
 Ads: (510) 263-1471
 Fax: (510) 263-1473

Visit us Online at www.AlamedaSun.com
 Like or Friend us on Facebook
 Follow us on Twitter at Alameda_Sun



Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:24	17:01
Jan. 3	7:25	17:02
Jan. 4	7:25	17:02
Jan. 5	7:25	17:03
Jan. 6	7:25	17:04
Jan. 7	7:25	17:05
Jan. 8	7:25	17:06

Measure A 1973 Under a Microscope this Month

Ordinance began to unravel at birth

Part three of a series
Dennis Evanosky

The City of Alameda faced several Measure A challenges in the first six weeks of the ordinance's existence. "There shall be no multiple units built in Alameda," the ordinance read, without defining "multiple units." The first test came with Braddock and Logan's three townhome developments planned or underway on Bay Farm Island: Garden Isle, Casitas and Islandia.

The second impasse originated with the owner of the smaller multiple units next door to The Tahoe Apartments at Central Avenue and Union Street that the U.S. Navy jet had destroyed in a fiery crash. The owner of the two smaller buildings retained an attorney and told the *Alameda Times-Star* that she might sue if the city did not allow her to rebuild her units as they stood before the tragedy.

The third challenge came from the members of the Committee

of Concerned Citizens. On April 17, 1973, the city bade farewell to three defeated Councilmembers and welcomed three new members: Vice-Mayor Chuck Corica and Councilmembers Lloyd Hurwitz and George Beckham. The newly minted majority immediately got down to the business of the newly passed Measure A.

Despite the measure's narrow "multiple units" wording, Inez Kapellas — whose "Concerned Citizens" help seat Corica, Hurwitz and Beckham — stepped up to the microphone to insist that "multiple units" included townhomes without mentioning the ones Braddock and Logan were building on the Bay Farm Island Uplands south of Mecartney Road. After listening to Kapellas, the new Vice Mayor spoke up. "I would like to go on record as saying that a townhome is a multiple-unit dwelling," he said according to the *Times-Star*.

MEASURE: Page 3



The specially built float at Alameda Point cannot be seen under a resting pod of harbor seals on Dec. 29. A cloudy sky revealed the seals' coats' array of colors.

Seals Crowding Point Haulout

Story & photo
 by **Richard Bangert**

As of Dec. 29, the number of harbor seals on the float at Alameda Point exceeded 70 on nine days, hitting a new record for December. On Dec. 23, the number of seals on the float reached 80, a new record for a single day. Seals were packed so tightly that some were barely hanging onto the edges. The cramped conditions when the float reaches 70 seals in December and January can lead to bouts of slapping and shoving, as harbor seals prefer to have some space when resting.

On Dec. 23, there were so many seals looking for a place to get out of the water and warm up at Alameda Point that 53 had to climb onto the rock wall known as Breakwater Island, another record.

The seasonably colder water temperatures lead to a spike in the number of harbor seals making use

of the float. Winter herring spawning in the vicinity also attracts greater numbers of seals. The central part of San Francisco Bay has the highest density of fish species throughout the year, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, making the Alameda Point float uniquely convenient for the seals.

The specially built harbor seal float was deployed at Alameda Point in June 2016 and paid for by the Water Emergency Transportation Authority which built and operates the nearby ferry maintenance facility. It is the only known floating platform in the world built specifically for use by harbor seals, whose shoreline habitat for resting and giving birth will face growing impacts as sea level rises.

Richard Bangert posts stories and photos about environmental issues on his blog at www.alamedapointenviro.com.



Katherine Schwartz, Alameda Family Services (AFS) executive director, and AFS staff, accept a check from Forbidden Island owner, Michael Thanos.

Bar's Ceiling Helps Fund Local Nonprofits

Eric J. Kos

Patrons of Alameda's famed tiki bar, Forbidden Island, have a tradition of pinning dollar bills to the establishment's ceiling. According to bar owner Michael Thanos, the first customer to leave a bill behind told the story of why. The practice dates to World War II when Navy boys about to ship out pinned currency to the ceilings of favorite watering holes as a good omen.

"They hoped to return and spend it," said Thanos. "About eight to 10 years ago, it really caught on. Lately it had been getting out of control. We needed a reset." Of late patrons had begun attaching currency to booths, walls and lights.

As the holidays approached, staff collected some \$8,000 from

around the establishment with the intention of doing something positive with it, while leaving up personalized and foreign bills as seed money for the next round.

Thanos described Forbidden Island as "pro-Alameda" and immediately the funds were earmarked for Alameda nonprofits. After a vote, the bar's staff selected Alameda Family Services along with Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter and Building Futures/Midway Shelter to receive shares in the donation.

The ceiling at Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., has more clear space available for new contributions. Thanos encourages patrons to continue the tradition because, as he said, "You know it will end up someplace good!"



File photos

In July the developers of Alameda Point held a celebratory groundbreaking for this senior housing complex, which will be among the first buildings at Site A.

2019: Year in Review

Dennis Evanosky
 Part Two: July to December
July

The City of Alameda began the month as it has done since 1976 with the annual Mayor's Fourth of July Parade that attracts some 20,000 spectators, or roughly one-third of the city's population. Everyone and then some watched as color guards, marching bands, baton twirlers, classic cars, horses, politicians, veterans and seemingly countless floats went by.

The parade route, which winds its way from Park Street, along Otis Drive to Grand Street and on to Central Avenue and, finally Webster Street, is longer than three miles, allowing the city to claim it as the longest such procession in the country.

The Alameda County Grand Jury revealed its much-anticipated findings, by ruling that it did find "a pattern of conduct by two Councilmembers that, taken together, amounted to inappropriate interference with the fire chief hiring process."

However, the investigation hinged on whether Councilmembers Jim Oddie and Malia Vella violated the City Charter by interfering with City Manager Jill Keimach's hiring of a new fire chief. While the Grand Jury did rule that the Councilmembers did interfere, it did not find grounds to charge them. However the Grand Jury did present the city with four findings and four recommendations, which the City Council agreed to pursue.

The city signed an agreement with the Alameda Unified School District to proceed with building a \$12 million swim center, which would welcome its first swimmers as early as January 2024 either on the site of the Emma Hood Swim Center at Alameda Avenue and Oak Street or at Thompson Field at Walnut Street and Clement Avenue. The aging Emma Hood pool is in need of extensive repairs, and the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health has involved itself in the pool's condition since it first ordered the pool closed nine years ago.

August

A new development at Alameda Landing forced the city to evict some 10 homeless people at Estuary Park. The city fenced off the area and warned that it would not allow trespassing. The city and its community partners like Operation



In August the owners of South Shore Shopping Center released plans that stirred the hearts of Alamedans.

Dignity and Building Futures had already developed plans to help the homeless the development would displace. The city participated in Alameda County's biennial count of the homeless population earlier in the year. The results revealed that 231 homeless people were living in Alameda, up 13 percent from 204 who lived here in 2017. The 2019 count showed that of the 231 homeless, the city found 99 at the Midway Shelter and 132 at encampments.

The landmark Historic Alameda High School on Central Avenue reopened with a ceremony celebrating the event. The Neoclassical-style building opened to students in 1924. Ten years later the school district added a Science Building at Central and Oak Street. The school's West Wing at Walnut and Central went up in 1957.

In 1978, the district moved the students to a safer building at Walnut and Encinal Avenue. The Adult School and district offices, and, for a time, the city's library, used the buildings. They closed in 2012, after a report found that an earthquake could leave the structure. The school reopened after a renovation that included a seismic retrofit.

South Shore Center's owners, Jamestown Properties, announced that it planned remake the 61-year-old shopping center. Jamestown explained that the makeover involved three phases. The first would involve building a pair of eight-story apartment buildings: one at Park Street and Shore Line Drive at today's Sushi House, an adjacent structure would stretch west along Shore Line at the site of Pagano's Hardware.

The second phase would involve a pair of four-story buildings along Otis Drive where Office Depot stands today. The third phase would transform the area around today's Kohl's store. Jamestown hopes to have phase one complete by 2024 and the entire process in the books by 2041.

September

Changes in the rent ordinance that the City Council approved in July took effect. The most important change tied rent increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The changes also included a rent registry that requires landlords to submit an annual report to the city for each of their rental units. The city planned a series of workshops to educate both landlords and renters about the changes.

The city broke ground for the ferry terminal at Seaplane Lagoon. The terminal will serve as part of a strategy for reducing traffic in Alameda by placing a transit hub at Alameda Point. Improvements on the eastern shore of the lagoon include a pedestrian gangway that will connect the pier to a float that passengers will use to board the ferries.

The city sent letters to its private-property owners, announcing that it would like to add a \$78 "fee" to their tax bills. The city explained that the money from the new fee would pay for maintaining storm drains and sweeping the streets.

YEAR: Page 3



Above, Alamedan Miles Quale earned the national youth fiddler championship title in Nashville during September.

Left, Bella Puchkova, Alameda High School, (AHS) Class of '20, led community members on a tour around the newly refurbished AHS which reopened in mid-August.