

Alameda Sun



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date Rise Set

Today	06:51	17:55
Feb. 23	06:49	17:56
Feb. 24	06:48	17:57
Feb. 25	06:47	17:58
Feb. 26	06:45	17:59
Feb. 27	06:44	18:00
Feb. 28	06:43	18:01

Alameda Point Roundup Cleanup Project Finds Home at Point

Sun Staff Reports

Five large patches of garbage, called gyres, swirl around the earth's oceans. The largest clogs aquatic life in the Pacific Ocean. The Ocean Cleanup, a Dutch non-profit, founded by Boyan Slat when he was just 18 years old, has designed a system to help clean up that mass of refuse and debris.

The company plans to sweep concentrated plastic from the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" and sell the debris to recyclers. Ocean Cleanup would use the money it receives to fund more gyre clean-ups. And the company is going to prepare to do

all this at Alameda Point.

The company hopes to begin assembling its 2,000-foot long system in March. It will then lower the system into Seaplane Lagoon and tow it out the Golden Gate to begin its mission of collecting the debris.

Slat estimates that his company can play a large role in ridding the Pacific of its garbage patch. "It will be gone within five years, at minimal costs," he said. He hopes to start the project this June or July with the system he builds at Alameda Point and "progressively make use of additional systems until (his company) achieves full-scale deployment by 2020."



ABC 7 News

A big rig tows a rocket from Building 397 on the way to a test on the former Naval Air Station runways.

Company Testing Rocket Technology

Sun Staff Reports

Last Friday afternoon, the pilot of ABC's news helicopter Sky7 decided to take a spin over Alameda Point. What he saw and his helicopter photographed set the aeronautics community buzzing. "SKY7 spots stealthy space startup testing its rocket in Alameda," the headline announced over Channel 7 reporter Jonathan Bloom's story.

The Alameda Sun learned from Bloom's report that the folks behind that rocket test worked for Astra Space. The company designs, tests, manufactures and operates next-generation launch services.

In 2015 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

selected the company for a pair of research awards to develop propulsion systems for use in space and — in the words of the press release announcing the award — "on other worlds." One of the awards is financing the company's research, a "pump-fed propulsion system for a Mars ascent vehicle."

Astra Space works in Building 397, a 17,400-square-foot structure that the Navy built 50 years ago. The facility was used to overhaul aircraft and test jet engines. "Staff hope that (the company) will ... consider expanding its innovative operations or be a catalyst for other similar companies," city staff stated in a report to the City Council.



Richard Bangert

This seaplane, operated by a Mill Valley company, has landed at least twice at Breakwater Beach. The city sent the company a notice of trespass.

Seaplane Landings Draw Rebuke

Richard Bangert

The tour operator of a seaplane who landed at Alameda Point found himself in hot water with the city recently. A 1992 Piper single-engine seaplane landed and took off twice in the harbor near the USS Hornet Museum on Saturday, Feb. 3. The plane's identification was reported to the city by the Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors. The group had photographed the same plane in October after it landed near the harbor seal float.

On Feb. 14, the City of Alameda sent a cease-and-desist letter and notice of trespass to Saul Singer, who operates Sea Plane Adventures of Mill Valley.

"Your aircraft was observed flying below the minimum safe altitude, touching down and taking off in and around Alameda Point," Alan M. Cohen, Chief Litigation Counsel for the city, wrote to Singer. "Your activity endangers the health and safety of both people and wildlife ... and violates the deed restrictions imposed by the United States Navy when the property was conveyed to the city."

Just 40 minutes prior to the

plane touching down at 10:24 a.m. on Feb. 3, about 20 outrigger canoes shoved off from Breakwater Beach and passed directly through the soon-to-be landing path of the plane. Kayakers were also beginning to shove off just as the plane approached over the bay from the west, banked and came over the rock wall and beach for a landing.

During summer and fall, it is common to see flocks of 50 or more California brown pelicans, a bird ill-equipped to suddenly avoid a plane strike, moving about en masse in the harbor diving for fish.

The Navy once used the harbor for recreational purposes, which included boat docks and a nearby campground. The Water Emergency Transportation Authority is building its Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility ferry not far from the harbor. Navy seaplanes stationed at the Naval Air Station took off and landed in the nearby ship channel until the squadron was decommissioned in 1958.

A video of the plane landing and taking off is posted on the harbor seal monitors' Facebook page at facebook.com/alamedaseals1.



Landlords Protest at Political Meeting

Photo & Story Courtesy City of Alameda Democratic Club

Copresident of the City of Alameda Democratic Club, Gabrielle Dolphin, was met with a tide of opposition at an overflow club meeting last Wednesday. The meeting coincided with a "Home is where the Heart Is" panel discussion with all the stakeholders in the housing crisis. A demonstration of some 25 people carried signs reading "Racist" and "Gaby Go Away" into the meeting. The protestors took offense from rhetoric appearing in a letter Dolphin penned regarding the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act ("Open Letter on Rent Control Setback," Jan. 25). Dolphin acknowledged her choice of words were unfortunate and could be interpreted negatively. She offered her apologies both at the protest prior to the meeting and a second time as the meeting began. "If you knew me and my work, you'd know [accusations of me operating from a position of] racism and xenophobia couldn't be further from the truth," she said. See Dolphin's full letter of apology on page 6.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Elks Suffer Data Loss

Anyone who planned a rental event at the Alameda Elks Lodge in the future needs to check in and confirm their reservation. The longtime benefactors of the Alameda community have suffered a computer crash that erased the Lodge's Rental Calendar through 2020. Those who have made reservations for an event must contact the Elks as soon as possible at 522-1015, Ext. 18, during business hours, or online at www.alameda.elks.org/lodgerentals.

Alamedan's Films Getting Attention at Festivals

Alameda resident and filmmaker Clay Kempf's latest documentary *Don't Shoot, I'm the Guitar Man* premiered at the San Francisco Indie Festival last week. The film relays the true story about musician Buzzy Martin who taught music to inmates at San Quentin State Prison. Kempf served as director of photography for *Guitar Man*.

Find out more about this Bay Area story and production at <http://sfindie.com/sfindie2018/guitar-man>.

An earlier documentary by Kempf won Best Feature Film at the Portland Documentary Film Festival in Portland, Ore. late last year. That film, *Stu Steinberg*, discusses the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on America's veterans.

Time to Review LimeBike

Through Monday, March 5, the City of Alameda is looking for residents to evaluate its pilot dockless bike share program, LimeBike, through a survey. To weigh in, visit www.alamedaca.gov/bikeshare or obtain hard copies of the survey at the City Clerk's office in City Hall (2263 Santa Clara Ave.) or at any library branch.

Now more than four months into the six-month pilot period, staff is preparing to bring a recommendation for next steps to the Transportation Commission on Wednesday, March 28, and to the City Council in April.

More information about LimeBike can be found at www.alamedaca.gov/bikeshare. General comments on the program can be emailed to bikesharepilot@alamedaca.gov.

Any problems with individual bicycles should be directed to LimeBike by calling 1-888-LIME-345; or sending a text to 1-888-546-3345; or email to support@limebike.com.

Hornet to Close Tuesdays

Beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 27, the USS Hornet Museum will close on Tuesdays to visitors seeking general admission.

The museum is available for use on Tuesdays on a case-by-case basis for special events, certain education programs and advance ticketed specialty tours.

Write to info@uss-hornet.org for more information.

Volunteer for History Days

San Francisco History Days is an annual event organized by a collective of Bay Area historical organizations. Its aim is to celebrate and share the history of the San Francisco Bay Area. This year's event will be held at The Old San Francisco Mint (88 5th St.) and will feature dozens of exhibits and presentations from community historians, archivists, genealogists, archaeologists, authors, researchers and educators, including an exhibit by Alameda Museum.

The event is free and open to the public and has been set for Saturday, March 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 4, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for both weekend days to fulfill a variety of roles, including staffing the Alameda Museum's table. Other volunteers are needed to provide support for presentations, greet visitors or volunteers at the doors, support authors in their designated exhibition room and offer general assistance.

More specific descriptions of duties and time commitments for all of these roles are available for anyone who is interested, in addition to a shift schedule. For most positions, two shifts have been set for both Saturday and Sunday.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Dennis Evanovsky at evanovsky@gmail.com or at 772-5209.



Photo courtesy Al Wright, Raintree Studios

Girls and women gathered at Oakland's Scottish Rite Center for the 19th annual Women Dare festivities last Saturday.

Girls Inc. of the Island City Hosts Celebration of 'Women Who Dare'

Sun Staff Reports

Girls Inc. of the Island City's signature event, the Annual Hats Off to strong, smart, and bold Women Who Dare awards luncheon, was held Saturday, Feb 10, at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center.

Each year, this prestigious event honors strong, smart, and bold women and teens who inspire girls

to triumphantly beat the odds, discover their power and potential, and achieve their dreams. It also features girls from the Best Foot Forward Program who have completed several weeks of workshops in preparation for hosting the event.

This year's luncheon attracted a sell-out crowd of 350 supporters who witnessed inspirational

speeches from the five outstanding awardees: Cammie Harris, Educator and Principal; Amy Patick, Ph.D., Scientist, Consultant, and Nonprofit Director; Joey Gong, Senior, Alameda Science and Technology Institute; My Tam Tran (Tammy), Senior, Encinal High School and Weezy Mott, Honorary Award, Chef, Educator.