



Vol. 15 No. 22
Feb. 25, 2016

INSIDE

HOMETOWN

Fire Wire
page 2

Police Blotter
page 3

All the doings
of Island safety
& law personnel



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Event Calendar Page 4

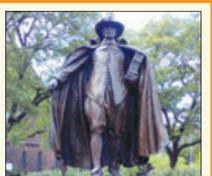
Tracy Blackman concert
among this week's events.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

And Sudoku Page 7

Sharpen your pencils for that
newspaper tradition.



LOCAL HISTORY

Chapin Street Page 10

What's in a name? Famed
pilgrim has local connection.



ISLAND ARTS

Poetry Reading Page 7

Island Poets have event
planned for March.

CONTENTS

HOMETOWN NEWS... 2

LOCAL HAPPENINGS... 4

SPORTS... 5

CLASSIFIED 6

PUZZLES 7

OPINION 8

REAL ESTATE 10

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



#120 JuanArmiRadioShaklo

**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:47	17:57
Feb. 26	06:46	17:58
Feb. 27	06:45	17:59
Feb. 28	06:43	18:00
Feb. 29	06:42	18:01
March 1	06:41	18:02
March 2	06:39	18:03

Charter Teachers Ratify Contract

Dennis Evanosky

Teachers, counselors and educational staff at two charter schools in town — Nea Community Learning and Alameda Community Learning Center — unanimously ratified their first-ever collective bargaining agreement, one they had been negotiating since March 2014.

"The ratification follows a two-year struggle by more than 70 teachers and educational support staff who unionized to ensure a stronger voice for frontline educators in decisions that impacted their students and their schools," the California Teachers Association stated in a press release announcing the ratification. NAU is a chapter of the 325,000-member association, which, in turn, is affiliated with the three-million-member National Education Association.

In 2013 teachers and staff at the

schools circulated petitions expressing the desire to organize and collectively bargain for a contract with management. Community Learning Schools, Inc. Nearly three-quarters of the schools' staff members signed on and in November 2013 the Nea ACLU Union (NAU) received its certification.

"We organized our union so that educators and staff could better advocate for our learners and our school," said NAU Chair and Education Specialist Carrie Blanche. "Our new contract accomplishes our most important goals, including lowering class sizes, increasing educator retention, and ensuring that staff have the freedom to advocate for our learners without fear of reprisal."

The newly ratified contract includes just cause, due process and binding arbitration, as well as class sizes, staffing and salaries.

Multinational Company Acquires Alameda Firm

Sun Staff Reports

Late last year, Siemens, a German multinational conglomerate company that works in the energy, technology and health sectors, agreed to acquire Alameda-based software engineering company Polaron Software Inc. The transaction was completed early this year.

Polarion is a leader in the application lifecycle management (ALM) market. The company leverages an open architecture, exhibits state-of-the-art source code management and supports the needs of open-source software development. ALM provides supervision of a software application from its initial planning through retirement.

Stages include the testing of an application, audit reports and tracking management. Polaron tracks changes to an application and documents them through a web-based platform.

Siemens is a leader in product lifecycle management (PLM) and looks to integrate ALM into PLM.

"By adding Polaron ALM solutions to our PLM portfolio, we are further strengthening our ability to help companies create smart, connected products," wrote Chuck Grindstaff, CEO and president of Siemens PLM Software in a recent press release. "Polarion's advanced functions integrate software specification, development, testing and simulation further into our market leading systems-driven product development environment."

Polarion's ALM has already been used by companies such as T-Mobile and Mercedes Benz as well as the U.S. Air Force. They received \$10 million in funding from Siemens in March 2014 for investment research purposes.

Polarion is located at 1001 Marina Village Parkway.



City of Alameda

Dannan Development's three-story, mixed-use building at Webster Street and Taylor Avenue includes nine residential units and 4,700 square feet of ground-floor retail.

New Webster Project Aired Last Monday

Long-disused parking lot may become retail, apartments

Dennis Evanosky

"This is the opportunity you've been waiting for," the real estate agent representing the seller of the property at 1435 Webster St. promised prospects. "Large vacant corner commercial lot (the long-shuttered parking lot at Taylor Avenue and Webster Street). Available for current or future development."

The property closed escrow in 2014 and now Oakland-based Dannan Development wants to take advantage of the promised opportunity. On Monday, Feb. 21, Dannan appeared before the Planning Board seeking approval to replace the .34-acre (14,210 square-foot) parking lot with a three-story mixed-use building.

Dannan told the board that the structure "would consist of nine residential units, including two affordable units; 4,700 square feet of ground floor commercial space facing Webster Street; and 18 off-street parking spaces behind the building.

The two-bedroom, two-bath af-

fordable units would each measure some 1,100 square feet, while six two-bedroom, two-bath market-rate units would have from 1,100 to 1,350 square feet. Dannan would crown its creation with a two-story, three-bedroom, two-bath unit with 1,925 square feet.

Dannan pointed out that the project conforms to the city's 2005 Webster Street Business District Strategic Plan, which includes retail development, marketing, parking and public improvement. The 2005 plan led to the creation of Webster Street Vision 2010, in which West Alameda Business Association (WABA) members and other stakeholders identified several fundamental concerns, including redevelopment of underutilized property like the parking lot at Webster Street and Taylor Avenue.

The 2010 plan pointed to the "Taylor Parking Lot" as the "best new infill opportunity." It called the lot the "ideal size to accommodate ground floor retail uses with housing above. Surface parking would be in the rear, screened from view."

Dannan proposes to include 18 off-street parking spaces to lease to

the building's tenants. The developer pointed out to the Planning Board members that seven on-street public metered spaces currently exist in front of the building. The developer also stated that it would provide 20 annual AC Transit passes to the residents.

Dannan told the board members that it is aware the project's 18 spaces fall three spaces short of the parking requirement for the project pursuant to the Alameda Parking Code. However the code does permit the Planning Board to approve the three-space reduction if the developer provides residents with the bus passes.

Staff has reviewed the building's design along with comments from members of WABA and the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society. Staff pointed out that architectural elevations for the building could be improved through changes to materials, colors, window details, cornice design and storefront details. Staff has also recommended that the city hold public hearings on the project.

Contact Dennis Evanosky at editor@alamedasun.com.

Hornet Museum Sets up STEM Program

Sun Staff Reports

The USS Hornet Museum has again partnered with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) office at the United States Naval Academy to host the Second Annual Stem-to-Sea-and-Sky Program. This free special science teacher training event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 12, aboard the Hornet, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3.

Instructors from the Naval Academy and the Hornet will be on hand to demonstrate project-based learning techniques. They will also help facilitate hands-on activities with disciplines that include electrochemistry, materials science and fluid mechanics.

The Hornet's STEM-to-Stern programs use the ship itself as a platform for teaching. Spaces and equip-

ment from the forecastle anchor chains to the engine room turbines, as well as the museum's aircraft collection, help illustrate STEM concepts in a unique historical setting.

The Hornet is a registered state and national historic landmark and home to the largest collection of Apollo space mission artifacts on the West Coast, the ship is open to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The aircraft carrier, which opened as a museum in 1998, offers educational programs focusing on naval history, science and space technology.

The Hornet's STEM program will provide all class supplies free of charge. Advanced registration is required. To register or for more information, contact Heidi Schave, Hornet education director, at edu@uss-hornet.org or call 521-8448 ext. 224.



Robin Seeley

Abby Hayton, Safia Pigott, Farrah Morin and Clare Jackson Proudly display heart-tarts they made for Valentine's Day.

A Gift for the Heart

Learning from the kids' perspectives on Post Street

Robin Seeley

The sixth monthly session of the Culinary Academy of Post Street took a dark turn: commercialization of holidays, morality of gift-giving, and even nutritional no-no's. And it was just as well this month's holiday raised those timely topics. The historical record on St. Valentine, the Catholic martyr, is mighty murky! So we didn't waste time comparing conflicting stories about this mysterious saint. Regardless of what he really did, it's a safe bet he'd be rolling in his grave if he saw how we celebrate his namesake holiday today.

Commercialization of Holidays

For many years now, celebrating Christmas, Valentine's Day and birthdays is all about making a shopping list and going to the store (or the Internet)! When I first lived in Germany in the 1970s, the gift-giving culture was very different! I still have handmade picture frames, cards, and poems that I received as gifts from my German friends and classmates. Although Germany had its fair share of retail establishments, if you truly cared about the gift recipient, you gave a bit of yourself, not a bit of your paycheck.

Today, we often don't even bother to buy gifts anymore, we

just exchange gift cards! Is that the best expression of tender care and loving concern? But I must admit that I, too, I have cast off German influence and become a card-carrying gift-giver! In honor of Valentine's Day, the kids decided (OK, at my urging ...) to reach back to a simpler, happier time when gift-giving wasn't all about shopping. They didn't spend money, they spent time and effort making beautiful, tasty Valentine's Day presents for their moms! As Abby pointed out, they were putting love into the gift, which made it special.

There was another plot twist: Instead of gobbling up their creations before leaving my kitchen, the young students had to exercise self-restraint and get them home safely for mom.

A Moral Dilemma

Yummy or Healthy? There was also a moral component to preparing an edible gift: Abby, Safi, Farrah and Clare considered choosing healthier foods, for their mothers' sake! Safi may also have been influenced by her father, Dr. Abu Pigott, a local fitness trainer who likes to set a good example for his family and clients!

Pigott-pressure meant pivoting away from previous projects: No more sugary strudel, Day of the

Dead cookies, candy-crafted festive fowl, gingerbread houses, and Ghiradelli chocolate! Instead, we focused on heart-healthy alternatives with fresh ingredients.

Fat vs. Sugar

Despite decades of misinterpreted data and misguided fat-phobia, fat is *not* the primary culprit in the so-called Western Diet. It's sugar. "Natural" sugar derived from corn is just as bad as white sugar. The sugar in soft drinks, high fructose corn syrup, is probably the worst culprit. Just Google "Gary Taubes" and "Is Sugar Toxic?" to get gobs of gory details.

For years, food ingredient labels proudly proclaimed low fat. Many still do! Since fat adds flavor, processed foods compensated for its absence by adding lots of sugar. Grocery stores are still full of supposedly "healthy, low-fat" foods whose first five ingredients are five different names for processed sugar: sucrose, high fructose corn syrup, dextrose, corn syrup solids, sugar. People often felt (and still feel) virtuous eating these "healthy" foods. But word is finally getting out that sugar, not fat, triggered the current healthcare crisis in the United States, with obesity and diabetes leading the way.

★ **GIFT:** Page 10

News in Brief

Art Show Open at Mastick

Mastick Senior Center is hosting a multi-media art exhibit featuring art created by members participating in the various classes offered at the center. Included in the exhibit are writings, drawings, paintings, stained glass, ceramics, jewelry, quilts and mixed-media pieces.

The exhibit is displayed throughout the lobby-wing and is available for viewing Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Mastick Office at 747-7506.

Island Wildlife Photo Exhibit at the Library

Eleven talented wildlife photographers will present their works in the Stafford Meeting Rooms at the Main Library, 1550 Oak St., starting this Sunday, Feb. 28. Their works include vivid photographs of wildlife, all taken in Alameda.

Organized the Friends of Alameda Wildlife the exhibition offers an opportunity to learn

about species that called the Island City home. These include harbor seals, least terns, snowy plovers and brown pelicans.

Daysog Office Hours

Councilman Tony Daysog will hold his last-Thursday-of-the-month office hours this evening, Feb. 25, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at the Blue Danube Café, 1333 Park St. He will be available to answer questions and offer comments on city issues.

He will also be at the Farmer's Market this Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Haight Avenue and Webster Street.

Contact Daysog at 747-4726 or tdaysog@alamedaca.gov.

Upcoming City Meetings

The City Council will meet Tuesday, March 1.

The Historical Advisory Board will meet Thursday, March 3.

Both meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave.