



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 15 No. 23
March 3, 2016

INSIDE

HOMETOWN

Fire Wire
page 2

Police Blotter
page 3

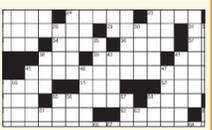
All the doings
of Island safety
& law personnel



SPORTS

B'ball at Theater Page 8

Enjoy the Golden State Warriors
at the Alameda Theater



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

And Sudoku Page 7

Sharpen your pencils for that
newspaper tradition.



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Traffic Issue Page 2

Find out just what's wrong
with this picture?



Venezuela's in Town

At Rhythmix Page 10

Come, enjoy the music of the
Venezuelan Music Project

CONTENTS

HOMETOWN NEWS... 2

OPINION 4

SPORTS 6

PUZZLES 7

CLASSIFIED 8

EVENT CALENDAR... 9

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 by JoAnnRadinRadu-Sinako

**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:38	18:06
March 4	06:36	18:07
March 5	06:35	18:08
March 6	06:33	18:09
March 7	06:32	18:10
March 8	06:30	18:11
March 9	06:29	18:12



United States Navy

January rains filled the Navy's new seasonal wetland on the northwest shoreline corner of Alameda Point. The welcome precipitation also fostered growth of newly planted native grass seed on the surrounding soil.

Navy Adds Wetlands, Grasslands to Point

Richard Bangert

The Navy's cleanup program has not only removed toxic substances from below ground, it has dramatically improved some of the above-ground environment by creating new native grassland and wetlands. January rains filled the Navy's new seasonal wetland on the northwest shoreline corner of Alameda Point and fostered growth of newly planted native grass seed on the surrounding soil.

The 2.25-acre wetland lies within an approximately 37-acre shoreline cleanup area known as Site 1 at the confluence of the Oakland Estuary and San Francisco Bay. It is where the Navy buried its waste between 1943 and 1956. Most of the waste pits were covered by pavement in the mid-1950s when a new runway was added.

The approved plan for leaving the waste in place was completed in 2015 after 17 years of study by state and federal regulatory agencies. None of the studies showed any toxic leaching from the waste material into Bay waters after sitting below the water table for more than 50 years. Hence, the plan to further isolate the waste with a soil cover mirrors the remedy used at other underground dumps.

The Navy will be responsible in perpetuity if anything fails, just as with other Superfund cleanup sites at Alameda Point. The Navy was required to create the new wetland as a mitigation measure for covering

The Navy will be responsible in perpetuity if anything fails, just as with other Superfund sites at the Point.

existing wetland with some of the soil cover. The secondary objective was to provide increased native plant and wildlife habitat along San Francisco Bay.

This mitigation requirement means that marginal wetlands that appeared by happenstance from runway drainage have now been replaced by a high quality engineered wetland. The new wetland holds a much larger volume of water and is situated to capture runoff from the soil cover.

It is also engineered at a lower elevation than the wetlands it replaces, thereby increasing water retention and allowing for recharging as sea level rises. There is no waste material located below the new wetland.

After removing old pavement and sculpting the site, the wetland substrate was created using imported clean fill material and topsoil. The soil was then amended with gypsum and potassium sulfate to facilitate growth of wetland plant species.

Learning a bitter lesson from a failed attempt in 2014 to grow native grasses by blowing seeds from

a truck onto the soil at the nearby Site 2 cleanup area, the Navy used a different method at both sites. Known as drill seeding, the method involves cutting into the soil with a disc machine and simultaneously depositing seeds. It is followed up with a mulch cover.

BANGERT: Page 10

John Beck Still Missing As His Case Unfolds

Dennis Evanosky

John Nelson Beck has a new date with the United States Bankruptcy Court. Beck disappeared some 30 minutes before his last-scheduled appearance before Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee Lois Brady and his creditors ("Alameda Man Disappears," Feb. 18).

Blake was dropped off about 9 a.m. on Feb. 9 for a 9:30 a.m. appointment with Brady at 1300 Clay St. in Oakland. According to the bankruptcy court's website, Beck and his attorneys from the law offices of Balter & Minder — Roya Shaikori, Robert G. Harris and Michael W. Malter — were also scheduled to meet with Brady.

Beck failed to show up and was variously spotted at the 12th Street BART station in Oakland, at Land's End in San Francisco and on Bodega Avenue in Sebastopol. Records show that the bankruptcy court "continued" the Feb. 9 meeting and rescheduled Beck's sit-down with Brady and his creditors for 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 8. The court mailed a certified letter to Beck informing him of the new date on Feb. 13, court records show.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) filed a complaint against Beck on July 1, 2009, claiming that he was selling unwary clients spurious get-rich-quick real-estate programs.

On August 23, 2012, the federal court agreed and saddled Beck with a \$113 million judgement. In addition to handing down the judgement, the court banned Beck from

broadcasting the infomercials he was using to lure the unsuspecting to send him their money.

One month later, in September 2012, Beck filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. When he filed, Beck listed some \$500 million in debt with assets totaling between \$1 million and \$10 million.

Law360's reporter Beth Winegarner reported that in November 2012, bankruptcy trustee Barbara Matthews urged a California bankruptcy court to convert Beck's Chapter 11 case to a Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

Winegarner reported Matthews' concern that Beck was using Chapter 11 incorrectly as a shelter against paying the FTC. Chapter 11 could allow Beck to reorganize and remain in business, while Chapter 7 would require him to liquidate his assets and pay his creditors.

"At least initially ... [Beck] asked to 'park' in Chapter 11 for an indeterminate period of time," Matthews wrote. Beck's attorneys told the court that their client wanted the Chapter 11 shield pending the appeal of the FTC's judgment.

Matthews told the court, however, that "Bankruptcy serves no purpose in this situation other than to delay." Winegarner wrote that Matthews recommended that the court dismiss Beck's Chapter 11 case or convert it to one under Chapter 7.

Court papers show that just before he filed for Chapter 11 protection Beck sold real estate — vacant land — and pocketed \$660,000. In

BECK: Page 2



Dennis Evanosky

City Clerk Lara Weisiger looks on as Catherine Pauling signs the paperwork for the ballot initiative that the Alameda Renters Coalition plans to put on the November ballot.

Renters Turn Up Heat

Dennis Evanosky

The Alameda Renters Coalition (ARC) filed a ballot initiative last Monday in response to what it defines as "a crisis of mass evictions and average rent increases of more than 50 percent over a span of only four years."

The coalition hopes to address these problems with the "Alameda Renter Protection and Community Stabilization Charter Amendment."

Now that the paperwork is filed coalition members can begin collecting signatures from Alameda voters. They hope to

collect the necessary 6,461 signatures by April 23, to see their initiative included on the November ballot.

ARC spokesperson Catherine Pauling said that her group plans to collect some 9,000 signatures in the next seven weeks to allow for any signatures that the city might disallow.

According to the coalition's press release, its members coalition object to there being no cap on rent increases, merely a review process triggered by a rent increase of more than 5 percent.

The coalition also points out the new city ordinance "subjects

renters, once again, to the threat of no-cause evictions when the current moratorium expires. ARC also objects to what it calls a "poison pill" in the ordinance that allows landlords to escape all eviction controls by simply issuing a fixed-term lease.

Pauling pointed out that half of Alameda's renters are voters. She said that this initiative will give them the opportunity to choose clear protections that ARC feels they deserve, rather than the "cumbersome and untested process" that the organization says is outlined in the new city ordinance.

Local Girl Scouts Strike Back

St. Louis, Mo., cardinal's stance spurs Island City response

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda Girl Scout Troop 30928 wrote a letter to the Roman Catholic cardinal of St. Louis, Mo., last week after the prelate published an official statement all but condemning the girls' organization.

Cardinal Robert Carlson of St. Louis, Mo., wrote a letter Feb. 18 urging his church parishes and schools to sever ties with their Girl Scout troops because of positions the Girl Scouts of America (GSA) takes on such topics as transgender and gay rights, feminism and political movements around the world.

Carlson's letter warned Catholics to reconsider their association with GSA, including even the purchase of cookies; as well, he asked parishes to cease allowing troops to meet at Catholic churches. He also disbanded the longstanding partnership with Girl Scouts, instead calling for the creation of a girls' club to replace the Scouts.

The Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri chapter includes more than 43,000 girls in the St. Louis area; the cardinal's ruling affects some 4,000 girls in troops based in Catholic schools and parishes, according to Bonnie Barczykowski, the chapter's chief executive.

Carlson's letter read, in part, "Girl Scouts is exhibiting a troubling pattern of behavior and it is clear to me that as they move in the ways of the world it is becoming increasingly incompatible with our Catholic values. We must stop and

ask ourselves — is the Girl Scouts of America concerned with the total well-being of our young women? Does it do a good job forming the spiritual, emotional, and personal well-being of Catholic girls?"

The Alameda Sun received a copy of Troop 30928's letter to their sister scouts in St. Louis to ask how they could help.

The Alameda scouts wrote their letter on World Thinking Day (WTD), an international event which Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from 146 countries celebrate every Feb. 22. This year's theme is "Connect."

"Dear Sister Girl Scouts of Saint Louis,

"We heard about the request from the Catholic Church to cut ties with the Girl Scouts in your community. We want to express our sympathy and we recognize that this is an unfair situation that you have been put in.

"We support you and hope that your community recognizes that Girl Scouts is a very important and influential organization to many of the young girls that live there. How can we help from California?"

Barczykowski told the *New York Times* that the Girl Scouts organization valued its nearly 100-year history of cooperation with the archdiocese but said the archdiocese's concerns "misrepresent how Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri serves girls in our community." She said in

SCOUTS Page 2

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

March for Meals on Horizon

Alameda Meals on Wheels invites residents to a Thursday, March 10, ride along with volunteers to deliver meals to homebound seniors in celebration of the 14th annual March for Meals Awareness month. Most deliveries take about an hour, but the smiles you'll make will last a lifetime.

If you would like to help Alameda's seniors, call 865-6131 or visit www.marchformeals.com.

Knights Host E-Waste Pickup

The Knights of Columbus Council will hold an e-waste pickup event at St. Joseph Basilica, 1109 Chestnut St., on Saturday, March 5.

The event is free and will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locals can drop off a wide array of unwanted electronic items. This event will be a convenient way for all of us to drop off unwanted e-waste with an R2 and e-Stewards-certified recycler. "This year we have decided to partner with All Green Electronics Recycling," said Larry Jones,

Knights event chair. Proceeds will benefit Knights of Columbus Council.

Visit <http://www.allgreenrecycling.com/knights-of-columbus-council-15965-ewaste-recycling>. For more information, call Fredella Surjono at (949) 444-5462.

University Women Luncheon

Jennifer Ott, chief operating officer for Alameda Point, will talk about her work at the monthly local luncheon of the American

BRIEFS: Page 3