

Alameda Sun



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:07	19:24
March 25	07:05	19:25
March 26	07:03	19:27
March 27	07:02	19:27
March 28	07:00	19:28
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Launch Due For Facelift

Dennis Evanosky

On Thursday, March 10, members of the city's Recreation and Park Department took a tour of five current and upcoming park projects. The tour included the aging Encinal Boat Launch Facility, one of the few places in Alameda that offers resident direct and free access to San Francisco Bay.

The facility, located at 190 Central Ave., west of Encinal High School, currently has a poorly paved parking lot, unusable restrooms, as well as an inadequate dock float and a deteriorated ramp rendered unusable during extreme low tides. All this will change thanks to a grant from California State Department of Boating and Waterways.

Funds will go to pay for replacing the existing dock float and adding a smaller dock float for non-motorized watercraft like kayaks. Not only will the city renovate the boat ramp, but it will extend it farther into the water, making it usable at extreme low tide.

Plans are also in the works for repaving the parking lot, removing the medians currently in place and adding parking spaces. The city will not only create ADA-compliant access between the parking lot, restroom and boat ramp, but will add an ADA-compliant boat parking station.

Plans are also in the works to

replace the current restroom facility, add a fish cleaning station and create new lighting, signage and vehicle safety features.

The group Waterfront Action favors the site. "This park is relatively undeveloped but appealing because it offers access to a newly opened Bay Trail segment with stunning views of Alameda and San Francisco," the group states. Waterfront Action also recommends strolling the shoreline from the park to the *USS Hornet*.

Not only is the boat launch well-utilized by the community, Two community groups call the facility home and use it on a regular basis: the Alameda Community Sailing Center and O'Kalani Outrigger Canoe Center.

The Alameda Community Sailing Center offers opportunities to Alamedans to participate in sailing and other environmentally friendly activities on San Francisco Bay through access and education.

O'Kalani provides recreational and competitive paddling experiences and participates in the summer sprint race season and a number of long distance races throughout Northern California. O'Kalani also fields crews which participate in nationally competitive long distance races on the U.S. Canada Mainland and in Hawaii.

Contact Dennis Evanosky at editor@alamedasun.com.

St. Joe's Names New Principal

Sun Staff Reports

The St. Joseph Notre Dame (SJND)'s board of trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Ken Jennings as the Catholic school's next principal.

The appointment was the "culmination of an extensive and thorough search, reviewing many candidates from schools throughout the U.S.," according to a letter from Father George Alengand, pastor of St. Joseph Basilica Parish, and Teashe Gable, chair of the search committee. "The search committee considered a number of highly qualified candidates for the role before presenting a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees and to Bishop Michael C. Barber who have unanimously approved Ken's appointment."

Jennings will fill his new role effective July 1. He holds a B.A. in English

Literature from Fordham University, a Masters of Divinity from Seton Hall University, and a Masters in Educational Administration from Caldwell University.

Since 2014, he has served as the principal of De Paul Catholic High School, where he's led the academics, student life and campus ministry programs. Prior to De Paul, Jennings was the principal of Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, N.J., from 2004 to 2014. There he coordinated two successful re-accreditation visits, working diligently to raise the school's test scores during a five-year process.

Jennings has also taught at the high-school level. He has taught College Preparatory English, AP Literature and Composition, and AP Psychology. In his last two principal positions, he has simultaneously taught AP Psychology.



Joe Woodard

Members of a coalition that seeks to protect the jackrabbits and other wildlife at Shoreline Park near the Harbor Bay Ferry terminal take a stand. They include youngsters who have designed posters to support their cause.

Coalition Takes a Stand for Wildlife

Sun Staff Reports

Members of the community have formed a coalition to protect local wildlife. According to its members Harbor Bay Business Park, has been rich with many species of wild birds and a colony of jack rabbits as

far back as anyone remembers. The coalition says that increasing development in the area has forced the jack rabbits to occupy smaller and smaller parcels of land to nest and breed in.

The coalition is asking the developer not to till, mow or in any

way disturb the remaining undeveloped portion of the this land at least until July 2016 when nesting and breeding season is over.

The law firm of Sack Rosendin Sack, LLP, has written a letter to the city about the matter. Read the letter on page 6.

Sailing Center Needs Community Non-profit seeking donors to replace stolen motor

Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda Community Sailing Center (ACSC) is a 501c3, nonprofit, organization, founded in 2013 by a local group of sailing enthusiasts to make sailing available to the Alameda and East Bay communities. The center provides opportunities to participate in sailing and other environmentally friendly activities through access and education. Aside from the team of sailing instructors, ACSC is an all-volunteer run organization.

Sometime between Dec. 5 and 10, 2015, thieves stole a 115 horsepower Yamaha outboard

motor from ACSC's Zodiac 650 rigid inflatable boat. This valuable boat is the center's premier safety boat as it can deal with all spectrums of weather conditions. The boat's steering console is engineered to allow ACSC staff to either stand or sit on a high bench, perfect for watching the young sailors in training.

This robbery hits ACSC's sailing community hard because its youth sailing camps start on June 20. These two-week-long camp sessions teach youth between the ages of five and 17 how to sail small boats and how to be comfortable both on and in the water.

The 21-foot long Zodiac, with its sea-kindly fiberglass Deep-V hull shape, is critical in providing an extra level of safety for the youth in ACSC's programs.

ACSC is reaching out to the sailing community in Alameda and beyond, to help replace this motor at an estimated cost of \$15,000. This includes replacement of all the severed cables linking the motor to the steering console and installation, by Wednesday, June 1.

The center hopes that the community will help ACSC fulfill its mission of safely monitoring our youth — in any amount of wind or amidst any amount of waves.

Donations are tax deductible and can be made online at www.sailalameda.org, by mail at ACSC at 2532 Santa Clara #150, Alameda, CA 94501, or delivered to its office. Tax ID: 42-2689842

Contact Sun Staff at editor@alamedasun.com.



Ilana DeBara

After her induction into Alameda County's Women's Hall of Fame, Alamedan Leora Feeney, center, stands with, from left to right: Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson; County Administrator Susan Muranishi; Dr. Stacy Thompson, chair of the county Commission on the Status of Women; and Scott Haggarty, president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Local Wildlife Advocate Inducted into County's Women's Hall of Fame

Eric J. Kos

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors named a dozen members of the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame March 19. Among the inductees was Alameda resident and longtime Golden Gate Audubon Society member Leora Feeney. She was chosen among the "outstanding women who have made significant contributions to the county" — in Feeney's case, to the county's natural environment.

To preserve the colony of nesting California Least Terns at Alameda Point Feeney convinced three federal agencies to create a wildlife reserve at the former Naval Air Station in the 1990s. The resulting 512-acre site set aside

for wildlife was confirmed in 2014. Her work to help the environment dates back to the 1970s when she helped organize Save Our Shoreline to ensure that shoreline developments included public access and protected wildlife habitats.

Feeney has led Alameda bird counting efforts, bird walks, and contributed classroom activities to local elementary schools.

"Many people throughout Alameda and the county know Leora for her work in support of the Least Tern colony in the Alameda Wildlife Reserve," said local resident Marjorie Powell. "Others know her for her work on a variety of other environmental issues such as the counting of pelicans and work to replace the collapsing pier on which the harbor seals pull out,

and many of us recognize her skills as a photographer."

Feeney's photographs of birds and other wildlife, all taken in the City of Alameda, will appear alongside those of 11 other photographers in an exhibit running through Saturday, May 28, in the Stafford Meeting Rooms of the Alameda Main Library at 1550 Oak St.

The show is free and available for viewing whenever the library is open.

The 2016 induction ceremony marked the 23rd year of Alameda County's Women's Hall of Fame. In its history, more than 200 women have been honored. The event also benefits the "Leading the Way" Scholarship Fund. To find out more about the hall of fame, visit www.acgov.org/whof.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Crews Testing Soil at New Park

Ground preparation for soil testing began at the site of the future Jean Sweeney Park Tuesday.

According to an email from the City of Alameda Recreation and Parks Director, Amy Wooldridge, "Work is being done onsite at Sweeney Park today with a bulldozer. They are using a water truck to keep dust down."

"They will just be clearing very specific areas in order to create the flat ground needed for soil sampling and ground penetrating radar, which is used to determine the soil types," stated Wooldridge.

The department needs the soil information to complete the detailed park design.

Rotary Club Offering \$30,000 Grant

The Rotary Club of Alameda may be best known as the co-producer of the popular Concerts at the Cove music series that takes place the second Friday in June, July and August at Crab Cove Visitors Center. The concerts, along with other fundraising activities, provide the money Rotary uses for its community grants program.

In 2015, the club established a memorial community grant to honor members who had passed away during the Rotary year and awarded \$15,000 to the Alameda Food Bank for the purchase of a walk-in refrigerator-freezer in recognition of former Vice Mayor of Alameda and active Rotary Club member, the late Hadi Monsef.

For 2016, the club has allocated up to \$30,000 to the memorial grant. Alameda based nonprofit organizations that deliver services exclusively to Alameda residents may

obtain an application by contacting Stephen Zimmerman at szimmerman@gmail.com. Applications are due Friday, April 1.

Grandparent Stories from Kids Sought for Contest

"Our Grandparent's Tales" is a contest that gives kids the opportunity to hear and re-tell the rich stories of older adults in their lives.

Children transcribe stories told to them by a grandparent or other older adult, often complete with an original illustration. Every child who submits a story will receive a certificate to celebrate their participation. Selected stories will be re-published in a newspaper, on a website, read on the radio or at a public Grandparent's Tales event.

Jhapperi Fields, a contest winner from last year, told a touching story titled "The Coca Cola Bottle," about his grandmother growing up in Louisiana during segregation.

Stagebridge Theater Company will hold its 23rd annual Grandparent's Writing Contest at Alameda's Books Inc., on Saturday, June 11, at 1 p.m.

To have a child submit a story, visit www.stagebridge.org for more information. Grandparent's Tales stories are due on Friday, April 1.

Climate Change Workshop Set at West End Library

A climate change workshop facilitated by the Sunflower Alliance Education Committee has been set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at the West End Library, 788 Santa Clara Ave.

Educators from the Sunflower Alliance will lead an interactive workshop to promote the understanding of basic climate issues. Using large visual aids, developed in conjunction with climate scientists, and