



IT'S NATIONAL NO HOUSEWORK DAY!

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 15 No. 28
April 7, 2016

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#120 by JoAnnAmiRadu-Sinko

Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:45	19:37
April 8	06:44	19:38
April 9	06:43	19:39
April 10	06:41	19:40
April 11	06:40	19:41
April 12	06:38	19:42
April 13	06:37	19:43

Past, Present, Future Converge at Point

Richard Bangert

Military history, protection of endangered birds and support for military veterans shared an Alameda Point runway on Saturday, April 2, during a lecture tour sponsored by the Naval Air Museum. The occasion was the 74th anniversary of the departure of the USS Hornet to carry out the bombing raid on Japan led by Lt. Colonel Jimmy Doolittle.

"The Naval Air Station was a place of unique importance during World War II," said military historian Marshall Davis, who led the tour, "and it started with this Doolittle mission, which was only three months after the war started with Japan." In December of 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, resulting in U.S. entry into the war.

"The Naval Air Station here went on to service the fleet during World War II in a very big way," said Davis, "and that is all here, one way or another, in the museum that remains. The story is left mostly untold and it gets transferred to the Hornet, which is such a demanding presence at the site."

Davis led the tour group of about 25 people in cars through a gate onto the old airfield and over to the stop on the east-west runway near the Air Traffic Control Tower, escorted by two East Bay Regional Park District police vehicles. Davis described the arrival of the B-25 bombers on this same runway 74 years ago and the preparations that led up to that day.

Gazing toward the Bay Bridge over the vast landscape largely unchanged from a bygone era with aircraft hangars in the background, it was easy to travel back in time through the narrator's lens. At 84 years of age, wearing a dress military cap and aviator glasses, Davis was the consummate link to the past.



Richard Bangert

Department of Veterans Affairs representative Laura Kelly spoke about the VA's future medical facility and columbarium at Alameda during the April 2 Doolittle tour at Alameda Point.

A day after landing, 16 specially outfitted planes were hoisted onto the aircraft carrier USS Hornet bound for the waters off Japan for the surprise attack.

The mission was immortalized in the book *Thirty Seconds over Tokyo*, written by one of the pilots, Captain Ted Lawson, and in the movie of the same name.

The VA received \$70 million in the 2016 budget, and work is expected to begin soon on laying infrastructure to the site.

Laura Kelly, a planner with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), told about the VA's plans for a clinic and columbarium on the north side of the airfield. Due to the pressing need for new burial space in the Bay Area, Kelly explained, the columbarium will be completed first, and then construction will

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News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Posey Tube to Close for Maintenance and Servicing

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced today that it will close the Posey Tube beginning April 11, for maintenance and servicing.

The Posey Tube, from Alameda into Oakland, will be closed:

- Monday, April 11, from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning
- Tuesday, April 12, from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning
- Wednesday, April 13, from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning.

Caltrans will be performing wash operations and servicing all emergency call box stations and emergency fire extinguishers.

Questions or information about the tube closures should be directed to Tony Padilla, Caltrans, Tunnels and Tubes, at 286-0315.

City Revives Façade Grant Program

The city of Alameda is bringing back a popular economic development program to help local business or property owners spruce up their storefronts and improve the appearance of the city's retail districts. Under the Façade Grant Program, business and property owners may be eligible for matching grants from \$5,000 to \$12,500 for exterior painting, new awnings and signs and refurbishing architectural features.

To be eligible for a façade grant, the commercial property must be located in:

- The Webster Street Business District
- The Downtown Alameda Business District
- One of Alameda's Historic Stations (former train stations: Grand, Mastick, Bay, High Street, Chestnut, Morton, Versailles, Willow, Fifth Street, Caroline, High Street North or Stanton)
- Retail buildings near gateways into Alameda.

An orientation meeting explaining the application process and program requirements will be held on Wednesday, April 27, at 8 a.m. at Alameda City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave. in the City Council Chambers.

Many local businesses took advantage of the grant program in years prior to its discontinuation in 2012 including the Pacific Pinball Museum, Park Street Plaza and the Encinal Shopping Center.

First round applications are due by June 15, at 5 p.m. Any applications received after that time will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, if funding is still available. For more information visit <http://alamedaca.gov/business/facade-grant-program>.

For additional information about the Façade Grant Program, contact Lois Butler, economic development manager, at 747-6890.

AFD Offers Safety Devices to Disabled Residents

The Alameda Fire Department's (AFD) Home Safety Program provides services to low-to-moderate income residents over 62 years old and to the disabled of any age.

The program provides and installs 10-year maintenance-free smoke detectors as well as carbon monoxide detectors, ADA grab bars, handrails in hallways and on interior stairways and raised toilets.

AFD also provides nightlights, flashlights and grab sticks. If you are an Alameda resident call Ruth Ann Crawford at 337-2133 to see if you or a loved one qualifies.

Have Adventures at Sea Level

Sieg Wroebe, skipper of the Sea Scout Ship *Barclay Stephens*, will host an information and orientation meeting 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, at the Naval Air Museum Building No. 77 for boys ages 13 to 20.

Participants in the *Barclay Stephens'* "Adventures at Sea Level" program will train aboard the ship, docked at the Ballena Bay Yacht Harbor "H."

They will learn about sailing, piloting, rowing and leadership. During the training they will get acquainted with the ship's engine room and its radar and radio operations. Boys interested in the program are asked to bring a parent and their friends to the meeting.

Learn more at www.ssbbarclay.org or call Wroebe at 522-2244.

Meetings Discuss Fate of Ferries this Week

Ekene Ikeme

Two crucial meetings are scheduled to take place this week regarding the future of the proposed ferry terminal at the Seaplane Lagoon at Alameda Point. The ferry will provide commuters an additional option for public transit service from Alameda Point to San Francisco.

City Council held a meeting on Tuesday, April 5, to approve the adoption of the resolution on the new ferry terminal at Seaplane Lagoon at Alameda Point. Details include finalizing the Environmental Impact Report for the project and approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the city and the Water Emergency Transportation Agency (WETA). The MOU provides a blueprint on how the new terminal will be financed and WETA's role as the organization tasked with managing, operating and conducting maintenance on the terminal.

WETA's board of directors will hold its own meeting today, April 7, at 7 p.m., in City Hall to approve the ferry terminal design and confirm the terminal meets WETA's ferry terminal standards. WETA and the city agreed to collaborate on the design. The proposed ferry terminal would operate as an addition to the existing ferry terminal at Main Street, not a replacement, according to a memorandum from city staff.

The ferry terminal consists of both waterside and landside improvements. Some of the key waterside improvements include abutment and pier at entrance to the terminal to provide secure entry from land to pedestrian gangway, a new gangway that will connect the pier to a boarding float for entering and exiting the ferries.

Landside improvements include 400 new parking spaces, passenger drop off and pick up stations, bus stops, a passenger waiting area and new bicycle access routes.

WETA's board of directors will hold its own meeting today, April 7, at City Hall to approve the ferry terminal design.

The memorandum also states that ferry service will include a minimum of three trips from Seaplane Lagoon to San Francisco between 6 and 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will be at least two trips from San Francisco to Seaplane Lagoon from 6 to 9 a.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m.

Midday and weekend service are not anticipated at Seaplane Lagoon initially and will continue to be provided from the Main Street ferry terminal, until demand causes the city to reevaluate.

There are three major sources that comprise the cost of the project: terminal construction, vessel procurement and ongoing ferry service operations, including maintenance of the facility. According to the ferry terminal plan, city staff estimates it will cost \$18.2 million for construction costs, \$16 million to procure enough vessels and \$1.2 million yearly for operation and maintenance costs.

Some of the costs will be handled by Alameda Point Partners, (APP) a private developer that won the bid to develop Site A at Alameda Point. As part of the deal, signed off on June 16, 2015, APP will contribute \$10 million toward the terminal development costs.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2020, but city staff say construction would start sooner if they can obtain enough funding before the project date.

To learn more about the proposed terminal, visit the city's website.



Dennis Evanosky

Mayor Says 'Play Ball!'

Spencer, staff, friends join celebration of baseball season

Dennis Evanosky

Mayor Trish Spencer, seated lower left, invited city staff and her friends to join her on the City Hall steps on Monday. Spencer was responding to an invitation from the United States Conference of Mayors to "Play Ball," a joint program coordinated by Major League Baseball and USA Baseball. It focuses on the fun nature of baseball and encourages widespread participation in the sport.

This year the conference added "Caps On" to encourage mayors across the country, not just ones with baseball teams, to wear baseball hats of their favorite teams and have pictures taken to show their support for the game of baseball.

"Play Ball" hopes to reach out to kids who don't normally play baseball. Spencer took the pledge to "conduct and promote Play Ball summer event, proclaim a Play Ball day, week or month this summer and to wear a caps of their favorite baseball teams on April 4." She wisely chose to wear an Oakland A's cap.

Spencer's pledge includes engaging Alameda's youth for some

quickball (www.ripkenquickball.org) games, plan some events leading up to and during Major League Baseball's All Star Break

from July 8 to July 12 and encourage neighborhood baseball games during August's National Night Out.

Screening, Discussion Set on U.S. Muslim Students

See *Fordson: Faith, Fasting, Football* free as part of panel on acceptance

Sun Staff Reports

A free event featuring a screening of the award-winning film *Fordson: Faith, Fasting, Football*, has been scheduled for Monday, April 11, at Kofman Auditorium. The forum titled "Muslim Students in America" is hosted by the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) and the city's Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB). Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m.

The documentary follows a football team from Dearborn, Mich.

as it prepares for its cross-town rivalry game during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The film shows how the football team and Fordson High School, which are composed primarily of Muslim students, work to both maintain their Islamic faith and traditions and be a part of mainstream America.

After the screening, Gene Kahane, an English teacher at Encinal High School, will lead a panel discussion about the movie. Panel members will include

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