

Alameda Sun



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 15 No. 31
April 28, 2016

INSIDE

HOMETOWN NEWS

Fire Wire
Returns next week

Police Blotter
page 3



SPORTS
Commuters Golf Page 5
Tournament results arrive from Alameda Commuters.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE
And Sudoku Page 7
Sharpen your pencils for that newspaper tradition.



ISLAND ARTS
Events Listing Page 4
New show at the K Gallery and other local happenings.



HOMETOWN NEWS
Track Trap Page 2
Local resident explains difficult traffic patterns.

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

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:17	19:56
April 29	06:16	19:57
April 30	06:15	19:58
May 1	06:13	19:59
May 2	06:12	20:00
May 3	06:11	20:01
May 4	06:10	20:02

Upcoming Developments at Jean Sweeney Park

Junlin "William" Chen

Renovation and development of several parks, such as the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, will soon begin to share the spotlight with housing developments. Located at the former Alameda Belt Line rail yard between Constitution Way, Atlantic Avenue and Sherman Street, Jean Sweeney Open Space Park's topography is unique among Alameda's parks as a large open space within an urban environment. Estimated to cover 27 acres, this park will be the largest in Alameda.

In addition to its expansiveness, the development plan seems promising. The park will feature several bicycle/pedestrian accessways and a multitude of amenities, including a community garden, areas for public art, numerous trees, foot bridges built above creeks and a mix of active and quiet areas.

"When it opens, Jean Sweeney Open Space Park will be an Alameda treasure with something for everyone, from bikes to gardens to natural exploration for kids," Alameda Recreation and Parks (ARPD) Director Amy Woodridge stated. "It has been amazing to work with so many committed Alamedans to develop this park."

According to a map on the city website, the park will comprise of 12 entrances encompassing five trails and loops namely, the

Wooldridge and ARPD estimate that developing the park requires a budget of about \$12 million, with \$6.5 million currently available.

Cross Alameda Trail, Secondary Trail, Walk Loop Trail, Bike Skills Loop and Bike Walk Loop. All other trails and loops besides the Cross Alameda Trail lie within the park and lead to its various sections.

The Cross Alameda Trail is a bicycle and pedestrian, city-wide trail that leads into the park and out along Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway. Nine of the 12 entrances, between Sherman Street and Constitution Way will have cross paths that enable visitors to access all the park's trails and amenities.

The cost of developing such an enormous space is quite high, however. Wooldridge and ARPD estimate that developing the park requires a budget of about \$12 million, with \$6.5 million currently available. Of this, \$2.5 million is from the Active Transportation Program, which will fund the Cross Alameda Trail. The remaining \$4

PARK: Page 12

Bertholf Seizes Drugs

Sun Staff Reports

The crew of a local Coast Guard Cutter returned home to Alameda Friday after seizing \$329 million in cocaine during a successful 95-day counter narcotics deployment.

The 126-person Alameda-based crew of Coast Guard Cutter *Bertholf* interdicted nine smuggling vessels, detained 22 suspected narcotraffickers and seized more than 20,000 pounds of illegal narcotics while deployed in the Eastern Pacific.

The cutter's success for the patrol was highlighted by the seizure of a self-propelled semisubmersible smuggling vessel (SPSS) carrying more than \$200 million of narcotics. This was the second SPSS *Bertholf* crewmembers have seized in the last year, and the sixth SPSS interdicted by the Coast Guard since early 2015.

Bertholf's crew partnered with other Coast Guard and Navy assets in the area, as well as maritime patrol aircraft from a number

of partner agencies to locate and intercept suspicious vessels.

Prior to returning to Alameda, the cutter docked in San Diego to transfer 14 tons of seized narcotics to the Drug Enforcement Administration for disposal. This total was the result of a number of interdictions made by several Coast Guard cutters as well as a Coast Guard law enforcement team embarked on a U.S. Navy ship, in addition to the drugs seized by *Bertholf's* crew.

Bertholf was deployed to support Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S), counter narcotics operations in the Eastern Pacific. JIATF-S coordinates the detection and monitoring of illegal trafficking using Coast Guard and Department of Defense assets, as well as those from other agencies and partner nations. All interdictions are carried out by Coast Guard personnel under the authority of the 11th Coast Guard district, headquartered in Alameda.

Local Emergency Services Key to Success Says Public Safety

Jennifer Schutz

The Emergency Department (ED) at Alameda Hospital is the closest choice for residents in Alameda. The hospital's emergency physicians and nurses have 24-hour access to the latest technologies and stand ready to rapidly assess and triage arriving patients. Alameda Hospital's response to an emergency is immediate and comprehensive. For patients arriving by ambulance, constant communication with the incoming paramedics ensures that the ED team is fully prepared to treat upon arrival.

"When seconds count, having an ED close by can mean the difference between life and death," said Doug Long, Alameda Fire Chief. "Alameda Hospital provides quick turnaround times for our fire department ambulances, enabling them to be available to respond to other emergencies sooner within Alameda."

"Without the Alameda Hospital ED, our police officers would have to leave the city to access care, taking patrol units off the street for extended periods of time," said Paul Roller, Chief of Police, Alameda Police Department.

Each year Alameda emergency personnel provide care for more than 17,000 visits from patients of all ages within the community. With a below-average wait time of less than 30 minutes, the ED at Alameda Hospital is committed to providing coordinated, effective care for all patients, including assessment and stabilization, continuous monitoring, and effective pain control. Alameda Hospital's emergency services are available to all patients.

Quality Health Care

Alameda Hospital nurse professionals are specifically trained to care for emergency health needs. At the ED, a patient is in capable hands with board-certified emergency physicians and registered nurses experienced in emergency, trauma and critical care.

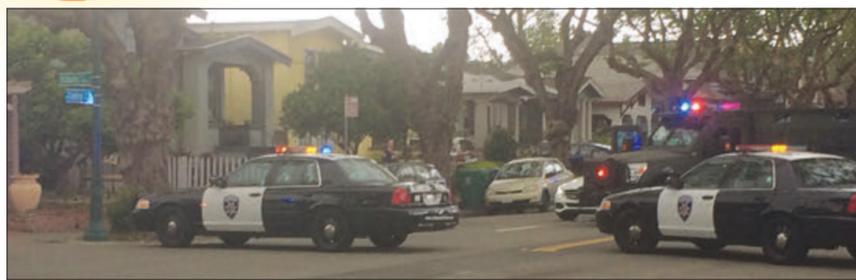
For peace of mind, it's important to know that Alameda Hospital continues to receive recognition for its high quality cardiac, stroke and emergency care:

- The hospital is recognized by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association for its high standards in cardiac care.
- Alameda Hospital's certified primary stroke center has advanced certification by the Joint Commission.
- The hospital is a recipient of a Veterans Administration contract for inpatient and emergency care.
- Alameda Hospital has received the Gold Plus Target Stroke Elite Award from the American Stroke Association four years in a row.

Convenient Alameda Location

Alameda Hospital supports the health care needs of the community through its provision of quality care by world-class providers who are close to home. When the hospital affiliated with Alameda Health System, it ensured that Alameda Hospital remained an acute care hospital with an emergency room for times when the unexpected happens and minutes count.

"The importance of having an ED on the Island cannot be overstated," said Chief Roller.



John Niec

Last Thursday, several police vehicles, including the Alameda Police SWAT team van blocked traffic on Central Avenue in order to stop and apprehend a suspect in the ARCO shooting that took place April 16.

Nabbed on Central

Suspect in ARCO shooting arrested in traffic stop

Sun Staff Reports

An Alameda native who is suspected of shooting two gas station employees was charged with four felony counts, including two for attempted murder, on Monday, April 25, according to authorities.

Edward Bessonov, 29, is also being charged with two counts of assault with a semi-automatic firearm. He is being held without bail at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. His plea hearing is scheduled for May 3.

The charges stem from an incident on Saturday, April 16, that left two people injured with gunshot wounds. Alameda police officer Jarrod Suth said the suspect got into an argument with an employee at the ARCO gas station at 1260 Park St. The argument escalated and Bessonov pulled out a 9-mm pistol and shot the employee and another employee before fleeing the scene in a white Mercedes.

The surveillance footage from the shooting incident was key to the arrest. The Alameda Police Department (APD) received a call reporting a man standing in the middle of the road on Shoreline Drive at Park Street yelling at people last Thursday, April 21. Officers were sent to the scene but upon their arrival the male left the area.

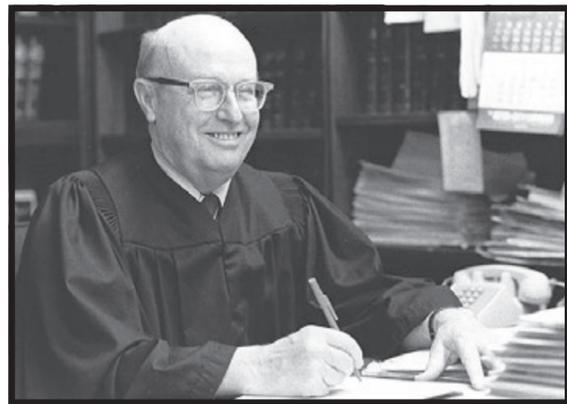
At 8:12, APD received another phone call near upper Washington Park about a disturbance involving the same male. Officers arrived on scene and attempted to detain the subject, but he fled in his vehicle. A short vehicle pursuit ensued, and the subject stopped his vehicle on the 1000 block of Central Avenue. After a brief standoff APD arrested Bessonov.

The vehicle used by the suspect was a white Mercedes similar to the one seen in the gas station surveillance video. Police also said Bessonov matches the description of the gunman and officers said they recovered additional evidence that links him to the shooting.

Police initially arrested 20-year-old Valente Blanco-Garcia for the incident on the night of the shooting.

Police officers got a tip that a suspicious person was in the post office parking lot at 1777 Park Ave. Blanco-Garcia lives on the same block as the post office, according to police.

There is no evidence that Blanco-Garcia had any involvement in the shooting or any connection to Bessonov. Blanco-Garcia was released from police custody early last week.



Former Local Judge Passes

George Edward McDonald

July 25, 1920 - April 22, 2016

A lifelong resident of Alameda, George E. McDonald, 95, died peacefully at Lakeside Park care facility in Oakland on April 22, 2016. The third child of Thomas and Mary Bell/Mabel (McCraith) McDonald, George was born on July 25, 1920, in his beloved Alameda.

He was a proud member of the first graduating class of St. Joseph's

High School in 1938. He spent a few years at Saint Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, and, as a member of the "greatest generation," served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

He returned to Alameda, completed law school at University of San Francisco, and set up a local practice. In 1951, he married Carol

JUDGE: Page 8

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Meet Your Councilman

Last-Thursday-of-the-month office hours with Councilman Tony Daysog are set for today, Thursday, April 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Blue Danube Café at 1333 Park St. Daysog will be available to answer questions and offer comments on city issues.

He will also be at the farmer's market at Webster Street and Haight Avenue this Saturday, April 30, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Contact Daysog at 747-4726 or tdaysog@alamedaca.gov.

Band Review Will Close

Streets Saturday, May 21

The 21st annual Encinal High School (EHS) Extravaganza of Bands will have 20 bands performing in parades on the West End Saturday, May 21. The parades will close streets to parking and traffic from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Parked cars will be towed from these streets:

- Central Avenue from Pacific Avenue to Third Street
- Pacific from Central to Fourth Street
- Fourth from Pacific to Haight Avenue
- The 300 block of Haight

- Third from Haight to the EHS baseball field.
- Central in front of EHS will be closed until 5:30 p.m.

The EHS Band thanks residents on these streets in advance and hopes they enjoy the marching bands. The competition begins at 10:15 a.m. at the corner of Third and Pacific. The Encinal Marching Jets are first to perform. Concert bands will perform in the EHS gymnasium all day. Admission is free and open to the public.

Many cars are towed each year despite posted signage. Please take note if planning to visit the area.



Earth Day in the Park

Photo and Story by Eric J. Kos

Alameda celebrated Earth Day in its usual fashion last Saturday, with hundreds of participants learning about sustainable living and careful stewardship of our home planet in a festival at Washington Park. The event featured a special appearance from "The Purple One" — the late rocker Prince who died April 21 — performing "Let's Go Crazy." Entertainers Lori and RJ wanted to "provide a tribute to catch people's attention and remember a great musician," said Lori. For RJ, who performed the part of Prince, the artist was "prophetic" and his music "spiritual" in that it reminds listeners to appreciate everything life has to offer. Members of Alameda's Dance 10 joined in the impromptu tribute with some lively dancing.