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

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	5:48	20:28
June 7	5:47	20:28
June 8	5:47	20:29
June 9	5:47	20:29
June 10	5:47	20:30
June 11	5:47	20:30
June 12	5:47	20:31

# Music Programs Receive Reprieve

**Ekene Ikeme**

The Alameda Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously to maintain the music program at Encinal Junior & Senior High School (EJSHS) at its meeting May 28 at Island High School.

All five board members voted in favor of a plan that would sustain and possibly add to the music program at EJSHS, which was in danger of being drastically cut back. The plan will restore the beginning band and symphony orchestra electives. The beginning band elective is for sixth graders entering the school (the music program is a joint program for junior high and high school students).

The plan will also add two after-school music clubs; a jazz/chorus club for sixth to 12th graders and an intermediate band club for seventh and eighth graders. Finally, the plan will add a guitar class if enough EJSHS students show an interest in the potential elective. Encinal Principal Daniel Hurst will conduct a further study to measure the student body's interest.

If all classes are offered it will represent one full-time equivalent (FTE) position for a music director.

Each elective (marching band, beginning band, symphony orchestra and guitar) represents .2 FTE. The two after-school clubs (jazz/chorus and intermediate band) represent .1 FTE.

The school board will need to invest an extra \$60,000 to execute the plan. The beginning band, symphony orchestra and guitar electives will cost \$20,000 each. If the guitar class is not held the investment will be \$40,000. The two after school programs will be funded by an existing grant allocated for after-school programs.

In 2017-18, the school board cut \$2.8 million dollars in order to fund a raise for district employees, according to a report from Kirsten Zazo, Chief Student Support Officer for the district. The music programs at Alameda High School and EJSHS were expected to be impacted as a result.

After learning of the potential cuts to the music programs, a grassroots coalition of students and parents from both high schools as well as Lincoln, Wood and the Academy of Alameda middle schools came together on Facebook and via word of mouth in April to form Alameda Bands Together (ABT). ABT helped

AHS reinstate longtime music director Mitchell White and stabilize its music program.

EJSHS needed to convince the school board that there was a large passion for the school's music program among its students. Members of ABT and Hurst crafted a student survey to gauge interest in a revamped music program. They found that 195 students indicated that they would like to sign up for one of the music classes, according to the ABT survey, more than the District's initial registration data that yielded a mere 81 students. The survey was just for current EJSHS students and the numbers may increase when incoming freshmen students are factored in.

"We are beyond thrilled with this outcome, and that music will be saved for all students at both of our schools," said ABT co-founders Claudia Delgado, Tina O'Grady and Deni Adaniya. "Our coalition looks forward to engaging with all stakeholders in that work in the months to come."

More than 200 Alameda students gathered at the May 28 meeting.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at [eikeme@alamedasun.com](mailto:eikeme@alamedasun.com).



Deni Adaniya

Student musicians from Encinal and Alameda high schools, Wood and Lincoln middle schools and the Academy of Alameda performed before the May 28 school board meeting as combined bands. The symphonic bands performed a Disco medley and "Crazy Train" while combined orchestras performed "Kojiki" and "Remember Me." Their efforts drew the board's attention to the importance of music education.

## Free Lead Paint Safety Meeting Set for June 12

**Sun Staff Reports**

A special meeting to provide a wide range of information on the impacts of lead paint has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m. at NEA Elementary School at Third and Brush streets.

Neighbors and parents can enjoy pizza, snacks and mingling starting at 6 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. Dale Hagen with Alameda County's lead-safety program "Healthy Homes," will answer a number of questions about lead paint inside

and outside the home, including:

- Why is lead paint a health safety issue?
- How are children and adults exposed to lead?
- What are some of the risks inside and outside the home?
- How can a homeowner improve lead paint safety in and around the home?

Childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children, yet approximately half a

million U.S. children have blood lead levels above dangerous levels of 5 micrograms per deciliter.

For more information, email Jeanne at [parentneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:parentneighbors@gmail.com). RSVP is encouraged, but not required. Follow the signs to meet in the school's multipurpose room on Brush Street, across from the Woodstock playground.

This free community event is sponsored by the Parent Neighbors and NEA Community Learning Center.

# Alameda Champion of the Human-Animal Bond to be Honored Today

**Sun Staff Reports**

Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS) found out last month that its executive director and Alameda resident, John Lipp, will receive the Shanti Project's 2019 Dede Wilsey Champion of the Human-Animal Bond Award at a ceremony slated to take place today in San Francisco. Lipp, who served as the executive director of Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) from 2004 to 2011, will be honored at PAWS' 32nd Anniversary Gala today, Thursday, June 6, at the Fairmont Hotel.

PAWS is now a Shanti program following the merger of the two organizations in 2015. Lipp, who has spent the majority of his career in the animal-welfare field, was instrumental in facilitating the merger that stabilized the organization and preserved capital.

"Getting the Champion of the Human-Animal Bond Award



File photo

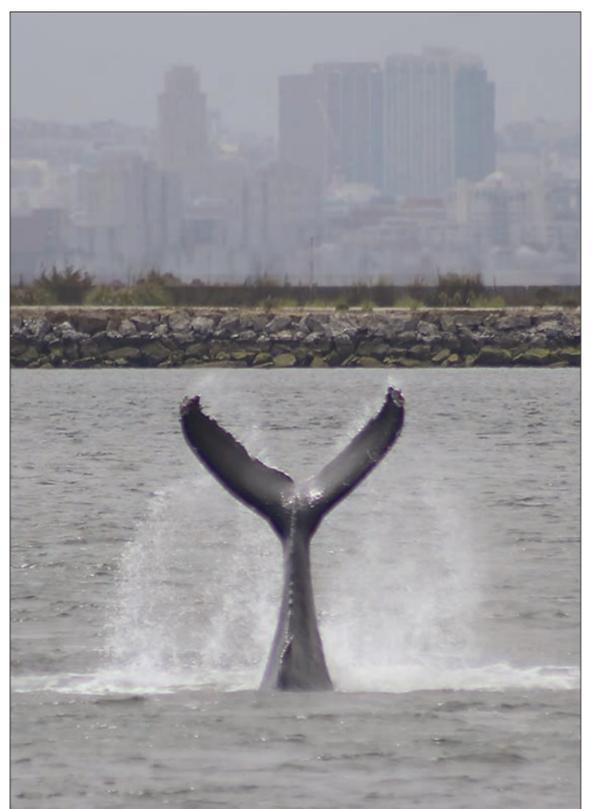
John Lipp takes a moment with the grand duke of his household, Rex the Cat

is humbling and an incredible honor," said Lipp. "Built on a simple premise, PAWS helps people heal and thrive. PAWS keeps families together."

PAWS' mission is to help low-income people — who are isolated due to disease, chronic illness or age — and their pet companions stay together. Pet services include dog walking, dog washes, veterinary clinics and care and access to a free pet food bank. More than 700 clients currently receive PAWS' services.

An expected 400 guests and 50 canine companions will attend the PAWS' Gala, "Petchitecture," the longest-running event for both human and canine guests in San Francisco. Guests will have an opportunity to bid on unique dog and cat habitats created by the Bay Area's leading architects and designers. The event is expected to raise more than \$150,000 for the PAWS' program.

A limited number of tickets are still available. For more information, visit [www.shanti.org](http://www.shanti.org) or contact [specialevents@shanti.org](mailto:specialevents@shanti.org).



Jim Jigg

A humpback whale some locals have taken to calling "Aloha" has been entertaining crowds of whale watchers at Alameda Point's Seaplane Lagoon over the past week. Marine mammal scientists performed a biopsy to determine its health and gender.

# Whale Discovers Seaplane Lagoon

**Dennis Evanosky**

Visitors to Alameda Point have been surprised to find a whale swimming in Seaplane Lagoon. The animal was first spotted on May 26, according to the Sausalito-based Marine Mammal Center. The center began monitoring the whale the next day. Researchers at the center report that the whale is an adult female humpback.

Whales often appear in San Francisco Bay to feed on anchovies. They seldom remain, and scarcely ever swim past Alcatraz Island. The mammal center has studied photos of this whale and fear that it is sick and maybe too weak to return to the open ocean. Experts have noticed that the whale is feeding on fish in the lagoon and think that this man-made cove is the safest place for the humpback to recover.

They also think that attempting to herd the whale out of the lagoon and into the San Francisco Bay and through the Golden Gate into the Pacific Ocean could further stress the sick animal.

The center asks that the public not approach or otherwise harass the whale in Seaplane Lagoon. The U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and later amendments, make it a federal crime to hunt, kill, capture and/or harass any marine mammal.

The Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors have kept a careful eye on the whale as well. Its members have observed the whale "most of the time slowly circling with only an occasional breach." The humpback "suddenly became extremely active" last Saturday, June 1. "It swam all around the lagoon, doing spectacular breaches multiple times."

According to the Monitors' Facebook page, Golden Gate Cetacean Research, which is now merging with the Marine Mammal Center, ran photos of the whale through computer programs "to

attempt to match this whale to the North Pacific humpback catalog."

There was no match. The center has tracked 70 humpback whales, so this is a new whale, which Golden Gate Cetacean has given the number 71 in its San Francisco Bay catalog. Photos show the whale does not appear to be entangled in anything. However, it is ailing — it appears emaciated and its skin does not look healthy. "We will continue to observe it, thanks to caring people who have been taking photos and video, and sending reports," the Monitors said.

The Marine Mammal Center says humpback whales breed in the waters off of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and then migrate to the Pacific Northwest, where they feed. They make this journey every year between their feeding and breeding sites. Humpbacks typically travel at 5 mph but often average only 1 mph, as they rest and socialize along the way.

In 1973 Lloyd Smalley, Pat Arrigoni and Paul Maxwell established the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito as a private, nonprofit organization for the purpose of rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing marine mammals who are injured, ill or abandoned. Since then the center has rescued more than 20,000 marine mammals.

The center is arguably most famous for the important role it played in twice rescuing another humpback whale, affectionately named Humphrey. This whale swam into San Francisco Bay in 1985 and 1990. Both "intrusions" resulted in dramatic rescues by the center, United States Coast Guard and hundreds of volunteers.

There are a number of ways to help support the Marine Mammal Center, visit [pacificmmc.org/](http://pacificmmc.org/) ways-to-give to learn more.

Contact Dennis Evanosky at [editor@alamedasun.com](mailto:editor@alamedasun.com).



Betty Young

Officials with the Marine Mammal Center of Sausalito investigate the whale. They determined the whale to be a malnourished female and the overall condition of the animal has scientists concerned.