



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 14 No. 45
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INSIDE

HOMETOWN

Fire Wire

page 2

Police Blotter

page 3

All the doings of Island safety and law personnel



ISLAND ARTS

Seussical

Page 7

Children's Musical Theatre to perform Seuss musical.

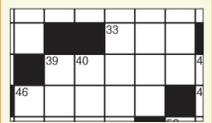


HOMETOWN NEWS

Military Drills

Page 10

Armed Forces come to town for practice missions.

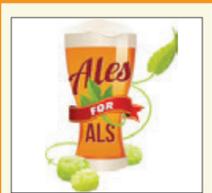


PUZZLES

Crossword

Page 7

Sharpen your pencils for that famed newspaper tradition.



HOMETOWN NEWS

Fundraiser

Page 3

Drink beer, do something good for someone else.

CONTENTS

HOMETOWN NEWS... 2

OPINION... 4

CLASSIFIED... 6

PUZZLES... 7

SPORTS... 8

LOCAL HAPPENINGS... 10

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:16	20:14
Aug. 7	06:17	20:13
Aug. 8	06:18	20:12
Aug. 9	06:19	20:11
Aug. 10	06:20	20:09
Aug. 11	06:21	20:08
Aug. 12	06:21	20:07

Students Bring School Gardens Back to Life

Amy Chu

Alameda Unified School District's (AUSD) high school students gave life to two gardens on school district property. A dozen students transformed neglected school plots at Woodstock Child Development Center and Ruby Bridges Elementary School as a part of Project Eat's "Get Fresh! Stay Healthy!" internship program.

Project Eat is an Alameda County Office of Education program that promotes living a healthy lifestyle through growing and eating healthy food.

"Our program is evolving from a garden-based nutrition education program into a workforce development program for health and agriculture," said Project Eat youth development specialist, Kate Casale. "These internships are perfect examples of that work."

DaMariya Compton has been involved in gardening ever since he was a young boy farming with his family. Throughout the years, he continues to take delight in gardening and culinary arts. "I'm interested in food, farming, nature, animals, the environment — all that," Compton said. When he learned that Project Eat was offering high school students summer internships to work in school gardens, he eagerly applied.

Savannah Sands, an Island High School senior, is also interested and curious about gardening and gaining knowledge about nutrition. "I applied for the internship because I wanted to learn more about eating healthy and growing plants," she explains. "And I like to do things for the community."

A few months ago, youth development specialist, Kate Casale, noticed an unkempt Woodstock corner plot. The plot, formerly known as the Longfellow Children's Garden, was created in May 2011 by volunteers. Over time it became abandoned, causing invasive plants and weeds to grow. When Casale talked to Island High about letting students reclaim the garden, the administration agreed without hesitation.

Both Compton and Sands, worked with Casale at Woodstock this summer to restore the garden to its original beauty. When the high-school seniors started their work last month, the plot was chaotic and disorganized. However, Casale and the students pulled the weeds and tended to the soil, they

then planted lettuce, strawberries, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, parsley and arugula.

Project Eat interns also transformed the garden at Ruby Bridges Elementary School. Many organizations contributed both people and supplies to the project. Project Peace supplied 50 volunteers. California Native Gardens donated 15 cubic yards of mulch. Ploughshares Nursery sold discounted plants. Afia Walking Tree — an organization teaching irrigation and nutrition, as well as drumming and music instruction — dealt with the plot's water and taught volunteers about gardening. For Robbie Wilson, program manager at Bay Area Community Resources, the project offered the chance to feed children and teach them about nutrition and the environment.

Soon, the garden was filled with kale, tomatoes, celery, strawberries and chard. By mid-July, children were sampling the garden's harvests and interacting with the students in Project Eat's internship. "It's giving us an opportunity to introduce both the kids and their families to a wide range of produce they may not have tried before," Wilson said.

"We helped plant, played games with the kids, and taught them about gardening," said ninth-grader Meilani Markin. "I would love to do it again."

Alameda High School 10th grader Alleona Elope worked with Afia Walking Tree teaching children about drumming and nutrition. Not only did the younger kids learn, the teenagers did as well. "I learned so many things that I can take home with me, like about healthy eating and a lot about genetically modified organisms," said Elope.

AUSD Superintendent Sean McPhetridge expressed how the gardens create community for everyone. "I really love how this program offers hands-on training in real-world skills while also teaming older students up with younger ones," he said. "I think this multi-generational team has planted the seeds for something bigger in our future."

To learn more, visit the Community News section on the AUSD website at www.alameda.k12.ca.us.

Amy Chu is in the Girls Inc. Eureka! Program as an Alameda Sun intern. She can be reached at editor@alamedasun.com.



Alameda Fire Department

Alameda firefighters are part of a mutual-aid strike force at the Mad River Complex fire in Trinity County west of Eureka.

Bay Farm Engine Co. Joins Fire Fight

With more than 20 wildfires burning more than 130,000 acres in California, Alameda team is called for mutual aid

Sun Staff Reports

Engine 4 at Mad River Complex Fire

The Alameda Fire Department (AFD) has sent an engine company from Station No. 4 on Bay Farm Island on mutual aid as part of a

strike team deployment to the Mad River Complex fire in Trinity County west of Eureka. When AFD firefighters arrived they were assigned to protect structures from the surrounding fires. At press time, more than seven fires were burning in the Mad River Complex. These fires involved 13,557 acres. Containment of the complex was at 8 percent.

Boat fire draws AFD, Coast Guard

In other AFD news, the U.S. Coast Guard teamed up with Alameda

firefighters to rescue four people from a 30-foot boat whose engine had caught fire in waters just off the Main Street Ferry Terminal. The fire was reported about 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, near the ferry terminal at 2901 Main St.

When AFD and Coast Guard arrived they noticed light smoke coming from the boat found drifting about 100 yards from the ferry terminal dock. The Coast Guard got the passengers off the boat and

FIRE: Page 2



Jeff Cambra

Final Crab Cove Show Next Friday

Sun Staff Reports

Above, the horn section for the Bob Claire Orchestra performs at a prior Crab Cove Concert. Alameda's own Soulstice performing its unique brand of reggae music will headline the last free family-friendly outdoor concert of the year set for Friday, Aug. 14, at 5:30 p.m. Local Alameda family band The Barefoot Quales, pictured at right, comprised of (left to right) Teo, 9; Miles, 11; Maria; Niko, 6; and Christopher, will play during the concert's intermission.

Dave Weiland



Clarifying South Shore Bikeway Rules of Road

Dennis Evanosky

Thanks to a concerned Alameda Sun reader, city staff is better monitoring the new bikeway on Shore Line Drive. The reader asked the city to consider installing signs that remind bicyclists that pedestrians have the right of way as they cross bikeway intersections along Shore Line.

"Most intersections have a pedestrian crosswalk whether or not lines are painted on the street," Liam Garland from the Public Works Department said. Garland pointed out that pedestrians include not only people on foot, but those using roller skates and skateboards. He also said that pedestrians also can be people with disabilities using tricycles, quadricycles or wheelchairs for transportation.

The new green pavement people encounter on Shore Line signals a potential conflict area. "The change in color should encourage bicyclists, motorists

and pedestrians to be more alert and cautious when they see the color green on the pavement," Garland said.

He pointed out that the bikeway has no stop signs and that bicyclists may proceed without stopping. However, bicyclists using the road are required to obey the stop signs on Shore Line Drive at Grand, Willow and Park streets.

Garland reminds everyone who enjoys the Island City's southern shoreline that bicyclists are not required to use the bikeway. Less-confident or slower bicyclists still may prefer to ride on the adjacent shoreline path.

Alameda installed its first parking-protected bikeway in 2008 on Fernside Boulevard near Lincoln Middle School. It leads to the Bay Farm Bridge, a drawbridge for the exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians. The city also has plans for bicycle-friendly paths along Clement Avenue.

East Bay Rocks Fundraiser Set

Sun Staff Reports

Several local bands will perform from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at McGee's Bar & Grill this Saturday, Aug. 8, in an effort to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Team in Training.

The East Bay Rocks fundraiser will feature: The Saloons, Nate Jones & the Sloe Slippers, The

Jilters, Rust & Whiskey and more.

The event will also feature a raffle, food and drink and other fun at the bar known for its rotating menu at 1645 Park St. Sponsors include Sparkle Athletic and the Oakland Zoo.

For more information, call McGee's at 522-3470, or visit www.mcgeesbarandgrill.com.