

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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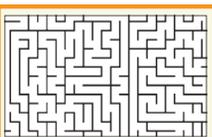
All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



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Try out the watersport here in town next Thursday.



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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:21	20:07
Aug. 12	06:22	20:06
Aug. 13	06:23	20:05
Aug. 14	06:24	20:04
Aug. 15	06:25	20:02
Aug. 16	06:26	20:01
Aug. 17	06:26	20:00

Renters Group Rally to Stop Mass Evictions

Ekene Ikeme

Members of several tenant advocacy groups congregated at the front steps of City Hall on Monday, Aug. 8, to voice their displeasure with the evictions and other harassment taking place at Bay View Apartments.

The rally was spearheaded by members of the Alameda Renters Coalition (ARC), the advocacy group that has placed an amendment on the November ballot, and Tenants Together, a statewide renter's rights organization. The topic of discussion at the rally centered on Bay View Apartment landlord Matt Sridhar, CEO of San Jose-based Sridhar Equities, LLC, evicting several tenants from their living spaces through "no-fault" evictions.

People displayed their emotion at the rally including Bay View Apartment resident Rommel Laguardia.

"I've been fighting this eviction since last November," said Rommel into a megaphone. "The stress that I have been putting up with; my heart breaks down."

Rommel said he has been living at the apartment building at 470 Central Ave. for several years. He was given his first eviction notice last November, but Sridhar had to temporarily hold off on the deadline when City Council elected to place tenant evictions on hold late last year. However, when the council voted to pass its "Rent Stabilization and Limitation on Evictions Ordinance" in March, it put in a stipulation that landlords can evict 25 percent of tenants a year, according to ARC, through "no fault" evictions. Laguardia received his second eviction notice a couple of months later.

"My kids ask me, 'dad, are we

going to stay,'" said Laguardia. "I say, 'I don't know.'"

Laguardia's case is even more troubling because he is stuck in an untimely bind.

The ARC amendment "Alameda Renter Protection and Community Stabilization Charter Amendment" won't be voted on until Nov. 8, however, Laguardia's eviction date is Sept. 19. So Laguardia might be forced to move out well before the measure is voted on.

"I think they are doing this on purpose," said Laguardia. "They know that if the rule passes they won't be able to evict people so they want to get people out before the vote."

Laguardia got his eviction notice after the ARC amendment was approved to be placed on the November ballot. He has since talked to members of the Council, but said the Council has not helped him.

"I've talked to Jim Oddie and (Tony) Daysog," said Laguardia. "They tell me to get legal advice. I feel like they're not on our side."

Tenants who have not got eviction notices are also displeased with the treatment from the apartment's management staff.

Austin Durano is also a tenant at Bay View Apartment. He has not been given an eviction notice, but he feels the quality from the on-site management has deteriorated in the last few months.

"I have been having issues with the sliding door in my bathroom, there is a hole in my wall and sometimes the hot water goes out for hours at a time," said Durano. "When I try to talk to the manager he shuts the door in my face."

Durano said someone finally

RALLY: Page 12



Helping Build Partnerships

Capt. Jim Colburn

Residents of the homes along Jackson Park gathered Tuesday evening, Aug. 5, to celebrate National Night Out. Neighbors have been gathering for this event for 32 years. The concept was established in 1984, when an estimated 2.5 million people gathered in 400 communities. National Night Out is a crime prevention program that emphasizes building partnerships between the police and fire departments and the community. People gather the first Tuesday in August for block parties, cookouts, parades, contests, youth activities and seminars.

Olympian Rows for the Gold

Alamedan's team still in contention

Sun Staff Reports

The U.S. Olympic men's eight rowing team was unable to qualify for the rowing final after its preliminary race Monday, Aug. 8. However, the team was given a reprieve in the repêchage race yesterday, Aug. 10.

In Olympic format, the winner of the two heats automatically qualify for the final race, which will take place on Sunday, Aug. 13, while the other teams compete in the repêchage for a chance to compete in the final.

The U.S. team competed in Heat 2. The U.S. drew the heat with the 2012 men's eight gold medalist team Germany.

Germany finished the two-kilometer race in 5:38.22. U.S. fin-

ished in second place at 5:40.16. Poland came in third at 5:42.32. Great Britain won Heat 1 with a time of 5:34.23. Germany and Great Britain advanced to the final. U.S. and four other teams (Netherlands, New Zealand, Italy and Poland) will race in the repêchage. The top three teams advance to the final.

The U.S. team is comprised of coxswain Sam Ojserkis and rowers: Austin Hack, Rob Munn, Mike Di Santo, Steve Kasprzyk, Glenn Ochal, Alex Karwoski, Alameda resident Hans Struzyna and Sam Dommer.

The rowing competition is taking place at Lagoa Stadium.

Contact Sun staff at editor@alamedasun.com.



Richard Bangert

Two harbor seals sleep on the new float provided by the Water Emergency Transportation Authority. The metal grab hooks on the float were installed so that the fabricator could lower the float into the water. Once the float is anchored at its permanent location, the hooks will be removed and the voids grouted, although the seals like using them as pillows. One side of the float has a ramp for easy access.

Harbor Seals Adapt to New Home Float

Richard Bangert

A new cement float for harbor seals was delivered to Alameda Point on June 22. It is the first-of-its-kind on the West Coast. With seals starting to use the new platform, a milestone has been reached culminating two-and-a-half years of citizen advocacy to maintain a resting site for harbor seals at Alameda Point. A ferry maintenance facility is slated to begin construction this summer where the seals have been finding solitude for more than a decade. The new float will be anchored 100 yards from the facility.

In an effort to acclimate the seals to their new float and surroundings, the float is being moved in stages to its permanent location. It will be anchored a hundred yards offshore from the Bay Trail near the soccer field on West Hornet Avenue.

The old wooden dock that the seals had been using for a decade was demolished on July 11 in order to prompt the seals to start using the new float. On July 28, the float underwent its first move, followed by a second move last Tuesday, Aug. 9. Two more moves are scheduled in the next four weeks.

The number of seals in the harbor in mid-summer is typically in the single digits, with seal monitors recording a high of seven in recent weeks. During the winter, two dozen or more seals have regularly made use of the old wooden dock. The new cement float appears small, but it can comfortably hold up to 30 seals.

The design and location of the new harbor seal float was selected with the assistance of marine mammal expert Dr. Jim Harvey, director of the Moss Landing Marine Labo-

ratories. Dr. Harvey recommended a location near the old wooden dock in order to stay within the seals' known comfort zone. He said that ferries moving about nearby would not alarm the seals. Kayaks and canoes approaching too closely, on the other hand, will arouse the seals.

During the winter months at Alameda Point, it was not uncommon to see two dozen seals hauled out on the old wooden dock and some odd planks tied to the dock pilings. The inner harbor at Alameda Point is the only harbor seal haul-out site in the East Bay between Yerba Buena Island and Fremont. The sheltered harbor with good food foraging makes the area ideal for seals.

The floating structure provides a benefit beyond that of traditional land-based resting areas — it is available for use throughout the tide cycle. Harbor seals need to come out of the water periodically to warm up and also to shed their coat, called molting. Unlike their marine mammal cousins, sea lions, harbor seals become worried when people get too close. Repeatedly rousting seals from a resting site could lead to abandonment of the area. It is a violation of the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act to harass or disturb resting harbor seals. Fines can be in the 10s of thousands of dollars.

The new float is 20 feet by 25 feet. One side is sloped to make it easier for the seals to haul out. The float is made of reinforced concrete. Styrofoam enclosed within the concrete keeps the platform afloat. This custom-designed structure was built by Kie Con Inc. in Antioch, based on a patent held by International Marine Flotation Sys-

tems of Vancouver, British Columbia, at a cost to WETA of \$68,000.

Local harbor seal advocates have established a Facebook page called Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors. Community members interested in contributing their observations of the harbor seals are invited to contact the group at alamedaharborseals@gmail.com. The agency that issued the permit, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, is interested in knowing whether the float is being used for its intended purpose. They will rely on citizen science. More than a year of data has already been recorded by volunteers on the behavior of the harbor seals at Alameda Point.

Richard Bangert posts stories and photos on his blog Alameda Point Environmental Report.

Shelter Hosting Open House

Sun Staff Reports

The public is invited to a free event tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 12, 5 to 7 p.m., hosted by Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS). The shelter is celebrating its newly remodeled offices. Visitors will see the new lobby, meet shelter staff and volunteers and get a tour of the facility.

The open house will also offer the opportunity to meet adoptable dogs, cats and rabbits and enjoy a free ice cream treat provided by Tucker's Super-Creamed Ice Cream.

FAAS is located at 1590 Fortmann Way. Turn left off Grand at Fortmann Way, then left again at Alaska Packer. Questions? Email cthornton@alamedaanimalshelter.org



Gift Shop Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Photo and Story by Dennis Evanosky

Whales & Friends' associates, past and present, gathered to celebrate the gift store's 30th anniversary (from left to right) Donna Porter, Christine Gonsalves, Steve King, Pat Saxton, Ginny Tan, Annette Fullmer, Bonnie Blaney, Lori Darnell, Celia Murphy and Laura Rhodes. Not pictured was Kathryn Ludlow. Whales & Friends opened 30 years ago and started off a long love affair between the store and its many loyal customers. Whales & Friends is often voted Alameda's best gift store. "We try to have something for everyone, and we're noted for friendly service and free gift wrapping" said co-owner Christine Gonsalves. Recently Max, 9, stopped by the store. "Whales & Friends is like heaven, there's so much to see," he said.