

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 14 No. 49
Sept. 3, 2015

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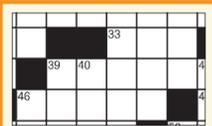
All the doings of Island safety and law personnel



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Friends of the Alameda Free Library present a talk about the J.M.W. Turner exhibit at the De Young Museum.



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Sharpen your pencils for that famed newspaper tradition.



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Pier once served as transit point for San Francisco ferries.



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

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:40	19:37
Sept. 4	06:41	19:36
Sept. 5	06:42	19:34
Sept. 6	06:43	19:33
Sept. 7	06:44	19:31
Sept. 8	06:44	19:30
Sept. 9	06:45	19:28

Residents Displaced by Fire Seek Aid

Sun Staff Reports

A two-alarm fire that broke out on Central Avenue Aug. 21 damaged more than just the bait shop. The residence above the shop was burned, and the house next door at 641 Central Ave. was more severely damaged than originally reported. Longtime residents Araceli and Ruben Quezada, both teachers in San Francisco schools, were en route to work Friday when they heard that their home was on fire.

It looks as though a bomb went off there.

Araceli Quezada

"We had just crossed the Bay Bridge when our daughter called us," according to Araceli Quezada. "She informed us that the neighbor's house was on fire and that the flames had spread to our house. When they saw the flames shoot through my daughter's bedroom window, they got the dog out, couldn't find the cat, but were able to get out quickly. The cat hid in the garage." No family members were injured, and even the cat escaped unscathed, though frightened.

"From the front of the home, it may seem that our house was not as damaged as the neighbor's house," Quezada said. But the damage was done. "Flames destroyed the back of our house including my daughter's bedroom, the bathroom, kitchen, and attic which runs the full length of the house. It looks as though a bomb went off there."

The Quezada family has been unable to return to the home and the fire has taken an emotional as well as financial toll. "We are trying to stay positive as we look for a temporary home. Our home will be repaired but it will take months, maybe a year or more," said Quezada. A "Go Fund Me" account has been opened in the family's name by a friend, Robyn Matzen, but "the emotional damage will remain with us for a long time," according to Quezada.



The intensity of the Aug. 24 fire at 643 Central Ave. heavily damaged the back of the Quezada family home next door. Damage extended to a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and attic.

The Quezada children attend school at College of Alameda and St. Joseph Notre Dame High School. The family has lived in Alameda for 15 years and purchased the home in 2012. Donations can be made for the family at <http://www.gofundme.com/kf2nap7c>.

AUSD Seeks Tax Oversight Members

Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) is now accepting applications for the 2015-2016 Measure A Oversight Committee. Measure A, a parcel tax passed by Alameda community members in 2011, raises \$12 million per year for core programs, including AP classes, neighborhood schools, small class sizes in grades K-3, athletics, enrichment, and technology. It sunsets in 2018.

The committee meets four or five times between January and December of each year. The committee's work culminates in a staff Annual Report, as well as a shorter committee report, that is presented to the Board of Education in December. The 2013-2014 annual reports are available online at www.alameda.k12.ca.us/measurea.

"Measure A provides crucial support to the kinds of programs that make our schools and our students so successful and keeps our district so attractive to families," said Superintendent Sean McPhetridge. "I encourage community members to apply to this committee, not only to provide the oversight and transparency that we need to maintain

Oversight committee members provide the oversight and transparency needed maintain the public trust and to spread the word about how much good parcel tax dollars do for students, teachers and the school district.

the public trust in our management of their tax dollars, but also to spread the word about how much good those tax dollars do for our students, our teachers, and our district as a whole."

AUSD has committed to maintaining accountability and transparency with all expenditures of Measure A dollars. A key component of that commitment is maintaining an 11-member Oversight Committee made up of community members (including parents and district employees) to review the district's compliance with the terms of the measure. More information on those terms is available on the Measure A page on the district's website.

Applications for the 2015-16 Measure A Oversight Committee, which will begin meeting in January

2016, are now available. For an application, visit the district website. Applicants can also get an application by calling the district office at 337-7187 or stopping by the district's office (2060 Challenger Drive, Alameda). Translated versions of the application are available both on the website and at the district office.

Tournament Benefits Parks

Sun Staff Reports

Friends of the Parks presents the "Play for the Parks" golf tournament, dinner and auction at the Corica Golf Complex, 1 Clubhouse Memorial Rd., 1 p.m., Monday, Sept. 14. Dinner and auction follow at Lincoln Park, Santa Clara Avenue and High Street, with Alameda's own Don Ratto and his crew preparing the barbecue.

The auction includes many items, including a basketball shoe signed by Steph Curry of the

Golden State Warriors. The golf game is a scramble that offers the most enjoyable afternoon possible.

Tickets are \$95 and include the golf fee, the electric cart, practice balls and dinner.

Visit www.alamedaparks.org for details and to register and pay with PayPal; 99 percent of all donations go directly to park support. Friends of the Park's most recent contribution helped purchase and install new playground equipment at Longfellow Park.

Help Pave the Way

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda Sun readers have the opportunity to help bring a life-size bronze sculpture of Amelia Earhart to the elementary school on Bay Farm Island that bears the legendary pilot's name.

The Davis Family Foundation granted the Frank Bette Center for the Arts a \$32,000 gift to commission the statue.

The sculpture, created by Jane DeDecker, is complete and ready for installation. The school

needs additional funds to meet the requirements for a safe installation on its campus.

Sun readers can be a part of this by purchasing an engraved brick that will be used to line the path around the front of the school. A brick costs \$100, and donations are tax deductible.

The statue would be the first public art on Bay Farm Island. Purchase a brick online by logging one to www.gofundme.com/pavetheway4amelia.

Dennis Evanosky

Employees of the Mariner Square Drystack and Marina at the foot of Mariner Square Drive had a surprise waiting for them when they arrived at work last Thursday. They discovered the carcass of a whale bobbing at the foot of the company's dock.

According to the Coast Guard, a container ship with business just across the Oakland Estuary at the Port of Oakland struck the whale

West End Fires Raise Suspicion, Rekindle Memory

2014 arson fires come to mind

Ekene Ikeme

The Alameda Fire Department (AFD) responded to reports of several fires within a four block radius of each other on the west end of Alameda last Thursday, Aug. 27.

AFD were notified of the first blaze early Thursday morning and arrived at the 1800 block of Ferry Point at 3:44 a.m. Four engines, two ladder trucks and two medical units were dispatched to the scene, along with the duty chief, to fight the fire.

The first fire was started in a cage storing cardboard for recycling at Alameda Point. The blaze moved from the cage, to up the wall of the building, and then extended into the structure and spread into an adjacent building, according to AFD reports.

The building houses Alameda Point Studios, an industrial space that is rented out to several different small industrial art companies, according to their website.

Current tenants include fine-furniture makers, cabinetmakers, sculptors, acoustic engineers, a print shop, designers, piano restoration and service, metal workers and many others. The building is located at 1800 Ferry Point.

Crews used a hose line to extinguish the exterior fire. Truck companies forced their way into the building for engine crews to move in and extinguish the interior flames. The fire inside activated the building's

AFD believes the fires were suspicious in nature and an investigation is underway.

fire suppression sprinkler system, which helped contain the fire to only a small portion of the building.

While AFD was almost finished suppressing the fire at Alameda Point Studios, the crew was notified of four more small fires four blocks away on the 1900 block of Third Street. Incoming AFD emergency vehicles were diverted to the more recent fires. Crewmembers were able to extinguish them before they could make any significant damage.

Additional fires were reported in the area on the 1700 block of Second Street at 6:54 a.m. Another fire was reported around the same time, but this fire was located on the 1500 block of Encinal Avenue. AFD did not finish fighting fires along the West End until 7:30 a.m.

No injuries were reported and no significant damage was done to any of the buildings, according to AFD spokesman Juan Medrano.

AFD believes the fires were suspicious in nature and an investigation is underway.

School District Meets Tonight

Sun Staff Reports

The trustees of the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) will host a special Community Work Session Meeting at 5:30 p.m., this evening, Sept. 3.

The meeting will take place in Ballena (A) Conference Room at the District Office, 2060 Challenger Dr.

In addition the first meeting of the Alameda Special Education Parent Support Group will be on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Franklin School, 1433 San Antonio Ave. The group was created by parents to support families

of Special Education students and promote communication within the Alameda community.

Parents, students, educators, and community members are welcome to participate in the quarterly meetings held during the school year.

These meetings offer an opportunity for families to share resources, ask questions and build community.

Free childcare is provided. For more information about the group or for a schedule of meetings, visit the Alameda Special Education Parent Support Group website.



Christina Wright

A tugboat tows the carcass of a whale from the Oakland Estuary to Angel Island where a team of 14 scientists performed a necropsy. They determined that the whale died after being struck by a ship

Fin Whale Was Victim of an Accident at Sea

Container ship struck whale, dragged carcass into estuary

on the open ocean and dragged its carcass through the Golden Gate and into the Oakland Estuary on Monday, Aug. 24.

The Coast Guard first notified the National Marine Fisheries Service of a stranded whale floating in the estuary at about 4:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

A Coast Guard spokesperson said that whale's carcass likely sank after the ship dragged it into the estuary. As it decomposed, it resur-

facted. That's when the employees discovered whale's carcass trapped between the Fleet Industrial Supply Center and Mariner Square Drystack & Marina's piers at the foot of Mariner Square Drive.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, the U. S. Coast Guard and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers teamed up to tow the carcass to