

► O.J. says book proceeds would be 'blood money'/A19

► Table turned for turkeys/A5



# Times-Herald



Partly sunny. High 58,  
low 42.

Details, A19

Since 1875 ● Vallejo ● Benicia ● American Canyon

Thursday, November 23, 2006

timesheraldonline.com ● 47 cents+tax

## Delayed waterfront deal struck

### Project a go if council approves

By **MATTHIAS GAFNI**

Times-Herald staff writer

Nearly a year after a grass-roots group sued to shutter the oft-delayed waterfront project, a settlement has been

reached that could allow the controversial plan to finally move forward.

The Vallejo Waterfront Coalition, which sued Callahan DeSilva Vallejo LLC and the city last December challenging the plan's Environmental Impact Report, announced the agreement Wednesday after 10 months of intense negotiations between the three parties.

The surprise settlement culminated an often acrimonious relationship between the coalition and the Pleasanton-based developer.

"We're really pleased with the outcome. It was a compromise on everybody's side," said Marti Brown, coalition co-chair. "We certainly didn't get our

alternative plan ... but I think we made it a better development." The coalition had previously proposed a separate waterfront plan.

**The agreement was announced Wednesday after 10 months of intense negotiations.**

At the heart of the compromises were four areas: use of water-conservation equipment in the new developments, increased park land in the Par-

cel A area, lower heights to preserve views and public input on architectural standards, officials said.

"There was a significant amount of compromise on the part of the developer and the coalition. A lot of hard work that I would characterize as persistence," said Craig Whittom,

(See **WATERFRONT**, A2)

# Waterfront

(From A1)

Vallejo's community development director who participated in the 20-plus meetings.

The developer and coalition signed the agreement last week and now the Vallejo City Council must consider it Tuesday night. City staff has recommended approval, Whittom said.

"The waterfront and downtown are important assets of the city ... This

will be a significant improvement to the waterfront which will benefit the entire community," Whittom said.

The project, involving nearly 1,100 new residential units and 562,000 square feet of retail space, could move dirt by late 2007-2008, Whittom said, pending council approval.

Councilmember Stephanie Gomes, a founding member of the coalition who later resigned after winning election to the council, said she hadn't seen the settlement details, but trusted the

coalition's judgment.

"I have to see that enough compromises were made by the developer for issues that were really important, such as Parcel A and the architectural style," Gomes said. "I'll make sure that's done and then I'll approve it, but I trust the coalition."

"The Waterfront Coalition has always been about getting the best development for the waterfront as possible. Contrary to what the opponents have said, it's not about stopping development," she said.

Developer Joe Callahan did not return a late call Wednesday.

Although the negotiations were fruitful, they also were costly, Brown said.

"We've met a lot,"

Brown said. "It's been very expensive. It was a pretty rigorous process."

The coalition sued last December in Solano County Superior Court, weeks after the city council approved the EIR, following several last-minute concessions by the developer. City officials have tried to resurrect the waterfront for more than three decades.

In addition to the Callahan DeSilva plan potentially moving forward, the linchpin of the project — the Vallejo Station parking garage — also can now continue.

The lawsuit was a major "hurdle" for the garage, which would open up acres of asphalt parking lots along Mare Island Way to development, Whittom said. City officials can now move forward with design phases and secure final funding for that project, he said.

E-mail Matthias Gafni at [mgafni@thnewsnet.com](mailto:mgafni@thnewsnet.com) or call 553-6825.



## Happy Birthday Patty!

Love,  
your Mom,  
Tom, Kari,  
Mike & Greg

HARLEY-DAVIDSON  
OF VALLEJO



BUELL

GUITAR LESSONS