

James E. Reed - Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

Medal of Honor recipient William Harvey Carney will be memorialized in the Black History Month exhibit at the USS Hornet Museum for his bravery during the Civil War.

Museum Hosts Black History Month Exhibit

Sun Staff Reports

The USS Hornet Museum is partnering with the Walking Ghosts of Black History to present a special exhibit for Black History Month.

The African American Medal of Honor Winners, Significant Military Achievements and Members of NASA exhibit will begin Friday, Feb. 4 and be displayed throughout February. The three-part exhibit will display photos, biographies, stories and more of the achievements by African American military and NASA members.

According to the U.S. Army website, army.mil, of the 3,498 service members who have received the Medal of Honor throughout U.S. history, only 88 have been African American. The first African American to receive the award was Army Sgt. William H. Carney. He earned

the honor for protecting the American flag during the Civil War. On July 18, 1863, the soldiers of Carney's regiment led the charge on Fort Wagner. During the battle, the unit's color guard was shot. Carney, who was just a few feet away, saw the dying man stumble, and he scrambled to catch the falling flag. Despite suffering several serious gunshot wounds himself, Carney kept the symbol of the Union held high as he crawled up the hill to the walls of Fort Wagner.

Carney will be one of many heroes memorialized in the exhibit.

Supporters and sponsors of the event include Col. Conway B. Jones Jr. (RET.) United States Air Force; members of

the USS Hornet Museum; members of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment Co. 1, Civil War, Charleston, SC; and Leon Watkins, Larry Thompson, and members of The Walking Ghosts of Black History.

The 54th Massachusetts Regiment Co. 1, Civil War, Charleston, SC is a group dedicated to preserving the history of the 54th Massachusetts

"The Walking Ghosts of Black History is a historical and educational organization, exploring the history of African American men and women's engagement in the United States Military."

Volunteer Regiment and the United States Colored Troops Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. According to History.com, its members became known for their bravery and fierce fighting against Confederate forces. They were the second all-Black Union regiment to fight in the war, after the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The Walking Ghosts of Black History is a historical and educational organization, exploring the history of African American men and women's engagement in the United States Military. They promote educational programs and community outreach focused on the preservation of African American military history and culture.

The USS Hornet Museum is open Friday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is located at 707 West Hornet Ave.

For more information about the event or the USS Hornet Museum, contact Russell More at 510-599-4272. For more information about the Walking Ghosts of Black History, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bp56ec4s>.

School Board Finalizes Budget in Bond Measure

Karin Jensen

At its Jan. 25 school board meeting, the Alameda Board of Education finalized its budget for the bond measure it will place on the June 2022 ballot. If passed, the bond will fund Phase II repairs and upgrades to schools based on the Alameda Unified School District's (AUSD) Facilities Master Plan.

Acknowledging significant public feedback received in meetings held on Jan. 12 and 19, the Board revised its initial budget proposal. The proposal now includes:

- Funds for the renovation of Emma Hood Pool at Alameda High School (AHS)
- Improvements to Kofman Auditorium and the Encinal High School (EHS) theater
- Improvements to Alameda and Encinal high schools' track and field facilities

To fund these requested projects, the Board scratched its initial proposal to construct a new joint-use athletic facility at the old Lum Elementary and Wood Middle School fields.

Background

The Facilities Master Plan, created in 2014, identified \$690 million (present value) worth of projects needed to repair, modernize and renovate AUSD facilities. That year, Alameda voters approved a facilities bond that authorized \$179.5 million to complete the first phase of repairs and modernization. Sample projects included updating security, plumbing and heating/cooling systems and building new classrooms.

Phase II Projects

Projects for Phase II total approximately \$324 million and include:

- Otis Elementary: New building, demolition of the old building, interim housing, \$62,217,430
- Wood Middle School: New gym, classroom construction and renovations, and other improvements, \$62,217,430
- Lincoln Middle School: New gym, classroom renovations, and other improvements, \$52,123,834
- EHS: New gym, locker room reconfiguration, and other improvements, \$44,849,410
- Encinal and Alameda high school athletic facilities, \$42,864,800
- AHS: Renovation of the west wing and technical arts buildings and other improvements, \$39,193,481
- Emma Hood Swimming Pool renovation, \$7.5 million
- Kofman Auditorium Improvements, \$3 million
- Encinal Theater Improvements, \$3 million

The athletic facilities project includes an all-weather track and synthetic soccer/football field with bleachers at EHS and improvements to the softball field and a soccer/football field with bleachers at AHS.

Emma Hood Pool

The Board did not initially include the Emma Hood Pool renovation in its proposed budget. However, the county has scheduled the pool to close at the end of May due to mechanical systems inadequacies. As a result, significant public comments asked that the bond budget include funds to renovate the pool, citing it as invaluable to the school and community.

The total cost to renovate the



ZFA Structural Engineers

Renovation of the west wing and technical arts buildings at Alameda High School are some of the upgrades included in the Phase II plan that will be performed if the Alameda Board of Education's bond measure is passed.

facility would be \$15 million. In its revised bond budget, the Board has budgeted half that amount with the expectation of funding the rest through a public or private partnership or possibly through state grants.

Shariq Khan, the AUSD Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, said that the district hopes to secure a public or private partnership in the next few months. If they do, the district may get permission from the county health department to keep the pool open while the district goes through planning and approval of renovation plans.

If unable to secure a partnership, the district will still set aside the \$7.5 million. If the state provides sufficient matching funds, the district will again bring the project before the Board for consideration.

Kofman Auditorium and the Arts

Improvements at Kofman Auditorium would include sound and stage lighting improvements and repair of dressing rooms. Kofman Auditorium, a historic 1,500-seat theater that has been home to the community's performing arts groups, has been closed to the public since 2016. Its rigging removed, and its basement dressing rooms sealed due to safety concerns.

What's Next

On Feb. 8, the Board will draft ballot language and the tax rate statement. Links to the agenda and to attend by Zoom are here: www.alamedaunified.org/agenda minutes. To learn more about the proposed Phase II repairs and upgrades, go here: www.alamedaunified.org/phaseiirepair-andupgrades.

Restaurant Week Rescheduled for March

Sun Staff Reports

The Fifth Alameda Restaurant Week has been rescheduled for March 25 through April 3.

The event was supposed to kick off on Friday, Jan. 14 and run until Sunday, Jan. 23. However, the postponement was due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and the resulting staffing shortages for many dining establishments. When surveyed, 70% of participating establishments requested that Restaurant Week be rescheduled. The new dates are in alignment with Oakland and Berkeley Restaurant Weeks, which have also been postponed.

More than 40 local restaurants, bars, breweries and wineries will participate in the event. Establishments like Asena Restaurant, Café Jolie, Toomie Thai and more will participate in the 10-day event celebrating the culinary delights our Island City offers.



There will also be a raffle with more than \$1,000 in gift certificate prizes. Dine-in, pick-up, or get delivery during the 10-day event and upload a pic of your receipt to the raffle website to enter and win. Each submission equals one raffle entry.

To view the raffle website, alamedarestaurantweek.com/2021/11/30/raffle-2022. For more information on the raffle, contact Annie Cox with acox@alamedaca.gov or 510-747-6893.

Mayor's Message on Thefts and Public Safety

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Lately I've heard from many residents who are concerned with increased traffic violence and crime in Alameda. The City Council shares these concerns. Here's what's happening and how the city is responding.

We're driving too fast, sometimes when impaired or distracted. Whether pandemic-related, the result of fewer police officers on the street, or both, the con-

sequences of unsafe driving can be deadly. In 2021, four people were struck and killed by drivers on Alameda streets. On the last night of 2021, a drunk driver ran into several (fortunately unoccupied) parked cars on Shore Line Drive. Unfortunately, this trend has continued into the new year. January saw four separate incidents where pedestrians or bicyclists crossing the street in crosswalks were struck by

cars. Two collisions involved schoolchildren on their way to school. Also last month, a driver ran a red light on Park Street and struck a motorist, sending her to the hospital and causing the Park Street Bridge to be closed temporarily. Another reckless driver struck a (luckily empty) parklet on Park Street.

Alameda Police Chief Nishant Joshi reports that

Mayor: Page 10

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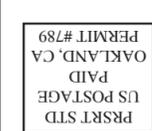
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Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:12	17:34
Feb. 4	7:11	17:35
Feb. 5	7:10	17:36
Feb. 6	7:09	17:37
Feb. 7	7:08	17:38
Feb. 8	7:07	17:40
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