

AHS Alum Starring in Major Studio Release

Ekene Ikeme

A former Alameda High School basketball standout is starring as the lead character in the recently released major studio motion picture. Taylor Takahashi plays the title character in the Focus Features film *Boogie*, which was released on March 5. Takahashi attended Alameda High School (AHS) from 2006 to 2010.

Takahashi, 28, stars as Alfred "Boogie" Chin, a Chinese-American high school basketball phenom living in Queens, N.Y. (Takahashi is Japanese American). Chin dreams of one day playing in the NBA. He faces pressure from his immigrant parents to earn a scholarship to an elite college, while also facing pressure from on-court rivals and the stigma of playing a sport with few successful Asian-American. The film also explores Asian culture and customs.

This is Takahashi's first acting role. In an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, the Alameda native said he never thought his career path would lead him toward acting. Takahashi moved to Orange County from Alameda about five years ago. While playing a pickup basketball game he met "Boogie" director Eddie Huang.

Huang, a world-renowned chef, and Takahashi started a friendship over their love of basketball and food. Takahashi had been working part time as a yakitori chef at a

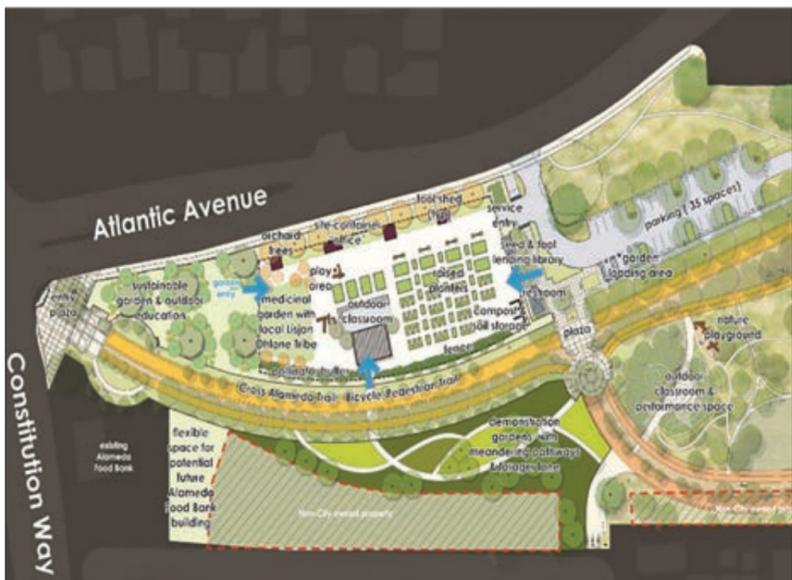
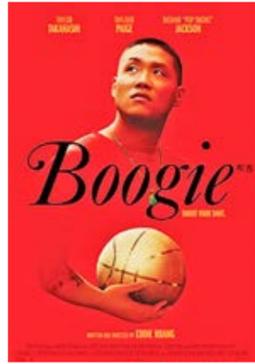
Japanese restaurant. Huang, who had his own food show on the Vice television network, Huang's World, hired Takahashi as his personal assistant.

Huang was set to film his directorial debut when he decided to recast the lead character a few weeks before filming was to begin, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. About three weeks before production was to begin, Huang decided to cast Takahashi as Boogie. Takahashi was initially hired to be a basketball

trainer for the original actor. Production for the film began in the fall of 2019. The film also stars Taylour Paige as Eleanor, Chin's love interest, and Pop Smoke, who died in February of last year, as Monk, Chin's basketball rival.

Takahashi was a prominent basketball player for the Hornets before graduating in 2010. Takahashi, at just 5' 9", is still the Hornets' all-time leading scorer. He led AHS to a 19-11 overall record and a spot in the North Coast Section Div. II men's tournament as a senior. They lost to tournament champion Redwood High of Larkspur, 55-45, in the semi-final round.

Alameda residents will not be able to watch the film at Alameda Theatre & Cineplex because the business is still closed due to COVID-19 protocols. However, select theaters in San Jose, San Francisco, Daly City and Milpitas are open and showcasing the film, according to Fandango.



City of Alameda

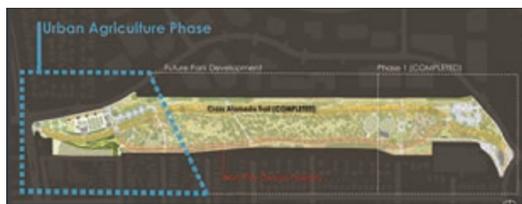
This evening, the city's Park and Recreation Commission will consider plans for developing the western end of the Jean Sweeney Park and Open Space (above and below for reference. This portion of the park would be given over to agriculture, if all goes according to plan.

Urban Agriculture on Agenda

Dennis Evanosky

This evening, March 11, the Park and Recreation Commission plans to discuss the urban agriculture phase of the development of Jean Sweeney Park.

This stage includes a community garden with an outdoor classroom, as well as compost bins, fruit trees and a playground. This project on the west end of the park will feature demonstration gardens that model drought-tolerant landscapes, an outdoor classroom and an urban orchard.



A forager's lane will provide fruit for the public to pick. A parking lot, a restroom and small picnic areas will also complement this project. This area of the park will also have a tool-and-seed lending library with assistance from the Alameda Free

Library. The community garden would serve Alameda residents and address food insecurity with help from the Alameda Food Bank, local faith organizations and Alameda Backyard Growers.

Council Ponders Police Reform

Ekene Ikeme

The City Council will hear the final report from the community-led Committee on Police Reform and Racial Equity at its Tuesday, March 16, meeting. The report will recommend changes to policing and methods to address systemic racism in Alameda.

The four-member committee, consisting of Alameda residents, were asked to focus on five sections for change: unbundling services currently delivered by the police department; review of laws that criminalize survival; review of police department policies and practices; systemic and community racism/anti-racism; and police department accountability and oversight.

Each section has about five to seven recommendations in the report. Recommendations ranged from adding an outside review board to oversee police procedures to requiring Alameda Police Department (APD) officers conduct

mental health and deescalation training on an annual or semi-annual basis. The committee also recommends the city continue its plan to hire the number of APD officers authorized in the city budget (88).

Not all recommendations were directed squarely at APD. The committee recommended city staff create a "Did You Know" social media campaign to direct residents away from emergency police reporting.

In addition, under the recommendations on systemic and community racism section, the committee proposes the City offer anti-racism training for businesses, which would be led by Black people and other people of color.

The four-member steering committee consists of Alameda residents Christine Chilcott, Al Mance, Cheryl Taylor, and Jolene Wright. They were helped with formulating these recommendations by 60 subcommittee members. Each subcommittee member, who were

appointed by the four-person committee, were assigned to examine one of the five sections. They worked closely with the steering committee to create the recommendations for each section.

The steering committee also made an "overarching recommendation" without the input of the subcommittee. The committee recommended the city create and staff a new city department focused on police accountability and racial equity. In its report, the committee said the leader of this new department would report directly to City Manager Eric Levitt and work collaboratively with interim APD Chief Randy Fenn.

APD's initial priorities would be to determine the feasibility of several of the key recommendations such as developing a protocol that will require city leaders to be notified in high profile police interactions. The Council does not have to approve each recommendation. The Council created the steering committee after the much-publicized police interaction with Mali Watkins last May

The Council authorized the committee on June 29, 2020. Levitt appointed the four members to the committee on Aug. 11, 2020. The subcommittee members were appointed the next month. The City released the committee's draft recommendations on Jan. 20. The committee then took part in two public forums and community members also were asked to participate in an online survey. The committee members used the public's input to create the final recommendations.

To read the final report, visit <https://tiny.cc/j8butz>.

County Says COVID Numbers Improving

AUSD begins in-person instruction

Dennis Evanosky

Alameda County remains in the most restrictive Purple Tier of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

If case numbers and test-positivity rate — the number of COVID-19 tests that come out positive divided by the number of tests done — continue to remain steady or improve, the county reported that it could move into the Red Tier as early as next Sunday, March 14.

This would allow activities — including indoor dining, movies, gyms and fitness centers, retail stores and museums — to open in a limited capacity.

The county's declining cases have started to plateau. Health officials continue to encourage residents to continue to stay at least 6 feet apart from each other and to avoid gatherings, even after they have been vaccinated.

While trends are looking favorable, COVID-19 recovery is far from over. The virus is still widespread, with several cases of the United Kingdom and South African variants detected in Alameda County.

On March 10, 2020, Alamedans learned that one

The city still requires mask wearing and keeping to the 6-foot social distancing protocol.

of its firefighters tested positive for COVID-19 ("Alameda Firefighter Tests Positive for COVID-19," March 11, 2020). Three days shy of a year later by March 7, 2021, a total of 2,227 COVID-19 cases and 87 deaths have afflicted the City of Alameda.

Alameda County has suffered with 81,255 cases and 1,289 deaths. Statewide, California is approaching 3.5 million cases and 54,124 deaths.

The United States has seen almost 29 million cases and 524,997 deaths. Worldwide, there have been more than 116 million cases and more than 2.5 million deaths.

The Alameda Unified School District has announced that in-person instruction will begin next Monday, March 15.

The city still requires that anyone out of doors wear a mask and keep to the 6-foot social distancing protocol.

Apply for Scholarships with Kiwanis Now

Sun Staff Reports

The Kiwanis Club of Alameda's Kiwanis Foundation is currently accepting applications for its 2021 scholarships.

The foundation encourages graduating seniors from Alameda's high schools to apply. Application forms are available this month at school sites and at www.alameda-kiwanis.org.

The awards are open to Alameda residents as well as non-

residents, provided the applicant graduates from an Alameda school and meets the eligibility criteria. Community college-bound seniors are also urged to apply.

Applications and documents must be completed and submitted, postmarked no later than Friday, April 30. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Mail applications to: Alameda Kiwanis Foundation, PO Box 1217, Alameda CA 94501.



Roller Skates Have Made a Comeback

Photo and story by Maurice Ramirez

Roller skating clubs like Oakland-based East Baybes Skate (Instagram: @eastbaybesskate) meet up to skate to music in the newly finished and unused Seaplane Lagoon Ferry Terminal parking lot at Alameda Point. The pandemic has created a boom in individual outdoor sports like roller skating, as well as group enthusiasts like this one. The skates' popularity peaked in the roller disco era of the 1960s and '70s.

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Daylight Saving Time Starts
Turn Your Clocks Forward One Hour
2am Sunday Morning & Check Your Smoke Detector Batteries!