

Alameda Sun

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Alamedans, Bay Area Residents Enjoy Island Parade After COVID Pause



Ekene Ikeme

Spectators gathered at the beginning of the parade route to watch as the floats rolled by.



Eric J. Kos

Alameda residents were delighted to have the Fourth of July Parade back after a two-year wait.

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda's Fourth of July Parade was brought back to the Island City after a two-year pause due to COVID-19. More than 170 floats took part in the event. Every facet of the city was represented at the parade. Along with organizations like Alameda Food Bank and Veterans Groups of Alameda, public officials, sponsors, and herds of horses and equestrians — and the people shoveling up after them — dance troupes, marching bands, antique cars and more made an appearance.

Some organizations chose to make political statements with their float entries. One organization used their platform to oppose the Supreme Court's recent decision to eliminate people's Federal right to an abortion. Other organizations made other political statements at the event.

Several City of Alameda and Alameda County political figures opened the parade. Alameda Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft chose an environmentally friendly approach to the parade by riding an electric bicycle through the parade route. Councilmembers

Tony Daysog and Trish Herrera Spencer rode by in sleek convertibles. California Attorney General Rob Bonta and his California state assemblymember wife Mia Bonta were at the beginning of the parade succession line. Then Alameda County Board of Supervisor hopefuls Lena Tam and Rebecca Kaplan made their way through the parade. Both candidates are headed for

"Alameda's Fourth of July Parade is the longest in the nation with a route that spans 3.3 miles. It's estimated that more than 2,500 people participated in the parade."

a runoff for the district 3 seat in November. U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee was also present at the parade. She was met with cheers from onlookers as she drove by in a fancy ride.

Alameda's Fourth of July Parade is the longest in the nation with a route that spans 3.3 miles. It's estimated that more than 2,500 people participated in the parade and there were more than 60,000 spectators throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

The parade route began at the intersection of Park Street and Santa Clara Avenue and ended at the intersection of Webster Street and Lincoln Avenue.

To reach Sun staff, contact editor@alamedasun.com.



Eric J. Kos

Alameda Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft chose to go through the parade route on an electric bicycle.



Ekene Ikeme

Members of Alameda Arts blew bubbles to the crowd as they drove by



Courtesy of Babyboychi's Instagram page

Pierce, seven, rode with the Cub Scouts as part of the Elk's Lodge entry (#51).

Father and Son Convicted of Defrauding Government Assistance Program

Sun Staff Reports

On Wednesday, June 29, a federal jury convicted an Alameda father and son on four counts of fraud, according to the United States Attorney Stephanie M. Hinds and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) official Dustin Cladis.

Ali Mugalli Hassan, 32, and father Mugalli Ahmed Hassan, 50, were convicted in a Northern District of California court after a one-week jury trial before United States Chief District Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton in Oakland. According to a U.S. Attorney's Office press release, the father and son were each convicted of conspiracy to defraud the United States; government benefits fraud greater than \$5,000; conspiracy to commit wire fraud; and wire fraud. They were charged on March 14, 2019, along with Ali's uncle, Ahmed Hassan Dharahan, 41, of Oakland.

The crimes took place at Ali's

convenience store on International Boulevard in Oakland. Ali hired family members including his father and uncle at his store. The convenience store was an authorized vendor for the USDA's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. Program recipients receive their benefits via an electronic benefits transaction (EBT) card, which operates much like a debit card but limits purchases to program-eligible items. SNAP helps economically disadvantaged people pay for essential food items for themselves and their families.

According to the press release, the store conducted a high-volume of SNAP transactions, including redeeming over \$2.3 million in SNAP benefits between August 2014 and November 2017. Trial evidence showed the defendants charged purchases on customers' EBT cards, when in reality the customers received few or no SNAP-

eligible products. The defendants kept half the value of the fraudulent transactions and returned the remainder in cash to the customers. The defendants then kept customers' EBT cards and used the federal benefits assigned to those cards at other stores to purchase items to sell at their own convenience store.

Surveillance footage showed workers at the store committing more than 100 fraudulent transactions, including 10 with undercover agents, according to the press release.

Ali and Mugalli will be sentenced on Dec. 8. The pair face a maximum of 20 years in prison. Both defendants remain out of custody pending sentencing. Prior to the trial, Mugalli pleaded guilty to nine separate counts of wire fraud.

Ahmed Hassan Dharahan's case is still pending. A trial date has not yet been set in his case.

Alameda County Grand Jury Report Released

Sun Staff Reports

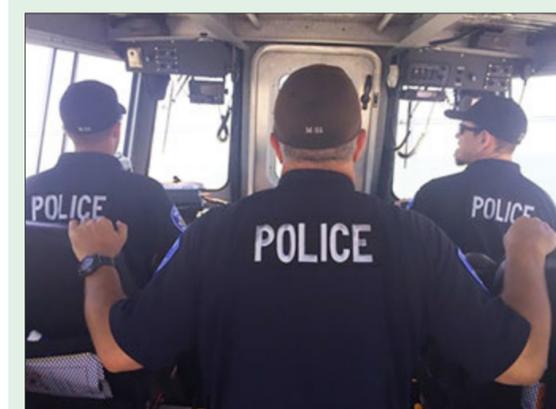
The Alameda County Grand Jury 2021-2022 report was released Thursday, June 30. Unlike in the past, this year's report does not involve a matter pertaining to the City of Alameda directly. However, there are broader issues addressed that might be of interest to Alameda residents. Two Alameda residents were selected to the Alameda County Grand Jury.

This year's report studied topic such as Alameda County's mental health system, election integrity, lack of independent financial oversight for BART, and the challenges of addressing student homelessness.

In all, the Alameda County Grand Jury report examined 11 topics:

1. Alameda County Mental Health System Too Complex to Navigate
2. Oakland Fails to Enforce Financial Disclosure Rules to Protect the Public
3. Alameda County Voters Can Count on Election Integrity
4. Probate Conservatorship Cries Out for Reform
5. Wide-Ranging Safety and Health Care Issues at Santa Rita Jail
6. Camp Wilmont Sweeney Inspection
7. Fremont Police Department Detention Facility Inspection
8. BART is on the Wrong Track with Independent Oversight
9. Lack of Fire Inspections in Oakland Creates Unnecessary Risks
10. Management Failures at Planning and Building Department Cost Oakland Millions
11. Homeless Students Need More Help.

To read the full report, visit <http://grandjury.acgov.org/reports>. page.



Courtesy City of Alameda

Angler Youth Program

Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda Police Department (APD) is holding several days of fishing for children six to 15 years old. APD's Casting with Cops events will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays between July 19 to July 28, and on Monday, August 1 and Wednesday, August 3.

The event is designed to connect officers and Alameda youth through educational fishing expeditions. Officers will work side-by-side with kids helping them bait, cast, hook, and release fish. During each trip, members of APD and California Department of Fish and Wildlife will teach kids about fishing conservation, water pollution, and water safety around our island.

Weather permitting, APD has six trips planned. All participants will be provided a life jacket and fishing equipment. Each event will begin at 8 a.m. Apply by visiting, www.alameda.gov/Shortcut-Content/News-Media/Casting-With-Cops.

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INSIDE

HOMETOWN NEWS
Fire Wire Page 2
Police Blotter Page 7
All the doings of Island safety & law personnel

PLANT BASED DIET
Benefits Page 2
The do's, don'ts, hows and whys of going vegan.

HOMETOWN NEWS
Return of the 5k Page 3
After 2 years our coveted Fourth of July race is back.

FUN IN THE SUN
Puzzles Page 10
Sharpen your pencil and your wits with puzzles and fun.

CONTENTS

- HOMETOWN NEWS... 3
- OPINION... 4
- CLASSIFIED... 5
- POLICE BLOTTER... 7
- SPORTS... 9
- FUN IN THE SUN... 10

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	5:54	20:34
July 8	5:54	20:34
July 9	5:55	20:33
July 10	5:56	20:33
July 11	5:56	20:33
July 12	5:57	20:32
July 13	5:58	20:32

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