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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:25	5:07
Jan. 10	7:25	5:08
Jan. 11	7:24	5:09
Jan. 12	7:24	5:10
Jan. 13	7:24	5:11
Jan. 14	7:24	5:12
Jan. 15	7:24	5:13

New Laws for 2020

Ekene Ikeme

More than two dozen new laws in California went into effect as the calendar changed to 2020. The new laws include changes in employment practices, housing, criminal justice and more.

California Senate Bill (SB) 3 increases the minimum wage from \$11 to \$12 an hour for businesses with fewer than 26 employees and from \$12 to \$13 for businesses with more than 26 employees. Several cities have their own employee minimum wage mandates, including Alameda, which currently has minimum wage set at \$13.50. Alameda's minimum wage will increase to \$15 on July 1.

AB 5 will reclassify some independent contractors as employees for companies where workers' jobs is part of a company's core business. This bill will effect Uber and Lyft drivers, freelance journalists and more. Under the bill employees would then receive typical employee rights such as minimum wage, paid sick days and health insurance benefits. Uber has already filed a suit to stop the bill.

California Assembly Bill (AB) 9 allows employees to file an employee discrimination, harassment or retaliation claim with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing up to three years after the incident. Previously, employees had just a year to file a complaint.

SB 188 calls for the end of hairstyle discrimination. The law protects employees from racial discrimination because of hairstyles, such as afros, braids, twists and locks.

SB 133 indicates the end of exotic animals like elephants in circus acts. It only allows dogs, cats and domesticated horses to

be part of circus performances. The bill was signed in 2016 after animal activists demanded the end of SeaWorld's Orca shows and killer whale breeding.

Under AB 32, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation would be prohibited from entering into or renewing a contract with a private, for-profit prison to incarcerate state prison inmates. The bill also states that no inmate shall be imprisoned in a private, for-profit prison facility after Jan. 1, 2028.

AB 218 extends the statute of limitations to file a civil lawsuit on childhood sex assaults. The new law allows victims until the age of 40, or five years from discovery of the abuse, to file a civil lawsuit. The previous limit had been 26, or within three years from discovery of the abuse. The bill will also suspend the current statute of limitations of three years allowing victims of all ages to file lawsuits.

SB 273 will extend the statute of limitations to report a domestic violence assault from one year to three years. The extension is for assaults that took place after Jan. 1 and assaults that occurred within the last three years.

Other new laws taking affect include prohibiting school suspensions for simple student defiance, extending paid leave for new parents and prohibiting property owners from stopping the display of religious items on a door or door frame.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at eikeme@alamedasun.com.

Editor's note: For a "Tongue in Cheek" take on new laws affecting California, turn to page 6.



Dennis Evanosky

This photo shows the evolution of rental housing from 1908 to 1962. The Queen Anne-style home in the center was built in 1892 as a single-family residence and converted to a duplex in 1908. The Park Terrace apartments on the right were built in 1929 in the Mediterranean Revival style. The apartment house on the left rose up in 1962 in the Midcentury Mundane style. In 1973, Alameda voters passed Measure A prohibiting apartment buildings like The Park Terrace and its neighbor that flanks the 1892 home that added a unit to help house refugees following the Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire.

Another History of Measure A (1973)

Rasheed Shabazz

Measure A is an exclusionary zoning charter amendment adopted by the Alameda electorate in 1973 designed to prohibit construction of multifamily housing. Proponents emerged in opposition to the proposed development of Harbor Bay Isle by Utah Construction and Doric Development and the pro-growth City Council incumbents. Although purported to "protect the environment," an examination of the stated positions of the original "framers" and opponents, and the multiple legal challenges can help Alamedans understand how Measure A prolonged racial and economic inequalities.

While the 1960s and 1970s brought an increased national consciousness of the environment and racism, Alameda experienced increased racial residential segregation and exclusion. The Island's electorate supported Proposition 14, a statewide initiative overturning fair housing legislation, and the Alameda Housing Authority displaced thousands of Black tenants.

Environmentalism included the Save the Bay movement, the first Earth Day in 1970 and the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency. In this era, some suburban residents went to the ballot box to implement growth controls. This included Alameda, which had a 90 percent White population in 1970.

"By creating an artificial scarcity, it would increase the cost of housing and deny people of modest income the opportunity to live or to remain in Alameda."

— Mayor Terry LaCroix

Proponents framed Measure A as necessary for the "environment." Inez Capellas wrote that the charter amendment would prevent private property confiscation, prevent tax increases to pay for services and "preserve and protect the very things that make this city a desirable place in which to live."

Measure A's opponents were primarily connected to what some Alamedans for a Better Community called Alameda's "power structure," a network of pro-development attorneys, financiers and officials. Mayor Terry LaCroix wrote the ballot argument against Measure A and argued it would stop growth, prohibit construction and raise taxes. "By creating an artificial scarcity, it would increase the cost of housing and deny people of modest income the opportunity to live or to remain in Alameda," LaCroix wrote.

Affordable housing advocates also expressed concerns about Measure A. HOPE (Housing Opportunities Provided Equally) did not support the ban on multiples, "as there is no time-limit specified, and as multiples are the acknowledged way providing more low- and moderate-priced housing units," according to its 1973 newsletter. The Alameda NAACP's branch president John Ware and former Housing Authority Commissioner Al DeWitt both opposed Measure A, each referenced racial prejudice or fair housing in other endorsements.

On three occasions, however, housing advocates fought the city through legal action to force Alameda to agree to provide housing for low-income households. In 1980, HOPE and three low-income residents sued Alameda. According to the lawsuit, "The suit challenges actions of the city alleged to frustrate the development of low-income housing in Alameda and to perpetuate the non-Black character of Alameda." That case was dismissed without prejudice.

In 1989, two Black tenants living in the Buena Vista Apartments sued the City of Alameda for discriminatory housing policies. An Alameda County judge preliminarily ruled that the city's housing policies discriminated against the poor. Before judgment could be

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Courtesy photo

Alameda Bagpiper Andy MacKay raised thousands to fight cancer on New Year's Eve. Locals can still help.

Piper Bags Funds to Fight Cancer for Sixth Year Running

Sun Staff Reports

For the sixth year in a row, the Alameda Pipe-athon hit the bars of the Island City on New Year's Eve (Hogmanay in Scotland). The Pipe-athon features Scottish ex-pat and Alameda resident Andy MacKay playing "Auld Lang Syne" on the bagpipes in 20 bars and restaurants on the Island while simultaneously raising funds for the American Cancer Society (ACS).

MacKay is accompanied by Team Pipe-athon, which includes Jake and Elwood Blues and Sister Mary Stigmata (of the 1980 comedy film *The Blues Brothers*) who "encourage" Alamedans to donate to ACS. On the way, the piper also played for officers at the Alameda Police Department in appreciation of their service.

"The Alameda Pipe-athon has

become a great way to spread some traditional Scottish New Year cheer, and raise some much needed funds to combat cancer," MacKay said. "This year in particular I'm playing for my brother-in-law, Sylvester, who is bravely battling prostate cancer in the U.K."

Over the six years, the Pipe-athon has raised almost \$25,000 for ACS. So far this year's event has raised nearly \$4,500 of the \$6,000 target, which the team is still hoping to achieve.

"We'd like to thank all the people of Alameda who came out to support us and ACS," said MacKay. "It's always great fun and a unique way to spend New Year's Eve!"

Readers can still help the Pipe-athon Team achieve their target with online donations at www.hogmabay.org.

Apply Now for Small Grants

Sun Staff Reports

Applications are now being accepted for the Public Art Small Grants Pilot Program. This new funding opportunity provides grants for cultural events or physical art installations in Alameda. There are two grant sizes available:

- Micro grants, ranging from \$250 to \$500
- Small grants, ranging from \$500 to \$2,000

In an effort to seed small start-up events and installations, applicants for micro grants are particularly encouraged to apply. All events and installations must be located in the City of Alameda, in an accessible location, and free to the public.

Applications will be accepted until Saturday, Feb. 29. Awards will be announced by Thursday, April 30, and funds will be eligible for use for one year, beginning Friday, May 1.

A program overview and question-and-answer session will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers (Alameda City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave., third floor).

For more information visit www.alamedaca.gov/departments/community-development-old/public-art-program/small-grants-public-art-pilot-program or call Lois Butler, economic development manager, at 747-6894.



Joe Woodard

Jim Sweeney, front row, fifth from right, stands among friends and well-wishers who gathered last Saturday to help him celebrate his 90th birthday.

Local Icon Honored

Community gathers to fete Jim Sweeney as he turns 90

Dennis Evanosky

Friends and family gathered at First Congregational Church on Sunday to help Jim Sweeney celebrate his 90th birthday. Jim and his wife Jean moved to Alameda in 1972. Together they enabled the City of Alameda to obtain the 40-acre Beltline Railroad property at its original 1925 purchase price, a small fraction of its current value. They also played important roles in rezoning the 22-acre railyard to open space. The city then devel-

oped the open space as a park and named it in Jean's honor.

Jim served in the U.S. Navy as a Judge Advocate. Before settling in Alameda the Sweeney family lived in New York, Rhode Island and Washington. Jean died in 2011, leaving Jean Sweeney Park as her legacy.

Jim has served his city well: as a member of Kiwanis, the Alameda Citizens Task Force and Bike Walk Alameda. He sat on the board of directors of the Alameda Navy League and served as commander

and board member of the American Legion Post 647. And that's not all: he served on the Base Reuse Advisory Group Housing Committee, the Economic Development Strategic Plan Committee and the Webster Streetscape Committee.

The City of Alameda honored Jim in 2016, naming him the Fourth of July parade's Grand Marshal. He rode shotgun atop the Wells Fargo stagecoach. Daughters Kathleen and Christine rode with him inside the coach.