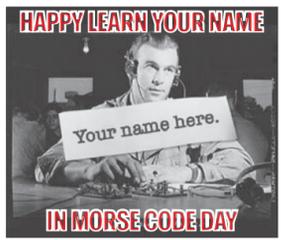


Alameda Sun

Locally Owned, Community Oriented



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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:24	17:09
Jan. 12	07:24	17:10
Jan. 13	07:24	17:11
Jan. 14	07:24	17:12
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Transportation Choices To Go Before Council

Sun Staff Reports

City Council will vote whether to adopt the draft Transportation Choices Plan at its next council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The Transportation Choices Plan provides an outline for how the city will improve transportation infrastructure and services in Alameda over the next 15 years to achieve two main goals.

First, the city wants to decrease single-occupant vehicle trips across the estuary from an estimated 14,400 in morning peak hours by 2030 to 11,900. Second, the city wants to increase the share of walking, bicycling, bus and carpool trips within Alameda. The plan's projects and programs are expected to increase non-drive alone trips by almost 14 percent from the 2030 baseline, an increase from 24,200 non-drive alone trips to 27,500 non-drive alone trips throughout a typical weekday.

On Nov. 7, 2017, the City Council reviewed the Draft Transportation Choices Plan after receiving input from the Planning Board on Sept. 25, the Transportation Commission on Sept. 27 and two years of community engagement and review. The City Council directed staff to return to a subsequent Council meeting for final approval of the draft plan with feedback from the three groups implemented into the new plan.

The program will include an Alameda shuttle exploration project,

Harbor Bay and Main Street ferry terminal access and parking improvements, a transportation awareness campaign, bicycle share options and more within the first three years of implementation. These projects were all given high priority.

The three- to eight-year stage of the program will include city-wide "safe routes to school" audits and improvements, a crosstown express bus service, a possible new Seaplane Lagoon ferry terminal service and more.

Some items were left out of the new transportation choices plan after review. The original plan included an Island Drive bus lane project. However, several Bay Farm Island homeowners associations opposed the project and it was cut from the revised plan.

The total estimated cost for the Transportation Choices Plan is \$395,000. The funding is coming from the General Fund for \$195,000, Measure B for \$100,000 and the Base Reuse Department for \$100,000. To implement the more than 30 projects in the plan, partially funding would come from grants and funds in the city's two-year budget and the Capital Improvement Program totaling \$61 million. Staff will also look to receive additional funds from local agencies such as AC Transit, Water Emergency Transportation Authority, Caltrans and the Alameda Transportation Management Association.

Paying Tribute to Two Great Alamedans

Dennis Evanosky

What do *Playboy* magazine founder Hugh Hefner, mob enforcer Tony "The Ant" Spilotro and Alameda's "Energizer Bunny" Jim Franz have in common? All three attended Steinmetz High School on the Northwest Side of Chicago.

While attending Steinmetz, Franz played in the concert band. In his senior year, he performed in jam sessions with many jazz greats. He produced his first concert at The Blue Note, one of Chicago's premiere jazz clubs. The venue showcased nationally renowned musicians, including Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman.

Franz graduated from Steinmetz in 1960 and formed a band called "The Kasuals." Four years later he joined Dick Clark Productions as musical director for the Dick Clark Caravan of Stars. From 1966 to 1976, Franz ("Jimmy" to his fans) played with The Mob, a band that did not include Tony "The Ant." Among the band's hit songs was "Disappear." Listen to the song at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=23T89NqSjHs.

As time went by, Franz diversified. He managed the Flying Karamazov Brothers. Then he ran a butcher shop and delicatessen in Berkeley. His next gig, delivering groceries, brought him in contact with the Alameda Food Bank, where he volunteered to serve on the board of directors. Franz moved to Alameda in 1981, where he got a job with the Red Cross and volunteered again, this time for a seat on Alameda's Social Service Human Relations Board. His involvement in community affairs so impressed his fellow Island City dwellers that they named him "Man of the Year" and "Humanitarian of the Year."

In 2011 — the same year Franz retired from the Red Cross and began working for the city — The Mob reunited to celebrate their induction into the South Dakota Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. At the ceremony, fans recalled how The Mob came to Sioux Falls. Jimmy and his fellow musicians always packed the Midwest's premier nightclub The Mocamba. In 2014, Franz and Hefner were inducted into Steinmetz High School's Hall of Fame. Tony "The Ant" didn't make the grade.

Franz retired last evening. He was serving as the city's community development coordinator. The city gave him a royal send off. "I'm sure we haven't seen the last of him," a high-ranking city official told the *Alameda Sun* on condition of complete anonymity.

Jane Peal

If you're a long-time Alamedan, you know him. He might have been your teacher, therapist or coach. Perhaps you recognize him as a two-time City Council candidate, a competitive master swimmer or abstract painter. If you're newer to the island (and still brave driving down Park Street on a weekend day), you know him as the imposing white-haired figure with the booming voice, holding a Black Lives Matter placard at the corner of Santa Clara every Saturday at noon.

Ashley Jones' activism began more than five decades ago, and his rebellion even earlier. At the age of five he'd already developed an instinctual distrust of authority, and "since then any authority that has not measured up, I've been rebellious against."

An experience that served to solidify this distrust and disgust occurred when Jones was in the fifth grade. Four of his classmates were suddenly removed from class and disappeared without explanation. The students were of Japanese descent, and later discovered to have been incarcerated at Manzanar Internment camp with their families. The visceral feeling of not knowing where they went or why this had happened haunts him to this day. As he puts it, "You can't erase hatred."

As Jones tells it, the pivotal point came in 1964. "When I first saw Mario Savio standing on top of a cop car with a megaphone in Berkeley, that was it! It opened me up. I realized I'd been living too comfortably."

That same year Jones joined the NAACP. At that time the residents of the Estuary Housing Projects were being effectively displaced and pushed out of Alameda. On a Sunday afternoon Jones and fellow protestors began a three-day camp-out in Franklin Park to protest. They endured the city turning on sprinklers, racist shouts and threats from neighbors. But an ensuing City Council meeting resulted in a positive outcome, and the protest was considered a victory.

Throughout the years while Jones served in the Navy, protested the Vietnam War and fought for civil rights, his 48-year marriage served as ballast. He and Lynn, a Jungian Psychoanalyst, bought their Alameda home in 1955 and raised four daughters. Jones lives there to this day. Lynn passed in 2003.

There are now six grandchildren and a new great-grandson. Jones says of Lynn, "She shared my beliefs and convictions, but she was the introvert, while I'm an extrovert." Jones moved to the Anderson Valley for a time after Lynn's death. There, he built a studio, got serious about his painting, and enjoyed the quiet lifestyle before returning home to Alameda.

No one could be more rooted in Alameda. Jones taught history at Alameda High School for more than



Photos by Richard Bangert

Some 45 harbor seals rest on the float near Alameda' Breakwater Beach last Thursday. A record 73 seals made the float home on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Seal Numbers Spike

Herring spawn attracts record numbers to Alameda Point

Richard Bangert

Alameda Point's harbor seal population fluctuates between single digits and 50 during most of the year on the specially built harbor seal float. But when the Pacific herring arrive in the winter to lay their eggs, many more seals arrive to feast on them, causing a sudden spike. Last winter, a spike in seal numbers to a record 70 came on Jan. 5, 2017, in the midst of the herring run. This winter, the herring arrived sooner, in December, and so did more harbor seals, causing a spike to a new record of 73 on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

In the brief time span since the new harbor seal float was set in place, local monitors have assumed that it was simply the colder water temperatures that enticed greater numbers of seals to use the float in the winter. But in fact, they discovered that's not the full story.

It turns out that dropping water temperature indeed has an effect, but the effect is on the herring.

The seals were spy-hopping, slapping tails and watching the people on shore intently.

Ideal water temperature for herring spawning is between 50 and 53.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The water temperature at Alameda Point dropped below 54 degrees the afternoon of Dec. 16 and continued dropping another 2.3 degrees, according to data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This brought on the herring run and, in turn, the voracious seals.

"I'm convinced our local herring run began on Dec. 17," said harbor seal monitor Mark Klein. "That's the day I heard sea lions barking while I was at the seals' site." In the following days, the number of seals on the float grew. The numbers peaked at a record 73 on Dec. 24 and 25. Since then, the numbers have returned to normal.

"Herring spawning in a given location lasts only for about a week, and is a once-per-year event," Klein said.

Not far away from Klein on Dec. 17, Leora Feeney was making bird observations for Golden Gate Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count next to the Alameda Point Channel. She, too, witnessed the beginning of herring spawning.

"There is great evidence that the herring are here, with thousands of gulls, cormorants, and I'd say the most marine mammal activity I've ever seen," said Feeney. "I saw 16 seals on the surface of the water at one time. Really amazing."

Feeney said that the seals were spy-hopping, slapping tails and watching the people on shore intently.

"Sea lions were chasing each other and wrapping around each other in what appeared to be courtship or perhaps just happy after a satisfying meal, and some were barking," she said.

While the marine mammals go after the fish, birds go after the eggs in a feeding frenzy repeated around the Bay during spawning events. Many of the eggs never find a home on vegetation and rocks and are left floating about. Others become dislodged by currents.

The number of harbor seals



A seagull carries off vegetation laden with herring eggs. The herring attract the seals. The herrings' eggs bring the seagulls.

resting on the rock wall breakwater extending into the bay was also unusually high during the herring spawning period. Harbor seals are rarely seen on Breakwater Island, and then only at low tide. On Dec. 17, the number spiked to 27 and reached a record of 37 two days later with a combined total of 99 harbor seals at Alameda Point — 62 on the float and 37 on Breakwater Island.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) conducts herring surveys beginning in early November. An update posted on its website on Dec. 20 corroborates Klein and Feeney's observations. "Pacific herring have finally arrived in San Francisco Bay, with two small spawns detected over the last few days — at Ballena Bay in Alameda and at Point Richmond along the outer rock jetty," notes the website. Alameda is one of the CDFW herring survey sites on San Francisco Bay. The most productive herring spawning occurs on Richardson Bay not far from the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) built the harbor seal float and delivered it to the harbor in June 2016. They placed it near WETA's ferry maintenance facility now under construction. A local volunteer group, Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors, keeps tabs on the seals.

The public is encouraged to participate in monitoring. More information and updates are on the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/alamedaseals1. The seals can be observed from the Bay Trail, accessible on the road on the west side of the Encinal High School campus that leads to Breakwater Beach.

Richard Bangert posts stories and photos about Alameda Point on his blog at <http://alamedapointenviro.com>.

two decades. He's taught at Haight Elementary School and run programs for Island High School. He's served as swimming and water polo coach to several generations. As a licensed psychotherapist he counseled countless individuals and couples in his private practice, and ran encounter groups for teens. In 1967 he ran for City Council, and again 40 years later in 2007. He smiles and shrugs as he recounts, "I got 4,000 votes each time. I needed 10,000."

Today, Jones' activism revolves around the same core issues. He notes, "I always take the side of the oppressed. It's always the same. Those who have, don't know how to share." At 86, Jones is still substitute teaching at Alameda High School, and swimming half a mile a day. I suggested the title for this piece might be, "Where there's Ash, there's fire." He countered, "Well, it's a cute pun, but ashes imply the fire is out. And that is not the case!"

Jane Peal is an Alameda-based therapist.



Ash Jones



Courtesy photo

Mayor, Sun Connect with Korean Sister City

Sun Staff Reports

This week the *Alameda Sun* received the above photo of the Alameda Sister City Association (ASCA) delegation visiting Korea and China in September. The delegation of local residents snapped this photo with the *Sun* at Huaxi Village in the Longxi Hotel.

The Alamedans visited sister city

Yeongdong, South Korea, for the 50th Annual Nangye Music festival before traveling to Jiangyin sister city and Wuxi friendship city in China.

Pictured left to right are: Dishun Chen, Andy Shiozaki, Alex Chen (ASCA Secretary), Susan Reyes (ASCA Treasurer), Karen Fong (ASCA President), Angela Yu (Jiangyin committee member),

Nancy Li (founder of Jaingyin sister city), Mayor Spencer, Sarah Kim Lee (Yeongdong committee member), Flor Ventanilla (ASCA board member), Hee Jeong Matz (Yeongdong committee chair), Micha Oh (Yeongdong committee member), Kathy Fong (ASCA webmaster), Robert Matz (Yeongdong committee member).