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7	1	6	3
4	8	2	5
6	9	8	1
3	2	7	4
1	5	4	9
2	7	3	8

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**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:15	17:29
Jan. 31	7:15	17:30
Feb. 1	7:14	17:31
Feb. 2	7:13	17:32
Feb. 3	7:12	17:33
Feb. 4	7:11	17:35
Feb. 5	7:10	17:36



Richard Bangert

## Matrix 4 Film Crew Sets up in Alameda

**Ekene Ikeme**

Film production crew members have been spotted at Alameda Point recently setting up cameras and other film equipment. It is believed the crew is preparing to film scenes for the upcoming *The Matrix* reboot, scheduled for release in 2021.

Media reports confirmed that some filming of the reboot will take place in San Francisco's Financial District. Dwyer Casting is handling the hiring of extras for the movie. The casting company sent out a

press release seeking men and women older than 18 for background work. The press release calls it "Project Ice Cream," but reports believe this name is code for the new *Matrix* film. The name could also have a hidden meaning as *Matrix* star Keanu Reeves was recently seen in Alameda eating ice cream from Baskin Robbins at the Bridgside Shopping Center.

Part of the second *Matrix* film, *The Matrix Reloaded*, was filmed in Alameda. A freeway chase scene was filmed at an abandoned air-

strip at Alameda Naval Air Station, while a rave scene was filmed at an abandoned aircraft hangar.

This film will mark the fourth installment in the *Matrix* franchise. The first film, *The Matrix*, was released in 1999. The second and third films, *The Matrix Reloaded*, and *The Matrix Revolutions*, were released in 2003. Filming of the new *Matrix* movie is to begin in San Francisco on Feb. 5 and run through March 1. To sign up to be a paid extra, visit [www.mycastingfile.com](http://www.mycastingfile.com) or call (415) 409-9369.

## Black History Month Events Start Next Week

**Sun Staff Reports**

### Black History Panel at Alameda Library

Those not interested in the Super Bowl can escape to the quiet of the library to celebrate Black History Month with a presentation taking place Sunday, Feb. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. "Black Youth: Exploring the Road to Success," will discuss the experience of reaching the top with local Black leaders.

Moderated by Kiki Devoramonifa, panelists for the discussion include: Oral Lee Brown, founder of the Oral Lee Brown Foundation, which helps disadvantaged youth attend college; Michelle McAfee, an educator and writer and Ron Whitaker, a founding parent of Academy of Alameda.

Admission is free, light refreshments will be served. For more information, visit <https://alameda.friends.com/event/conversations-with-youth>.

### Discuss Exhibition by Black Artists

On Monday, Feb. 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the library will play host to a talk focused on *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power 1963-1983*, an exhibit originated at the Tate Museum in London. Currently at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, the exhibit focuses on Bay Area artists from the era of Black Power. It honors the work of Black artists and shows how their art helped define the political and social movements of their time. A museum docent will present infor-



Courtesy photos

One of the works from *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power 1963-1983*.

Information about the exhibit and its historical significance.

Admission is free. For more information, visit <https://alameda.friends.com/event/art-docent-talk-feb-10-soul-of-a-nation>.

Alameda Main Library is located at 1550 Oak St. Both programs listed above are made possible due to a grant from the Alameda Rotary Club. More events are planned at the library this month, see page 5 for more details.

### Island Poets Celebrate

The Alameda Island Poets will feature four poets to honor Black History Month: Aquella M. Lewis-Ross, Garrett Murphy, Wanda Sabir and Amos White, at the group's monthly meeting set

for Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 7 to 9 p.m. Hosted by Nanette Deetz and Alameda Poet Laureate Cathy Dana, the gatherings take place at the Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St. Following the features and light refreshments the poets host a "famously friendly" open mic.

Lewis-Ross is a multi-talented, award-winning Bay Area native well-versed in singing, poetry, spoken word and journalism.

Murphy is well-known in the Bay Area poetry scene as a political and human-nature satirist.

Sabir is a poet, arts activist, journalist, college professor and radio host.

White is an awarded haiku poet and author, producer and civil rights activist.

The four poets speaking this month with Alameda Island Poets, top to bottom: Aquella Lewis-Ross, Garrett Murphy, Wanda Sabir and Amos White.

## Police Warn of Fake Tickets, Robber Sentenced

**Ekene Ikeme**

The Alameda Police Department (APD) is warning the public about fake parking citations being "issued" throughout the city. An APD records clerk noticed a fraudulent ticket when a resident brought it in to make a payment. Police believe the tickets are not part of a scam, but more of a prank. Several discrepancies exist between a real parking ticket and the fraudulent ones. For one thing, real tickets have "City of Alameda" written at the top of the ticket. To learn if a ticket is legitimate, contact APD.

### Bank robber to do time

An Oakland man was sentenced to more than eight years in prison

on Jan. 15 for robbing 19 banks and credit unions including a U.S. Bank in Alameda.

Duane Kurt Makela, 50, was sentenced to 97 months in federal prison by Senior U.S. District Judge Honorable Charles R. Breyer, at the Northern District of California courtroom in San Francisco. Makela pled guilty on Oct. 3, 2019. As part of his plea deal, he confessed to entering the businesses and demanding bank tellers hand over money. In some cases he brandished a firearm, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's office.

Makela committed 10 armed bank robberies, seven unarmed bank robberies and two attempted

bank robberies. In total, he stole \$69,002, according to the press release. The robbery spree took place between March 21, 2018, and Feb. 4, 2019.

The armed robbery in Alameda took place at the U.S. Bank inside Safeway at South Shore Center on Nov. 5, 2018. It marked the 17th robbery during Makela's spree. He reportedly stole \$11,500 in the local incident.

Makela was arrested on April 23, 2019, ("Bank Robber Nabbed," May 16) at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland after his wife gave birth to their second child.

Makela is still being housed at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. He awaits his transfer to federal prison.

## Unchecked Executive Privilege at City Hall

**Irene Dieter**

*I on Alameda*

**The change would grant the City Council the sole right to police itself when a violation occurs, unless the matter is taken to court.**

So authoritarian. An effort is underway to amend the enforcement provision of Alameda's Sunshine Ordinance, its open-government law. The change would grant the City Council the sole right to police itself when a violation occurs, unless the matter is taken to court.

Alameda's Open Government Commission was set up as a quasi-judicial body to review cases of government overreach. It is charged with overseeing and enforcing the Sunshine Ordinance, a local version of the state's Brown Act governing public meetings, public records and the public's right to know what's going on inside government. The commission is tasked with making sure the city is adhering to the Sunshine Ordinance.

A couple of years ago the Open Government Commission ruled that a City Council agenda item had not been properly noticed because the council had made a decision that went beyond the scope of its public notice, noting too that the Council had hastily moved forward with a second final reading of a new ordinance even though a Sunshine Ordinance complaint had been filed. The commission instructed the city to correct the original agenda notice and hear the issue again at its next City Council meeting. It was the first time the Open Government Commission had exercised its authority.

A couple members of the City Council said they felt slighted that another body had the authority to make any Council action "null and void" until an asserted problem was rectified — a problem they did not believe existed here. The issue dragged on needlessly for months but eventually was corrected.

The city now asserts that the Sunshine Ordinance needs to be amended because a non-legislative body cannot take legislative action, even when the City Council has granted the body the authority to do so. The city attorney suggests that the Open Government Commission should merely make recommendations to the City Council to cure and correct alleged wrongdoing.

The proposed change would essentially give the City Council executive privilege to decide itself whether it had violated the Sunshine Ordinance.

Bryan Schwartz, a civil rights attorney and chair of the Open Government Commission, strongly opposed the change at its December hearing. The Sunshine Ordinance is "a positive thing, a strong showing of democracy," stated Schwartz. This substantive change is "an attempt to take away the teeth of the commission." Referring to their ruling two years ago, Schwartz said, "We didn't weigh in on the merits of the underlying resolution of the Council, it was strictly about process." The commission unanimously rejected the proposed change.

At the very least, in the future,

the council should suspend actions when a Sunshine Ordinance complaint is pending. A postponement, particularly of the second final reading of an ordinance, would avoid the need to declare actions null and void.

The Open Government Commission meets twice a year and whenever a Sunshine Ordinance complaint has been filed. Each Councilmember appoints a volunteer commissioner, and the Council can remove commissioners at any time for any reason. Without the enforcement provision, "there is no reason for the commission," said Schwartz.

The local enforcement provision saves people from having to take recourse in the courts, which can be costly and can drag on for months. It is a way of holding the city accountable for open government violations other than through the courts or elections.

The Open Government Commission should retain its authority to compel adherence to the Sunshine Ordinance.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m., the City Council will decide the issue at City Hall.

Irene Dieter posts stories and photos about Alameda at [www.ionalameda.com](http://www.ionalameda.com).

## Aquatic Center Plans Unveiled

**Sun Staff Reports**

The City of Alameda and the Alameda Unified School District are in the process of finalizing a 60-year lease that would allow a community swim center to replace the Emma Hood Swim Center on the Alameda High School campus.

Alameda Recreation & Parks Department (ARPD) is developing a conceptual design for a City Aquatic Center and wants to hear from the public. ARPD will host a meeting to present its final design and offer the public an opportunity to comment.

The meeting will take place from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12, at the Albert H. Dewitt Officers Club, 641 West Red Line Ave.

## Local Deaths

### Fortney 'Pete' Stark, Jr.

**Former U.S. Representative for Alameda**

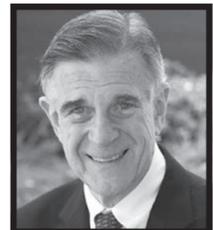
**Dennis Evanosky**

Former U.S. Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark Jr., died on Friday, Jan. 24. Stark served in the House of Representatives for 40 years, from 1973 to 2013. During his last 20 years in Congress, Stark represented California's 13th Congressional District, which included Alameda. Redistricting, which began in 2011, redrew Stark's district as the 15th District. Eric Swalwell defeated Stark in the 2012 election.

Stark served in the United States Air Force and held an engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as well as an M.B.A. from the University of California. He borrowed money to open a Security National Bank in Walnut Creek in 1963. He pioneered the idea of offering free checking accounts.

Stark came from a Republican family. He became a Democrat to

show his opposition to the Vietnam War. He posted a peace sign on top of his bank and printed peace signs on his bank's checks.



Stark entered Congress in 1973, where he is remembered for his sharp tongue. He championed health care for all and therein lies his legacy.

Stark's efforts created the 1986 Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, that everyone remembers as COBRA. Thanks to Stark, employees can remain on their employer's health insurance plan for a time after they leave their jobs. Stark also helped pen President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

Stark retired to his Maryland home in 2013, where he passed away. He leaves his wife, Deborah, seven children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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