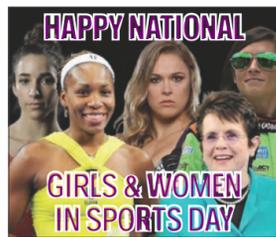


Alameda Sun



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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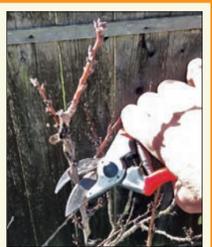
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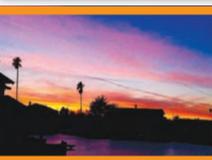
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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:07	17:40
Feb. 9	07:06	17:41
Feb. 11	07:05	17:42
Feb. 12	07:04	17:43
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Photos by Richard Bangert

Alameda Police speak to drivers who apparently were driving recklessly (inset) in the shadow of the USS Keystone State at Alameda Point last Saturday.

Police Confront Side Show at the Point

Dennis Evanosky

An illegal "sideshow" took place last Saturday on the west side of Alameda Point's Seaplane Lagoon, which is fast becoming the site of frequent sideshow activity. Tugboats were maneuvering the Maritime Ready Reserve Ship *Keystone State* as drivers spun out nearby.

Alameda Police Department (APD) officers spoke to the sideshow participants as seen in the picture above. APD filed no report related to the incident pictured

here. Apparently APD did nothing but speak to the participants at the Point, an attractive piece of information for the sideshow participants and onlookers who trashed an Oakland intersection last Saturday.

Early Sunday morning Oakland police towed more than 30 cars issued 147 citations to sideshow drivers and onlookers at the intersection of High Street and Foothill Boulevard, just 1.1 miles from Alameda. According to police,

spectators and participants broke windows of surrounding businesses and threw bottles at officers.

In the early morning hours of Jan. 28, sideshow participants struck and injured a policeman in Richmond. Later that day police arrested a Pittsburg man suspected of shining a laser at and striking a California Highway Patrol helicopter at a sideshow in Oakland.

Council Investigation Proceeds Above Board

Dennis Evanosky

The City Council sat in closed session for some five hours on Tuesday, Jan. 30. As with all closed meetings the subject matter remains sealed. A call to City Clerk Lara Weisiger's office revealed that the City Council was scheduled to approve the minutes of that meeting in closed session before its regularly scheduled meeting last Tuesday after the *Alameda Sun* went to press.

At this time the Council will not reveal what it discussed at that Jan. 30 meeting. This is normal procedure when handling a closed-session meeting. Some City Hall watchers speculate that the Councilmembers discussed the results of the investigation into whether two members of the City Council may have violated the City Charter by attempting to influence City Manager Jill Keimach's decision concerning the hiring of a new fire department chief.

However, until the *Sun* learns what was discussed behind closed

APD Amping Up its Digital Surveillance

Ekene Ikeme

The Alameda Police Department (APD) has launched a new program to help reduce crime in the city.

The new program is called the We S.E.E. or Share Electronic Evidence program. The program allows APD to quickly identify nearby cameras that may have captured evidence, helping solve crimes across the Island.

When a crime occurs, APD's investigation includes checking with nearby residents and businesses to determine if there is camera footage available. Many Alameda businesses are equipped with security cameras, and residents are adding video doorbells and other surveillance to their homes. These cameras may be capturing vital information that can be used to solve crimes.

Cameras owned by businesses and residents will only be a part of the program voluntarily. Recently, APD has resolved investigations involving package thefts, a Peeping Tom and assault with a deadly weapon using evidence obtained from private cameras. The program will allow business owners and residents to register their cameras, which will expedite the process of obtaining vital evidence.

The new program comes after APD's annual crime update report was released ("Police Provide 2017 Crime Report to Council," Feb. 1). The report revealed reported crime in Alameda spiked about 12

percent in 2017. There were 5,075 crimes reported in 2017, compared to 4,514 crime reports in 2016. In fact, 2017 had the most crimes reported in Alameda this decade. According to the report, petty and grand thefts are the cause for the increase in Part 1 offenses. There were 681 grand thefts reported in 2017, compared to 544 in 2016. Even more significant there were 1,044 petty thefts reported in 2017, compared to 807 in 2016.

The We S.E.E. program may not be the only effort APD is taking to combat crime. After the *Alameda Sun* deadline Tuesday, City Council voted whether to approve a program that will place license plate recognition systems over every roadway into and out of Alameda. APD currently uses a similar system on its patrol cars.

There is also a push to increase the amount of license plate readers mounted on patrol cars from four to as many as 13. APD credits these cameras with catching thieves driving stolen vehicles.

Registered information will only be shared with APD. APD assures they will only access the location of the camera, not the owner's security system. Registered parties will only be contacted by APD if a review of their footage could assist in crime solving. To register a camera with the We S.E.E. program, visit www.goo.gl/a9ERwR.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at eikeme@alamedasun.com.

Who was Haight?

Editor's note: In light of the recent call to rename Haight Elementary School, local writer Rasheed Shabazz offered to pen a biography of former Alameda resident Henry Huntly Haight in two parts. Part 1 addresses Haight's early life and political influences, and factors leading to his nomination and election in 1867 as a Democratic candidate for California Governor.

Rasheed Shabazz

Henry Huntly Haight was born in Rochester, New York, on May 20, 1825. He was of English and Scottish roots, with his paternal ancestors settling in 1628 in what became Massachusetts. He established the third generation of lawyers in his family.

HAIGHT: Page 7

Alameda's Libraries Have the Best of 'Friends' Behind Them

Jan Greene

While the City of Alameda pays for some library events, most find financial support from the Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL). Residents who wanted to support the library with a wider variety of materials and programs began the organization in 1974.

FAL raises money through activities, most notably the twice-yearly used-book sale at Alameda Point and the Live @ the Library concert series each fall. The organization's volunteers also run Dewey's Café at the Main Library, where proceeds from food and drink sales go into fundraising coffers.

Money that FAL raises goes directly to the library to pay for programs for both children and adults. The money helps purchase materials for the city's three libraries and supports those libraries' activities in other ways. The organization will contribute \$60,835 in funding to the Alameda Free Library in 2018.

Programs that FAL supports reflect Alameda's vibrant and widely used library facilities. Children learn to read, adults and children enjoy film screenings and people learn to use computer programs. In addition, art docents from the Bay Area's top museums present their latest exhibitions, teens tutor younger children and cultural groups share their traditions with the community. Voters also visit the libraries to learn about local issues and special-interest book groups of all ages gather at the city's libraries.

Alameda's dedicated librarians host regular activities for both children and adults. They are always thinking of new ways to serve their community. Volunteers and money from FAL support the city's librarians in a number of ways. Programs include Alameda Reads, as well as adult literacy and summer reading capped off by the End of Summer Reading Party at the O Club.

FAL funds also support the "1,000 Books before Kindergarten" initiative, a winter reading program

Alameda's dedicated librarians are always thinking of new ways to serve their community.

for young people and book groups for people of all ages. Community programs include holiday-related events, Play-Doh play time and themed activity days that include *Star Wars* Day, Free Comic Book Day and Family Fun Day. The library also offers art programs and FAL steps up to help. These include a film series for adults, First Friday family film nights and craft programs for all ages.

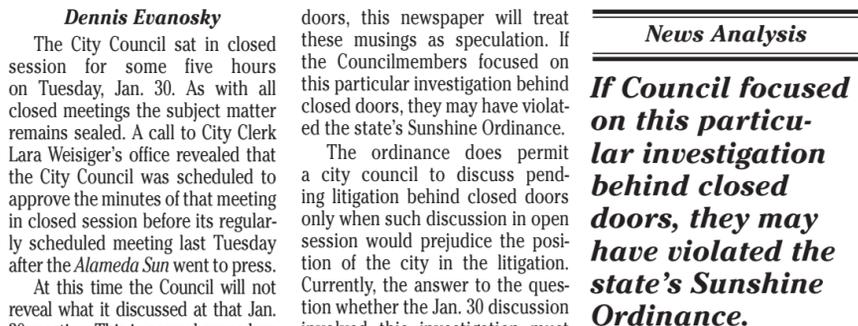
FAL funding supports refreshments for the Teen Advisory Board and the Math Club. In addition to program support, FAL raises money for specific needs: \$50,000 for collections in 2015, \$10,000 for the digital bulletin boards recently installed in all three libraries and \$25,000 for technology upgrades in 2016.

As part of the effort to build the Main Library, supporters created the Alameda Free Library Foundation in 1998. The foundation has raised money over the years for the long-term support of Alameda libraries.

In 2016 the Friends and Foundation merged to become a single non-profit organization. The board of directors meets approximately monthly and the public is welcome to attend those meetings (for more information see the board page on the FAL website — www.alamedafriends.com). To be placed on the FAL mailing list, drop an email to info@alamedafriends.com.

The Friends ask donors to remember the library when creating a will or trust. Friends of the Alameda Free Library is the organization to name to ensure that the resources go to support Alameda libraries. Donations are always accepted through the website: www.alamedafriends.com/donate.

Jan Greene is a member of the Friends of the Alameda Library.



Chuck Kapelke

The city's poets laureate and spelling bee judges flank the top five spellers in last Saturday's competition. Left to right: Cathy Dana, Thomas McMuldren, Adriana Argyriou, Ella Banchieri, Vincent Gao, Elizabeth Tsyvinsky and Gene Kahane.



The city's poets laureate and spelling bee judges flank the top five spellers in last Saturday's competition. Left to right: Cathy Dana, Thomas McMuldren, Adriana Argyriou, Ella Banchieri, Vincent Gao, Elizabeth Tsyvinsky and Gene Kahane.

Bee Determines Island's Top Spellers

Sun Staff Reports

In a heated competition that resulted in a head-to-head match up that went back and forth between the final two competitors, Academy of Alameda seventh grader Thomas McMuldren emerged victorious at the Alameda Spelling Bee last Saturday. The final duel with Adriana Argyriou, a fifth grader at Haight Elementary School, came down to the words "isthmus" and "rogue" which McMuldren spelled correctly to earn the 2018 title of Island's Top Speller. (McMuldren

finished second in the 2017 Bee.)

McMuldren and nine of his fellow competitors will next represent the Island City at the Alameda County Spelling Bee set for Saturday, March 10. Alameda Elks Lodge will sponsor their entry fees.

The Island's top 10 spellers, in order of performance are: McMuldren; Argyriou; Ella Banchieri, seventh grade, Lincoln Middle School (LMS); Vincent Gao, a ninth grader; Elizabeth Tsyvinsky, eighth grade, LMS; Hazel Purins, eighth grade, LMS; Oxford Lewis,

sixth grade, Alameda Community Learning Center; Niranjana Kumar, fourth grade, Wood Middle School; Suyue Li, fourth grade, Earhart Elementary School and Oscar Kring, fifth grade, Otis Elementary School.

Benji Kapelke, a fifth grader at Otis, finished in 11th place and will serve as first alternate if any of the top 10 cannot attend the county bee.

The Alameda Spelling Bee is a volunteer effort coordinated by local parent Chuck Kapelke. It took place at Otis Elementary School.