

# Alameda Sun

Locally Owned, Community Oriented



Vol. 14 No. 32  
May 7, 2015

**INSIDE**

**HOMETOWN**

Fire Wire  
page 2

Police Blotter  
page 3

All the doings of  
Island safety and  
law personnel



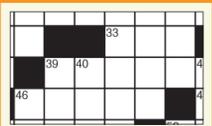
**SPORTS**

SJND Golf Page 10  
High School golfers  
named champions.



**MOTHER'S DAY**

Mom Appreciation Page 9  
Thanks, Mom, we couldn't  
have done it without you.



**PUZZLES**

Crossword Page 9  
Sharpen your pencils for that  
famed newspaper tradition.



**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

No-Lawn Tour Page 13  
Events coming up in the Island  
City — this week, and beyond.

**CONTENTS**

- HOMETOWN NEWS... 2
- OPINION... 4
- BIKE TO WORK DAY... 6
- CLASSIFIED... 8
- PUZZLES... 9
- SPORTS... 10
- LOCAL HAPPENINGS... 13

Alameda Sun  
is a publication of  
Stellar Media Group, Inc.  
3215J Encinal Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501  
News: (510) 263-1470  
Ads: (510) 263-1471  
Fax: (510) 263-1473

Visit us Online at  
[www.AlamedaSun.com](http://www.AlamedaSun.com)  
Like or Friend us  
on Facebook  
Follow us on Twitter  
at Alameda\_Sun



**Alameda Sun  
Almanac**

| Date   | Rise  | Set   |
|--------|-------|-------|
| Today  | 06:08 | 20:04 |
| May 8  | 06:07 | 20:05 |
| May 9  | 06:06 | 20:06 |
| May 10 | 06:05 | 20:07 |
| May 11 | 06:04 | 20:07 |
| May 12 | 06:03 | 20:08 |
| May 13 | 06:02 | 20:09 |

## Council Votes to Extend Police, Fire Contracts

Approval includes medical trust fund to pay for ballooning retiree costs

Michele Ellison  
The Alamedan

City Council members narrowly approved four-year contract extensions for police and firefighters on Wednesday that include a trust to help cover Alameda's ballooning retiree medical bills.

After five hours of heated debate punctuated at some times by the burble of a police radio from one of the many safety workers who packed council chambers Wednesday and another by a shouting match in the hallway outside, council members voted 3-2 to amend the contracts to establish and fund a trust and extend them until Dec. 18, 2021.

The city will pay \$7.5 million into the trust fund over the next decade, while safety workers will contribute up to 4 percent of their pay — contributions which city officials expect will fund \$47 million of the \$188 million in retiree medical costs they estimate the city would have paid if it just paid what it owed for each of the next 30 years. The contracts also provide annual raises between 2 and 5 percent each year except 2019.

Council members who voted in favor of extending the contracts acknowledged that the new trust fund won't fully address the city's unfunded pension and retiree medical liabilities. But they said the deal — which has safety employees here paying more for their benefits than any other East Bay city, City Manager John Russo said — lays the foundation for additional fixes.

"This is a limited time offer in the real world," said Vice Mayor Frank Matarrese, who called the employee contributions to the trust fund a "valuable concession."

Councilman Jim Oddie said the council should start addressing its retiree benefit liabilities while it has the money; after years of tough budget times, the city is set to end this fiscal year with a multi-million-

dollar surplus. And he said it would be bad faith for the Council to back away from the contract extensions after voting unanimously in a closed-door session to move forward on the trust fund deal.

"I think it sets a bad tone, and sets back a lot of the progress that we've made," Oddie said.

Councilwoman Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft also voted for the contracts, saying it wasn't prudent to allow the retiree medical debt to keep growing when the city has an opportunity to reduce it.

**The contract deals capped eight years' worth of efforts to address the city's growing retiree benefit costs.**

Councilman Tony Daysog voted against the contracts, saying he didn't think the trust — which is forecast to run out of money by 2035, before many of the workers paying into it will retire — is being funded properly. He wanted other funding sources explored.

"I think what the city manager has put forward is a yeoman's effort working with the bargaining groups. But it's not enough," Daysog said.

Other Council members said that additional funding solutions can be worked on independent of the contract deals; in addition to approving the contracts, they directed city staff to establish a standing labor-management committee to discuss solutions.

Mayor Trish Spencer also voted against the contracts, saying she didn't think it was appropriate to okay the agreements ahead of discussions about the city's budget for the next two years — which shows the city spending \$1.1 million more than it's earning in 2016-17 and forecasts reserve reductions over five years. Spencer didn't elaborate or provide an alternative solution to address the retiree health liabilities.

"This has to be addressed, in my opinion," she said of the projected budget shortfalls. "That's where we are."

**VOTE: Page 12**



Courtesy photo

Mayor Trish Spencer speaks with a representative of the local Nepalese community on the City Hall steps.

## Join Local Efforts to Help out Nepal

**Sun Staff Reports**

On April 25 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Barpak, Nepal, about 110 miles northwest of the country's capital city, Kathmandu. The quake and subsequent aftershocks wiped out Barpa. It has caused devastation far beyond the village at the shaker's epicenter, affecting communities in Nepal, India and Bangladesh. The disaster is the worst to hit Nepal since the 8.1 Nepal-Bihar earthquake on Jan. 15, 1934.

The temblor also triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest that

killed at least 19 people, making April 25 the deadliest day on Mount Everest in history.

"The earthquake is now known to have killed more than 7,500 people and injured more than 14,500, the BBC reported on Tuesday. According to the BBC report, \$415 million is needed for humanitarian relief. Three million people are in need of food aid. The earthquake destroyed 130,000 houses; 24,000 people are living in makeshift camps.

Where to send money is a personal choice. Here are just some

of the organizations helping with the devastation that could use your help: AmeriCares, CARE, Direct Relief, the Red Cross, Global Giving, Operation USA and Save the Children.

Time is of the essence. "Planting season is six weeks away, and if you miss that you'll need to deliver food aid for another three months," Jamie McGoldrick, the United Nations resident coordinator told *The New York Times* last Saturday. "(Monsoon season) is coming in eight weeks. So it's very precarious."

## News in Brief

**Sun Staff Reports**

**Marrow Registry this Weekend**

Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors is hosting "Team Joey Marrow Registry Drive." Donor registration and swabbing will take place this Saturday and Sunday, May 9

and 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Gallagher & Lindsey's office, 2424 Central Ave.

The company hopes to find a marrow transplant donor for Joey LoParo, 27, who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma. His aunt died of the same disease the year he was born. Joey's parents, Joe and Laura LoParo, are Realtors at Gallagher & Lindsey.

"We invite anyone between the ages of 18 and 44 to stop by and see if they are a candidate to help Joey," said Gallagher & Lindsey broker Michael Studebaker. "We will also have an information table at the Park Street Spring Festival."

Contributions are welcome at: [bethematchfoundation.org/goto/LoParo](http://bethematchfoundation.org/goto/LoParo) and at <http://e.gofund.me/hjw09g>.

**Alameda Community Chorus at Kofman Tomorrow Night**

The Alameda Community Chorus will perform "A Choral Bouquet" just in time for Mother's Day. The chorus will entertain you tomorrow, Friday, May 8, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Ave. Under the direction of Kathryn Neale-Manalo.

The concert highlights local talent of all ages. ACC will showcase local composers Janis Dunson Wilson and John Niec, who will also conduct the chorus. The evening's entertainment features Jennifer Morrill on flute and Dale Tsang on piano.

The Alameda Music Project, a young choral and violin group, that is part of an after-school music program at Maya Lin Elementary School, will also perform. The choir is under the direction of Joshua Boronkay. Max Manzanarez directs the violin group.

"Alameda Community Chorus wants to be an integral part of local music and we are so pleased to have the opportunity to showcase the talent in our community," said Neale-Manalo.

There will be a raffle at the performance to raise money for ACC classes and performance scholarships. ACC welcomes enrollment through the Alameda Recreational and Parks Department with classes held at Alameda High School. ACC offers scholarship and performance opportunities, while welcoming singing enthusiasts ages 13 and up. To learn how to volunteer with ACC call 522-3842.



Richard Bangert

Vice-mayor Frank Matarrese discussed access to the Seaplane Lagoon shoreline with security guard on April 19.

## City Restricts Access to Lagoon Shoreline

Vice-mayor among those forced to vacate premises

Richard Bangert

On Sunday, April 19, Vice Mayor Frank Matarrese drove to the shoreline on the west side of the Seaplane Lagoon. Within minutes of arrival he was ordered to leave the area by Alameda Point security. He was not alone. Anyone visiting the area, which is designated as a future naturalized park on planning maps, was subject to the same experience.

The Navy temporarily restricted public access to the area over the last few years because of environmental cleanup, but removed its fencing in mid-March allowing the public to once again visit the waterfront.

Nanette Mocanu, the city's Economic Development Division Manager, explained that the city

immediately re-established the no-public-access rule because of a case of illegal dumping and evidence of car "side show" activity.

"We will be installing our own fencing that will prevent car traffic to the area, except for the tenants," said Mocanu. "There will be a pedestrian gate to allow people to walk along the waterfront area."

An investigation of the tarmac area revealed a few tire tracks, but otherwise it was clean. Similar displays of tire tracks from "side show" activities appear prominently throughout Alameda Point. Illegal dumping has been a problem at the former Naval Air Station since

**Illegal dumping has been a problem at the former Naval Air Station since its closure, concentrated mainly in abandoned housing areas, not on the tarmac.**

its closure, concentrated mainly in abandoned housing areas, not on the tarmac.

Most visitors to the area have one destination in mind, the southern shoreline facing San Francisco Bay. They are usually there for only short periods of time. Under the city's car restrictions, visitors arriving in cars will have to walk

**LAGOON: Page 12**

## Police Perform Local Prostitution Sting

Ekene Ikeme

The Alameda Police Department (APD), the FBI and several other law enforcement agencies conducted a sting operation that led to six people receiving a citation or being arrested on prostitution-like charges last Thursday, April 30.

"The operation is still ongoing," said APD spokeswoman Lt. Jill Ottaviano.

All the events of the sting were conducted on South Loop Road Thursday night between 7:40 and 11:32 p.m. Each arrest was made to separate individuals and not a part of a large human trafficking syndicate, according to Ottaviano.

Five people given citations. They were cited and released at the scene. The group included two males (one male was John

Brian Hearn who was cited for solicitation), two females and one unidentified person.

Craig Lee, 54, was the only one arrested during the operation. Lee admitted to police that he agreed to engage in prostitution with a victim who he believed was a minor and sexually battered her, according to police reports. Lee was not listed on the Alameda County Inmate Locator website, so it is believed that he posted bail by Tuesday, May 5.

Ottaviano said human trafficking is not any less of a problem in Alameda as it is in bigger cities. "Any city that has certain motels and extended-stay businesses, you're going to have prostitution take place," said Ottaviano. "It is at these types of businesses where these sort of things happen."