



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 16 No. 40  
June 15, 2017

**INSIDE**

**HOMETOWN**

**Fire Wire**  
page 2

**Police Blotter**  
page 3

All the doings  
of Island safety  
& law personnel



**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

**Event Calendar** Page 8

Mushroom discussion among  
the events coming up soon.



**PUZZLES PAGE**

**Sudoku & More!** Page 4

Sharpen your pencils for that  
newspaper tradition.



**HEALTH MATTERS**

**Medicare & More** Page 9

Allergies, medicare and more  
on the health page this week.



**SPORTS**

**Water Polo** Page 5

Local club team rules  
the pool this summer.

**CONTENTS**

**HOMETOWN NEWS...** 2

**PUZZLES/KIDS...** 4

**SPORTS...** 5

**OPINION...** 6

**CLASSIFIED...** 7

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS...** 8

**HEALTH MATTERS...** 9

**JAM PROGRAM...** Inside

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



JoanAnn Radu-Sinako

**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	05:47	20:32
June 16	05:47	20:33
June 17	05:47	20:33
June 18	05:47	20:33
June 19	05:47	20:34
June 20	05:47	20:34
June 21	05:47	20:34



## Pride Divides Council

**Dennis Evanosky**

On Tuesday, June 6, the City invited its residents and officials to gather on the City Hall steps to celebrate the message "Love Our Island, LGBTQ Pride" (above).

Some members of the pride community decided they did not wish to stand with Mayor Trish Spencer. Vice-Mayor Malia Vella decided she would pose with a separate group, instead of on the steps with Spencer.

At right, Vella and activist Olivia Higgins are shown holding the Rainbow Flag in the center of the photograph. Councilmembers Frank Matarrese, Marilyn Ezyz-Ashcraft and Jim Oddie also joined Vella and Higgins' group, leaving

Spencer as the only Councilmember on the City Hall steps.

Spencer's colleagues cited her stance on LGBTQ issues when

she sat on the Alameda Unified School District's Board of Directors in 2009 as the reason for not standing with her.



Photos by Maurice Ramirez

## New Commander Takes Stratton's Helm

**Sun Staff Reports**

Capt. Craig Wieschhorster relieved Capt. Nathan Moore as commander of the Coast Guard Cutter *Stratton*, a 418-foot National Security Cutter homeported in Alameda in a change-of-command ceremony held last Thursday, June 8.

Cutters like *Stratton* routinely conduct operations from South America to the Bering Sea where their unmatched combination of range, speed and ability to operate in extreme weather provides the mission flexibility. These ships conduct counter-narcotics and homeland security operations at great distances from shore, keeping threats far from the U.S. mainland. "Drug traffickers and the unforgiving Bering Sea don't care about your proficiency of operations, but the American people care about it and I care about it," said Vice Adm. Fred M. Midgette, Coast Guard Pacific Area Commander, who presided over the ceremony.

Under Moore's command, June

2015 to June 2017, *Stratton's* crew:

- Sailed more than 60,000 nautical miles from locations ranging off the coast of Panama to above the Arctic Circle.

- Seized or disrupted the transit of 66,000 pounds of cocaine valued at \$1 billion including the interdiction or disruption of 11 go-fast vessels and three self-propelled semi-submersibles and the apprehension of 50 suspected drug smugglers.

- Led the first deployment of a Small Unmanned Aerial System to aid in counterdrug enforcement for the Coast Guard.

- Participated in the 2016 Rim of the Pacific Naval Exercise, the world's largest maritime exercise involving partner nations throughout the world.

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition, which ensures that all hands know of the shift in authority and that a duly authorized officer is placed in charge. Moore's next assignment is as Chief of Staff, U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Masaschi

Coast Guard Pacific Area Commander Vice Adm. Fred Midgette, Capt. Nathan Moore and Capt. Craig Wieschhorster (left to right) stand aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Stratton* following a change of command ceremony last Thursday.

## Influential Film Prompts Discussion on Genocide

**Junlin "William" Chen**

On Memorial Day, Ellen Chestnut and Dee Kasabian sat down and shared their thoughts about the recently released movie *The Promise*. The film depicts a love triangle and portrays how people's lives intertwine amidst the Armenian genocide. Chestnut and Kasabian have Armenian forebears who experienced the genocide. They described the film as "emotional and heart-rendering."

Chestnut and Kasabian explained that the Armenian genocide, which lasted from 1915 to 1923, was the Ottoman Empire's attempt to forcefully deport and expel Armenians from present-day Turkey. Not unlike the deportation of Jews during the Holocaust, Armenians endured numerous abuses; many died. Both said that religious differences and the need to finance the Empire's involvement in World War I drove the Armenian genocide.

According to Chestnut, there were also many small-scale genocides against Armenians in various places across Turkey.

Chestnut said that the progression of key events in the film were accurate with their respective dates. She said, for instance, the day the actual genocide began matches the date shown in the film. The atrocities shown in *The Promise* are similar to those the Ottoman Empire committed during the actual genocide, Kasabian said. She pointed out that the government required Armenians to show their identification cards wherever they went, an action similar to the Germans forcing the Jews to wear a

star in Germany.

The film depicts forced labor and the arrest of intellectuals as ways to divide the group.

Kasabian noted that Kirk Kerkorian funded the film, which was difficult to produce because of the political controversy surrounding the Armenian genocide. Kerkorian is an American businessman whose ancestors hailed from Armenia. He has provided more than \$1 billion for charity in Armenia through his Lincy

Foundation. *The Promise* is just one of 37 films made about the Armenian genocide, including 21 documentaries.

"We both want to thank the Alameda Theatre and Cineplex for showing *The Promise*," Chestnut and Kasabian said. A DVD of the film will be available in July.

Chestnut said that to this day, the Turkish government questions the genocide's existence. However, she alludes to the works of scholar and historian Taner Akcam, who studies the Armenian genocide and has done research proving its existence.

Furthermore, both said the movie evokes many memories about the stories their ancestors told about the genocide. Chestnut remembered her father telling her: "keep moving and never lose who you are."

Ellen Chestnut is the author of *Deli Sarkis: The Scars He Carried*, the first-hand story of her father who witnessed the Armenian genocide.

Junlin "William" Chen is an Alameda Sun intern. He can be reached at [editor@alamedasun.com](mailto:editor@alamedasun.com).



Courtesy photo

Recipients of community grants from the Alameda Kiwanis Club took a moment for a photograph with representatives from Kiwanis.

## Club Awards Grants

**Sun Staff Reports**

The Kiwanis Club of Alameda recently awarded grants to 11 local nonprofits. The grant recipients included Alameda Boys & Girls Club for the "Keystone" Character and Leadership Program for high school aged youth; Alameda Education Foundation in support of Equipped 4 Success; Alameda Food Bank for their fresh milk program; Alameda Homeless Network in support of Midway Shelter; and the Alameda Music Project for their after school music program at Maya Lin Elementary.

The Friends of Alameda Animal Shelter received a grant to purchase radios for communication within their operations. Girls Inc. of the Island City received support for its Eureka! career path program; along with Rhythmic Cultural Works for its performance art and learning program; Alameda Point Collaborative for the City View Skate Park lighting and improvements; Alameda Family Services for senior programs; Alameda Homeless Network for the Midway Shelter; and the Close Up Foundation for Academy of Alameda civic edu-

cation program for youth.

The grants were awarded during an evening dinner meeting at the Elks Lodge. Recipients discussed their organizations and how the grants would help to fund their community outreach and programs for youth, seniors and animals.

Awards were presented by grant chair Ed Kosman and Kiwanis President Denise Gasti.

Kiwanis is an organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child at a time. For more information about Kiwanis visit [www.alamedakiwanis.org](http://www.alamedakiwanis.org).

## News in Brief

**Sun Staff Reports**

**County Has Board Vacancies**

Alameda residents interested in serving Alameda County can help fill current vacancies on boards and commissions in Wilma Chan's District 3. These include

- Advisory Commission on Aging advises the Board of Supervisors regarding the needs and interests of elders.

- Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee reports to the board on whether expenditures conform to the purposes of the measure.

- County Transportation Commission Independent Watchdog Committee ensures that Measure B and Measure BB dollars are spent on improving transportation in Alameda County.

- County Recycling Board administers the Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative to reduce waste. The Board has a vacancy for a "Source Reduction Specialist."

- Consumer Affairs Commission promotes and protects the best interests of consumers.

If interested in serving on one of these boards, submit an application and resume to [karina.rivera@acgov.org](mailto:karina.rivera@acgov.org). Applications are available at [www.acgov.org/clerk/forms/BoardCommApplication.pdf](http://www.acgov.org/clerk/forms/BoardCommApplication.pdf).

**APC Residents May Receive Free Bus Passes**

The City of Alameda and Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) have partnered to provide free bus passes for up to 167 senior or disabled residents of Alameda Point Collaborative (APC) a low-income, supportive housing community at Alameda Point.

The passes will allow the residents to ride on any AC Transit bus route for free. The program is facilitated by AC Transit's EasyPass program and the City's Paratransit Program, funded through Measures B and BB. Currently, 106 APC residents are enrolled in the program. In March, 50 residents used the bus passes, and took 1,413 rides. In April, 69 residents used the bus passes and took 2,399 rides.

## Sand Castle Contest Results Are In

**Sun Staff Reports**

The 51st Sand Castle/Sand Sculpture contest took place last Saturday, June 10, at the Robert Crown Memorial Beach.

The Urban Gorillas from Alameda and Oakland won the Sand Castle best-in-show award. The Shimohan family from Walnut Creek won the Sand Sculpture best-in-show award.

Several other awards were handed out during the event. Lucian, Martell, Kia, August, Cameron, Mateen and Mattis from Alameda and Oakland won first place in the sand castle 12-and-under (12U) category. Cub Pack 1015 of Alameda took second place, while the team of Kristi, Tammy and friend from San Francisco finished in third place.

The Urban Gorillas: PM, Crystal, Bill, Juliet, John M, John H, Sarah, H, Ryan, Jeff, Kersti, Germ from  
**CONTEST: Page 10**