

Alameda Sun

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:02	20:29
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Candidates Pull Papers for Mayor, Council

Eric J. Kos

This week the City of Alameda began the process of determining who will represent Alameda residents on the City Council, Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Board of Education and the Alameda Healthcare District board of directors in the near future. Alameda voters will be selecting a new Mayor and two new Councilmembers in November along with two school board members and four hospital directors.

The first day for candidates to pull papers for their campaigns was Monday, July 16. Ten candidates have pulled papers so far.

Sitting Mayor Trish Spencer and sitting Councilmembers Frank Matarrese and Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft have declared their candidacies for Mayor. Longtime member of Alameda's Planning Board, John Knox White, declared his candidacy for Council along with sitting Councilmember Jim Oddie, former Councilmembers Tony Daysog and Stewart Chen and newcomers: Robert Hayes, Robert Matz and Robbie Wilson.

Hayes is described as a renters' advocate. Matz is an attorney and Wilson is the founder of the AUSD Black Achievers Alliance.

As of Tuesday, no one had pulled papers for the School Board seats or the seats on the Alameda Healthcare District Board.

Pursuant to City Charter Section 2-5: "Every elected officer of the City shall be a registered voter of the city at the time of filing nomination papers and for a period of 30 days immediately preceding the date of filing."

The nomination period closes Thursday, Aug. 9, unless an incumbent fails to file, which extends the filing deadline to Wednesday, Aug. 15. The General Municipal Election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Beginning with forms that cover the period Jan. 1 through June 30, campaign fundraising disclosure and other statements are filed in a searchable electronic database accessible at the city's website: alamedaca.gov/city-clerk/elections.

For information on running for office, contact the City Clerk's Office at 747-4800.

Controller Injured in Tube Crash

Sun Staff Reports

A mid-afternoon collision blocked all lanes of the Posey Tube last Friday. At 3:28 p.m., a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer was driving State Controller Betty Yee and her husband in an unmarked car out of Dignitary Protection Section. According to CHP, a drug-impaired driver, Aaron Ba Sean George, hit their car. George suffered major injuries. Alameda Fire Department transported him, Yee and her husband to the hospital.

A Toyota Camry driven by an adult female pushed the state vehicle forward. The collision did not

injure the driver of this car. CHP suspects George of driving under the influence of marijuana; authorities will book him into the local county jail upon his release from the hospital.

The CHP driver had stopped the state vehicle in the number-one lane when George rear-ended it. Yee, her husband and the officer suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

One motorist reported cars backed up from Park Street to Grand Street along Clement Avenue as officials closed the Posey Tube to investigate and clear the scene. Traffic was directed to other crossings for several hours.



New Ferry Facility Nears Completion

Photo & story by Richard Bangert

The Water Emergency Transportation Authority's (WETA) Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility on West Hornet Avenue is nearing completion. Once in operation this fall, the facility will provide a consolidated base for WETA to maintain vessels operating on its Alameda-Oakland, Harbor Bay and South San Francisco ferry routes, as well as routes that will later serve Richmond and Treasure Island. The facility will also include an operations control center for service dispatch and an emergency operations center where WETA will coordinate emergency transportation services in the event of a regional disaster or transportation disruption. The facility is near Pier 3 at Alameda Point. As part of the project WETA worked with the City of Alameda to provide an alternative haul-out location for a group of harbor seals that once called a dilapidated and since-removed pier home.

AFD Sends Tender to Ferguson Fire

Ekene Ikeme

The Alameda Fire Department (AFD) sent a water tender to Mariposa County Monday, July 16 to fight the Ferguson Fire that has already engulfed more than 12,000 acres.

Alameda Water Tender 2 left Alameda to assist with the fire in Mariposa County near Yosemite National Park. It is not known how many AFD personnel traveled to combat the blaze. This is Water Tender 2's first-ever, out-of-county trip, according to the AFD Facebook page.

The Ferguson Fire is at 12,525 acres and just five percent contained, as of Tuesday, according to Cal Fire reports. The brush and timber in the region along with hot and dry weather is making it difficult for the 1,486 firefighters to extinguish the flames. Fire crews were met with thick smoke Monday that covered the region and limited the crews' ability to attack the fire from the air.

The blaze began on Friday, July 13, along Merced River canyon, according to reports. Cal Fire veteran Braden Varney, 36,



Courtesy AFD

Alameda Fire Department's Water Tender No. 2 is helping fight the Ferguson Fire near Yosemite.

was killed while combatting the blaze Saturday when his bulldozer flipped into a steep ravine near El Portal. No other injuries have been reported.

AFD sending fire vehicles and personnel to combat fires off the Island is a common occurrence.

In December of last year, AFD deployed Engines 296 and 502 to combat two fires in Southern California, one in Sylmar, 25 miles north of Los Angeles and one northeast of Ventura. They also sent engines and crews to fight the North Bay wildfires in October.



Courtesy Yumi Yasuda

Obon Festival This Saturday

Sun Staff Reports

Howard Shintani, president of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda (left), and the son of a temple member, Hunter Dixon, invite the public to join them at the annual Obon Festival set for this Saturday, July 21, starting at 4 p.m. The free event features live music, an ikebana exhibit, taiko drums and a mini food bazaar. Talks will be held on the history of the temple and the "Training Wheels of Buddhism." At 7:30 p.m. a traditional Bon Odori dance will take place. The temple is located at 2325 Pacific Ave. Find out more at btoa.org.

Interim City Manager Choice Goes Before Council July 24

Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda City Council has selected David Rudat as the finalist for the role of Interim City Manager. The Council will formally consider hiring Rudat at its Tuesday, July 24, meeting. Rudat will oversee the city's operations while the Council searches for a new permanent City Manager.

Rudat has nearly 40 years of leadership and management experience in local and county government including as City Manager, Deputy County Executive Officer, Fire Chief and Public Works Director. He served as City Manager of the City of Orange, Calif., for 10 years and has served as Interim

CITY: Page 3

City's New South Golf Course Reviewed

Joe Van Winkle

Greenway Golf opened the new Jack Clark South Course at Corica Park on June 22. Many golfers played it during the first week and loved it. The South Course is the latest in a string of major improvements Greenway has provided for Alameda since taking over management of the golf property in 2012.

Under direction from Marc Logan, Greenway's chief agronomist, a specialized team completed the renovation of the driving range and creation of the new practice area. They then soon provided a new Par 3 course, enjoyed by beginners and challenging everyone's short game. It also includes an option to play foot golf with a soccer ball. On June 22, the championship 18-hole South Course, designed by Rees Jones opened to rave reviews.

Not content to rest on its laurels, Greenway has already started work to provide a larger putting green and renovate the North Course. This will further enhance Corica Park. However, Corica Park is more than golf and recreation for Alamedans and visitors. Drainage was installed with bio-swales to capture all the rain water and help cleanse it.



Photo courtesy Coricapark.com

Greenway Golf invites golfers to play a round or two on the new and much-improved Jack Clark South Course at Corica Park.

Adding native plants and trees, the crew restored wetlands to create an environment where a range of fish, frogs and birds now thrive. Beautiful vistas at daybreak and sunset often include majestic birds like the great blue heron and white egrets. A range of hawks have been sited soaring above the golf courses.

In addition to beautiful lakes where birds gather, stone bridges now echo those at St. Andrews. Greenway also provided a new patio area — a comfortable place for people to enjoy the views of Corica Park and a drink from Jim's on the Course. Come out to play.

Joe VanWinkle sits on the city's Golf Commission