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Alameda Sun
is a publication of
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**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	06:15	20:15
Aug. 5	06:16	20:14
Aug. 6	06:17	20:13
Aug. 7	06:18	20:12
Aug. 8	06:19	20:11
Aug. 9	06:20	20:10
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Landlord-Backed Rent Measure Ruled Out

Ekene Ikeme

The rent measure backed by Alameda landlords has officially been ruled out of the November ballot by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office.

The "Alameda Homeowners and Private Property Rights Act" was ruled ineligible to be placed on the Nov. 8 ballot for failure to accumulate enough valid signatures from Alameda voters. The registrar's office announced last Thursday, July 28, that the landlord initiative had gathered 5,928 valid signatures. However, for a measure to reach an election ballot, the measure must receive 6,641 valid signatures or 15 percent of the city's voter population.

When the authors of the petition turned it over to Alameda city staff, they did so with more than 7,400 signatures. But after the registrar's office analyzed the signatures they deemed about 1,500 of those signatures were invalid.

Signatures can be designated invalid for a number of reasons including the signer is not an Alameda resident, not a registered voter and other reasons.

Last month, the measure failed to pass through the registrar's office's random sample phase ("Landlord Measure Not Likely to Make Ballot," July 28.) It appeared

unlikely the measure would reach the ballot because the registrar's office needed to analyze all the signatures before the Aug. 8 deadline from July 18, the day they determined a more thorough search process was necessary. This process can take up to 30 days. The county was able to evaluate the signatures in about 10 days.

Even though the measure will not make this year's ballot, the measure can be put on the next election cycle in 2018.

"They would just have to go through the process all over again," said City Clerk Lara Weisiger.

Property owners created the measure to oppose the more renter-friendly measure enacting rent control and other tenant protections.

With the landlord-backed measure off the ballot, there will be two choices Alameda voters will vote on regarding rent on the November ballot. The tenants' initiative, "Alameda Renter Protection and Community Stabilization Charter Amendment" organized by Alameda Renters Coalition, and the Alameda City Council measure that seeks to reaffirm its own rent stabilization ordinance, which passed in March.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at eikeme@alamedasun.com.

Resident to Row in Rio Olympics

Sun Staff Reports

An Alameda resident will be competing at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio as a member of the U.S. rowing team.

Hans Struzyna, 27, is a member of the men's eight U.S. rowing team that will compete in the Olympics starting this weekend. The team earned its trip to Rio by taking first place on May 24 at the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta in Lucerne, Switzerland.

The crew of Sam Ojserkis, Austin Hack, Rob Munn, Mike DiSanto, Steve Kasprzyk, Glenn Ochal, Alex Karwoski, Sam Dommer and Struzyna — there are nine members on the men's eight team — covered the Rotsee course in 5:29.16, 0.46 seconds ahead of Poland. The U.S. boat charged from third place after 500 meters to overtake the Poles, who had led until the final meters of the race.

When Struzyna is not training for the Olympics he is doing his day job. Struzyna is the vice president of business development at Innovation Properties Group, Inc. in San Francisco.

Struzyna, a Kirkland, Wash. native, attended the University of Washington, where he also competed in rowing. As a member of the Huskie varsity men's eight team, he was a two-time U23 National Team member (2009, 2010), and named to the Pac-10 all-conference



Courtesy USRowing.org

Hans Struzyna, an Alameda resident, is competing in Rio for the U.S. rowing team.

men's rowing team in 2009 and 2010. Four of the nine members of the men's eight team (Ojserkis, Munn, Dommer and Struzyna) are University of Washington alums.

The team is mostly inexperienced at Olympic competition. Kasprzyk and Ochal are the only members who competed in a prior Olympics. Both took part in the 2012 games in London.

There are eight US rowing teams competing in Rio, including a women's eight, men's four and a men's and women's pair. The Olympic Games begins tomorrow with the opening ceremony.

Alameda Golfer Finishes 70th in PGA Champs

Ekene Ikeme

Alameda native James Hahn finished tied for 70th place at last weekend's Pro Golf Association (PGA) Championship at the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.

Hahn, 34, shot an overall three-over-par 283 over four rounds of play. He had his best day on the course in the opening round Thursday, July 28, when he posted a three-under-par 67. After shooting a bogey on the third hole, he finished the front nine with birdies on the fifth and ninth holes. He shot another bogey on the 13th hole, but shot three more birdies in the back nine including on the par-five 17th and 18th holes. His stellar round put him tied for fifth place after round one.

Hahn, an Alameda High School graduate, fell back several spots in the second round after posting a three-over 73. He started the round with bogeys on the first and second holes. He recovered with a birdie on 10, but bogeys on 11 and 17 erased the ground he

GOLFER: Page 5



Paul White

AFD Douses Blaze in Sweeney Park

Sun Staff Reports

A small vegetation fire on the former Belt Line Railroad property brought 15 firefighters to the scene at 9:26 p.m. Monday night. According to Alameda Fire Department Captain Jim Colburn, the fire affected an area of 4-foot-tall grass measuring 60 by 60 to 100 by 100 feet. Firefighters accessed the flames via Atlantic Avenue as shown above. No one was injured and no source was found for the fire. Plans are currently underway to redevelop the long-disused railroad property into the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

Man Sentenced to Life for Pair of Murders

Victims grew up as friends in Alameda

Dennis Evanosky

On Friday, July 29, Diantay Powell stood in Judge C. Don Clay's courtroom and apologized for murdering two teenage girls in 2012. Clay was unmoved by the apology and sentenced Powell to life in prison without the possibility of parole plus 65 years for murdering Bobbie Sartain, 16, and Raquel Gerstel, 15, on Minna Avenue in Oakland's Allendale neighborhood on Nov. 25, 2012.

According to the District Attorney's office (DA), Powell shot Gerstel at close range in the head. Sartain ran from the scene. Powell chased her down the street, and fired at least 20 shots at her. She died from 13 gunshot wounds, the DA told the court. According to court reports, Sartain was involved in a romantic relationship with Powell, and Gerstel was involved with Powell's cousin Antonio Edwards.

The four and another male, Quincy Carter, were in a vehicle at the time of the incident. Carter

told the court that Powell asked the girls to leave the car, but they refused. An argument ensued, Sartain slapped Powell and Powell knocked her down. Gerstel tried to intervene, that is when Powell shot her. Sartain then tried to escape.



Courtesy OPD

Diantay Powell

The Alameda County District Attorney filed first-degree murder charges against Powell for killing Sartain. The DA charged him with second-degree murder for his role in Gerstel's death. The DA added a special circumstances enhancement to the charges because Powell committed two murders. The DA charged Edwards as an accessory because he drove the car when he, Powell and Carter fled after the murders.

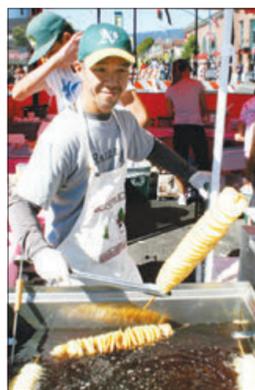
The DA later dropped the charges against Edwards because, if found guilty, he would have received an eight-month sentence. Edwards is already in prison. On Dec. 8, 2012, just 13 days after

he drove the get-away car after the Gerstel-Sartain murders, he assaulted and robbed a couple on Ettie Street in West Oakland. The DA charged him with robbery, rape and assault with a deadly weapon. The jury found him guilty in 2015. He is currently serving a 95-year-to-life sentence in San Quentin for those crimes.

On May 12, a jury found Powell guilty of both murders ("Powell Convicted of Local Teens' Murders," May 16). Deputy District Attorney Melissa Doohar successfully prosecuted the case for the people. Attorney Darryl Stallworth represented Powell. Stallworth asked the court to reduce the murder charges to two counts of voluntary manslaughter. He told the court that Powell acted in the heat of the moment when the victims provoked him. Stallworth said that his client had been high on an assortment of drugs and cough syrup for two days. "He couldn't think straight," Stallworth told the court.

Doohar called Stallworth's request "ridiculous," pointing out to the court the number of times Powell shot at Sartain as she fled the scene. Doohar described the victims to the jury as "two little girls."

Park Street Hosts Art & Wine Faire for 32nd Year



Photos: above left, Mike Lano, right, Hans Seibert

Alameda's most prominent street fair that brings original art, rides, live music and creative foods to Park Street, the Art & Wine Faire, took place last weekend. Thousands attended the two-day festival. Locals and visitors to Alameda alike could enjoy fried rutabaga, cauliflower- and potato-based fair foods (above left) that had a distinct vegetarian flair. Eleven local bands performed on two stages over both days. Event organizers with the Downtown Alameda Business Association said Saturday afternoon's crowd was among the largest ever seen at the fair. See more pictures from last weekend's festivities on page 5.