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## APD Seeks Residents' Help to Solve Crimes

### Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda Police Department (APD) has released the image of a man who is alleged to have committed a home invasion last week. APD said a man walked into a home on Lafayette Street while the homeowner was inside Saturday, Sept. 21 ("APD Warns of Home Invasions" Sept. 26). The homeowner, a woman, talked to the suspect for a while to calm him down. After he refused to leave, she ran out of the house and screamed for help. A neighbor came and chased the intruder away before police arrived.

Before the suspect entered the home, the homeowner's security camera captured the suspect. The male is seen on the front porch wearing a beanie, while holding a cellphone to his right ear. He is described as an Asian male in his late 20s, about 5' 8", with tattoos under his right eye and on both eyelids.

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Sgt. Klaus at 337-8340. Reference case number 19-05175.



Courtesy Alameda Police Department released this image of a home invasion robbery suspect.

### Additional suspect sought

APD is also searching for a male suspect who allegedly robbed an elderly woman at South Shore Center and may have tried to break into a victim's home last week.

The attack took place Wednesday, Sept. 25, around 8 p.m., according to police reports. The 73-year-old victim and her relatives left the Ross store and was about to enter their vehicle when the suspect grabbed her purse.

The victim did not release her bag immediately. As the suspect tried to pull the purse away he violently dragged the victim toward his getaway vehicle. The suspect eventually procured the purse and entered the passenger seat of an unidentified vehicle and drove off.

The suspect acquired the victim's keys and wallet among other items. Later that night someone tried to enter her home in Oakland using the woman's house keys, according to APD Lt. Hoshmand Durani. The victim's husband was home at the time and called Oakland police. The suspect fled before officers arrived, according to reports.

The victim suffered a non-life threatening injury in the attack.

Contact Sun staff at editor@alamedasun.com.

## 4-Way Stops Set for Busy Corner

### Sun Staff Reports

The Public Works Department will install new all-way stop signs at the intersection of Santa Clara Avenue and Willow Street this month. The work is expected to be completed no later than the end of October.

Public Works advises that motorists will require an adjustment period. According to the city, people who drive down Santa Clara regularly (or even rarely) have a



Left to right, Alameda High School Senior Caroline Choi, Haley Organ of New York and Johanna Reimer of Massachusetts receive awards from Robin Buchanan of Project Green Schools and Stephen Ritz of Green Bronx Machine.

## Student Speaks in NYC

### Amos White

Alameda High School senior Caroline Choi traveled to New York City (NYC) last week to participate in the third annual NYC Green Schools Conference. She addressed the international convention hosted as part of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Climate Week Sept. 25.

As a member of Project Green School's National Youth Council, Choi was invited to speak at the

conference about her role in starting Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) Youth, as well as founding an environmental club on her high school campus called "Amplify."

Choi discussed the lasting effect educators can impart with "green education" and how it can encourage students to get involved with local government.

"It was a bit scary presenting alongside people I look up to, like Stephen Ritz," said Choi. "But as soon as I got up to the podium, I gazed out into the crowd and saw a lot of adults smiling at me. At that moment, I felt really encouraged."

Choi said that while small efforts certainly do make an impact, students should be unafraid to work with large, bold actions and goals.

"Adults and youth have to work together. We can't antagonize each other. Not every adult is out to kill the planet and not every youth is uneducated and apathetic," she said.

Choi and two students from Sleepy Hollow High School, N.Y., and Mansfield High School, Mass., were presented with an Award of

Achievement by Stephen Ritz and Project Green School's executive director, Robin Buchanan.

Choi was invited to future UNGA summits through Project Green Schools. During her time in New York, Choi also met with the Fridays For Future (FFF) NYC climate strike organizers and exchanged stories. Choi shared stories about her, and CASA Youth's, leadership in the Sept. 20 Climate strikes.

"I left New York feeling motivated to do more. From the FFF students mass-organizing a city of more than eight million to cinematographers documenting indigenous leaders, each and every one of them was nothing but inspiring."

Amos White is a member of CASA, the community-wide coalition dedicated to raising awareness, mobilizing community action, and facilitating the implementation of programs to achieve the goal of Alameda's Local Action Plan for Climate Protection and to increase community sustainability and well-being. He is also vice chair of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force.

## Exclusive Interview with Schools' Head Continues

### Jessica Mei

Pasquale Scuderi is the new Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) superintendent and recently agreed to answer some questions for the Alameda Sun. Scuderi has served the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) as the assistant superintendent from 2014 to 2017 and principal at Berkeley High School from 2010 to 2014. At its June 25 meeting, the AUSD Board of Education voted unanimously to approve Scuderi as the next superintendent. He came into office on July 8. Part one of this interview appeared last week.

### Part Two

**Sun:** In what way do you see yourself making the most significant impact on Alameda students and the school district?

**Scuderi:** School districts, like any big organizations, can get lost in the many challenges, interests, problems and distractions that come at them. One of the things that I can do is use this position to reset and recenter our district and our community as a collective.

We need to focus on the most important thing that we do, which is the education of kids. I know that sounds like an obvious thing to say, but it surprises me how often in school districts, things outside the classroom or things external to the classroom take priority.

I am a really strong advocate for saying everything that we do should start at the place where kids actually have a direct interface with teaching and learning. Then focus the community and staff on digging deeper into the art and science of teaching. How do we create experiences for students that are not just informative, but actually enjoyable?

A big goal of mine would be to help create a space where together we ensure kids really enjoy their time. Learning, when it's actually happening, is pleasurable and addictive. I want to make sure that it's not just a grind for kids. That they can put their hands on things and experience things.

I want to hear student voices as often as I hear teacher voices when I'm in a classroom. We need to make sure that the experience for AUSD kids is not only productive, but an enjoyable and creative experience as well.

**Sun:** What school project or initiatives would you like residents to know about or especially pay attention to?

**Scuderi:** We will be having significant conversations with our community about this idea of teacher compensation. The fact that if we want to have the best schools out there we need to be competitive for the best education talent and the best creative professionals we can find. That's something I need to be in dialogue with the community about, and I want them to share their perspectives with me.

The second answer is encapsulated in this whole idea of priority and planning. It's important that the community knows that those conversations are starting and will happen throughout the year. It's a great opportunity for folks to attend some of the meetings and outreach sessions that we're going to hold. There they can let us know what they think is lacking, needs improving or what new ideas we can bring about.

Let the community know that we'll be solidifying our ability to recruit top talent and that there is a window right now where we are going to make decisions about the school district's focus for the next three to five years. My hope is that more community members will engage in that process with us.

**Sun:** What do you most look forward to at your new job?

**Scuderi:** I enjoy the administrative challenges of finding the best way to manage our finances, facilities and personnel. In a very geeky way I enjoy the kind of planning and thinking that goes with the macro-administrative responsibilities that I have to oversee.

Even more than that, the thing I look forward to is watching kids have positive experiences at

☀ **SCHOOLS:** Page 4



Thanks to Alameda parent Sue Yajko, the Alameda Hornets have a new marching band named "The Sting." The band fills a void left since the early 1990s.

## Introducing 'The Sting'

### Sun Staff Reports

Alameda High School (AHS) once again has a marching band. AHS has not had a marching band since the early 1990s. The AHS Marching Band "The Sting" performed its first halftime show at the AHS Hornets football team home opener on Sept. 6. They also performed at the Island Bowl on Sept. 13, both at Thompson Field.

How did this new marching band come to be? Back in the fall of 2016, parents Sue and Glenn Yajko attended AHS home football games and left very sad there was no band or any music to cheer on the Alameda Hornets.

Sue got the idea to start a pep band. Sue had marched in a band while at University of Wisconsin and was determined to get music at the AHS football games and hopefully then the other sports as well. In spring 2017, she brought the idea to the AHS Music Boosters. The group helped identify potential obstacles — Sue tackled each one.

She next asked the AHS Band Director about the school's Fight Song. He remembered it sung to the tune of "On Wisconsin," but he did not know the words.

Sue knew her alma mater's fight song well. The tune was familiar and she tracked down the music easily. But the words to the AHS version of the song were another story.

"No one seemed to know the lyrics and I couldn't find them online," Sue said. "At a graduation party in June 2017 I asked some AHS alumni if they knew the words. Within 20 minutes they got on their phones and came back to me with the words — so awesome!"

Sue next reached out to the music director at Lincoln Middle School to promote the Pep Band. Over the summer Sue was able to gather about 30 students interested in joining the new band. They arranged their first rehearsal in one student's backyard.

The Pep Band learned the AHS Fight Song, "The Star Spangled Banner" and a couple of shorter tunes before the Hornets' first home game. The Pep Band was started as an AHS Club.

The next challenge proved teaching the AHS student body its own fight song. Most of the students didn't know what a fight song was. Band members got remarks from their friends like, "Why do you play the same song over and over?"

Sue told the band members they had the privilege of introducing the fight song to the AHS students, teaching them the words and seeing how soon the students would embrace the song with pride.

The second year of the Pep Band Mitchell White arrived as the new AHS Music Director. "We were excited because he had experience with marching band as part of the USC Marching Band for four years," said Sue. "When I told him the history of the Pep Band and the wish for a marching band, he was all for it."

During White's first year he and Music Booster parents started making the dream a reality. White developed a marching band halftime show. Also, students from the Encinal High School Marching Band jumped in and helped. Music Booster parents found used uniforms online and raised money to buy them in AHS school colors.

This past August, AHS hosted its first Marching Band Camp. The camp is a student-led club. The AHS Marching Band now consists of 26 musicians.

The Sting's next performance takes place tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 4, at Thompson Field.