

Alameda Sun



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 16 No. 13
Dec. 22, 2016

INSIDE

HOMETOWN NEWS

Fire Wire
Page 2

Police Blotter
Page 3

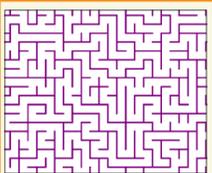
All the doings
of Island safety
& law personnel



SPORTS

Soccer Page 5

Islanders team takes home
State Cup, medals.



THE PUZZLES PAGE

Maze and more Page 9

Lots of fun on the puzzles/kids
page this week.



HOLIDAY SECTION

Seasonal services Page 6

Holiday services for the
season listed.



HOMETOWN NEWS

At your service Page 8

Sun publisher tries out
City Hall's passport services.

CONTENTS

HOMETOWN NEWS... 2

OPINION... 4

SPORTS... 5

HOLIDAY SPECIAL... 6

CLASSIFIED... 8

PUZZLES & KIDS... 9

OBITUARIES... 10

LOCAL HAPPENINGS... 11

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
Like or Friend us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter at Alameda_Sun



Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:21	16:54
Dec. 23	07:22	16:55
Dec. 24	07:23	16:56
Dec. 25	07:23	16:56
Dec. 26	07:23	16:56
Dec. 27	07:23	16:57
Dec. 28	07:24	16:58



Alameda Unified School District

New School Board Members Take Oath

Sun Staff Reports

Judge Chester Richard Bartolini swore in Ardella Dailey, Jennifer Williams, and Gray Harris at the beginning of the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Board of Trustees Dec. 13 meeting. Harris took her seat on the board in her own right after serving as the appointed replacement for Niel Tam, who passed away in 2015. Dailey and Williams are taking their seats for the first time. Dailey served as AUSD superintendent from 2005 to 2009. Williams has served as a PTA President for two years. She also served on the AUSD Measure A Oversight Committee and the AUSD LGBTQ Equity Roundtable. The Board of Trustees next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 10, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave.

Excessive Rain Forces Sewage into Estuary

Sun Staff Reports

The East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) has lifted the avoid water contact warning status along the Oakland Estuary after water levels were deemed normal on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The public was warned last week to not make contact, or allow pets to make contact, with a stretch of water in the Estuary near Jack London Square due to sewage overflows. EBMUD said the sewage overflows

were a result of heavy rain on Dec. 10 and 15. The rain penetrated into openings in aging lateral sewage pipes on private properties, overwhelming the capacity of the sewage system and leading to highly diluted effluent overflowing through an outlet pipe into the estuary.

EBMUD posted warning signs near Alice Street and the Posey Tube. However, after EBMUD tests came back normal, they have since removed the signs.



Courtesy EBMUD

The East Bay Municipal Utilities District that handles waste-water disposal put up this sign warning locals of a sewage spill in the estuary across from Alameda's Barnhill Marina. The ban on swimming has since been lifted and the area deemed safe.

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Pappo Restaurant Soup Kitchen Set

Chef John Thiel recently announced his restaurant, Pappo, will host its ninth annual Soup Kitchen this Saturday, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. The restaurant is able to open its doors to those in need once a year thanks to donations and support from the community. Anyone that could use a hot meal and some fresh toiletries and clothes is invited to attend.

The restaurant will begin accepting donations today after 4 p.m. Donors may drop off items as late as 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

In addition to the meal, the restaurant would like to hand out donated coats, hats, scarves, socks (new only) and travel-sized soap, toothpaste, shampoo and other toiletries, especially toothbrushes.

Pappo invites local children to get involved and support the effort by creating and signing some holiday cards in envelopes to drop off prior to Dec. 24. The restaurant will also hand these out to help brighten the day even more.

Volunteers are needed at the restaurant on Saturday, starting at 10 a.m. To help out for an hour, call Thiel at Pappo to sign up at 337-9100. Pappo is located at 2320 Central Ave.

Peralta Community College District appointed Timothy Karas to serve as president of College of Alameda (CoA). Karas has been serving as Vice President of Instruction at the college since 2014. His tenure as president begins Jan. 3.

After several months of searching for a new president at CoA, Peralta Colleges Chancellor Jewel C. Laguerre, Ph.D., concluded the final step in the process by conducting a campus visit to the CoA last week to confirm the choice of Tim Karas, as he is known on campus, as CoA's next leader.

From 2009 to 2014, Karas was Dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts. He served as Director of Library Services at Mission College in San Jose from 2005 to 2009. Previously, he was a tenured faculty member at the College of San Mateo and participated on multiple committees, including the Academic Senate, Curriculum Committee, Technology Advisory Committee and College Council.

"I am honored to lead this outstanding institution and am thankful for the support of the College of Alameda family," said Karas of his new position. "At the College of Alameda, students are motivated to explore, create, learn and lead with help from faculty and staff. I believe everyone can flourish with high-quality, affordable education."

Photographers sought for Alameda on Camera

The Frank Bette Center for the Arts (FBCA) will continue one of its annual traditions again this year when it celebrates the Island City in a unique photography exhibit titled *Alameda on Camera*.

The call for applications is open now for the show that brings together 48 photographers over 48 hours shooting in 48 different sections of Alameda. The deadline to apply is Sunday, Jan. 22. The juried competition will feature artwork using photo-based media and techniques that can earn awards in multiple categories.

For a prospectus and application, visit www.frankbettecenter.org, or call 523-6957 for more information. FBCA is located at 1601 Paru St.



Courtesy photo

Timothy Karas will be the new president of College of Alameda.

Karas to Serve as College of Alameda President

At its Tuesday, Dec. 13, meeting the Board of Trustees for the

County Courts to Shutter Completely for Holidays

Ekene Ikeme

All Alameda County Courthouses, with the exception of the Wiley W. Manuel (WWM) courthouse in Oakland, will be closed to the public for a holiday break from Friday, Dec. 23, to Jan. 2, 2017.

The closures are part of the Alameda County court system's Voluntary Time-Off Program, according to an Alameda County Superior Court (ACSC) press release. Staff who participate will take five business days off without pay. The program is aimed at cutting costs without having to lay staff off.

The decision, however, means there will be no hearings on non-emergency matters ranging from divorce and child custody cases, personal injury cases, small claims to business disputes, probates and others. Fax-filing services will continue to operate as planned during this period.

The WWM courthouse will employ a limited number of staff to hear time-sensitive criminal matters, review restraining order applications and other requests for emergency relief. The WWM courthouse will shorten its hours of service to 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23, and from Tuesday, Dec. 27, to Friday, Dec. 30. The WWM courthouse will be the only place for drop-box services, which will be from 2:30 to 4 p.m. during this time.

The George E. McDonald Hall of Justice in Alameda, the Berkeley Courthouse, the Fremont Hall of

Justice, the Hayward Hall of Justice, the Rene C. Davidson courthouse in Oakland and the Gale-Schenone Hall of Justice in Pleasanton will all be closed during the 11-day break. The Court's Self-Help Center and Family Law Facilitator's Office will be closed during this period. The Juvenile Justice Center in San Leandro will shut down many of its services to the public, but certain cases will be heard and parties to those cases will be able to access the courthouse.

ACSC entered fiscal year 2016-2017 with a budget deficit of more than \$5 million, according to the press release. The court system cites a lack of state funding and its designated "donor" court status as a reason for its budget deficit. The "donor" court status means that large portions of the Court's ongoing funding and any "new" monies restored to the courts through the budget process are actually diverted to other courts that have been deemed to be more under-resourced.

ACSC said the courthouse closures will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs. Other steps aimed at reducing costs include eliminating a number of vacant staff positions; instituting a "hard freeze" of no less than 12 months on filling other positions; instituting a "soft freeze" on all other positions, meaning that any vacant position will be kept vacant for no less than 90 days after it opens up; reducing the use of outside contractors and consultants; eliminating the use of overtime or comp time for staff except in certain very narrow instances; utilizing the entire 1 percent fund balance reserve that the Court is permitted to carry from year to year.

This effort eliminates any funding "safety net" for this year; reduces expenditures on office supplies; reduces printing costs by switching to a postcard format for jury summonses; and defers plans to move a juvenile courtroom from Oakland to San Leandro.

ACSC regrets the impact these closures will have on the public, but says this plan represents the Court's "most viable option for addressing the dire economic circumstances imposed upon it."

The Court has established a dedicated web page for up-to-date information about the specifics of the upcoming closures, including which judicial officers will be presiding in which departments during that time. The web page is located at www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/Pages.aspx/Notice-of-Temporary-Closure.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at ekeme@alamedasun.com.



Strong Storm Knocks Over 150-Year-Old Oak Tree

Maya Lin School community says 'bye' to oldest member

Story and photo by Eric J. Kos

Last Thursday's storm brought strong wind gusts and continuous rain that undermined the root system of a California live oak tree that has lived on the Maya Lin Elementary School campus since the 1860s.

Less than a week prior to the first day of winter, the Island City withstood its first major storm. No other significant damage was reported other than the felling of the tree, estimated to be 150

years old. Prior to human settlement, Alameda was covered with a forest of such trees, which, with its sister forest in Oakland, is said to have been the largest group of these oaks anywhere in the world.

Maya Lin Principal Judy Goodwin gathered the children before the downed tree last Friday morning to help the community process the loss.

The assembly ended with teachers, students and parents saying, "We love you, old tree!" in unison. One student quipped while

the assembly dispersed, "Good. We're done. I don't care about that tree." Apparently the youth would rather get back to learning multiplication tables instead of mourning a plant.

For other students, there were tears, especially when Goodwin handed each of them a piece of the tree as they left at the end of the school day last Friday.

As of press time, school district officials were considering using wood from the tree to create benches for parks planted at Alameda Point.