



Grandes cambios de votación en 2018....page 2

Honoring two civil rights heroes page 8

Innovative new high school operates in East Palo Alto page 6

East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



East Palo Alto and Belle Haven Spring 2018 Vol. 12 No.60

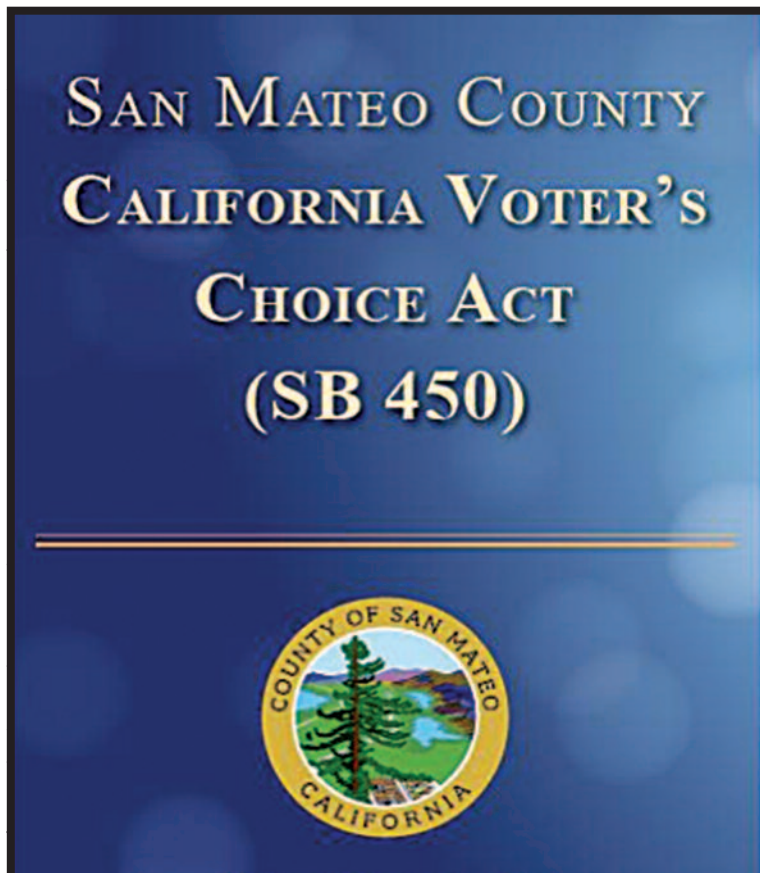
Big voting changes in 2018 for city residents

By Henrietta J. Burroughs

East Palo Alto voters will face some big changes in the upcoming June 5 election.

San Mateo County has moved to an all-mail ballot voting system in this election. So, voters can forget about running to their nearest polling place to cast their ballots on election day.

They now have the option to vote by mail, drop off their ballot at any secure drop box, without paying any postage, and to vote on weekends, at any vote center before June 5. City residents can now vote from May 26 at their voting center up to election day; register to vote and vote on the same day, vote with an accessible voting machine and get help and voting materials in



Breakfast of Champions celebrates two city activists



Mayor Ruben Abrica

By Henrietta J. Burroughs

For the past 33 years, JobTrain has held an annual breakfast to recognize one individual and one organization from the East Palo Alto community for making a positive impact in the community.

The annual event is called the Breakfast of Champions and this year at

its May 18, 2018 breakfast, JobTrain presented East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica with its Role Model Award and Project WeHOPE with its Community Champion Award.

To select this year's awardees, the JobTrain awards committee reached out to its board of directors, its strategic advisory committee and the JobTrain staff for award nominations. "After receiving many amazing nominations of worthy individuals and organizations alike," Sierra Bott, JobTrain's Marketing and event's specialist, said, "We met internally for an informal selections process to ask who stood out among the crowd and why?"

"After deliberation, Ruben Abrica and Project WeHOPE were our 2018 winners!"

Bott said.

According to JobTrain's selection criteria, the Role Model Award identifies and honors an individual for their professional accomplishments, personal attributes, and community commitment. This person should also be someone who inspiring to students and someone who might have overcome barriers of their own.



Project WeHOPE Dignity on Wheels mobile van.

ers of their own.

The Community Champion Award goes to an organization that works tirelessly to serve the East Palo Alto community and fosters community well-being. The organization's work also inspires others "to dream bigger and achieve more."

Bott said that "Ruben Abrica has been a huge supporter of the East Palo Alto community for decades. He contributes his time, energy and wisdom to community organizations (such as the Boys and Girls Club, Herban Health, and JobTrain), advocates for "Creating a Safe and Healthy Community," and takes an active role in shaping the minds of youth

Inside

Editorial

News Briefs

Opinions

Senior News

TV Listings

Youth News

Grandes cambios de votación en 2018 para votación en 2018 para residentes de la ciudad

Traducido por
Elizabeth Real
EPA Today

Los votantes de East Palo Alto enfrentarán algunos grandes cambios en las próximas elecciones del 5 de junio.

El Condado de San Mateo ha adoptado a un sistema de votación por correo completamente en esta elección. Por lo tanto, los votantes pueden olvidarse de correr a su lugar de votación más cercano para emitir sus votos el día de las elecciones.

Ahora tienen la opción de votar por correo, dejar su boleta en cualquier buzón seguro, sin pagar franqueo, y votar los fines de semana, en cualquier centro de votación antes del 5 de junio. Los residentes de la ciudad ahora pueden votar desde el 26 de mayo en su centro de votación hasta el día de las elecciones; registrarse para votar y votar el mismo día, votar con una máquina de votación accesible y obtener ayuda y materiales para votar en varios idiomas.

¿Cómo se produjo este gran cambio en la votación? En las elecciones de 2016, los votantes de California promulgaron la Ley de Elección del Votante de California, que fue promulgada por la Legislatura del Estado de California en 2017 "para hacer que la votación sea más conveniente y accesible".

De acuerdo con la Hoja de datos de VCA, que se puede ver en <http://www.futureofelections.org/wp-content/uploads/VCA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>, bajo la nueva ley:

Eliges CÓMO votas: ya sea que uses el correo, un buzón o un centro de votación [y] eliges el método que funcione mejor para ti.

Eliges CUANDO votas: en lugar de un solo día para votar, puedes votar en persona durante un período de 11 días, incluidos los fines de semana, hasta el Día de las elecciones.

Usted elige DONDE Vota: Puede votar en persona en cualquier Centro de Voto en su condado.

Obtiene el APOYO que necesita: el personal del centro de votación estará allí para ayudarlo a tener una excelente experiencia de votación, incluida la asistencia en varios idiomas y ayudar a los votantes con discapacidades.

Al hablar sobre el nuevo sistema de votación del condado, Mark Church, Oficial



Principal de Elecciones y Tasador-Registrador del Condado de San Mateo, dijo: "La Elección del 5 de junio es la primera Elección del Balota / Centro de Votos All-Mailed bajo la Ley de Elección del Votante de California ... Me complace decir que el condado de San Mateo es uno de los cinco condados del estado que ofrece a los votantes

estas opciones de votación según la nueva ley."

A partir de septiembre de 2017, los otros condados que ofrecen a sus residentes las nuevas opciones de votación son Madera, NAPA, Nevada y Sacramento.

Jim Irizarry, Asistente del Oficial Principal de Elecciones y Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder, habló ante el Con-

cejo Municipal de East Palo Alto para explicar el nuevo sistema de votación en la reunión ordinaria del consejo el martes 15 de mayo de 2018. Para más información sobre la Elección del Votante de California Actúe, vea a Irizarry en el programa Talking with Henrietta, que se mostrará en Comcast Channel 30 y en el sitio web del Media Center desde el 27 de mayo hasta el 9 de junio de 2018.

Puede ser una sorpresa para los votantes saber que pueden votar este fin de semana del Memorial Day en cinco nuevos centros de votación que se inaugurarán el sábado 26 de mayo en Daly

City, Half Moon Bay, Redwood City, San Bruno y San Mateo.

Cuatro centros de votación se abrieron el 7 de mayo.

Los Centros de Voto para la Elección Primaria Directa Estatal actualmente abiertos se encuentran en:

- División de Registro y Elecciones, 40 Tower Road, San Mateo
- Tasador-Registrador-Secretario del Condado, 555 County Center, Primer Piso, Redwood City
- Biblioteca principal del sur de San Francisco, 840 West Orange Avenue, South San Francisco

continued on page 14



Official Message from
the Office of Chief Elections Officer &
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
Registration & Elections Division
San Mateo County

June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary All-Mailed Ballot/Vote Center Election California Voter's Choice Act

The June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election in San Mateo County will be held as an All-Mailed Ballot/Vote Center Election under the California Voter's Choice Act.

San Mateo County voters will have several new and exciting voting options under the new law:

Vote by Mail

- Every registered voter will be mailed a Vote by Mail ballot 29 days before the election.
- Return your ballot by mail in the postage-paid envelope.
- Ballots must be postmarked no later than midnight on election day and received by our office no later than June 8 to be accepted.

Drop Off Your Voted Ballot

- Voters may drop off their ballots at 28 ballot drop-off locations conveniently located throughout San Mateo County starting 28 days before the election or at any Vote Center.

Vote in Person at a Vote Center

- You may vote at any Vote Center located throughout the County. Four Vote Centers open on May 7. Five Vote Centers will open on May 26, and 30 more will open on June 2.

Conditional Voter Registration

- You may conditionally register to vote and cast a provisional ballot through election day at any Vote Center.

Your  vote counts!

For additional information on Vote Centers and Ballot Drop-off Box Locations, please visit www.smcacre.org, or contact us at 888.762.8683 • 650.312.5222 • registrar@smcacre.org

Community News Briefs

East Palo Alto City Council addresses RV parking on Weeks Street.

At its May 15, 2018 regular council meeting, the East Palo Alto City Council unanimously adopted a resolution that would extend for six months its ban on RV parking in the 1100 block of Weeks Street.

While extending the ban, however, the council also agreed to open up an additional area on the street for residential parking.

In doing so, the council seemed to be responding to resident Patricia Lopez's request at the meeting that the city open up additional park-



Courtesy of

ing on the street for residents and their guests.

In supporting the ban extension, the city staff argued that the extension was necessary for a number of reasons, some of which included that

the Lack Solid Waste Service, generating illegal dumping, the Lack of Proper Sanitary Waste (Sewage) Discharge, it led to violations due to improper discharges into the city's stormwater system) violations, the obstruction of the Public Right of Way and tensions between the RV dwellers and other neighborhood residents.

During the extension of the ban to December 2018, the city staff has agreed to come back to the council in June 2018 to get additional approval for the proposed RV Safe Parking Plan, which will



MANSFIELD KIMBRO
 Realtor
 DRE# 01023602
 mansfieldk@earthlink.net
 Mobile: 650.743.9438
 Office: 650.757.0888 Ext 326
 Fax: 650.412.1900
 BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE
 J F FINNEGAN
 362 Gellert Blvd.
 Daly City, CA 94015
 www.bhghome.com/MansfieldKimbro




DREW CENTER PHARMACY
 2111 University Avenue, Suite B
 (650) 321-1449, Fax 321-5977
 Help Drew - Help You!



Health Plan San Mateo Medi-Cal Plan-Prescriptions Accepted



Medi-Cal
 Healthy Families
 Health Work
 CareAdvantage
 San Mateo Mental Health
 Express Scripts
 Medicare D Plans

Bring in your new RXS, empty bottles for refills or any other information and we can transfer or call your MD
 Public Fax Center, Utility Payment Center
 Gift Stop & Jewelry

OPEN MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

BAYSHORE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
 Equipping Youth ~ Developing Leaders

CREATE

academy

BCM offers **ACADEMIC, SPIRITUAL, and LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** programs for elementary through college students.

To register for summer programs or for volunteer opportunities, please visit our website, www.bayshore.org, or contact our office at (650) 327-1139.

Summer **STEAM** Program
 Grades 6 - 8
 July 9 - August 3, 8:30am - 3:15pm

Vacation Bible School
 Games ~ Free Food ~ Crafts
 Locations throughout community
 Grades 1 - 5

- June 11 - 15
- July 9 - 13
- July 16 - 20





1001 Beech Street
 East Palo Alto
www.bayshore.org

City, County, State & U.S. Government Meetings & Contacts

<p>East Palo Alto City Council</p> <p>The East Palo Alto City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers, East Palo Alto City Hall, 2415 University Avenue; (650) 853-3100 or Fax: (650) 853-3115. Website: www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us</p> <p>East Palo Alto City Council Members</p> <p>Larry Moody Mayor (650) 644-9110</p> <p>Ruben Abrica Vice Mayor (650) 380-4987</p> <p>Lisa Gauthier (650) 387-4584</p> <p>Carlos Romero cromero@cityofepa.org</p> <p>Donna Rutherford (650) 327-7926</p> <p>East Palo Alto Agencies,</p>	<p>Boards, Commissions, Committees</p> <p>Planning Commission Second and Fourth Monday</p> <p>Rent Stabilization Board Second and Fourth Wednesday</p> <p>Public Works & Transportation Commission Third Wednesday</p> <p>Youth Advisory Committee First Thursday of each month</p> <p>Senior Advisory Committee Meets first Wednesday of the even numbered months from 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. - City Hall.</p> <p>East Palo Alto Sanitary District The East Palo Alto Sanitary District office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and re-opens from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for service. Regular Board Meetings are held</p>	<p>the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.</p> <p>Menlo Park City Council</p> <p>The Menlo Park City Council holds meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers located at 801 Laurel Street. You can subscribe to receive the agendas and minutes by e-mail when they are published. For questions about an agenda, call the city clerk at 650.330.6620.</p> <p>Menlo Park City Council Members</p> <p>Kirsten Keith- Mayor Cell:(650) 308-4618</p> <p>Peter I. Ohtaki- Mayor Pro Tem (650) 328-0300</p> <p>Catherine Carlton Residence:327-5332 Cell:575-4623</p> <p>Ray Mueller (650) 776-8995</p> <p>Richard Cline - Cell:(650) 207-1677</p>	<p>Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees</p> <p>Arts Commission Bicycle Commission Environmental Quality Commission Finance and Audit Commission Housing Commission Las Pulgas Committee Library Commission Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Commission Transportation Commission</p> <p>San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Supervisor Warren Slocum Fourth District</p> <p>The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meets on March 3, 17, 31, & April 14, 28 2009 in the County of San Mateo Hall of Justice & Records 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. Roll call at 8 a.m. 9 a.m. Regular & Consent Agenda lems. 650 691-2121</p>	<p>State Officials</p> <p>Governor Edmund G. Brown State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-445-2841 Fax: 916-445-4633 Email: governor@governor.ca.gov</p> <p>Assembly Member Marc Berman District Address 5050 El Camino Real Ste.117 Los Altos, CA 94022 650 691-2121</p> <p>State Senator Jerry Hill District Address 1528 South El Camino Real San Mateo, CA 94301 (650) 212-3313</p> <p>U.S. Government</p> <p>U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier San Mateo Office 155 Bovet Rd, Suite 780 San Mateo, CA 94402 Phone: (650) 342-0300 Phone: (415) 566-5257 Fax: (650) 375-8270</p>
---	---	--	---	--

From the Editor's Desk

In this 50th anniversary year

In early April, I read a New York Times article that triggered all kinds of personal memories. The article, which appeared online on April 3, 2018, was called, the-lone-journalist-on-the-scene-when-king-was-shot-and-the-newsroom-he-rallied

The article described how Earl Caldwell, one of the first African American reporters, assigned to cover the activities of Dr. Martin Luther King, was also the first journalist to report on his assassination. I was amazed



Henrietta J. Burroughs

to see in that story the names of African American reporters, whom I knew personally, when I started my career as a journalist in New York City.

In addition to Caldwell, the article mentioned the reports that were contributed by New York Times' reporters, Gerry[Gerald] Frazier, Rudy Johnson and Tom Johnson, all who were my senior. It was a thrill to see some of the names of reporters and friends in one article. It mentioned Stokely Carmichael, a college classmate and another reporter, whose wife I worked with when we were reporters at another New York newspaper.

Am I dating myself? Yes, I am, but I feel that it's for a worthy cause. Those were the days in which journalists were broadly respected and newspapers were widely read. How times have changed

As I look back at the 1960's, I recognize just how special a time it was, since it reflected the height of the civil rights movement and the period in which the movement began to lose some of its steam. Following Dr. King's death, civil disturbances broke out around the country and replaced the civil rights movement's peaceful sit-ins and demonstrations. But, through all of the chaos that unfolded at the time, the

optimism that developed on the heels of Pres. Johnson's Great Society legislation in 1964 and the feeling that things were beginning to change for the better, were dampened by the ongoing Vietnam War and the assassination of Robert Kennedy on June 5, 1968, just two months after King.

As stressful as today sometimes seems, that time felt even more stressful.

After the Kerner Commission report, that led to national recommendations following the disturbances that swept the country, more opportunities opened up for African Americans and for the members of other racial groups, as more barriers came down. But, the breakthroughs that were occurring weren't happening unopposed.

As the pendulum would have it, breakthroughs were met by backlashes, which have become such an integral part of the American fabric. For every step some would define as a forward step, there are always those who conclude that it's a step too far. The civil rights gains during the 60's and early 70's were followed by the conservative swing to the Nixon administration; the Jimmy Carter years were followed by the Reagan years. Most recently, the Obama administration has given way to the Trump administration.

Fifty-five years after the March on Washington, we are witnessing what some would call a nativist movement to resurrect white supremacy and roll back the so-called gains of ethnic America.

It's a pendulum swing that should teach us not to be complacent at any time, because no situation on this earth is permanent, especially a political one. We are called upon to always be vigilant and to be ever mindful of the personal

continued on page 10



Oh, to have a proclamation in one's honor. That's exactly what happened when the East Palo Alto City Council presented the East Palo Alto Tennis & Tutoring organization with one at its May 15, 2018 meeting recognizing it for its 30 years of service to East Palo Alto. Afterwards the group took a photo with the council.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today



Measure B means more gated communities, traffic and sprawl. Measure C would block Measure B in its tracks.

Community Activists Mobilize Behind Measure C And Move To Stop Measure B

Dear Editor - For residents of Santa Clara County:

There's a huge difference between two ballot initiatives squaring off on the June 5 San Jose ballot. Whichever one wins could have repercussions for everything associated with sprawl in the region - from traffic gridlock to less affordable housing and reduced open space.

Measure C stands for Community, say activists who have

mobilized to put it on the ballot to stop Measure B in its tracks. Measure B, they argue, stands for billionaires served by developers who want to open up undeveloped areas in Evergreen and in Coyote Valley for high end housing use with no requirement for actually building the affordable units they've promised.

Whereas Measure C went through three public hearings and won the support of the San Jose City Council and the Mayor, backers of Measure B held no public hearings, did not publicize their initiative before they finalized the lan-

guage and relied on paid signature gatherers to put it on the ballot.

If B passes and C does not, it will

- Worsen the housing crisis in San Jose, one of the 10 hottest housing markets in the country

- Increase traffic gridlock in Silicon Valley since both Evergreen and Coyote Valley are far from available transit routes and new residents would have to rely on personal auto;

- * Reduce open space and increase risks of environmental degradation and flooding by opening up development in two undeveloped regions -- 200 acres in Evergreen and 3000 acres in Coyote Valley.

If C passes, its legal authority overrules Measure B because C is a charter amendment and B is a General Plan amendment.

Paid for by Neighbors for Affordable Housing and Open Space (NAHOS).

continued on page 16

EPA Today's Policies & Principles

In order to better serve the communities of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven, East Palo Alto Today has made the commitment to operate with high professional standards and to adhere to a strict code of ethical conduct.

The principles and policies stated herein serve as an agreement with our readers, advertisers and all others within our service

area. East Palo Alto Today is dedicated to conscientious journalism. We maintain this commitment by seeking and reporting the truth, acting with integrity, and serving the public interest. We will report the news thoroughly and accurately and include multiple perspectives without favoring one over the other.

We will hold ourselves accountable to common standards of decency, treating our colleagues, news sources, and the public with respect.

We are committed to maintaining our independence by avoiding partnerships, investments or business relationships that would compromise the integrity of our news reports.

East Palo Alto Today

Publisher: East Palo Alto Center for Community Media
Editor-in-chief: Henrietta J. Burroughs

East Palo Alto Today is published bimonthly;
Address all letters to: East Palo Alto Today
2111 University Avenue #160, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650)289-9699 epatoday@epatoday.org;
www.epamedia.org and www.epatoday.org

Opinion

The ideas expressed on this page are solely the views of the individual authors who do not represent East Palo Alto Today's board or staff

Dear CEO Mark Zuckerberg and CEO Jeff Bezos

By Amaya Gray

Three words, one place, forever my home: East Palo Alto. Just the sound of EPA brings me immediate peace. It is not only my home, but my history, my culture, my life. EPA is what made me the person I am today. The 2 mile radius town is a place where love, togetherness, family is alive. Its struggles and hardships are the thread that weaves the community together. Everybody in EPA knows everybody, and together we are one. Our mixture of races, festivals, parades, food trucks, fireworks, streetlights, and

music is what nurtures EPA's diverse environment. Our cultures make up the sturdy backbone of EPA. The atmosphere is constructed to be a family-driven and strong-bonded community filled with hard workers. Mothers and fathers, aunties and uncles, all kinds of people work from 9-5 every day - and sometimes, people work even more without a choice, because they must provide for their families. How does it feel to know



Amaya Gray

that these people are being forced, without a choice, out of their homes, out of the homes that have been within their families for generations? This has been happening more and more since your companies have bought land and then brought your businesses into EPA. I can understand that profit and good business are very important for the economy and your own personal gain. I am also very aware of how

beneficial your companies are to many around the world. However, I feel this isn't enough to justify the destruction of families and the forced eviction of people out of their homes because they can no longer afford their rent. This is called gentrification. Gentrification is the process of renovating and improving a district so that it conforms to a middle class taste. However, what if those who live in EPA do not fit the description of "middle class taste"? Do they deserve to be renovated and forced out of a community where they have lived their entire lives and have nowhere

else to go? As a proud civilian of EPA, I can honestly say that my town is not completely perfect, and I do agree that there's always room for improvement. When it was founded, it was abysmally poor, it was a place that was mostly forgotten. Yet my town has made incredible progress since then. It has gone from being the per-capita murder capital of the US in 1992, to a community that creates shopping centers that bring in revenue and jobs, cleans up toxic waste sites, and builds dozens of new

continued on page 14

A look at single family home displacement in East Palo Alto

By Valeria Ojeda, Karely Nunez, Heleine Grewe and Bianca Zurita

The Bay Area, also known as "Silicon Valley" is one of Northern California's hottest places to live. Not to mention it is also very expensive to live in, meaning rents are rising day to day. As more tech companies and their employees continue to move in to our communities, families are forced out due to high rent prices. Which brings us in; we're Youth United for Community Action (YUCA). We're a non-profit organization led by youth of color focused on Social and Environmental Justice, in East Palo Alto. We are



YUCA members Valeria Ojeda and Heleine Grewe discussed housing issues on the May 10, 2018 Talking with Henrietta television show.

committed to helping families in our community stay in East Palo Alto despite rent hikes and this current housing crisis. One of our focuses became helping low-income families living in single family homes owned by a Palo Alto based housing company named Working Dirt. This company owns a total of 17 homes in East Palo Alto and is raising rental prices in order to

push families out, and find new tenants that can afford to pay more. We wrote letters to the 17 families, because we wanted to interview them and connect them to legal resources in the community, two families bravely responded. Our goal is to document the narrative of families being displaced from single family homes, which are not subject to rent control and other types of regulations that protect renters. In an effort to maintain the privacy of the families that participated in our interview we

will refer to them as family A and B. Both of the families that we interviewed have been residents of EPA for at least 15 years. When they first began renting under Working Dirt, they paid \$2,000/month, that increased to over \$3,000/ month within a short time span. Due to these dramatic increases, these families live under constant fear of displacement, so much in facts, that they avoid complaining about malfunctions or requesting repairs within their homes. There is a fear that asking for these necessary and routine repairs may cause additional rent increases. Tensions are high when the

families feel exploited by housing corporations like Working Dirt, who seem to only care about collecting rent. Working Dirt represents an ongoing trend among Bay Area landowners that exploit low-income communities of color, and these interviews only reflect a fraction of the realities East Palo Alto residents face. It's clear to see that these landowners are practicing unethical methods on these communities, and it's our obligation as members of our community to stop these practices. "Being displaced from your home is devastating! You become very stressed because

continued on page 13

Amidst gentrification, locals give back

By Kyra Brown

I've worked in the East Palo Alto (EPA) nonprofit community for the last three years. I'm honored to be among the ranks of people who grew up in this community and have decided to give back to the place we call home. While I've been writing about the (often heated) topic of gentrification for the past three years as well, I want to acknowledge the locals that have chosen to come back and give back to EPA. Here are five insights that I'd like to share: 1. Know that gentrification isn't inevitable - it isn't a force of nature, but a process brought



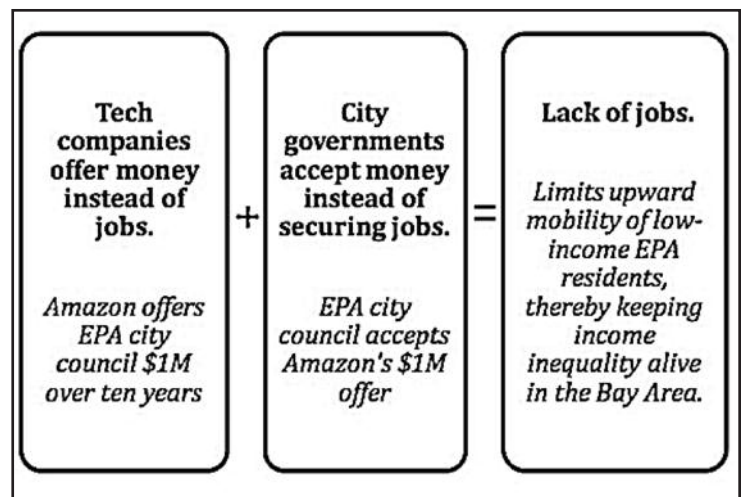
Kyra Brown

about by human actions. This helped me not to feel immobilized when navigating how to address the issue, meaning that there was still a way to combat gentrification as a person who grew up in this community. 2. Pick your battles - find the issue you want to invest time solving. I didn't have a particular issue in mind, but it became giving visibility to the

Bay Area's tech inequality with a focus on policy solutions in EPA, and urging tech companies to be "good neighbors" in EPA and beyond. There are many issues to fight for, always meetings going on, and people will likely want you to be part of it all, but to be effective, you will have to pick a focus area and put your shovel to the ground. 3. Decide your negotiables and non-negotiables - it helps if these are tangible. Negotiables and non-negotiables vary depending on who you talk to. For example, a transplant to the city may have a different view than do locals, or younger locals may have differing opinions on what is best for EPA than those who

grew up in the community pre-redevelopment era. There will always be difference of opinion. But figure out what works and doesn't work for you and be clear about that - it will in-

form how you go about your work. Let's use the Amazon decision as an example (see Figure 1), since it happened about a year ago (March 2017).



Save 2020 census - “Stand up and be counted” advocates urge

By Mark Hedin

The best response to White House efforts to disenfranchise ethnic communities is for them to stand up and be counted in the upcoming 2020 census, a wide

spectrum of experts and civil rights advocates agrees.

It's a simple strategy to counteract myriad steps the Trump administration has taken to subvert an accurate count of everybody in the country – a count mandated by the constitution every 10 years through the decennial census.

“This is one of the most significant civil rights issues facing us today,” said Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in a

media telebriefing on April 5 hosted by major civil rights groups.

Data from the decennial count determine everything from how many congressional representatives a state gets to how much money the government allocates for schools, hospitals and transportation needs – and much more.

“Communities of color are at risk of being undercounted and left behind,” Gupta said. “The stakes are too high to remain on the sidelines.”

Cuts in funding have already disrupted efforts to improve the accuracy of the data collection. As things stand now, Gupta said, the agency will face a shortfall of \$933.5 million from what it needs to keep 2020 preparations on

track.

Amplifying concerns, on March 26 Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced the addition of a new question about respondent's citizenship status, despite opposition from six former Census Bureau officials, two former Commerce Secretaries and experts in the field.

The timing of Ross' proposed question is unprecedented. It comes too late to allow the Census Bureau to conduct the careful testing it typically performs prior to making such significant changes.

“We know that adding this question on citizenship status will cause participation in the census to plummet,” Gupta said. She called the decision “deeply flawed...a failure of

leadership and a capitulation to President Trump's nativist agenda.”

“This is a tactic to scare people away from participation in the census,” said Arturo Vargas, executive director of NALEO, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund. “The purpose is very clear: the administration does not want Latinos to be counted.”

Vargas noted that Latinos, at almost 58 million, are the nation's second largest population group – almost 18 percent of the total population.

“Already we had expressed our concerns about what an online census would mean to the ability of all people to be counted,” he said, refer-

ring to the 2020 census' reliance on digital participation. Most at risk for an undercount are very young children. In 2010, an estimated 1 million very young children went uncounted, of whom 400,000 were Latino.

Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, called the changes “a thinly veiled, back-door effort to suppress” the representation of non-white Americans in official consideration. “The prospect of an epic undercount of African Americans and all people of color in the 2020 Census is becoming more of a reality each day.”

The African American community has always been un-

continued on page 11

Innovative new high school operates in East Palo Alto

By Ivan Temes

Although it is barely into its first year of existence Oxford Day Academy, the innovative new high school in East Palo Alto, is already demonstrating the incredible possibilities for a diverse group of 9th graders, many from challenging backgrounds.

Future leaders working as a team to develop their creative skills and become self-sufficient. That is what is happening and it is in total alignment with the vision founder Dr. Mallory Dwinal had for the school. She and her team worked diligently to overcome significant challenges and bring the school into existence last September. Progress has been rapid. The school opened with 68 ninth-grade students and will expand to a four year program with 270 students.

November of 2015 ODA, a tuition-free charter public school, was recognized at the White House's Next Generation Learning Summit where they presented one of the most promising new models for education.

When eight of the ODA students visited Harvard University for a week last month their comments reflected the significant life-enhancing experiences they have had. These are reflected later in the article.

Says founder Dr. Mallory Dwinal, “Oxford Day Academy is a dream made real by the hard work of countless community members who have donated thousands of hours over the past three years. This dedication is clear the moment you walk into the building where every detail and action is rooted in a commitment to developing our students as the leaders our society so desperately needs. Their academic



Photo courtesy of Ivan Temes

Oxford Day Academy students were just thrilled to visit the Harvard Business School and be a part of a class that was discussing the Greek financial crisis and how the Greek economy found itself in a death spiral. How exciting to attend a class at Harvard.

work is challenging and college-aligned. Their teachers push them to connect learning with the work they do outside of the classroom. ODA students push each other to do their best. In this way we are watching our young people blossom into intelligent, compassionate agents of social change.’

It is not easy. Principal Dr. Irene St. Roseman says, ‘We are creating a rigorous academic environment which is new for many of the students. They have to perform and come to class prepared and use additional research resources. Although it creates positive work habits the students sometimes feel overwhelmed at first.’

The teachers went through significant training in order to use the educational principles of Oxford with the students.

The school is modeled on the Oxford tutorial method, which involves student-led discussions and frequent presentations—both in small groups and to the entire class. Dwinal attended Oxford and was inspired to bring the university's teaching style to high school students. It's about finding the answers, not having the answers given to them. Classroom assignments often involve stu-

dents picking a challenge they see in their own community, learning about the topic and presenting their research in an academic fashion that also involves communicating about the specific topic in the class—such as English, Math or Science.

Service and community involvement is a key component of the curriculum and the students can be seen throughout the community. Mrs. Millicent Grant, director of the senior center, says having the students assist the seniors in learning about computers was fantastic. ‘The seniors loved it and we appreciated the willingness and outdoing attitude of the students.’

Student DJ saw an opportunity at the Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) and Oxford youth are there on a regular basis organizing and distributing food to the clientele. This is one of MANY community projects.

This ‘service focus’ is also visible within the school. Kimberly, a student who visited Harvard and plans to become an attorney, noticed some of her peers were struggling with math and science and initiated (with Dario) an individual tutoring program. This is

in addition to the extra work the staff puts in to assist students where needed. ‘I LOVE doing this and I learn too,’ says Kimberly.

Tim Sanders, the math instructor who relocated from Chicago, says one challenge is having all the students speak and articulate in front of the class. As their confidence grows they are in more of a power position. Dr. Dwinal says, ‘Instead of learning information simply for information's sake, they apply academic learning to social issues.’

Sanders makes math real in terms of what motivates students. Their upcoming group projects are either about gun violence and control OR gentrification. The students have to do extensive research and present their results in a way they include statistics, graphics and math principles.

Molly Rice, a highly-experienced science teacher, is a huge fan of inquiry-based curriculum where students work in smaller groups and use science principles to answer questions. ‘Students improve their social-emotional skills and learn to reframe what can be a distraction into something positive. A student may love the game Fortnite and gets to

play it AFTER finishing an assignment—not use it a way to avoid doing the work.’

Reality is also ever present in English/communication instructor Mikki McMillion's classes. She says the biggest challenge is developing their own voice and arguments. I personally listened to the talks on ‘How the cage bird sings—what is your cage?’ Students had to be creative and incorporate their own life experiences. They were all inspiring. Karen S. talked about overcoming bullying. In fact she and one of the other presenters, her sister Cassandra, were so impressive I invited them to tell their stories to a service organization in Palo Alto. Attendees were amazed at the courage and composure of the young ladies. They are already educating adults about life.

Melanie and Fernando took their passion and vision to a San Mateo County Arts Advisory meeting, chaired by Gary Waddell, deputy county superintendent, to present ideas for additional art exposure in the community. They were ultimately recognized for their volunteer work and commitment to the efforts. Fernando says he is grateful for being involved with an abundance of opportunities. Although he is an athlete, and the school does not yet have formal sports programs, Fernando is pleased he can participate with his fellow students informally and get to know others.

The positive comments come from a variety of perspectives.

Jahkim is a student with big dreams in life. He says the environment is challenging. ‘However, it is part of a bigger mission for myself and the school to have

continued on page 7

Tips for dealing with debt collectors

By Andrea Aker

With American consumer debt exceeding \$13 trillion, it's no surprise the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reports that one in three consumers have been contacted by collection agencies. Indeed, debt is on the rise across the board – from medical bills and credit cards to student loans and mortgages – affecting even the most financially prudent consumers.

"While it's a common occurrence, most people feel shame or guilt when they're contacted by debt collectors," said Mike Sullivan, a personal finance consultant with Take Charge America, a national nonprofit credit



Courtesy of <http://www.clker.com>

counseling and debt management agency. "It's often so distressing that people avoid the calls and the situation in general, which can make it much worse."

Sullivan offers seven do's and don'ts for dealing with debt collectors:

1. Don't Chit Chat: If a collection agency calls, you might feel forced to admit the debt is yours, promise future payment, or provide sensi-

tive financial information, but this info may be used to collect the debt if the agency secures a judgment against you. Get off the phone and ask for a letter detailing the debt.

2. Do Validate: Collectors must provide written notice of the debt within five days of first contact, including the amount you owe, name of the creditor and what action to take if there's a discrepancy. Check it against your own records to ensure the debt is yours. If you suspect identity theft, contact the Federal Trade Commission at 877-ID-THEFT.

3. Don't Pay in "Good Faith:" Collectors may suggest a "good faith" payment to safeguard your credit or

keep you out of legal trouble, but even a \$5 payment will reset the clock on the statute of limitations. Validate the debt before paying a dime.

4. Do Keep a Log: Keep a record of written correspondence and phone conversations, including the date and time of collectors' calls, the employee's name and notes about the conversation. Like-

wise, save any voicemails. The log may come in handy if the debt is disputed or the collector breaks any laws.

5. Do Dispute: If you don't believe the debt is yours, challenge it in writing, and use certified mail for all correspondence. If you dispute within 30 days, the collector

continued on page 13

Breakfast of Champions

in the community, as an instructor at De Anza Community College and through various volunteer work."

She went on to say that Project WeHOPE, which stands for Project We Help Other People Excel, offers a wide array of services that touches the lives of many. They specialize in helping the unhoused, homeless and at-risk adults in the community."

Bott listed Project WeHOPE's training and employment services as another factor in the organization's selection for the award and added, "Project WeHOPE also has an amazing Mobile Hygiene Unity called Dignity on Wheels, which gives free access to laundry units and showers. The great work of



Jeffrey Sanders

Project WeHOPE has recently been featured in Alicia Garcia's novel, "Overcoming Obstacles."

Garcia present Project WeHOPE's founder, Pastor Bains, with it's award during this year's Breakfast of Champions.

Adding further excitement to the breakfast program, JobTrain honored one of its alumni



Katherine Balga

Jeffrey Sanders with its Alumni Award, and Katherine Balga won the Fly and Why Contest, JobTrain's travel contest that will allow her to go anywhere in the United States, travel expenses paid.

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir gave a rousing performance.

continued on page 1

Innovative new high school

an impact in the world. The interactivity and diversity is rewarding, especially getting to know people and see their personal growth.'

Rolando Zelendon, director of Bayshore Christian Ministries which houses ODA for now knew some of the youth in their younger years. He says that bringing diverse backgrounds together empowers the students and their ongoing education and growth.

A very enthusiastic student Esmeralda says, 'We are learning to independently navigate our goals, individually and with each other in our peer groups. I am becoming the adult.'

Board member Lorena Cuffy, a catalyst for golf for girls in the community believes that ODA gives families an option which is innovative and centered on students and their interests. They get to

apply their education to life while exploring their own talents and abilities.

Margarita, a parent was concerned about the options at another high school and wanted a positive experience for her daughter



Photo courtesy of Ivan Temes

Oxford Day Academy students are shown sitting on the steps of the Harvard Medical School during their inspiring trip.

ter Sofia (who wants to be a pediatrician). 'The students are now in their second semester and I could not be more satisfied with

Sofia's educational performance. I'm very happy when I see my daughter doing her homework without me pushing her. She knows she can go to her teachers when she needs assistance and they are always willing to help.'

Visitors to Harvard University included DJ, Kimberly, Lupita, Saul, Jimena, Jahir, Sofia and Karen S. Students are now interviewing for

continued from page 6

a trip for four students to Oxford University in England. Some of the comments from the trip included: Karen S. – My experience was unforgettable. I had no idea what I wanted to do. After a tour of the medical school I feel like I really want to do this. I want to help people. I will try to do my 100%, not 88.9%.

Kimberly – This was not just a trip to college. Seeing Harvard was valuable and will help me determine who I will be. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I am now even more determined to complete all my work, participate in extracurricular activities and to become a professional lawyer.

Sofia – Going to Harvard and attending the business class I realized how important our teaching method at Oxford Day Academy really is. It is a great method.


Lupita – We got to experience what no ordinary high school freshman gets to. What I found

interesting is that the students in the economic class did not use 'uh, like or um' when talking. Instead they would pause and continue talking. Lupita has been a top student in the 'confidence and speaking class' at Oxford. After her last presentation she said, 'I made mistakes and did not apologize.' She has learned in 9th grade what she saw in action at Harvard.

Saul – I not only visited a new college, I have a new way of thinking and learning.

Jimena – I appreciated going to the medical school at Harvard. I'm now interested in learning how the brain works. I learned that in order to get what you want you have to work towards it.

Oxford Day Academy students are working toward having a significant impact in the community. In fact they are already doing that.



Compartiremos estrategias para:
¡Ahorrar más, tener y seguir un presupuesto, mejorar su crédito y mucho más!

Lo Conectaremos con Productos que lo ayudaran a controlar sus finanzas

¡Tarjeta de Crédito con fondos asegurados, San Mateo Credit Union y mas!

Acceso a asesoramiento Financiero Personalizado

Tendrá derecho a sesiones GRATUITAS con nuestros "Coaches Financieros" un regalo valorado de más de \$300

las CLASES seran en el Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center

Junio • 5, 12, 19, 26, y 3 de Julio
 • 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Registrarse crasmussen@rencenter.org
 o 650-321-2193**

Lifecycles

Community highlights in pictures

Honoring two civil rights heroes

César E. Chávez celebration in East Palo Alto



The public was invited to a community reception on Thursday, March 29, 2018 in the East Palo Alto City Chambers to a reception to meet and hear two members of César Chávez' family, his sister, Rita Chavez Medina, and his niece, Barbara Medina Aranda.



From late March through April of this year, the City of East Palo Alto held events to celebrate the contributions of two civil rights heroes: César E. Chávez and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The city observed Chávez' birthday which was March 31, 1927 and gave his family a proclamation in his honor.

It also celebrated Dr. King with two events: a special presentation at Cooley Landing on April 2, 2018 and an MLK 50th Anniversary Commemoration on April 27, 2018. See page 10 of this issue.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event at Cooley Landing



Standing together are Prof. Clayborne Carson, Olatudene Sobehemin, Mayor Rubin Abrica, Charles Jones, Gloria Brown and Council member Larry Moody participated at the April 2 event.



All photos by HJ Burroughs

Obituaries

Floyd Wright - November 22, 1937 - November 11, 2017

Mr. Floyd Wright was born November 22, 1937, in Lee County Georgia, to Flate Sr. and Reather Wright. He relocated to Menlo Park, California in 1963 after serving in the US Army. Floyd was united in matrimony to Jo Ann in 1989.

Floyd belonged to Local 300 Union and worked as a cement mason for 40 years for Torrez and H.C. Hansen Construction Companies. He was a very hard worker and took great pride in his work, you



Floyd W. Wright

could tell from his finished product.

Floyd, also known as "Big Money Grip" had a deep love for music. He was especially

fond of blues and jazz. He would sit for hours playing his harmonica or guitar. There's a good chance you may have seen him driving down the street playing his harmonica to his jazz tunes. It was a sight to see! Floyd's family was most important to him, he had special relationships with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. They loved spending time with their "Papa" Floyd creating lasting memories.

Floyd was a man of God. He was an avid member of

Destiny Christian Fellowship in Fremont, California. He would attend regularly until his health didn't allow.

Floyd went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday November 1, 2017 at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto, California. He is preceded in death by: Flate Sr. and Reather Wright (Parents), Ruby and Donald (brothers) and Juanita (sister).

His life and legacy will continue on forever cherished in the lives of his beloved wife Jo Ann Wright. Brothers: George

Wright (Gladys), Arthur Wright (Virginia), Flate Wright Jr. and Hubert West. Sisters: Bobbie Cannon (Cole), Reather Miller and MaryAnn Thomas. Daughters: Pamela Evans, Ebony Wright, Lisa Campbell (Tremell) and Libra White. Sons: Terrance Bush, Malik White, David Bush (Marisela), Khalil Attiba, special Grandsons Jamal Thomas and Myles Evans. Extended family member Pebbles Crawford, and a host of Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Family and Friends.

Ronald Sledge - April 12, 2018



Ronald E. Sledge

Mr. Ronald E. Sledge was born to Rev. Willie H. Sledge and Deaconess Vera M. Sledge in Los Angeles, California. He was the third of six children born to their union.

His younger brother Fredrick Hue Sledge preceded him in death. He attended elementary school in Los Angeles until the family moved to Tucson Arizona. The family moved back to California in 1963 and he finished junior high and graduated from Ravenswood High School in 1968. He was well known in the community for his athletic prowess and Gold Medal win in the broad jump and varsity track and basketball. He also served in the US Navy, one of his assignments was to conduct the Naval choir, I am sure his love of music helped attain that function. He became a

Real Estate Broker and worked in the East Palo Alto community with Century 21 and later with Alpha Reality.

Ronald was also a graduate of Canada College with a Paralegal Certificate in June, 1986 and a A.S. degree in Paralegal in May 1997. He also completed the California baby-bar exam with the intent to become an Attorney. But He suffered a stroke in 2002 before he could reach that goal.

Having grown up in a Christian home, Ronald eventually found Christ on his own terms, he attended his local church in Bakersfield, California but

when health issues began to be his challenge he continued practicing his faith at home with early morning prayers and devotions. He was so committed to his faith that if one attempted to call or email him during that timeframe one would NOT get a reply until he deemed it appropriate to reach out to you. Those were for him sacred hours.

Ronald had recently been hospitalized and had stabilized enough to return home. His home health team visited Ronald on Tuesday April 10th and when they returned on Thursday April 12th, Ronald had joined with his brother

and Mother Vera M. Sledge to rest in the arms of our Redeemer. He leaves behind a son, Aaron D. Sledge, a daughter, Andrea N. Sledge-Friis (Nancy). A host of nephews and nieces, Teddy Drane, Willie C. Sledge, Jr., Jackey J. Wilson, Leon M. Glover, Laron M. Glover, Kevin G.P. Jones, Kenneth F.H. Jones, Nicole M. Fonta, Lana Wright, Eustacia F. Sledge, Anne M. Sledge, Maya A. Jones, and a band of great nephews and nieces, cousins, friends and extended family members across the United States as well as internationally.

Lifecycles

Celebrating 100 years of life *with decades of giving to others*



Lottie Kirk and her late husband Solomon

By **Henrietta J. Burroughs**

“God so loved the world he gave us Lottie”



Lottie Mae Kirk

Friends and family members came from all over the country to wish Lottie Mae Kirk a Happy 100th birthday. While her actual birthday fell on April 25, the celebration for her biggest ofbirthdays was held on Saturday, April 21 at the Bay Café in Palo Alto.

Ms. Kirk, who has been an East Palo Alto resident for more than 50 years, was lauded by those who shared their touching and treasured memories of her.

It's sometimes said that the good die young, but that obviously isn't the case with Kirk. One friend who shared her memories said, When

you give to people the way she does, God's not going to take you.” She continued that when Kirk was in her 80's, each day she would say that if God's let's me live. The friend said, I responded, “Where are you going to go?”

Rev. Chris Edwards, a minister from St. Louis, said, “God so loved the world, he gave us Lottie.”

Afterwards Edwards asked,

“What is the greatest commandment? Love,” he said. “We have the love right here - Lottie.”

Speaker after speaker, who attended Kirk's birthday party that day shared experiences that they had had with Kirk and her late husband, Solomon, that echoed Edwards' words.

Wendell Prude who lived in San Diego, told how when he had just graduated from high school and had \$20 in his pockets and didn't know where he was going or what he was going to do.

But, he was told to go to East Palo Alto and see the Kirks. He said that he told his family he would see them within a few days. But, because of the hospitality and the encouragement that the

Kirks showed him, he obtained a job at Stanford University and was amazed at the money he made in his first job.

East Palo Alto resident, Nevada Butler shared how Kirk always gave gifts for her three children.

“You are that angel and you are living proof of what people should be like in life,” she told Kirk.

Lottie Mae Kirk was born in Marks, Mississippi on April 25, 1918 and moved to St. Louis Missouri at 13. There she learned to sew from her grandmother and graduated from trade school as a seamstress.

She met her husband, Solomon in St. Louis and he encouraged her to start her own business, which she

called La Modiste.

Her friends say that she and her husband had a gift of giving, so much so that she would sew quilts and give them to the Ecumenical Hunger Program for needy families.

Kirk was also known for being a good cook. Her bio said, “She would have a full course Mothers Day dinner with open invitations for friends and family just to honor mothers.”

Considering the degree to which she gave throughout her life, it seemed the least her friends and family could do this day was to honor her on her big day.

Hearing of Kirk's contributions to the lives of other made for an inspiring day.

¡Hablamos español!
'Oku mau lea faka-Tonga!

Family & Adult Medicine
Dentistry • Pediatrics • Lab
Optometry & Optical Services
Counseling & Behavioral Health
Pharmacy • X-Rays • Ultrasound
Women's Health • Family Planning
Pregnancy Testing • Prenatal Care
Mammography • Specialty Referrals

Call now to enroll today!
(650) 330-7416

Ravenswood
Family Health Center
1885 Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

We accept patients regardless of their ability to pay or their immigration status.

Aceptamos pacientes sin importar su habilidad de pagar o su estado migratorio.

'Oku mau tali 'a e taha kotoa pē tatau ai pē, pe ko e ha ho'o tu'unga fakapa'anga, pe tu'unga nofo fonua.

HEALTH CARE THAT CARES



Community highlights in pictures

EPACENTER ARTS, the youth arts and

cultural center that will be opening in 2020 at 1950 Bay Road in EPA held its first

open house at the Mid-Peninsula Girls Club on Thursday, April 19, 2018 from

7-9 p.m. Presentations were given by its new executive director, Nadine Rambeau, and

other members of the EPACenter Arts team.



Nadine Rambeau, second to the left, stands with three members of her team: Scape Martinez, Denise Adger and Julia Ann Stark. - All photos by HJ Burroughs



A Taste of East Palo Alto

On Saturday, March 24, Sand Hill Property Company, owner of Woodland Park Apartments, marked two years of ownership by hosting "A Taste of East Palo Alto" as they highlighted contributions to the community and positive changes they have

made over the last two years. Event organizers estimated more than 300 residents attended the event.



Were Mike Kramer from Woodland Park Communities, Inc, Mayor Ruben Abrica and East Palo Alto Council member Lisa Gauthier really having that much fun? What was the joke? Abrica told one.

Prop. 68: \$4.1 billion bond has equity as its bottom line

By Mark Hedin

Prop. 68: \$4.1 billion bond has equity as its bottom line

By Mark Hedin, Ethnic Media Services

Proposition 68 on the June 5 ballot promises to modernize California's parks and water systems in unprecedented ways.

The measure, which requires only a simple majority vote to pass, would have the state borrow \$4.1 billion for a long list of recreation, conservation and restoration projects involving parks, water-related works and the environment.

Two-thirds, about \$2.8 billion, would go to build parks in communities where there are none, clear up the backlog of maintenance in state parks, boost local park districts, prepare for climate change and generally improve park access for all Californians.

The remaining \$1.3 billion would go for a wide range of water-related measures, from restoring watersheds and protecting salmon runs to ramping up water recycling and conser-



Courtesy of Patrick Nelson

vation, and dealing with groundwater considerations, flood protection and, in the Coachella and Imperial valleys, restoring the Salton Sea, and more.

Prop. 68 is unique, said Mary Creasman, California director of government affairs for Trust for Public Land, which helped draft the measure with state Sen. Kevin DeLeon and Coachella Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, in its emphasis on serving the broadest possible sector of Californians.

"Because of its equity element," she said, "this bond is different from any other we've had on environmental or natural resources. Most of its priorities are on underserved communities."

Before any of its specific targets are addressed, she said,

comes the stipulation that at least 20% of its spending benefits low-income communities.

For example, the largest piece of the billions designated for parks, \$725 million, is intended for new parks in "park-poor" neighborhoods — those with fewer than 3 acres of usable parkland per 100,000 residents.

Likely candidates would be East Los Angeles and its Boyle Heights neighborhood, East Palo Alto, Richmond, Alviso, East Fresno, Bakersfield, Merced, or, in the Inland Empire, Colton or Rialto.

The measure's inclusionary emphasis, Creasman said, is also reflected in its early-stage provision for community outreach to make people aware of its goals. From there, the bill also contains language to provide technical support to community organizations — smaller or governmental bodies, nonprofits, small businesses, schools — that lack staff to pursue applicable Prop. 68 grants.

At that point, support would

continued on page 14

MLK 50th Commemoration Music Festival



The MLK 50th Commemoration Music Festival on April 21 at the Pavilion of the Four Seasons Hotel was a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic music festival featuring such bands as the Pacific Soul Band, Rafa, Busta-Groove and Ronnie Stewart. It had a Kids Pavilion with Jumpers, face painting, a multi-ethnic food pavilion and more.



What a great day for a photo! Eugene Jackson, Ms. Millicent Grant, Liz Silva, Bridget Grant and her friend Annette from Sacramento were, obviously, ready for their photo to be taken.

Join fellow East Palo Alto residents who wish to become active in disaster awareness, preparedness and capability.

East Palo Alto CERT in conjunction with the Menlo Fire District offers "GET READY" classes on the THIRD THURSDAY of every month at Faith Missionary Baptist Church (835 Runnymede Street) from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

USGS has cited recent earthquake activity throughout the Pacific Rim as reason to be ready for a potential earthquake event in our area.

We welcome individuals (at whatever level of disaster response skills you possess), church groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, Explorers, community organizations, schools, businesses and corporations to take part in this East Palo Alto class.

The "GET READY" class of March 15 will be in Spanish.

Become an active East Palo Alto resident in disaster preparedness awareness and capability.

Please go to menlofirecert.com or info@mpccm.org for more information or call 650 743 4350.

Midpen Media selects its new board members

By Eva Barrows

Midpen Media Center is pleased to welcome Sue Purdy Pelosi to her new position as board president, taking office in January 2018. Barbara Noparstak served ten years as Midpen Media Center's previous board president and was deeply involved in ensuring community media access for all. Pelosi looks forward to continuing Noparstak's community outreach.

Pelosi is joined by Less Lincoln as the new board vice president. Lincoln has served on the board since 2015 and has a deep personal interest in video production and extensive professional experience in organizational development.

Pelosi looks forward to working with the Executive Director, Keri Stokstad, "Stokstad has the perfect combination of community access leadership at the national level, commitment to building Midpen Media Center's local and expanding alliances and some truly great technical skills."

Stokstad says, "This organization is fortunate to have very dedicated board members who are passionate about their communities. Each member brings specific expertise that has contributed to our enduring success. I am grateful to Barbara for her guidance in my first few months on the job. The entire



Sue Purdy Pelosi



Barbara Noparstak

Midpen Media Center staff looks forward to working with Sue, who served in the Vice President role for two and a half years, and Less. They both bring new and exciting skills to their respective roles."

Pelosi shares "What I like the most about Midpen Media Center is the random intersection of ideas, activities and energy that happens when people get together." A graduate of Midpen Media Center's studio class, Pelosi was impressed by her classmates – all from different communities, age groups and life experiences – coming together to create a TV show. "I see that happening all over the place at the Midpen Media Center and that's fabulous." Providing the opportunity to join a team united by a common goal to produce TV is one of Midpen Media Center's many strengths. "When kids get together to do sports broadcasting in the field, it really helps connect kids from different schools and different parts of our broadcast area." It's

important, Pelosi says, to encourage people to communicate outside of their known paths.

Pelosi is committed to the strategic initiative of increasing the Midpen Media Center's reputation as a national leader in community media, and essential resource for the Atherton, East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park communities and San Mateo and Santa Clara county service areas.

The Midpen Media Center is a vital community and city government connector. Pelosi says, "It's incredibly important for us to be doing government services work broadcasting all of the city hall meetings." Coverage of local elections and events by groups like the League of Women Voters helps ensure freedom of information. "The Midpen Media Center has always been open to programming that allows people to exercise their first amendment rights."

As a volunteer judge for Midpen Media Center's Local He-

roes submissions and the Zoomies awards, Pelosi has screened a lot of great media content. "I'm always so impressed and delighted with the creativity and the dedication that goes into them."

Each submission shares a learning experience with the viewer whether it's about art, travel or a notable person. As board president, Pelosi is committed to working with the board and ED Stokstad to ensure that future strategic initiatives will support helping people tell their stories through access to the Midpen Media Center.

Outgoing board president Barbara Noparstak has been a dedicated community-building leader at Midpen Media Center. "It's just astonishing how intensely Barbara cares about the

Midpen Media Center, and how that led directly to her leadership for ten full years," says Pelosi.

Noparstak served as president during significant milestones for the organization, including the HD studio conversion, development of the MC Sports program and the creation of MC ProServices. She shepherded the strategic planning process and provided stability during an extensive executive director search.

The entire board is engaged in working together with staff to lead the Midpen Media Center in this new chapter.

New to the Midpen Media Center? Explore our website at midpenmedia.org and come to an open house tour.

Buying or Selling a Home In East Palo Alto?

Call: (650)-471-3610

For a free home estimate go to:

WWW.EastPaloAltoFreeHomeEvaluation.Com



KAPIKA ASISA
BRE# 02018484
Direct: (650)471-3610
Homes@asisakapika.com
www.asisakapika.com



Save 2020 census

dercounted, Morial noted, starting with the 1790 Census when slaves were considered three-fifths of a person. In 2010, African Americans were undercounted by more than 2 percent, and African American children by 6.5 percent. By contrast, whites were overcounted – by 1 percent in 2000 and again by 1 percent in 2010.

Morial also noted that last month's decision to continue what he called a "prison based gerrymandering" policy – counting prisoners where they are incarcerated rather than where they come from – will further ensure a geographic miscount.

"I have no doubt that had it been left to Census Bureau professionals, that decision would have been reversed. But when the administration came in, politics prevailed."

John Yang, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, pointed out that decisions to cut the number of census workers and offices by 50 per-

cent will undermine outreach to the very communities the census has struggled to reach in the past, and trim the followup efforts to reach those who don't respond to the initial survey.

Asian Americans were identified by the 2010 census as the fastest growing ethnic group in the nation, increasing by 46 percent since 2000, Yang said. Some 80 percent of Asian Americans either immigrants or children of immigrants, putting them at high risk for an undercount.

Pointing to widespread fears among immigrant communities of exposing vulnerable family information, Yang emphasized that the Census bureau has the most stringent confidentiality rules of any government agency. Even that, he warned, may not be enough to ensure participation in today's charged political climate. Responding to a reporter's question, he agreed that the confidentiality protocols were adopted following revelations that the census

continued from page 6 during World War II helped identify Japanese Americans for internment.

"How do we explain that the best way to fight back, the best way to have a voice in policy discourse, is to be counted," NALEO's Vargas challenged. Noting that "there is a great amount of fear in Latino communities and in immigrant communities across the country," Vargas said the advocates' task now is to turn that fear into empowerment. "We will not cower in fear and not be counted... we will be the ones to defend American democracy."

"The fight to save the census is not over, by any stretch," Gupta said. She cited lawsuits already filed by the state of California against Ross' proposed citizenship question, another by a group of states led by New York, and efforts by the Conference of for oversight hearings followed by legislation in Congress.

"Together we can make sure the Census is fully funded and the decision to add the



Introduction to Business: Start Smart (San Jose)

Do you have a business idea? Would you like to start a new business?

Join our class and learn how to start your own business!

Thursdays Starting May 31, 2018

6:00pm - 9:00pm

4- Weeks, Meets Thursdays on 5/31, 6/7, 6/14 and 6/21

Lexus Dealership
3333 Steven's Creek Blvd.
San Jose, CA 95117

Our innovative new approach to entrepreneurship training focuses on business modeling to help you launch or expand at your own pace.

To register www.rencenter.org or crasmussen@rencenter.org or 650-321-2193

For more information please email: crasmussen@rencenter.org or call 650-321-2193

'In this 50th anniversary year

continued from page 6

and collective goals that we'd like to reach.

It seems obvious, as some of the ancient philosophers said, the only thing we can count on is change. Sooner or later, whatever situation we might find ourselves in, is likely to change. We can see how Whiskey Gulch gave rise to University Circle. The old building at Cooley Landing has given rise to the Education Center, and the empty lot at

University and Donohoe in East Palo Alto, that once held small businesses, has given rise to the Amazon building. Some changes give rise to protests and questions, while other changes, like the one that led to Dr. King gaining more honor and respect in death than he had in life, leave us with hope, as the old gives rise to the new. Given that change is a constant in life, how do we best deal with it?

It's sobering for me to think of the past and realize that some of the reporters and activists that I hung out with decades ago have retired or are no longer alive.

For all of our accumulating memories, we are constantly challenged to live our lives in the present, not in the past. How else, can we effectively meet the day-to-day challenges we face personally and as a nation? We could be ad-

vised to constantly assess our goals and reassess the steps we need to take to reach them and to analyze how we can make the most of the changes around us whatever they might be and whichever way the road might lead.

So, where are we now, fifty years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's death, after all of the assessments have been made and the looking back is done? If nothing else, we can all have

a new resolve.

We can all resolve to constantly honor those who have gone before us by working to improve our own lives and the lives of those around us.

We can resolve to continue the effort to make America, not great, but better, and we can resolve to never give up the fight, but to adjust to the wind, whichever way the wind might blow.

Reducing the noise and health impacts of air traffic

On April 27, 2018 Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) announced the inclusion of her amendment requiring the federal government to take steps to reduce the noise and health impacts of commercial air traffic in her District, and for millions of Americans in communities across the country, as part of the bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration through 2023 that passed in the U.S. House of Representatives today.

"Communities around the country are suffering under crushing levels of airplane



Photo courtesy of <http://www.skypossepaloalto.org>

noise. I've been inundated for years with calls for help from constituents who have suffered from lost peace, sleep, and sanity. I'm pleased that the multibillion dollar package includes funding for my amendment to require the Government Accountability Office to study two key solutions to mitigate the noise and

health impacts caused by endless flights," Rep. Speier said. "This includes looking at whether air traffic controllers and airspace designers are trained on noise and health impact mitigation, and tracking the prevalence of off-course vectoring. This is a small but critical step towards implementing common-sense measures to provide noise relief to millions of Americans living under crowded flight paths around the country.

"Though I am happy to see that this amendment, and my amendment to require the FAA to review the safety and efficacy of outdated oxygen

masks on commercial aircraft, have passed, I voted against the full reauthorization bill due to the glaring absence of real solutions to reduce the dangerous and distracting noise

created by the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen)."

A release from Congresswoman Speier's office






Join us for the 2nd Annual Menlo Park Community Emergency Drill on June 23, 2018 at the Camp Fremont Park and surrounding downtown area. The drill begins at 8:00 AM with check-in and concludes at 1 PM.

Participants will assemble and be briefed about the scope of the major disaster, organized to respond and carry out numerous emergency missions including disaster assessment, communications, reconnaissance, triage, medical transport and treatment, light search and rescue, traffic and crowd control and a number of unexpected, challenging emergency scenarios.

We welcome individuals (at whatever level of disaster response skills you possess), church groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, Explorers, other CERT groups, community organizations, schools, businesses and corporations to take part in this East Palo Alto event.

Become an active East Palo Alto resident in disaster preparedness awareness and capability.

Please go to menlofirecert.com for more information or call [650 996 0572](tel:6509960572).

Join the Emergency Medical Services Corps

Interested in becoming an EMT? Live in San Mateo County? Are you a young man of color, 18-26 years-old? Have a disadvantaged background?

Start your career in health care today.

In just 5 months, you can learn about the emergency medical services field, graduate with a certificate, and start a career as an EMT.



Plus, you'll receive \$5,000!

No prior experience necessary. Why not apply?

Applications due by June 29.

Find more at bit.ly/EMTJun18

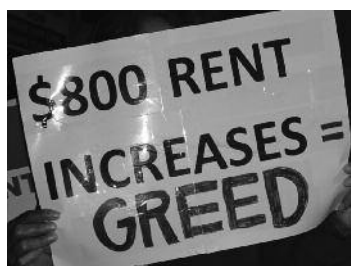
Questions? Contact Grace Streltsov at gstreltsov@smcgov.org or 650-573-2935

A look at single family home displacement

continued from 5

your landlord is giving you X amount of days to pay your increased rent, because they may feel like" said a member of the family A.



Courtesy of YUCA

They shared with us that due to all of the additional money that they have had to pay in rent they, they are in fear of homelessness and have experienced depression, which has taken a toll on the entire family's wellbeing. Family B also shared the same stress and anxieties within their family, "You need a home to keep yourself healthy and clean!" said a member of family B.

They pointed out that their experience was not unique and was happening to other communities as well, by process of gentrification. East Palo Alto has become a desired area to live, because of the expansion of tech companies and local development, which drive up rent prices to amounts that long-time residents cannot afford.

We are committed to striving for Social Justice within the East Palo Alto community and for our families. We want the public to know about their rights as renters, even when

they are living within single family homes. Below is a list of rights accessible to the population of East Palo Alto and other renters, they are meant to protect disenfranchised communities from greedy landowners.

1. There must be Just Cause for Eviction or termination of tenancy. For example failure to pay rent, comply with rules of rental agreement.

2. The Rent Stabilization and Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance (2010) states that there should not be any unreasonable rent increases.

3. Landlords cannot take arbitrary, discriminatory, and retaliatory actions. For example raising rent due to making necessary repairs or tenants seeking legal advice.

4. The right to security in your home. Your landlord must provide you with basic security

measures for your home, which include working window latches; deadbolts on exterior doors; locks, latches or security bars on sliding doors, and door viewers (peep holes).

5. The right to health and safety in your home. The landlord has the responsibility to make any repairs needed to ensure your safety within the home, such as broken doors or spread of toxic mold.

If further assistance is required with specific cases, we encourage people to come to YUCA, we are located at located at 2135 Clarke Avenue

East Palo Alto CA, 94303. We can be reached by phone at (650) 322-9165, or by e-mail at Info@youthunited.net.

Another great resource is Community Legal Services (CLS), a nonprofit legal service organization founded in East Palo Alto that focuses on providing low-income communities with "immigration, housing, workers' rights, records clearance, and consumer protection".

They can be reached in person at 1861 Bay Rd, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 or by phone at (650) 326-6440. Both organizations are histor-

ically rooted into the activism behind East Palo Alto and are focused on empowering our community. Right now, YUCA put together a public forum focused on displacement that highlighted a youth voices with a panel and shared information about community housing resources.

The forum took place on May 23, at Kepler's Bookstore, at 7:00 p.m. in Menlo Park. Everyone was invited to attend and were urged to ask questions and share their insight.

Three reasons

continued from page 15

tain occupations. Compared with people born in the U.S., statistics show immigrants are more likely to work in buildings and grounds maintenance, construction, computer, math or science occupations, and jobs in food preparation or service. "We're not talking about just minimum wage jobs," Monty says. "There is a lack of people in the U.S. even bothering to respond to an ad for many of these jobs. And we have an inadequate supply of visas at both the high end and low end."

"If you have a willing worker and a willing employer," Monty says, "our immigration system should be able to unite those two." Jacob Monty is an immigra-

tion attorney and founder of the law firm Monty & Ramirez LLP..... (www.montyramirezlaw.com), located in Houston.

He is the author of The Sons of Wetbacks. Monty has appeared on Fox News, CNN and MSNBC regarding immigration and has advised the New York Yankees on immigration matters for over a decade.

He has held presidential and gubernatorial appointments to the Uni. of Houston Bd of Regents, the Texas Private Security Bd, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Bd, the Bd of Directors of the Border Environment Cooperation Com., and the Natl Hispanic Advisory Council for Trump.

Tips for handling debt collectors

continued from page 7

cannot contact you for payment until it's resolved.

6. Do Get Help: If your debt has been validated, but you can't afford payment, consider a free credit counseling session to develop a budget and action plan, determine which options you have to eliminate the debt, and gain access to educational resources.

7. Do Understand Your Rights. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act protects you

from predatory collection tactics. If a debt collector crosses the line, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission and your state's governing office.

Andrea Aker is with Take Charge America, a nonprofit agency that offers financial education, counseling services, and bankruptcy counseling.

To see more go to www.takechargeamerica.org or call (888) 822-9193.

SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE A CITIZENS BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 2017 REPORT TO COMMUNITY

Contact Person: Matthew Zito, Chief Facilities Officer

The Citizens Bond Oversight Committee has issued its report for calendar year 2017 on the \$265,000,000 Measure A bond approved by the voters on June 3, 2014. Members of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee are pleased to report to the community the bond funds are being spent in accordance with the bond language approved by voters. Complete financial information is available on the District website at www.seq.org.

Sequoia Union High School District contracted with Chavan and Associates to perform the required Proposition 39/Measure A audit report. The audit covered fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 which was reviewed by the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee on March 13, 2018. The audit examined internal control over financial reporting, and other matters to include verifying that the bond proceeds were deposited in the District's name, that they were invested in accordance with applicable legal requirements, and tested approximately 85% of the calendar year 2017 expenditures to ensure they were valid, allowable and accurate. The audit determined that the District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the Proposition 39/Measure A bond program for the fiscal year ending, June 30, 2017.

Construction projects currently underway this period:

- Menlo-Atherton STEM Classroom and Kitchen Building
- New Small High School (TIDE Academy) at 150 Jefferson Drive, Menlo-Park (15 classrooms)
- Redwood High School Classroom and MPR Building (school re-construction project)

Construction and Renovation projects completed:

- Carlmont New Classroom Building (10 classrooms)
- Carlmont Weight Room Addition
- Menlo-Atherton New Classroom Building (21 Classrooms)
- Menlo-Atherton Soccer Field Renovation w/Lights (synthetic turf)
- Sequoia Music Building Renovation
- Sequoia Practice Field Renovation w/ Lights (synthetic turf)
- Sequoia Pool Light and Shade Structure (canopy over bleachers)
- Woodside New Classroom Building (10 Classrooms)

Construction and renovation projects planned are:

- Sequoia Library and Kitchen Renovation
- Woodside Ceramics Renovation
- Various infrastructure and capital repair projects District Wide

The \$265M million is being issued in conformance with the district's timeline for construction projects. The first bond proceeds were received October 22, 2014 in the amount of \$112,000,000. The District sold its second series of bonds in November 22, 2017 in the amount of \$120,000,000. The remaining bond authority is \$33,000,000.

John Violet, Chair of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee will present a report to the Sequoia Union High School District's, Board of Trustees on April 25, 2018 regarding the committee's proceeding and activities. That report is available at www.seq.org for calendar year 2017.

MEASURE A CITIZENS BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- John Violet, Chairperson Janet Hart, Vice Chairperson Jerry Carlson
- Lisa Costa-Sanders
- Ernesto Jasso Diane Peterson Susie Peyton

Dear CEO Mark Zuckerberg and CEO Jeff Bezos

continued from 5

homes (which have converted the old "county dump" into a beautiful shoreline park).

But, the expanding reach of the world's top tech companies and the influx of tech employees is having an incredible, heartbreaking impact on EPA today. This process is stripping the town of everything that it has worked so hard to become.

If anything, EPA should be addressing its flaws at a government level - it should be provided with funding and resources to aid the school systems and stabilize the rent rates. Instead, the town is being compelled to drive out

the locals in EPA. Rents continue to rise, making it too expensive and unaffordable that they have no choice but to leave. People who fit the "middle class taste" are able to afford these new rent prices, and abruptly move in, replacing old tenants.

According to the Urban Displacement Study reported by Cal Berkeley, "housing costs in EPA are lower than in San Mateo County and nearby cities, but households face significant housing cost burdens: 73% of renter households pay more than 30% of their income towards rent." This is outrageous because the aver-

age citizen should pay only 25% of their income towards rent - but in EPA, more than 70% of people are having to pay much more than that, just to live.

The Berkeley Case also states that "because so little affordable housing is available in surrounding cities, the stakes are high for households that leave."

Numerous interviewees highlighted that households that cannot afford East Palo Alto may be forced to leave the region altogether." This would mean that families who have built their entire lives on EPA soil have to relocate to some-

where else - against their wishes.

I have two requests from you that I believe may alleviate this problem.

The first: there should be additional housing to meet the demands of the influx of wealthier people working at your companies. Second, there should be new housing constructed in EPA that have reasonable rent costs that enables locals to stay in the area.

Thank God I am fortunate enough to stay living in the home that has been within my family since the late 1970s, but I couldn't imagine how painful it would be if I was forced

to leave. As the process of gentrification continues at this rate, due to your companies, voids are being created the EPA family that cannot be filled. Communities take generations to create, and it is traumatic to experience mine being dismantled to conform to a "middle-class taste." I applaud you both for your business accomplishments, but I am eager to witness you honor the culture of East Palo Alto rather than tear it apart.

Sincerely, Amaya Gray
East Palo Alto teenager
Woodside Priory School
Class of 2020

Big changes

• Lewis y Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA, City Room, 555 Bell Street, East Palo Alto

Los centros de votación que se abren el 26 de mayo se encuentran en:

Los Centros de Votos para la Elección Primaria Directa Estatal actualmente abiertos se encuentran en:

• División de Registro y Elecciones, 40 Tower Road, San Mateo

• Tasador-Registrador-

Secretario del Condado, 555 County Center, Primer Piso, Redwood City

• Biblioteca principal del sur de San Francisco, 840 West Orange Avenue, South San Francisco

• Lewis y Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA, City Room, 555 Bell Street, East Palo Alto

Los centros de votación que se abren el 26 de mayo se encuentran en:

• Ayuntamiento de Daly

City, 333 90th Street, Daly City

• Centro de operaciones de emergencia de Half Moon Bay, 537 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay

• Centro Comunitario North Fair Oaks, 2600 Middlefield Road, Redwood City

• Skyline College, Edificio 1, Galería, 3300 College Drive, San Bruno

• Mid-Peninsula Boys & Girls Club, 200 N. Quebec Street, San Mateo

Las horas de operación para los nueve Centros de votación son las siguientes:

• Sábado, 26 de mayo de 2018 hasta el lunes 4 de junio de 2018 - 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. (todos los días incluyendo Memorial Day)

• Martes, 5 de junio (día de las elecciones) 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Treinta centros de votación adicionales abrirán el 2 de junio, lo que eleva el total a 39 centros de

votación disponibles hasta el día de las elecciones.

El condado está invitando a los residentes a participar en la recomendación de lugares futuros para centros de votación y buzones para ubicar, inscribirse para recibir actualizaciones y unirse al esfuerzo para ayudar a preparar y educar a los votantes. Todos los interesados deben enviar un correo electrónico a VCC@futureofcaelections.org

continued from page 2

Prop 68: \$4.1 billion bond

shift to building partnerships among organizations to do the work. The equity focus remains throughout the hiring and contracting process, Creasman said.

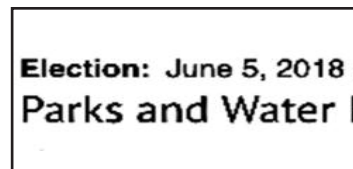
Addressing concerns that previous parks bonds have spent too much in remote places, most of Prop. 68's spending will be directed by per-capita need. As a bonus, \$25 million is intended for rural areas and, ultimately, there's something for every county and city in the state, Creasman said.

"You can't appreciate something that you don't have access to. We always need more green space in urban areas," said Miguel Luna, executive director of the Los Angeles nonprofit Urban Semillas.

There are no parks within a 10-minute walk for the majority of Los Angeles County residents, and for communities of color, the numbers are worse, according to studies Trust for Public Land cites.

"I advocate for bringing green space to urban areas," Luna said. "I think it's important for people to understand and value." Access to local parks,

Luna said, also serves as "a portal to the great outdoors" for their communities.



The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found sizable physical and mental health benefits in communities with access to parks, open space or trails, which, like beaches, boost tourism. California's urban parks and natural areas generate \$6.8 billion annually, and statewide 750,000 jobs and \$91 billion in revenue derive from park systems, according to Trust for Public Land.

Twenty-five percent of the \$30 million designated for "non-motorized infrastructure development and access improvements," for example, is for "innovation transportation programs that expand outdoor experiences to disadvantaged youth." There's money to restore natural, cultural, ethnic and community resources and convert fossil fuel plants to green space — \$60 million, a third of which is earmarked for direct benefit to disadvantaged communities.

Prop. 68's second big piece — \$1.3 billion — is for water

projects. But not any dams or Gov. Brown's delta tunnels.

The water proposals reflect an evolving way of thinking about how to manage water use in the state — toward capture, conservation and more efficiency, as opposed to big dams or tunnels.

Ideally, a Prop. 68 project will serve both of its goals — greater park availability and better water management, Creasman said.

"We need every tool in the box to save water thesedays-said Robert Doyle, East Bay Regional Park District's general manager.

"We only have a limited amount of water on the planet," Luna said as he described, for instance, how green spaces can do double duty in not only providing healthy recreation opportunities but helping capture and filter storm runoff to replenish groundwater.

San Diego, which imports 85% of its water from Northern California or the Colorado River, already has an aggressive water-recycling program. Prop. 68 will allocate \$100 million for similar efforts around the state.

There's \$20 million dedicated to encouraging drip irrigation instead of flood irrigation in agri-

cultural communities and \$200 million for "voluntary settlement agreements" through which the state can redirect water previously spoken for by rights-holders. Other pieces of the Prop. 68 puzzle include \$80 million for groundwater cleanup, for instance in the San Gabriel, San Fernando and Salinas valleys, where pollution has become a problem.

River parkways and urban stream restoration would get \$162 million, including \$3 million for the Los Gatos Creek and Upper Guadalupe River, \$3 million for the Russian River, \$5 million for Clear Lake, \$20 million for the parkway along the Los Angeles River, \$10 million for the Lower American River and \$20 million for restoring San Francisco Bay.

There's \$85 million to protect coastal watershed and agricultural resources, beaches, bays and wetlands and complete the California Coastal Trail, \$35 million for protected marine areas and sustainable fisheries, and \$48 million for protecting and connecting wildlife corridors, which allow people and wildlife to hew to their respective territories. Waterfowl habitat and river and stream restoration to support salmon and steelhead

continued from page 10

fisheries and efforts at fire and flood prevention also are eligible for Prop. 68 funding.

Other forward-looking aspects include \$550 million for flooding safeguards such as storm water diversion and mudslide protections and \$40 million to help coastal communities adapt to climate change.

Although Prop. 68 has nothing for the governor's water tunnel pet project, it nonetheless has his support, along with that of the state Chamber of Commerce, the Sierra Club, the Democratic and Green parties, labor organizations including the SEIU and the California Labor Federation and Federation of Teachers, the League of Conservation Voters and CALPIRG, the California Public Interest Research Group, and the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News and Sacramento Bee newspapers.

Opponents, who have reported no spending in opposition to Prop. 68, are limited to the antitax Howard Jarvis group and California Taxpayers Association and the Peace and Freedom Party.

(Editor's Note: Ethnic Media Services received support from the East Bay Parks Foundation to report this story)

3 reasons immigration is vital to the U.S. economy

By Jacob Monty



Photo by Aurora Losada
Jacob Monty

Immigration remains a hot-button topic, and how it's tied to U.S. jobs and the economy creates much of the debate.

Critics of immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants, say they've taken jobs away from American workers. President Donald Trump emphasized that contention – often raised by Republicans – during his campaign with a controversial speech that some saw as anti-immigrant.

Among those disagreeing with Trump was immigration attorney Jacob Monty, a Republican who served on the National Hispanic Advisory Committee for Trump along the campaign trail.

"The notion that immigrants

are taking jobs from U.S. workers is just plain wrong," says Monty, founder of the law firm Monty & Ramirez LLP (www.montyramirezlaw.com) and the author of *The Sons of Wetbacks*. "Studies show they're vital to keeping the economy running."

A report two years ago by the National Academy of Sciences, titled "The Economic and Fiscal

Consequences of Immigration," concluded that immigrants are essential to America's economic growth. And the U.S. Department of Labor's 2017 breakdown of employment showed about 25 million people in the American workforce (16.7 percent) were immigrants.

With unemployment in the U.S. recently listed at a 17-year low (3.9 percent), Monty says immigrant workers are needed more than ever.

"We're facing a labor crisis," says Monty. "There aren't enough U.S. workers to do a whole host of jobs. It affects every industry from construction to agriculture to the service industry and manufacturing."

"Immigration historically has been a way to augment our do-

mestic labor supply, but our immigration system is completely broken, so it's not a viable solution for employers that are in desperate need of workers. Over half of agriculture workers are undocumented. We need a temporary guest worker program; that's what businesses have been wanting for over 20 years, but Congress has not acted on that."

Monty gives three reasons immigrants are important to the U.S. economy:

Food supply and security. Recalls and news of contaminations, Monty says, raise concerns about shortages of immigrant workers. "We don't have enough food workers that harvest the food, process it and serve it to us," Monty says. "The

entire chain is woefully understaffed, and because of this dire labor crisis, our food supply is not secure and reliable."

Entrepreneurship. An analysis from the Small Business Administration found that 10.5 percent of U.S. immigrants own a business, compared with 9.3 percent of native-born Americans. "That statistic debunks the other fallacy out there that all these immigrants are nothing but left-wing, would-be Democrats, and that's why we've got to keep them out – because they'll be voting Democrat if we give them a path to citizenship," Monty says. "They share many of the same values we have as Americans."

Clusters to count on in cer-
continued on page 13

A look at home displacement

their experience was not unique and was happening to other communities as well, by process of gentrification. East Palo Alto has become a desired area to live, because of the expansion of tech companies and local development, which drive up rent prices to amounts that long-time residents cannot afford.

We are committed to striving for Social Justice within the East Palo Alto community and for our families. We want the public to know about their rights as renters, even when they are living within single family homes. Below is a list of rights accessible to the population of East Palo Alto and other renters, they are



Courtesy YUCA

meant to protect disenfranchised communities from greedy landowners.

1. There must be Just Cause for Eviction or termination of tenancy. For example failure to pay rent, comply with rules of rental agreement.

2. The Rent Stabilization and Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance (2010) states that there

should not be any unreasonable rent increases.

Landlords cannot take arbitrary, discriminatory, and retaliatory actions. For example raising rent due to making necessary repairs or tenants seeking legal advice.

4. The right to security in your home. Your landlord must provide you with basic security measures for your home, which include working window latches; deadbolts on exterior doors; locks, latches or security bars on sliding doors, and door viewers (peep holes).

5. The right to health and safety in your home. The landlord has the responsibility to make any repairs needed to

ensure your safety within the home, such as broken doors or spread of toxic mold.

If further assistance is required with specific cases, we encourage people to come to YUCA, we are located at located at 2135 Clarke Avenue East Palo Alto CA, 94303. We can be reached by phone at (650) 322-9165, or by e-mail at Info@youthunited.net. Another great resource is Community Legal Services (CLS), a nonprofit legal service organization founded in East Palo Alto that focuses on providing low-income communities with "immigration, housing, workers' rights, records clearance, and consumer protection". They can

continued from page 5

be reached in person at 1861 Bay Rd, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 or by phone at (650) 326-6440. Both organizations are historically rooted into the activism behind East Palo Alto and are focused on empowering our community. Right now, YUCA is putting together a public forum focused on displacement, it will highlight a youth voices with a panel and share information about community housing resources. The forum will take place on May 23rd, in Kepler's Bookstore, at 7:00pm, in Menlo Park. We invite everyone to attend, be ready to ask questions and gain insight.

Community News Briefs

provide for the parking of 10 to 20 RV's on the city owned Tanklage site. The city staff is working on the RV Safe Parking Plan with Project WeHOPE. The city recently provided two portable toilets along Bay Road for the RV dwellers to use until the RV Safe Parking Program is operational.

City boards and commission members elected for new terms.

At the May 15, 2018, Special Meeting, City Council appointed the following:

3 Full Term Planning Commission (3-years) – expire May 31, 2021

Reappointments:

1. Robert Sherrard
2. Uriel Hernandez

New appointment:

1. Ofelia Bello

Alternate:

Court Skinner

Alternates serve only for 1

year (from 6/1/2018 to 5/31/2019)

4 Full Term Rent Stabilization Board (3-years) – expire May 31, 2021

Reappointments:

1. Francisca Guzman
2. Karen Camacho
3. Maureen Larsson
4. Shryee Randolph

Alternate:

Vaea T. Sanft

2 Full Term Public Works Transportation Commission (3-years) – expire May 31, 2021

Reappointments:

1. Joshua Stroman
2. Andrei Garcia

All individuals appointed will be able to join their respective Boards, Commissions and Committees after June 1, 2018.

Disputes over the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company's Board Election

It's been a challenging time



PA Park Mutual Water Co
Water tank

for the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company with charges going back and forth.

The company has been accused of "deceptive tactics by some of its shareholders."

One of their shareholders, Norm Picker, wrote a letter to his neighbors in April in which he wrote, "Although the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company has told various shareholders that they "must sign [the Company's proxy] or re-

pairs won't be completed" and that "not signing will result in everyone receiving a \$10,000 bill" and other similar things, those statements are false. Please do not give in to the Company's tactics. We do not need to keep the current Company leadership to obtain a grant. Your signature on the Company's proxy is a vote for the current Company leadership; do not vote for the people who created the current mess.

Instead, vote to remove the current directors and replace them with the Neighbors for Better Water candidates: Norm Picker, Ramiro Macias, Delphine Hill, Shannon Pekary, and Kumar Chaudhari."

The board election was held during the shareholder's meeting that took place over three days and 30 hours the week of May 8. The meeting

continued from page 3

was held at the company's headquarters at 2190 Addison Avenue.

According to candidate Shannon Pekary, "...both Neighbors for Better Water and the incumbent board declared victory in the election ... Both sides made statements that they thought the conflict will eventually be resolved in court."

Recipients approved for TOT and Measure C Grants

Measure C	
Organization	Amount Recommended
Aim High	\$ 16,000
Canopy	\$ 22,500
Community Legal Services East Palo Alto (CLSEPA)	\$ 2,500
East Palo Alto Greyhounds	\$ 22,500
Free at Last (FAL)	\$ 22,500
Fresh Approach (formerly Collective Roots)	\$ 22,500
New Creation Home Ministries (NCHM)	\$ 16,000
St. Francis of Assisi	\$ 22,500
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 147,000
Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)	
Organization	Amount Recommended
Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP)	\$ 16,000
Canopy	\$ 16,000
Foundation for a College Education (FCE)	\$ 16,000
Fresh Approach (formerly Collective Roots)	\$ 16,000
East Palo Alto Greyhounds	\$ 16,000
Midpeninsula Community Media Center (MPCMC)	\$ 7,586
Peninsula Volunteers / Meals on Wheels (MOW)	\$ 15,983
St. Francis of Assisi	\$ 16,000
YMCA	\$ 16,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 135,569

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Juneteenth Festival - June 16, 2018 in East Palo Alto in Bell Street Park - To be confirmed

June Presidio Picnic - June 24, 2018 - 11 a.m to 4 p.m.

Celebrate a day of family-friendly activities, international cuisine, and entertainment. 11 AM – Presidio Picnics begins 11- 11:30 PM – Community Zumba in the Presidio Free community Zumba lesson led by Gigi Hill-Hopkins, the senior director of African American holistic wellness. Great music and fitness that is fun! 12 PM & 2 PM – Live dance performances by the Alafia Dance Ensemble, showcasing the intricate beauty of Afro-Haitian dance and music. 4 PM – Presidio Pic-

nic ends.

The gathering includes Afro-Haitian dance performances by the Alafia Dance Ensemble of the City College of San Francisco dance program and a live Zumba lesson led by Gigi Hill-Hopkins, the Directory of African American holistic wellness at Bayview YMCA.

Special guest chef Dimitri Lilavois will serve up Haitian-Caribbean food from his food-truck Manjé, which brings vibrant flavors of the Caribbean to the Bay Area.

The Sunday celebration is part of the Presidio Picnic's Cultural Dance Series which celebrates a different culture each month by showcasing ethnic dance, and highlighting international cuisine.

See more community calendar events at the website for the East Palo Alto Today newspaper www.epatoday.org

Everyone is invited to gather with the community and stay to discover all that the Presidio has to offer.

The Presidio Picnic is presented by the Presidio Trust in a partnership with Off the Grid.

For more info. go to <https://www.presidio.gov/presidio-picnic> Go here for more information.

Talking with Henrietta

Big Changes Are Taking Place in the Election Process



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta

From left, Shannon Bushey, Henrietta J. Burroughs and Jim Irizarry sit on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their show discussion on May 24, 2018.

This show can be seen on Channel 30 on the Midpeninsula and on the Internet at the days and times below until Fri May 27, 2018 on Sundays@5 p.m., Mondays@2 p.m., Tuesdays@8 p.m., Wednesdays@2 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thursdays@8 p.m., Fridays@3:00 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

Talking with Henrietta also appears on Channel 27 on Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Get more information about this show on the East Palo Alto Today website at www.epatoday.org/tv.html#june2018primary

Letters

Continued from page 4

For more information go to: www.NoOnBsj.com and <https://www.stopsanjos-esprawl.com/>.

Voting on Judge Persky

Dear Editor:

People I trust say Judge Persky is a good man, so I have to believe it. But that's not the point. Our political system, different from many others, rests on a foundation of a belief in government by all of the

people, not some of the people. While not all judges are elected, those who are elected presumably represent the people, or what's an election for? Women are saying "Ain't I a people?"

Stephanie Munoz
Palo Alto

Keep Community Media Alive



Support the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media and its media outlets by making a tax deductible donation and by purchasing one or more **T-shirts for \$15.00 each** (sm., med., large and x large), and one or more **water bottles for \$10.00 each**. See more ways to support the center's programs below.

Support the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

The East Palo Alto Today newspaper is published by the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, a nonprofit agency that was formed in January 2003 to create media outlets in East Palo Alto and provide the type of positive, relevant information about the community that is not easily found elsewhere. If you like what you see in East Palo Alto Today, then we ask that you enable us to serve the community better. You can do this by completing the partnership card below and mailing it with your tax deductible donation which will go directly to the center's media efforts. You can read more about the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media online at www.epamedia.org. You can also donate to the center at the EPA Today and the EPA Media websites. Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.



Name: _____ Phone # _____

Organization: _____ Email Address _____

Street Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Yes, I am interested in becoming a partner with the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media. Please accept my tax-deductible donation as a personal contribution _____ or as a contribution on behalf of my organization _____.

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ \$2,000

_____ \$2001 to \$5,000 _____ \$5,000 and above _____ In-kind _____

_____ Please check back with me about becoming a donor.

*The East Palo Alto Center for Community Media is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation - CA # 20-1415500

Mail donations to:

East Palo Alto Center for Community Media PO Box 50274 East Palo Alto, 94303