

Special Immigration Issue



Volunteer organization makes a difference page 7



How safe are DACA recipients page 15

Immigration is an issue

East Palo Alto Today

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East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

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City faces backlash over Amazon agreement

By Henrietta J. Burroughs

It might be easy to think that an East Palo Alto lot that has been vacant for years, which now has a commercial building on it, might bring a sense of relief to the city's residents, es-

pecially since the building will apparently have Amazon as its main tenant.

While some residents in East Palo Alto might sigh with relief, this is not the case for others. In fact, the agreement that the City of East Palo Alto made with the developer of the build-

ing on the lot at 2100 University Avenue and with Amazon, its primary tenant, is bringing distress and disbelief for many city residents.

Some of them took to the streets



Photo by Shanna Uhilamoelangi

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Mexican Consulate offers its assistance

Henrietta J. Burroughs

El Comité Latino, with the City of East Palo Alto's support, held a reception to welcome to the city the Deputy Cónsul General of Mexico, Enrique Maldonado. The reception was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 14 in the council chambers and its adjoining community room.

If there were any doubts about the friendliness of the welcome, then those doubts were dispelled by the remarks that were exchanged by the Consulates' representatives and by city officials.

In his introductory remarks, Mayor Larry Moody welcomed the deputy consul on behalf of the City of East Palo Alto, its staff and its city council. He said the reception presents "a great opportunity to learn and grow as a community and that he looks forward to the dialogue"

The formal remarks during the reception began after six student dancers performed a traditional Mexican dance to the delight of the on-

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Photo - Henrietta J. Burroughs

Audience members and city officials surround Deputy Consul General Enrique Maldonado. Maldonado, who is assigned to the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco, attended a city reception in his honor on Tuesday, March 14. The reception was held in the East Palo Alto City Council chamber.

RCS D responds to immigration concerns

By EPA Today Staff writer

The Ravenswood City School District had a community meeting at the Costaño/49er Academy to inform and reassure members of the East Palo Alto immigrant community.

On Thursday, March 2, more than 200 local residents showed up to listen to representatives from national, county and city agencies to allay fears and inform the community on the processes that



Audience members in the Costaño/49er Academy gym in East Palo Alto listen to law enforcement officials respond to questions regarding their immigration concerns on Thursday, March 2, 2017. Photo courtesy of Duane Goff.

are followed and the policy to not assist federal ICE agents.

On hand to explain to the attendees and answer ques-

tions were Superintendent Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff of the Ravenswood City School District, Commander Jeff Liu of the East Palo Alto Police Department, Commander William A. Dixon of the Menlo Park Police Department, Deputy Victor Perez of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, and from Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office were her District Director Brian Perkins and staff member Estefani

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Community News Briefs

Crime is down in East Palo Alto

It's a statistic that many East Palo Alto residents have been waiting to hear. The crime rate is down substantially in the City of East Palo Alto and the city is becoming a safer place in which to live.

In his February 7, 2017 report to the East Palo Alto City Council, Chief Albert Pardini said that the city is experiencing the lowest number of homicides that it has had in 16 years.

He said that overall, crime was down and the number of complaints about the police are also down.

But, calls for police assistance has increased, he said.

The city's February 2017 crime statistics and a monthly and yearly city crime comparison can be seen online at <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/3247>.

If residents have tips for the police or need assistance, they can contact the depart-

ment at 650-853-3160. If there is an emergency, they are still advised to call 911.

East Palo Alto sues Menlo Park

In December 2016, the City of East Palo Alto filed a lawsuit against the City of Menlo Park and the Menlo Park City Council, over the changes made to Menlo Park's general plan.

The changes, which were approved in January 2017, allows Menlo Park to expand its nonresidential uses to 2.3 million square feet, its residential units to 4,500 and increase its hotel space by 400 hotel rooms.

East Palo Alto says the changes violate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The lawsuit was filed in San Mateo County Superior Court and expresses East Palo Alto's concerns that the impact of Menlo Park's general plan changes will adversely impact East Palo Alto by leading to more traffic, more housing issues and the displacement of



more city residents.

According to Ellison Folk, an attorney at the San Francisco legal firm of Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger, the law firm representing East Palo Alto, city officials think East Palo Alto will suffer the burdens of Menlo Park's general plan changes, but will not enjoy any of the benefits of it.

Since the lawsuit's December filing, it has appeared as an item of discussion on the East Palo Alto City Council's closed session agenda.

As of yet, in the council's open sessions, the city's attorney, Rafael Alvarado, Jr. has maintained that there is nothing to report.

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We will fight back in defense of our communities

By Mia Yoshitani



Mia Yoshitani

As Donald Trump's presidency barely passes its one-month mark, Trump has launched profound threats against immigrants and refugees, our human rights, and our climate. In the face of his hateful and destructive policies, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are rising up. Recently, 10 out of 14 members of the President's Advisory Commission on

in many different ways.

As Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, our families have long endured attacks on our health and safety. Some of us immigrated to the United States, only to be targeted by waves of racist anti-immigrant backlash, to suffer Japanese internment, or to arrive as refugees like in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Nevertheless, AAPI immigrants and refugees continue to make invaluable contributions to the

economy and culture of our country.

Along with other low income communities and communities of color, we are on the frontlines of racism, poverty, and pollution. From Oakland to our motherlands, AAPIs are also on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Our families have endured super-storms, drought, sea-level rise, displacement, food shortages, and the spread of disease because of climate change. In Oakland's

Chinatown, low-income Asian immigrants live with harmful air pollution at the intersection of three major freeways. Climate change is not a "Chinese hoax." Our communities are facing the root causes and the impacts every day. While the fossil fuel industry is polluting our neighborhoods, sabotaging our economy, and destroying our planet, we are paying the price.

The targeting and scape-

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

East Palo Alto City Council

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

East Palo Alto City Council Members

Larry Moody
Mayor
(650) 644-9110

Ruben Abrica
Vice Mayor
(650) 380-4987

Lisa Gauthier
(650) 387-4584

Carlos Romero
cromero@cityofepa.org

Donna Rutherford
(650) 327-7926

East Palo Alto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Committees

Planning Commission
Second and Fourth Monday

Rent Stabilization Board
Second and Fourth Wednesday

Public Works & Transportation Commission
Third Wednesday

Youth Advisory Committee
First Thursday of each month

Senior Advisory Committee
Meets first Wednesday of the even numbered months from 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. - City Hall.

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

the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.

Menlo Park City Council

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.

Menlo Park City Council Members

Kirsten Keith- Mayor
Cell: (650) 308-4618

Peter I. Ohtaki- Mayor Pro Tem
(650) 328-0300

Catherine Carlton
Residence: 327-5332
Cell: 575-4623

Ray Mueller
(650) 776-8995

Richard Cline - Cell: (650) 207-1677

Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees

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

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Warren Slocum Fourth District

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 Items. 650 691-2121

State Officials

Governor
Edmund G. Brown
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
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Fax: 916-445-4633
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Assembly Member Marc Berman

District Address
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Los Altos, CA 94022
650 691-2121

State Senator Jerry Hill

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San Mateo, CA 94301
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U.S. Government

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

Immigration advice given in city council study session

By Elizabeth Real

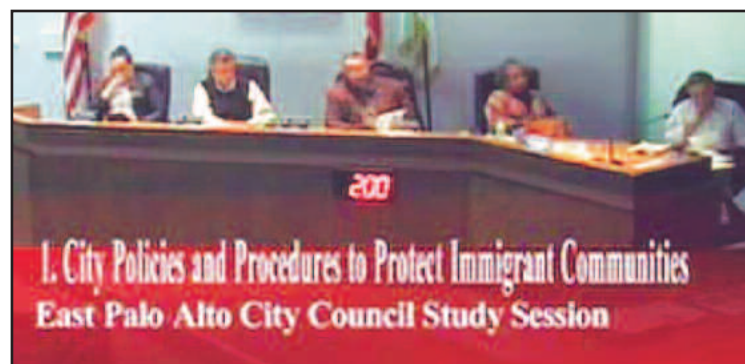
Following the reports of hundreds of undocumented immigrants being detained and deported by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) across the country, the East Palo Alto council hosted a study session on immigration for the public on February 15, 2017.

Captain Paul R. Kunkel of the San Mateo County Sheriff's office provided information in regards to arrest and jailing policies and procedures.

Both Kunkel and East Palo Alto's Police Chief, Albert Pardini, made it clear that residents should not be afraid to continue to reach out to law enforcement if they need assistance with any crime. Kunkel said, "We want to help you. We want to serve the public."

In terms of an individual's immigration status, he said, "We don't care."

In his presentation, Kunkel explained that when an individual gets arrested, the fingerprints that are taken, go into a nationwide database that can be accessed by the federal government. He made it very clear that if the inmate is undocumented, a reported felon or wanted for a variety of crimes, then ICE can see those reports and request further information on the individual. Kunkel said that ICE will most likely ask the county for



the inmate's release date. This date is public information and anyone can ask for it. Under California's Truth Act, the inmate will be notified of ICE's inquiry.

The Truth Act was signed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2016 and went into effect on January 1, 2017. It requires local law enforcement to notify inmates and their attorneys, in writing whenever ICE has made an inquiry about them. If no attorney is listed on record, a third party (such as a family member) can be notified, at the inmate's direction.

Additionally, the Truth Act also requires that the inmate be given a consent form to sign if ICE requests an interview. The form is given in the inmate's preferred language. "ICE can no longer wander into the jail and just talk to people," Kunkel said. He went on to state that if an agent from ICE comes into the jail, then the date, time, and reason for the visit is recorded.

Kunkel also explained that if ICE has requested a release

date, the County of San Mateo will not hold an inmate nor delay their release date. If ICE is present at the time of an inmate's release, however, the inmate will be handed over; if ICE is not present, "off you go," said Kunkel.

Grisel Ruiz, staff attorney at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), a nonprofit based in San Francisco, added, "You have the right to remain silent." She said, "It is extremely important to assert that right."

In her presentation, Ruiz confirmed that we've seen a huge spike in deportation in the past few years. "There have been more deportations under the Obama administration than [under] any other administration combined," she stated.

According to Ruiz, the current immigration executive order by Trump, if put into effect, will probably exceed those numbers by casting an even wider net. The executive order is "going after anybody who's had a conviction, any-

one who has been charged, or anyone who has conceivably committed an offense, period," Ruiz explained. "If you jaywalked this morning—according to the executive order—that can conceivably be enough," she said. I don't say this to scare people because we have to wait to see what this looks like on the ground."

Despite these statements, Ruiz and Victoria Tonoco, a lawyer at the Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA), advised people to try to remain calm. "We are hearing the term 'raid' being tossed left and right," Ruiz said. "A lot of these stories are not verified and there haven't been any verified raids in Northern California," she added.

If anyone is detained by ICE, under the current "broken system," Ruiz cautioned that they should never sign anything that they do not understand. Ruiz emphasized the importance of this warning to Spanish-speakers, especially, because, the detained person, she explained, could potentially be signing a deportation order.

Ruiz added that once a person has been detained, they have a right to an attorney, but, she stressed, not at the government's expense. "Nationally, about 84% of detained people are totally unrepresented. In many cases,

during detention, people are not offered bond, are transferred to other states, do not receive a public defender, and are involved in a case that can take months or even years to move forward.

The State of California's response to these proceedings has been to introduce bills such as SB-6 Due Process for All, which is an effort to provide state funds for people to have attorneys during removal proceedings. Another bill is AB-3 Padilla Support, which is "an effort to provide funds to public defender offices to adequately advise our clients as they're required to under the constitution in regards to the immigration consequences of criminal offenses," explained Ruiz.

Tinoco reminded everyone that if someone does have a question, then they should "not go to people who you think may know because they're not credible, reliable sources." Instead, she said, "You need to have that information come from an attorney."

CLSEPA is available for free walk-in immigration consultations Monday through Friday, 9am – 1pm. If an attorney is not available that day, then people can leave their questions with the receptionist, who will pass them along to the attorney. CLSEPA is located at 1861 Bay Road in East Palo Alto and can be reached by phone at 650-326-6440 or email info@clsepa.org

El concejal se reúne para una sesión de información sobre inmigración

Translated by Elizabeth Real

Después de las noticias que cientos de inmigrantes indocumentados en los estados unidos han sido detenidos y deportados por los agentes de inmigración (ICE), el Concejal de East Palo Alto organizó una sesión de estudio sobre inmigración para el público el 15 de febrero de 2017.

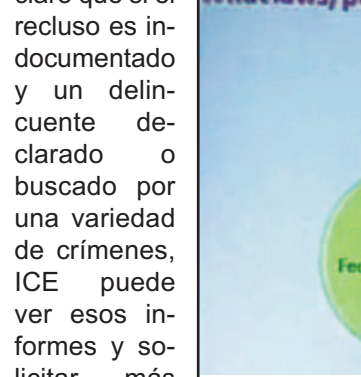
El capitán Paul R. Kunkel, de la oficina del Sherriff del Condado de San Mateo, dio información sobre los procedimientos de arresto y encarcelamiento.

Tanto Kunkel como el jefe de policía de East Palo Alto, Albert Pardini, dejaron claro que los residentes no deben tener miedo de seguir contactando a la policía si necesitan ayuda con cualquier crimen. Kunkel dijo: "Queremos ayudarte. Queremos servir al público".

En cuanto al estatus migratorio de un individuo, dijo: "No nos importa".

En su presentación, Kunkel explicó que cuando una persona es arrestada, las huellas que se toman, entran en una base de datos nacional a la que puede acceder el gobierno federal.

Dejó muy claro que si el recluso es indocumentado y un delincuente declarado o buscado por una variedad de crímenes, ICE puede ver esos informes y solicitar más información sobre el individuo. Kunkel dijo que lo más probable es que ICE le pida al condado la fecha de liberación del preso.



Esta fecha es información pública y cualquiera puede pedirla. Bajo la ley de California llamada Truth Act, el recluso será notificado de la investigación de ICE.

La ley de Truth Act fue firmada por el Gobernador Jerry Brown en 2016 y empezó el 1 de enero de 2017. Requiere que la policía local notifique a los reclusos y sus abogados, por escrito, siempre que ICE haya hecho una investigación sobre ellos. Si ningún abogado aparece en el registro, otro contacto (por ejemplo, un miembro de la familia) puede ser notificado, a la dirección del preso.

se va", dijo Kunkel.

Grisel Ruiz, abogada del Centro de Inmigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), una organización en San Francisco, añadió: "Tienes derecho a guardar silencio".

En su presentación, Ruiz confirmó que en los últimos años hemos visto un gran aumento en la deportación. "Ha habido más deportaciones bajo la administración de Obama que [en] cualquier otra administración combinada", afirmó.

Según Ruiz, la primera orden ejecutiva de inmigración de Trump, si se pone en práctica, probablemente excederá esos números. La orden ejecutiva es "perseguir a cualquiera que haya tenido una convicción, a alguien que haya sido acusado, o a cualquiera que haya cometido un delito", explicó Ruiz. "Si esta mañana usted cruza la calle por en medio de los carros-según la orden ejecutiva- esto podría ser suficiente," dijo Ruiz. "No digo esto para asustar a la gente porque tenemos que esperar para ver cómo se desarrolla."

A pesar de estas declaraciones, Ruiz y Victoria Tonoco, abogada de Com-

munity Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA), aconsejaron a la gente que tratara de mantener la calma. "Estamos escuchando que la palabra 'raid' está siendo usada por aquí o por allá", dijo Ruiz. "Muchas de estas historias no son verificadas y no ha habido ninguna incursión verificada en el norte de California", agregó.

Si alguien es detenido por ICE, bajo este "sistema roto", Ruiz advirtió que nunca deben firmar nada que no entiendan. Ruiz repitió la importancia de esta advertencia para los hispanohablantes, especialmente porque, según explicó, la persona detenida podría estar firmando una orden de deportación.

Ruiz agregó que una vez que una persona ha sido detenida, tienen derecho a un abogado, pero el gobierno no lo paga.... A nivel nacional, alrededor del 84% de las personas detenidas no son representadas. En muchos casos, durante la detención, no se les ofrecen la opción de pagar una fianza, son transferidos a otros estados, no reciben un defensor público, y están involucrados

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Council creates housing task force

By Elizabeth Real

Just when it looked as if East Palo Alto residents finally might have received some good news with the appointment of a task force that could help aid the city's housing crisis, some residents are now asking what happened



Carlos Martinez

After being flooded with concerned residents that ultimately led to a Community White Paper being presented before the council, the city approved the creation of a task force to help find solutions to the housing crisis. The Community White Paper urged the City to extend 10-day eviction notices to 30 days and, among other things, to provide relief for

displaced families.

The task force was approved during the November 15 city council meeting. At the meeting, the city manager, Carlos Martinez, provided a report that outlined the progress of the task force. Martinez reiterated that East Palo Alto is going through a housing crisis because the amount of jobs in the sur-

rounding area has increased, but the amount of affordable housing has not. Thus, many families are faced with increased housing prices that they simply cannot afford and they must resort to renting out second units in their homes or having to move into a second unit. The second units are not always approved by the City and many are in direct violation of building code enforcement regulations, deeming them unsafe or hazardous to live in.

The assembling task force, per the report, would include several members of the community ranging from city staff to residents. Some of the city staff members will include the city manager's of-

fice, the police department, the city attorney, and the building and planning department.

The task force also asked for two city council members to join—Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier and Carlos Romero volunteered. Members of Faith in Action, the organization that was heavily involved in drafting the Community White Paper, will also join the task force.

The report consisted of six initiatives for long-term solutions that are consistent with the recommendations from the Community White Paper.

The three initiatives that, according to Martinez, can be addressed first are: issuing a request for proposals for a

nonprofit to provide displacement services, training staff in de-escalation and conflict resolution with the help of Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC), and providing more information on legalizing second units such as options on loans, amnesty programs, and technical support.

At the suggestion of council member Carlos Romero the council approved to include the services of Project Sentinel—a program that promotes housing fairness by advocating peaceful resolutions. During the December 6 council meeting, Project Sentinel partnered with PCRC in

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East Palo Alto family says they were harassed by men claiming to be ICE



Bounty hunters entered home, interrogated family about immigration status

By Sue Dremann Palo Alto Weekly

East Palo Alto resident Juan Pinto's nightmare began with a pounding on his front door at 3 a.m. on March 1. Groggy and undressed, Pinto asked who was there.

"Immigration," a man said, so Pinto opened the door, he recalled.

Three men in uniforms entered the home carrying rifles and handguns. Pinto went to the bedroom to put on his clothes. While there, he instructed his wife, Laura Saldana, to record on her cellphone what was happening.

"I don't trust these guys," he told her.

The men, who turned out to be bail bonds bounty hunters, were looking for the brother of Pinto's brother-in-law, whom Pinto said he hasn't seen for 10 years. That didn't stop the bounty hunters from interrogating the family - which also includes Pinto and Saldana's four children, his parents and a brother -- and demanding they provide identification.

A stack of driver's licenses, visas, passports can be seen piled on a table in the seven-minute, 23-second video Saldana recorded.

"Is that your passport?" a beefy man in a uniform asked her.

"Yes, that's my passport and this is my visa," she said. "OK, are you here on a

visa?"

"No, I'm a resident," she said.

"You're a resident."

"Um hm," she said.

"And where? (Inaudible)"

"No. I have address that is permanent," she said.

"Permanent? You're a resident, though."

"Yes. Resident," she said.

"So -- how about you?" the man asked Pinto.

"I'm a U.S. citizen."

"OK -- and you?" he asked Pinto's mother, Margarita Pinto.

"She's a citizen," Pinto said.

"You're all citizens here," the man said.

"Yes," Saldana replied.

"Everybody's citizens."

About one-and-half minutes into the questioning, Saldana leaned into the camera and whispered in Spanish:

"Immigration just came here to our house."

Although the bounty hunters were not employed by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, the incident underscores the extraordinary liberty the law affords bail bonds recovery agents, or bounty hunters, and how persons under duress can easily be coerced into divulging information they are not required to give.

The incident also calls into question the tactics bounty hunters use to capture fugitives.

It wasn't until well after the questions regarding immigration status that one of the men gave the couple his business card, which showed they are

bounty hunters. The men wore all dark blue shirts with an insignia and khaki pants.

The men continued to question the family about the fugitive relative, including demanding Pinto's Social Security number. When Pinto asked why they needed his number, one man simply said in a firm voice, "I need it."

The men also came back the next night at about 11:45 p.m., Pinto said. They allegedly hopped the wrought-iron gate and shined flash lights into the home's rear windows, which didn't have any curtains.

"We used to keep the windows and the doors open, now we have to lock everything up," Pinto said. "My kids are really scared of going to school or of being home too. They think immigration is going to separate us from our kids."

"I have never had any trouble of any kind, not even in high school," Pinto added.

Pinto's parents, who own the home, both have medical issues that have been aggravated by the incidents, he said. His wife can't sleep and their four children ages 10, 9, 7 and 19 months now sleep on an air mattress in the couple's bedroom because they are afraid.

Bryan Hudgins, the recovery agent whose name is on the card given to Pinto, lists his business as Darknight Fugitive Recovery of Vallejo on the card. He told the Weekly by phone this week that Darknight are "contractors through ICE."

But ICE officials refuted Hudgins' claims. "ICE does not hire private contractors to conduct immigration-enforcement actions," agency spokesman James Schwab said in an email, quoting ICE policy.

Schwab noted that it is a federal crime for anyone to

impersonate a federal agent, although he could not comment on whether any laws were broken in this case.

The Pintos asked East Palo Alto police to take a report, but police Commander Jeff Liu said the department did not because Pinto gave the men "consent" to enter his home and see their identifying documents. Thus the actions were not unlawful, Liu said.

The U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment is supposed to protect "persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures" without just cause and a warrant, but that applies only to governmental authorities.

Bounty hunters are governed under the California Penal Code. They must complete a 40-hour power-of-arrest training through the Commission on Peace Offi-

cer Standards and Training and other certification-training courses; they are not allowed to represent themselves "in any manner" as being a sworn law-enforcement officer and their uniforms must not contain certain words, such as "United States," "Bureau," "Task Force" or similar words that a reasonable person might mistake for a government agency. They cannot carry a metal badge and must follow certain procedures when entering any law-enforcement jurisdiction.

But bounty hunters do have leeway in their behavior, according to a study by Gerald D. Robin, professor emeritus of criminal justice at the University of New Haven, Connecticut.

Bounty hunters don't have

continued on page

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East Palo Alto's team of legal advocates is growing



Photo courtesy of Rebecca P. Pinger

East Palo Alto community members might recognize some of the lawyers in the above photo. They are among the growing team of lawyers working for Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto ("CLSEPA"). One of them started out as a summer intern working for the East Palo Alto Today newspaper.

By Rebecca P. Pinger

Founded by East Palo Alto community members, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto ("CLSEPA") is celebrating its 15th year of providing free and low cost legal services to low-income families in East Palo Alto and beyond.

The need for legal services has risen along with the cost of living in the bay area, and CLSEPA has increased its capacity and added services to help meet the changing need.

As a result, CLSEPA has out-grown its long-time office on University Avenue and has moved a few blocks away to a larger office on East Bayshore Road. CLSEPA still has two

offices in East Palo Alto. Community members needing help can visit the office at 1861 Bay Road or call 650-326-6440.

CLSEPA's housing program works to improve the lives of low-income tenants. They help low-income tenants facing evictions or rent increases, living in unhealthy or unsafe homes, and/or experiencing discrimination or harassment by landlords.

They are passionate about preserving rent-stabilized homes in East Palo Alto, and advocating for greater tenant protections and more affordable housing throughout San Mateo County.

CLSEPA's immigration program helps immigrants

access freedom from fear and expand their educational and career opportunities. They help immigrant survivors of domestic violence and other crimes (VAWA and U visas); refugees and asylum seekers; immigrant youth and young adults (DACA); abused, abandoned and neglected child immigrants (SIJS); and immigrants facing deportation in court.

They also offer presentations to help immigrant communities understand their legal rights, and advocate for local and national policies that benefit immigrants.

CLSEPA's economic advancement program helps community members overcome barriers to economic opportunities.

They are focused on helping low-wage workers with wage theft or discrimination and re-entering adults and juveniles to clear their records. They also offer some help to the victims of fraud or identity theft as well as small business owners, and they advocate for policies that help low-income communities including laws that protect people from predatory payday and car title lending.

Rebecca P. Pinger, Esq is the development Director at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto at its 1861 Bay Road office.

CLSEPA's growing team of advocates aim to bring about lasting change in the community by training and supporting community members to

navigate the legal system and exercise their rights.

Their impact is magnified by the support they receive from volunteers at law firms, corporations, and law schools throughout the region, who collectively donate millions of dollars in legal services annually to CLSEPA's clients. In 2016, CLSEPA's expert legal staff, along with hundreds of volunteers, helped over 6,000 individuals.

Looking to 2017 and beyond, CLSEPA anticipates even further growth and a greater capacity to serve East Palo Alto and the surrounding communities.

If you or anyone you know needs legal services, please call us at (650) 326-6440 or drop by our main office located at 1861 Bay Road.

Our walk-in hours are from 9am-1pm Monday through Friday.

Rebecca P. Pinger, Esq is the development Director at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto at its 1861 Bay Road office.



Ravenswood school district superintendent tackles growing housing crisis

With a third of Ravenswood students facing homelessness, Goff persists in finding solutions

by Anna Medina

In the Ravenswood City School District, 42 percent of the 3,069 students are homeless, according to recent information compiled by district staff.

"I've never seen anything like this," Superintendent Gloria Hernandez-Goff said. "I've worked with people from migrant camps. I've worked in a lot of different situations as an educator, and this is actually pretty extreme."

Goff, an East Palo Alto resident for more than three years who has devoted her career to working in Title I schools and serving low-income communities, said that "homelessness" in East Palo Alto looks different than what people might imagine. Many students live in situations with multiple families to one domicile. Goff said that this often



Gloria Hernandez-Goff, superintendent of the Ravenswood School District, addresses parents and families during a community forum which discussed immigration at Costaño Elementary School in East Palo Alto on March 2, 2017. Hernandez-Goff is currently working on arranging parking spaces and laundry facilities for homeless families in the school district who are living out of vehicles. It is estimated that nearly a third of students in the district are homeless. Photo by Veronica Weber.

means that people are living in garages or with several families in one home, and then many are consequently evicted.

"What I want people to understand is that it's far more extreme than the concept that people would have in most communities, and I'm even talking about poor communities in the Central Valley," she said.

Who are these homeless parents and their children? Goff said that they make up the service industry -- they're the waiters, the waitresses, the cooks, the bus boys, the nannies, the people who "clean your houses and do your gardening," the ones who don't make much above minimum wage, she said.

Many families cope by moving in with relatives or

couchsurfing; some parents, Goff said, find places for their children to sleep while they sleep in a car because there's no room for them indoors. The most extreme cases are the families living in vehicles.

"These people can't afford a vice," she said, "They're trying to feed their kids and put a roof over their heads of some kind. ... It's a crisis situation as far as I'm concerned, and each year I've been here, it's only gotten worse."

According to Goff, the issue, which stems from a lack of affordable housing, is going to require counties and cities to work together and look at short-term and long-term solutions, including a regional affordable housing plan. ("And by affordable I don't mean like, 'Oh, make it \$2,500.' I mean really affordable to the income levels of the people who work here," she said.)

Until that happens, Goff is trying to ease her students'

burdens by making the most of the resources at her disposal.

She and her husband, Duane Goff, run a semi-weekly food program through a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, staffed by community volunteers and parents. Many parents serve the food and also take food home to feed their families. Additionally, Goff has set up a food pantry, and students who participate in the after-school program are served a hot meal.

"We used to just provide a snack in the after-school program," Goff said. "But then I found out that some parents were not eating so they could feed their kids. ... We put a lot of emphasis on the food programs in our district because of that."

Goff is not afraid to roll up her sleeves and take action. On a recent Friday she drove to Weeks Street to show where many families camp in

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Volunteer organization makes a difference

By Rolando Bonilla

More than 200 volunteers from the All Students Matter organization are changing the lives of Ravenswood City School District students on a daily basis.

Trained volunteers assist teachers to work with students weekly. Volunteers remain in the same classrooms to build consistency, trust and rapport with the students.

In the Ravenswood City School District, 75 percent of the students are English language learners; 33 percent are considered homeless; and 95 percent qualify for free meals.

"These amazing volunteers have given something far more valuable than a fi-



Carolyn Blatman, the Executive Director of All Students Matter, volunteers her time by reading to students.

nancial donation; they have given their time and developed important, substantial relationships with our students," said Superintendent Gloria Maria Hernandez-Goff. "Our District is strengthened by the support of All Students Matter, who remind us every day that investing in our young people is the best in-

vestment we can make for the future."

The organization was founded in 2008 to help underserved schools within the Ravenswood City School District.

The program works with 1,600 students and supports 70 TK-4th grade teachers, across 5 elementary schools. All Students Matter is completed run and fueled by volunteers, and one part-time program director.

The organization doesn't charge fees or take any payment for its services. Most of the people who volunteer don't have children in the dis-

trict and travel from Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Los Altos.

At a time when California struggles with large classroom sizes and fewer teacher assistants, the volunteers provide a key classroom link.

"We have people who care about kids and can help," said Carolyn Blatman, executive director of All Students Matter. "We want to inspire children to do great things, and our volunteers are there to support teachers."

Blatman said the program is not interested in expanding to

other regions, but is willing to share its successful model so others can help start similar programs elsewhere.

"This program can work anywhere in the world because it is built on a timeless and universal resource: love for children and education," Blatman said.

For more information, visit www.ravenswood.org.



Keri Tully, the site director of Green Oaks Academy and the program director at All Students Matter, is shown working with students.

Legal expert gives advice on work related issues

By Drew Lewis

I speak with many people each day who have questions about work-related issues. Here are some of the most common questions I get, or violations that I see, that occur in the work place.

Q: My employer pays me with checks that bounce. Is there anything I can do?

In addition to not being paid on time, Employees who are paid with bounced checks often incur bank charges for cashing bad checks. California takes a dim view of employers who pay their workers with bounced checks. So long as the employee has attempted to cash his/her check within 30 days of receiving it, an employee could be entitled to significant penalties. These penalties are intended to strongly discourage employers from paying wages with bad checks.

If you are paid with bounced checks, you should keep a record of the date you received the check, the date you attempted to cash or deposit it, and the date your employer finally paid you, whether by cash or issuing a new check.

Q: My employer requires



Drew Lewis

me to drive to different job sites each day. Am I entitled to be paid for my travel time?

Some employers require their employees to drive directly to different off-site work locations instead of to the company's office. When this happens, an employee who spends 10 minutes driving to his normal work site, might spend 30 minutes or more driving to an off-site work location before starting work.

Employees are not entitled to be paid for time commuting from home to work. But in situations like the one described above, they are entitled to be paid for time spent driving to an off-site location beyond the normal home-to-work commute time.

Take, for example, a construction worker who reports to the office each day. It normally takes him 10 minutes to drive from home to work each morning. Two days a week,

instead of driving directly to the office, he's required to drive several cities away to pick up supplies before going into the office. Here, the construction worker is entitled to be paid for the time it takes him to drive to the supplier in excess of the time it normally takes him to get to work.

Q: My employer wants to make me an independent contractor. Is this legal?

Treating workers as independent contractors has significant benefits for employers. Independent contractors are not entitled to be paid minimum wage, overtime or meal and rest breaks, among other things. Independent contractors are responsible for paying additional employment taxes that the employer is normally responsible for. Finally, independent contractors are not protected from on the job harassment and discrimination in the same way employees are.

Fortunately, California is generally very protective of workers. An employer cannot unilaterally make a worker an independent contractor. A worker must meet certain legal requirements in order to be considered an independent contractor under the law. This depends in large part on

the degree of control the employer has over the worker. Because each job is different, only a lawyer can tell you whether you have been correctly labeled an independent contractor. For employees who are incorrectly treated as "independent contractors," they are often entitled to unpaid wages and penalties as the result of wage violations, such as failure to pay overtime or provide meal and rest

breaks.

All information is provided for general information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. If you have questions about a specific situation, you should contact an employment attorney. If you have a question that you would like Drew to consider for future editions, you can email him at drew@thelewislawoffice.com

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From the Editor's Desk

What has happened to the dream?

When Donald J. Trump became the 45th president of the U.S., many in our country and around the world asked that we give him a chance.

While there are those who have given him that chance and continue to support him, many more in this country feel that their original fears about a Trump presidency have already been confirmed several times over.

Paul Stoller, a professor of anthropology at West Chester University in PA., wrote in his Huffington Post article on January 25,



Henrietta J. Burroughs

2017, "The terrifying Age of Trump has begun with the celebration of "alternative" facts, gag orders on civil servants, journalist harassment and arrests, the disappearance of "inconvenient" government data on climate change, proposals to eliminate government departments that support inconvenient programs (for women and minorities) or produce "inconvenient" data that would not adhere to the "party" line." [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-stoller/writing-resistance-in-the_b_14395936.html].

President Trump has now signed a series of sweeping executive actions that delights many throughout our country and causes waves of fear for others.

In his State of the State Address on January 24, 2017, California's Governor Edmund "Jerry" Brown, Jr. said, "California Is Not Turning Back. Not Now, Not Ever."

The fight is on and the divisions between groups have never been clearer.

In an article in EPA Today on page three of this issue titled, "We will fight back in defense of our communities," Mia Yoshitani said, "Along with other low-income communities and communities of color, we are on the frontlines of racism, poverty, and pollution....As we fight to fortify the ability of immigrants to call California home, we also must protect the places and neighborhoods where we live, work, and pray."

East Palo Alto residents have shown again and again that they are willing to do just that: fight for their city and fight for the values in which they believe.

It was not that long ago when community youth led by Youth United for Community Action (YUCA), held series after series of protests against ROMIC, a waste recycler operating in East Palo Alto near

Cooley Landing. YUCA succeeded in forcing the company to sell and move out of the city. At the time, YUCA and its supporters stood firm in calling for environmental justice.

In showing their displeasure with the alternative Good Faith Effort agreement that the City of East Palo Alto signed with the Sobrato Organization and Amazon, many in the community are also demanding economic justice, as well.

In its current lawsuit against Menlo Park, the City of East Palo

Alto argues that Menlo Park's new general plan benefits Menlo Park, while burdening East Palo Alto. In protesting the alternative Good Faith Effort agreement, residents, too, are saying that they are tired of other people benefitting at the community's expense.

The First Source Hiring (FSH) policy that was adopted by the city in 2001 and set up to provide community benefits, stipulated that whenever a large company moved into the city, the profit it generated should be shared in some way with the community.

Now, many community members are not convinced that the alternative Good Faith Effort agreement the city signed this February adequately replaces FSH and goes beyond it, as city officials say, in what it offers the city and its residents.

The flyer that called for the candlelight vigil that occurred in East Palo Alto on Thursday, March 30, to protest the agreement said, "When these people come into our community, who will stop them or stand in the way of corporate agendas that harm us, imprison or deport us, exclude us from employment and relocate our existing residents?"

Obviously, the struggle that Mia Yoshitani spoke of is the very same struggle that community residents consider their own and have taken on.

Yet, with this reality before us, it's critical during the struggle that we not scapegoat each other, make each other wrong, find blame for what isn't in the city and in our lives and overlook the good that is. Personal attacks create enemies not allies. Attacking is easy.

Even Trump recognized this when he said that it had been easy for six years for the Republicans to find fault with

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Photo by

Organizers and speakers stand arm in arm in celebration at StreetCode's March 29, 2017 event. The event marked the accomplishments of StreetCode's March graduates and the accomplishments of the guests and speakers alike. From left, Ivan Temes, Shanna Uhilamoelangi, Jayati Sengupta, Alexis Lucio, Dr. Paul Reynolds, Olatunde Sobomihin, Penberton Gordon, III and Vijji Suryadevara.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

Communities commit to growing resistance to Trump

Dear Editor:

In the wake of Trump announcing his latest version of the widely condemned and resisted "Muslim Ban" earlier today, the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC) joins with community organizations to affirm their ongoing commitment to community self-defense and resistance against the racist targeting of Arabs and Muslims.

On March 16th, communities across the Bay Area demonstrated their power and collectively fought back, the same day that Executive Order 13780, the new version of the Muslim Ban, came into effect.

"On March 16th we called on everyone to join us to resist every racist and fascist policy that this administration has set in motion," said Sharif Zakout of AROC. "These policies are devastating families and communities, and this ban is barring people from the very same countries that the U.S. has destabilized and attacked through war, bombing, drone strikes, and sanctions for years. Although these policies are an attempt to instill fear and silence, we will become even louder and more defiant."

The new version of the Muslim Ban attempts to use the longstanding National Security policies to justify targeting Africans, Arabs and South and West Asians from majority Muslim countries: Iran, Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Libya and Somalia. Unlike the first version, Iraq has been excluded, as are all green card holders. The Ban bars refugees for entering the country for 120 days and makes

specific mention of Syrians.

Rejecting the notion that this Ban is "less severe" than its predecessor, AROC believes that it is as fundamentally unacceptable - and should be strongly opposed through massive displays of resistance, legal defense, and community organizing. AROC is also urging that anyone in need of legal support to avoid sharing any information with law enforcement, and to contact them or other legal defense organizations so that community members know how to protect themselves from attacks by ICE, FBI or other forms of law enforcement.

"We expected that Trump would use existing laws to craft a new version of the Muslim Ban. Lawyers across the country have already made it clear that they will continue to fight this in court," said Nuha Abusamra of AROC. "More importantly, communities will fight back everywhere. Ten thousand of us shut down the international terminal at SFO airport in January to resist the travel ban and demand the freedom of our community members, and we won. We will continue to organize ourselves to win."

On March 16th, around 500 people came out to protest the New Muslim Ban. Speakers included members of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC), Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Causa Justa, National Alliance for Filipino Concerns, Hella Organized Bay Area Koreans, and Asian Law Caucus, and Mission Graduates.

For more information, email info@araborganizing.org. Lara Kiswani Arab Resource and Organizing Center

Pig "scrambles" Justice Denied

Dear Editor

At a packed 3/28 hearing, the Woodside Town Council officially endorsed animal cruelty, refusing to take an ethical stand on the Jr. Rodeo's brutal "pig scrambles," betraying constituents and baby pigs alike. Some 20 people, including three children, spoke in favor of banning this cruel event, whereas only two speakers (both Mounted Patrol members) were opposed. Three councilmembers recused themselves, citing dubious conflicts of interest." The remaining four decided to take NO action, in a blatant dereliction of their public duty. Shame!

The Council has received hundreds of letters and emails in support of the ban, including 31 local veterinarians, the Peninsula Humane Society, and an on-line petition with 26,000+ signatures. The issue has received major media coverage, both local and national. Local businesses will suffer, and lawsuits are likely pending. Animal "scrambles" have been banned at the Rowell Ranch Rodeo in Castro Valley since 1987. Time to "cowboy up," Woodside.

Pigs are prey animals, and fear for their very lives when chased or handled roughly. Renowned animal behaviorist Dr. Temple Grandin has written, "In assessing criteria for suffering, humans have had to endure, to live through and often to die through. So I could not refuse

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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

Many living in a state of constant fear

By Supt. Gloria Hernandez-Goff

Last December, as superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District, I sent a communication to the Mayors of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park requesting that they take public positions declaring their cities sanctuary cities.

There is no denying that, since the end of the presidential election, there are many in our community who are living in a state of constant fear. I know this because each and every day that I walk through the corridors of our schools, I hear from our students and their families that fear is spreading throughout our community and they ask if I know what is going to happen.

Regardless of your political affiliation, we cannot ignore

the humanitarian aspect to this, and equally important the devastating impact this fear has created in our community as a whole.

As a working class community in the shadows of the booming Silicon Valley economy, we have always known and clearly understood, that economic disparity exists.

Yet, rather than being stymied by this, we have always used this knowledge as the fuel that propels us forward, and more importantly, have utilized it to energize the imaginations of our children.

What we have lacked in financial resources, we have always more than made up for in the wealth of passion, work ethic, and ambition that permeates throughout East Palo



Supt. Gloria Hernandez-Goff

Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

As a community, we have always pulled together in order to ensure that our children have more opportunities than the adults who love them had.

When members of our community are so overwhelmed with fear that they are afraid to leave their homes, we lose some of the energy and momentum that has allowed this city

to evolve, triumph, and grow.

I know that some of you may be reading this and thinking to yourself that you aren't in any way impacted by our nation's immigration policies. To those of you that believe this, let me remind you that the fight of the immigrant community is equally your fight.

Rather than buying into the divisions that are utilized to keep us from coming together, let's focus on the idea that we are interdependent in our national economy. The vital resources on which we all depend are, equally, at risk.

By being complacent to policies that target specific groups in our community, we make it easier for those attacks on our values to force us to change our course, and in the process, make us the new target of the

day. This we cannot allow.

By asking East Palo Alto and Menlo Park to declare themselves sanctuary cities, I am asking our city leaders to set the tone in this fight for the future of our community, indeed of our state.

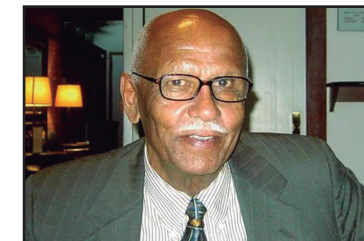
Although we do not know what the future holds, I do know that our future can only get brighter if we come together during these times of uncertainty.

As superintendent, I want you to know that our district will always be a place that will work to improve the quality of life for our community.

Regardless of the issue, we will always be a shoulder to lean on when times are tough, and a place where you will not be judged, but rather, celebrated for your life experiences.

Pres. Obama's positive impact on the nation and the world

Henry Organ



Henry Organ

Much has been and will be written about President Obama and Family as a part of the continuing history of this nation. Legislatively, he was able to accomplish much in his first two years as President, but more accomplishments were seriously curtailed or blocked when an opposition party gained control of the US Congress for his remaining six years. Actually, this opposition was conceived at a partisan cabal on the eve of the President's election for his first term.

Not all of his opposition was clandestine, but was openly and disrespectfully

displayed. For example, a congressman shouted at the President that he was a liar during a speech the latter was delivering to a joint session of Congress in 2013. An example of more substantive disrespect was the refusal of the US Senate leadership to consider the President's nominee to the US Supreme Court. This tribute to the President and Family, how-

ever, will not be about the lengthy, negative and occasionally malicious opposition to them. Instead, attention is directed toward the positive impact they will have on this nation and the world. And, I think this focus would reflect the wholesome philosophy of the First Family.

In this short eight-year legacy, President Obama is leaving for generations a model of exemplary behavior for youth of all colors and ethnicities. His actions in the White House can be characterized as enlightening, emotionally stable, non-confrontational, positive, respectful and of "no-drama." These future "Obama Legatees," if you will,

can never be "repealed and replaced." Many will be inspired to public service.

Prominent among his admirable qualities has been his decorum in international venues; his preference for diplomatic over lethal solutions; and, his goal of presiding over the entire nation, and not special interest sectors. More precisely, he is to be praised for his efforts to address the needs of the poor, irrespective of color and ethnicity in areas like health care, income equality, educational opportunity, reform in law enforcement, sentencing and clemency, rights of privacy, immigration, the environment and environmental

justice. On the subject of color, I believe he and his family have had a special identifying and inspiring influence on Black youth and families in this nation and other parts of the world.

The Obamas' speeches, press conferences and interviews have been works of art. The sincerity of their responses to questions, the intensity of their thought processes and deliberations, the immediate depth and comprehensive knowledge reflected in their analyses are incomparable.

The thrust of this article thus far speaks to the "presidential" legacy The Obamas.

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The unbearably brutal and devastating truth about racial injustice

By Kimberly Carlton



Kimberly Carlton

Last year I read Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson and it may be the most important book I've read in a decade. It was incredibly painful for me to read, so much so that I could read only a little at a time because I would break down in tears while reading. Or be filled with such rage I could no longer concentrate. The truth of racial injustice in this country is simply devastating and unbearably brutal.

Yet I also recognized that what I could barely bring myself to read, let alone imagine, is what real flesh-and-blood humans have had to endure, to live through and often to die through. So I could not refuse

to look, however awful or painful it may be, because my pain is only a distant shadow of that endured by the people it actually happened to. This was the same feeling I had watching 12 Years a Slave.

I need to do something, not just cry or rage or wish things were different, so after I finished the book last year I signed up on the website to give a monthly contribution to Equal Justice Initiative, the nonprofit founded by Stevenson that works tirelessly on behalf of the often poor people of color who are so mistreated by our justice system. It's something small, but it's something and their work is important. Today, I received from them a gift in the mail as a thank-you for my 2016 con-

tribution. And that gift plunged me further into confusion and doubt.

I received a calendar for 2017. It's an oversize wall calendar with a lot of poignant pictures, text, and notes about events for almost every day of the year. One of the key projects of EJI is bringing attention to lynchings in America, so the beginning of the calendar is devoted to raising awareness

of this issue by documenting what is known about who was lynched, when, and where. The calendar is titled, A History of Racial Injustice. It also confronts police violence, anti-immigrant sentiment, prosecution of children, and the death penalty.

I know this history needs to be seen and known. We must, as a nation, confront our brutality and cruelty, rather than denying or romanticizing it. The calendar, then, is a beautiful depiction of our worst ugliness toward one another, or, more honestly, toward our non-white brothers and sisters. It brings up very powerful feelings that I feel ill-equipped to deal with.

I don't want to look at these images every day. I don't want to read each day

about an atrocity committed against an innocent person of color. I don't want to feed this to my mind and soul.

Most of all, I don't want any of that to happen ever again, to anybody, anywhere, for any reason.

I don't want young Black men gunned down in their own neighborhoods, or Black women kicked off wine tours for having fun too loudly, or Black teenagers chased from public pools and thrown violently to the ground by police. Compared to what they live with, looking at a calendar is trivial. But images matter, and words matter, and intentions matter, so I want to see the world I aspire to instead of the one in progress.

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El distrito escolar responde a las preocupaciones de inmigración

Por Elizabeth Real

El Distrito Escolar de Ravenswood tuvo una reunión comunitaria en la escuela Costaña / 49ers Academy para informar y tranquilizar a los miembros de la comunidad de inmigrantes de East Palo Alto. El jueves 2 de marzo, más de 200 residentes locales se presentaron para escuchar a representantes de agencias nacionales, del condado y de la ciudad para calmar temores e informar a la comunidad sobre los procesos que se siguen para no ayudar a los agentes federales de ICE.

Los representantes presentes fueron la superintendente Dra. Gloria Hernández-Goff del Distrito Escolar de Ravenswood City, el Comandante Jeff Liu del Departamento de Policía de East Palo Alto, el Comandante William A. Dixon del Departamento de Policía de Menlo



Photo courtesy of Duane Goff

Park, Víctor Pérez de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de San Mateo y de la oficina de la congresista Jackie Speier fueron su Director de Distrito Brian Perkins y el miembro del personal Estefani Morales-Zanoletti. La Sra. Morales-Zanoletti es bilingüe en español y se enfoca en el tema de la inmigración y ayuda a los residentes de EPA a navegar por la burocracia.

Iliana Rodríguez, Directora de la Agencia de Servicios Humanos del Condado de San Mateo y Luisa Buada, Directora Ejecutiva del Centro de Salud de la Familia Ravenswood también estuvieron presentes para informar a los residentes sobre

los servicios de apoyo que sus agencias individuales ofrecen.

Los agentes de la ley explicaron cómo y cuándo es que ellos se involucran con alguien que tiene problemas de inmigración. Los agentes estuvieron de acuerdo en que si una persona no sigue las leyes estatales o del condado, la policía será llamada para encargarse del asunto. Si una persona es arrestada y registrada en la cárcel, se le tomará las huellas. Es entonces cuando ICE puede tomar conciencia de la ubicación y el estado del inmigrante. Se aconsejó a los residentes que si obedecían la ley, disminuiría enorme-

mente la posibilidad de que ICE viniera a buscarlos.

Brian Perkins, el Director del Distrito le dijo a la audiencia lo que la congresista Speier está haciendo para ayudar a los residentes que se encuentran atrapados entre un programa anticuado de inmigración y sobre los oficiales de ICE que continúan a seguir este programa. Un aspecto importante de la oficina de Speier es la asignación de la Sra. Morales-Zanoletti, que ayuda a las comunidades de inmigrantes en el distrito de la Congresista y se reúne en pequeños grupos o con individuos. En algunos casos ella ha podido ayudar trayendo un abogado de inmigración. La Sra. Morales-Zanoletti dijo que podían llamarla si necesitaban ayuda con asuntos de inmigración al 650-342-0300.

Dra. Hernández-Goff les dijo a la audiencia que el Distrito Escolar Ravenswood ha estado trabajando para informar a los padres de los pro-

cesos del distrito desde las elecciones de noviembre. Ella explicó, en detalle, lo que el Distrito está haciendo para mantener la confidencialidad de todos los padres y estudiantes de Ravenswood.

Dijo que planea tener más reuniones para hablar sobre los temas de inmigración, ya que recientemente no se sabe lo que hará el gobierno sobre la reforma de la inmigración. También planea invitar a otros grupos de inmigrantes para participar en reuniones comunitarias en el futuro.

Al final de la reunión, se les dijo a la audiencia, si necesitaban información adicional, que deben llamar a la oficina de la congresista Speier al 650-342-0300 y preguntar por la Sra. Morales-Zanoletti. Todas las preguntas sobre reuniones futuras de la comunidad pueden ser dirigidas al distrito escolar de Ravenswood al 650-329-2800.

Familia East Palo Alto dice que fueron hostigados por hombres que afirmaron ser ICE

Cazadores de recompensas entraron en casa, interrogaron a la familia sobre el estatus migratorio

Por Sue Dremann Translated by Elizabeth Real

La pesadilla de Juan Pinto, residente de East Palo Alto, comenzó con un golpe en su puerta a las 3 de la madrugada el primero de marzo. Medio dormido y desnudo, Pinto preguntó quién estaba allí.

"Inmigración" dijo un hombre, y Pinto abrió la puerta, recordó.

Tres hombres con uniformes entraron a la casa con rifles y pistolas. Pinto fue al dormitorio a ponerse la ropa. Mientras estaba allí, ordenó a su esposa, Laura Saldaña, que grabara en su móvil lo que estaba sucediendo.

"No confío en estos tipos", le dijo.

Los hombres, que resultaron ser cazadores de recompensas, buscaban al hermano del cuñado de Pinto, a quien Pinto dijo que no había visto por 10 años. Eso no impidió que los cazadores de recompensas interrogaran a la familia -que también incluye a los cuatro hijos de Pinto y Saldaña, sus padres y un hermano- y exigieron que proporcionaran identificación.

Las licencias de conducir, visas, y pasaportes se pueden ver en una mesa en el video de siete minutos y 23 segundos que Saldaña grabó.

"¿Es ese tu pasaporte?" le preguntó el hombre grande



Courtesy of content4life.hubpages.com

de uniforme.

"Sí, ese es mi pasaporte y esta es mi visa," dijo ella.

"¿Está bien, ¿estás aquí con una visa?"

"No, soy residente," dijo Saldaña.

"Eres residente?"

"Sí," dijo ella.

"¿Y dónde? (Inaudible)"

"No. Tengo una dirección que es permanente," dijo ella.

"¿Permanente? Pero usted es residente."

"Sí. Residente", dijo.

"¿Y tú?" preguntó el hombre a Pinto.

"Soy un ciudadano estadounidense."

"¿Bien y tú?" -preguntó a la madre de Pinto, Margerita Pinto.

"Es una ciudadana," dijo Pinto.

"Todos son ciudadanos aquí," dijo el hombre.

"Sí," respondió Saldaña, "Todos son ciudadanos."

Alrededor de un minuto y

medio del interrogatorio, Saldaña se acercó hacia la cámara y dijo en español:

"Inmigración acaba de llegar aquí a nuestra casa."

Aunque los cazadores de recompensas no fueron empleados por ICE, el incidente subraya la libertad extraordinaria que la ley le ofrece a los agentes de recuperación de fianzas o cazadores de recompensas y cómo las personas pueden ser manipuladas a divulgar información, aunque no están obligados a darla.

El incidente también demuestra la táctica que utilizan los cazadores de recompensas para capturar fugitivos. No fue hasta después de las preguntas sobre el estatus migratorio que uno de los hombres le dio a la pareja su tarjeta de negocios, lo que demostró que son cazadores de recompensas. Los hombres estaban vestidos de camisas azul oscuro con una insignia y pantalones de color caqui.

Los hombres continuaron interrogando a la familia sobre el familiar fugitivo y pidieron el número de Seguro Social de Pinto. Cuando Pinto preguntó por qué necesitaban su número, un hom-

bre simplemente dijo con voz firme: "Lo necesito."

Los hombres también regresaron la noche siguiente a las 11:45 p.m., dijo Pinto. Supuestamente saltaron la puerta de hierro forjado y aluzaron las luces en las ventanas traseras de la casa, que no tenía ninguna cortina.

"Antes, manteníamos las ventanas y las puertas abiertas, pero ahora tenemos que cerrarlo todo con llave," dijo Pinto. "Mis hijos tienen mucho miedo de ir a la escuela o de estar en casa también, porque creen que la inmigración nos separará de nuestros hijos."

"Nunca he tenido problemas de ningún tipo, ni siquiera en la escuela secundaria," agregó Pinto.

Los padres de Pinto, que son dueños de la casa, tienen problemas médicos que se han agravado por los incidentes, dijo. Su esposa no puede dormir y sus cuatro hijos de 10, 9, 7 y 19 meses ahora duermen en un colchón de aire en el dormitorio de la pareja porque tienen miedo.

Bryan Hudgins, el agente de recuperación nombrado en la tarjeta dada a Pinto, lista su negocio como Darknight Fugitive Recovery de Vallejo. Le dijo al Weekly por teléfono esta semana que Darknight son "contratistas a través de ICE".

Pero los oficiales de ICE refutaron las afirmaciones de Hudgins.

"ICE no contrata a con-

tratistas privados para llevar a cabo acciones de cumplimiento de la ley de inmigración," dijo el portavoz de la agencia James Schwab en un correo electrónico, citando la política de ICE.

Schwab señaló que es un delito federal que alguien se sumerja en un agente federal, aunque no pudo comentar si alguna ley se rompió en este caso.

Los Pintos pidieron a la policía de East Palo Alto que tomara un reporte, pero el comandante de la policía, Jeff Liu, dijo que el departamento no lo hizo porque Pinto les dio "permiso" a los hombres para entrar en su casa y ver sus documentos de identificación. Por lo tanto, las acciones no eran ilegales, dijo Liu.

La Cuarta Enmienda de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos se supone que protege a "personas, casas, papeles y efectos contra búsquedas y incautaciones irrazonables" sin justa causa y una orden judicial, pero eso sólo se aplica a las autoridades gubernamentales.

Los cazadores de recompensas se rigen bajo el Código Penal de California. Ellos deben completar un entrenamiento de 40 horas de arresto a través de la Comisión de Normas y Capacitación de Oficiales de Paz y otros cursos de capacitación de certificación; No se les permite representarse "de

continúa a pagina 21

Ravenswood school district

RVs and cars at night.

Goff explained that Weeks, which was flooded due the recent heavy rain, is a relatively good place for people to park because it is a dead-end street surrounded by empty lots. Nevertheless, just before the winter holidays, many who lived there heard that the police were going to be ticketing campers and hauling vehicles away.

"I panicked about that, but then I found out that they wouldn't do that because there's nowhere for (people) to go," Goff said.

As she drove back up Weeks, Goff pointed to some RVs in front of a row of townhomes: "It's harder for them because these people (in the townhomes) will call (the police)," she said.

Goff would like to work out a way to alleviate some of the pressure felt by families living in RVs. One of her ideas in-



Photo courtesy of the Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA

volves dedicating a lot located on the school district's property for families who live in campers. She pointed out that the YMCA, which is located just down the street, would be a good place for people to shower and exercise and expressed her hopes to partner with the county library for support for the kids there in the evening.

"So there's a way we could make this a much better situation than what we currently have, although it still will be a precarious housing situation," Goff said, adding

that it would hopefully be temporary, while they could work out housing arrangements.

However, Goff's desire to provide a safe location for families to park on district property has not been approved by the school board.

"It is a policy decision that the board has not had a public discussion about; we have to be concerned about liability issues," said Board of Education President Sharifa Wilson.

In the meantime, Goff said that she is continuing to work with community organiza-

tions, such as churches, to identify other areas -- other than district property -- where families can safely park and is looking to ensure that the district is covered under liability insurance for safe parking.

Also in the works is Goff's plan to install heavy duty washers and dryers in every school in the district, something that would alleviate a need for many homeless families.

"Parents can come wash their clothes, and while they're waiting, they can go in and help a teacher, read in



Sharifa Wilson

continued from page 6

the classroom with the kids -- just build that culture of being a part of the educational environment for their children," she said.

Currently, the district is obtaining the cost estimate for the project and already has a couple of volunteers who are going to help raise money. Goff sees this as a step toward continuing to build trust and a sense of community.

Wilson praised Goff for her initiative.

"I think she's a fantastic superintendent, one of the best we've ever had," Wilson said. "That's why she's looking at all these options, because she really cares about the children."

Editor's note - This article is reprinted from the Palo Alto Weekly. It appeared on the paloaltoonline.com website on March 10, 2017

East Palo Alto family continued from page

to "knock and announce" before breaking down doors to search for a fugitive; they don't have to Mirandize someone, and incriminating statements obtained by coercion are even admissible in court, he noted.

Hudgins is licensed by the

state Department of Insurance to transact on behalf of All-Pro Bail Bonds Inc. of Fairfield, California, as a bail bonds agent. He has no complaints or disciplinary actions, according to state records. The Pintos can file a complaint with the department, which licenses

bail bonds agents.

If an investigation finds wrongdoing, the bail agent might face penalties or even have a license revoked, said Nancy Kincaid, press secretary for Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones and the California Department of Insurance.

The Pintos are now following Liu's recommendations to guard their privacy. They have affixed "no trespassing" signs on the wrought-iron fencing and on the house and door. If the couple tells the bounty hunters to leave and they won't, the Pintos will call 911. California trespass law makes it a crime to enter a

property where a no-trespass notice is posted or when the trespasser refuses to leave after a request by a property owner, agent or the police.

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Lifecycles A Celebration of Life

Willie Lou "Carol" Harris - March 20, 1936 - February 6, 2017

Willie Lou "Carol" Harris, a long-time resident of East Palo Alto, California, was born March 20, 1936 in Dyersburg County, Tennessee to the late Louella Eison and Rev. Alonzo N. Eison, Sr. She departed this life on February 6, 2017 at her home surrounded by family and friends. She was united in Holy Matrimony to James E. Harris. To this union, 3 children were born. In addition, she had 3 children from previous marriages.



Willie Lou "Carol" Harris

Willie Lou was ahead of her time. With her entrepreneurial spirit, she opened several "Hamburger Shacks" in the San Francisco Bay Area serving up amazing burgers, fries and specialty

sandwiches. She once ran a "penny candy" store right out of her garage, a snack shop known as Lonnie's Corner and the evangelistic workshop all located in East Palo Alto! Willie Lou worked as a Licensed/Vocational Nurse where she brought comfort and assistance to those who were convalescing. Willie Lou

with her cute face and bigger than life personality was quite the character. Telling jokes and riddles and making others laugh was her specialty. Within the laughter, if you listened closely, you would hear little nuggets of wisdom which flowed from her love of God.

She loved listening to the blues and gospel music and she loved dancing, but mostly she loved her children. Willie Lou was many things to many people. She was known as "Mama Willie" who visited the local grocery store to pick up snow cones and crack a joke or two before heading back home. She was "Pocket Mom" to some because she was such a loving

person you just wanted to put her in your pocket and keep her near. To those closest to her she was Mom or Wil'ou because she gave love and support to anyone who needed it. She also believed in giving back to the community therefore she gave countless volunteer hours to the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto. While she was a member of Sweet Home COGIC she could be found visiting many other churches within the city.

She was preceded in death by siblings: Dorothy Mosley, Alonzo N. Eison, Jr., Viola Lacy and Esterlene Lacy. Willie Lou (also lovingly known as "Carol") leaves to cherish her sweet memories

her husband, James Harris, 6 children—Bennie J. Mackey (Menlo Park), Herbert L. Parker (Sacramento), Stanley R. Parker (East Palo Alto), Juliet Harris (East Palo Alto), Joey Harris (East Palo Alto) and Alonzo D. Harris (Mutsiya)(Stockton); 17 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren. Three sisters: Katie Mae Watson of Elk Grove, California, Alene Dodds (Wallace) of Folsom, California, and Addie Lee Candler (Lloyd, Sr.) of Brentwood, California. Other brothers and sister-in-law, and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews, friends and extended family who brought her great joy.

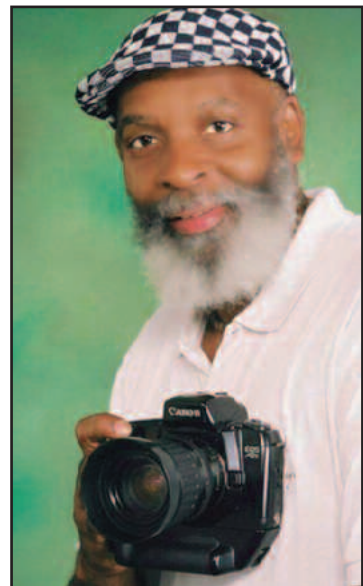
Otha William Johnson, III - Sunrise: February 24, 1950 Sunset: January 5, 2017

Otha William Johnson, III was born on February 24, 1950 to Otha William Johnson, Jr. and Gwendolyn Johnson in Harlem, New York. He attended elementary Public School (PS) 170, Junior high school 13, and was a proud alumnus of the renowned Charles Evan Hughes Hiuch School Class of 1968.

As a young man growing up in Harlem, he was well-respected by his peers and neighbors alike. He was considered a role model to his younger siblings and friends. As a teenager, he developed an interest in photography. His interest began with still life photography and quickly transitioned into taking photos of his family, friends and neighbors. When Otha would visit Harlem, he would take pictures of everyone in his

neighborhood especially the old-time neighbors of 1370 5th Avenue. He soon received much praise and gratitude for his photographs. It was at this time, he knew that he had a special gift of capturing the unique beauty of each individual he photographed. Otha further developed his gift and passion for photography as a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City. After he completed his photography courses at FIT, he enlisted into the United States Army where he served as a military police officer and official photographer of his military unit.

On June 19, 1976, he married his then girlfriend, Lynell Triplett, and one year later, the newly wed couple moved to California. California was where the two were



Otha William Johnson, III (Brother Jaye)

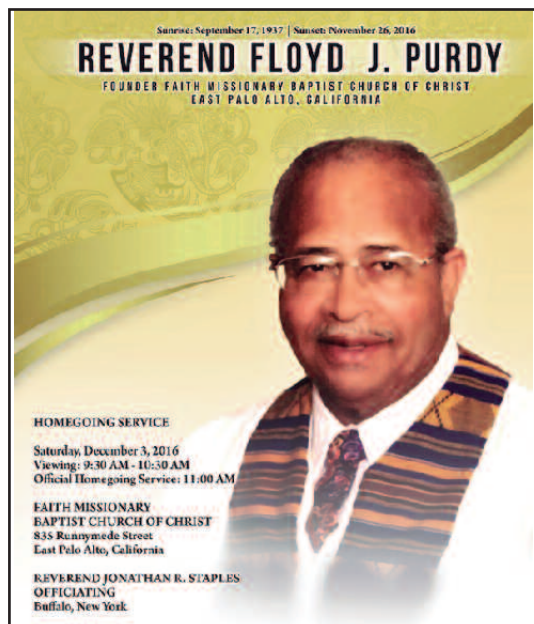
able to start their life and family together and welcomed their daughter Courtney Johnson and son Otha "Mathew" Johnson.

Shortly after moving to California he adopted the name "Brother Jaye" because it was easy to remember and spell. From thereon, to all, including his family, he was affectionately referred to as Brother Jaye. He would often say he could tell how long someone knew him by which name they called him.

He was a man of great character and had an undeniable work ethic. He often worked two full time jobs while persistently pursuing his passion. He began working for Associated Family Photographers (AFP), which was stationed the local Safeway stores. This granted him the opportunity to photograph families all across the bay area. He later left AFP and began to embark on a new career as family photographer. Brother Jaye's tenacious nature and entrepreneurial spirit allowed him to start his own photography company first named Bay City Photography and later changed to Brother Jaye Studios. Although, he photographed any and everyone, he had a special gift for working with children. He gained much success with children's photography all across the greater bay area. He photographed Head Start preschool programs, elementary schools, and high schools in San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin Counties. Brother Jaye would effortlessly drive over 100 miles one way each day to ensure that he captures the hearts and smiles of every child he photographed.

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Rev. Floyd Purdy - Sunrise: September 17, 1937 Sunset: November 26, 2016



Floyd James Purdy was born the middle child of nine children to Jesse J. and Mollie B. Purdy. His life began September 17, 1937 in Weona, Arkansas; and his eternal beginning was on November 26, 2016 in San Jose, California. He received his early education in the public schools of Weona. He was a graduate of the George Washington Carver High School in Marked Tree, Arkansas, May 18, 1956. He entered the United States Air Force on June 5, 1956 and served four [4] years, and was honor-

ably discharged June 6, 1960. Floyd and Annetta Jewel Rogers were united in matrimony on March 26, 1957, and they are the proud parents of four [4] children: Floyd Jr., Karen D., Roland D., and Jonathan R. Staples, Buffalo, New York. Using his G.I. Bill to complete his education, Floyd received his A.B. degree in Sociology and Secondary Education, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His Seminary work was done at the University of Chicago Divinity School in

Chicago, Illinois, from which he received the M.A. Degree, 1972. He received His C.P.E. Certificate from Deaconess Hospital in Milwaukee. He was a member of the College of Chaplains, and served as Chaplain for the Bureau of Federal Prisons and was a Hospital Chaplain in Milwaukee. In 1966, he obeyed his call to be a preacher of the Gospel, at the Greater Galilee Baptist Church, the Late Dr. E. B. Phillips, Pastor. Dr. Phillips was recognized by Floyd as "Pops." He was ordained in 1966 to

full-time ministry, and served as a full-time Associate to Dr. Phillips. In 1970, he was called to Pastor the New Light Baptist Church of Milwaukee, and served there until 1978; and at that time, he was called to Pastor the St. John Baptist Church in East Palo Alto, California, on January 1, 1979. Secretary of the Board of Christian Education. Pastor Purdy was one who encouraged the young people of Faith to get a higher education. His mo-

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Obituaries continued on pages 16 and 18

Lifecycles

Charles Jones gets an amazing honor

By Henrietta J. Burroughs

Charles Jones, the owner of Jones Mortuary in East Palo Alto, has received many awards during his lifetime.

On February 25, 2017, he received one more. He was inducted into the Silicon Valley Black Legends Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place at the Hammer Theatre in San Jose.

Jones, who was accompanied by his wife Helen, was also joined by his daughters and his grandchildren.

A pillar in the East Palo Alto community, Jones was one of 16 black Americans honored at the second Black Legends

Awards ceremony, which was held to celebrate the contributions of Black Americans to their community and to Silicon Valley as a whole.

The others inductees included Calvin Jackson and Lola Williams who received the Public Service award; David Early and Dr. Michael Cheers, received the News and Documentary Award; Rev. Dr. Sheila Robinson and Rev. Dr. Herman Hyatt, MD, received the Spiritual Award; Aileen Casanave and Judge LaDoris Cordell received the Law & Justice Award, Charles "Buddy" Butler and Dr. Ethel Pitts-Walker re-

ceived the Arts/Theater/Music Award; Queen Ann Cannon and Wilbur E. Jackson received the Community Service Award and Charles Jones received the Business & Entrepreneur Award.

The ten awards given to the inductees are named after Black Americans who had distinguished careers and who made outstanding contributions over an extended period of time to improve the lives of those in the Black community and those in the general population as a whole. They also used their respected positions and influence to "enhance" the lives of other black Americans.

Jones received the award given in honor of Roy Clay and Bill Williams, who were both outstanding businessmen and entrepreneurs in their own right.

Since he started the mortuary in East Palo Alto in 1976.,



Charles Jones stands with Roy Clay who is seated.



Photos courtesy of the Jones Family. Charles Jones, center, is shown with his wife and other family members during the Silicon Valley Black Legends Awards dinner on February 25, 2017. They are from left, Robert Grays (son), Sandra Jones Spencer (daughter), Myrtle Ogletree (sister), Charles Jones, Helen Grays Jones (wife), Michelle Groce (daughter) and Kareef Groce (son-in-law).

he has been honored for his community contributions by the City of East Palo Alto, Stanford University, The United Way, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, the San Mateo Historical Association, the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley and the National Association of Morticians and Embalmers.

He was given an Outstanding Service Award by the Mid Coastal California Pre-Natal Outreach Program for providing newborn loss assistance. He is recognized for providing

funeral services for poor families in need, giving contributions and support to community agencies and mentoring young people with career advice.



EPA resident recipient of Local Heroes Award

By Bay Nature Institute Staff

Uriel Hernandez, an East Palo Alto resident and the community forestry coordinator for Canopy, is the recipient of the 2017 Local Heroes Award, given by the Bay Nature Institute, located in Berkeley, CA.

As a local hero, Hernandez will receive the Youth Engagement Award, which recognizes an individual, 25 years old or younger, who is making significant contributions in the fields of natural history, stewardship of the natural world, conservation action, and/or environmental education.

A description of Hernandez in the organization's Bay Nature magazine states: "Uriel Hernandez was born and raised in East



Uriel Hernandez

Palo Alto. He attended Menlo-Atherton High School but spent a semester during his junior year at the Mountain School in Vermont. He loved his time in the

mountains of rural Vermont, so he decided to return and pursue an undergraduate degree at Middlebury College.

After graduating with a degree in architecture and history, he returned to East Palo Alto and, in May 2014, started working as a volunteer with Canopy, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit that plants and cares for street trees in several South Bay communities.

He was hired as a full-time Community Forestry Coordinator in May 2015 to help Canopy establish the Branching Out neighborhood tree-planting program in the underserved community of East Palo Alto.

The goal of the program is to plant 500 trees along streets and around homes in East Palo Alto by 2020. These trees are a

natural resource that provide numerous community benefits, including improved water quality, decreased air pollution, reduced greenhouse gases, improved public health, and enhanced wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

As a true "people person" and a bilingual member of the community, Uriel is able to transcend barriers and inspire people who are typically ignored or left behind in such programs.

Uriel oversees all elements of the Branching Out program, from establishing the initial contacts in the community, to enlisting neighborhood "Tree Champions," developing the multilingual outreach materials, creating the planting plans, and organizing the planting events.

Once the trees are planted, Uriel provides support and bilingual education materials to the community to ensure that the trees are maintained and cared for.

Uriel has also developed a strong interest in conservation biology, and last fall he used his vacation time to travel to Panama to participate in a program tracking and studying jaguars in their native jungle habitat."

The preceding description was reprinted by permission from Bay Nature magazine, which can be viewed online at baynature.org.

See other award winners and get information about the dinner at <http://baynature.org/bay-natures-local-hero-awards-2017>.

Only my grandma would make us cry twice for her



Maria Gonzales Silva

By Elizabeth Real

I had begun to distract myself by reading blurry articles online—the tears on my cheeks had dried, but my eyes remained moist and swollen. My phone rang again and it was my mom with an unexpected update: grandma was not dead after all.

My grandma's heart had stopped beating and my mom got the call from her siblings in Mexico. After a few more calls to my siblings and myself, she had already begun to mourn her. My siblings and I quickly began looking at our schedules—ready to make arrangements to be with my mom.

Back in Mexico, however, the doctor was not ready to give up on grandma. In a miraculous turn of events, she was responsive and alive. Another flurry of calls and we were all relieved and a little embarrassed that we jumped the gun.

That was a close one. I couldn't help but chuckle a little and shake my head. She would make us worry about her

for no reason. Earlier that day, my grandma had said that she was feeling just fine when she spoke to my mom on the phone. As far as I knew, she wasn't in perfect health, but she definitely wasn't dying.

But, just as my eyes had begun to regain their focus, my phone rang again. This time, it was my dad. And this time, my grandma really was dead.

"Are you sure??" I asked as if it was some kind of sick joke. "Yeah," he said.

"Oh my God..." and I fought to conceal my laugh.

As soon as I got off the phone, I cried and laughed at the same time. Only my grandma would die, come back to life, and die again—causing us to cry twice for her.

Typical grandma. Of course this is how she would go.

When I first met my grandma, I was probably in middle school. She lived in Mexico and had finally gotten

her Visa to come visit us. I didn't know what it was like to grow up with grandparents (or most of my family for that mat-

continued on page 17

Treasured Memories
Create a Memorable Legacy for your Family Member or Friend

Creating a remembrance or memory page on the East Palo Alto Today website allows you, your friends and your family members to leave a memorable legacy in honor of a deceased friend or family member. To see the Treasured Memories section on the EPA Today website, go online to:
www.epatoday.org/treasured_memories/index.html

Mexican Consulate

lookers. Given that the reception started before 3 p.m., the Vice Mayor wondered how the students were able to get out of school so early.

Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica laid the groundwork for what would follow by stating that the city would share what the city is doing to protect the immigrant community and would, then, hear from consulate officials.

Abrica, then pointed out that, while East Palo Alto does not call itself a sanctuary city, it has for 10 years had a resolution that prohibits its city staff members from cooperating with ICE officials and agents.

For this, he asked everyone present to give the city a round of applause, which the audience promptly did.

Laura Rubio, who is a member of El Comité Latino, shared background informa-



Deputy Consul General Enrique Maldonado receives the key to the city from Mayor Larry Moody and Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica during the reception in his honor on Tuesday, March 14 in East Palo Alto.

November, East Palo Alto has been the site of various meetings and forums to educate Latino residents about their rights and their options.

Abrica told Maldonado

gration, Abrica introduced Maldonado who was promptly presented a bouquet of flowers from the East Palo Alto Senior Center.

Maldonado thanked the City of East Palo, its officials and staff and said that the meeting was very important to the Mexican Consulate and it would like to have a similar meeting with other area cities.

He said that the times have been difficult for many people, since January with the election of a new administration in the U.S. and it is "particularly difficult situation for the Latino population, the majority of which are from Mexico.

Maldonado said the Mexican Consulate wanted to help and has been working together with non-governmental organizations (NGO's), other consulates and agencies in an effort to deal with some of the challenges that have developed.

Maldonado urged anyone who was concerned about being deported to gather all of their important papers, es-

pecially birth certificates and passports, and make sure that they are in order. He said that it was especially important that parents bring their children, who were born in the U.S. to the consulate and have them registered as Mexican citizens.

He said that if they are deported, then they would be able to prove that they are Mexican citizens and they would be able to go to school in Mexico.

He also said, that now more than ever, it was important to respect and follow the law. In particular, he advised that people not drive without a license, not drive under the influence and avoid being involved in any form of domestic violence or other forms of violence.

If anyone needed additional assistance, he recommended that they call the Mexican Consulate's hotline number (415) 699-1885 that was open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and was there for their protection.

He ended his remarks by saying, "It's a pleasure and an honor to be here with you. We will be back as many times as invited," he said.

Following Maldonado's remarks, Jesus Gutierrez, the

continued from page 1 Mexican Consulate's consul

for documentation, told the audience about an app called MiConsulmex that could download to get up-to-date information from the consulate, such as passport requirement, upcoming workshops, etc.

He also gave a toll free number 1-855-4636 – to call for additional information.

Marco Chavez, from the San Mateo County Office of Education, that the office was facilitating conversations throughout the county to assure parents and students that schools throughout the county are safe places where students and families will be safe.

East Palo Alto resident Stewart Hyland, urged people to support and sign a petition supporting SB-54, a bill introduced by DeLeon in the CA State Legislature that would require that all personal information that is collected in the state be kept in the state and not turned over to ICE or over departments of the federal government.

To find and post information on upcoming informational workshops and event, please visit East Palo Alto Today's online calendar at www.epatoday.org/events.php



Photo - Henrietta J. Burroughs Enrique Maldonado thanks Anita Cruz and Yolanda C. Ortiz, who is a member of the East Palo Alto Senior Center Board of Directors, for the bouquet of roses they presented to him on behalf of the East Palo Alto Senior Center.



Photos - Henrietta J. Burroughs

All eyes during the reception turned to the student dancers, who are known as Flores de Mayo (Flowers of May). They are part of El Comité Latino and are directed by Chela Hernandez.

tion about the group by saying that it helped Latino residents fill out their papers in 1985 -1986 to qualify for amnesty during the Reagan administration.

But now, she said that the group is helping people learn what their rights are.

After Trump's election last

and audience members that U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier led one of the first of these forums at the St. Francis of Assisi Church in December 2016.

After this brief summary of East Palo Alto's current involvement regarding immi-



SVCF awards two \$100K grants to financial education innovators

By Sue McAllister

Two outstanding and innovative financial education initiatives have been chosen to receive \$100,000 each as part of Silicon Valley Community Foundation's 10-year anniversary competitive grantmaking initiative.

The special initiative, announced last year, was designed to jump-start creative solutions in each of four areas that have long been strategically important to SVCF: building strong communities; education; immigration and – the area being recognized with SVCF's first 10th anniversary grant award – enhancing the economic security of low-income communities.

The two winning programs that will receive grants in this subject area will help fight persistent problems such as lack of

access to financial education, low savings rates and predatory lending targeted at low-income families in the Bay Area.

"Silicon Valley Community Foundation has long used its influence and policy leadership to fight for improvements to the scarce financial choices and lack of educational tools available to low-income families who would like to build a better future for themselves," said Valerie Cuevas, senior program officer at SVCF. "With this grant-making initiative, we sought to go a step further, to become catalyst investors for projects and non-profits in our community that

have identified not just the problems, but also innovative, practical and forward-looking products to turn problems around."

The two programs that will receive \$100,000 each are:

MyPath Credit, a partnership between MyPath and Self-Help Credit Union. The program will help low- and middle-income young people build credit or repair their damaged credit. Students ages 18-24, including those in the Year Up San Jose program, will learn about the importance of careful credit maintenance and repayment through experience with a combination of credit-building loans and secured and unsecured credit cards. The MyPath Credit model, introduced in 2014, is the only youth-focused credit-building model in the country.

E-FAST, a project of

AnewAmerica Community Corporation and Centro Community Partners. On a digital platform, E-FAST will provide three components that are crucial to entrepreneurial success but not easily accessible to entrepreneurs from low-income, immigrant communities of color: skill-building, access to non-predatory capital and networking/mentorship. The program will provide ongoing one-on-one technical assistance and access to vetted financial tools, including microloans, peer lending circles, matched savings accounts and secured credit cards.

The latest grants represent an expansion of SVCF's long-standing focus on counteracting the detrimental financial options and lack of education available to millions of low-income individuals.

"The mainstream financial community ignores low-income communities as offering too little profit for too much overhead," said Cuevas. "But such short-term thinking leaves these families stuck in a downward spiral of debt, ruined credit and chronically paltry savings. We hope the programs we celebrate today will become models of how to turn this situation around and bring our low-income neighbors into greater stability and upward mobility."

Read more about the 10-year anniversary grantmaking initiative, and about the impact SVCF has had on the community in its first 10 years.

Sue McAllister is the marketing director for the Silicon Valley Community Foundation

How safe are DACA recipients?

By Elena Shore

When it comes to Trump's changes to immigration policy, many immigrants have a common question: Who is affected and what do the changes mean for them?

It's a question that Martha Ruch, staff attorney at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles says she hears constantly from her clients.

Since taking office, Trump dramatically expanded the definition of who can be prioritized for deportation. Immigration attorneys say that under the expanded definition, nearly



any undocumented immigrant could be considered a target.

The first thing to understand, Ruch said, is what undocumented means.

"Visa overstayers, as well as people who came without a

visa, are undocumented," Ruch explained on a recent national press call organized by New America Media and Ready California.

Legal immigrants, especially those who have criminal is-

sues or travel internationally, may want to check with an attorney to find out their options and risks, Ruch said.

U.S. citizens are not generally going to be affected, Ruch said. "Citizens are not deportable, including naturalized citizens," she said.

How safe are DACA recipients?

The arrest and detention of several Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients has raised questions about how safe DACA recipients are from deportation.

DACA, which was launched by President Obama in 2012

through an executive order, provides access to a work permit and temporary protection from deportation to qualifying young undocumented immigrants who came to the country as children.

Currently, the DACA program remains in effect. However, the program could be terminated at any time.

It's unknown what Trump will decide to do on DACA. A leaked draft executive order, which has not been signed, proposed to end the program, allowing work permits to expire

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Hispanics shouldn't over-interpret Trump's election

By Gus West

It's safe to say that Donald Trump doesn't have many fans in the Hispanic community.

The real estate mogul rose to power spewing rhetoric that was openly hostile to Latinos. He's promised to deport more undocumented immigrants and build a wall along the nation's southern border. And who can forget his smear of Mexican immigrants as "criminals" and "rapists?"



Gus West

But Hispanics shouldn't take Trump's election as a personal affront -- or a signal that they're unwelcome in their own land. In fact, polling

data show the United States remains far more united in its commitment to tolerance, diversity, and fair immigration policy than at any time in our history.

Those who value these principles can't afford to be distracted by their private contempt for Trump. Now is the time for sober, loyal opposition focused on the legitimate policy threats posed by an erratic president.

That process starts with the recognition that Trump's divisive tenor, particularly on

immigration issues, isn't representative of the nation at large. After all, his share of the popular vote was nearly 3 million short of his opponent Hillary Clinton's. The "rigged system" that Trump spent much of the campaign decrying is what installed him in the White House.

If anything, Trump's brand of hateful fear-mongering has helped unify Americans against his most extreme views. A majority opposes Trump's plan to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

His commitment to mass deportation is no more popular. According to a new Gallup poll, more Americans are satisfied with current immigration levels than at any time since the organization began monitoring the issue. A separate survey finds support for offering a "path to citizenship" for illegal immigrants has hit a new high of 60 percent.

In other words, Trump was elected despite his attitudes towards Hispanics --

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RESIDENTS OF EAST PALO ALTO:

You can make a difference serving on the City's following Advisory Bodies:

>PLANNING COMMISSION

The Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the East Palo Alto Government Center, City Council Chamber, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA.

Two seats open:

- 1 regular seat (June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2020)
- 1 alternate seat (June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2018)

>PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the East Palo Alto Government Center, City Council Chamber, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA.

One seat open:

- 1 alternate seat (June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2018)

>RENT STABILIZATION BOARD

The Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the East Palo Alto Government Center, City Council Chamber, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA.

Three seats open:

- 1 regular seat (June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2018)
- 1 regular seat (June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2020)
- 1 alternate seat (June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2018)

>SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee meets at 1:30 p.m. every other month at the East Palo Alto Government Center, City Council Chamber, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA.

5 seats open:

- 3 regular seats (June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2019)
- 2 alternate seats (June 1, 2017 thru May 31, 2018)

APPLICATION PROCESS: Applications are available in City Hall, 2415 University Avenue, 2nd Floor or you may download an application at <http://www.cityofepa.org/DocumentCenter/View/3246>, and must be received at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 2415 University Ave., 2nd Floor, no later than **April 21, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.**

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must be residents of East Palo Alto and be 18 years or older. It is required that applicants familiarize themselves with the purpose of the advisory bodies during the application process.

For more information contact Deputy City Clerk Terrie Gillen at (650) 853-3127.

Betty Joyce Burgess - May 25, 1946 - February 1, 2017

In her own words

I, Betty Joyce Burgess, was born May 25, 1946 at Stanford University Hospital in San Francisco. I was the first child born to Reverend Clinton Hendrix and Dorothy Ruth Evans. I now join my parents and brothers, Major and Ellis, and sister, Patricia, in glory. To all those listening, my lovely family and friends, I want to now share a picture of my life.

I spent twelve years of my childhood growing up in San Francisco. In 1958, my father was called to pastor Star Light Missionary Baptist Church in Menlo Park, California. So, my parents packed up the family and moved from "The City" to "the country".

In 1964, I graduated from Ravenswood High School in East Palo Alto. Hello Class of 1964! Go Trojans! After high

school, I attended San Francisco City College and began looking for employment. I thought I was going to apply for unemployment and relax for a while, until I passed the typing test with flying colors! For the next forty-two years I would call Stanford University home. I had a plan, but God's plan was better! I began my Stanford career working in the Stanford University Law School. After thirteen years, I spent the next 28 years in Operation and Maintenance Facilities, where many of my co-workers became family. I officially retired from "The Farm" in 2009 after 42 year of dedicated service.

From my first union to Joseph Percy Lee Tucker in 1969 my beloved son Joseph Percy Lee Tucker, Jr., was born.

Joseph Tucker and I were the first African American



Betty Joyce Burgess

couple to be married at the Stanford Memorial Church.

From my second union to Roosevelt Burgess in 1978, my dearest daughter, Angelita Ruth Olivia Burgess, was born.

My faith journey began when I accepted Christ and was baptized at St. John Missionary Baptist church by the late Reverend J.A. Morgan.

As a pastors kid, I did a

little bit of everything. I taught Sunday school, was the secretary and I even played the piano for the church choir and later played for many churches in the Bay Area.

I dedicated every day to serving God, helping others and enjoying life. From cooking delicious home cooked meals for family, friends, or anyone who had an appetite to traveling across the country, God has always provided for me so I could be a blessing to others.

These two scriptures have defined my life--Jeremiah 29:11, which says, "I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." And Proverbs 3:5-6, which says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all my ways acknowledge him and he shall direct

thy paths." On February 1, 2017, I departed this earth for my eternal home with my Heavenly Father.

I leave to cherish fond memories: my son, Joseph Tucker, Jr., my daughter, Angelita Burgess-Eaglin (John-athan), one brother, Clinton Ronnie Hendrix, Jr. (Theresa) of East Palo Alto, California; two aunts; Jessie Lee Monroe and Annie Pearl Lloyd both of San Francisco, California; six grand children ; Angelique, Acacia (Decova), Aysaiah , Sade, Jahlial, John-athan II, and Preston; three great-grandchildren; Dailani, Xadrian, and Cassius and a host of loving families and friends from the East Palo Alto, Ravenswood, Stanford University, and Destiny Christian Fellowship communities.

Benny Joseph Wesson - January 23, 1939 - December 30, 2016

Mr. Benny Wesson 77 died Friday December 30, 2016 at the Veterans Residential Campus Facility in Palo Alto, California following an extended illness.



Benny Joseph Wesson

Mr. Wesson married Ms. Alfreda Dozanne Simpson-Wesson at age 70 ending his many decades of being a confirmed bachelor.

Benny Joseph Wesson was born on January 23, 1939 in Clow, Arkansas to Syvutus and Laura Wesson. Smart, fun loving, and fearless, Benny was a true intellect and deep thinker even as a young child. Blessed with an almost photographic memory, Benny was a gifted student, graduating with the honor of salutatorian of his junior high school class.

Benny and his siblings grew up in the segregated south, the children of hard working and devout followers of the Church of God in Christ

faith. Benny loved Sunday School, maintaining a lifetime commitment to attending, an interest he shared with his father, the late Deacon Syvutus Wesson who had been a Sunday school superintendent. Benny also was a talented gardener and landscaper, a craft he learned working with his father.

As a pre-teen, an incident

would occur that would affect Benny's life in a major way and would be the reason for the Wesson Family leaving the south.

Benny and his siblings were visiting their elderly grandmother when a group of angry white men burst into the house and grabbed young Benny, accusing him of bumping into a young white child and knocking her off of her tricycle. The group of men grabbed the tall skinny young Benny dragging him outside when suddenly the child announced to her father, oh no daddy, the N-gger that bumped into me wasn't that black. The men dropped young Benny in the yard, leaving a traumatized and bruised child without a second thought. Immediately upon learning of this incident Benny's parents decided to leave the south.

The Wesson family loaded

up their children and came to California with a farming contractor who would bring African American families from the south to California to work the fields.

The family first arrived in Five Points California and then a short time later moved on to settle in Fresno California where Benny attended Edison High School.

Benny had a fascination with planes and space travel as a youth, this interest and his belief that it was time to set out on his own to ease the financial burden on his parents would be the motivation for Benny joining the air force. Shortly after graduating from Edison High School at age 17 Benny entered the air force where he completed two tours of duty. Tall Black and Fine as he often referred to himself, Benny once again experienced the challenges of racism while in the

service.

Little did Benny realize that the decision to serve his country as a 17 year old would impact his life for years to follow. It is when Benny was stationed in Libya, North Africa that Benny suffered a sun stroke that required a lengthy hospital stay. Some of the details of this incident are unclear, but Benny recalls that he and a crew of soldiers mostly black were digging a trench when he blacked out. Benny ended his second tour with the Air Force returning to civilian life coming to live in Oakland, California. Benny attended and graduated from Laney Jr. College while working nights. Benny would often be seen on campus talking to groups of students, always politically aware, a savvy critical thinker Benny would challenge

him at the Purdy home or the Faith Church. He enjoyed cooking at the stove, and using the barbecue pit. The most of his family and church family had the privilege of enjoying his great cooking. He passes on his secret sauce recipe to his children. Reverend Purdy leaves to mourn his departure from this life, his wife, Annetta, of 59 years; his three sons: Floyd Jr., Roland D., and Jonathan R., one daughter, Karen D. (Alfred); his God daughters: Ramona Gail and Tamara R.

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Rev. Floyd Purdy

ive was to assist young men and women to become the best, as they pursued life's dreams.

After serving as Pastor of the St. John Baptist Church for nearly four [4] years, Pastor Purdy became the founding Pastor of the Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Christ, at 432 Bell Street in East Palo Alto, California. This Church purchased two [2] acres of land at the cost of \$220,000.00 in 1986, and constructed a worship facility in 1993. The Church is located

at 835 Runnymede Street, East Palo Alto.

Pastor Purdy was saved at the age of thirteen [13] years old in 1952, under the pastorate of the late Rev. Moses Williams at the St. John Missionary Baptist Church, of Marked Tree, Arkansas. Pastor Purdy dutifully served the Lord more than 65+ years. He always tried to be a source of encouragement to those suffering in the Gospel Ministry. He always said, "Brother if I can't help you; I certainly will not

harm you." He gave of himself and his resources for the betterment of the Kingdom of Our Lord. He would never close a sermon without "lifting up" the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ! He always said, "if you leave out what Christ did at Calvary; you simply did not preach the essence of the Gospel Story!"

Pastor Purdy made great use of the Faith kitchen and used it often, and his kitchen at home. He was always hospitable to those who visited

him at the Purdy home or the Faith Church. He enjoyed cooking at the stove, and using the barbecue pit. The most of his family and church family had the privilege of enjoying his great cooking. He passes on his secret sauce recipe to his children.

Reverend Purdy leaves to mourn his departure from this life, his wife, Annetta, of 59 years; his three sons: Floyd Jr., Roland D., and Jonathan R., one daughter, Karen D. (Alfred); his God daughters: Ramona Gail and Tamara R.

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Crouther; three brothers: Franklin D., Paul W., and Jesse S.; three sisters: Mary D., Amanda L., and Rosie M. He and Sister Purdy did not have any biological grandchildren, but they adopted "the children of Faith". Tandra J. Thysell, ("Tang"), was the eldest of the adopted grandchildren. He further leaves a host of cousins, nephews, and nieces. In addition, he leaves the beloved Faith Church membership and many friends.

Only my grandmother



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Real Elizabeth Real, second from right, stands with her grandmother and two other family members during a happy family occasion.

ter) because they were all in Mexico. Up until that day my frame of references were what I saw on TV and what my friends had.

Grandmas on TV shows were sweet and nice. They spoiled their grandchildren, fed them lots of food, and gave them candy. When I saw my friends with their grandmas, it was the same. Their grandmas were sweet and were the ones you ran to when you were in trouble with your parents.

Even though I had never met my grandma, I expected to love her.

When she finally arrived, it was awkward. It dawned on me that even though I knew what she looked like from the pictures and I knew what she sounded like from the phone calls, I didn't really know her. She was a stranger. I really only knew of her.

I hugged her, nonetheless, and she hugged me back. I couldn't help but feel a lack of

connection. She told my siblings and I that even though we were too big, she wanted us to take turns sitting on her lap so that she could rock us back and forth. It was her way of making up for lost time, I suppose. I sat—or more like awkwardly squatted so as to not hurt her—on her lap and she put her arms around me.

I believe it was at that point, as she tried to forcefully and awkwardly rock my stiff pre-pubescent body like a baby, that I realized this was not going to be like a TV show at all.

Since my grandma was staying with us, my mom had her watch us while she went to work. We were not accustomed to my mom leaving us. She had been a stay-at-home mom and my little brother, especially, didn't take it well. Not only was our mom leaving us, we were staying with a complete stranger. My brother cried for my mom. Hot tears ran down his cheeks and while I

tried to comfort him by laying next to him in bed, wiping away his tears, my grandma—who I expected to use her grandma magic to make it all better—yelled at him. She told him enough already and to stop crying! Then, she walked out of the room.

No sweet TV show grandma at all.

A few years later, my grandma visited again. By then, we were older and had grown accustomed to my mom working so there would be no crying children for her to tend to. This time, however, I was a sensitive and insecure teenage girl. My grandma never hid her opinions. She thought I was fat and that as a girl, I should be cooking and cleaning.

One thing that she did do was feed us. It wasn't particularly delicious, but we ate it. Personally, we all thought my mom's cooking was far superior. My grandma seemed to lack those motherly qualities that my mom possessed which confused us because we figured she would be like our mom times infinity.

After calling me fat, my grandma served me a plate a food. I hesitated, but I ate it. She asked if I wanted more before adding that she knew how much I liked to eat.

A few years after that, I simply dreaded my grandma's visit. Her visits meant having to hear constant criticisms about my body or my behavior. By

then, I was in college and although I was living at home, I was going out a lot more because I was in the rebellious/partying stage of my life. I was warned by my parents and my siblings to "be good" while grandma visited.

I didn't listen. I was rebelling, after all. Unsurprisingly, my grandma was not a fan of my modern ways. She told me that young ladies shouldn't be out. My younger brother, however, should be out because men went out, but ladies stayed home. The feminist and rebel inside me was infuriated.

What infuriated me the most, though, was her hypocrisy. She lectured me about my "bad" behavior, but she had never been the perfect traditional woman or mother herself. She left my mom and her siblings when they were children. No one truly knew where she went or why, but they knew that she had abandoned her husband and her young children.

When she did return—years later—she wasn't exactly nurturing. In fact, her return caused my mom and her seven (or eight, it's hard to keep track) siblings to split up. Some stayed with my grandpa and others (including my mom) left with her.

So, my grandma didn't have a great track record as a wife or mother. As far as anyone knew, she never remarried after leaving my grandpa. Instead, she often lived alone

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and she traveled alone between Mexico and the U.S.

In my first ever trip to Mexico, a couple of months ago, I had the opportunity of meeting my family for the first time. I asked my uncles about their upbringing and about my grandma. Their recollections—like my mother's—described my grandma's disappearance as one big mystery followed by her return and the subsequent family split. They, too, had questions, but had accepted long ago that they would never get answers.

When I found out about my grandma's death, her first death, I texted my siblings that I didn't know why I was so sad and why I was crying because I didn't even like her.

The last time I saw her was during my visit to Mexico. We were at my aunt's house where the entire family was celebrating our first visit. My grandma was talking shit, as always, and didn't give a damn if anyone was offended by her words. My siblings and I were annoyed because there she was again, being her typical crazy grandma self.

Still, we gladly greeted her and hugged her with a smile on our faces because at that moment, on that rainy day in Mexico, far away from our California comfort zone, and in that house full of unfamiliar faces, she was the only one who wasn't a stranger.

Pres. Obama's positive impact

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The post-presidential legacy promises to be even more impressive, given that it will be less encumbered by highly partisan legislatures and court decisions.

For example, among other initiatives, the President is expected to continue and am-

plify his work with "My Brother's Keeper"; and, Mrs. Obama will continue her important work with young women, health and nutrition and physical fitness among youth.

Thank you, President and Mrs. Obama, for what you have done and will be doing.

The unbearably brutal

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Can we honor the past by letting go of it? Perhaps, but maybe only if the emotions it evokes are fully felt, acknowledged, honored, and then forgiven and released.

All of that, of course, is predicated on a sincere apology - something our nation owes yet refuses to offer to those we've been hurting systematically for too long al-

ready.

The week [that I write this] is book-ended by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and the inauguration of Donald Trump as president, this EJI calendar for me is a study in painful contradictions. Holding onto horrors of the past cannot lead us to a bright future, yet denying or ignoring the lessons of the past can do no better.


I just wish I knew how to live in the space between.

Kimberly, Carlton serves on the board of the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, the nonprofit that runs the East Palo Alto Today newspaper.

See more on her personal blog at: www.BeMoreLoving.com

Support the East Palo Alto Today newspaper

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.



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Otha William Johnson, III

Brother Jaye became a well-known photographer throughout the State of California. His amazing gift of photography afforded him the opportunity to photograph newscasters, corporate executives, pastors, and dignitaries. Brother Jaye worked with numerous local and national organizations, which included: The Black Caucus, The Boys and Girls Club of America, San Francisco chapter of the NAACP, Valley Transportation Agency, Pop Warner Football, Costco, 100 Black Women, National Baptist Convention, California State Baptist Convention, Junior Cotillion, Junior nners and numerous other events and organizations.



This copyrighted photo from Brother Jaye's online album shows a group of singers at a December 2016 breakfast at the East Palo Alto Senior Center. It was one of Brother Jaye's last photo shoots. See more of his photographs at <http://www.brotherjaye.com/featured.html>

passion for service and community. He often partnered with many local non-profit organizations to help with their fundraising efforts. He was founding member of the Association of Minority Professional Photographers and an active member of the Greater Bay Area Professional Photographer Association.

and Professional Photographers of America. He also was a beloved mentor to many young adults who shared his passion for photography. He was an avid salsa dancer, zumba dancer and holistic medicine enthusiast. He was a beloved member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church

where he served as an usher and sang in the men's choir on occasion. He and his wife served as co-director of the marriage ministry for over 15 years. He was the official photographer for Mt. Zion Baptist Church and had the privilege of photographing every member of the congregation. He was an active member of the Men's Ministry and forged lifelong friendships with several of the members. He met monthly for breakfast with many of the men from the congregation.

In his transition back home to be with the Lord Christ our Savior, he will be reunited with his father Billy, mother Gwen and sister Rene who preceded him in death. Brother Jaye loved the Lord, his family and photography in that order. He

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leaves to mourn his wife of forty years, Lynell and their two children Courtney and Mathew Johnson. His sisters Regina Hamilton (brother-in-law Brian Hamilton) Donna Fickling of New York City, a brother, Gary Johnson (sister-in-law Inez Johnson) of Virginia, Gail Parker (brother-in-law Eddie Parker) of New York, Ellen Johnson of New City and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In the words of Sir Winston Churchill, "You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give." Rooted in faith, a loving...and a passion for people, Otha William Johnson, III truly made a life by what he gave.

How does it get any better than that?" – Brother Jaye

Benny Joseph Wesson

and befriend college professors and fellow students alike with his deep intellect.

It is during this time, the year was 1968 shortly after his younger sister's Hazel's wedding that Benny experienced his first psychotic episode.

This first episode would be one of many spanning some 40 years with Benny coping with the challenges of being a disabled veteran suffering from mental health issues.

Benny fought the hard fight remaining at his job, and committed to his studies, but the voices in his head pushed him

toward a downward spiral. Benny experienced homelessness, and arrest by police, fear of not being able to clearly communicate to his family what was happening to him.

Benny was arrested several times before law enforcement realized that he was a disabled veteran. Many times, the first reaction of law enforcement was to aggressively grab Benny in a choke hold with several officers involved to take down this very large loud black man.

Anyone who knew Benny was aware of his non violent

nature. Benny's sister Hazel became involved with her brother's challenges while he lived in the Bay Area. Benny at times returned to Fresno to be close to his beloved mother Laura Wesson and older sister Helen Jones.

Benny continued to have improvements along with many setbacks, but always his family believed in him. Benny's sister Hazel was well known to the East Palo Alto Police and the Veterans Administration as a constant protector and advocate for her brother. In later years as Hazel's health began to decline,

the support of Benny continued with his sister Nealee Wheaton until her passing in October 2015.

Benny loved his family and was always one of the first to arrive for a graduation or a wedding.

Uncle Benny was always witty, wise and opinionated. Never one to forget a birthday or special occasion he will be missed by so many. Generous of his money and his time, he was a big man with a big heart.

Benny was preceded in death by his beloved parents Syvutus and Laura Wesson

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elder sisters Helen Jones and Ella Walker and younger sister Nealee Wheaton.

He leaves to cherish his precious memory, his wife Alfreda Dozanne Wesson of Palo Alto, California, his older brother Clarence Wesson of Portland Oregon, younger brother Randolph Wesson of Concord California, younger sister's Evangelist Hazel, Webb of Brentwood California and sister Laurette Wesson of Stockton California. Along with a host of nieces, nephews and close family friends.

So, instead of following the city's First Source Hiring Policy, the city adopted a resolution approving an alternative Good Faith Effort, which the building's developer John Sobrato and Amazon's attorney Brian Winter supported in their presentation at the council's February meeting.

In explaining the city's decision to approve the resolution, East Palo Alto's City Manager, Carlos Martinez, said, "On February 21, 2017, the City Council adopted an alternative definition of "Good Faith Effort" (GFE) under the City's 2001 First Source Hiring Policy (FSH) at the request of Amazon. The alternative GFE definition is an "Employment Development Program" consisting of Amazon/Sobrato paying for a full time employment specialist, and providing 1,500 sqft of furnished office space to assist East Palo Alto residents to find a job with Amazon and with other companies. These benefits would continue for at least 10 years. It is estimated that the benefit will cost over \$1m over a ten year period. This is in addition to the \$1.2 million Community Benefit that Sobrato Organization volunteered to prepay in 2015."(See page 20 of this issue.)

As part of the task force, council member Romero made it clear that his "main goal is affordability." City residents have complained to the council that they have not heard of any follow up action or reports. But, they were told that action would be forthcoming.

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the threat he poses to the values and institutions on which our republic rests. It's essential that the Hispanic community -- and all those who support the ideals of pluralism, equality, individual liberty, and the rule of law -- commit to forcefully and vigilantly opposing the president whenever his policies violate these principles.

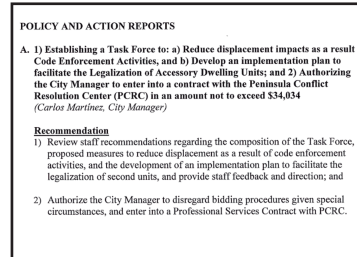
A "loyal opposition" is loyal to these constitutional principles, not to the occupant of the Oval Office. Hispanics must resist the temptation to latch onto every breach of civility and tasteless comment Trump generates -- and reserve their energies for the genuine policy battles that lie ahead.

Gus West is president of the Hispanic Institute in Washington, D.C.

Council creates housing task force

offering their services. Both programs already have a rapport with the East Palo Alto community.

The other three initiatives that will be implemented over time include: holding meetings for residents that would provide information on legalizing second units and garage conversions, providing a technical guidebook for legalizing second units specific to East Palo Alto, and identifying and preventing unintended consequences of second units such as parking.



The above graphic shows Item #10 on the task force in the Nov. 15, 2017 East Palo Alto City Council agenda.

One of the most prominent complaints from residents in previous meetings was about the 10-day eviction notices. Many residents argued that these notices, in

particular, were causing the displacement of many families—some even facing homelessness.

During the council meeting on November 15, the council approved an ordinance that would extend the 10-day eviction notices to 30 days at the discretion of the chief building inspector.

Stewart Hyland, who presented the Community White Paper in the previous meeting, said "the city manager got in touch with us right away." He was grateful that

Hispanics

not because of them. The economy played a more decisive role in the recent presidential election than immigration. In November's exit polls, more than half of voters ranked the economy as the top national issue.

Trump claimed the votes of 78 percent of Americans who said they'd lost ground financially in recent years. They bought his argument that he could create the kinds

of steady, middle-class jobs that have been missing from our economy since at least the Great Recession.

For Americans that feel left behind by current economic trends -- including many blacks and Hispanics -- Trump represented a break from the status quo. When asked which of Trump's qualities mattered most to his voters, 82 percent pointed to his potential to "bring change."

In return for that change, many of these voters were willing to overlook the president's profound character flaws. Twenty percent of his voters disapproved of his temperament, according to the exit polls. The same share judged him dishonest and untrustworthy.

Latinos should refuse to be distracted by Trump's rhetoric -- and should train their critique on his policies and

City faces backlash



The East Palo Alto City Council: From left, Councilmembers Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier and Donna Rutherford, Mayor Larry Moody, Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica and Council member Carlos Romero.

streets on Thursday, March 30, to express their anger.

It was the 4 to 1 approval vote that East Palo Alto City Council members cast at their February 21 meeting for a resolution that relieves Amazon of the need to meet a Good Faith Effort to fill 30% of its jobs with city residents that has angered many community residents. They feel that the city officials opted out of complying with its own First Source Hiring program.

The council waived the requirement after accepting the argument from Amazon's representative that the jobs at Amazon were highly technical jobs and it would be difficult to find enough qualified East Palo Alto residents with the technical skills the company needs to fill 30% (or 435 jobs) of their vacant positions with East Palo Alto residents who had

Some city residents don't quite agree. In speaking of Amazon's proposals, Elizabeth Jackson, a longtime city activist said, "If they want us to be more high tech, then they need to train people and pay for the training. Amazon should build an independent training center in East Palo Alto, like PluggedIn used to be and support it financially." Jackson continued, "They should support the training programs East Palo Alto already has like StreetCode,

Screen grab courtesy of the Media Center Developer John Sobrato is shown speaking at the February 21, 2017 East Palo Alto City Council meeting in support of the Alternative Good Faith Effort, which the council approved.

In defending the council's vote, Mayor Moody, wrote in a 'Letter to the East Palo Alto Residents,' which was posted on the EPA Today website, "Those who support council's decision to move forward understand the challenge Amazon would face in filling 435 jobs in the tech sector with East Palo Alto residents. ... Our current FSH ask[s] IKEA, Nordstrom, Home Depot, and other retailers to do a Good Faith Effort, but the City has no legal enforcement authority for those who try but don't reach the 30% goal. Should we shut down Nordstrom Rack, or IKEA for failing to meet the 30% goal if they tried and didn't find qualified applicants? We can't if they did a Good Faith Effort. Of course not. I feel very confident moving forward that the benefits of the proposed Employment Development Program far outweigh the current structure of our FSH policy."

Community residents held their first meeting to address Amazon's move into the East Palo Alto community and its goal of adding 1300 jobs at the 2100 University Ave location on Tuesday, March 21.

Since that meeting members of the group, now calling itself The Real Community Coalition, have met with Martineza and Council member Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier and to discuss their opposition to the agreement and present their demands.

In the statement the group drafted at its first meeting it had messages for Amazon and the building's developer, the Sobrato Organization and a separate message for the East Palo Alto City Council.

In the message to Amazon and Sobrato, the group said:



Screen grab courtesy of the Media Center Developer John Sobrato is shown speaking at the February 21, 2017 East Palo Alto City Council meeting in support of the Alternative Good Faith Effort, which the council approved.

We need them to do like the rest of the retailers that we have They are all trying to accommodate that 30%. Everybody else has to do it. They need to do it too. We are not going to let them off the hook. They're still getting 70% of all of the jobs. We lost our Ravenswood high school to the development of Gateway 101 and to replace that school with a tech high school would be great for this community.

Saundra Webster, another long-time city resident agreed. "Part of the renegotiation process with Amazon needs to incorporate a high tech training internship program onsite that includes the formerly incarcerated.

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In the message to Amazon and Sobrato, the group said:

We are offended by your proposal to be a replacement for the 30% first source hiring rule as you did not seek much community feedback and did not appear to put much effort in your proposal

You were being a bully at the city council meeting to demand that our city approve your proposal with very short

notice and timeframe and without input from the community – this is a terrible way to start a relationship with our community and not being a friendly neighbor.

"Please "walk" if you are not willing to be in community with us – we are confident Sobrato will have other tenants to choose from in this growing Silicon Valley market

To the council, the group wrote:

We are questioning whether you are representing us, the people, well

Your future actions and response to our demands will help us determine what further actions we will take

No amount of money is worth selling out the heart and soul of EPA, which is what the 30% first source hiring policy was founded on

We demand you repeal the previous vote

Answers we need from Amazon – we are requesting:

(1) an environmental impact report

(2) a breakdown of the types of jobs you will be hiring for the 1,300 employees you plan to place at 2100 University – including explanation of the types of groups/departments that will fill the office space, the type of jobs you are hiring and the skills needed (no large company in Silicon Valley has an office of 1300 employees of 100% software engineers).

The group then offered a list of recommendations, namely that:

Amazon/Sobrato (Tenant/Owner) work with a coalition of community representatives to come up with an acceptable "30% first source hiring policy alternative" to create an alliance with the community.

In contrast to the residents who oppose the city's agreement with Amazon, East Palo Alto resident Mark Dinan is in favor of it.

Dinan, who owns a software business, said, "I fully support the city council in this matter. East Palo Alto needs more jobs, more investment, and needs to be a place where it is easy to do business.

"If anything, Amazon went above & beyond what they needed to do. It is also dubious if the "First Hiring" stature has any legal standing, as the redevelopment agency it was predicated up no longer exists.

"I don't see how any city

continued from page 1

can dictate to private businesses on private land who they can and cannot hire."

No city could ever provide 30% of software talent, let alone EPA, for a place like Amazon. Dinan said.

Federico Andrade-Garcia, a resident who has lived in the city for three years, wrote in the community website NextDoor,

"I certainly agree that the opportunity for the community, in terms of adding income via taxes to the city, is something not to be missed. We'd continue to have a white elephant right at the entrance of the city for some time, if we wait for everybody to agree. We cannot expect all sorts of things to be done by the city, until they get more funds, and that's what Amazon will provide, via taxes."

Andrade-Garcia listed in his comment a link for those interested in finding employment at Amazon: https://www.amazon.jobs/en/search?base_query=&loc_query=&job_count=100&result_limit=10&sort=relevant&location%5B%5D=palo-alto&cache

As the City of East Palo Alto works further on its agreement with Amazon, it is being called upon to work on its relationship with its own residents.

In his letter, Mayor Moody said, "I will not offer a vote to rescind the decision nor recommend the Council do so.

There is still a lot to do and an opportunity for community input while we engage our residents in shaping both the structure of the Employment Development Program and the scope of work of the Employment Specialist, that we still have to define.

"I do look forward to the community discussion/input on the Employment Center once Amazon arrives," the mayor wrote (Read the mayor's entire letter on page 21 of this issue.)

It seems that there is also a lot to do in bridging the gap between the displeasure that some of the city's residents feel about the structure of the city's agreement and the high hopes city officials currently have for it.

The community will have a chance to see if any understandings can be forged between the city and some of its disgruntled residents as it schedules additional meetings to discuss the issue.

Certainly, it appears that there is a lot more to work out.



Protesters on March 30, 2017

Looking at Amazon in East Palo Alto and First Source Hiring

By Carlos Martínez
East Palo Alto City Manager

Amazon has recently leased 214,000 sq. ft. of new office space at the intersection of University Ave. and Donohoe. The building was developed by the Sobrato Organization. On February 21,

"2017, the City Council adopted an alternative definition of "Good Faith Effort" (GFE) under the City's 2001 First Source Hiring Policy (FSH) at the request of Amazon. The alternative GFE definition is an "Employment Development Program" consisting of Amazon/Sobrato paying for a full time employment specialist, and providing 1,500 sqft of furnished office space to assist East Palo Alto residents to find a job with Amazon and with other companies. These benefits would continue for at least 10 years. It is estimated that the benefit will cost over \$1m over a ten year period. This is in addition to the \$1.2 million Community Benefit that Sobrato Organization volunteered to prepay in 2015."

"This article seeks to clarify misunderstandings, and provide clarity on the context and the "Employment Development Program." "First, Sobrato/Amazon is not exempt from the FSH, it is complying by providing the services "East Pl above. If the Employment Development Program is not in place, Sobrato/Amazon will comply with the original definition of a good faith effort. If Amazon terminates the lease, Sobrato will comply with the 2001 FSH. Sobrato complied with FSH during construction of the building. Sobrato/Amazon will comply with FSH during the construction of the tenant improvements and shall include the FSH requirements in the contract with any contractors." "Second, the FSH does not require companies to hire 30% of their employees from East Palo Alto" "residents. It requires them to make a "Good Faith Effort" to do so. In general, companies are in compliance with the FSH if they submit

quarterly reports on their efforts. Staff recommended approval of the alternative GFE definition because it goes beyond collaborating with staff and submitting quarterly reports. Having a full time Employment Specialist dedicated exclusively to assist East Palo Alto residents find jobs not only at Amazon, but regionally, and 1,500 sq. ft. of office space developed as an Employment Center, is significantly better than simply receiving quarterly reports." "Third, the Employment Development Program represents an expansion and improvement of" "FSH. The original FSH functioned largely to connect residents to jobs. The Employment Development Program is a substantial improvement because not only will help East Palo Alto residents connect to jobs, but also provides them with the assistance to secure the position and retain the job. As noted in the January 21, 2017 staff report, these serv-



Carlos Martínez
East Palo Alto City Manager

ices will include, but are not limited to:" "1. resume preparation assistance" "2. job search technical support" "3. soft skills training (interview preparation, communication, personal skills)" "4. leveraging outside resources to assist in job and career development" "5. coordinating with other community employment resources, potentially including but not limited to Job Train, Parolee Reentry Program, StreetCode Academy, G101 Retailers, and others."

Regardless of the community, high tech companies draw their employees from a wide area. Almost 70% of the adult population in Menlo Park has at least a 4-year college degree. However, only approximately 4.2% of the employees at the Facebook Headquarters in Menlo Park are Menlo Park residents. The Employment Development Program will help East Palo Alto residents find jobs in East Palo Alto and in other cities, and will also provide quarterly reports.

City staff is currently coordinating with Sobrato/Amazon staff to develop the conceptual details of the Em-

ployment Development Program, including a job description for the Employment Development Specialist, defining how the EDP will coordinate with and compliment the work of the Facebook employment liaison, and other non-profit employment and job training assistance agencies. Once a rough concept is developed among the multiple parties, it will be brought to the City Council for community input and feedback hopefully in the month of May 2017.

This is a new effort and the community input process will be critical and important to design an effective program that will serve the needs of our local residents. Furthermore, Sobrato/Amazon have also agreed to periodically review the Program to identify ways to fine tune it and make operational improvement to ensure that this investment and EDP yields the maximum number of jobs for local residents. City staff and Sobrato/Amazon are looking forward to engaging the community in our efforts to revive and design a stronger and effective FSH program.

goating of immigrants and refugees stem from corporate power and a right-wing agenda of hate that see both human dignity and the sanctity of the planet as obstacles to their profit-driven agenda. As we fight to fortify the ability of immigrants to call California home, we also must protect the places and neighborhoods where we live, work, and pray. That is why we are advancing local and statewide solutions to the climate crisis. Asian Americans are growing our power beyond the polls to influence California legislators to advance equitable state policies that will benefit and protect our communities. Across California, Asian American voters overwhelmingly support a just transition for workers and communities away from fossil fuels and equitable access to solar and renewable energy. Asian Pacific Environmental Network is mobilizing AAPI voters to take action—we are asserting our vision and our power. The Asian Pacific Islander Caucus of the California Legislature continues to advance

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Letter to the East Palo Alto Residents

By Mayor Larry Moody

Sobrato/Amazon Good Faith Effort Definition



Mayor Larry Moody

The full community heard from the Mayor in the public forum. Vice Mayor Abrica, Council Members Gauthier and Romero spoke and voted in support of staff's recommendation to accept the agreement between the City and Sobrato/Amazon. We were elected to vote and make decisions that will affect the future of the community. This is one of those moments. While there are emails flying around the community there are an equal amount of Nextdoor postings, regional & local support for the council vote. This is about Economic

Development (one of the top three priorities of the council) and future opportunities for the East Palo Alto residents. Everyone agreed, more time to consider all the options and to allow for more community input would have been helpful. Time was not available.

Those who support council's decision to move forward understand the challenge Amazon would face in filling 435 jobs in the tech sector with East Palo Alto residents. Therefore, Sobrato/Amazon have agreed to comply with FSH and demonstrating their Good Faith Effort by investing more than \$1M to create a 1,500 sq. ft. Employment Center, an Employment Development Program, and hiring a full time Employment Specialist that will assist our local residents in preparing for, and finding jobs not only at Amazon, or local jobs, but also regional jobs, and submitting quarterly reports of the Program's activities. Our current FSH ask IKEA, Nordstrom, Home Depot, and

other retailers to do a Good Faith Effort, but the City has no legal enforcement authority for those who try but don't reach the 30% goal. Should we shut down Nordstrom Rack, or IKEA for failing to meet the 30% goal if they tried and didn't find qualified applicants? We can't if they did a Good Faith Effort. Of course not. I feel very confident moving forward that the benefits of the proposed Employment Development Program far outweigh the current structure of our FSH policy. We have been saying that our FSH policy needed to be changed. This is a good opportunity and this is a good change. Once the misperceptions about the action of

the Council is cleared and the true facts are presented and evaluated, the perception and the opinions that council interest is not with the community, will change. I will not offer a vote to rescind the decision nor recommend the Council do so. There is still a lot to do and an opportunity for community input while we engage our residents in shaping both the structure of the Employment Development Program and the scope of work of the Employment Specialist, that we still have to define. I do look forward to the community discussion/input on the Employment Center once Amazon arrives.

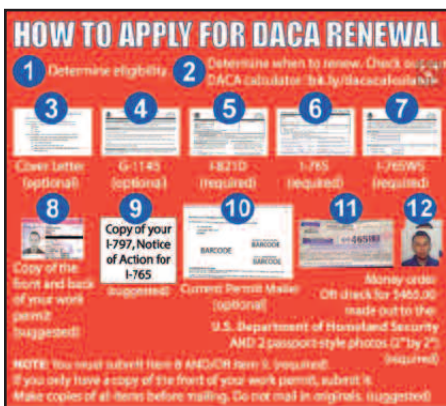
has demonstrated bold resistance by addressing climate change and by protecting the rights of immigrants and refugees—we will continue to push them further. Last year, the legislature, with the support of community leaders, passed landmark climate laws, SB 32 and AB 197. These laws set California on a path towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while prioritizing reduced pollution in the most overburdened neighborhoods in the state. Our legislature modeled what it's like to center voices from the frontlines of poverty, pollution, and racism. We will continue working with decision makers like Assemblymember Bonta to safeguard these wins and keep the health, protection, and dignity of our communities a priority for California. The environmental and immigration rollbacks that lie ahead

will impact frontline communities deeply. The wellbeing, safety, and integrity of all communities of color are under attack every day in this new political landscape. As we brace ourselves against these attacks, we will ensure that new policies bring clean air, good jobs, and protection to these same communities first. We will ensure that the halls of power recognize and embed the wisdom and lived experience of these communities into law. We will make bold and meaningful progress for justice and we will be resolute in our resistance. Our communities and our climate can afford nothing less. Mia Yoshitani is the executive director of Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), the only organization in the United States that builds the power of low-income Asian American immigrant and refugee communities to win environmental justice and a just transition away from fossil fuels. This article is reprinted by permission from newamericamedia.org

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How safe are DACA recipients? continued from page 15



Graphic courtesy of undocumedia.org

on their own. Trump himself has said he would treat Dreamers "with heart." Meanwhile, in Congress, attempts to create a more permanent program for Dreamers are in the works, though they haven't gotten much traction with DACA still in place. Although DACA recipients aren't considered a priority for deportation, they can be detained by ICE – and have their DACA revoked – if they fit any of the current priorities for deportation, such as being a gang member. In the case of Daniel Ramirez Medina in Seattle, the DACA recipient was arrested when immigration officials came looking for his father. Ramirez has been detained for more than a month after officials accused him of being a gang member. "That's the wrinkle in his case," said Mariam Kelly, senior immigration attorney and DACA program supervisor at Community Legal

Services in East Palo Alto. Kelly said that in the past, her office was encouraging people to apply for DACA. Now, she said, they have put a pause on initial DACA filings. For those who want to renew DACA, they are encouraging people to get an in-depth consultation with a qualified immigration attorney. Attorneys can go over the risks and the unknowns to help clients make informed decisions about whether to renew. For example, Kelly said, they ask whether the client has had contact with law enforcement -- before or since getting DACA. Any arrest, especially related to gangs, drugs or a DUI can have immigration consequences. Immigration attorneys are not recommending that individuals apply for or travel under advance parole through DACA at this time.

Steps you can take now

Immigration experts say there are steps that all families can take to assert their rights and plan for the future. First, get an immigration consultation with a qualified immigration attorney. This will help you to understand your legal options and see if you might be eligible for a more permanent immigration benefit. To avoid fraudulent service providers, go to a trusted community organization, make sure you confirm the

attorney's credentials and ask for a written contract and a receipt for any payments. Second, know your rights. Everyone, regardless of their immigration status, has certain Constitutional rights. These include the right to remain silent, the right to not open the door to agents without a warrant signed by a judge, and to not sign anything they don't understand or that isn't true. Third, make a plan. All families and individuals should have a plan in case of an emergency. Keep the number of a qualified immigration attorney with you, in case you need to call them. Have a plan for who would take care of your children or elders in your family if you are unable to. Let your children's school know who is allowed to pick them up, and keep medical and emergency contact information on file so your family can access them. Finally, Ruch said, communities should stay informed. "Arm yourself with information," she said. "Talk amongst yourselves. Organize with your communities. Don't let the fear rule you." [Editor's note: This article by Elena Shore is reprinted by permission from New America Media. It was posted on the website on March 27, 2017 and it can be found on the website at <http://newamericamedia.org/2017/03/how-safe-are-daca-recipients.php>].

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We will fight back

Photo courtesy of newamericamedia.org



This photo shows the 10 members of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, who resigned their positions in January 2017 because they believed that Trump's policies adversely affected Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Read reprint of article on the EPA Today website at http://epatoday.org/news/2017/feb_2017/ten_resign_from_presidents_advisory_commission_2226.html

environmental justice policies. Six out of the nine members of the caucus scored 100 percent on the California Environmental Justice Alliance's Environmental Justice Scorecard this year, which assesses the level that legislators supported environmental policies that improve low-income communities and communities of color. We expect the API Caucus to demonstrate a deeper commitment to defending our communities against the threats ahead, especially as environmental justice champion Senate Pro Tem Kevin De Leon joins the Caucus. We are proud of the leadership of Assemblymember Rob Bonta (D-Oakland), who just introduced AB 3 to defend all immigrants in California. Now more than ever, we need our legislators to lift up our shared values of equity and inclusion in defense of dignity for people of color. The California Legislature

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Familia East Palo Alto

ninguna manera" como un oficial de la ley jurado y sus uniformes no deben contener ciertas palabras, como "Estados Unidos", "agentes" o palabras similares que una persona razonable podría confundirse con una agencia gubernamental. No pueden llevar una insignia de metal y debe seguir ciertos procedimientos al entrar en cualquier jurisdicción de aplicación de la ley. Pero los cazadores de recompensas tienen reglas diferentes sobre su comportamiento, según un estudio de Gerald D. Robin, profesor emérito de la justicia penal en la Universidad de New Haven, Connecticut. Los cazadores de recompensas no tienen que "tocar y anunciar" antes de derribar las puertas para buscar un fugitivo; No tienen que leerle sus derechos de Miranda a alguien, y las declaraciones incriminatorias obtenidas por coacción son incluso admisibles en la corte, dijo el. Hudgins tiene licencia del Departamento de Seguros del estado para tramitar en nombre de All-Pro Bail Bonds Inc. de Fairfield, California, como agente de fianzas. No tiene quejas ni acciones disciplinarias, según los registros estatales. Los Pintos pueden presentar una queja ante el departamento, que licencia a los

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Image courtesy of <https://www.ice.gov/news/overview>

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continua a pagina 10

Los Pintos ahora están siguiendo las recomendaciones de Liu para proteger su privacidad. Han colocado "no intrusos" signos en la valla de hierro forjado y en la casa y la puerta. Si la pareja les dice a los cazadores de recompensas que se vayan y no lo hacen, los Pintos llamarán al 911. La ley de violación de propiedad de California dice que es un crimen entrar en una propiedad donde un aviso de no-transgresión es publicado o cuando el intruso se niega a salir después de una solicitud por un propietario, agente o la policía.

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What has happened to the dream?

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the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), and shout "repeal and replace" and when it came time to do so, they couldn't. Even Trump saw that criticizing and protesting are easy, but creating and building add up to much harder work

Working against each other and making each other the scapegoat for the problems that exist have gone on in this city for too long. We have to bring the fault-finding to an end and get into the building process. Building community entails building alliances.

Otherwise, the forces working against the full realization of "cityhood" triumph. People who are pitted against each other are easier to divide and conquer.

Historically, divisions within tribal groups led to the spread and success of colonialism. The lack of unity between some groups of slaves led to the defeat of several major slave insurrections in the U.S. and in Brazil, especially, and probably elsewhere as well.

Berating the city council and city staff, and even mentioning the word recall, because of an agreement that community members find lacking, without keeping in mind the many ways the current council and staff have worked diligently on a daily basis to support the community (for example, in supporting My Brothers Keeper and in acting as a Sanctuary City), is tantamount

to throwing out the baby with the bath water. Yes, the city council and staff are accountable. Keep them accountable!

But, recognize that there is an agreement in place for the building at 2100 University Ave. that is incomplete and still needs to be fleshed out. This is the time for the members of the community, who find this agreement wanting to sit down with their city council and the city staff and present the ideas for the "more" that they would like to incorporate into the agreement.

Just as there are problems with Obamacare, there are areas in the alternative Good Faith Effort agreement that need to be strengthened. But just as Obamacare contains good provisions, so does the city's new agreement.

In concentrating on the negative, on what isn't and on what is wrong, one risks losing the opportunity to create the good that can be. The failure of the Republican American Health Care Act shows just how this can happen.

Those who opposed Obamacare failed to see the benefits in keeping the healthcare plan and working on it to make it better. They tried to create their own healthcare plan and created a fiasco that was unacceptable to all sides.

The East Palo Alto community must seize the opportunity to pursue the positive

possibilities that exist in Amazon's tenancy at 2100 University Avenue and work collaboratively with all sides to make the good that community members want to see happen. This can be done by building up not by tearing down or tearing up.

The East Palo Alto community fought for its city's independence and members of the community continue to stand up, 34 years later, for the same values that inspired the city's independence movement.

While Gov. Brown said, California is not turning back, the residents of East Palo Alto are resolute in saying that they, too, are not turning back either.

But the high level of energy that is flowing needs to be constantly directed towards obtaining the best possible outcome. Doing otherwise will not get us where we want to go. Positive approaches increase the possibility of achieving positive outcomes.

The protests that have taken place in this city show that the dream is not dead and the struggle is not over!

The dream for equality and the struggle to achieve it are alive and ongoing with full force to lead us all to a higher level of consciousness into a world that is a better place, a world where we might, indeed, be able to walk hand in hand.

So, take a deep breath everybody, go back to the

drawing table, keep the egos out of it and make the best agreement happen.

Don't, repeal and replace or recall and replace and be left with something even worse - like the Republican health care plan was.

Seize the moment now to take the agreement that currently exists and make it better.

See community calendar

events

at

the website for the

East Palo Alto Today newspaper

www.epatoday.org

Talking with Henrietta

Health Disparities in Minority Communities



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta. From left, Dr. Mary Bains, show host Henrietta J. Burroughs, and Dr. Erica Britton are shown on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their March 23, 2017 discussion about why those in minority communities, especially African Americans, suffer the most health disparities in comparison with other communities.

This show can be seen on Channel 30 on the Midpeninsula and on the Internet at the days and times below until Sat. April 16, 2017 on Sundays@5 p.m., Tuesdays@8 p.m., Wednesdays @ 6 p.m., Thursdays@8 p.m., Fridays@3:00 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. Get more information about this show on the East Palo Alto Today website at www.epatoday.org/tv.html#healthdisparities.

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Letters

is fear stress--should be considered as important as suffering induced by pain."California State Education Code 60042 mandates that "humane education and

kindness to animals" be taught in the public schools, K-12. These "scrambles" are a violation of that mandate. Promoters and parents alike should be cited for both animal cruelty and child endangerment, IMO. And what a terrible message to send to impressionable young children about the proper treat-

ment of animals! EVERY rodeo arena is infected with E. coli. A little boy in Texas nearly died after ingesting a mouthful of arena dirt in a "mutton busting" event.

He went into a two-week coma, swelled up twice his normal size, and suffered heart, lung and kidney failure. Parents, beware!

HOW TO HELP: Write to Mayor Tom Livermore & the Town Council, Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062; Email

continued from page 8

council.members@woodsidetown.org. Senator Jerry Hill and Assemblyman Marc Berman also need to hear from their constituents.

As playwright Tennessee Williams once wrote, "Cruelty is the only unforgivable sin." Boycott the Woodside Jr. Rodeo.

Sincerely,

Eric Mills, coordinator ACTION FOR ANIMALS P.O. Box 20184 Oakland, CA 94620 Email: afa@mcn.org

RCSD responds

Morales-Zanoletti. Ms. Morales-Zanoletti is bilingual in Spanish and is focused on the issue of immigration and helping EPA residents navigate the bureaucracy.

In addition, Iliana Rodriguez, Director of the San Mateo County Human Services Agency and Luisa Buada, Chief Executive Officer of the Ravenswood Family Health Center were present to inform the attendees of the vital supportive services being provided by their individual agencies.

The law enforcement officers

explained how and when they get involved with someone who has immigration issues. They agreed that the simple fact is that if a person breaks State or County laws, law enforcement will be called to address the issue. If a person is arrested and booked into jail, they will be fingerprinted. That is when ICE can become aware of the immigrant's location and status. Attendees were advised that if they obeyed the law, it would greatly decrease the possibility that ICE would come looking for them.

District Director Brian Perkins

told the audience what Congresswoman Speiers is doing to help those residents caught between an outdated immigration program and the ICE officers responsible for enforcing it. A significant aspect of her office's support is the assignment of Ms. Morales-Zanoletti, who helps immigrant communities in Congresswoman Speier's district by meeting in small groups or with individuals. In some cases she has been able to help constituents by bringing an immigration attorney. Ms. Morales-Zanoletti encouraged attendees

to call her if they needed help with immigration issues at 650-342-0300.

Dr. Hernandez-Goff told the audience the Ravenswood School District has been especially busy assuring parents of the district's policy since the elections in November. She explained, in detail, what the District is doing to maintain confidentiality of all Ravenswood parents and students.

She said that she is planning to hold more meetings to address immigrant issues, in light of the uncertainty of what the gov-

continued from page 1

ernment will be doing as regards immigration enforcement and reform. She is also planning to invite other immigrant groups to participate in future community meetings.

At the end of the meeting, the audience was told, if they needed additional information, that they should call Congresswoman Speier's office at 650-342-0300 and ask for Ms. Morales-Zanoletti. All inquiries about future community meetings can be directed to the Ravenswood City School district at 650-329-2800.

EPA student spent summer in the Middle East

Norma Rodriguez is an East Palo Alto resident, who spent last summer in Madaba, Jordan studying Arabic. This is the second in her three part series of articles written for EPA Today.

Norma Rodriguez

I have recently been exploring different parts of the town of Madaba. It amazes me how unique Madaba is compared to other cities I have visited in Jordan. Madaba stretches for 15 square miles making it about 6 times bigger than East Palo Alto.

However Madaba is considered a town, not a city due to its small population of 85,000 people, which is only a small portion of the one million people who live in Amman, Jordan.

Madaba's history dates back at least 3500 years and is mentioned in the Old Testament as Medaba. Madaba was a Roman province and later part of the Byzantine empire.

During the Byzantine empire, Madaba experienced its most affluent era. Many religious structures were built, decorated with the now-famous Mosaics of the Byzantine Era. After a Persian invasion and an earth-



quake, the town was abandoned for a long time until the town was resettled by Arab Christian families from Kerak (another city in Jordan) in the late 19th century. Now Madaba continues to be home to a large Christian population.

My roommate and I love exploring Madaba because we often find ancient archeological sites next to the most simple everyday stores such as fruit stores. The streets in Madaba are very narrow and always filled with vendors and people, especially downtown Madaba.

Every time I walk through downtown Madaba, it is incredibly busy and filled with people eating at restaurants or shopping at the small stores. We noticed that all of the shops in Madaba are organized by category. For example most fruit stores are near each other and then next to the group of fruit stores there would be a group of nut stores.

When my roommate and I enter stores, most shop owners are always friendly and curious about us. They never fail to ask why we are in Madaba and always compliment us on our Arabic speaking skills. When we mention that we are from America, most



Norma Rodriguez holds a sign that has her name written in Arabic.

shop owners mention a connection they have to America, whether they lived in America or a close relative currently resides in America. So far I have not experienced any hostility towards the United States. Most of the people in Madaba welcome tourists

and visitors.

As I mentioned before, I was in Madaba during the holy month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sundown to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad.

Fasting is required in the Islamic religion and is one of the five pillars of Islam. The month typically lasts 29 to 30 days and ends, depending on the position of the moon. Since Jordan is a Muslim country, most of the population observes Ramadan.

In Jordan it is illegal to drink water or eat any food in public during Ramadan. If one is caught doing so, he or she can be fined by the police.

When we arrived in Jordan, we were already half way through the holy month of Ramadan. Thus I had the opportunity to experience the differences between Ramadan and a normal time in Jordan.

Living in a Muslim country is an incredible experience. Every day I hear the call to prayer or

the Adhan, which can be heard from all parts of the city. The call to prayer occurs five times a day; I hear it as I fall asleep, in the middle of the night, and during school.

What makes Madaba unique is that on Fridays I can hear both the call to prayer for Muslims as well as Church bells ringing. During Ramadan, most shops are closed during the day and only open really late at night.

However since some of the population is Christian, some of the shops do remain open. My roommate and I enjoyed exploring all of the shops that were open during the day.

At night, we enjoy seeing the city come to life. The downtown area is always packed with people, eating at restaurants or spending time together.

Spending time together is an essential piece of family life as I have learned from spending time with my host family. My host family is very big and every day there is always a relative visiting the house.

I enjoy meeting all of my host mom's relatives and learning about their lives. Her daughters are all very well-educated and include a computer scientist and a teacher.

Most of these family gatherings are spontaneous, but every Thursday my host mom hosts a family gathering where she in-

cludes all of her sons and daughters. These family gatherings run very late into the night and are filled with laughter and stories.

I am always surprised at the amount of Arabic that I can comprehend, however speaking is always a lot harder. My host family is always patient and can understand what I am trying to say.

Through my exploration of Madaba and interacting with my host family as well as other Jordanians, I have noticed that there is a huge difference between public and private space in Jordan, which is especially apparent in the lives of women.

On the streets, people tend to be more formal and better dressed than the average American. Women often wear full make-up and nicer clothing, while the men are



always clean shaven and neat looking. The expectation is that in public, everyone should look respectable.

At home, my host mom is always relaxed and wears normal clothing, but when she goes out, she always changes to nicer clothing. The private space in Jordan seems to be more important than public space. In Madaba there are no private parks or large open spaces.

Therefore most people spend their time at their own homes with their family members.

BCM robotics teams compete in regionals

By Stefie Dominguez

Bayshore Christian Ministries (BCM) in East Palo Alto is very proud of its student robotics teams: Robot Spartans and High Flyers

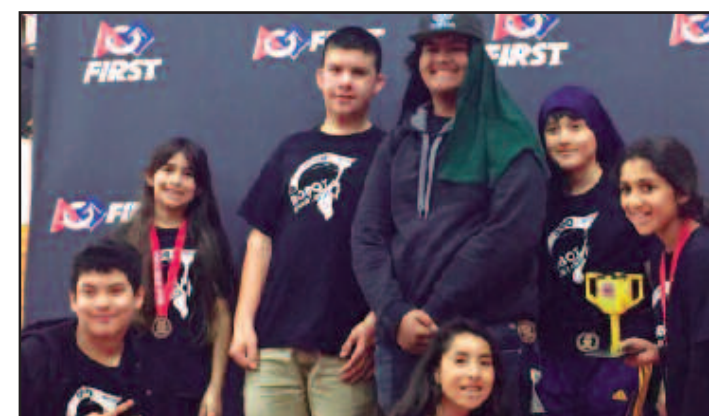
The two teams competed in the tournament on Saturday, November 19, 2016 and one of the teams went on to compete in the regionals.

BCM's Robot Spartans competed in the Regional competition, which was held at Sobrato High School in Morgan Hill, CA on February 4, 2017.

Although the team did not qualify for the World Championships, it once again received the Judges' Award trophy for its presentation and conduct throughout the competition day.

Last November, the competition at Google was a qualification tournament for the First Lego League (FLL). The theme was Animal Allies, which explores the interaction between animals and humans.

There were 16 teams entered, from various schools and organizations on the



peninsula. BCM entered two teams - Robot Spartans and High Flyers.

Teams get ranked on how their robots score in the competition rounds, but also on their team work, a separate research project, and cooperation with other teams, for example, on friendly competition.

The Robot Spartans team posted a poor score after the initial practice round.

The team quickly changed it's strategy, adjusted the robot program and scored much better in subsequent rounds, placing the team in 5th place at the end of robot competition.

The team also presented its research project on how to

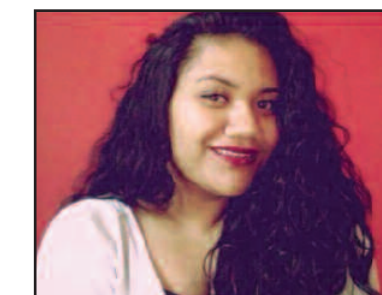
reduce man-made environmental risk on whales, using a cleverly arranged skit.

The referees were so impressed by the conduct of the team during competition, they were awarded the much coveted 'Judges Award' trophy.

Additionally, the high level of team work and professionalism as well as the overall performance of the robot secured one of the top overall scores, allowing the Spartans to move onto the Regional Competition, which was held in February.

The other team entered by BCM, the High Flyers finished in the upper half of the competition, a proud achievement for the rookie team.

Three cheers to East Palo Alto student



Alamoni S. Afungia

Last fall, Alamoni S. Afungia, who is now a senior studying anthropology at Oregon State University was

cited by the university as one of the local students in California who made the Honor Roll at Oregon State University.

To make the honor roll at the university, Afungia had to maintain a 3.5 grade point average or better.

She was an intern at the East Palo Alto Today newspaper in 2015.

Afungia graduates this spring.



TV Show on the City of East Palo Alto's Policies Regarding Immigration

If you missed the Talking with Henrietta show on the City of East Palo Alto position on ICE and city residents, you can see an excerpt from the show, which is called Responding to President Trump's Immigration Policies.

This informative show features Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica and City Attorney Rafael Alvarado, Jr. See the excerpt on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Pc-cL2JKUJ8>.

Get more information about this show at <http://epatoday.org/tv.html#immigrationpolicies>



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