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East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

November 3 - November 16, 2013

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East Palo Altans cast their votes at the polls

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today



Every election brings winners and losers. Such was the case with the November 6, 2013 Election. There were nine top vote getters on the East Palo Alto ballot. Tom Mohr and Richard Holober were elected to the San Mateo County Community College District Members, Governing Board. Alan Sarver and Christopher

Thomsen were elected to the Sequoia Union High School District Members, Governing Board. Dennis Scherer and Joan Sykes-Miessi were re-elected to the East Palo Alto Sanitary District Board of Directors and Peter Carpenter, Chuck Bernstein and Rex Ianson were elected to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board

of Directors. At the close of voter registration on November 5, there were 8,598 registered East Palo Alto voters. Registered Democrats totalled 5,458; 743 registered as Republicans; 136 registered in the American Independent Party; 1 registered in the Americans Elect party; 49 in

the Green Party; 34 declared themselves as Libertarians; 63 registered in the Peace and Freedom Party and 2,089 stated no party preference. Twenty five registered for "miscellaneous parties." As of Nov. 9, 23.3% (83,821) of 359,535 registered voters actually voted in San Mateo County. *****

Works continues at Cooley Landing Park



Photo courtesy of Peter Geraghty

This photo shows some of the construction work taking place at Cooley Landing Park. The project's contractor O.C. Jones and the subcontractor, Platinum Pipeline are shown working on the utilities, water supply, electrical conduit and a sanitary line along the access road to the park.

City officials decide how to fill a vacant council seat

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

The East Palo Alto City Council took a major step in the city's effort to replace council member David Woods, who resigned from the council this past October.

At a special council meeting on Wednesday, November 6, the four remaining council members voted to accept applications from interested community residents and to appoint the applicant with the most council votes to fill

Woods' vacated seat. Woods announced his resignation from the council in an email sent to three of his council colleagues on October 1. He later submitted a formal letter of resignation to the mayor and the city council that was dated October 17, 2013.

In the letter, Woods said, "I want to thank you for the opportunity of having served with you. Due to health and personal reasons I can no longer commit the time required to serve on the City



City Attorney John Nagel is shown with City Clerk Nora Pimental at the November 6 East-Palo Alto City Council meeting.

Council. Therefore, I am resigning my position of City Councilmem-

ber effective the date of this letter." In deciding how to fill the vacant council seat, council members were given the option of filling the vacancy by appointment or of holding a special election. If the decision were made to hold the special election, then the council could appoint a person to fill the vacant position until the date of the election.

Council members were told that they had 60 days from the date of Woods' letter to fill his seat or to call the special election. The

election would have to be held "on the next regularly established election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election."

John Nagel, the city's attorney, recommended that the council use the appointment process citing, as a key factor, the cost of holding a special election, which would cost the city \$120,000. Nagel also noted that East Palo Alto would be the only city holding

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Local and regional grants awarded

By Sue McAllister
East Palo Alto Today

Silicon Valley Community Foundation announced on October 15, 2013 that will award a total of more than \$1.6 million to support organizations working to improve land use, expand affordable

housing and increase transportation choices for people of all income levels, and organizations building financial literacy and economic security among low- to moderate-income households. "Silicon Valley Community Foundation is dedicated to making the Bay Area an even better place

to live by supporting efforts to ensure that all communities have access to affordable housing and reliable, convenient public transportation," said Erica Wood, SVCF's vice president of community leadership and grantmaking. "In addition to making grants for regional planning efforts, our

board has approved grants that will help provide financial education and asset-building assistance to thousands of people in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties who need guidance to create a stable financial future for them-

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See **my** progress.

AN LAM
SENIOR GAS ENGINEER

“PG&E is investing \$4.5 billion every year to improve pipeline safety and strengthen our infrastructure. Let me tell you about our work right here in San Mateo County.

My name is An Lam. I live in San Mateo County and I've worked at PG&E for eight years. I work every day to improve safety and strengthen reliability in our community.

Across San Mateo County, my colleagues and I are making progress every day. We have **validated the maximum operating pressure** on all gas pipelines; **constructed three miles of brand new transmission pipeline**; **installed 16 new automated safety valves**;

and **hydrostatically tested 41.3 miles of gas transmission pipeline** to ensure safe operating pressures on every gas pipeline in the county. Together, we are working to strengthen the safety of our gas system in San Mateo County.

My co-workers and I know that the work we are doing now is some of the most important work we will ever perform. Across Northern and Central California we are strength testing 577 miles of pipe and we've already replaced 77 miles of pipe. By the time we're done, we intend to reach our goal of replacing 185 miles of older pipeline.

Our work is taking place all over California, but my job is right here in San Mateo County and I would be proud to show it to you.

You can take a look for yourself at www.pge.com/SeeOurProgress. PG&E is making progress and you can see it all around. PG&E is made up of people like me—and I'd love to show you my progress in protecting our communities.”



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San Mateo County
Central Labor Council:**

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dedicated to the goal of establishing the safest gas system in the nation. See their progress at:

www.pge.com/SeeOurProgress



An Lam

Community News Briefs



Council praises Davis in his final week with the city

In the November 6 East Palo Alto City Council meeting, the city manager and the city staff praised Ron Davis, the city's newly retired police chief, who observed his last day with the city on November 8.

Davis begins a new job in Washington, D.C., as the Director of the U.S. Dept. of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) on November 12.

At the council meeting, East Palo Alto's City Manager, Magda González thanked Davis for his 8 years of service to the city and said

that the East Palo Alto Police Department had grown under his leadership.

Davis said that he could not believe that eight years had passed and that his departure from the city is bittersweet.

He said his new position at COPS is not about him, but that it was more about how East Palo Alto could be a model for the nation with its community policing program.

Davis said the appointment of Federico Rocha as the city's newly appointed interim police He had high praise for González and thanked her for her support.

Both council members Laura Martinez and Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier said that they hoped to see Davis in D.C.

Mayor Ruben Abrica pro-

posed that the city create a proclamation in Davis' honor that it would present to him at a future city council meeting.

Rocha thanked the city manager and the council for the confidence they had placed in him and he said that he would not have become the interim police chief in any other city but East Palo Alto.

African American Police Officers file a complaint

In a letter written to the city's Assistant City Manager, Barbara Powell, who is in charge of human resources, four of the city's African American police officers filed a formal complaint with the city charging discrimination and a hostile work environment within the East Palo Alto Police Department.

In their letter, the four said, "We believe that Chief Ronald L. Davis has conducted himself and has tacitly permitted others within the organization to act in a manner which has violated our rights and the rights of other current and former employees...."

"We believe that Chief's Davis's hiring practices are discriminatory and unfavorable toward African Americans. Chief Davis's promotional and assignment decisions exclude African Americans, and his temperament toward African American employees is abrasive, belittling, and dismissive.

The letter stated, "The decision to file a complaint has been very difficult for each of us and we find no satisfaction or take any pleasure in doing so. Nevertheless we feel very strongly that in order to

restore a sense of fairness to this proud department we have no other alternative.

The four said they were "seeking immediate relief and remedy to Chief Davis' outrageous practices and unfair treatment."

When asked about the complaint, Powell said, "The City immediately began undertaking appropriate actions as soon as it received the complaint.

Because this is a confidential personnel matter, I am not able to provide additional information."

Powell added, "The City of East Palo Alto takes all allegations of discrimination very seriously, looks into them very carefully and will take appropriate action as needed."

Designing the Cooley Landing Park Education Center

By Peter Geraghty
East Palo Alto Today

On October 21 at City Hall, there was a public meeting about the proposed design of the Education Center which will start construction in the Fall of 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to invite public input into the use of energy and resource conservation strategies for the Education Center.

The ideas that were presented at the meeting are on the City's website at

www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=62

Of the different strategies that were offered, the ones most fa-



Photo courtesy of Peter Geraghty
Construction is shown taking place along the access road to Cooley Landing Park

vored by members of the public were, in order, the "use of durable materials", the use of "passive design strategies to reduce energy demand," "providing learning opportunities by displaying sustain-

able systems," and "generating clean energy through the use of a solar system."

As the design moves forward, as long as the solar cells can be made vandal proof and theft proof,

these are the strategies, preferred by the community, that the architects will focus on.

The next meeting will be about the kinds of events, activities and uses that the Education Center will be designed for, and will be held at City Hall on the evening of November 16, 2013.

We plan, again, to use a decision making process which depends almost entirely on community preferences. We'll follow up with announcements for that meeting.

PHASE II - The photograph [in this article shows] the construction of Phase II of Cooley Landing. In October, the contractor, O. C. Jones and their subcontractor, Platinum Pipeline focused on the access road andon the utilities,

water supply, electrical conduit and a sanitary line in the stretch of access road between the entrance gate and the work completed in Phase 1 18 months ago.

Work in November will include a seeding operation, mostly in the eastern part of the park, which will bring us another step closer to a self sustaining landscape consisting of native plants.

The construction contract is on schedule. The park should reopen in February 2014 but we are going to ask you to stay off the grass for a while until it's well established

Peter Geraghty is a consultant hired by the City of East Palo Alto to work on the Cooley Landing Park project.

Local and regional grants awarded

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selves and their families."

Grant amounts range from \$10,000 to \$195,000 and are spread among two of the community foundation's five grantmaking focus areas: regional planning and economic security.

Of the total amount granted, \$850,000 will go to support 15 nonprofit organizations whose programs align with SVCF's grantmaking strategy for regional planning.

This strategy supports local and regional planning efforts that promote affordable housing and transit-oriented development, access to green space and greater coordination and civic engagement in regional planning issues.

Among the regional planning grantees: The Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo will receive a \$75,000 grant to ensure that implementation of regional planning processes at the local level benefits workers across the entire spectrum of incomes.

TransForm will receive a \$64,000 grant to engage community groups, student leaders, and other stakeholders in planning and implementing sustained funding for transit, high-quality bus rapid transit (BRT), and sustainable development that responds to community needs in Silicon Valley.

A total of \$800,000 was awarded to 21 nonprofit organizations offering financial education and asset-

building assistance to primarily low- and moderate-income households in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.


The work of these grantees is aligned with SVCF's grantmaking strategy on economic security, which aims to increase availability of financial education and reduce predatory lending to help families achieve greater economic security.

Among the economic security grantees: Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA) will receive a \$60,000 grant for a collaborative project among CLSEPA, Nuestra Casa, Renaissance and San Mateo Credit Union to improve the financial knowledge and skills of low-income individuals and families and increase their access to beneficial financial products and services.

Unity Care Group will receive a \$25,000 grant to support financial literacy workshops for youth emancipating from foster care in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

To view complete lists of grantees by category, go to: <http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/content/grantees-list>

Sue McAllister is the marketing officer for the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which is located in Mountain View, CA at 2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300. The phone number is 650.450.5400. The fax number 650.450.5401 and the website url is <http://www.siliconvalleycf.org>



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From the Editor's Desk

Is California still the land of opportunity?

In 1865, Horace Greeley, a well-known New York newspaper editor and a vocal opponent of slavery, popularized the phrase, "Go West, young man, go West and grow up with the country."

Since its earliest beginnings, California has been a destination point for millions seeking a better life. Even today, it is still a beckoning land for millions of immigrants.

But, the state's image as a land of promise is becoming tarnished and, for too many millions, the Golden State is losing or has already lost its glitter.

Given all of the wealth in California and the number of millionaires in Silicon Valley alone, it is hard to believe that the state has more residents living in poverty than any other U.S. state.

But, a recently released U. S. Census report that used a new calculation to measure poverty in the U.S., shows that California has 9 million people living in poverty. The report considered costs like childcare, noncash benefits and taxes and concluded that more of the state's residents pay one of the highest median rents in the country, rent or own homes with mortgages and pay more for various day-to-day expenses.

It's incredible to think that California has more poverty than states like West Virginia, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and some others that we generally think of as states with some of the nation's poorest people.

However, the report also said that government benefits had cut the poverty rate in the state in half. Knowing that government social programs are making a difference in the poverty rate is good news.

Still, this data from the U.S. Census report contains really disturbing news, especially coming at a time when government programs have been cut left and right because of the Sequester, which mandated a 10% across the board cut in all federally funded programs. The nation is still recovering from the government shutdown more than a month ago.

Social programs are always the first to get hit, where those who have the least get cut the most. Cutting government spending and shrinking a budget deficit on the backs of the poor could be considered the harshest cut of all.

With even more cuts in government programs that some conservative lawmakers are proposing, the ranks of the poor will

continue to swell, until more of the skilled and the unskilled unemployed find high paying jobs.

Cutting social services is tantamount to destroying dreams. With so many people unemployed, or even working two jobs and still having trouble paying rent and putting food on the table, social service agencies are seeing more individuals and families who are relying on already stretched community programs, just to get by.

If government responds to lobbyists and to those with the biggest voices wielding the most influence, then how do you get legislators to be responsive to all of the people they serve, those who contribute the most to their coffers and those who might have little to contribute to them financially?

There were those who criticized the Occupy Movement, that talked about the 1% and the 99%, for not bringing any of the substantive changes that its supporters wanted to see. But, could it be that there is a need for a grassroots populist movement, like the Occupy Movement, to encourage legislators to enact programs that will lead to more employment and more opportunities for people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps – programs that might even need to provide boots, for those who have none.

The inscription on the Statue of Liberty says, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." Californians can now say, "We have the tired and we have more poor than any other state." What will become of them?

If it is true that where California goes, the nation follows, then as California loses more and more of its glitter, the resulting tarnish might be a harbinger of things to come for the nation.

California is at a critical juncture. It is a land of opportunity, but not for many millions. So, we must, collectively, find ways of preventing even more people from joining the ranks of the poor as we, at the same time, find ways of providing the necessary pathways for people, who have fallen into poverty, to find a better life. The new data shows that for too many millions, who are not in the booming tech field, the move to California has yielded disappointing and, in some cases, heart-breaking results.



Henrietta J. Burroughs



Photo by H. J. Burroughs for East Palo Alto Today
In this photo, the clown Ronald McDonald is shown entertaining kids and families at the Tripplett Management's 25th Anniversary Celebration of its McDonald's store at 1721 E. Bayshore Road in East Palo Alto. Anthony Ewell, the store's co-owner, who is not shown in this photo, was on hand for the celebration.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

Victory for Pre-Law Dreamers in California

Dear Editor

In the midst of a federal government shutdown and in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform... Governor Brown signed into law several bills that will foster a more inclusive and integrated immigrant community in California.

Among the measures approved was AB 1024, a bill that allows undocumented young people who wish to become attorneys—like Denia Perez, E4FC's Legal Services Coordinator, and many of E4FC's Legal Services team—to fulfill their dreams. Specifically, AB 1024 authorizes the California Supreme Court to grant law licenses to undocumented aspiring attorneys if they meet all other eligibility requirements.

AB 1024 is a direct response to Sergio Garcia, an undocumented young person who finished law school and met the rigorous requirements for obtaining a law degree and a legal license, including passing the California Bar exam, but was unable to become a licensed attorney

due to his immigration status. For that reason, Sergio brought his case before the California Supreme Court where the idea for AB 1024 originated.

E4FC is thrilled that California understands that undocumented young people are vital to the long-term growth and prosperity of the United States. We believe that AB 1024 is a positive step forward in enabling undocumented young people to achieve their career goals and become full contributing members of this nation.

Since 2009, E4FC's Legal Services has recruited, trained, and mentored a team of over 20 undocumented aspiring attorneys. Under the supervision of experienced immigration attorneys, this team has helped over 1,000 undocumented young people understand their legalization options; 250 apply for legalization; 120 secure face-to-face consultations with top-notch private immigration attorneys; and five terminate their removal (deportation) proceedings. They have provided real relief and concrete solutions to thousands of undocumented young people.

Before AB 1024, the undocumented members of our Legal

Services team were hesitant to apply to law school because they were unsure whether they would be able to put their law degree to use. We are excited that this barrier has been lifted and that they will now be able to enter law school with a broader sense of possibility. Read more about E4FC's Legal Services team here.

This victory is a testament to the power and leadership of our courageous community. E4FC thanks everyone who made this victory possible including Sergio Garcia for leading the way and our allies for supporting this effort. We give special thanks to our E4FC family and Legal Services team for sharing with Governor Brown their struggles, dreams and aspirations to become attorneys.

Diana Vergara, one of our Legal Services team members, told Governor Brown:

"I grew up in San Diego where I witnessed first hand children crying because their mothers and fathers were being deported. It was those moments that fueled my passion to become an immigration attorney. AB 1024 allows me to pursue my dream to practice law."

Although this is a significant

EPA Today's Policies & Principles

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

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

within our service area.

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

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

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

East Palo Alto Today

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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

The Sequoia Union High School District is failing us

Council member Larry Moody
East Palo Alto Today



Larry Moody

Last evening I attended what was promoted by the Sequoia School District, as a forum to gain input from the community on the pending Stanford High School move to the 1050 Myrtle St. site and construction of a campus expansion project adding 11 new class rooms in a two story building for Stanford Charter School.

I and only two other community members were in attendance. Sequoia had four contracted members of the design team and one staff populating the room. For a grand total of eight in the room.

When questioned on the outreach effort, they stated 70 households on Myrtle st, were contacted because of the perceived direct

construction impacts on the residents.

I live four blocks over. My neighbors and I will be impacted by the construction and we weren't noticed.

It disappoints me that Sequoia continues to treat our community in this manner. Late notice

or no notices on public meetings related to our community and students are a common practice.

There is total disregard for our established networking channels (Why wasn't One EPA sought out to assist with outreach/ Dennis Parker? Not one of the candidates, for the November Sequoia District Board, attended. Maybe they didn't hear about it either. Stanford High, the future tenant failed to send a representative to share the goals/objectives for the Charter School.

There are over 1,400 students attending school within two blocks of the school site. You'd think those families would be interested in knowing that their routes to school would be impacted by the construction. Both Clark St. and Myrtle St. are already overly

impacted by traffic in the morning and afternoon with traffic, other pedestrians and parents trying to get to the Ravenswood campuses.

Ravenswood is an open enrollment district, and you would find that students who attend the Stanford Charter Schools come from throughout the community of 2.5 miles. The School bus routes, for Sequoia and Ravenswood, clearly demonstrate that truth. Those families deserve notice. What about the Eastside Prep School community, which has over 200 middle and high school students directly across the street from the site. Where's the notice? Does Sequoia treat the other feeder communities in this manner?

For years I have strongly

suggested to the Superintendent Jim Lianides, that Sequoia have a calendar or column in the Palo Alto Daily or EPA Today (our local bilingual publication), which would assist in noticing the community on upcoming events. A column would cost as little as \$400 a year. Televisive the School Board meetings, so we can better support our students who attend the district schools. Make announcements at Ravenswood Board meetings or during Community Forum opportunities at City Council meetings.

Sequoia, you fail us by limiting the notification of Sequoia District activities in East Palo Alto to a chosen few. This must change.

Larry Moody is an East Palo Alto City Council member.

Open letter to blacks with land, facilities and resources

Tiombe Jama
East Palo Alto Today

Sometimes people need to be reminded. Sometimes people forget from whence they came. We have land, buildings and resources that were secured by the grassroots work and support of Black people.

Our medical facility Drew Health Foundation was fought because Black people's healthcare needs were not being met. The nonprofit funds were secured to serve our healthcare needs. Yes, these funds were taken away because the County wanted to control the funds that came into the community – and take away Black authority and control. We helped them by the misconduct and disunity in our community. (Other agencies had issues, but since they were not Black, the County did not defend them. I understand that.) That is not the issue here.

What I don't understand is why we are not addressing our

health issues with the property and resources that we have. Our health data is off the charts with high rates of heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, alcoholism, drug addiction, AIDS, cancer and mental health issues. Funding is still available for prevention. We need culturally relevant care and healthcare workers.

If we had been educated, we would know that our ancestors honored their public obligations. We had nonprofit health care facilities. These nonprofit organizations are not private companies or personal businesses; they were secured by the people and in the name of the people. (What do you mean by this sentence - A small donation out of millions in resources is not equitable. My suggestion is that the aforementioned organization open up the board, focus on one problem and create the "state of the art" solution.

The Girls Club has all the structures for an excellent pro-



Tiombe Jama

gram. It has been sitting for over 7-8 years empty. Many proposals have been submitted. Speaking truth to power can seem disrespectful to those who choose to maintain their own authority and control. This building was secured for nonprofit programs for girls. There are many proposals completed. If we don't transfer our knowledge and skills to our next generation, we will be anecdotal stories with pictures in our own picture albums.

The land that is even dearer to my history and heart is the

Nairobi School land – land that was secured for the education of Black children. Since education is my passion, it's heartbreaking to see the educational destruction of our children: they are either being miseducated or not educated at all. They are years behind in their grade level skills, disengaged, and so solidly entrenched in the dropout to jail pipeline and so miseducated that they can't see that we each have responsibility for our own race.

What we have done in the past is only valuable when we can pass it on to our progeny and the next generation. Funds from the Nairobi schools should be utilized for educational advancement of Black students. Scholarship donations do not replace having a safe, effective educational site for our children. Culturally responsive charter schools are being built for every ethnic group that exists along with the multitude of religious beliefs.

Black people are scattered

(The fact that our communities are dismantled is another topic). As we moved to integration, the needs of our people were muted. Our authority to provide successful outcomes has been thwarted

Black children need successful education; Black people need housing and housing protection. Black people need effective health care. Our girls and boys need culturally responsive programs, in addition to their sports programs. Black people need living wage jobs.

You have the resources to establish and advocate for these programs. It is your responsibility. Who else would be responsible? You are stewards of these properties to honor the mandated purpose of these nonprofit community organizations.

Tiombe Jama is an East Palo Alto resident who is a member of Mothers on a Mission to Save our Children

Marriage equality is good for California

By Laura Savage
East Palo Alto Today



Laura Savage

On Wednesday June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States made history when it ruled in the case of United States vs. Windsor, which challenged the Defense of Marriage Act's exclusion of same-sex married couples from receiving federal benefits. The Supreme Court ruled that DOMA was unconstitutional.

SCOTUS' ruling in Hollingsworth vs. Perry that the proponents of Prop. 8 had no legal standing to defend sent the case back down to the circuit courts on a jurisdiction technicality.

There are positives and negatives to these rulings. First, DOMA being deemed unconstitutional is absolutely spot on and is further reaching than the Prop 8 ruling. The majority of the justices ruled

that same-sex couples that are legally married at the state level ought to have the same benefits awarded to them that heterosexual couples receive. This will affect tax filing, military benefits and visitation and other benefits that married couples get. The ruling doesn't force states where same-sex marriage isn't legal to allow it, but it does in essence, set a standard that legally making homosexual couples second-class citizens

at the federal level is not permitted or constitutional.

On the other hand, the ruling in Hollingsworth vs. Perry -the Prop 8 case- which directly affects citizens of California was not as definitive as some would have hoped. SCOTUS merely kicked it back to the California federal District Court previous ruling, which stated PROP 8 unconstitutional. The official language from SCOTUS states:

We have never before upheld the standing of a private party to defend the constitutionality of a state statute when state officials have chosen not to. We decline to do so for the first time here.

Because petitioners have not satisfied their burden to demonstrate standing to appeal the judgment of the District Court, the Ninth Circuit was without jurisdiction to consider the appeal. The

judgment of the Ninth Circuit is vacated, and the case is remanded with instructions to dismiss the appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

What this means is that there should never have been a means for the Ninth Circuit District Court to hear the PROP 8 case because Hollingsworth (petitioner) had no authority to represent the people of California legally. This in turn will make California the fourteenth state where same-sex marriage is legal, once the stay is lifted from the Ninth Circuit. The importance of the decision reaches farther than California same-sex couples. It lays the groundwork and sets the precedent for other cases waiting to be reviewed by SCOTUS that private parties - who aren't elected by a state's citizens - can't speak on those citizens' behalf. So, although same-sex marriage could resume as soon as

late July 2013, there is still a long fight for marriage equality nationwide.

The justices made it clear that they in no way wanted to upend state's rights. This is an important piece in the ruling because it leaves open the possibility of other states where there are laws banning same-sex marriage to stand. There are thirty-one states in the U.S. where same-sex marriage is banned by law.

Opponents of PROP 8 have continuously used religious morality as the standard and justification to ban same-sex marriage and strictly define marriage as between one man and one woman. My question to these folks is: where were you in government class where the explanation of America's separation of church

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Lifecycles

Activities abound at the East Palo Alto Senior Center

By Traci Moore
East Palo Alto Today

It's always a busy time at the East Palo Alto Senior Center. With daily breakfasts and lunches for seniors, an annual crabfest, exercise and bible classes, a twice monthly flea market, East Palo Alto seniors have many activities that they can pursue.

Several annual events this year added to the excitement that filled the building.

On July 27, the center hosted its volunteer awards dinner, in which it recognized and honored its volunteers, the contributions of the centers staff and the work of other outstanding community members.

With certificates contributed by East Palo Alto's Mayor Ruben



Photo courtesy of the East Palo Alto Senior Center
East Palo Alto city officials, including Mayor Abrica and Councilmember Larry Moody, are shown with East Palo Alto Senior Center staff, audience members and seven recipients of the volunteer awards that were presented at the center on July 27, 2013.

Abrica, acting on behalf of the city; CA State Senator, Jerry Hill; U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and Second Harvest Food Bank, the East Palo Alto Senior Center

presented 133 awards. Two months later on October 5, the East Palo Alto Senior Center held its Annual Elegant Tea, which presented a fashion show by

"Fashionable Seniors."

During this afternoon event, presentations were made by Cecile Vaughters Johnson, who was the mistress of ceremonies; Dr. Charlie Mae Knight, a former Ravenswood City School District superintendent, and Bernice Jackson, a center board member.

East Palo Alto Council member Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier was the keynote speaker. She thanked the audience for its support in electing her to the city council and she rec-

ognized them for the many contributions that they had made to the city.

Isaac Stevenson entertained the audience in with a rendition of songs performed in his usual breathtaking style.

The center's Executive Director, Millicent Grant announced raffle prizes and made the event's closing remarks.

Letta Powell wooed the audience with her homemade hats and fashions and walked away as the event's most fashionable senior.

Later this month, the center is planning another flea market.

For more information about the center's activities, call the East Palo Alto Senior Center at 650-329-5900.

City officials continued from page 1

the special election and the election would have to be held on April 8, 2014, the next regularly scheduled election date.

Nagel said that by the time the results of the special election were certified, there would be 7 months left before the expiration of Woods' term of office in December 2014.

Not everyone at the meeting agreed with the appointment process. East Palo Alto resident Michael Francois recommended that the council chose Peter Evans, the former city council member, who trailed the three winning council members in the last city council election that took place on November 2, 2010. Francois mentioned that the council could also choose other candidates, like former city council member Donna Rutherford, who also ran for a seat on the city council during the 2010 election.

Mayor Ruben Abrica responded that it would be illegal for the council to appoint someone that way. He also said that the appointment process would be open for any of the former council members and council candidates to apply.

The council voted unanimously to accept the resolution es-

tablishing the appointment procedure. The council and the staff agreed to let the public know that interested residents could apply for Woods' vacated seat, that the necessary application would be available by 5 p.m. on November 7, 2013 and would be accepted online and in person until 5 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2013.

After the deadline, interviews would be scheduled with the applicants, who would be expected to make presentations before the East Palo Alto City Council, that would then vote on the applicants.

At the end of their discussion on the subject, council members agreed that the applicant selected to fill Woods' vacated seat would have to get at least three council votes to be appointed. The current goal is to have the winning applicant selected by December 16.

For questions about the application process, contact Nora Pimentel, the East Palo Alto city clerk by email at npimentel@cityofepa.org or by phone at (650) 853-3127. Applications are available online at <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/749>.

Celebrating A Decade of Service		Celebrando Una Década de Servicio	
Primary health care for residents of East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and Redwood City.		Cuidado médico primario para los residentes de East Palo Alto, Belle Haven y Redwood City.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary medical care • Dental care for adults and children • Behavioral health counseling • Chronic disease care • Prenatal care and Family Planning • Immunizations and school physicals 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servicios medicos primarios • Cuidado dental para adultos y niños • Asesoramiento de la salud mental • Tratamiento para las enfermedades crónicas • Cuidado prenatal y planificación familiar • Vacunas y exámenes físicos 	
To enroll as a new patient	650.330.7416	Para ingresar como nuevo paciente	650.330.7416
For medical appointments	650.330.7400	Para una cita médica	650.330.7400
For dental appointments	650.289.7700	Para una cita dental	650.289.7700
* Children (18 and under) can receive dental care without being enrolled as a medical patient.		* Niños menores de 18 años pueden recibir tratamiento dental sin estar registrados como paciente médico.	
Ravenswood Family Health Center 1798A Bay Road, East Palo Alto		Belle Haven Clinic 100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park	
Ravenswood Family Dentistry 1807 Bay Road, East Palo Alto			

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Marriage Equality continued from page 5

and state was given? That's right! We have a separation of church and state because back in jolly old England the king queen wanted to change religions, everybody had to change and could be imprisoned, punished or even killed for not going along with the new religious decree. America's Founding Fathers wanted to protect their own interests and those of the new land for each individual here.

That means that regardless of the dominant religion in this country, there is no legal standing to which anyone can be made to believe in those religious teachings. Therefore, imposing Judeo-Christian morality on the rest of citizens is unconstitutional and, quite frankly, morally wrong. It is wrong, just like preventing blacks from marrying during slavery was morally wrong-

along with slavery. It is wrong just like banning interracial marriages prior to the 70s was wrong and unconstitutional. There is no justification to oppress a group because a majority or minority differs in beliefs or preference.

The rulings by SCOTUS will help strengthen America by extending the wonderful institution of marriage to all couples who want to commit and stand as a family unit. It is better for children and families, not just homosexual adults. The children of same-sex couples in California can now have their families validated like their peers. When all children are validated they grow up more confident and feel loved. Together these families and future families can be whole.

I applaud the rulings because love knows no gender and commitment shouldn't either.

Lifecycles

More Latinos going to college, but they aren't graduating

By Esmeralda Fabián-Romero
East Palo Alto Today

California is home to more than 14.5 million Latinos, yet only 11 percent of them are college graduates. This, despite the fact that last year saw a record number

of Latinos enrolled in California community colleges or universities.

Although seven in 10 Latino high school graduates were accepted to a college or university – surpassing white students for the first time – only 11 percent get their

college diploma, according to a new study released by The Campaign for College Opportunity, titled "The State of Latinos in Higher Education in California."

The reasons Latinos aren't finishing college are varied but one thing is clear: it isn't due to a lack

of support from their families: Some 83 percent of Latino parents say they expect their children to get a university degree.

This article originally appeared on the La Opinión website at <http://www.laopinion.com/california/latinos-asisten-mas->

[universidad-colegio-california-no-se-graduan](http://www.universidad-colegio-california-no-se-graduan) and is reprinted by permission.

This partial English translation is supplied by New America Media at newamericamedia.org.

Más latinos en universidades de CA, pero no se gradúan

Por Esmeralda Fabián-Romero
East Palo Alto Today

Aunque siete de cada 10 jóvenes latinos que se graduaron de la preparatoria fueron aceptados a un colegio comunitario o universidad sólo el 11% reciben un título universitario

En California viven más de 14.5 millones de Latinos, y solo un 11% de ellos cuenta con un título universitario. Esto a pesar de que el año pasado se dio la tasa más alta de latinos inscritos en colegios comunitarios o universidades, revela hoy el estudio "El Estado de los Latinos en la Educación Superior de California", de The Campaign for College Opportunity.

Aunque siete de cada 10 jóvenes latinos que se graduaron de la preparatoria fueron aceptados a un colegio comunitario o universidad, superando, por



Foto: J. Emilio Flores / La Opinión

primera vez, a los blancos, solo este bajo porcentaje logra obtener su título.

Las razones por las que los latinos no terminan la universidad son variadas, pero algo que de entrada descarta el estudio como impedimento, es la falta de apoyo de la familia, ya que según una encuesta nacional que menciona del Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), el 83% de los padres latinos es-

peran que sus hijos obtengan un título universitario.

Tal es el caso de Jazmín Casas, cuya familia está apoyándole con lo que puede para que ella se transfiera de East Los Angeles College (ELAC) a la Universidad de California Berkeley, y así obtenga su título en Ciencias Políticas.

Pero según Casas, de 21

años y originaria del Este de Los Ángeles, sus obstáculos no son la ayuda financiera. Ella culpa de esto el que dice no haber recibido el apoyo en la preparatoria Garfield, de la que se graduó, para entrar directamente a una universidad de cuatro años, y ahora de ELAC para poder transferirse.

"No hay suficientes consejeros, no te pueden dar el tiempo necesario para un plan efectivo de cómo transferirse a una universidad de cuatro años lo antes posible", cuenta la joven. "Si tienes cita con un consejero y la pierdes, tienes que esperar por lo menos

tres semanas para obtener otra", señaló.

"Tomar las clases necesarias es otro gran problema. Los maestros hacen sorteos para elegir a los estudiantes. Es como sacarte la lotería tomar la clase que necesitas", explicó Casas. "Espero ya el próximo año podeme transferir a Berkeley, pero sí es un gran reto".

Como ella, una vasta mayoría de los latinos universitarios, casi un 70%, asisten a un Colegio

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Agency upgrades EPA offices

By Effie Milionis Verducci
East Palo Alto Today

The San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) debuted a newly-automated regional office in East Palo Alto on September 25.

Located at 2415 University Avenue, this is the third of five regional offices to undergo renovations, allowing residents improved access to the Human Services Agency offerings.

The lobby features technological and functional upgrades including an electronic kiosk to quickly route clients to the right service representative, privacy booths, a children's play space, an after-hours drop-box, and family-friendly meeting rooms.

The improvements in flow and efficiency come at a pivotal time, as county residents are preparing to enroll in the expanded health insurance programs of the federal Health Care Reform. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act on January 1, 2014 will increase demand of the Agency services, as 47,000 San Mateo county residents become newly eligible for health insurance.

Open enrollment began Tuesday, October 1. County employees have been trained to assist residents in all aspects of the process, such as understanding the plan requirements, completing applications, and providing referrals for Medi-Cal and other



Mayor Ruben Abrica, Human Services Agency Director Beverly Beasley Johnson, San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum and Clarisa Simon, the agency's director of Economic Self-Sufficiency Programs are shown during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the County Human Service Agency's upgraded lobby at 2415 University Avenue in East Palo Alto.

services. Help can be accessed by phone, online, or in person at the five regional offices.

Human Services Agency Director Beverly Beasley Johnson said "The lobby rebuilds are one of the visible examples of our continued commitment to an efficient and comprehensive customer experience."

The office typically sees upwards of 800 clients per month for a variety of needs, including financial and food assistance, and health insurance. In addition, staff refers clients to community resources for clothing, housing assistance and other services.

The lobby improvements will reduce wait time, allow families to fill out forms while watching their children play, and drop off forms at their convenience. The first lobby rebuild opened to the public

in December 2012 in Redwood City, followed by the HSA Mid-County Services Center in Belmont.

County Supervisor Warren Slocum remarked "I'm so pleased that the residents of South County will be better served with the redesign of the San Mateo County Human Services Agency office in East Palo Alto.

"This remodel of our 'front room' honors a person's dignity, respects their time, builds on their independence and their knowledge, gives them greater privacy – and gives their children a safe place to play while they access critical services. It improves the experience as well as the capacity of the office."

The County of San Mateo Human Services Agency assists individuals and families to achieve economic self-sufficiency, promotes community and family strength, and works to ensure child safety and well-being.

Effie Milionis Verducci is the communications manager for the San Mateo County, Human Services Agency.



Join Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in a public workshop to help define and prioritize potential open space projects.

Monday, Nov. 4, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Graham Middle School
1175 Castro Street, Mountain View
(Foothills and Skyline Region focus)

Saturday, Nov. 16, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Fair Oaks Community Center
2600 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City
(Foothills and Bayfront Region focus)

For more information and to RSVP, visit www.openspace.org/imagine.



SLS's Community Law Clinic celebrates 10 years of service

By Anjali Abraham
East Palo Alto Today

Supporters of Stanford Law School's Community Law Clinic (CLC) gathered at its newly renovated headquarters in East Palo Alto on Monday night to help CLC celebrate its 10th anniversary. The renovation—CLC's first major renovation in 10 years—represents an investment by SLS and Stanford University to maintaining a physical presence in East Palo Alto. And while the celebration included a dedication of the newly renovated facility, it was also a renewal of CLC's resolute commitment to the community.

The Honorable Ruben Abrica, Mayor of East Palo Alto, presented CLC with a proclamation from the East Palo Alto City Council in honor of CLC's "outstanding work." And Sonja Spencer, Chair of East Palo Alto's Rent Stabilization Board, presented CLC with a resolution from the Board commemorating CLC's 10th anniversary.

Juliet Brodie, Director of CLC and of SLS's Mills Legal Clinic, surveys CLC's new space; photo credit: Josh Edelson

CLC is determined to remain present in East Palo Alto. Such a presence is "absolutely vital," said Juliet Brodie, Director of CLC and of the Mills Legal Clinic at SLS. "It represents that while we may be providing services, the community provides our home. It's a two-way street."

CLC's twofold mission is decidedly unique. While all SLS clinics



Photo credit: Josh Edelson
Former SLS Deans Paul Brest, Kathleen Sullivan and Larry Kramer and current SLS Dean M. Elizabeth Magill help CLC celebrate its 10th anniversary.

teach their students how to serve clients, CLC also serves a historically underserved community. Many low-income residents of East Palo Alto and the surrounding communities still struggle to get legal help with the most essential matters of daily living, such as housing and employment. CLC's combined mission of pedagogy and location-based advocacy helps students "meet their clients where they are" said M. Elizabeth Magill, Richard E. Lang Professor of Law and Dean of SLS. The students are "advocating for their clients and learning to be extraordinary lawyers at the same time," Dean Magill added.

The clinical program at SLS is one of the school's most distinctive features. Students experience the full breadth of legal practice, but within a structured environment of supervision and encouragement to give back to the community. Students also perform their clinic work full-time, which allows them to immerse themselves in the study of solving real-world

challenges on behalf of actual clients.

Although the mood on Monday night was jubilant, CLC was born during a time of crisis. Its predecessor, the student-founded East Palo Alto Community Law Project, shut its doors in 2003, leaving the community in danger of losing a critical source of legal representation.

SLS's leadership was acutely aware of this risk and undertook extraordinary efforts to ensure that SLS maintained its commitment to the residents of East Palo Alto and the surrounding communities. With the leadership of then-Dean Kathleen Sullivan and Professor David Mills, in whose honor the entire SLS clinical program is now named, the law school opened CLC.

Brodie launched the festivities by acknowledging Mills' role in founding the clinic: "It is literally true that we would not be here today if David hadn't stepped into the breach, and ensured that SLS continued to work in East Palo

Alto. Every single student and every single client owes a debt to him for making sure these doors opened, and that they have stayed open."

Stanford President John Hennessy, former Menlo Park Mayor Nicholas Jellins, former SLS Dean Kathleen Sullivan, and former East Palo Alto Mayor Patricia Foster cutting the ribbon at CLC's opening in 2003; photo credit: Visual Art Services

Since CLC opened its doors in 2003, it has served more than 1500 clients and trained more than 250 future attorneys.

"We are very proud to embody Stanford's very concrete involvement in the communities that surround the campus, and to train SLS students in the noble tradition of providing legal services to those in need," Brodie noted.

CLC typically represents individuals in eviction, wage and disability cases. For example, CLC recently represented a restaurant worker who was denied his wages when he left his job due to unbearable conditions. The employee, who was working long hours for far less than minimum wage, was required to live in

a room with four other employees in the back of the restaurant and was sometimes refused the opportunity to take his medication. Because of CLC's involvement, not only did the employee get his back wages, but he also received some money for his suffering.

CLC also played an important role in rebuffing a concerted, targeted attack on East Palo Alto's rent-controlled housing stock. A few years ago, real estate investment firm Page Mill Properties acquired more than three quarters of East Palo Alto's rental stock and issued massive rent increases to tenants virtually overnight. CLC successfully represented more than 125 tenants in what

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Photo credit: Visual Art Services
Stanford President John Hennessy, former Menlo Park Mayor Nicholas Jellins, former SLS Dean Kathleen Sullivan and former East Palo Alto Mayor Patricia Foster cutting the ribbon at CLC's opening in 2003.

Letters

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victory, we will continue working until undocumented young people are eligible to pursue all career licenses in all states.

Likewise, we will continue to urge Congress to do its part and pass comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented

young people and their families.

We believe that it is only through citizenship that immigrants will achieve full inclusion in U.S. society.

Sincerely,
Krsna N. Avila, Legal Services Manager
Jazmin Segura, Policy & Communications Manager

Más latinos

continued from page 7

Comunitario de California. De estos menos del 40% logran transferirse, o completar algún título.

En el año 2010, solo un 4% de los graduados latinos de bachillerato logró ser admitido directamente a una universidad estatal (CSU) y un 10% a una UC.

"La solución es clara," dijo Michele Siqueiros, Directora Ejecutiva de la Campaña para la Oportunidad Universitaria, organización que realizó el estudio.

"Si la economía de California depende de tener población laboral con educación universitaria, entonces necesitamos encontrar

las maneras de desarrollar un sistema de educación superior que estimule la obtención de un título universitario entre los latinos", enfatizó.

El reporte recomienda, entre otras cosas, crear un plan de educación superior a nivel estatal y mejorar la coordinación entre preparatorias y universidades, para buscar dar soluciones al problema que se pronostica enfrentará California en el 2025, cuando presente una escasez de 2.3 millones de universitarios con título.

A nivel nacional, se proyecta que los latinos contribuirán con 5.5

millones de títulos de educación superior para el 2020.

"A pesar de los claros beneficios de que los latinos en California asistan y finalicen sus estudios universitarios, estamos en desventaja y esto debería hacer que suene una alarma urgente para todos nosotros", opinó Siqueiros.

Una versión de este artículo se publicó en la edición impresa de La Opinión del día 11/5/2013 con el título "Mayor rezago universitario"

Esmeralda Fabián-Romero es un reportero de La Opinión. Este artículo es reimpresso con el permiso de La Opinión y aparece en <http://www.laopinion.com/california/latinos-asisten-mas-universidad-colegio-california-no-se-gradan>

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

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Having sleep problems?
If you are 60 years or older, you may be eligible to participate in a study of Non-Drug Treatments for Insomnia sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, and conducted at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Medical Center. Participants will receive extensive sleep evaluation, individual treatment, and reimbursement for participation. **For more information, please call Stephanie at (650) 849-0584.** (For general information about participant rights, contact 866-680-2906.)

Treating the depression in the Hood

By Ebonni Black
East Palo Alto Today

Too often those who suffer in silence feel that there's no one they can reach out to in times of distress.

Depression is an illness that affects millions of people all over the world. It is especially prevalent in the black community, but is often a subject avoided due to either the fear of it's realization or the lack of available resources to help those (who suffer) manage their illness.

Unfortunately with the so-

cial economic conditions that many people "in the hoods" of America are faced with, it is hard to seek professional guidance when one is unemployed and unable to attain health care.

This inevitably puts them in a position to try and do whatever they can to combat feelings of hopelessness, sadness, anxiety, etc.

The use of recreational substances is often a substitute



Ebonni Black

for natural remedies. These substances, unfortunately, highlight the condition rather than stabilize it.

We are quick to lay judgements on those we consider drug users, alcoholics, etc. Sometimes their problems stem from a much deeper place and depression can sometimes play a huge factor in the reason for their abuse of alcohol and drugs.

Not to minimize or give ex-

cuses for those who are abusing such substances, but it's time to recognize the signs of depression.

We need to talk about it and educate ourselves on its affect on people and see what we can do to encourage those who are struggling to seek some form of professional assistance to help tame their illness.

It might be helpful to look into programs that are donation based or free of charge for those who are unemployed but have a history of depression.

Depression poses great dangers to the sufferer and society, in general, if left untreated.

Please note I am not a physician and wouldn't advise you to take my advice as the gospel, but I recognize depression as being very prevalent in the black community and I hope that those who suffer from it will get the help they need.

Ebonni Black is a former East Palo Alto resident who is very concerned about the health and well-being of the residents in the city.

Local authors share their thoughts and talents

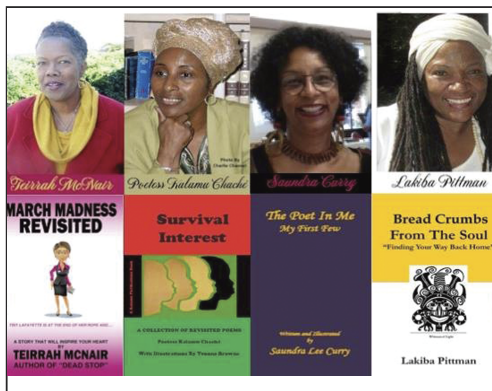
By Lakiba Pittman
East Palo Alto Today

It was an opportunity to attend an intimate unique creative event where authors read from their works, shared their passion and signed books in the midst of a warm home and delicious food and friends.

The event, which featured four local authors occurred on November 2, and was held at the home of host Patricia Foster, the executive director of Girls To Women, an East Palo Alto agency that focuses on young girls.

About thirty people attended the event and they heard poetess Kalamu Chaché, Rev. Teirrah H. McNair, Saundra Curry and Lakiba Pittman. The following is a brief description of each author's book.

Teirrah's book -- March Madness Revisited is a tiny tale about a woman in crisis. Tiny Lafayette is at the end of her rope and needs a miracle. At first glance, Tiny, a young Silicon Valley worker, mightn't have passed for much more than a pretty yuppie, up and



about her sprightly life. When Tiny however meets an unexpected turn in her life, losing her job, without anyone to turn to for help, a desperate casting of doom spells over her.

She is left to fend with absolutely no money, no one to care for her, and not even gas money that can get her to her next job interview. Alone in a world that suddenly turns perilous, Tiny treads through her life by blindly clutching onto hope in March Madness Revisited, a tale chock full of twists and surprises.

Saundra's book - "The

Poet In Me" is a collection of her poetry written over years. "Through space and time the pieces of me have on occasion drifted apart, broken off, fallen on hard times. But not hopelessly. Never hopelessly. For I have never been alone in the forest. My falling sound has always been heard."

Chaché's book - "Survival Interest" is a collection of revisited poems. For Chaché, poetry is a literary means of expressing experiences lived and/or observed in life. Therefore, it documents human experience. As a Literary Arts

artist, she is a medium through whom messages are received and delivered ... "I long ago realized that my talents are not yours to keep, but a means by which to awake those who are still asleep."

Lakiba's book - "Bread Crumbs From The Soul: Finding Your Way Back Home" The author shares original art, poetry and autobiographical reflections and revelations of a faithful life where bread crumbs become visible ... those reminders, steps, love-taps, that lead us back to the greatness, the beauty of who we really are... that even though life's circumstances may be challenging and make us feel lost at times that our soul knows and can lead us step by step back home where we are one with the Creator, where we are redeemed, where we are loved ... where it feels just like home.

Malcolm Shabazz Hoover, a former resident of East Palo Alto and a poet himself was invited to share some of his poetry - impromptu ... and he did. In sharing what the event meant to him, Hoover said, "It was great !!!! I enjoyed it so

much that I booked a show for January in Oakland."

As a consequence of this successful event and reactions like Hoover's, more events have been scheduled with additional authors plus music. Events will be adapted to the size of venue and the desires of hosts.

The next book event will take place on Saturday, November 23rd @ Trade A Book 2740 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95051 from 2:00-5:00 pm ; on Friday, December 6th @ DMITS (Digital Media Instructional Technology Services), on Saturday, December 14th in E. Palo Alto and on January 25th in Oakland, CA.

For more information or to plan for a book event in your home, church, book club or venue, contact Lakiba Pittman at lakiba@sbcglobal.net or Poetess Kalamu Chaché at kalamu_pro@hotmail.com.

Lakiba Pittman is a local author whose work was featured at the above event.

What kind of jobs are today's veterans coming home to?

By Peter Feng
East Palo Alto Today

New Report Hails Security Industry's "Underpaid Heroes," Highlights Gains Vets are Making through Unions

As America thanked those who have worn our country's uniform this Veterans Day, the Service Employees International Union's Stand for Security—the nation's largest security officers union—is releasing a report on working conditions for 230,000 veterans in the mostly low-wage security industry.

"I live with friends and eat at a soup kitchen," says Mark Reeves, a veteran of the U.S. Army employed by Cambridge Security in New Jersey. "I know what veterans go



Photo courtesy of the SEIU

through. People who risk their lives...a good job is the least vets should have."

Throughout much of the 20th century—whether from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or peacetime duty—America's veterans returned to good jobs, affordable housing, education opportunities, and a chance at a better life. But today's returning veterans—many of whom

have fought in Afghanistan and Iraq—are more likely to face unemployment, homelessness, disability-based discrimination, backlogs or cuts in basic services, and poverty-wage jobs.

The United States has a higher percentage of low-wage workers than any other rich democracy in the world. The vast majority of jobs being created are part-time, with few,

if any, benefits.

According to the report, "Underpaid Heroes: What Kind of Jobs Are Veterans Coming Home To?" vets comprise nearly 20 percent—one in five—of all security officers, as opposed to 7.9 percent of the general population. Working conditions in the industry, however, are generally poor. While the rate of fatal workplace injuries to security officers in 2009 was more than twice that of workers in general, the median security-officer wage is just \$10.91 per hour. Many workers are forced to rely on public assistance to make ends meet.

Veterans, however, have led the fight to build city-wide security officer unions in 11

cities across the country—improving security industry jobs and pumping millions into the poor and middle class neighborhoods where security officers live. For example, city-wide union contracts over the next three years will inject an additional \$44 million into neighborhoods in the San Francisco Bay Area, \$32 million in Philadelphia, and \$21 million in Chicago.

Representing 40,000 workers, SEIU's Stand for Security is the nation's largest security officers union.

Peter Feng is a representative of the SEIU.

See the organization's website at <http://www.standforsecurity.org/blog/>

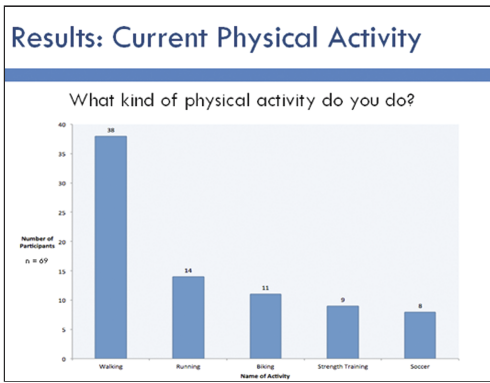
Find free and low cost physical activities in East Palo Alto

By Teresa Chan, RD, MPH
East Palo Alto Today

For at least six months, four students from Stanford University have been working with the Active Access initiative: a partnership between San Mateo County Health Systems and community partners to promote free and low-cost physical activity.

As part of their class, Community Health: Assessment and Planning, Christine Brydon, Irene Calimlim, Sabrina Layne, and Sanchay Gupta set out to understand the levels of community participation in physical activity and uncover the best ways to promote physical activity in East Palo Alto.

The U.S. Department of



Health and Human Services recommends that adults do at least 2.5 hours of aerobic activity like brisk walking or biking each week to improve

overall health and maintain a healthy weight. Adults should also do some form of strength training (such as yoga or lifting weights) at least 2 days per

week. It is also recommended that children be active at least 60 minutes per day with the majority being moderate to vigorous intensity aerobic activity (such as running).

The students surveyed residents at local churches and community events and these residents tended to be very active and resourceful. The walked in their neighborhood, used the local parks, the YMCA, and were active with their families.

The most popular forms of physical activity were walking, running, and biking. Females had a stronger preference for dance-type classes like Zumba, while the men preferred team sports.

The group wasn't surprised that everyone preferred

classes on the weekends - mainly in the mornings and early afternoons. There are currently many of these options available to residents, but they did not know where to find out about them.

For more information about where to find free and/or low-cost (less than \$5 per class) physical activity opportunities in East Palo Alto and other areas of San Mateo County, please visit Active Access at www.smcactiveaccess.org. To see more information from the students' project, email me at techan@smcgov.org.

Teresa Chan, RD, MPH is a public health educator for the San Mateo County Health Systems.

Nine tips to save money on moving expenses

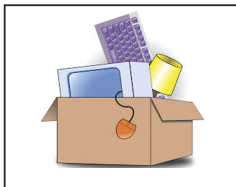
By Andrea Aker
East Palo Alto Today

Whether you are moving across town or across the country, relocating can be difficult and expensive, often riddled with unexpected costs.

"Moving is a high-stress, high-cost experience for most people, but you can curb expenses," said Mike Sullivan, chief education officer for Take Charge America, a national non-profit credit counseling agency. "A little planning will go a long way to keep costs down and reduce financial stress."

Sullivan explains further with nine tips to save money on moving expenses.

Decide on Movers: Hir-



ing a mover can be risky. There are many consumer complaints in this industry. If you need professional help, research three movers with the Better Business Bureau each carrying an A rating. Get estimates and compare.

Sell or Donate – The more you move, the more you will have to pay, especially if you're hiring a professional or renting a truck. Take a hard look at your stuff and decide if it really needs to be moved, or

if you can sell or donate it. Consider hosting a garage sale or using sites like Craigslist.org to sell items.

Examine Your Appliances – If you're taking major appliances, account for professional servicing or installation costs. It may not be worth the cost of moving old appliances needing frequent repairs.

Eat Up – Leading up to your move, eat foods in your pantry, refrigerator and freezer. Restock after the move.

Don't Buy Boxes – Check grocery, warehouse stores or recycling facilities for boxes, or ask friends and family for spares.

Consider a Pod – If

you're moving far, a pod may prove cheaper than a moving van or professional moving company, especially when considering the cost of gas.

Select "Off" Days – Saturday is the most popular day to move. It's also the most expensive. Prices for truck rentals or professional movers are higher on weekends. Consider moving mid-week to avoid the premium cost.

Manage Utilities & Services – Contact your phone, cable and utility providers well ahead of your move to set a discontinuation date. This will ensure you're not paying for services after you move. You may also need to cancel or transfer other subscriptions, such as gym memberships,

pool maintenance and periodicals.

Get Insurance in Order – Make sure your auto and home or rental insurers are aware of your move so they can adjust your premiums or transfer coverage.

Andrea Aker represents Take Charge America, Inc. a non-profit agency that was founded in 1987, to provide financial education services, including credit counseling, housing counseling, student loan counseling and debt management. It has helped more than 1.6 million consumers nationwide manage their personal finances and debts. To learn more, visit www.takechargeamerica.org or call (888) 822-9193.

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.



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

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 East Palo Alto, CA 94303

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info@epamedia.org
www.epamedia.org

Please check the appropriate box: if you would like to volunteer at the center, if you would like to advertise in East Palo Alto Today, if you are interested in writing an article, opinion piece or letter to the editor. Also let us know if your agency or business would like to be a distribution site for East Palo Alto Today. Call (650) 289-9699 or send an email to info@epamedia.org.

Community Calendar

Monday, November 18, 2013
Public Meeting - Cooley Landing Education Center
 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 East Palo Alto City Hall, Community Room, 2415 University Ave., East Palo Alto, CA. The City of East Palo Alto invites everyone to the second in a series of eight meetings about the design of the new Cooley Landing Education Center that will begin construction in the Fall of 2014.

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

Correction:
 In the Summer-Fall 2013 issue of East Palo Alto, it was stated in the Community News Briefs section that East Palo Alto's former City Attorney, Kathleen Kane, left the city to become the city attorney for Belmont. Kane left the City of East Palo Alto to become the city attorney in her home city of Burlingame.

Talking with Henrietta The Affordable Care Act: Where Is It Working?



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta. Seated from left, Denise Boland, Henrietta J. Burroughs and Lorna Strachan sit on the set of the Talking with Henrietta show after their television discussion on Wednesday, October 30, 2013. See more information about this show at www.epatoday.org/tv.html.

SLS's Community Law Clinic

amounted to a class action before the city's rent board. That success, combined with additional advocacy by CLC and others, paved the way for a settlement that helped set base rents and obtain refunds of rental overcharges.

CLC then worked on amending East Palo Alto's rent control law to prevent a recurrence of this incident. Ultimately, the focus of CLC's 10th anniversary celebration was its steadfast work in the community.

continued from page 8
 At one point, Brodie held up a large green book and told the assembled crowd that the book contained a handwritten list of the 1500-plus clients served by CLC during its 10 years. "It's such an honor to have

them with us ... even symbolically," Brodie said. "This is what it's all about."
 Editor's note: The above article was "Originally published in Stanford Law School's News Blog," which can be viewed online at <http://blogs.law.stanford.edu/news-feed/>



GET INVOLVED AND HELP PLAN THE FUTURE OF EAST PALO ALTO!

The City is starting a multi-year planning process to update the long-range plan for the City.

CITYWIDE GENERAL PLAN TOWN HALL

Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of this event. Different activities will be happening during the day.

Saturday, November 23, 2013
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(on-going registration, exhibits and activities)

Costaño Elementary School
 2695 Fordham Street
 East Palo Alto, CA 94303

FREE REFRESHMENTS and CHILDCARE

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the project website: www.vista2035epa.org
 Call: Brent Butler, City Planning Manager: 650-853-3189
 Email: bbutler@cityofepa.org



¡PARTICIPE Y AYUDE A PLANEAR EL FUTURO DE EAST PALO ALTO!

La ciudad está iniciando un proceso de planificación de varios años para actualizar el plan a largo plazo de la ciudad.

FORO PÚBLICO PARA EL PLAN GENERAL DE TODA LA CIUDAD

Todos están invitados a asistir a todo, o parte de este evento. Habrá diferentes actividades durante el día.

Sábado, Noviembre 23, del 2013
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(Registración, exposiciones y actividades continuas)

Escuela Elemental Costaño
 2695 Fordham Street
 East Palo Alto, CA 94303

REFRESCOS, CUIDADO DE NIÑOS

MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Visitar sitio web del proyecto: www.vista2035epa.org
 Llamar: Brent Butler, City Planning Manager at 650-853-3189
 Email: bbutler@cityofepa.org

HISTORY...

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District is a Special District responsible for maintaining the sanitary sewers in portions of the Cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. The collection system carries wastewater from the District's service area to the Palo Alto Treatment Plant where it is treated and disposed of in a manner which meets federal and state standards.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected by the registered voters residing within the District boundaries. The Board establishes the operating policies of the District; District employees carry out those policies on a day-to-day basis.

Our work is extremely important to the health and welfare of our community. You can greatly assist us in achieving our goal of providing quality service by being proficient in your work by helping us create a friendly and courteous atmosphere for all who work here or have contact with the District or its employees.

We are proud of our employees and the reputation that the District has enjoyed. We are totally committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of quality and service to members of the public and our community. We look forward to including you in our fine tradition.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of the District that employment shall be based on merit, qualifications, and competence and that employment decisions shall be made with out regard to an applicant's or employee's race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, family status, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, physical condition, marital status or disability. This policy governs all areas of employment, including promotion, assignment, and discharge.

The information contained herein is subject to change and does not constitute either an expressed or implied contract.

**FINAL FILING DATE
Until position is filled**

**Apply in person or send
resume to:**

**Kenneth C. Jones, General
Manager**

EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY
DISTRICT
901 Weeks East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Phone: (650)325-9021
Fax: (650)325-5173

**East Palo Alto
Sanitary District**



901 Weeks Street— East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Maintenance Supervisor

Salary Range
Monthly
\$6,747.673 - \$8,853.532

Deadline for submission :

Until position is filled

The Position:

Under the supervision and direction of the General Manager, the Maintenance Field Supervisor, plans organizes and provides direction and oversight to and personally performs skilled-level work in support of all district collection system installation, inspection, preventive and corrective maintenance and repair activities; ensure that all local, state and federal regulatory requirements are met; provides assistance to the District management staff in areas of expertise; and performs related work as assigned.

Examples of duties:

- Plans, prioritizes, assigns, supervises and reviews maintenance activities and the work of crews maintaining and repairing such facilities and equipment as main sewer lines, laterals, pumps, valves, electric motors, gas engines and other equipment found in a gravity wastewater collection system.
- Assists in developing and directs the implementation of goals, objectives, policies, procedures and work standards for the District; provides input for the Department budget.
- Develops and coordinates working relations/partnerships with other special districts, cities and the county to accomplish common projects and goals.
- Trains Maintenance staff in work procedures; evaluates work performance; recommends salary/rewards and disciplinary actions, as required.

Experience:

- Understanding and proficiency in the principles, practices, tools, equipment and supplies required to maintain and repair a wastewater collection system, including underground sewer lines and laterals.
- Techniques for troubleshooting complex equipment problems and for estimating staff time, materials and equipment required for repair.
- Competence with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Certification:

Must possess at lease a Grade II level Collection System Maintenance certification issued by the California Water Environment Association. Must possess or obtain Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), AED and First Aid certifications within one (1) year of hire by the District.

Benefits and Compensation:

- Salary Range: Monthly
6,747.673 - \$8,853.532
- 11 Paid Holidays Per Year
- Vacation Leave
- Family and Medical Leave
- Health Insurance
- Dental and Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan-CalPERS 2.7% @ 55
- Long Term Disability
- Deferred Compensation Plan – The Hartford 457
- Other Benefits

The Application Process:

The selection process may consist of a qualification appraisal, a written examination, an oral examination, or any combination of selection processes appropriate to the applications received. Candidates are cautioned not to quit or give notice to their present employers until they have qualified, been offered the appointment, and receive notice of acceptance by the General Manager of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District. Permanent appointments are subject to completion of a 3 month probationary period, which is an integral part of the examination process.

If you meet the requirements and believe that you possess the ideal candidate profile, please submit a completed District application form with your resume, and three references (references will not be contacted until mutual interest is determined) to:

Kenneth C. Jones
General Manager
EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT
901 WEEKS STREET
EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303
Phone: 650-325-9021
Fax: 650-325-05173
www.epasd.com