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EPA student studied in the Middle East page 15



2017 StreetCode Academy Showcase - stupendous page 6

East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



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Cutting the ribbon to Joel Davis Park



Photo courtesy of Art Lim

When it was time to cut the ribbon to open the newly renovated Joel Davis Park in East Palo Alto on June 9, 2017, the kids were ready. In fact, they were in line with several of East Palo Alto's city council members and staff to make the decisive cut. Once the ribbon parted, the cheers could be heard loud and clear. Council members Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier and Ruben Abrica were joined by city staff members. Sean Charpentier, Kamal Fallaha, Emily Pharr and Kevin Lewis can be seen in the above photo enjoying the celebration and spreading the joy.

Jobtrain considers community feedback

By Joshua Mendez-Arias



As Amazon, one of the largest online shopping websites in the world, started its expansion into the East Palo Alto community, it generated conflict in the community.

The conflict arose because the company was not being required to meet the City of East Palo Alto's Good Faith Effort agreement to fill 30% of its jobs with city residents.

Some residents expressed their outrage during street protests and demanded that the city's council members repeal the 4 to 1 vote that was made on February 21 approving the city's agreement with the Sobrato Organization, the building's developer, and Amazon, the tenant at the new building at 2100 University Avenue in East Palo Alto.

Residents also charged that when the city made its agreement with Amazon and Sobrato, it did not take the community's feedback into

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New city advisory board and commission members confirmed



Photo courtesy of the City Manager's Update for June 2017

After a vigorous round of voting by the East Palo Alto City Council, the city new advisory board and commission members pose for their memorable photo with city council members.

Planning Commission, to the Public Works & Transportation Committee, to the Rent Stabilization Board and to the Senior Advisory Committee.

The members and their terms are listed below.

Planning Commission
Javanni Munguia Brown
Regular Seat (Expires 5/31/20)

Uriel Hernandez
Alternate Seat (Expires 5/31/18)

Andrei Garcia
Regular Seat (Expires 5/31/18)

Rent Stabilization Board
William Byron Webster
Regular Seat (Expires 5/31/20)

Francisca Guzman
Regular Seat (Expires 5/31/18)

Vaea Sanft
Alternate Seat (Expires 5/31/18)

Senior Advisory Committee
Jeff Austin
Regular Seat (Expires 5/31/20)
Dixie Lee Specht Schulz
Regular Seat (Expires 5/31)

Public Works & Transportation Committee

were appointed by the East Palo Alto City Council during its May 2 regular meeting. They were appointed to the

By **Henrietta J. Burroughs**
Nine new advisory board and commission members

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More Black and Latino parents see racial inequities in school funding

By Khalil Abdullah

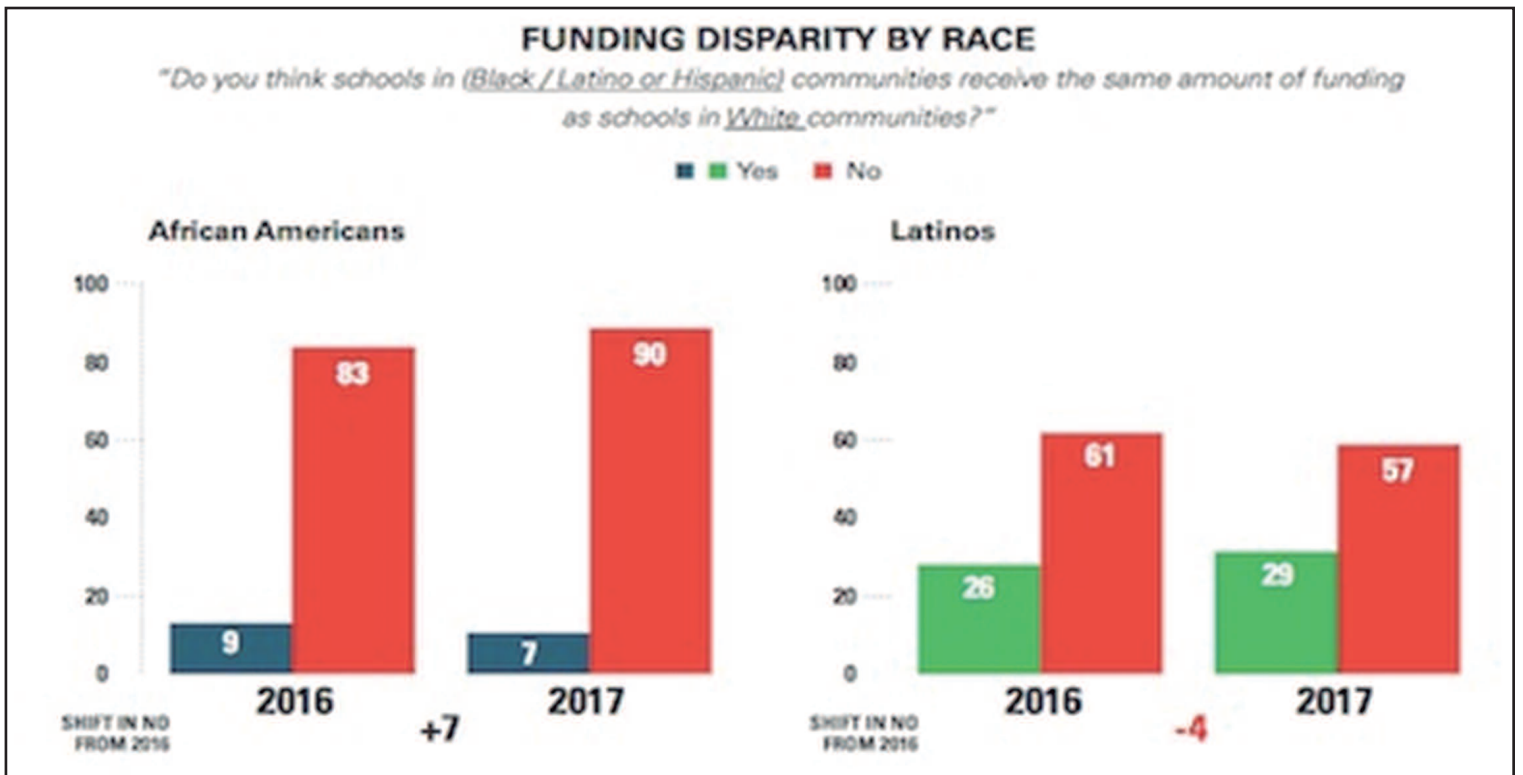
African American and Latino parents see a lack of funding as the biggest cause of racial disparities in education, according to a newly released poll by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR).

While the poll's findings are not new, they also speak to the high aspirations that black and Latino parents have for their children.

The poll, which was commissioned by The Leadership Conference Education Fund (LCEF), is significant as states have been preparing their education plans to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the successor to the No Child Left Behind Act. Developed through extensive bipartisan efforts during the Obama administration and passed in 2015, ESSA allows states greater flexibility to tailor education delivery strategies to fit their populations' unique needs.

Wade Henderson, the president and CEO of the LCCHR and LCEF, concedes that "much of what the poll reveals really isn't a surprise for us."

However, Henderson says the poll also reveals the attitudes and aspirations of the parents of black and Latino children, as well as how these parents measure success. Importantly, he notes, these are the parents of the children who, when combined, make up the majority of students



in America's public schools.

For Liz King, LCEF's director of education policy, the poll's findings are relevant given that under ESSA provisions, states must report on how education money is spent, and on whom, in compliance with federal regulations.

Matt Hogan, a partner with Anzalone Liszt Grove Research, which conducted the poll for LCEF, said very few of the parents polled were familiar with ESSA. But he notes that there's been an increase since last year in the number of black and Latino parents who believe that racism in the education system

is affecting their children negatively.

The poll also found that black and Latino parents whose children's teachers are predominantly white are more likely to believe that their schools are "not really trying" to educate students of color.

Henderson says that achieving equity in education is still an unrealized goal, despite the recent celebration of the 63rd anniversary of the Brown v. the Board of Education Supreme Court decision that desegregated America's schools.

ESSA is imperfect in Henderson's view because in giving in-

dividual states more control over education, existing discriminatory patterns against black and Latino students could become amplified. Yet, Henderson believes that ESSA offers an opportunity for parents and activists "to organize themselves to have real impact on how the local school system addresses the overall federal obligation to educate every student with meaningful equal educational opportunity."

While emphasizing the need for coalition building to achieve goals in education, Henderson said the poll's findings will inform the demand for better policies

and more equitable allocation of resources.

"We are not going to accept inferior education as the result of changes in the law," he says. "It doesn't matter, quite frankly, whether it's Betsy DeVos in the Secretary of Education's position, or someone else. The standard of accountability for federal involvement remains the same and we expect this administration to live up to its obligations."

This article by Khalil Abdullah was originally posted on the newamericamedia.org website Jun 05, 2017 and is reprinted here by permission.

New Tenant Improvement Coming

Rendering by Stereograph Inc



Visible from 101, 2100 University Avenue is a prominent feature of this East Palo Alto gateway. Jobs and subcontracting opportunities are now available to work on the build-out for its major tenant, starting in June.

Work will begin in June to prepare the new four-story, brick- and glass-clad building at 2100 University Avenue at Donohoe Street for its major tenant. The 214,000 square feet of Class A office space will be built out as an open office environment, with generous food service functions, numerous meeting and collaboration spaces, and many specialty features to accentuate the four-story atrium and skylights at its core.

The project is expected to take six months, completing in November. All field construction work will be performed by union personnel. As part of **First Source Hiring** practices, we encourage all qualified East Palo Alto workers to contact their union halls, and potential East Palo Alto subcontractor firms to inquire with Devcon Construction, Inc.



DEVCON CONSTRUCTION, INC.
 690 Gibraltar Drive
 Milpitas, California 95035
 408/942-8200
 www.devcon-const.com

Community News Briefs

East Palo Alto purchases water from Mountain View

[On June 21, the City of East Palo Alto released the following press release regarding its agreement to purchase water from Mountain View.]

Last night [June 20], the ... East Palo Alto City Council unanimously approved a Water Transfer of 1 million gallons a day (MGD) from the City of Mountain View to the City of East Palo Alto for a one-time payment of \$5 million.

Since July 2016, the City has had a moratorium in place that prohibits new or expanded water connections. The moratorium has effectively halted new development in the City, constraining the City's ability to develop greatly needed affordable housing and additional commercial development. Last night, the East Palo Alto City Council took action toward solving the water crisis by approving the Water Transfer.



Photo - publicdomainpictures.net

The \$5 million Water Transfer will be paid by:

- Three developers, the Sobrato Organization, 2020 Bay Road and The Primary School based on their projects pro rata share of their estimated water demand: \$1.53M
- The East Palo Alto General Fund: \$470K
- The Sobrato Organization reimbursement agreement: \$1M
- A Silicon Valley Community Foundation gift from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative for the Water Transfer (\$2M) and Affordable Housing in East Palo Alto (\$500K).

East Palo Alto relies solely on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), for water supply and has no storage capacity or alternative emergency supply. Despite being one of the lowest gross per capita users in the Bay Area, and the State, East Palo Alto has exceeded its 1.963 mgd annual Individual Supply Guarantee (ISG) of water for four (4) years between 2001 and 2015. A recent Water Supply Assessment identified the need for up to an additional 1.5 MGD to support the balanced growth envisioned in the City's General Plan update of 2016.

"This is a great step forward, a critical milestone towards achieving the goals of the City's General Plan," said Mayor Larry J. Moody. "Water is a fundamental necessity for a growing City, and we thank

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East Palo Alto has award-winning planning dept.

By Sean Charpentier

On June 2, 2017, the Northern California Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded an Award of Merit to the City of East Palo Alto for the East Palo Alto General Plan Update and Westside Area Plan (General Plan).

The General Plan represents a comprehensive vision of preventing the displacement of residents, protecting and increasing affordable housing, and developing balanced land



uses that improve the quality of life for residents and create jobs.

Community members were empowered through meaningful engagement, including two separate advisory committees and over 33 community outreach events. The General Plan affirmed East Palo Alto's commitment to be a City for all

people regardless of race, class, income, age, culture or sexual orientation.

A key component was the inclusion of a Health and Equity Chapter that presents the community's priorities for realizing a healthy and equitable community.

East Palo Alto Mayor Larry

Moody said "The General Plan represents the collective vision of the community and continues our leadership in affordable housing and equitable development. We are pleased that the community's vision has been recognized."

The General Plan update was made possible through a

\$1 million grant from the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC). Raimi and Associates was the planning consultant and key partner during the process.

The General Plan and Program EIR were adopted by the City Council on October 4, 2016. The General Plan is available at: <http://www.city-ofepa.org/DocumentCenter/View/3187>

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

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Outside Washington, A 'More Powerful' Immigrant Rights Movement Emerges

By Elena Shore

Immigrant rights advocates say that despite the cloud of fear hanging over communities in the first 100 days of the Trump administration, there is also a growing and increasingly organized resistance.

"We are seeing an increase in the number of people apprehended for removal," Melissa Chua, immigration director of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), told reporters on a national press call organized by New America Media and Ready California. "It's not just growing infrastructure [for future deportations]...we're seeing it in reality."

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement made 21,362 arrests from January 20 to March 13 of this year, a third more than during the same period in 2016, according to numbers requested by The Washington Post. The figures include 5,441 non-citizens with no criminal record, double the number during the same time last year.

The statistics reflect a shift in priorities from the Obama administration, which sought to prioritize certain criminals and recent arrivals for deportation. Under Trump, the deportation priorities have expanded so much that they can be used to target almost any undocumented immigrant.

Immigrant and refugee rights advocates say the effect



Photo courtesy of Elena Shore

on immigrant communities is palpable.

Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), described it as "one of the most horrendous periods in American history for immigrant families."

"What we're seeing," explained Salas, "is just a harsher way by which DHS [the Department of Homeland Security] is dealing with all matters of immigration, especially when it comes to stays of removal or requests for relief."

Over 38 percent of the individuals detained in the Feb. 9 ICE raids in Southern California, for example, had only minor infractions, many of them from years ago, according to Salas.

"The other thing that we're seeing," she said, "is that they're being harsher when it comes to individuals who had

... stays of removal.

"ICE enforcement is going back and making decisions about those cases," Salas explained. "Instead of continuing their stays of removal, they're challenging their stays of removal, their administrative closure."

Since taking office, Trump has signed executive orders that call for "sweeping changes on immigration," said Chua of IRC, adding, however, that "many of these proposed changes face some real, significant hurdles."

Some, like the construction of a border wall, can't be implemented without funding. Others have been blocked by the courts, including the administration's attempt to withhold federal funds from so-called sanctuary cities; and both versions of Trump's "travel ban," which aimed to curtail travel from certain pre-

dominantly Muslim countries and lower the number of refugees allowed admission into the United States.

"While many of the changes proposed by the administration may threaten refugees, immigrants and their families," said Chua, "there still exist some real barriers to implementation, offering some real avenues of hope for immigrant communities."

Advocates say many of these signs of hope lie outside of Washington.

"The immigrant rights movement is getting more organized, more powerful," said Salas, pointing to local and state efforts that seek to protect the rights of immigrants across the country.

"What is incredible is the many cities and schools defending immigrants," she said.

On May 1, she noted, about 30,000 people marched in the streets of Los Angeles to defend the rights of immigrants.

"California is moving forward a different vision, a different agenda," said Salas. The state

legislature has proposed various bills that seek to defend immigrants' rights, from Senate Bill 54 (the California Values Act), introduced by Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), which would prevent state and local resources from being used to cooperate with deportations, to Senate Bill 6, by Sen. Ben Hueso, D-San Diego, which would provide funding for legal services for immigrants facing deportation.

By contrast, Texas' state legislature is moving further to the right on immigration. Texas Republicans just passed Senate Bill 4, a new law signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, which threatens law enforcement with jail time if they don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

"In the mid-90s, California looked a lot like Texas does today," said Salas, when California voters passed Prop 187. That ballot measure helped get its supporter, Republican Gov. Pete Wilson, elected. But

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Photo courtesy of Max Herman

Fuera de Washington, Emerge un Movimiento "Más Poderoso" para los Derechos de los Inmigrantes



Photo courtesy of Miriam Yeung

Los defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes dicen que a pesar de la nube de temor sobre las comunidades durante los primeros 100 días del gobierno de Trump, también hay una creciente y cada vez más organizada resistencia.

"Estamos viendo un aumento en el número de personas aprehendidas para ser deportadas", dijo a periodistas Melissa Chua, directora de inmigración del Comité Internacional de Rescate (IRC), en una convocatoria de prensa nacional organizada por New America Media y Ready California. "No es sólo el crecimiento de la infraestructura [para deportaciones futuras]... lo estamos viendo en la realidad".

El Servicio de Inmigración y Aduanas de Estados Unidos realizó 21.362 arrestos entre el 20 de enero y el 13 de marzo de este año, un tercio más que durante el mismo período de 2016, según cifras solicitadas por The Washington Post. Las cifras incluyen a 5.441 personas que no son ciudadanas y sin antecedentes penales, el doble del número durante el mismo período del año pasado.

Las estadísticas reflejan un cambio en las prioridades de la administración Obama, que buscaba dar prioridad a ciertos criminales y recién llegados para la deportación. Bajo Trump, las prioridades de deportación se han expandido tanto que pueden utilizarse para dirigirse a casi

cualquier inmigrante indocumentado.

Los defensores de los derechos de inmigrantes y refugiados dicen que el efecto en las comunidades de inmigrantes es palpable.

Angélica Salas, directora ejecutiva de la Coalición por los Derechos Humanos de los Inmigrantes (CHIRLA), lo describió como "uno de los períodos más horrendos de la historia de Estados Unidos para familias inmigrantes".

"Lo que estamos viendo", explicó Salas, "es sólo una manera más dura por la cual el DHS [el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional] se ocupa de todos los asuntos de inmigración, especialmente cuando se trata de suspensiones de deportación o solicitudes de alivio".

Más del 38 por ciento de las personas detenidas en las redadas de ICE del 9 de febrero en el sur de California, por ejemplo, solamente tenían infracciones menores, muchas de ellas de hace años, según Salas.

"La otra cosa que estamos viendo", dijo, "es que están siendo más duros cuando se trata de individuos que tenían ...suspensiones de deportación".

"ICE está retrocediendo y tomando decisiones sobre esos casos", explicó Salas. "En lugar de continuar sus suspensiones de deportación, están desafiando sus suspensiones de deportación, su cierre administrativo".

Desde que asumió el cargo, Trump ha firmado ór-

denes ejecutivas que exigen "cambios radicales en la inmigración", dijo Chua del IRC, agregando, sin embargo, que "muchos de estos cambios propuestos enfrentan obstáculos reales y significativos".

Algunos, como la construcción de un muro fronterizo, no pueden ser implementados sin financiamiento. Otros han sido bloqueados por los tribunales, incluyendo el intento de la administración de retener fondos federales de las llamadas ciudades santuario; Y ambas versiones de la "prohibición de viajar" de Trump, cuyo objetivo era reducir los viajes de ciertos países predominantemente musulmanes y reducir el número de refugiados permitidos admisión a los Estados Unidos.

"Si bien muchos de los cambios propuestos por la administración pueden amenazar a los refugiados, inmigrantes y sus familias", dijo Chua, "todavía existen algunas barreras reales a la implementación, ofreciendo verdaderos caminos de esperanza para las comu-



Photo courtesy of Randy Villegas

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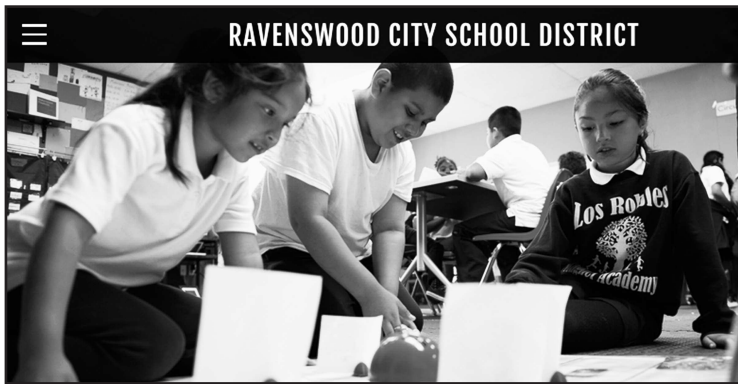
Ravenswood City School District rescinds layoff notices for some of its team members

By Rolando Bonilla

Notices were initially distributed as required by the California Education Code

After initially issuing layoff notices to 45 members of the Ravenswood City School District team, as required by the California Education Code through what is commonly referred to as March 15 notices, the District has utilized the time since the notices studying the budget and its programs for opportunities to retain team members.

Through this analysis, the District has determined that it is in a position where it can rescind some of the layoff notices distributed to Ravens-



wood team members.

"As the leader of an organization, there is no task more agonizing than having to make budget cuts," said Dr. Gloria M. Hernandez-Goff, Superintendent, Ravenswood City School District. "The adjusted budget numbers will allow us the opportunity to keep valued team members so they can continue serving the children of our community."

From a total of 45 layoff notices, the District has been able to rescind 30. Under California law, public school districts have until March 15 to send notices to teachers and

other credentialed staff that might be laid off at the end of the school year.

Today's announcement demonstrates the ambitions of a district working aggressively to move itself to a point where they are the top performing feeder district into the Sequoia Union High School District.

Earlier this month, the Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees voted in favor of approving the timeline that allows for the Ravenswood Comprehensive Middle School to open in August of 2017.

And just last week, the District announced they have selected current Menlo Park City School District Superin-

tendent, Dr. Maurice Ghysels, to serve as the District's Chief Innovation Officer, a role that will allow him the opportunity to play a critical role in the development of the new middle school.

"As difficult as change can be, I am motivated in knowing that we are doing what is in the best interest for the children of Ravenswood," said Hernandez-Goff. "Together, I have no doubt that we will get to become a district where every single child that leaves our district will eventually go on to have a successful college career."

Rolando A. Bonilla is the chief strategy officer for Voler Strategic Advisors in San Jose.

New funding available for nonprofits providing immigration services

Silicon Valley Community Foundation will begin making grants to nonprofit organizations that are working to help ensure the safety and security of local immigrants, the organization announced.

"At a time when uncertainties about federal immigration policies are running high, this new funding opportunity will help organizations offer vital services, support and information to immigrants who are vulnerable or discriminated against," said Emmett D. Carson, CEO and president of SVCF.

SVCF, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, has made supporting immigrants one of its highest institutional priorities since its founding. Through the immigration-related grants it has made, SVCF has helped thousands of immigrants in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties gain access to citizenship and legal services, and better economic opportunities through language acquisition.

This is the first time SVCF has launched a grantmaking



Photo - Kai Stachowiak

initiative focused on ensuring immigrants' safety and security. Using a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, SVCF will accept grant proposals beginning on Monday, May 1, 2017. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

The new initiative is a direct result of a strategic grantmaking review SVCF began in 2016. The review involved a series of eight community conversations about all four of SVCF's grantmaking focus areas: building strong communities, economic security, education and immigration. The review was designed to ensure that SVCF's grantmaking investments continue to be timely, impactful and relevant to the

region's residents. Additional changes to SVCF's grantmaking strategies will be announced in October at SVCF's Regional Meeting. During this process, SVCF leadership and staff heard from a wide range of local partners that Silicon Valley immigrants and their children are facing increased, open hostility. In some cases, hostility has led to confrontations and violence. Read the summary of the community conversation about immigration-related topics.

"Now more than ever, immigrants in our local communities need our support," said Manuel Santamaría, SVCF's vice president of strategic initiatives and grantmaking. "They need to understand their rights, have access to legal services, develop emergency family plans and be protected from hate crimes and discrimination."

More than one third of the 2.5 million residents of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties are immigrants and more than two thirds of those younger than 18 are children of

immigrants. Half of the region's workforce is foreign-born.

Examples of responsive projects that may be supported by this new grant opportunity include, but are not limited to:

"Know your rights" campaigns that seek to partner with community entities (schools, community centers, libraries, etc.) to inform and empower vulnerable immigrant communities;

Programs that address harassment and hate

speech/crimes that target immigrant and faith communities;

Projects that encourage preparedness plans for families, including childcare plans and financial contingency plans.

Projects promoting literacy around digital security, to safeguard information and data that could make immigrants vulnerable if the data were compromised or stolen.

Read the Request for Proposals at www.siliconvalleycfc.org website.

Cooperation or competition

deserves better than what the competition mentality, fear of success, fear of the being left behind and without mindset brings.

Fostering the competition mindset will continue the status quo where the poor continue to struggle to get out of poverty and fight among themselves for every dollar that comes into their communities. There is a concept called the "Tipping Point," which states that when a prevailing number of a species in the animal kingdom acts in the same way, then things in that community change.

In other words, when the majority of people in a community develop different values, then new behaviors take hold

and change becomes apparent.

Imagine what happens when the prevailing mindset incorporates ideas like: My success does not need to come at someone else's expense. I do not have to put someone else down to pull myself up. I do not need to displace or eliminate someone else to succeed. I can see my success in their success, because if they can do it, I can do it, too. If I succeed at my goals first, then my success can lead the way for someone else's success. We can pave the way for each other. One success can inspire the next one.

We can succeed together. Like attracts like. It is the Law of Attraction.

What happens when we

continued from page 6

change the failure mentality, the crabs in the basket mentality and transform it into one that asks, "How can my success lead to your success or how can your success lead to mine? How can we work together to see that those around us, who want to succeed at worthwhile goals, can.

The struggle for survival mentality leads to survival, but survival alone does not lead to an improved and enriched life. Changing the competition mentality to the cooperation mentality makes it better for all of us. Continuing the competition mentality continues the community's current struggles and struggles without lessons learned continue the treaded path to nowhere.

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From the Editor's Desk

Cooperation or competition: which do you value more?

Most of us are familiar with Charles Darwin's theory about the "Survival of the fittest."

Keeping this theory in mind, what conclusions can you draw about a situation where we're operating in an arena where people fight among themselves for crumbs?

I walked into a small gathering recently and introduced myself to the host, who said, "This is who you are. I used to read East Palo Alto Today until the other local publication pushed you out."



Henrietta J. Burroughs

I responded, "East Palo Alto Today is still being published."

The host said, "But I haven't seen it."

"There will be another issue next week," I said. "We still distribute it to all of the stores, churches and nonprofits."

I could have added, "East Palo Alto Today will be stronger tomorrow than it is today."

So, tell me why is it that there is the assumption that one publication has to be pushed out for another one to exist?

Why is it that in a community, which did not have a locally produced newspaper for 20 years before East Palo Alto Today was launched, some assume that if another publication comes along, then East Palo Alto Today will be eliminated?

Why is that idea even an acceptable one for this community? Why would this community be content to allow itself to have less local information outlets. People have asked me why isn't the newspaper published more often? Well, it takes money to publish a newspaper and East Palo Alto Today has always been self-funded, operating with limited resources and no paid full-time staff.

Recently, the representative of a local organization said to me, "When East Palo Alto Today comes out more often, we'll give you some money."

My response: "If you give us some money, then we'll be able to come out more often."

At a time with dwindling advertising dollars even going to the largest newspapers, how can people expect that a small community newspaper can be published as often as those that are better funded.

The miracle is that East Palo Alto Today has existed for 11 years carrying news in this community that has often been overlooked by other local newspapers for decades.

But is coming out more often the ultimate test? What about the diversity and the quality of the content? If residents want a publication to come out more often with quality content that reflects the community, then what are they doing to support what they consider

important?

Fortunately, the EPA Center which runs the paper received several grants, so it will now come out more often.

How easy it is to simply stand by and complain about what does or doesn't exist, rather than to get involved to fix what needs to be done.

Where did we get the idea that we need to constantly outdo each other, that we are each other's enemy? Why is it that the residents in low-income communities always seem to be pitted against each other and wind up struggling among themselves for crumbs?

Crumbs are paltry and are not even enough, to support those who survive the struggle, when the battle is over. This battling for crumbs is one of the reasons that some organizations in low-income communities have such a high failure rate or are not as effective as they could be.

Speaking of failure, why is it that some people seem afraid to see each other succeed? This type of mentality ends up with people pulling each other down. When will it be understood that struggling for crumbs is not sufficient, that it's not necessary to have one publication fail to have the other succeed, that we do not have to undermine the person next to us out of fear that he or she might succeed and we will be left behind?

When the way we look at ourselves changes, then our circumstances change. When we adopt positive outlooks, then we can break negative cycles.

This community deserves better than to be caught up in counterproductive cycles.

continued on page 5



Photos by Art Lim

Facebook hosted the **2017 StreetCode Academy Showcase**, which one East Palo Alto resident called simply "stupendous." The Showcase was held at Facebook's Menlo Park headquarters at 1 Hacker Way on June 13. According to StreetCode Academy's founder and executive director, Olatunde Sobomehin, the "Showcase was incredible! It was humbling to see nearly 1,000 people show up to experience our student presentations and demos. We simply could not have made this happen without your support and for that, we say THANK YOU!"

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

New Group To Focus On Job Placement and Economic Opportunity in East Palo Alto

Dear Editor:

In February, the East Palo Alto City Council approved a plan to allow Amazon to occupy the new office building at University Ave. and Donohoe St. When its doors open in several months, Amazon is set to become the city's largest employer; the company will add about 1,300 new jobs, most of which will be tech-related. The impacts of this decision on East Palo Alto's traffic patterns, housing costs, and environment did not draw much discussion at the February meeting.

What did draw the Council's attention, however, was a plan submitted by Amazon and building's developer, the Sobrato Foundation, to sidestep the City's First Source Hiring policy, which sets goals for companies to hire certain numbers of local residents. Instead, the Council allowed Amazon and Sobrato to fund an "employment center" located in the new Amazon building, which is aimed at helping EPA residents find jobs in the region. The City Council put JobTrain in charge of managing the new space. JobTrain hosted a forum last month to solicit community feedback on how it should use this new space; it has not yet released specific details since that meeting.

Some EPA residents were upset to learn that the City Council had approved this arrangement so quickly and without much input from residents. Others were concerned about the traffic and housing



Scott Hockberg

impacts that hosting so many new workers will create. Still more had hoped for a fuller dialogue with Amazon, to see what a robust partnership with the community might have looked like.

After all, there are important questions here: What should it mean when tech companies set up shop in East Palo Alto? How can those companies support the City's need for good job opportunities, and how can local residents help them achieve their business goals? How can residents make sure that this same situation doesn't happen again the next time a new company leases space in EPA, so that there is time to have an inclusive discussion with the community about these issues?

At least one of those questions has an easy answer. This same sequence of events is going to repeat itself the next time a new company comes into town unless there is a group of well-organized residents waiting for them. Residents need to come together to brainstorm how they want these sort of deals to happen in the future. What should the community ask from companies that come to East Palo Alto? What should the City Council demand to know from

companies before approving deals? How can we help East Palo Alto residents access quality jobs, whether in tech or other industries?

We are in the process of forming a group to address these issues, both now and in the coming years. That group could develop a vision and strategy for achieving economic opportunities for all East Palo Alto residents. It could meet with developers when they are still in the planning stages of new projects and propose ideas that would benefit the community. It could help oversee the new Amazon/Job-Train employment center and make sure it is working according to plan. And it could even work on longer-term goals, like raising the City's minimum wage and reforming the First Source Hiring policy.

We want you to be involved with this. You don't need to be experienced in any of these issues, and you don't need to have been involved up to this point. We are looking for a diverse group of people to help guide this process.

All that's needed is a willingness to think through these issues with us and a desire to help EPA residents connect with the economic opportunities they need.

We have tentatively scheduled a first meeting of this new group for the evening of July 6, location TBD. Please reach out to me for more information, either before or after the meeting. I hope to see you soon.

Scott Hockberg is a workers' rights attorney at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto. You can reach him at (650) 391-0359 or shochberg@clsepa.org.

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

Actions are no more than racial profiling

By **Lucayo Casillas**

Earlier this month, Chester Prince, a long time resident in East Palo Alto was harassed by police officers in the city. Here is what he had to say about the situation:

I begin to look at this and think about it...that this was no more than racial profiling that happens often in this community by those who are supposed to be serving and protecting. Its one thing if a crime is being committed, but a citizen in his lawful duty, working to support himself, can't go around and do his business every evening?

Something is wrong. And it angered me. It made me feel like I'm somewhere on the Gaza strip. These so called police officers, and I call them slave-catch-



Chester Prince

ers and I'm not going to change it, continue to abuse their power.

They stopped me from doing my business because I'm Black. I could have written a letter to the police chief and heard his lies, I could have written a letter to the mayor that lacks leadership, but I want to let them know here that not everyone is scared of them.

It seems like this community is in a pot of water, the fire is continually turned up, and it doesn't

even know that its boiling. Oh they go on with their politeness at social affairs, but underneath the curtain is the turmoil that exists in this community.

I am not the first person that they stopped like this. There have been many that have been stopped. Maybe some don't come forth, maybe they're scared, but I'm not scared, and I'm not going to be intimidated by anyone. And like I said at the city council meeting, what ever happens to someone in this community, if they're gunned down by the police, its on the mayor's head.

Time and time I have told him that he needs to have an honest community meeting, with the chief there, and some of the council members to hear the

concerns of the community. Where are the police when people are riding down university 50-60 miles an hour? But they're riding around here at night like a pack of jackals waiting to pounce on someone who isn't even breaking the law.

Am I angry? Yes, I'm angry. If you're a Black person living here in America, with all the things you hear and see going on every day, and you don't have any anger in you, you're dead inside. You have no feelings, if it doesn't affect you. I know what the police were looking for. They were looking to see if I was drunk, if I was driving with a suspended license, if I had warrants out on me, something like that.

That goes on everyday in this community. And no one says

anything about it. If some people are offended that I call the police slave-catchers, they need to go back and read history, because the first police were slave-catchers.

They paid them 100 dollars for runaway slaves that they brought back, and they paid the Native American 20 dollars for every Black slave they had brought. So, understanding that, that's why I refer to them as slave catchers. Because most of the time, they catch some brother or sister that just got out, and they catch them and put them back on the plantations that are called jails. I can't help if people don't understand this. And I don't care if anybody stands with me or not. I always stood by my-

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Failed leadership is the real issue

By **EPAKM**

Recently, the Ravenswood Teachers Association called for the resignation of Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff. In their letter they cite her lack of transparency, inability to manage, the legal predicaments she has put the district in, and the hostile work environment created for all those around her.

While Dr. Hernandez-Goff and Trustee Sharifa Wilson would have the community believe that this is simply the union playing politics, resisting change, and trying to get more money, that is simply not true.

As you read the letter written by the Ravenswood Teachers Association and the articles that have followed

money has never been an issue discussed by their President Ronda White or any of the teachers interviewed.

You will also notice that not once has any teacher said they do not want the middle school nor have they said they do not want change. Throughout the letter, there is one clear issue: failed leadership.

Dr. Hernandez-Goff has made a series of decisions over the years that have proven she makes poor decisions. A person with such poor decision making skills should not be in charge of our children's future or a multi-million dollar budget. That same poor decision-making process is going to turn the new middle school into a dis-



Graphic courtesy of EPAKM

astrous adventure for students, families, teachers, and all involved.

When a gas line ruptured at Costaño last year shutting off the heat and plunging temperatures into the low 50's, it took EPA Kids Matter alerting the media for Dr. Hernandez-Goff to do the right thing and close school.

These extremely low temperatures were a violation of

the Williams Act, which states that classroom temperatures must fall between 65 and 80 degrees, and far below the OSHA recommendations of a minimum of 68 degrees in the workplace.

While 30% of classified staff are being laid off, Dr. Hernandez-Goff's son, who has one felony conviction and two D.U.I. convictions still has a job at the district office. Many of the classified staff being pink slipped live in EPA and in some cases went to Ravenswood Schools themselves when they were younger.

When a water line ruptured at Los Robles and Green Oaks/Cesar Chavez Academies parents were not informed. Even though there were no functioning toilets or

ways to wash hands, Dr. Hernandez-Goff decided to push forward with school. It was not until employees filed OSHA complaints, community members alerted the news media, and Dr. Hernandez-Goff realized she was yet again caught breaking the law that she decided to do the right thing and cancel school.

These are just a few examples in which Dr. Hernandez-Goff has shown that she refuses to listen to her staff and believes that she personally knows what is best for students. For someone who often touts themselves as a person who involves her staff and creates a collaborative environment, she often ignores her staff and makes

continued on page 12

The Kennedy Plan c2017 - Making America Great Again

By **Steven Kennedy**

America has several problems which prevent true greatness and which threaten our future and our quality of life. The catch is that the solution requires some outside-of-the-box thinking by politicians, farmers, captains of industry, diplomats, environmentalists, sportsmen and Indian Tribes. There is no shortage of legal, bureaucratic, ethnic and financial challenges to overcome to get this project started.

These water issues must be addressed sooner rather than later. According to the Associated Press, our President could face the prospect of Colorado River water supply cuts to Arizona and Nevada as soon as January of 2018. The bottom line is that we can't feed our nation's addiction to immigrant labor, export food,

nor have food security, without adequate supplies of water. A wall is not a solution. Money is better invested elsewhere. Again, there is no shortage of legal, bureaucratic, ethnic and financial challenges to overcome to get this project started. Cross border oil pipelines that threaten rivers, sacred lands and municipal reservoirs are insignificant in the larger picture. The alternative to water development is to have a nation that functions like Haiti, where more and more desperate immigrants, cut more and more trees until they are all gone and the topsoil of a millennia washes out to sea. Haiti is in a death spiral despite everything NGO's can do to help. We don't need to take America down that path.

We must discuss the following 6 problems and demand civil discussion of water



Steven Kennedy

issues by visionary and knowledgeable presidential candidates in all three North American countries. Marc Reisner's book, "Cadillac Desert - The American West and its Disappearing Water", should be required reading in every high school civics class in North America

To make a long story short, the wheels of legislation in Congress used to be lubricated with water projects for flood control, irrigation and hy-

dropower. A deep South congressman got a harbor dredging project if he voted for a Western congressman's dam. Without a decent dam site in the lower 48 states since the late 1950's, we must look further afield to find infrastructure projects which get congressmen talking to each other again across the aisle. In any country, if agriculture has problems, the whole country has problems. Half of this country's food (and a good portion of Canada's) comes from the Great Central Valley. Let's look at some real problems and start there.

Problem number one is rather mundane but not impossible to solve. The San Joaquin Valley needs a master drain to draw off the salts that irrigation leaves behind. A lot of land has already become too salt encrusted to farm. Hun-

dreds of thousands of acres of prime farmland will permanently go out of production in our lifetimes if this salt is not drained away. If we don't drain.... We won't farm. It's that simple. This salt and chemical laden drain water can be diluted and flushed out through the delta and San Francisco Bay or continued to be stored in festering mini-Kesterton's on the back forty of farms all across the San Joaquin Valley, out of sight and out of mind. (Another option that bypasses SF Bay is a gravity fed, waste-water tunnel through the coast range.) Huge amounts of water will be needed to flush any drain that we build. The lower San Joaquin River has often been described as the colon of the Central Valley. Restoring it as a functioning river

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Lifecycles *A Celebration of Life*

Barrie Skinner - Sunrise: July 27, 1944 Sunset: June 2, 2017

Barrie Skinner died of pancreatic cancer on June 2, 2017 at her home in East Palo Alto. She is survived by Loren Courtland Skinner, II, her husband, Heidi Jill Graham, daughter, Nicole Sherry Pelton, daughter, and Loren C. Skinner, III, son and Ronald and Todd Shuffler, her brothers. She had five grandchildren, Ivy Skinner, Chris Skinner, Jordan Graham, Keegan Pelton and Donovan Pelton.

Barrie graduated in 1966 with a B.S. in Math from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of 18 women



Barrie Skinner

in a class of nearly 1000. After moving to Arizona in 1966 and having a family, she and husband, Court, moved to California where Court got a job working for American

Microsystems, Inc. an early member of the budding semi-

conductor industry. She decided to go to work when Ralph Vaerst of Ion Equipment Corporation offered her a job selling ion implanters. She subsequently worked for a number of companies that served the semiconductor

manufacturing business including Nikon and Horiba Instruments, Inc. She always took care of her customers and earned their respect as well as that of her competitors. As at M.I.T. she succeeded in an environment dominated by men and was a role model for many young women who succeeded her in the business.

She retired at 65, shortly after moving to East Palo Alto, CA. She worked for a while at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto and for the East Palo Alto Senior Center and then with her husband also retired she followed a long term dream of traveling to interesting places around the world -

Australia to view an eclipse of the sun, Paris to listen to William Webster's opera, Austria, Barcelona, Majorca, Italy and finally Morocco in northern Africa.

She loved to tell stories. Her quick wit and cheerful smile will be missed by her family and friends around the world.

Her memorial service was on Tuesday June 13, 2017 (which would have been Court and Barrie's 52nd wedding anniversary) from 5 - 7 PM at Jones Mortuary and there was a reception (with food) at The House of Bigger Girls (Marilyn Scott's place at 2261 Clarke Avenue) following the service.

Edna Earl Farmer - Sunrise: April 21, 1918 Sunset: April 22, 2017



On April 21, 1918, Edna Earl Farmer was born to the late Will and Lucy Bolden in Halls, Tennessee. Early in life, she confessed a hope in Christ and was baptized at Mt. Zion Bap-

tist Church. She was a faithful member and served as an usher. Mt. Zion was also where she received her education.

Edna moved her family to Marked Tree, Arkansas, where she met and married John C. Farmer.

To this union seven children were born. Edna and her family then relocated to Memphis, Tennessee, and later to South San Francisco, then to Menlo Park, and eventually settled in East Palo Alto, California on Emmett Way.

She was a member of Pilgrim Baptist Church in San Mateo, California, and later joined Macedonia Baptist Church in Menlo Park, California, where she faithfully served in various positions within the church.

She loved spending time with her family, telling old family stories; and she also enjoyed taking care of children to whom she kept in contact with until she went home to be with the Lord. Edna also loved to teach her grandchildren about the bible, especially the book of Psalms.

She worked for Doctor and Mrs. Robert Spitzer for over 40 years before retiring. In the community, she attended the East Palo Alto Senior Center,

where she helped serve the senior community.

Edna Earl was very direct, and would not hesitate to offer her opinion on anything. She

would tell you exactly what she thought; she would say, "if you're right, the Lord will fight your battle!"

To cherish her memories, she leaves her daughter, Geneva; her sons, Willie and Gary; twenty-three grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren, twenty-nine great great grandchildren, and six great-great-great grandchildren. Her children, Lucille, Robert Earl, John, and Erma preceded her in death. Edna Earl will be remembered by a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Henrietta Tillery - Sunrise: June 30, 1948 Sunset: April 19, 2017

Henrietta Tillery, known as "Nana", was born June 30, 1948. She was employed at Stanford Hospital for 30 years. She loved to travel and spend time with her friends and family.

Henrietta attended the church of Christ, 1215 Laurel Avenue, in East Palo Alto. She was loved by friends and family, and departed this life on April 19, 2017. Henrietta is survived by her son,

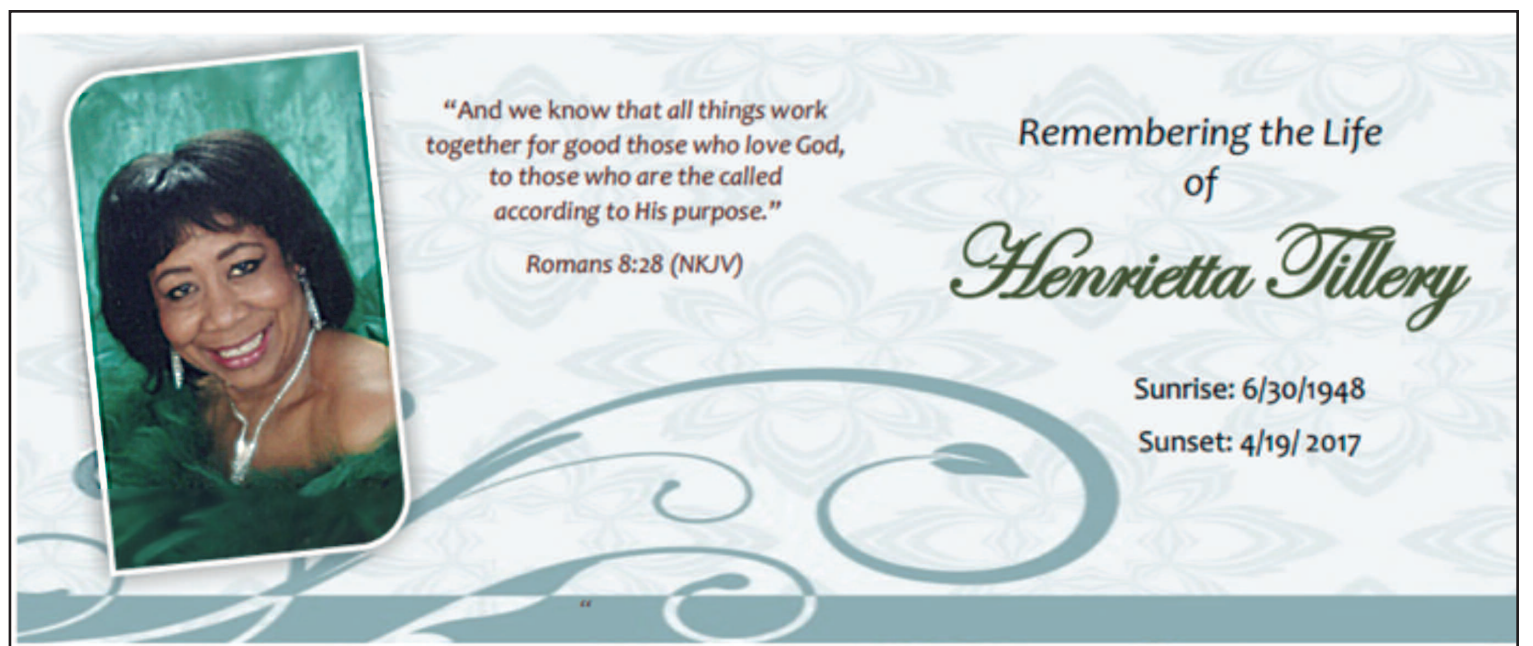
Anthony Hendricks, and her grandchildren: Anthony Hendricks Jr.,

Antoinette Hendricks, Lejon Hendricks, Jasmine Hendricks, Antwan Hendricks, Trayvon Hendricks and Drevon Hendricks.

Special Thanks to Jones Tillery.

Missing You...

We missed you yesterday,



we are missing you today,

We will miss you tomorrow, we will miss you forever.

Instead of missing you with pain,

We miss you with the knowl-

edge;

We will see you again, see your smile. hear your voice,

Feel your embrace, smell your scent.

We missed you yesterday,

we are missing you today,

We will miss you tomorrow, we will miss you forever.

We look forward to the day when we see you again.

Until then, we'll remember you always, we will love you

forever.

Spoken and Edited by Trayvon And Drevon Hendricks

Original Poem by Rosalita Fernandez

Lifecycles

Honoring Midge Dorn: A life of Service

By Henrietta J. Burroughs

On April 4, 2017, Midge Dorn was recognized with a proclamation in her honor by the East Palo Alto City Council for her years of "dedicated service" to the residents of

East Palo Alto community. Dorn also received recognition from federal and state officials as well as from local organizations. Representatives from the Rent Stabilization Board, the Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier, the Office of State Senator Jerry Hill, the

Office of Assemblyman Marc Berman and the East Palo Alto Council of Tenants also presented plaques and words of praise. According to the city proclamation, Dorn was honored for the following reasons: After she and her family moved to East Palo Alto in

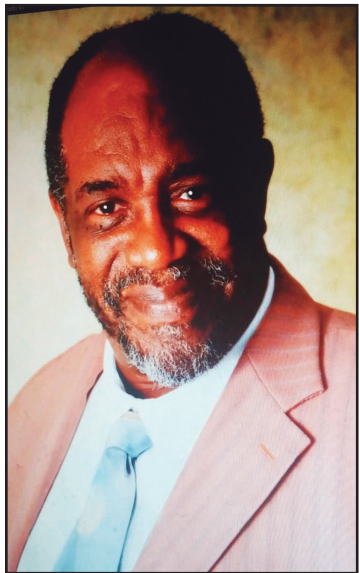


After all of the proclamations were read, it was time for pictures. Here Dorn is surrounded by, from left, Robert Allen, William Webster, Council member Ruben Abrica and Elizabeth Jackson.

1980, she joined with other community residents, as a member of the East Palo Alto Committee on City Incorpora- tion (EPACCI), in order to secure local control of local gov-

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LeRoy Tobias Character Sunrise: August 23, 2017 Sunset: May 23, 2017



LeRoy Tobias Character

LeRoy Tobias Character, 69, died Tuesday, May 23, 2017 peacefully at home with family. He leaves his wife of 18 years, Patsy (Wagner) Character; his brother Ronald J. Character; his sister Lexie T. Character; his children, grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, loved ones and close friends. Born and raised in San Francisco, CA, the eldest son of LT and Eunice (Hall) Character, he was a lifelong resident of the San Francisco Bay Area. Mr. Character served multiple decades in the San Francisco Fire Department. He achieved

the rank of Lieutenant and was recognized as the "Fireman of the Decade" for saving multiple lives (one of which was a fellow firefighter). After retiring from the SFFD and addressing internal challenges, Mr. Character embarked on a journey that would lead him to help hundreds of people. Mr. Character spent the remainder of his working years holding leadership positions with Project 90 and other agencies whose mission it is to facilitate patients through the substance abuse recovery process. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June

3, 2017 at Mt. Olive Apostolic Original Holy Church of God, 605 Hamilton Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

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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Talitali lelei e kau mahaki fo'ou, lesisita leva he 'aho ni.

Pediatric | Women's Health | Family Practice | Dental | Behavioral Health | Optometry | Radiology | Pharmacy

Children's animal camp coming to EPA

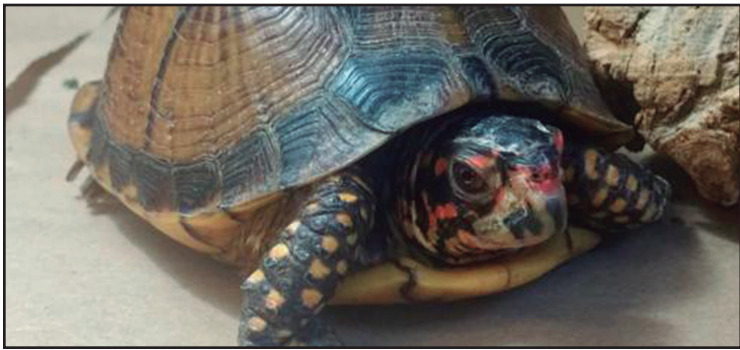


Photo courtesy of PHS/SPCA
Tortoise, you can walk slowly. What's the hurry anyway?

By PHS/SPCA

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) is offering a free Animal Camp to children ages 9-12 years old who live in East Palo Alto and sur-

rounding areas starting July 3rd through July 7th. Camp will not take place on July 4th.

"For years we've held our Animal Camps at our shelter, but realized many children may not be able to make it to our shelter every day, so we

have taken the camp on the road to the East Palo Alto area," said PHS/SPCA Communications Manager Buffy Martin Tarbox.

Animal Camp is an opportunity for youth to learn more about animal welfare, interact with animals and have fun making pet toys and other crafts. The camp will be held at Willow Oaks School, 620 Willow Road, Menlo Park in the Ravenswood City School District. Enrollment is free and open to youth aged 9- 12 years old and is based on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Our camps are designed to not only be educational, but fun too," according to

Martin Tarbox. "We want to be able to provide attention to each camper, so we limit our camp to only twenty children."

Animal Camp runs from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Each camper will need to bring a

brown bag lunch, but snacks and drinks will be provided by PHS/SPCA.

To apply, visit www.peninsulahumanesociety.org/animalcamp or call Kylynn Pelkey at 650-340-7022 ext. 369.



Photo courtesy of PHS/SPCA
As you look at them, doesn't it look as if these animals have an eye on you, too?

SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE A CITIZENS BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 2016 REPORT TO COMMUNITY

Contact Person: Matthew Zito, Chief Facilities Officer

The Citizens Bond Oversight Committee has issued its report for calendar year 2016 on the \$265,000,000 Measure A bond approved by the voters on June 3, 2014. Members of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee are pleased to report to the community the bond funds are being spent in accordance with the bond language approved by voters. Complete financial information is available on the District website at www.seq.org.

Sequoia Union High School District contracted with Chavan and Associates to perform the required Proposition 39/Measure A audit report. The audit covered fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 which was reviewed by the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee on April 4, 2017. The audit examined internal control over financial reporting, and other matters to include verifying that the bond proceeds were deposited in the District's name, that they were invested in accordance with applicable legal requirements, and tested approximately 82% of the 2015-16 expenditures to ensure they were valid, allowable and accurate. The audit determined that the District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the Proposition 39/Measure A bond program for the fiscal year ending, June 30, 2016.

Construction and renovations projects currently underway are:

- Carlmont New Classroom Building (10 classrooms)
- Carlmont Weight Room Addition
- Menlo-Atherton New Classroom Building (21 classrooms)
- Menlo-Atherton New STEM Classroom and Food Services Building
- Sequoia Music Building Renovation
- Redwood High -New Classroom Building and Gymnasium
- Woodside New Classroom Building (10 classrooms)

Construction and renovation projects completed:

- Carlmont Kitchen and MPR Upgrades
- Menlo-Atherton Guidance Office renovation
- Sequoia New Classroom Building (10 classrooms)
- Sequoia New Culinary Arts and Multi-Use classroom
- East Palo Alto Academy, New Gymnasium

Construction and renovation projects planned are:

- Menlo-Atherton Soccer Field Renovation (new synthetic turf)
- Sequoia Practice Field w/Lights Renovation (new synthetic turf) and Pool lights / Canopy
- New Small High School (TIDE Academy) at 150 Jefferson Drive, Menlo-Park (15 classrooms)

The \$265M million is being issued in conformance with the district's timeline for construction projects. The first bond proceeds were received October 22, 2014 in the amount of \$112,000,000. The District sold its second series of bonds in November 22, 2016 in the amount of \$120,000,000. The remaining bond authority is \$33,000,000.

John Violet, Chair of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee presented a report to the Sequoia Union High School District's, Board of Trustees on May 10, 2017 regarding the committee's proceeding and activities. That report is available at www.seq.org for calendar year 2016.

MEASURE A CITIZENS BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- John Violet, Chairperson
- Janet Hart, Vice Chairperson
- Kim Steinjann, Secretary (resigned)
- Jerry Carlson
- Ernesto Jasso
- Diane Peterson
- Susie Peyton

Change Your Thinking, Improve Your Life

See this new edition of
Talking with Henrietta

For information, see
www.epatoday.org/tv.html

EAST PALO ALTO LIBRARY SUMMER LEARNING CHALLENGE 2017

WEEKLY PROGRAMS!

Free Lunch and Snacks Monday-Friday!

June 19 - August 11
Lunch 12 - 12:30 pm
Snack 3:45 - 4:15 pm

Weekly Raffles! June - August

Visit the library to enter!

Touchpoints Storytime

Ages 0 - 3
Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Pajama Storytime

All ages
Tuesdays 7:00 pm

SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Juggling Workshop!

Monday June 19, 4 pm

Pajama Storytime Cooking Class!

Tuesday June 20, 7pm

Upcycled Circus Workshop!

Design and build your own
props.
Thursday June 29, 12 pm

Slow Cooking for Kids!

Monday July 10, 1 pm

Clay Workshop!

Thursday July 13, 4 pm

Hip Hop Dance Workshop! Hip Hop! with the Alphabet Rockers!

Saturday July 15, 1 pm

Edible Adventures!

Monday July 24, 12 pm

Didgeridoo Down Under!

Wednesday July 26, 4 pm

Jungle James and animal Friends!

Saturday August 1st, 1 pm

Yoga Storytime!

Friday August 4, 1 pm

Kenn Adam's Adventure Theater!

Saturday August 5, 11 am

Pajama Storytime Presents: Andrés I23!

Tuesday August 1, 7 pm

For more fun activities for all ages, check out our website:
smcl.org/eastpaloalto

EPA celebrates its 7th annual Reading Bonanza

By Elizabeth Real

Booths representing several community organizations lined Bell Street Park on a warm, sunny day on May 13 as East Palo Alto held its 7th annual Reading Bonanza. Many families gathered—more than 2500 people—to indulge in free food, raffle prizes, and most importantly, free books!

Marlayna Tuiasosopo-Gordon, the founder of the Reading Bonanza reported that 893 kids registered at the check-in booths and 10,000+ free books were given out.

Many books were placed on sheets on the floor and were available for anyone to take home.



Photo by Elizabeth Real

Children were also given the opportunity to read books aloud and even write their own stories at the Jump into Writing booth. On their website, jumpintolearning.org, Jump into Writing is an organization which hosts workshops for students, including gifted, English Language

Learners, and those with special needs.

Another community organization in attendance was Youth United for Community Action (YUCA). Their booth featured children books that focused on the topic of social justice. Two of the books on their table were titled A is for

Activist by Innosanto Nagara and We March by Shane W. Evans.

This year's Reading Bonanza was co-sponsored by Facebook, the City of East Palo Alto, Bring Me a Book and East Palo Alto's Children Day.

Other organizations in attendance included JobTrain, Streetcode Academy, and the EPA Police Department.

Towards the end of the event, the Mid Pen Media Center and EPA Bayshore Rotary Club hosted a spelling bee in which middle school and high school students competed. Students lined up on stage and took turns spelling out words until two winners were named. Gene-

sis Hautau, age 12, a 6th grade home schooled East Palo Alto resident won the middle school portion. Malaeti'a Misa, age 16, a 10th grade student at Capuchino High School won the high school portion. Each winner was awarded a Mac Laptop, which were donated by Facebook.

Some of the raffle prizes were donated by Toys R' Us, Home Depot, and the Tech Museum of Innovation.

Drinks and snacks were given out all day and they were supplied by New Beginnings Community Church, Second Harvest Food Bank, PAL Market and Cafe Zoe.

Outside Washington

it led to an even bigger backlash against the GOP in the state, and is largely credited with the mobilization of Latino voters who have changed the face of California politics.

"Our community [in California] became engaged," Salas said.

Texas, which has the nation's second-largest Latino population after California, could see a similar backlash. "What we're seeing in Texas is the same kind of mobilization," she said.

Meanwhile, immigrant rights advocates are helping their communities stay informed.

"There are many families that are afraid," said Adriana Guzman, immigrant outreach coordinator with Faith in Ac-

tion Bay Area. "Our message to them is that there are steps they can take right now."

Guzman said she is encouraging individuals to talk to a trusted legal services provider to see if they qualify for immigration relief, to make a family preparedness plan, including who will take care of children if something happens to their parents, and to carry the number of a trusted immigration attorney they can call in case of an emergency.

Most importantly, Guzman said, individuals should know that they have certain rights under the U.S. Constitution, regardless of their immigration status. These include the right to remain silent, the right to not open the door to agents without a warrant

continued from page 4

signed by a judge, the right to speak to a lawyer and make a phone call, and to not sign anything they don't understand or that isn't true.

"Thousands of community outreach workers are spanning their communities, delivering Know Your Rights presentations," said Salas of CHIRLA. From helping eligible immigrants become citizens and register to vote, to protesting in the streets and supporting legal challenges in the courts, she said, immigrant rights advocates have been able to "make a statement in these very difficult days."

[Editor's note - This article is reprinted with the permission of New America Media.]

Fuera de Washington

nidades inmigrantes".

Los defensores dicen que muchos de estos signos de esperanza están fuera de Washington.

"El movimiento por los derechos de los inmigrantes es cada vez más organizado y más poderoso", dijo Salas, señalando los esfuerzos locales y estatales que buscan proteger los derechos de los inmigrantes en todo el país.

"Lo que es increíble son las muchas ciudades y escuelas que defienden a los inmigrantes", dijo.

El 1 de mayo, señaló, cerca de 30.000 personas marcharon en las calles de Los Ángeles para defender los derechos de los inmigrantes.

"California está avanzando una visión diferente, una agenda diferente", dijo Salas. La legislatura estatal ha propuesto varios proyectos de ley que tratan de defender los derechos de los inmigrantes, desde el proyecto de ley SB54

(el Acta de Valores de California), presentado por el presidente del Senado Pro Tempore Kevin de León (D-Los Ángeles), que buscaría prevenir que recursos estatales y locales se utilicen para cooperar con las deportaciones, al proyecto de ley SB6, por el Senador Ben Hueso, D-San Diego, que proveería financiamiento para servicios legales para inmigrantes que enfrentan la deportación.

Por el contrario, la legislatura estatal de Texas está avanzando hacia la derecha en materia de inmigración. Los republicanos de Texas acaban de aprobar el proyecto de ley SB4, una nueva ley firmada por el gobernador republicano Greg Abbott, que amenaza a las fuerzas del orden con ser encarcelados si no cooperan con las autoridades federales de inmigración.

"A mediados de los años 90, California se parecía mucho al Texas de hoy", dijo

continued from page 4

Salas, cuando los votantes de California aprobaron la Proposición 187. Esa medida ayudó a que su partidario, el gobernador republicano Pete Wilson, fuera elegido. Pero resultó en una reacción aún mayor contra el Partido Republicano en el estado, y es en gran parte acreditado con la movilización de los votantes latinos que han cambiado la cara de la política de California.

"Nuestra comunidad [en California] se comprometió", dijo Salas.

Texas, que tiene la segunda población latina más grande del país después de California, podría ver una reacción similar. "Lo que estamos viendo en Texas es el mismo tipo de movilización", dijo.

Mientras tanto, los defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes están ayudando a mantener informadas a sus comunidades.

"Hay muchas familias que tienen miedo", dijo Adriana

Guzmán, coordinadora de alcance a inmigrantes con Fe en Acción en el Área de la Bahía. "Nuestro mensaje para ellos es que hay medidas que pueden tomar ahora".

Guzmán dijo que está animando a las personas a hablar con un proveedor de servicios legales de confianza para ver si califican para alivio migratorio, para hacer un plan de preparación familiar, incluyendo quién se hará cargo de los niños si algo les sucede a sus padres y llevar el número de un abogado de inmigración de confianza al que pueden llamar en caso de una emergencia.

Lo que es más importante, dijo Guzmán, es que las personas deben saber que tienen ciertos derechos bajo la Constitución de los Estados Unidos, sin importar

su estatus migratorio. Estos incluyen el derecho a permanecer en silencio, el derecho a no abrir la puerta a los agentes sin una orden firmada por un juez, el derecho de hablar con un abogado y hacer una llamada telefónica, y de no firmar nada que no entienda o que no es cierto.

"Miles de trabajadores comunitarios están saliendo a sus comunidades, ofreciendo presentaciones de conozca sus derechos", dijo Salas de CHIRLA. De ayudar a los inmigrantes elegibles a convertirse en ciudadanos y registrarse para votar, a protestar en las calles y apoyar los desafíos legales en los tribunales, dijo, los defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes han sido capaces de "mandar un mensaje en estos días muy difíciles."

The SOBRATO Organization

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The Sobrato Organization is dedicated to building a strong Silicon Valley community through business and philanthropic leadership.

We are looking for a Full Time Non-Exempt **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to the Property Management Team, with a part-time presence at the 2100 University Ave, East Palo Alto project.

QUALIFICATIONS include College degree and/or previous administrative experience. Candidates should also have great written and verbal communication skills and demonstrate the ability to organize and prioritize workloads. Experience with Microsoft Office and Outlook required, ability to work in a team environment and have the ability to travel to other locations throughout the Bay Area.

Resumes shall be submitted directly to Kathi Uribe Sr. Human Resources Manager at kuribe@sobrato.com.

Democratic leader observes the fifth anniversary of DACA

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi released the following statement to mark the fifth anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals initiative, established by President Obama on June 15, 2012:



U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi

"Our nation's DREAMers want nothing more than to earn degrees, join the workforce and openly contribute their talents to

make our country a stronger and better place. Five years ago, President Obama made

that dream possible with the DACA initiative, which sent a strong message to the world that, by bringing their hopes, courage and determination to succeed to our shores, immigrants make America more American.

"Yet, for years, House Republicans have tried to dismantle DACA, while at the same time refusing to work toward responsible reform of our broken immi-

gration system. Now, the Trump Administration, with its harmful anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric, has joined their efforts.

DREAMERS – neighbors, friends, students and family members – are being targeted, rounded up and, in many cases, arbitrarily deported. Families in immigrant communities are forced to live in fear and, too often, heartbreak.

"DACA honors our founding

creed – 'E Pluribus Unum' – and our fundamental belief that America is a land of opportunity for those who work hard, abide by our laws and dare to dream.

House Democrats will never forget that in diversity lies strength, and we will never stop fighting to protect our nation's children from the Trump Administration's mass deportation agenda."

Failed leadership

unilateral decisions that are not in the best interest of students or staff and do not have the support of the broader community.

Now, Ravenswood City School District is on the verge of putting Dr. Hernandez-Goff in charge of launching a multi-million dollar project of creating a new school. Her and the newly appointed principal (there was no posting and no interview process for this position) have presented to the community and staff the plan for the new school.

In this plan, they are publicizing and honors track for kids, new electives, foreign languages, and a robust P.E. program. However, if you dig deeper and ask about the curriculum, there will be no answers. It is June and the school has no name, no honors course curriculum (in fact, the honors track has been scrapped for the 2017-2018 school year), has a regular curriculum that has only been used for one year (and had many roadblocks and pitfalls to it), has no master schedule, has no staff hired (except

the appointed principal), has a massive facilities plan that in unattainable and a waste of money, and has generally no direction. How can a school function if there is no plan for these things?

What is that plan? Ravenswood City School District has hired former Superintendent Maurice Ghysels to be the Chief Innovation Officer and lead this effort. On the surface this seems like a good plan. Bring in someone who knows what they are doing and have them take charge. Then you dig just slightly deeper and realize that this is a former superintendent that himself has a somewhat embattled past. The problem is, it's too late at this point. The school year is only two months away and there are 7 teachers who still need to be hired. The curriculum is not ready. Too many facilities upgrades need to happen.

The school is going to launch and it will be mediocre at best! This is a ridiculous idea. Ravenswood City School District has a superintendent,



whom they pay over \$220,000 a year for in salary and benefits. The launch of this school is her responsibility, but since she can't do the job adequately she is going to bring in another controversial figure to do the job for her. But "don't worry" she will tell the community, "Facebook will pay for it."

So, again, you might say well OK, then it isn't going to cost the district any money. But then you have to think to yourself, if Dr. Hernandez-Goff were doing her job, what else could this generous donation go toward? It could go toward purchase of an elementary literacy curriculum, or

a robust professional development program that incentivizes teachers to stay, reducing turnover rates. The possibilities are endless.

The point here is this: while on the

surface this seems like a somewhat stable plan, it is simply a façade meant to cover-up Dr. Hernandez-Goff's incompetence as a manager and leader and it is being aided and abetted by our current Board of Education.

They're complacency and lack of desire to investigate complaints against Dr. Hernandez-Goff are troubling and the voters of East Palo Alto should be critical when they go to the voting both next election cycle. In the meantime, the community should be standing up to the school board and asking them how they can stand-by while our students suffer at the

continued from page 7

hands of an ineffective leader who puts their child's health and safety at risk without as much as sending out an auto-dialed call.

The community and teachers do want change, they are not afraid it. Something was not handled right and everyone should take a step back and understand how such an uproar occurred over something that is being advertised as such a collaborative and community effort.

Parents and community members should be coming to board meetings to express their outrage and demand that this school get done right. The Superintendent and some board members realize that many staff members do not live and vote in EPA so they do not care about their voice, but they will care about your voice!

They will care what the voters of EPA have to say and they should no longer stand for their tax dollars being squandered so carelessly.

EPAKM represents a group called East Palo Alto Kids Matter.

The Kennedy Plan

will flush salts and restore what was once a thriving salmon fishery.

Problem number two is that San Joaquin Valley farmers are rapidly draining the aquifer. This is water that has accumulated since the last ice age, being drained in the geological blink of an eye. A farmer can easily drop the water table 3 feet in a single growing season, while nature puts back a half an inch. The canal along I-5 that takes Feather River water from Lake Oroville down the length of the San Joaquin Valley is buckling as the land sinks. The State Water Project's California Aqueduct is a crucial piece of infrastructure. The water that San Joaquin Valley farmers need to feed the nation flows right past them on its way up hill towards the power and money of Southern California.

Problem number three is the massive amount of electricity used by the pumps that lift water from the canal over the Tehachapi Mountain Range. Some of this energy is recovered as the water flows down the other side into Lake Perris but



Photo - Pixabay.com
Pipes at Tehachapi

these pumps are easily the largest consumers of electricity in California. This electricity is needed to power a growing fleet of electric cars and a growing population.

Problem number four is that the Colorado River is over tapped. The flow was over estimated in a particularly wet year back in 1921, which means the Colorado River is the most heavily litigated river in the world. The River used to reach the Gulf of California. Now a good portion of it either enters the Pacific Ocean through LA's sewage pipes or makes the American southwest a little more humid than a hundred years ago through evaporation from lawns and swimming pools. Water from the Colorado River is used to grow low value

crops at 8,000 feet in the poor soils of the Rockies instead of high value crops in the fertile delta at sea level in Mexico. This contributes minimally to our agricultural output and does absolutely nothing to stem the flow of illegal immigration to the U.S.

Problem number five is the huge amount of cash and electricity consumed by the desal plant at the border which delivers by treaty, a few hundred thousand acre feet of tolerably sweet water to Mexican farmers. This plant can be shut down if:

A) we take the land which sits on the saltiest bedrock out of production (which will suck the life out of several small rural communities), or

B) we increase the flow of the Colorado River, renegotiate the treaty and invite the Mexicans to share in the operation and maintenance costs.

Problem number 6 is the declining health of the Salton Sea. The water level of the Sea can be stabilized, the salinity levels can be lowered to sustain fresh water game fish and wildlife, and agricultural run off from the USA and industrial wastewater from

Tijuana can be dealt with appropriately, with a few hundred thousand acre feet of Fraser River/Colorado River water and the rejuvenated tax base that comes with a resort and tourist based economy. While other alternatives with hefty price tags have been studied, this water transfer plan is the best way to prevent huge clouds of toxic dust and plumes of rotten egg odors from making life regularly miserable for millions of residents of Southern California, as fish die, algae blooms and the Sea shrinks to nothing, dropping home property tax values dramatically across large swaths of the LA Basin.

So here's how to solve all six problems with one bold stroke, make America great again and make Mexico and Canada, silver and bronze winners in the greatness category.

I propose that a Federally supervised consortium of construction companies raise money from the New York bond markets to finance the construction of a dam on the Fraser River in British Columbia. This dam will be big. It will make Hoover Dam,

Bonneville and Three Gorges look small. Computer aided engineering and modeling will push the envelope in dam design. The reservoir will extend 400 miles up the Fraser River Canyon and will be so heavy that it will depress the surface of the earth and cause local earthquakes as it fills. Oroville Dam is the tallest in America at 770 feet. I modestly propose a dam that tops out at 5,000 vertical feet.

Hydropower from the dam will power a hundred fifty million electric cars and trucks across North America. This will be clean renewable energy that lets us stop mining coal and fracking. We must lower our CO2 emissions, prepare for the day that the fracking boom ends and stop shipping money to OPEC. Canada must prepare for life after peak oil and be ready to ship fresh water. Mexico must prepare for a huge influx of retiring baby boomers who can't survive on social security.

When water from the Reservoir is routed through several snow capped mountain ranges

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New class offered in East Palo Alto to enhance personal wellness

By EPA Today Staff writer

Community residents can now attend a new series of classes on Compassion Cultivation Training (CCT), a program designed to develop the qualities of compassion, empathy, and kindness for oneself and others. CCT also reduces stress and anxiety.



Lakiba Pittman

According to Lakiba Pittman, who will be conducting the eight-week workshop in East Palo Alto, "Compassion Cultivation Training integrates traditional contemplative practices with contemporary psychology and scientific research on compassion.

"The program was developed at Stanford University's School of Medicine by a team of scholars, clinical psychologists, and researchers. It includes instruc-

tion, daily meditation, mindfulness, and in-class interactions and discussions to help strengthen the qualities of compassion, empathy, and mindfulness."

A standardized CCT training process includes:

- Daily meditation practices to develop loving kindness, empathy, and compassion
- A two-hour weekly class that includes lecture, discussion,

and in-class partner and small-group listening and communication exercises

- Real-world "homework" assignments to practice compassionate thoughts and actions

The training in East Palo Alto will run from July 16 through September 11 at the Barbara A. Mouton Multicultural Wellness Center at 903 Weeks St..

In talking about the training, Pittman, who is a certified trainer with an M.A. degree, said, "Compassion is a process that unfolds in response to suffering. It begins with the recognition of suffering, which gives rise to thoughts and feelings of empathy and concern.

This, in turn, motivates action to relieve that suffering. Humans have a natural capacity for compassion, however, everyday stress, social pres-

ures and life experiences can make it difficult to fully express this capacity. Each of us can choose to nurture and grow the compassionate instinct, like a plant that is carefully cultivated from

a seed. This process requires patience, steady care, proper tools, and a supportive environment. The process of cultivating compassion involves training our own minds, developing specific skills in how we relate to others, and ourselves, and intentionally choosing compassionate thoughts and actions."

While the basic content of the CCT course is standardized as shown in the above description, Pittman tailors the workshops to meet the needs of individual groups. She has offered workshops for a variety of organizations, including docents at the

Contemporary Jewish Museum, for yoga instructors teaching in the Ravenswood City School district in East Palo Alto, for the Global Gratitude Alliance's Safe Embrace Trauma Healing program, for Lava Mae, an organization that repurposes retired transportation buses into showers and toilets on wheels to deliver hygiene and restore dignity among the homeless in San Francisco, for College Track students, for Minerva University and for Concrn, the Compassionate Response Network which dispatches compassionate responders to persons in crisis in the Tenderloin section of San Francisco.

Elaborating further on what a participant in the workshop will

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Jobtrain considers community feedback

consideration. The city of East Palo Alto assigned Job Train to run an Employment Development Center through the First Source Hiring agreement that was made with Amazon and the Sobrato Organization, in order to "help residents prepare for, find, secure and retain jobs.

In responding to community criticisms, Job Train held a two-hour community meeting on Tuesday, May 23, that consisted of 45 residents and stakeholders to gather community input.

Before holding the community meeting, several Job Train staff members and

the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, also known as PCRC, met five times to define meeting objectives, develop the meeting agenda, address the locations restraints and many more key points.

At the start of the meeting, JobTrain gave a short presentation of their current services to provide context for the input session, along with an introduction to the new Employment Development Center space.

These were then followed by a Q&A session.

The 45 participants were split into three groups and each group was asked for its



Photo - Joshua Mendez-Arias

input on the same guiding questions. All of the groups came together at the end and "shared the unique experience, barriers and needs specific to being an East Palo Alto resident."

A common theme that they highlighted was the issue of

discrimination. Job Train's summary report of the meeting pointed out that the prominent experience highlighted was of employers' stereotypes about what it means to be from East Palo Alto and the discrimination this leads to," which were based on race, disabilities, gender, and age.

In its summary report, JobTrain concluded that the feedback it received from community residents indicated the "desire for programs to be customized to meet their needs.

It is critical to the residents that the Job Train staff "deeply immerse them-

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selves within the community" to ensure that the programming is built on a more in depth level of "understanding of the community members' experience."

After the meeting, the participants were given an evaluation form to provide their views on the effectiveness of the meeting. The report concluded that overall, the participants were satisfied with the community meeting.

For more information go to: <http://www.jobtrainworks.org/wcontent/uploads/2017/06/JobTrain-Community-Meeting-Report-FINAL.pdf>

The Kennedy Plan

in aqueducts the size of aircraft hangers and high above deep and wide valleys, it can be just dumped into the old bed of Lake Lahontan. The aqueduct doesn't even have to reach the watershed of the Colorado River. Evaporation off the flat, salty and ancient Lake bed and rain clouds will take it there. This new lake could put the playa of Burning Man under six feet of warm, salty water and lap at the outskirts of Salt Lake City. Then LA can just run another pipeline due East to the Colorado and substitute mixed Colorado/Fraser River water for Feather River water. The beauty of this plan is

that the State of California would not have to spend \$20 billion building a pair of cross delta tunnels to keep clean snow melt water from getting murky while crossing the Sacramento/San Joaquin River delta. Meanwhile, moisture heavy clouds that overshoot their intended destination in the Colorado River watershed will drop their loads (with a little help from cloud seeding) over corn belt states like Kansas and stop the overdraft of the Ogallala Aquifer, which is already feathering out.

Trump has never been afraid of taking on huge quantities of debt. Investment dollars from all

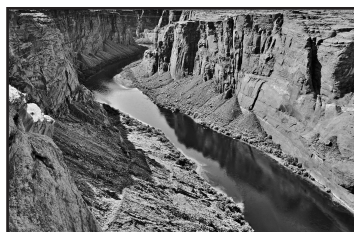


Photo - pixabay.com
Colorado River Gorge

over the world (including mainland China, Russia and OPEC countries), will finance this project. And they'll want higher immigration quotas, fair bidding practices and equal opportunity hiring as part of the deal. Mexican labor, will form the backbone of the labor force for the con-

struction part of the project, as it does now in every construction project in the SF Bay Area.

It makes far more economic sense to build new Zika virus free cities in the desert than it does to revive the shuttered main streets of towns that time has left behind. It makes far more sense to build new cities on high ground than it does to dike the entire coast of Florida and put a dam across the Golden Gate. If you're going to build a wall, you might as well put something important and valuable behind it... like the purest of water from melting glaciers. In

short, why would Trump want to drain a swamp when he can improve on the old one?

The American agenda should not be about making America great again. It should be about preserving the beachhead of civilization that we've built on the West Coast of America (using unsustainable groundwater for the most part) and getting along with foreign powers.

Great nations rise and fall by their use and abuse of water. If Trump thinks outside of the borders of the lower 48, he can truly achieve greatness.

Se ofrecen clases en el Este de Palo Alto para mejorar el bienestar personal

Por A. M. Panama

Los residentes de la comunidad pueden atender a una nueva serie de entrenamientos tituladas La Cultivacion de Compasion (CCT). Este programa esta disenado para desarrollar las cualidades de compasion, empatia, bondad para uno mismo y para con otros.

La (CCT) tambien reduce el estres y la ansiedad. La Senora Lakiba Pittman con-



Photo courtesy of Lakiba Pittman

ducira el entrenamiento por ocho semanas y nos dice que el entrenamiento de la Cultivacion de Compasion integra la

practica tradicional contemplativa con la sicologia contemporanea y las nuevas investigaciones acerca de la compasion. Este programa fue desarrollado en la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de Stanford por un grupo de sabios, sicologos clinicos e investigadores. El programa incluye instrucciones, meditaciones diarias, la conciencia plena, interacciones en clase, discusiones para ayudar a fortalecer la

cualidad de compasion, empatia y conciencia plena.

El proceso de entrenamiento del CCT incluye:

•Meditaciones diarias para desarrollar la bondad, empatia y compasion.

• Una clase semanal de dos horas incluye, charlas, discusiones con companeros de clases y grupos pequenos, ejercicios de comunicacion.

• Tarea practica de pensamientos y acciones de compasion.

El entrenamiento en el Este de Palo Alto se llevara acabo del 16 de Julio al 11 de Septiembre en el Centro Multicultural de Barbara Mouton 903 Weeks Street.

La Senora Lakiba Pittman es una entrenadora certificada con una Maestria, nos dice que la compasion es un proceso que se revela con el sufragio. Cuando el sufrimiento se reconoce va abriendo una serie de pensamientos y sentimientos

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No more than police profiling

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self, and ain't never looked for nobody to back me up, because when it comes down to this, the only thing you can do is back your own self up.

This is not the first time I've dealt with this. I sued the police one time, and they keep harassing me. I've had them pull guns on me when I was going to buildings in which I worked to check on them.

I talked with the police chief and he said, "Oh well, they were in the building and thought you were burglar." How can a burglar know the security combination to get into the building? I am tired of all the excuses and lies. The culture of the police department has to be changed. They have all these other cops, these slave-runners, coming in here from other communities, different parts of different cities, and they don't do nothing but keep the confusion that's going on in the community.

They disrespect the people of the community. They feel that they are not accountable to the people in this community. They've run roughshod over this community, with nothing being said or done by elected officials that are supposed to look after the citizens of this community.

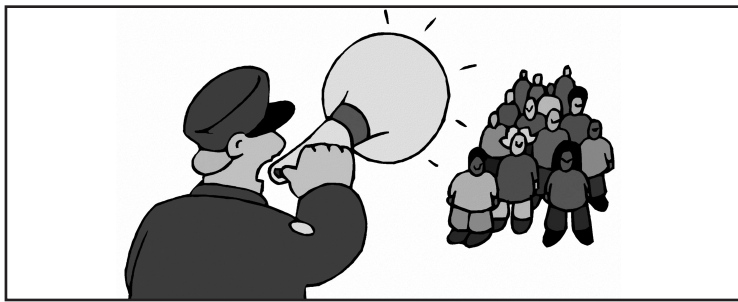


Photo - publicdomainpictures.net

So, I say what I say, and I stand by what I say, because I'm a man, and I stand upon what they call the First Amendment, freedom of speech.

So you can turn what ever I have said into what ever you want, I don't apologize and I don't look for no sympathy. I'm reminded of another man who stood up in 1896 by himself, probably the greatest man that I had the privilege of being related to. That man was, Julius Stalley, my great-great-grandfather, murdered by the Klu Klux Klan for standing up as a Black man.

So, I understand what it is to have to stand by yourself, without looking for the people that call themselves your friends. I have no friends in life except myself. There are only people I run into on the way through this life. See this community is in a situation where the people that were

here are being driven out, and those who are undocumented are scared to walk the street. But you must remember that what happens to one, will eventually happen to all.

You can stick your head in the sand, talk about how great this community is, and fail to realize that you are in a pot of boiling water. You, the community, have to take this all into consideration.

Whatever I have to do, I will do, and I will not let anyone intimidate me in any way or any form. I have a right to express my feelings, and if it hurts the police chief's feelings, that's alright, he shouldn't wear his feelings on his cuff. If it hurts the mayor's feelings, then he shouldn't be so thin-skinned. That's the way I feel about it.

Am I angry? Yes, I'm angry. I'm angry every time I turn on the

TV and see another young Black man shot in the back by police officers, while they call it justified homicide. I'm angry when I hear a sister got arrested in Texas and supposedly hung herself. Yeah I'm angry. Its a whole lot.

I'm angry when a 12-year-old boy is playing on a playground with a toy gun, and two officers get out and one shoots him. Or another man in a store looking at a gun is shot by another citizen who said the other had a gun. No one tried to ascertain the truth of the situation. The word is, he had a gun, he's black, he deserved it.

What about the young Latino brother a few years ago in Santa Rosa, walking, minding his own business, going to a friend's house, shot by police. Why? And now you can see that we have come to a place where police and people think this is normal.

We never stop to ask, and we never hold the police departments accountable for anything. They can say anything and do anything, because they are above the law. And they've been doping this ever since that clown of a president got elected. And yes I said clown, I say it with a freedom of speech. They are emboldened by him (Trump). I could elaborate a little bit more on the

things that happened in this community and other communities around the country.

All I'm saying, brothers and sisters, is that its better to die on your feet, than live on your knees. Get your back stiff, and be ready, because most of the cowards usually shoot you in the back. And see I can paint these police with a broad brush just like they paint us with a broad brush, saying every Black man and Mexican is a criminal, according to your current president.

I'm not going to accept the dehumanization by these fake protectors. And I don't think there is anyone around who wants to have a real conversation about the police in this community. Not the leaders, not the ones involved in these social programs, nobody. Just keep your head in the sand like an ostrich, and everything will be alright.

But I can't put my head in the sand, and things won't be alright when you step on my foot. And brothers know what that's about, when you step on a man's shoes. And these slave-catchers stepped on my shoe, and did the wrong thing.

Spoken by Chester Prince, and transcribed by Lucayo Casillas.

Honoring Midge Dorn

ernment, which objective was achieved in 1983;

She served on the first Planning Commission, whose principal achievement was drafting the first general plan for the City of 1986;

She went on to serve on the Public Works and Transportation Commission from 1994

through 2006, often as the chair of that commission;

She served on the East Palo Alto Rent Stabilization Board beginning in 2006 through the present, often as chair, and during many years of great trial when the continuation of the Rent Stabilization Program, the principal source of

affordable housing for over one third of the entire population of the City, was under threat;

While on the Rent Stabilization Board, she provided leadership during two crucial campaigns to preserve the Rent Stabilization Program, serving as the treasurer of ad

hoc community groups for the 2006 campaign in opposition to Measure C, which would have invalidated the effectiveness of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance, and the ad hoc community group that fought for the adoption of a new and improved rent stabilization ordinance, which passed by 79%

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of the electorate in 2010; and Lastly, in addition to the aforementioned civic activities, Midge Dorn provided financial services and sound financial advice to many non-profit organizations and prepared tax returns for innumerable East Palo Alto residents."

New Class

gain, Pittman said, "Cultivating compassion goes beyond feeling more empathy and concern for others. It develops the strength to be with suffering, the courage to take compassionate action, and the resilience to prevent compassion fatigue. These qualities support a wide range of

goals, from improving personal relationships to mking a positive difference in the world.

"Compassion cultivation can also supports one's own health, happiness, and well-being. Preliminary research suggests that CCT and similar programs can increase self-compassion and

self-care, reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and enhance connection with others. CCT is designed to support anyone who wants to cultivate compassion for themselves and for others. This includes parents, caregivers, educators, health-care professionals, therapists,

executives, public servants, students, youth and people in a wide range of professions and life contexts. No previous meditation experience is required," Pittman said.

Participants in the East Palo Alto workshops can choose to participate in the Monday night

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classes, which run from 6-8 pm or the Wednesday night, which also runs from 6-8 pm. Scholarships are available. For more information and to sign up for the upcoming classes, send an email to lakiba@sbcglobal.net or call 650.862.9548.

Support the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

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



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East Palo Alto student studied in the Middle East

Norma Rodriguez is an East Palo Alto resident, who spent last summer in Madaba, Jordan studying Arabic through a government sponsored scholarship program. This is the third in her three part series of articles written for EPA Today.

Norma Rodriguez

I am currently a junior at Williams College, majoring in Arabic Studies and concentrating in Neuroscience and Latino Studies.

To follow up on my previous articles, I will focus on the academics at my Arabic Language Academy, the various field trips we took throughout the summer and the end of the year celebration. Finally I will write about my final thoughts and experience returning to the United States after two months abroad in a middle-eastern, muslim majority country.

I spent eight weeks at the Jordanian Language Academy in Madaba studying Arabic for about four hours everyday. My first two hours were spent learning Modern Standard Arabic, which is the equivalent of Shakespearean English for English speakers. Modern Standard Arabic or MSA is formal arabic that is not spoken by everyday people. It is only used in printed materials, by high officials or in certain news shows. Thus the grammar and words are very different from

spoken Arabic. I was placed in level three Arabic with five other students, so our class was very homely and tightly-knit. In the class, I learned new grammar rules, vocabulary, and fa-



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

mous songs from the Arab world. After a short break, we had a Jordanian dialect class. This class was my favorite and most useful class. This class involved fun presentations, listening to popular Jordanian music, and a lot of discussion about important topics in Jordan. I began the class knowing very little dialect and by the end of the 8 weeks, I could understand and communicate clearly with my host family. After a lunch break, I had my final class of the day, which was media arabic. This class focused on terms relating to politics. Afterwards I would return home and have about two hours or so of homework. Although this was a lot of Arabic, I made huge gains in my Arabic skills and proficiency.

One of my favorite parts about participating in this program was visiting the various ancient and famous sites in Jordan. We went on a couple of field trips to Amman, Jordan, the capital of Jordan, where we visited the landmarks of Jordan. First we visited the ancient roman theatre, which was built in the second century under the reign of Antonius Pius. Next we visited the Citadel of Amman, which is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world. The citadel has been occupied by many im-



Photo - Majdi Samhan Roman Ruins in the Citadel

portant civilizations from the Umayyad to Roman Empires, thus the ruins include an eclectic combination of architectural sites There is a Byzantine Church, Roman Temple of Hercules, and an Umayyad palace among other structures. Along with these historical features, there is also an amazing view of the city.

My favorite field trip was our visit to Petra and Wadi Rum, two very beautiful and famous places in Jordan. Petra or the



Rock cuts at Petra

“Rose City” is an ancient archeological city best known for its beautiful rock cut architecture and water transport system. Petra has been a world UNESCO site since 1985 due to its ancient history. The city was thought to be first inhabited as early as 312 CE. It was incredible to see and walk through the city because most of the buildings were carved into the rock.

That evening we went to Wadi Rum or “The Valley of the Moon” where we stayed in Bedouin tents for the night. If you’ve ever seen the films *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Martian*, or *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, you’ve seen Wadi Rum. Wadi Rum is a huge valley cut into sandstone and granite rock. In the evening, we hiked up one of the sandstone rocks. At the top we found an incredible view of the valley. True to the films, it felt like I was on Mars or another planet. The next morning, we watched the sun rise, rode through the Wadi on Jeeps and had the opportunity to run down a sand dune. My classmates and I had an

amazing time seeing the beautiful sites of Jordan.

Soon my time in Jordan came to a close. We celebrated the last school day with a feast including all of our host families. After everyone had eaten, we all performed a song that we practiced in our classes. Our host families loved hearing us singing in Arabic. Then we danced traditional Jordanian dances



Photo - pixabay.com Sunset at Wadi Rum

(dabke) with the help of our host families.

I was saddened to be leaving Jordan especially since I had grown close to my host family and classmates, but I was also excited to be home with my family. It was very different returning to California after hearing the sites and smells of Jordan for eight weeks. However I was happy to be home before returning to college. Being in Jordan taught me so much about Arabic, Jordanian culture and Islam. I am super thankful for participating in this amazing opportunity.

Se ofrecen clases

tos y nos abre el camino a la empatía y nos concierne. Esto en cambio nos motiva a desalojar el sufrimiento. El ser humano lleva en si la capacidad de compasion, pero el estres que llevamos a diario, el estres social y las experiencias que nos presta la vida nos dificulta expresar la compasion. Cada cual podemos cultivar y crecer el instinto de la compasion como si fuera una planta que cuidadosamente atendemos desde una semilla. El proceso requiere paciencia, cuidado fijo, las herramientas propicias y un ambiente de apoyo. El proceso de la cultivacion de compasion requiere el entrenamiento de nuestra mente, desarrollando unas habilidades especificas en como nos relacionamos con otros, con nosotros mismos y con el enfoque de escoger pensamientos y acciones de compasion.

El contenido basico del curso CCT lleva un estander fijo, pero la Senora Pittman adapta el taller segun las necesidades de los estudiantes del curso. Ella ha ofrecido un sin numero de talleres para muchas organizaciones inclusive el Museo Contemporaneo para instructores de yoga en el Distrito Escolar Ravenswood del Este de Palo Alto, tambien para el programa de Curacion del Trauma de la Alianza Global de Gratitude, La Orgazacion Lava Mae, que utiliza autobuses usados y los convierte en banos para las personas sin hogar en San Francisco y asi devolverles la dignidad.



Photo courtesy of Lakiba Pittman Tomando fotos al final de un taller de estudiantes dado por Lakiba Pittman da a todos una razón para sonreír.

Tambien para los estudiantes de la Universidad de Minerva y para la Red de Res-puesta de Compasion que despachan a personas entrenadas en compasion a cualquiera en crisis en el area del Tenderloin de San Francisco.

La Senora Pittman nos hace saber que la participacion en el taller de compasion ofrece mas que empatia y preocupacion por otros, nos hace desarrollar la fortaleza para entender el sufragio, el valor de tomar acciones de compasion, y la capacidad de prevenir la fatiga de la compasion.

Estas cualidades nos dan un

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amplio margen de metas para mejorar nuestras relaciones personales y asi hacer una diferencia muy positiva en el mundo.

La cultivacion de la compasion tambien nos hace mejorar la salud, la felicidad y el bienestar. Estudios preliminares del CCT y otros programas similares dicen aumentar la compasion y el cuidado personal, reduce el estres la ansiedad y la depression y mejora nuestras conexiones con otros. La CCT esta disenado para apoyar a cualquiera persona que quiera cultivar compasion para ellos mismos y para con otros.

Esto incluye padres, cuidadores, maestros, profesionales de la salud, terapis-tas, ejecutivos, funcionarios publicos, estudiantes, jove-nes y cualquiera persona en amplia gama profesional y contexto de vida. No se requiere experience previa de meditacion.

Los participantes en el taller del Este de Palo Alto pueden escoger las clases los Lunes de 6-8 pm o los Miercoles de 6-8 pm. Habran becas para los que los necesiten. Para mas informacion y para registrarse favor mande un correo electronico a: Lakiba@sbcglobal.net o llame al (650) 862-9548.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA Offers Free Animal Camp to Children in East Palo Alto- July 3, 2017.

Children ages 9-12 who live in EPA and surrounding areas are allowed to participate. Programs runs from July 3rd until July 7th. Call Klynn Pelkey at 650-340- 7022 ext 369 for more information.

Family Movie Night- MLK Park - July 14, 2017

Festivities begin around 7 p.m. At sundown, settle in for a free screening of popular films. For more information, call 650-853-3100

Family Movie Night- Bell

See community calendar

events

at

the website for the

East Palo Alto Today news-

paper

www.epatoday.org

Street Park July 28, 2017

Festivities begin around 7 p.m. At sundown, settle in for a free screening of popular films. For more information, call 650-853-3100.

Parent-Child Play Group- July 6, 2017

Event starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m.

Film Screening: Star Wars Rogue One- July 8, 2017

Event starts at 2 pm and ends at 4pm

TouchPoints in Spanish- July 10, 2017.

Event starts at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m.

Computer Coaching for Veterans and Their Families- July 10, 2017.

Event starts at 12 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m.

For more information about

library events, please visit <https://smcl.org/location/east-palo-alto-events/>

Kids Summer Ceramics- Tuesdays -Session B:

July 11-Aug.1, 2017
10:00 am –12:00 pm
\$64/session or \$20/class
learn the art of hand building

and sculpture. Here participants are encouraged to express their individuality and create pieces that reflect their own interests and personality.

Class is held at Little House in Menlo Park. For more information. Call (650) 326-2025

Talking with Henrietta Managing Our Natural Resources



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta
From left, Kirsten Andrews-Schwind, show host Henrietta J. Burroughs and Carlos Martinez are shown on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their June 8, 2017 discussion about the East Palo Alto's purchase of water from Mountain View and its use of Peninsula Clean Energy's services to supply the city with clean energy.

This show can be seen on Channel 30 on the Midpeninsula and on the Internet at the days and times below 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#managingnaturalresources.

Community News Briefs

our community partners for working with us to raise the necessary funds to bring this transaction to fruition.

The SFPUC still needs to approve the water transfer. The current water moratorium will be lifted in late November after a Water Capacity Charge is adopted by the City Council to recover the costs of the Water Transfer transaction.

Fixing the city's infrastructure

By Joshua Mendez-Arias

On June 21, 2017, the City of East Palo Alto held a special city council special meeting to discuss the city's major infrastructure mandates and risk,

This discussion focused on the action that the city must take in order to reduce the risk of the complete failure of its infrastructure. East Palo Alto staff said that the conditions of the city's infrastructure must be improved in order for the city to sustain the economic, social, environmental and even cultural life of the East Palo Alto community,

A report put together by the city staff stated, "The City's infrastructure is amongst the oldest in the Bay Area, with some

built in the first half of the last century. Much of it is nearing, or has exceeded, the end of its design life.

During the meeting, Public Works Director, Kamal Fallaha, made a reference to a study made by The American Society of Civil Engineers, which gave the letter grade 'D' to rate the status of the infrastructure of the nation as a whole.

Fallaha stated that this grade rating could describe the infrastructure of East Palo Alto. The City Council gave a list of the different infrastructures that must be maintained to keep the community as healthy and efficient as possible.

The list included; the water system, storm drainage system, roads and sidewalks, street-lights, bridges, parks and facilities, fleet and equipment.

It was pointed out that a shocking 37.3 miles worth of pipelines need to be replaced and an astonishing 25 miles of pipeline are undersized.

The council's discussion seemed to imply that the overall quality of life of the residents would be improved if the council and staff focused on upgrading the infrastructure of the East

continued from page 3

Palo Alto community.

For instance, the Water System Master Plan found that 69% of the pipelines are below standard. Replacing the pipelines would improve water quality and can even lead to the reduction of the wasting of water

. It was concluded that the City must plan on upgrading the infrastructure to tackle the problems that are arising so that the residents can be served properly.

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