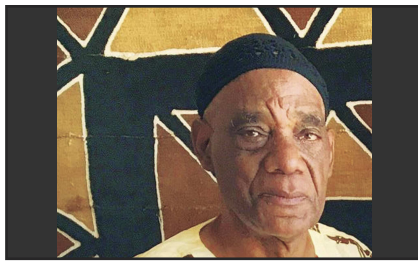




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A homegrown artist proudly displays his work page 8



Running with Eastside College Prep's track team page 10

# East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



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East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

August 2017

7

Vol. 11 No.57

## Target comes to East Palo Alto



Photo courtesy of Joshua Mendez-Arias

Some people said that it was a big day for Target and a big day for East Palo Alto. July 18, 2017 marked the grand opening of the new East Palo Alto Target store. The celebration, which was open to a select group of residents and officials, included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, free food and a tour of the store. In the photo above, Target team leader DJ Clendenny holds the scissors that he and Chief Albert Pardini, East Palo Alto's police chief, used to cut the ribbon to officially open the store. What an occasion!

By Joshua Mendez-Arias

On July 18, the new Target store in East Palo Alto held a ribbon cutting ceremony that allowed some residents of the city to see the new store for the first time.

The store team leader, DJ Clendenny, and Albert Pardini, East Palo Alto's chief of police, were given the honor to cut the ribbon for the ceremony.

Target's store team members aligned themselves behind the ribbon to celebrate their soon to be fully operational store.

Many in the crowd, who had assembled for the occasion seemed excited and in awe because they could not believe that a Target was opening in their community.

Clendenny, Chief Pardini and Brian Perkins, district Director for Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office, gave a speech at the ceremony.

The thanked each other and the community of East Palo Alto for allowing Target to open.

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## SM County has \$23M in funding available for affordable housing



San Mateo County board of supervisors

By Michelle Durand

More than \$23 million in affordable housing funds are available for units in San Mateo County thanks in part to Measure K sales tax revenue which the Board of Supervisors earlier this year dedicated specifically to that critical need.

The Department of Housing issued a Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) this week for \$23,809,505—an amount substantially larger than any pre-

vious NOFA—and is currently accepting applications for funding.

The large amount of funding available follows voter approval of Measure K, which extended the existing half-cent sales tax. In May, the Board of Supervisors approved \$43.75 million in affordable housing initiatives over the next two fiscal years using Measure K funds and the repayment of \$3.25 million in loans made to launch Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE).

visors for deciding that the shelter of our residents is an utmost priority," said Housing Director Ken Cole.

The latest NOFA is the fifth round of allocations from the County's Affordable Housing Fund which will support construction of new multi-family affordable rental housing and rehabilitation of existing developments being renovated using low-income housing tax credits. Of those, 10 percent of units will

target extremely low income households and 5 percent will address homeless households linked with County services.

The funds will also support development of affordable housing with supportive services to two specific populations: individuals with mental illness who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and young adults aging out of the foster care system. The NOFA funds include \$1.3 million in Measure K revenue specified for former foster youth. The targeted funds for both populations result from close collaboration with the County's agency partners, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and the Human Services Agency.

Michelle Durand is the chief communications officer in the San Mateo Co. Manager's Office

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# California lawmakers move to protect undocumented workers

By Elena Shore

If immigration agents show up at a worksite, employers don't have to let them in.

That is one of the key messages immigrant rights advocates are sending out as a new bill that would increase protections for workers makes its way through committees in the California legislature.

Employers across the country already have certain rights, said Grisel Ruiz, staff attorney of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). "If an employer has ICE agents coming to their workplace, so long as the workplace is private property, they should also keep ICE agents out...unless they have an ICE warrant," she said.

Ruiz spoke on a national press call this week hosted by New America Media and Ready California.

Proposed legislation in California would go a step further in protecting workers and helping employers navigate what happens when ICE agents show up at their business.

Under the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, AB 450 (David Chiu, D-San Francisco), employers would be required to ask for a warrant before they allow immigration enforcement



Photo - www.newamericamedia.org

agents onto the worksite. They would not be able to hand over any private information about workers, such as social security numbers, without a subpoena.

"We might not, in the state of California, be able to tell ICE what to do," said Michael Young, legislative advocate with the California Labor Federation which, together with SEIU California, sponsored AB 450. "We can't regulate federal immigration law. But we can regulate employer behavior. We can say that employers have an obligation to protect their workers and they have to take certain actions to make sure those rights are protected."

Nearly 2.6 million undocumented immigrants live in California, and one in 10 workers

in the state is undocumented, according to Young. In some industries, this number is even higher. Forty-five percent of agricultural workers and 21 percent of construction workers in California are undocumented.

This is a large number of people who "could be at risk from worksite raids, and these raids are already happening in the state," said Young. Increase in enforcement actions

The Trump administration's "laser focus" on immigration enforcement has not been accompanied by a change in tactics, noted Ruiz of ILRC.

Cooperation between immigration enforcement and local law officials "continues to be the number one way that individuals are identified and placed in removal proceed-

ings," she said. ICE is also continuing individualized enforcement, for example going to the home of a specific person they are looking for, and then picking up other people in that home.

But it's important to remember that everyone, regardless of immigration status, is protected by Constitutional rights, Ruiz continued, including the right to remain silent, to not allow agents into their home or work without a warrant signed by a judge, and to not sign anything before talking to an immigration attorney.

"Trump does not have the resources to go after and deport all 11 some-odd million undocumented people, plus, in the U.S.," she said. "The likelihood of him picking up the random person, especially who's never had contact with ICE, is actually quite low." And even if they do get picked up by ICE, she said, "Many people will have a chance to fight their case."

Anti-immigrant rhetoric has led to a palpable fear among immigrants, who may now be making decisions based on that fear.

"The irony of all of this is that for many people, that fear may be the greatest impact, in a way," Ruiz said. "The fear is affecting people at all levels."

Economic impact of fear

Cal Soto, national workers rights coordinator at the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON) described the mood among day laborers as timid and cautious.

"What I've seen is a ton of people who regularly might have made health and safety or wage claims, or filed police reports, saying, 'It's not worth it for me,'" said Soto.

He added, "This has an impact on the wages they're able to negotiate, and the wages of everybody in the community."

It also may have a chilling effect on consumer spending.

"People are not buying homes. They're not building their business," said Mohan Kanungo, director of programs and engagement at Mission Asset Fund. "And that certainly has a large impact that I think remains to be seen for us to quantify."

Soto described anti-immigrant rhetoric and intimidation as a "campaign to frighten immigrant workers into the shadows and out of the public eye."

Instead of hiding, he said, immigrant workers must gain knowledge and defense strategies.

Three steps to take now  
The Mission Asset Fund re-

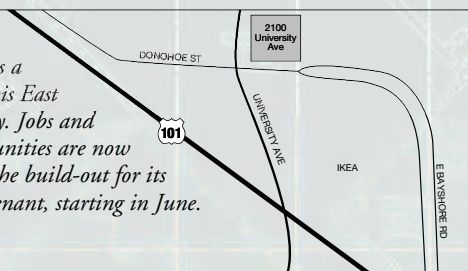
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## New Tenant Improvement Coming

Rendering by Stereograph, Inc

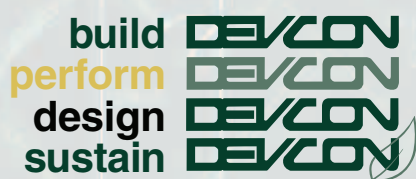


Visible from 101, 2100 University Avenue is a prominent feature of this East Palo Alto gateway. Jobs and subcontracting opportunities are now available to work on the build-out for its major tenant, starting in June.



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.



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408/942-8200  
www.devcon-const.com

# Community News Briefs

## Repairing neighborhood homes



Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco teamed up with the San Jose Sharks Foundation to make critical repairs to seven homes in East Palo Alto.

The San Jose Sharks Foundation donated \$60,000 to Habitat's Neighborhood Revitalization efforts.

The funds supported Habitat's three-day Building Blocks event in East Palo Alto, where Habitat hosted a blitz-style build event to make critical repairs.

The neighborhood repairs were performed over a three day period, starting on August 10. The revitalization work included seven homes that were adjacent to Jack Farrell Park, which is located at 2509 Fordham Street in East Palo Alto.

Habitat for Humanity volunteers painted portions of homes, repaired fencing, and performed landscaping and yard work.

One of the homes was repainted completely and received a fresh coat of teal paint

Habitat's Neighborhood Revitalization efforts makes critical repairs to homes, community facilities and restores parks in neighborhoods where Habitat builds.

## English Is Not Our Only Language

In July, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury released a report urging law enforcement agencies in the county to provide online information in languages other than English, because most of the residents in the county speak various other languages.

The 2016-17 report titled "English is Not Our Only Language: Are Local Law Enforcement Agencies Providing Multilingual Access to Outreach Programs?" said that citizen's awareness of outreach programs may be limited because law enforcement agencies are not doing enough to reach out online to residents who may not speak English as their first language, or speak English at all.

In the conclusion of the report, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office requested that all law enforcement agencies in San Mateo County "modify their websites by including multilingual translation capability" to hopefully increase access and participation in outreach programs by non-English speaking residents by December 31, 2017.

The report was presented to the East Palo Alto City Council during its July meeting.

The City of East Palo Alto's website was commended for its multilingual access and used in the report as a model for other cities to design their

website similarly.

You can view the grand jury report at the following URL: [http://www.sanmateocourt.org/documents/grand\\_jury/2016/multilingual\\_access.pdf](http://www.sanmateocourt.org/documents/grand_jury/2016/multilingual_access.pdf)

- by Rayshaun Jordan

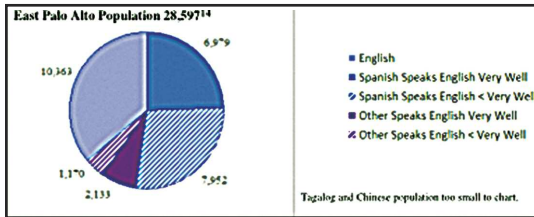


Photo courtesy of: San Mateo County Gov.

## East Palo Alto realizes its water agreement with the City of Mountain View

California might be out of its drought, but East Palo Alto is yet remaining conscious of their water usage. East Palo Alto's city council recently adopted a resolution to approve the funds for implementing the Water Rights Transfer Agreement with the City of Mountain View.

The funds will consist of two inter-fund loans to East Palo Alto in the amount of \$2 million from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation Special Revenue Fund to the Water Capacity Fee Enterprise Fund; and an inter-fund loan of \$470,000 from the City General Fund to the Water Capacity Fee Enterprise Fund.

Starting in May, the City of Mountain View was considering transferring 1 million gallons of water supply per day to the City of East Palo Alto for a one-time payment of \$5 million

dollars. The City of Mountain View wanted to help East Palo Alto during its time of severe water shortage, which resulted in its moratorium on building

projects. The \$5 million dollars will not only give East Palo Alto its needed water but will also help Mountain View pay

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

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

By Joshua Mendez-Arias

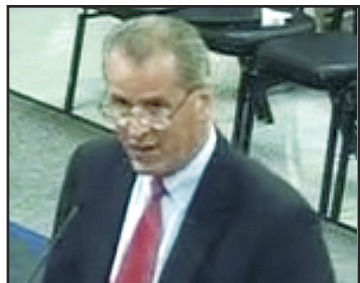


Photo - <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us>  
Bob Dohoney

East Palo Alto residents expressed their frustration with the old payment method for American Water and requested that the company “move into the modern world.”

“We need to modernize the way to do business in East Palo Alto.

“For example, the contract services for American Water don’t allow ... auto payments or [one to] pay online, even if American Water does and they keep on delaying payments, sending termination notices several days after the

of East Palo Alto held a council meeting to discuss the new billing software system that American Water has created.

Bob Dohoney, regional director of operations at American Water, attended the meeting in order to give the presentation.

He informed the council that American Water sent out a letter, updating its customers about the new system that launched on July 24.

Some of the common questions that Dohoney said customers have asked are; “Can we still pay by mail? Can we still come in and pay at the window?”

He replied that customers can, in fact, continue to pay by those methods.

He, then, talked about what the payment portal can do. He said that for starters, customers, would need a current billin order to register, .

They will be able to pay with credit cards, sign up for recurring payments, or have the bill be sent to their email.

Dohoney claimed that the portal will not save the users information except for the users login and password information.

With this new system, Dohoney said that users can see

their transaction history, view past bills and even use the website on their mobile devices.

In fact, one login in can contain multiple accounts for landlords and large businesses, so there would be no need to have multiple logins.

According to Dohoney, “customers can ask questions, request new services, or report an outage directly from the site.”

Overall, Dohoney concluded that the new portal system provides a new bill paying system that is a simple and easy payment portal to use.

## Free At Last increases its services



By Susan Cortopassi

In July, Free At Last joined other substance use disorder providers throughout San Mateo County to offer expanded services under the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System.

In April 2016, San Mateo County became the first in California to receive approval from the California Department of Health Care Services and Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to create a local Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) program.

Medi-Cal recipients who re-

side in the county now have access to a broader range of treatment options and improved quality, timeliness and access to care.

The program incorporates new spending flexibility to help people get sober and reduce the social and financial costs of those with substance abuse disorders. Providers have been able to expand treatment services and are reimbursed for providing a much wider range of options to individuals with Medi-Cal.

“Medi-Cal beneficiaries in need of treatment are able to access withdrawal management, short-term residential treatment, intensive outpatient, medication assisted treatment, narcotic treatment services, physician consultation and outpatient services, along with case management and recovery support,” according to Clara Boyden, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Alcohol and Other Drug Services manager. “We

are pleased to have Free At Last participate in providing these expanded services to the community.”

“When people have better access to comprehensive substance use treatment, the path toward recovery improves substantially,” said Stephen Kaplan, Director of San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. “DMC-ODS helps close the gaps in our treatment and recovery system and remove barriers that can discourage people from getting the help they need. When access to care improves, so does the quality of life for those we serve.”

The Organized Delivery System has been phased in throughout San Mateo County starting in February of this year.

For more information, contact Susan Cortopassi, Executive Director at 650.462.6992. It is located at 1796 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.



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**650-321-2193 ext. 1103**

## Pending criminal court cases of EPA and Menlo Park residents

By Rayshaun Jordan



**People Vs. Marvin Jake Ware (2-28-88):** Gang Allegations from September 2012-December 2013, East Palo Alto gang prosecution for Multiple Murders, Attempted Murders, Gang Felonies, Firearm Offenses, And Narcotics Trafficking, The case is set for jury trial on April 30, 2018 at 9:00am. The defendant is in custody on no bail status. The defense attorney is Jonathan McDougall (PDP).

**Peo. V. Jerry Coneal (the third) (9-28-94):** The defendant is 23 years old and a East Menlo Park resident. He was involved in the fatal shooting of victim Christopher Baker by rival gang members in gang retaliation attack while victim Baker was attending a memo-

rial for another murdered gang member. Because of the lying in wait and gang special circumstances he is assumed to get life without parole. Trial will resume on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 9:00am, the defendant remains in custody on no bail status.

**Peo. V. Victor Marquez (6-16-95):** The defendant is 21 years old and lives in East Palo Alto. 43 year old woman was walking down the street near University and Bay when a car pulled alongside with two males (one was the defen-

dant) and offered her a ride home; she accepted and after driving short distance towards her father’s home, the defendant demanded sex from her. The woman refused and was verbally and physically by threats sexually assaulted. After eventually being ordered out of the car, the woman then called her boyfriend to pick her up and police were notified. Trial has been in recess since July 20, 2017.

Defendant remains in custody on \$1,000,000 bail.

**Peo. V. Danielle Matko (8-4-82):** From September 1 to November 14 2015, defendant to is a 33 year old married Belmont resident worked as an English teacher at Aspire EPA Phoenix Academy on Garden Street in East Palo Alto. She sexually assaulted two 15 year old students in her classroom

multiple times. The students told their friends of the teacher’s acts and one friend reported it to a legal aid lawyer who called police. The case remains set for jury trial on September 11, 2017 at 8:45am. The defendant is out of custody on \$250,000 bail.

**Peo v. Diangelo Pantalion Williams (1-26-90):** Defendant is a 27 year old resident of East Palo Alto and at 2:50pm Friday afternoon, he was driving on westbound University Ave in EPA.

Defendant drove at high rate of speed through red lights at the intersections of Notre Dame Ave and Kavanaugh Drive and hit a man and his wife who were making a turn onto University Avenue on a green light from Kavanaugh Ave. The defendant T-Boned the victim’s car, killing the vic-

tim driver on impact and severely injuring the victim’s wife. There was no drugs or alcohol involved.

The victim, Jose Diaz Galaviz, leaves behind five children, the youngest being 13 years old. The defendant is in custody on \$250,000 bail.



# Taking care of pets during noisy occasions

By Joshua Mendez-Arias

If there is one day that dogs do not like, it might be July 4. Many Americans often purchase fireworks to celebrate the independence of America.

The downside of purchasing fireworks is that everyone seems to ignore that the loud explosions frighten the animals within their community.

This time around, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA rescued "21 animals that were found wandering the streets of San Mateo County" said PHS/SPCA Communications

Manager, Buffy Martin Tarbox.

She said, "They are encouraging people who are missing their pets to visit the PHS/SOCA Coyote Point facility located at 12 Airport Blvd. in San Mateo.

From the 21 dogs that were found throughout July 4-5, 6 dogs were from the East Palo Alto community,

Tarbox said, "It's unfortunate that it happens often. We believe many of the animals that came into our shelter fled their

homes after becoming frightened by fireworks and other festivities associated with the



4th of July," she said

Tarbox also shared that the staff at the Peninsula Humane Society has reunited 19 of the animals with their owners (18 being dogs and 1 being a cat, while the other two unclaimed-

pets will be put up for adoption).

According to the most recent updates, "seventeen still remain in the shelter waiting for owners to visit and claim them."

Tarbox explained that owners are "required to visit the Coyote Point shelter in person to claim a lost pet."

Ken White, the president of the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA gave advice in his blog post that could pre-

vent owners from losing their pets in the future.

He wrote: "You know your cats' and dogs' special comfy places, and this is the time to make sure those are extra pet-friendly. Keep the lights low, the shades drawn. Tune in some especially soothing music to create 'white noise' — safe, distracting background sound to help keep the animal distracted from the explosions outside. Have food and water available, and be forgiving of any 'accidents.'

For more see <http://peninsulahumanesociety.org>

## Target ribbon cutting



Target's team leader, DJ Clendenny and Police Chief Albert Pardini cut the store's ribbon to the cheers of the onlookers.

Chief Pardini said that he was very pleased with the opening of the new store.

"I want to thank Target. This space was available to many different people but Target saw the value of the East Palo Alto community and moved in,"

Pardini said.

"They can provide services to the entire community. You can actually come to this store and not have to go anywhere else. It's a full service store that can take care of our needs," Pardini added.

After the ribbon cutting, Target allowed the residents of East Palo Alto to enter the store for two hours, during which time, the store was open for shoppers.

Daisy Avalos, a new worker at Target, expressed her opinion about the new store.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the community," she said. "People see East Palo Alto as a ghetto and as a low class community."

Other workers expressed a similar opinion when they were asked about the Target store opening in their community.

"I think it's going to impact the community in a good way because now that target is here, people don't have to go to different places," said Elsa Avelar, another worker on the new Target team.

In fact, Target has provided a new opportunity for employment for East Palo Alto residents. This new store has about 70% of its work force composed of community residents.

Target opened its doors to the general public on Sunday, July 23.

continued from page 1



Photo by Joshua Mendez-Arias  
Brian Perkins, district director for Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office, presented a plaque to Target team leader DJ Clendenny.

## CA lawmakers move

cently released a Financial Emergency Action Plan for Immigrants, which gives families and business owners practical tips about how to protect their assets in uncertain times.

First, families can take action to protect their money. This includes opening or maintaining a checking account to have access to funds when needed; setting up online bill pay to make sure bills get paid on time, even if you are detained; different ways to share your checking account with those you trust; setting up online transfers so you can easily wire someone money if you need to; and making sure you are protected from overdraft fees.

Second, families can take steps to protect their belongings, including their car, property and business.

"People are coming to us, asking, 'How can I give someone control of my business if I am detained?'" said Kanungo. "That's where we talk a lot about powers of attorney. What can you do now to protect your property or give someone else the ability to make decisions over your property?"

Third, families can take steps to plan for an emergency by protecting their credit, and creating savings goals. So that it doesn't feel overwhelming, Kanungo suggests starting by saving up a small amount, such as enough money for a month's worth of groceries, and working up to putting aside enough money to pay for legal fees that one could incur in case of detention.

"It's not just about the burden of the immigration-related costs," said Kanungo, "but the dual bur-

den that comes up with maintaining a household with a loss of income from a family member."

Michael Young of the California Labor Federation hopes that California lawmakers will enact greater protections for immigrant workers in the state. "We want to make sure we can get these laws and protections on the books as soon as possible," he said, "to protect as many workers as we can."

AB 450 passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday with a vote of 5-2. It will next go to Senate Appropriations Committee in late August.

This article by Elena Shore was originally posted on the [newamericanmedia.org](http://newamericanmedia.org) website July 13, 2017 and is reprinted here by permission.

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# From the Editor's Desk

## East Palo Alto is not a "news desert"

On July 17 of this year, the Washington Post printed an article titled, What happens to local news when there is no local media to cover it? The article was written by the paper's media reporter, Paul Farhi.

Farhi first contacted me in September 2016 to express his interest in writing about the media's coverage of East Palo Alto and to seek a personal interview.

When we finally met this past May, I suggested that he also contact several East Palo Alto residents and officials, including Mayor Larry Moody, Council member Ruben Abrica and Frank Omowale Satterwhite.

Moody, Abrica and Satterwhite are quoted in his July article, and all give their perspective on the news coverage of East Palo Alto by local media organizations.

As the title of his article suggests, Farhi focuses on the lack of media coverage that cities like East Palo Alto receive from local media outlets.

In fact, Farhi writes that East Palo Alto is "one of thousands of towns across America in which community reporting is shrinking and sometimes disappearing. The biggest factor, according to a University of North Carolina study of the phenomenon: cutbacks, consolidation and closures of daily and weekly newspapers, the traditional lifeblood of local reporting in America since before its founding.

His article concludes early that: "In many respects, East Palo Alto is a news "desert," a community overlooked, if not entirely ignored, by the media."

Farhi's article contains considerable research about the dearth of East Palo Alto news in the Daily Post, the Palo Alto Weekly, the Daily News and other local news outlets. But, to its detriment, it lacks any in-depth research about the news coverage that East Palo Alto Today has given the city since its inception in January 2006.

Yes, there is a dearth of news about East Palo Alto in other local media outlets, but there certainly isn't a dearth

of news about the city in East Palo Alto Today.

EPA Today has always been full of stories about "city politics and government initiatives, public education, local arts, human-interest stories and environmental concerns and economic development issues."

I do not have the space here to respond to Farhi's article point by point, but I will say that several of his claims about the lack of East Palo Alto media coverage are false. For example, his statement that East Palo Alto residents did not have any news outlet that mentioned 2016 election issues in the city is not true.

Not only did East Palo Alto Today run articles about the issues and the candidates before the November 2016 election, but the paper also ran articles and ads that featured both the candidates and the three local measures that were on the 2016 election ballot.

You can see the articles and the ads in the Summer-Fall 2016 edition of EPA Today posted in the EPA Today archives at <http://www.epatoday.org/archive.html>

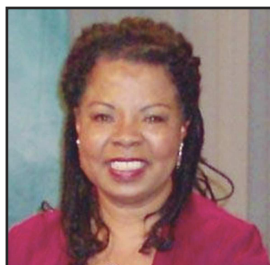
The Talking with Henrietta show also featured the issues on the ballot and several of the candidates (All of the local candidates were invited to be on the show), in two shows prior to the election.

One show, taped on October 13, 2016, is titled, Propositions on the November 2016 Election Ballot, and the second show, taped on October 27, 2016 is called, How Will You Cast Your Vote?

You can see photos and descriptions of both shows at [www.epatoday.org/tv.html](http://www.epatoday.org/tv.html) by scrolling to the two shows.

Farhi also cited the lack of media coverage regarding the school petition which teachers signed expressing no confidence in the Ravenswood City School District superintendent. EPA Today ran an online article on the EPA Today website at [www.epatoday.org](http://www.epatoday.org) on May 11, 2017, titled, Ravenswood City School District mired in con-

continued on page 15



Henrietta J. Burroughs



Some East Palo Alto residents experienced the joys of getting free home repairs because of a collaborative effort between Habitat of Humanity Greater San Francisco and the Sharks Foundation. See the article in this issue on page 3.



Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco volunteers are shown the week of August 9 working on Habitat's first roof repair as part of its Neighborhood Revitalization efforts in East Palo Alto. The home featured is one of seven homes that Habitat made critical repairs on over the course of three days in East Palo Alto. The roofers in the first photo were replacing the home of Cameron Duncan, who is shown in the second photo in front of her parents' home. The repairs were made so that Duncan's parents can live in their home safely.

## Letters in East Palo Alto Today

### Fighting hate // Teaching tolerance // Seeking justice

Dear Editor:

After the deadly clash between hundreds of white supremacists and counter-protesters today in Charlottesville, Virginia, President Trump called for Americans to "come together."

He used similar words in his victory speech in the wee hours of Nov. 9, even as white supremacists began to celebrate.

The problem is that Trump's words are hollow.

His calls for the country to unite will continue to be meaningless as long he fails to take responsibility for his role in dividing it – something he conspicuously avoided again during his press conference today.

"It's been going on for a long time," Trump said. "Not Donald Trump. Not Barack Obama."

It's true. America has had racial strife since its founding.

But from the day he came down the escalator in the tower that bears his name, Trump consciously poured fuel on the fire. He ran a racist, xenophobic campaign that energized the radical right – that "unearthed some demons," as U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford put it.

The day after Trump was elected, hate incidents soared. Many of them were carried out in his name.

Neo-Nazi David Duke, the former Klan leader who endorsed Trump during his campaign, had this to say about the deadly violence in Charlottesville:



Richard Cohen

role in dividing it.

Until he apologizes and takes responsibility for the damage he has caused and enacts policies to mend the wounds in our country, his words will continue to ring hollow.

Richard Cohen,  
President, Southern Poverty Law Center

### Refusing unlawful searches and seizures

[Editors note: The following two letters were sent to the Ravenswood City School District]

On the elementary VTP bus ride home from summer school on July 21, the bus driver stated the smell of marijuana drifted through the bus. The driver went straight to the black student, sat next to him and smelled him up and down. Then starting with him, she proceeded to search the children's backpacks. Being a huge fan of our constitution, I have always told my children they have an absolute 4th amendment right to refuse illegal searches and seizures. My 11 year old daughter told the bus driver that she could not search her backpack without a warrant. At which point the bus driver left her alone and went on to search everyone else's backpack.

Why was the black student singled out? This is very disturbing and I demand the child get an apology. The district claims to address racism and to be trained in sensitivities - obviously this is a false claim in practice.

continued on page 15

### East Palo Alto Today

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

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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

## Corporate social responsibility is needed

Facebook's expansion into Belle Haven calls for a corporate social responsibility policy.

By **Kyra Brown**

In Kate Bradshaw's Almanac article, ("Facebook unveils plans for giant new development in Menlo Park," July 7) her statement, "Facebook has been expanding its land holdings, office space and workforce in Menlo Park at a breakneck rate," is one that I agree with. Oftentimes, a mantra in the technology industry is: "Move fast and build things." But in my opinion, when tech companies build or expand, there should be ethics involved. One way this can be done is via creating a corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy.

In October (2016), I wrote an open letter to Mark Zuckerberg, asking the corporation to consider the negative impacts of their expansion (into Belle

Haven) on my hometown of East Palo Alto (EPA) and consider what it means to be a "good neighbor" (Luke 10). Since that time, Facebook has given \$20M for affordable housing to EPA due to community pressure, the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative has donated \$2M to help aid EPA's water shortage (partly because without it the construction of their pre-school in EPA would be delayed), and both entities have donated abundantly to nonprofit organizations which serve EPA and Belle Haven – historically under-resourced communities.

In this ongoing discussion of the #TechTakeover (with Facebook expanding into phase II in Belle Haven and Amazon now expanding its second-leg of development in EPA), some contend that millennials such as myself should be disregarded on this topic because we are simply "anti-development." While we are



Kyra Brown

not saying that underserved communities don't deserve to be developed, we are insisting that development should not result in the displacement of families (property values rise and often push low-income residents out of their communities) or the extinction of communities of color overtime -- therefore, the expansion of any corporation should have limits.

Spokespeople from Facebook have come forward and stated that they want to do their part in being a good neighbor. It is my position that this can be done through Facebook crafting a corporate

social responsibility (CSR) policy (e.g. see Sullivan principles). That way, they can continually and intentionally stitch the thread of being a good neighbor into the fabric and culture of a corporation that exists within a capitalistic society. The policy wouldn't only place limitations on the tech giant's expansion, it would list the ethics/values which govern that expansion. If Facebook doesn't create a CSR policy, the alternative is that we expect corporations to be socially responsible on their own.

Beyond my letter, I started to wonder what justice looks like, larger than monetary donations (although these can be helpful). I asked myself, 'Is Facebook willing to question its values as a corporation in regards to growth and "connecting the world," write a CSR policy and take a hard look at what justice looks like tangibly, here in Silicon Valley,

starting with EPA and Belle Haven communities?' I sure hope so.

Dr. King writes it this way: "A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

**Kyra Brown** is a native of East Palo Alto and a Howard University alumna. Kyra Brown's blog can be found at: <https://writetoliveblog.blogspot.com/>

## Preparing students to succeed

By **Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff and Sharifa Wilson**

The Ravenswood City School District's Board of Trustees set the very clear goal of wanting to "prepare our students to succeed in high school and beyond."

For the past several years, as a district, we have continued to fail our students as is reflected by the fact that our district ranks last when it comes to preparing students for the Sequoia Union High School District.

Working together, the Board of Trustees and the Office of the Superintendent, have suc-



Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff

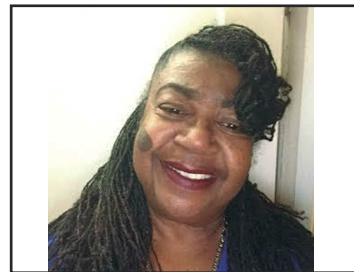
cessfully collaborated to make the necessary adjustments required to change our district's trajectory.

Through an increase in partnerships and resources, we have successfully moved from a culture where a select few of our schools feasted with

resources while the rest were left to starve. Today, our culture of equity ensures that resources are provided to ALL of our schools equally.

Since we began our partnership in 2013, we have implemented programs and initiatives that have never existed at Ravenswood. Below, we outline a few of our highlights. Although not an exhaustive list, it clearly contrasts the deficiencies of the old Ravenswood versus the empowerment of the new Ravenswood.

• In 2013, our district relied on outside organizations to provide our students with sum-



Sharifa Wilson

mer school. As of today, the District runs its own summer school programs offering services to over 1,000 students.

• In 2013, the District's computer labs were obsolete and barely operational. Today, we have modernized our computers and have made it a point to 1-1 laptops for all of our stu-

dents in grades 3-8. Additionally, our preschool through 2nd grade classrooms have laptops for small group instruction. We have also increased our wireless capabilities to ensure that all of our classrooms have wireless access.

• In 2013, our district did not have any MakerSpaces. Today, we have become a national model for being one of the first school districts in the nation to implement a MakerSpace program. Every single one of our schools has a MakerSpace and they are staffed with a Tinkerer to lead pro-

continued on page 11

## Teens express their views on Amazon in East Palo Alto

The following includes the opinions of East Palo Alto youth who worked at YUCA this summer. They preferred to comment anonymously.

I have a few YUCA youth sitting with me as I type this email. Some are interning with us for the summer through the SEP program and others are with us throughout the school year. Please find their thoughts regarding Amazon in East Palo Alto, below:

"I, as a youth, who is a part of this community, hoped that as city council, you would do what is best for the community.

This means that the commu-



nity's voice should be taken into consideration in making decisions that will affect the city. The fact that the decision was made for Amazon to move into the city behind closed doors makes us question whether we have a voice.

I and the community were not able to have our voice

heard then but that won't stop us now." --Steve, 17

"I think that if Amazon wants to move in, they have to give jobs to East Palo Alto residents. Since Amazon ( a tech company) is in our city, the rent will increase. People need jobs to maintain themselves

and their families and if they don't, it can result in them leaving the city. This sends the message that our community is replaceable and we are not important." -Michelle, 15

"The mayor should be more strict with having developers meet the hiring goal. I do not

feel that Amazon at least tried to offer East Palo Alto residents jobs."

--Anonymous, 14

"I feel like city council has betrayed the people that elected them by secretly agreeing to let Amazon expand into our community. This will ultimately hurt the people they are meant to serve. City council's decision will increase gentrification in East Palo Alto. Also, residents weren't given the opportunity to work for a tech company. I wish city council would have advocated for us to get jobs."

--Diana, 13

# Lifecycles

## Cañada College offers new opportunities



Photo - www.canadacollege.edu  
Jamillah Moore

By Ashli Gibson

On April 18, 2017, the president of Cañada College,

Jamillah Moore, made a special presentation to give out valuable information about Cañada College and the services that the college offers for youth around the Bay Area.

During her presentation, in which she focused specifically on East Palo Alto, Moore gave the council some facts about the college itself.

She said that Cañada College is one of 13 community colleges in California, that its total enrollment is 6,191 students, and that the college tries its best to allow high school students to gain interest in college at an early age.



In order to best complete this goal, Moore said that the college offers a two-year course to many high schools in East Palo Alto and in sur-

rounding areas.

Each unit of course work at Cañada College costs \$46, but if extra financial support is needed, then the fee will be waived to best suit the student.

For students, who want to pursue an education at a four-year university, Cañada offers a two year-course, then offers students the ability to transfer to any UC in the state.

Cañada is open to anyone, regardless of age, to attend the school in order to pursue or further their education.

Moore said that Cañada College wants all of its students to

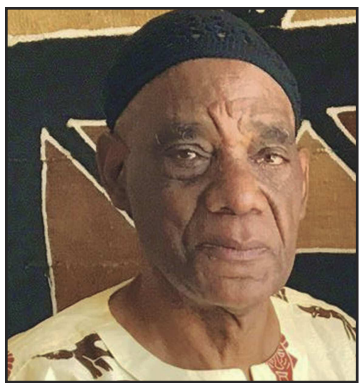
feel comfortable while getting their education, so the colleges does its part to help students with any obstacles that they might face.

Moore said that there is nothing that really prohibits people from coming to take a class on campus.

The ability to take a class at the college really depends on whether a student will have transportation to the campus.

For those, who simply cannot take classes during the weekdays, Cañada also offers classes on Saturdays and on week nights.

# A homegrown artist proudly displays his work



William Webster

By Sandra Webster

Willie Webster exhibited his eye catching artwork at the Muhammad Ali Cultural Center on Saturday, July 16, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in

East Palo Alto.

His creative expression is with acrylics, oil, charcoal, and pastels.

His exhibit drew admirers who traveled from across the country.

Bob and Dana Glasner came from as far away as Maryland to attend his exhibit.

Webster graduated from Ravenswood High School and has an art degree from the College of San

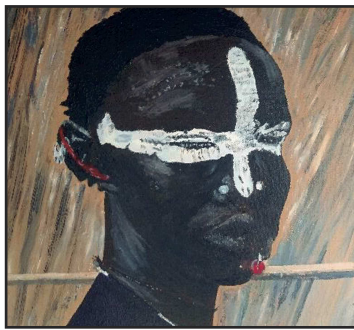
Mateo, where he also focused on sculpture.

He also master's degree in library science from San Jose State University.

According to his sister, Sandra T. Webster, his artwork

was displayed on the East Palo Alto library bus in the 70's, when he was a library assistance at the East Palo Alto branch library.

Webster's African inspired wall collages hang in the homes of Joan Saunders, Don



Above painting by Willie Webster called: African woman mourning death of a hero.



The painting above is called: Kush - a 3,000 year old pyramid in Africa.

Smothers and his sister, Sandra. Webster has been drawing

since the age of five and continues to follow his heart in creating his art.

He has been an East Pal Alto resident for over fifty years.

He volunteers with Johnnie Gray, the director of the East Palo Alto Boxing Club and the founder of the Muhammad Ali Cultural Center, which is located at

He will be selling t-shirts with his artwork very soon.

# Building resilient small businesses



Photos by Crystal Rasmussen  
Business owners Peter and Keisha Evans talk to customers about their merchandise during one of the RenaissanceCenter's marketplaces.

By Crystal Rasmussen

Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center with the support of the City of East Palo Alto has successfully offered their clients an opportunity to grow their business through community marketplaces.

A lot of small businesses are trying to make enough money to survive in the Bay Area. Affordable commercial spaces are limited or nonexistent. Vending provides that op-

portunity and allows for the small-business owner to build a customer base by marketing their business and perfecting their business operations.

These opportunities have created a community of small businesses working collaboratively to make the marketplace successful. Renaissance believes

in empowering women to become financially self-sufficient through entrepreneurship and with the access to these markets women owned businesses are able to grow and become sustainable businesses.

This has been a great partnership with the City of East Palo Alto and Renaissance to build and grow small businesses within the community.

Through these opportunities businesses are gaining visibility and access to new markets while learning strategic methods for selling their products and growing their brand.

Contact Crystal Rasmussen at 650-321-2193 or crasmussen@rencenter.org if you are interested in participating and learning more about being a part of the marketplace.



Peter and Keisha Evans are shown here with their friends and clients, Sandra T. Webster and Bridget Grant.

**Electric Vehicles:  
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# Lifecycles

## OEPA celebrates its 13th SEP graduation



Photo courtesy of: Rayshaun Jordan  
The SEP graduates line up to receive their certificates, in center, with parents watching and recording.

By Rayshaun Jordan

Looking for teenagers wandering the streets of East Palo Alto during the summer? Well, I hate to burst your bubble but for 13 consecutive years the youth of East Palo Alto have been given summer jobs and opportunities to succeed through the Sponsored Employment Program.

Known as SEP by the locals, the program is also known by its students for its motto: "more than a job, it's a community."

SEP graduated its thirteenth class of 'S.E.P Professionals' from the East Palo Alto com-

munity on August 9.

SEP offers students, ages 13 to 24, summer jobs all over East Palo Alto. It has also provided jobs to over 1,100 individuals

over the course of 13 years.

For the very first time, this year's class of 60 students and 7 peer mentors, was able to participate with the City of Menlo Park.

SEP raises all of the money to pay the students: \$14 dollars an hour which is more



Photo courtesy Rayshaun Jordan

than minimum wage.

Additionally, SEP raises all of the money to pay the \$4,000 cost per student with help from the City of East Palo Alto and many other individual and institutional donors.

Dr. Faye Mc-Nair Knox, executive director of One East Palo Alto, which oversees SEP, spoke about this year's pay-raise for the interns, by saying, "We said, if the burger franchise In-N-Out could do it, we thought we could do it too!"

The graduation ceremony, which was hosted by 7 organizations from the community, took place at the Eastside College Preparatory School.

The event also featured many performances and speeches from the students and guest speakers.

The guest speakers who attended the ceremony and spoke included, Larry Moody, mayor of East Palo Alto; Juan Salazar, public policy manager at Facebook; Sharifa Wilson, president of the Ravenswood City School District Board of Education and others.

The students and peer mentors all left the ceremony with

five awards, which came from: the U.S. House of Representatives, the County of San Mateo, the United States Congress, the California Senate and the California Legislative Assembly.

Rev. Teirrah McNair, SEP Coordinator from One East Palo Alto, spoke of the awards. She said, "Now this is what makes me excited: seeing all of you all get these grand certificates after your good hard work in the program!"



Photo by Rayshaun Jordan  
Larry Moody, Mayor of East Palo Alto, spoke to the S.E.P. graduates on his first job experience.

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[www.epatoday.org/treasured\\_memories/index.html](http://www.epatoday.org/treasured_memories/index.html)

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# Running with Eastside College Prep's track team

By Joshua Mendez-Arias

What does running mean to you? It can be merely an activity that one tries to avoid as often as possible.

But for others, it's a gateway to a better life.

Eastside College Preparatory School is filled with runners; 55 runners as of last year. They comprise 20% of the student body.

But, it was not always like this. Coach and sophomore history teacher, Cal Trembath, recalled that the team started in 2012 with Jake Shoemaker coaching 9 athletes that year: eight boys and one girl.

Trembath stated that the team has seen the performance of the team improve dramatically throughout the years.

"Qualifying for the Sectional meet [a WBAL race event] has gone from a distant dream to a forgone conclusion, on both the men's and the women's side. We've sent two athletes to the State Championship in the past two years as well," he said.

Trembath said that he sees great potential in his runners, but is realistic that the runner's potential will only be achieved if they work hard.

"I feel cautiously optimistic—we've got a lot of returning talent and a strong drive to compete, but as al



Photo courtesy of Linda Filo

If it is, in fact, true that running is good for your health, then the students at Eastside College Preparatory School must be healthy indeed! According to the accompanying article by Joshua Mendez Arias, "Eastside College Preparatory School is filled with runners." The runners on Eastside's cross county track team are shown in the photo above. All are looking quite healthy and not tired at all.

ways the results will be determined by work. Whichever team puts in the work will be the one that lines up in Fresno at the State Championship in November. We're still finding out if that's our team this season."

Clarissa Guzman a rising senior at Eastside, and currently a varsity member, which makes her among the school's top runners, only started running to stay active and keep herself busy to make the most of her time at Eastside.

Guzman never figured that her passion for running

would deepen. She started with Track & Field as a long distance runner, but that wasn't always her primary sport. She started off by playing volleyball in middle school, but she did not feel the same effects that she felt with running.

"It was a big decision because I had been playing volleyball since middle school, however I found out I enjoyed running more than playing volleyball," said Guzman. "By running, I am able to reflect and just think to myself, which is something that a lot of peo-

ple don't get to do."

Guzman went on to explain that her training has been difficult and has even made her contemplate why she is running to begin with, but she is reminded of having the feeling of accomplishment and staying healthy.

For the upcoming season, Guzman has set personal goals that she wants to obtain before she graduates.

"A goal I have for myself is to break my personal records from last year and come close to hitting 21 min-

utes on the Crystal Spring Course," Guzman said. "I want to give it all I have this season since it's going to be my last year."

Jorge Martinez, who is new to the running program, has been running 6 days a week for the past month. He became a runner because he wanted to see how much he could improve himself if he pushed himself to his limits.

"I enjoy being able to push myself and improve

continued on page 11

# Streetcode holds a third demo night

By Ivan Temes

Streetcode Academy, which is based in East Palo Alto, held its third annual Demo Night for students to display their creativity and technical applications to hundreds of visitors. This event was the culmination of the six-week summer program held in a Facebook facility and followed an outstanding five-month Spring session. The latter held a Gala which was attended by 1,000 people from throughout the area. The organization, led by co-founder Tunde Sobomehin, is gaining recognition for its ability to build a diverse community committed to educating students from East Palo Alto and other areas—ranging in ages from 7 to 79, to be prepared to take on significant roles in the technical arena in Silicon Valley and nationally.

The prior focus has been on middle and high school students. Some of the new areas which have been added include technical training for seniors and labs which help young people utilize and develop their creative skills as part of learning the technical aspects.

Candice Matthews from Hillman Accelerator in Cincinnati visited the event and was amazed at the multitude of aspects which have been put together to establish a learning community. Much of her work involves supporting accelera-

tors for women and minority groups and she said, 'We have to incorporate some of what I saw into to our programs to ensure their success.' Candice was also referring to the amazing cohort of volunteer technical tutors who give several nights of their week to assist the students. They comes from Stanford, other universities, high schools and high tech companies including Cisco, Apple, Google and Facebook.

The sessions were held from Monday through Thursday from 6-8:30 p.m. with field trips to key Silicon Valley companies on Fridays. Among the areas included are coding, web developing and envisioning and creating companies which sell their goods to the community and via websites.

Areas which were displayed included:

Junior Streetcode — Engaging early-childhood aged students with hands-on activities that introduced coding, building and making products.

Tech Exposure — Learning the fundamentals of technology, email, Facebook, internet searching, the Google suite and other technical areas.

Games and JavaScript — Students learned coding components such as drawing, variables, conditional logic, coordinates, animation and using keyboard input in pro-

cessing.

Binary+Hexadecimal - Young mathematicians learned the computer number system and how to convert between binary and hexadecimal systems.

Blockchain — Streetcoders experienced one of the only classes in the country which introduced Bitcoin and Ethereum Blockchain theory and coding, engaging in mapping

technology theory to educational activities and active ideation/coding.

Scheme — Fundamentals of functional programming, introducing variables, functions, binary search, list and basic recursion.

IOS Swift — Students created a variety of creative iPhone applications using basic Swift/IOS programming on swift Playgrounds 1.

Web Servers — An advanced programming class, featuring both young and senior level students in creating a Siri-like application that leveraged artificial intelligence, networking and cloud technology.

Streetcode expects to begin their Fall classes in September. The website is streetcode.us



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# The Class of 2017

## Eastside College Prep's 21st Graduating Senior Class

By Rayshaun Jordan

Below is a map of the United States detailing where each Eastside graduate will be attending college

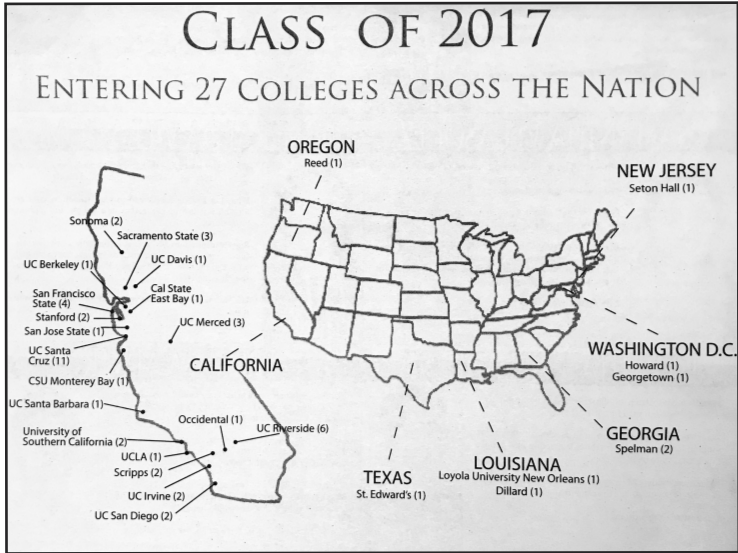


Photo courtesy of Eastside College Preparatory School



Photo courtesy of Jason Kuo Senior Raul Ponce, center, smiles while walking towards the stage.



Photo courtesy of Jason Kuo Senior Juliana Banuelos, center, poses for the camera while walking towards the stage.



Photo courtesy of Jason Kuo The graduating class, center, cheers as Principal Chris Bischof officially announces their completion of the school.

Now celebrating 21 years of operation, here is a list of the 56 graduating students and where they will go study:

- shley Jack - Dillard University
- Raul Ponce - SF State University
- Aaron Cason - Sacramento State
- Moises Correa - UC Santa Cruz
- Alexis Lax - Sonoma State
- Alan Calderon - UC Irvine
- Isaiah East - Sacramento State
- Elizabeth Diaz - Stanford University
- Jonathan Guillen - UC San Diego
- Maria Ortiz - UC Riverside
- Joceline Morales - UC Davis
- Juliana Banuelos - Scripps College
- Alejandra Rosales - CSU East Bay
- Mikayla Dones - Howard University
- Martin Marcias - UC Riverside
- Isaac Olvera - Georgetown University
- Chris Trujillo - UC Santa Cruz
- Alex Quintanar - UC Santa Cruz
- Jessica Moreno - San Jose State
- Fernanda Marquez - CSU Monterey Bay
- Aniyah Carson - Sonoma State
- Cynthia Perez - Scripps College
- Diego Arceo - USC
- Adilene Jaimes - UC Merced
- Tristan Curl - St. Edward's University
- Ruben Ponce - SF State University
- Noel Martinez - Stanford University
- Reyna Nieto - UC Santa Cruz
- Roberto Fajardo - UC Santa Cruz
- Diana Limon - UCLA
- Arleth Gutierrez - UC Santa Cruz
- Jacob Barrera - Seton Hall University
- Jocelyn Banuelos - UC Riverside
- Vanessa Velazquez - Sacramento State
- Brianna Garcia - Reed College
- Daniel Calderon - UC Santa Cruz
- Julissa Duenas - UC Santa Barbara
- Alberto Diaz - UCLA
- Margaret Pazos - UC Santa Cruz
- Jose Sainz - UC Riverside
- Aaron Muniz - UC Irvine
- Vanessa Ibarra - UC Santa Cruz
- Crystal Thomas - Loyola University, New Orleans
- Daniel Torres - Occidental College
- Mark Jon Harris - UC Berkeley
- Cynthia Govea Orozco - UC Riverside
- Maleah Reid - Spelman College
- Jonathan Banuelos - SF State University
- Wendy Avelar - UC Santa Cruz
- Tomas Cibrian - SF State University
- Blanca Betancourt - UC Merced
- Cristy Menor - UC Riverside
- Daniel Bugatin - UC Merced
- Niyah Brooks - Spelman College
- Daniela Hernandez - UC Santa Cruz
- Naomi Rivera - UC San Diego

## Eastside College Preparatory Running Team

continued from page 10

whenever possible," Martinez said.

Martinez has hopes that he can make it to Eastside's Cross Country team as a varsity member, where only the top seven runners are given a spot.

"My personal goal is to try and make varsity, I know



that is high, but I want to set it high so I don't settle. I am a hard worker that likes to

push myself, so I feel that I can lead by example by pushing myself, he said."

Martinez has noticed a few flaws with Eastside's Cross Country Team so far

during the summer training process.

"For the team in all honesty, my goal is that my teammates find the motivation to run without being tugged along the by the coaches, because right now it seems like they are pulling teeth."



## East Palo Alto Greyhounds command the field

By Allen Frazier

The EPA Greyhounds is a team composed of East Palo Alto kids who compete against other track teams as their city's track team.

The organization started in 2005 and is still going to the present day. The team constantly prepares for its next track meet, where it competes with the best youth teams in the U.S.

The EPA Greyhounds can be seen training for one of their upcoming track meets. In this photo taken this summer, team members can be seen practicing in Bell Street Park under the watchful eye of their coach Eric Stuart.

The team takes its direction from its coach Eric Stuart.

In June, the team trained for the Junior Kansas meet, which took place during the end of July.

On the EPA Greyhounds track team, there are approximately 30 kids who compete in the meets.

The EPA Greyhounds practice three times a week for at least two hours at a time.

It might be easy for some people to think that they sacrifice a lot of time for their sport.

As of July, the Greyhounds have won 7 of the last 12 Pacific Association championships.

# Free bachelor's degrees for East Palo Alto residents

By Adrian Ridner

Silicon Valley is booming. We're the home of sought-after tech giants like Apple, Facebook and Google, and tech jobs are red hot. But for every tech worker in Silicon Valley, there are five service workers who aren't able to take part in the region's economic prosperity. The cost of living is at an all-time high and many locals and service workers are simply unable to compete – forcing many to move out of the area. One reason – the lack of a bachelor's degree.

In East Palo Alto, 83 percent of adults over the age of 25 do not have a bachelor's degree. A college degree is the key to upward mobility, but the rising cost of tuition in addition to work and family obligations often prevent residents from pursuing that degree, essentially locking them out of high paying tech jobs in the area. It also leads to widespread income inequality and a lack of diversity in our communities.

My team and I at Study.com started the Working Scholars program as a way to address this inequality and provide Silicon Valley residents with an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree with zero out-of-pocket costs. Fresh off the heels of the success of similar programs in Mountain View and Gilroy, we're excited to launch the Working Scholars



Photo courtesy of Working Scholars

These Working Scholars and success coaches took time out of their busy schedules to pose for a memorable group photo.

program in East Palo Alto on Aug. 24.

The East Palo Alto Working Scholars program addresses the three main barriers to a college degree: cost, convenience and confidence. The program's online format offers flexible learning for working adults and with the help of Study.com, Thomas Edison State University (TESU) and the City of East Palo Alto, East Palo Alto resident can now earn their degree at no cost.

The easy-to-digest video lessons also remove much of the intimidation factor of completing college-level courses, while the community of Working Scholars and the program's success coaches provide motivation and support.

The program is completely

community funded and addresses the college affordability problem at the root by lowering the total cost of the degree to under \$8,500 through technology, low-cost transferable credit and discounted tuition fees. That discounted amount is then covered by a combination of corporate and private sponsorships.

Designed to fit within the busy lives of working adults, Working Scholars' completely online and flexible five-minute video lessons allow students to learn on-the-go and at their own pace. Success coaches at Study.com help assign courses and keep students motivated. Anyone living or working in East Palo Alto is eligible to participate, and without any books or other

materials required, there is no added cost for the student.

Once participants have earned credit for Study.com courses, those credits are transferred to TESU, where the scholars take their final courses and earn a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree.

In addition to a bachelor's degree, students also learn basic life and career skills like financial literacy, personal branding and leadership.

When my co-founder and I started Study.com, we were frustrated with the expense of textbooks and the ever-increasing cost of college tuition. Study.com has addressed that by using technology to make education affordable, effective and engaging. We help K-12, college students and profes-

sionals thrive academically, reduce the cost of college and close professional skills gaps.

Working Scholars takes that mission a step further and gives us the chance give back to our community. We believe it's a blueprint for the nation on how technology makes a truly debt-free college solution possible with the help of corporations, private companies and private institutions.

Close to 300 students from Mountain View and Gilroy are already actively working toward their degree and we're excited to extend this opportunity to East Palo Alto as well as to other Bay Area cities in the coming months. For more information, attend our Info Night on Aug. 24 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the East Palo Alto City Hall.

## Preparing students

continued from page 7



The above screen grab from the Ravenswood City School District website shows the school district's board of directors from left to right: Anna Maria Pulido, Sharifa Wilson, Marcelino Lopez, Dr. Charlie Mae Knight and Marielena Gaona Mendoza.

grams in the MakerSpaces.

• In 2013, our students were not provided with the opportunity to utilize instruments for music classes.

Today, we have purchased band instruments and hired music teachers to provide instruction during the school day. Additionally, art teachers have also been hired to provide art instruction during the school day.

• In 2013, the District did not provide our students with access to AVID, a program that teaches students specific skills for success in high school and college.

Today, 100% of our students have received AVID instruction while 20% have selected to take AVID as an elective.

We understand that change,

including new accountability standards, can be very difficult to accept, and at times challenging. However, we also recognize that, despite the uncomfortable feeling brought about by change, we must always do what is in the best interest of our students because we all want better outcomes for our students.

As we enter the new school year, we begin with the confidence and optimism of knowing that our years of working towards much needed reforms at Ravenswood have led us to this moment in our history. And, although reforms are an on-going process, the opening of the new Ravenswood Comprehensive Middle School marks a monumental turn around for our district, and more

importantly, the available opportunities for student success.

From the beginning of our working together, we have been very clear that Ravenswood's systematic deficits are not a reflection of the caliber of teachers and staff that work for the District. On the contrary, they have been able to achieve miracles despite this stark reality.

The changes we are implementing are equally for our teachers and staff as they are for our students as it is our hope to finally have an environment that gets the best of every single person that walks through our corridors.

It is sincerely our hope that this school year not devolve into one of political infighting as these types of environ-

ments have never prepared a student for a successful future.

From here on out, we are on a quest to make sure that your children have the opportunity to

have the necessary foundation to succeed in high school, and ultimately at a university.

The days of the Ravenswood City School District being at the bottom are over.

## The SOB RATO Organization

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

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Resumes shall be submitted directly to Kathi Uribe Sr. Human Resources Manager at [kuribe@sobrato.com](mailto:kuribe@sobrato.com).

# Meet the 2017 EPA Today Summer Interns



**Tayler Eddings** is 15 years old and she resides in Hayward. She attends Eastside College Preparatory school in East Palo Alto.

As of now she is a rising sophomore, and is excited to begin the new school year.

She has a brother Eugene Walker, who is 25 years, and she is very close to him. In school, her favorite subject is History.

Tayler said, "It is interesting to see how the world became how it is today." Her favorite color is blue, because it is pretty, and her favorite hobby is drawing.

She likes to shop for her clothes at Forever 21 because "...their clothes are cheap." When it comes time to eat lunch, her favorite place to eat is Chick-Fil-A. But, her all time favorite type of food to eat is pizza!

When she has free time, she either does her homework or watches Netflix to catch up on

her favorite show which is, Orange is the New Black!

When she sometimes watches sports, her favorite one is football.

Tayler has a dog named Dollar, which is a Jack Russell Terrier.

**Allen James Frazier** is a fourteen year old rising sophomore attending Menlo Atherton High School.

Last school year, Allen dived into the field of programming as an extracurricular activity. Allen felt comfortable in this field, since he was very interested in computers.

Outside of the classroom, Allen took a liking to reading. He particularly likes books that center on social issues and history.

While not now pursuing his hobbies, Allen spends his time with his family. He and his younger sister Aaliyah, have a particularly good relationship.

Those around Allen, inspire him to be the best person that he can be.

One of Allen's biggest inspirations is his father. This is due to his father's pioneering and cheery attitude.

This summer Allen decided to join the EPA Today newspaper in order to get experience in the journalism field.

When Allen grows up, he wants to be a computer engineer.

**On their first day in the 2017 East Palo Alto Today Summer Journalism Internship Program, the EPA Today interns were told, as their first assignment, to write profiles of each other. Their profiles appear below.**

See more of their articles in the Sept. EPA Today!



**Ashli Annmarie Gibson**, a sophomore attending Eastside College Preparatory High School, started her first day as an intern with East Palo Alto Today on June 19, 2017.

Ashli, who's 15 years old, is from Atlanta but currently lives in East Palo Alto. Ashli's interest in journalism caused her to be an intern at EPA Today. She was referred to the paper by her best friend, Amil Muwwakil.

Ashli's interests also include computer science, Spanish and history. "I like to know about current events and how we can learn from them", said Ashli.

Alongside history being one of her favorite subjects, Ashli has excelled in her Spanish class, which she has learned to enjoy.

On May 22, 2017, she attended the Menlo Rotary Awards at Menlo Atherton High School and received their Spanish award. Ashli has an older

brother, whom she sees as a role model, .

"He has faced a lot of struggles in high school," she said. "He pioneered and was able to attend a private university. Despite seeing her brother as a role model, Ashli sees herself as her biggest hero. "I work on myself and build my confidence," she said.



**Rayshaun Jordan** is a 15 year old. He is a student at Eastside College Preparatory School. This is the second year he has participated in the East Palo Alto Today Summer Journalism Internship Program. He was the first intern to start working this year. He left the program briefly in July to participate in the National Outdoor Leadership School, NOLS, located in Lander, Wyoming.

After his experience living in the wilderness in Wyoming, he said, "I am now just so much more

thankful for everything." Rayshaun has a younger brother, who was also employed this summer by a nonprofit organization in East Palo Alto.

Rayshaun worked on his school newspaper last year and this year, he will be responsible for coming up with story ideas about the East Palo Alto community that will be featured in the school's paper.

He said that he is looking forward to participating in East Palo Alto Today's summer program again next year.



**Joshua Mendez Arias** is a seventeen year old rising senior attending Eastside College Preparatory School.

During his junior year in high school Joshua took journalism. He also took computer science in his freshmen year.

He decided to join the EPA Today newspaper after it was suggested by his fellow colleague Rayshaun Jordan. In his closely related family, Joshua has one older sister named Judith who is 23 years old and is a registered nurse.

He also has an older

brother named Juan who is 19 and attends UC Berkeley. Then, he has a younger sister Anayah who is 8 years old.

His hobbies include running track and field and cross country. Joshua's role model is his father, because he respects what he has gone through all his life. Joshua tries his hardest to impress his father because of this.



**Reyanna Priscilla Ruiz** is a sophomore attending Eastside College Preparatory School. She has a fraternal twin brother named Raymond, who is 15 years old. In school, her favorite subject is history because she thinks it is interesting to see how we became who we are.

Ruiz's favorite color is turquoise. Her favorite hobby is to play soccer. Reyanna's favorite store to shop at is Victoria's Secret Pink. Her favorite place to eat is Chick-fil-A. She also likes to eat her mom's tacos.

In her free time, Reyanna likes to watch Netflix by herself. Her sport to play and to watch is soccer.

She has two dogs, one a chocolate labrador and a small chihuahua. Their names are Hershey and Nahla.

## Community News Briefs

off some of the penalties they have accrued from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission for unused water.

- by Rayshaun Jordan

### Developing affordable housing strategies

The East Palo Alto City Council heard a presentation at its regular meeting on July 12, 2017, about the Affordable Housing Strategy that has been implemented in order to tackle the lack of affordable housing in the East Palo Alto area.

Elizabeth Lucas, the management analyst of the Affordable Housing Strategy, presented some facts surrounding the strategy.

She said that the goals of the city's affordable housing strategy is to understand

housing needs and challenges and maintain and expand affordable housing.

The key task of the AFS is to find out more about the homeless population in the city and to identify options to deal with RV parking.

Many residents of EPA are concerned with how this strategy will tackle the ongoing stigma of homelessness in East Palo Alto.

Many residents feel that the strategy is not going tackle the root of the issue (which is homelessness in the present time).

The residents said that they want a strategy that is going to help battle the ongoing issue, instead of one that might address the issue in the future.

-by Ashli Gibson

### Should marijuana dispensaries be allowed to operate in the city?

The East Palo Alto Council seems undecided when it comes to regulating marijuana laws. At its July 12 meeting, the city council members heard a special presentation on marijuana use and distribution in East Palo Alto.

The East Palo Alto City Attorney, Rafael Alvarado Jr., presented a timeline about the history of marijuana in California. During his presentation, Alvarado gave an overview about the several cannabis laws that affect the use and distribution of cannabis in East Palo Alto.

He said that despite being legal for medicinal and recreational use in California, cannabis is still classified as a Schedule 1 drug. Throughout the council meeting, the city council struggled with deciding on whether they would tax cannabis dispensaries, and if



Regina Wallace Jones

so, then how much should the tax be.

The council then opened the meeting for the audience members to voice their opinion on the topic. Many students from the organization One East Palo Alto wanted the city council to prohibit the use and selling of cannabis because they said more children and teen-agers would be exposed to it. These students believed that the legalization of the distribution of

continued from page 3

marijuana/can-nabis would also cause the crime rate to rise in the city.

But one East Palo Alto resident, Regina Wallace Jones, approved of a dispensary in the city. She said that she supported marijuana statewide.

"I recently voted for [proposition] 64 in the belief that it would have reverse effects on the community..."

"I found the use of marijuana to be useful when [my] sister was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to take cannabis to help with nausea."

At the end of the meeting, the council seemed more open to considering the benefits that a dispensary in the city would have.

-by Ashli Gibson

# Enjoying a month of learning and experience in the Absaroka Mountain Range in Wyoming



Photo by Rayshaun Jordan  
Rayshaun Jordan, center, sits in the snow for the first time next to his newly made snowman.

## Rayshaun Jordan

The National Outdoor Leadership School, professionally known as NOLS, is a small non-profit organization based in Lander, Wyoming that gives high school and college students the opportunity to spend time outdoors without any technology; learning how to live in the wilderness and become a leader in their communities.

This year on June 19, I was granted this opportunity to learn how to live outside of civilization and become a better leader by receiving a scholarship to attend NOLS from my high school, Eastside College Prep.

Starting on the morning of June 18, I flew to a small airport in Casper, Wyoming with unspoken fear about being away from home for a whole month. Although I also did not know what to expect about camping in the outdoors, I was less apprehensive about that.

I left home at 4:30 a.m. that morning, with no skills or principles to help me live outdoors comfortably and safely. I left home that morning, with areas to improve in my leadership skills and in my appreciation of my life and the world around me.

I also left home that morning with courage and faith that everything would be okay and that I would have the best time of my life.

Looking back, I can very strongly agree that this was indeed the best time of my life.

From June 19 to July 19, we 15 students and four instructors backpacked 85 miles and endured 18,500 ft of elevation gain through the Absaroka Mountain Range near Lander, Wyoming.

On this trip, there were several major highlights for me: being able to see snow for the first time, watching a trout get caught in a river, hiking through Yellowstone National Park, seeing beautiful wildlife, and learning how to navigate with a GPS compass, and a topographic map.

I also enjoyed the many first aid classes we took to prepare us for our independent student group expeditions, along with the great camaraderie that was established throughout the course.

Having a positive attitude and a tolerance for uncertainty are two qualities that were essential to the completion of my NOLS course. Living out in the wilderness is a very slower lifestyle compared to living in civilization and it offers tons of uncertainty. For example, the weather might change at any moment; you might get to your site and have to hike a couple



Photo by Rayshaun Jordan  
Rayshaun's NOLS group, center, standing at 11,000 ft near Yellowstone National Park.



Photo by Rayshaun Jordan  
A bison, center, stands in the middle of the trail starting at the NOLS students.

of miles further for a safer campsite. You might have to take more weight in your pack to help out your group, and you might, among other things, have to cross several rivers in one day.

The change in lifestyle itself forces you to become more patient and more versatile. I came back home with a greater appreciation for things like the weather channel, chairs, instantly drinkable water, and other meats to eat besides summer sausage.

I also came home with a greater appreciation of my family and how they have raised me and brought me up to be the teenager that I am today. I am now just so much more thankful for everything after living humbly out in the wilderness for 30 days.

In closing, I enjoyed my 30 days backpacking in the Absaroka Mountain Range without technology, because I experienced pure joy and happiness without having to focus on anything other than my safety and the safety of my hiking group.

The trip offered me so much wanted time to just be able to enjoy myself and focus on my own self-improvement.

I, definitely, recommend that more young people aspire to take a NOLS course sometime in high school or college, because this is an experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

## Hope for East Palo Alto's future



Photo by Allen Frazier  
Joshua Mendez-Arias

### Joshua Mendez-Arias

The city of East Palo Alto, home to hundreds of minorities, is known, since 1992, as a dangerous city to live in

There were a total of 42 murders in that year, earning East Palo Alto the title of the "murder capital of the nation".

Yes, it is true that there have been innocent people killed, such as a student from Woodside High School one Sunday night almost four years ago;

But there is a drastic change now in its crime rate. This change is leading East Palo Alto to a brighter future, despite the negative connotation associated, for some people, with the city's name.

Today, many believe that East Palo Alto is still as dangerous as it once was and that life for those for

who live in this small city is fueled with violence, drugs and gangs.

As a resident of East Palo Alto and as a teenager who is trying to strive past the negative connotation that my city holds, I can testify that this city has far more potential that it's given credit for.

The children of East Palo Alto are being held back by the stereotype that East Palo Alto has.

This stereotype is preventing the majority of the kids from becoming successful.

In fact, statistics show that East Palo Alto has the highest school dropout rates along with North Fair Oaks in Redwood City.

The latest statistics show that there is a 35 percent reduction in violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault), in East Palo Alto.

This is an example of a city that is trying to change its negative reputation.

In addition, there have been several students from East Palo Alto that are heading off to some of the most prestigious schools in California, such as Stanford University, University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Southern California and the University of California, Berkeley.

Uriel Barragan, a graduate from East Palo Alto's Phoenix Acad-

emy, has beaten the odds and will attend the University of California Berkeley in the fall of 2017.

Barragan acknowledges that it has not always been easy growing up in East Palo Alto and attending school in the city.

"Schools in East Palo Alto don't have the same resources that schools in rich neighborhoods have," he said.

"We have a bad reputation. People always look down on kids who are from EPA or the 'hood.' Therefore, our school had a lack of staff because we didn't attract teachers."

Despite the setbacks that he faced at times, Barragan was never afraid to ask for help when he needed it.

"My friends and family helped shaped the man I am and I want to thank them for that."

Barragan said that he is ready to take on the challenge that comes with attending UC Berkeley's College of Engineering.

Even though the odds were high, Barragan managed to not let East Palo Alto's negative reputation bring him down.

"I am an example of a kid who made his dreams a reality," he said. "All I needed to do was believe in myself, and the rest fell into place."

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# Fireworks in EPA troubled city residents



Dr. Faye McNair Knox

By Allen Frazier

When the Fourth of July comes around, many think it's

time to celebrate Independence Day by being with loved ones or (something else).

But lots of people decide that fireworks are usually the way to go, its universally accepted that on the 4th of July, fireworks going off at night is inevitable, because they bring people together, and are enjoyable to watch. Fireworks aren't without their problems though.

The police chief Albert Pardini gives his outlook on the

firework situation. He says that the firework activity has decreased since last year do to having extra police working that day to be able to respond to situations faster.

The recorded firearms used went from 11 last year, to only 5 this year. The opinion on weather fireworks should be allowed is split in the community, but since fireworks are illegal, police have to try and cut it down.

Dr. Feye McNair Knox, an



Chief Albert Pardini

EPA resident complained about how she has to deal with the fireworks every year. For

her this year is worse because she has a grandchild who's terrified of the fireworks because he thinks they're gunshots. Luckily she reassured him they are no gunshots because EPA has improved so much that gunshots aren't a usual occurrence anymore. There's also the problem of how long they go on for, fireworks are excepted to go on until 10pm or slightly later, and however they go on as late as 1am sometimes.

## East Palo Alto is not a "news desert"

continued from page 6

controversy. The article discussed the presentation of the letter of no confidence at the school board meeting, listed the teachers' concerns and presented comments from both Dr. Hernandez-Goff and Sharifa Wilson, the President of the Ravenswood City School District.

EPA Today also ran an opinion piece by EPAKM (a representative from the group East Palo Alto Kids Matter), in its May – July 2017 issue that expressed in detail the issues that the teachers had with the superintendent's leadership.

It's in response to EPAKM's opinion piece, titled, Failed leadership is the real issue that the school superintendent and the President of the Ravenswood City School District, Sharifa Wilson, wrote a reply that appears in this issue of EPA Today on page 7.

Farhi ends his article with a statement from Abrica, who said "that a community loses its identity when it doesn't see or hear news about itself. 'It hurts our overall well-being,'" he says."

The East Palo Alto Center for Community Media (EPACCM) was founded on



the idea of preserving the community's identity, which is why it was established in 2003 to create media outlets in East Palo Alto. Its logo is "Giving the People a Voice."

East Palo Alto Today was created by the EPACCM in 2006 for the purpose of "Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical" for the East Palo Alto and Belle Haven communities.

It is absolutely essential for people to have accurate information that will enable them to make informed choices that will positively affect the quality of their lives.

Since 2002, The Talking with Henrietta television show has featured countless local residents and officials who've discussed local, state

and national issues of concern to city residents.

The news coverage given to the East Palo Alto community by EPA Today and the Talking with Henrietta show disprove the idea that East Palo Alto is a "news desert."

Farhi's conclusion that East Palo Alto is a "news desert" reminds me of the movie, Hidden Figures, since his article completely overlooks the actual news that is being covered. Is what we do still considered invisible, even when it is in plain sight?

So, should we conclude that if the news about the city isn't covered in the mainstream media, then the news being covered by the city's local media doesn't count?

Farhi's article seems to say so.

While the EPACCM, EPA Today and Talking with Henrietta were created to close the news gap affecting this community, a gap still exists and much more needs to be done. The need and the strug-

continued from page 6

Untrained bus staff searched our children's backpacks and the district failed to notify parents in writing of the searches. The civil rights of children of color were violated and the district does nothing to address this issue.

I will not go away until I get my parental letter regarding why the district allowed the search of our children. What was particularly disturbing was that a black child was initially singled out.

Before I requested a response and waited. Now I demand one. I want someone from the district to contact me and provide the forms and instructions regarding how to file a formal written complaint of the driver for not following PAUSD policy.

Marcia I. Perez  
East Palo Alto

## Letters

My daughter reported to me that as the bus was driving through Palo Alto a funny smell - marijuana - came from the Palo Alto neighborhood. None of the EPA kids on the bus were doing anything wrong. This may surprise some of you but people in Palo Alto smoke marijuana. In fact, startling enough, some people in Palo Alto are also alcoholics and drug addicts. To assume it came from the East Palo Alto elementary school children is beyond racist. They are little kids.

I expect the district and the driver to be apologizing to all the EPA children on the bus that day - in writing. So that I can teach my child that adults make mistakes based on prejudice, or bad judgement, and the responsible thing to do in an equitable society is take responsibility and apologize.

Otherwise the stifling silence would lead a rational person to the conclude that the district could care less about civil rights violations based on race and children of color are not equals nor relevant. Please advise which lesson my daughter gets from this. What should I tell her from this learning moment?

Dear Superintendent & Board,

Since first writing on July 23, I have not received a response from the Board or Superintendent addressing this issue. This is very frustrating and an indication the rights of VTP children are a very low priority. To the point we are completely disregarded and ignored. After reviewing the PAUSD policy on staff training and searches two violations occurred.

gle to provide this community with quality news is ongoing.

If the existing news gap in this city is to be closed, then the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media and East Palo Alto Today need your help. If the struggle is to be won, then those who live and work in this community must get involved.

If you would like to see the East Palo Alto community get the increased news coverage that it deserves, then go to

page 16 of this issue of EPA Today to see how you can join us in our effort to close the news gap and Keep Community Media Alive!

You have an opportunity to take action and the East Palo Alto community needs you to do just that.

Act today to increase the news coverage in the city and Keep Community Media Alive in East Palo Alto!

## Electric Vehicle Ride & Drive Event Sunday, August 20

St. Francis of Assisi Church  
1425 Bay Rd., East Palo Alto

**3 pm Information Session (45 minutes)  
3-5 pm Vehicle Test Drives**

### Find out how to:

- Lease a brand new electric vehicle for **under \$100/month**
- Get reimbursed for your down payment
- Get a check for **\$500 from PG&E** for owning an EV
- **Save a ton of money** on fuel (electricity is cheaper than gas!)

### Take a test drive in one of these models:

VW eGolf	Nissan Leaf
Kia Soul EV	Chevy Bolt
Chevy Volt	Ford Focus Electric

**Find out how YOU can be a participant in the future of transportation!**

This event is **FREE** to attend. Child care will be provided.



**GoEV**

Love the Planet  
and Your Car

**Best.Drive.EVer.**

Additional funding provided by Elizabeth and Clint Arndorfer

For more information, visit [acterra.org](http://acterra.org)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive Event – August 20, 2017

Find out how to lease a brand new electric vehicle for under \$100/month, get a check for \$500 from PG&E, and never pay for gas again! The following EVs will be available for test drives: Nissan Leaf, Kia Soul EV, Chevy Bolt, VW eGolf, and the Fiat 500e. This event is FREE and open to the public. Come and find out how YOU can be an early participant in the future of transportation! When: 3:00 - 5:00 pm Location: St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Rd., EPA.

### Free college Degree Information Night: East Palo Alto Working Scholars - August 24, 2017

East Palo Alto Working Scholars is a community-funded free college initiative that helps busy adults earn a free bachelor's degree entirely online. All costs of the degree are community funded: covered by the local business community, philanthropic organizations,

See more community calendar events at the website for the East Palo Alto Today newspaper [www.epatoday.org](http://www.epatoday.org)

grants, donations, and more. Students take all courses online through study.com and Thomas Edison State University. There are no books, just 5- minute video lessons that can be viewed on a computer, tablet. or smartphone. Learn more on August 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at East Palo Alto City Hall.

### Family Movie Night – Jack Farrell Park August 25, 2017

Bring your blankets and head to the park for free family fun. Festivities begin around 7 p.m. At sundown, settle in for a free screening of popular films. For more information, call

### 650-340-7022 ext. 387. Residential Solar Research Survey for Compensation - September 01, 2017

Are you a homeowner with a solar panel system? Stanford's IRIS Design Lab for sustainable design wants to hear from you! You can find our ~30-35 minute survey at the URL attached to this announcement, and it can be completed at any point between now and September 1st. We will email you a \$10 Amazon gift card after completing the survey.

### Family Movie Night - MLK Park - September 08, 2017

Bring your blankets again and head to the park for free family fun. Festivities begin around 7 p.m. The free screening will start at sundown. For more information, call 650-853-3100.

### Free Pet "Fixes" - September 13, 2017

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA are offering free spay & neuter surgeries for cats and dogs.

The surgeries are offered through the mobile clinic for low or fixed-income pet owners in East Palo Alto on a first come, first served basis.

The mobile union will be

stationed at 560 Bell Street, cross street University Ave. For more information, call 650-340-7022 ext. 387 or go online to <http://www.phs-sPCA.org/>

## Talking with Henrietta

### Electric Vehicles: the Pros and Cons



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta From left, Ron Freund, show host Henrietta J. Burroughs, Jim Barbera and Ariane Erickson are shown on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their August 10, 2017 discussion about the value of owning an electric vehicle.

This show can be seen on Channel 30 on the Midpeninsula and on the Internet at the days and times below until Sat. Sept. 14, 2017 on Sundays@5 p.m., Tuesdays@8 p.m., Wednesdays @ 6 p.m., Thursdays@8 p.m., Fridays@3:00 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. Get more information about this show on the East Palo Alto Today website at [www.epatoday.org/tv.html#electricvehicles](http://www.epatoday.org/tv.html#electricvehicles)

## Keep Community Media Alive



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

## Support the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in becoming a partner with the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media. Please accept my tax-deductible do-

nation as a personal contribution \_\_\_\_\_ or as a contribution on behalf of my organization \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,000

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check back with me about becoming a donor.

\*The East Palo Alto Center for Community Media is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation.

**Mail to:**  
**East Palo Alto Center for Community Media**

**P.O. Box 50274**  
**East Palo Alto, CA 94303**

**(650) 289-9699**  
**info@epamedia.org**  
**www.epamedia.org**

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