



Bob Hoover

A life of service

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Talking with
the Police

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East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

July - August 2006

Vol. 1 No. 5

Renters Threatened on Ballot

By Johanna Sophie Santos Bassetti
EPAToday

A privately-funded ballot initiative aimed at amending East Palo Alto's rent-control laws is considered by many

community members to be a threat to affordable, secure housing.

Current rent-control legislation protects the City's residents from arbitrary rent

increases and unjustified evictions. Without these protections, some city residents believe, the majority of East Palo Alto residents could not afford to stay in their homes.

(or Some residents believe that these protections make it possible for the majority of East Palo Alto residents to afford to stay in their homes.) East Palo Alto's location within

the heart of Silicon Valley makes it a prime target for gentrification, with developers interested in catering to a more affluent demographic.

If passed in the upcoming See **"Renters"** on page 15

Inside

Editorial
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NEWS BRIEF

Budget Update

EPA city officials disclose plan to close city's \$1.6 million budget gap. See **"Budget"** on page 3

ML Gordon

An investigation is being made into a complaint filed by EPA Assistant City Manager M.L. Gordon against Vice Mayor Peter Evans. See **ML Gordon** on page 6.

Child Abuse

An East Palo Alto woman working as a nanny in Redwood Shores received the jury's verdict. To read more see **"Nanny"** on page 6.

Foundation Merger

Two of the Peninsula's largest charity foundations merged on July 12th to form the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. See page 6 for more on **"Merger."**

Apali

Mayors met to promote political participation. See page 6 for more details on **"Apali"** and for more news briefs.

Joined in Mourning



Local Pacific Islander woman at a temporary memorial on Hwy 101 North just before the Marsh Road exit. The memorial was moved to a church in Redwood City.

Sudden Deaths in Tongan Royal Family

By Eseta Tuakihekolo
EPA Today High School Intern

Tongan families throughout the US gathered over the past few weeks to mourn the deaths of the Tongan Prince Tu'ipelehake, his wife Princess Kaimana, and their driver Vinisia Hefa. The three were on their way to San Francisco when their SUV was hit by another car which caused their vehicle to

roll over several times. Edith Delgado, the Redwood City teenager, who hit the royal couple's vehicle was charged with vehicular manslaughter and booked into the San Mateo County jail. Delgado's bail was originally set at \$300,000 and was raised to 3 million on July 7. The request to drop her bail to \$100,000 was denied on July

See **"Mourning"** on page 5

City Council Votes on Anti Violence Measure

By Natalie Rios
EPA Today

On July 25th, the East Palo Alto City Council approved the motion to include a proposed parcel tax on the ballot for the November 9, 2006 elections.

The measure would

increase funding for crime and violence prevention programs. If voters approve the parcel tax measure, 50% of the tax collected would go toward funding religious and non-profit organizations with programs for youth violence prevention, while the other 50% would fund programs for

the police department.

With the exception of seniors and disabled citizens, the proposed measure would cost property owners \$100 a year. It would be in place for a suggested 10 year period.

Members of Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) experienced a bittersweet victory,

since the measure they had lobbied for will now appear before voters. But they were disappointed that their request that 70% of the funds be allotted to youth programs and 30% to the police department was amended to a 50/50 split.

Please see **"Tax Measure"** on page 14

COMMUNITY

Sentencing Postponed Penisoni's wait continues

By Bonnie Swift
EPA Today

Local residents Kolotina and Sione Penisoni have endured several tragedies in the past years, but this month might have been especially difficult.

In 1997, Tina and Sione Penisoni lost their twelve year-old son, John Mafi Penisoni, when he was electrocuted at the top of a 75 foot high PG & E transmission tower in the East Palo Alto Baylands. Following the catastrophe, a group of East Palo Alto citizens lobbied PG & E to put seven feet of razor wire around each tower's base.

On July 5th of this year, Tina Penisoni's niece, Venisia, was killed along with Tongan Prince Tu'ipelehake, 56, and Princess Kaimana, 46, in a car crash. Edith Delgado, a Redwood City teenager slammed into their Ford Explorer on Highway 101 in Menlo Park, causing it to roll several times.

Venisia had been the royal couple's secretary in Tonga, and served as their driver when they visited the United States. Tina Penisoni was interviewed on one television news shows speaking of her

See **"Penisoni's Sentencing Postponed"** on page 11

Alquiler Peligra en las Elecciones

Johanna Bassetti
Sophie Santos
EPA Today

Una iniciativa, de financiamiento privado, dirigida hacia las leyes de control del alquiler en East Palo Alto es considerada como una amenaza al alojamiento seguro y económico, por muchos miembros de la comunidad. La legislación actual del control del alquiler protege a residentes de la ciudad contra aumentos arbitrarios del alquiler y desahucios injustificados. Sin estas protecciones, algunos residentes de la ciudad creen, la mayoría de los residentes de East Palo

Alto no podrían permanecer en sus hogares. La localización de East Palo Alto, en el corazón de Silicon Valley, la hace un blanco para los diseñadores interesados en atraer a un demográfico más afluente. Si la iniciativa propuesta, llamada La Medida de East Palo Alto para Hogares Libres de Violencia y Droga, pasa en las elecciones próximas de noviembre, modificaría substancialmente las leyes existentes de control del alquiler, permitiendo que un propietario desahucie a un inquilino sobre "cualquier base permitida por el contrato de alquiler del propietario con el arren-

datario y leyes aplicables del estado." Se incorpora en la enmienda una disposición para evitar que propietarios simplemente desahucien a arrendatarios para traer a personas que puedan pagar un alquiler mas alto. Después del desahucio, el propietario tendría que notificar al Consejo de la Estabilización de Rentas del acontecimiento, y no podría aumentar el alquiler para el arrendatario siguiente por 12 meses después de lo sucedido. Sin embargo, otra disposición de la ley del estado de California anula esta disposición local: el acto del Alquiler

de Costa-Hawkins de 1995 indica que cuando desahucian a un arrendatario, cuyo alquiler se ha aumentado gradualmente bajo control de alquileres, el propietario puede cobrar cualquier cantidad que él o ella desee al arrendatario siguiente. La iniciativa propuesta haría más fácil que los propietarios desahucien a arrendatarios y la ley del estado les permitiría sustituirlos con inquilinos que puedan pagar mas. Los partidarios de la iniciativa dicen que su propósito es facilitar la desahución de traficantes y otros criminales de unidades de alquiler. Sin embargo, los opositores creen

que ataca directamente a la política "buena causa para el desahucio" de la ciudad, una de las provisiones de fundación fundamentales de la ciudad que pasó por la elección general en 1984, poco después de la incorporación de la ciudad en 1983. Los opositores precisan que la ley actual proporciona las medidas con las cuales los traficantes pueden ser desahuciados, y que, por lo tanto, no hay necesidad de una enmienda. Ellos dicen que los conductores de la iniciativa están utilizando la etiqueta de "medida contra la

Por favor, vea “**Alquiler**” en la pagina 7

Dentro

- Editorial
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- Deportes
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NOTAS INFORMATIVA

Resumen Presupuestario

Los funcionarios de la ciudad de EPA divulgan un plan para cerrar el déficit presupuestario de \$1.6 millones. Por favor, vea “**Budget**” en la pagina 6

ML Gordon

Una investigación sobre una queja hecha por el encargado auxiliar M.L. Gordon, de la ciudad de EPA, contra el vice alcalde Peter Evans. Por favor, vea “**ML Gordon**” en la pagina 6

Abuso Infantil

Una mujer de East Palo Alto que trabajaba como niñera en Redwood Shores recibió el veredicto del jurado. Por favor, vea “**Nanny**” en la pagina 6

Fundaciones se Juntan

Dos de las fundaciones de caridad más grandes de la península se juntaron el 12 de julio para formar la fundación de la comunidad de Silicon Valley. Por favor, vea “**Merger**” en la pagina 6

APALI

Los alcaldes de varias ciudades se juntaron para promover la participación política. Por favor, vea “**APALI**” en la pagina 6 y para más noticias breves.

Juntos de Luto



Mujer de las Islas Pacificas en el vigilio anteriormente situado en la 101 a la altura de la salida de Marsh Road.

Muertes en la Familia Real Tongonesa

By Eseta Tuakihekolo
EPA Today High School Intern

Las Familias de Tonga en todos los Estados Unidos han estado unidas estas las ultimas semanas compartiendo el luto por las muertes de el Príncipe de Tonga Tu'ipelehake, su esposa la Princesa Kaimana, y su chofer Vinisia Hefa. Los tres iban en camino a San Francisco

cuando su vehículo SUV fue golpeado por otro vehículo a lo que condujo que su SUV rodara varias veces ocasionándoles la muerte. Edith Delgado una joven de Redwood City, quien fue la causante de la colisión del vehiculo de la pareja real fue acusada de homicidio involuntario y fue fichada en la cárcel del condado de San Mateo. La fianza de Delgado fue puesta original-

Por favor, vea “**Luto**” en la pagina 10

COMMUNIDAD

Sentencia Retrasada

La espera familiar continua

Los residentes de East Palo Alto, Kolotina y Sione Penisoni han vivido varias tragedias en los últimos años, pero este mes pudo haber sido especialmente difícil. En 1997, Tina y Sione Penisoni perdieron a su hijo de doce años, Juan Mafi Penisoni, cuando él murio electrocutado en la tapa de una torre de transmisión de PG&E de 75 pies de altura en East Palo Alto. Después de la catástrofe, un grupo de ciudadanos de East Palo Alto le exigieron a PG&E que pusiera siete pies de alambre alrededor de la base de cada torre. El 5 de julio de este año, murio la sobrina de Tina Penisoni, Venisia, junto con el príncipe Túipelehake, 56, y la princesa Kaimana, 46, de Tonga, en un accidente. Edith Delgado, una joven de Redwood City, se estrelló contra el Ford Explorer en el que viajaban el príncipe y la princessa, en la carretera 101 en Menlo Park, haciéndolo rodar varias veces. Venisia había sido la secretaria de la pareja real en Tonga, y trabajaba como su conductor cuando visitaban a los Estados Unidos. Tina Penisoni fue entrevistada en

Por favor, vea “**Penisoni**” en la pagina 14

Aumenta de Impuestos Recibe el "OK"

Natalie Rios
EPA Today

El 25 de Julio, los miembros del concejo de East Palo Alto aprobaron incluir una medida que propone un aumento de impuestos en la boleta para las elecciones del 9 de noviembre, 2006. Si es aprobada por dos tercios de los votantes, la medida aumentará los fondos para

programas de prevención de violencia y crimen. El 50% de los impuestos pagados serían asignados a organizaciones religiosas y no lucrativas con programas de prevención para jovenes, mientras el otro 50% financiaría programas para el departamento de policia. Con la excepción de los ancianos y ciudadanos liciados, la medida propuesta le

costaría \$100 cada año a los propietarios. La propuesta estaría en efecto por un maximo de diez años. Miembros de Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) obtuvieron una victoria a medias, ya que la medida que tanto apoyan tendrá la oportunidad de aparecer frente a los votantes, pero se desilusionaron al escuchar que su petición que el 70% de los fondos

sean para programas para jovenes, y solo el 30% para el departamento de policia, fue enmendada a una division de 50/50. Mas de 15 miembros de la comunidad aparecieron frente al alcalde Ruben Abrica y los miebros del consejo de la ciudad Donna Rutherford y David Woods, Pat Foster no estuvo

Por favor, vea “**Aumenta De Impuestos**” en la pagina 6

East Palo Alto Avoids Staff Layoffs

By Bonnie Swift
EPA Today

The city council has faced a complex dilemma in the past weeks. In an effort to close a \$1.6 million gap between the City of East Palo Alto's income and expenses, all city employees will receive up to 12 unpaid days of vacation during the fiscal year of 2006-2007, which the city refers to as "furlough days."

An earlier proposal had planned to eliminate 21 jobs, 14 of which are currently vacant. The new plan still eliminates those 14 positions, but the remaining 7 that are filled will remain on staff under the new plan.

The cost of financing the "position retention" is a reduction in services across the board, said city manager Alvin James.

On the 12 days each year when city employees will not be working, parks and medians will not be maintained, and permit offices and libraries will be closed-- resulting in reduced salaries for workers and lower level of services available to the public.

Public safety employees and police officers will not have any additional furlough days.

City managers also agreed to a 20% reduction in overtime pay, to which public safety officials will also be

subject.

The elimination of the 14 vacant positions will save the city \$900,000 of the \$1.6 million budget gap, and the new furlough days and reduction in overtime pay will save the remaining \$700,000 annually, said Mr. James.

Alternative measures have been taken so that all city employees shoulder the budget losses equally, rather than a small group of workers losing their means of living.

It is part of long-term strategy to reduce the gap between the city's available revenue and its expenditure commitments.

Decision is in on chemical spill

By Bonnie Swift
EPA Today

The recent chemical spill at Romic's East Palo Alto facility on Bay Road did not have any harmful effect and it did not pose a health threat to the community, according to a report published this month by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Romic plant on Bay Road in East Palo Alto

The June 5th chemical release from one of Romic's tanker trucks raised alarm throughout the East Palo Alto community. The fume of white smoke the tanker released spewed into the air and settled over several East Palo Alto streets, a section of the wetlands, a school garden, parts of Bay Rd, and the Romic facility itself.

The release occurred after 4,000 gallons of used mixed solvents began reacting inside the tanker. The solvents were composed of harmful volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOC's), such as hydroxylamine, monoethanolamine, toluene, and acetonitrile, that easily turn into vapor and dissipate quickly into the air,

When asked about the possible toxic risk posed by these chemicals to the community, Chris Stampoli, Romic's spokesman, said "the first round of tests show that the general scope of material is not toxic and that there was no impact to residential property."

The recently released impact assessment of the affected areas apparently confirm Stampoli's statement.

The assessment was a joint effort of the Environmental

Protection Agency, San Mateo County, and Romic. After analyzing over 50 samples, federal officials of the EPA stated in their July 11 report that the toxicity levels were "below the levels that are used to set cleanup goals."

"All sampling data was reviewed by both EPA and California Department of Health Services toxicologists," the statement explained.

"They are in agreement that the compounds identified would not have caused health effects in school children, staff or the neighboring community even if ingested."

In regards to the wetland, the statement specified that the large number of samples taken showed there "was no impact from chemicals associated with the release." Tests done on the school vegetable garden showed that "none of the materials associated with the release were present in either the vegetables or the soil."

What happens next? The EPA is not the only environmental agency addressing Romic's June violation. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has also taken action against the company. Following the discharge, the DTSC issued an enforcement order restraining the company's operations.

The June 15th order puts limits on the blending of hazardous waste to make fuel, one of Romic's main activities. It also prohibits Romic from "blending anything that comes from offsite", said Ron Baker, DTSC spokesperson. The order additionally prohibits

Romic's use of bio-sludge and hydroxylamine, and it requires the company to determine the cause of the incident and submit a "comprehensive, detailed report" within 60-days to DTSC.

The incident may have long lasting repercussions for Romic, since Romic's permit renewal is still pending. As stipulated in the DTSC enforcement order "all circumstances pertaining to the incident will be considered as part of the administrative record during DTSC's deliberations on Romic's proposed permit renewal."

The June 5th release is not the first occurrence of contamination by the company leading to federal investigation. Since Romic started operating in the City of East Palo Alto in 1963, "there has been a history of violations by the company."

During a June 12th press conference held to discuss the incident. City Manager Alvin James said the city wanted to "see Romic go". In response to James' statement, Stampolis said that Romic intended "to continue operating and providing services to the Bay Area and ... the State."

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EPA Welcomes Credit Union

By Natalie Rios
EPA Today

Efforts to open East Palo Alto's first community credit union are well under way. The bank is expected to open its doors to the public by 2007, pending federal approval.

The process began when the Northern California Urban Development Corporation (NCUDC), who is heading the project in East Palo Alto, submitted an application to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the United States agency that supervises and charters federal credit unions.

The credit union's application consists of a charter application, comprehensive business plan, and list of candidates for its Board of Directors. The application is still undergoing review and the NCUDC will have to wait and see if the application is approved, or if changes will have to be made to the current plan. Still, the application is "80-90% done," according to John Liotti, CEO of the NCUDC.

Liotti, who has been living in East Palo Alto for about five years, created the NCUDC in order to be able to offer financial services and opportunities to citizens of the city. The community credit union will be available to all members of the East Palo Alto community but is specifically geared towards those people who do not have access to a

bank and to help residents avoid becoming victims of predatory lending.

In an effort to reach all of the underserved citizens of East Palo Alto, the NCUDC is attempting to offer all of their services in Spanish.

"We really see Latinos as important in what we're doing," said Liotti. "Our goal is to have all employees speak Spanish."

Liotti emphasizes that, because the credit union is non-profit, it will also be entirely community organized and run. In a credit union, the members of the union are also the owners and only members can be shareholders.

"A credit union is a non-profit, so all profits go back to the people," said Liotti. "This is opposed to a commercial bank who comes in with other people and all profits are siphoned off to others."

In addition to having shareholders and investors from outside the company, traditional banks also hire their board members from other companies and agencies. In a community credit union, all board members are chosen from within the membership. Community members are eligible so long as they meet the government criteria for becoming credit union board members, the specifications vary depending on the credit union.

The current initiative was modeled after similar, successful, projects carried out in Modesto, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Those projects were

headed by Joe Duran, CEO of Community Trust Credit Union, whom Liotti accredits as being the inspiration for his efforts with the East Palo Alto CU.

"I've known Joe for years and his work at Community Trust was the spark that got this thing going," Liotti recently told the Credit Union Digest.

The efforts to create East Palo Alto's credit union have received support from several different sponsors including the Golden Bay CU, Patelco CU, Stanford FCU, and the Technology CU. The Stanford FCU will be leading a financial mentoring program for community leaders.

"We know that many people are 'unbanked' and lack access to money for purchasing a home or car," John Davis, CEO of Stanford FCU told the Credit Union Digest. "People who live in a cash society cannot get credit and they often pay outrageous fees just to cash paychecks."

NCUDC has also received support from the city officials but the most important support group will be the citizens themselves.

"It's been a lot of work, it's been a challenge and we need the community to get behind this," said Liotti. "When the doors open, we need deposits. There's an amazing amount of opportunity for this community to get out of this situation, when people are given the opportunity to rise above poverty."

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Mourning

continued from page 1

13. Delgado is scheduled to appear in court again on September 20.

The royal couple had just arrived in California a few hours before their car collided with Delgado's. They were visiting California to meet with the local Tongan community to discuss political reforms in Tonga. The Prince and his wife had just returned from the 88th birthday celebration in Tonga of his uncle, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, the king of Tonga.

Some of the mourners who came to pay their respect to the royal couple, gathered at services which were held at the Hillsborough mansion owned by King Tupou IV. Mourners came in black clothes with their bodies respectfully wrapped in a Tauvala, a Tongan traditional mat that is made out of pounded Mule Berry and worn on special occasions as a sign of respect.

East Palo Alto residents Fatani Uhila and his daughter Tofe accompanied the royal couple's bodies back to Tonga, where a huge funeral is planned in Lapaha, Tonga at the Royal Cemetery.

Uhila said he was the last person to be called by Princess Kaimana an hour and a half before the accident. "I've been the one in charge of taking the Prince and Princess Kaimana around for the last five years," he said. Uhila's aunt Vaiolulu Vaiolupe Mo e Fala e Tuipelehake Uhila Fuata said "It's a big loss in the island of Tonga, even in the Tongan communities in the US. It touched Tongan's

heart.... it's like a bomb hit us." Fuata is a distant relative of Prince Tu'ipelehake and grew up with him in Pelehake, a village in Tonga.

On the very day the bodies of the prince and princess were flown back to Tonga, the East Palo Alto City Council issued a proclamation celebrating their lives. The proclamation was presented to Lavenia Fusitua, the late Princess' aunt, who lives in Oregon.

During his presentation of the proclamation, East Palo Alto's Mayor Ruben Abrica said that even though the Prince was very busy when he was visited the United States, "he never passed on an opportunity to visit East Palo Alto... He was instrumental in bringing democratic reforms to the kingdom of Tonga."

On Sunday, July 9, local Tongan residents gathered for a service that was held at a United Methodist Church in San Carlos to hear the Prince's sister honor her brother and his wife.

East Palo Alto resident William Webster said that he was profoundly moved when he attended the memorial service for the royal couple at the East Palo Alto Senior Center. Webster said that the service brought together peoples of the Pacific Islander community and emphasized the connection between the East Palo Alto community and the kingdom of Tonga.

Siosifa Moala, a 14 year old male who moved to California in 2004 from



PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO CELEBRATES THE LIVES OF AND DECLARES TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006 AS HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS TU'IPELEHAKE, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS KAIMANA AND STAFF MEMBER VINISIA ALOSE HEFA DAY IN THE CITY

WHEREAS, The City of East Palo Alto celebrates the lives and memories of the City's Tongan community's beloved royalty, His Royal Highness, Prince Tu'ipelehake, (nephew of the King of Tonga, His Royal Highness King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV); Her Royal Highness Kaimana and loyal staff member Vinisia Alosa Hefa; and

WHEREAS, though he was Tongan born and Tonga was he principal residence, His Royal Highness, Prince Tu'ipelehake's love of this community made him a twelve year resident of East Palo Alto and Her Royal Highness Kaimana was often a visitor here and loved this community and its residents. Staff member, (Official Secretary for the Royal Family), Vinisia Alosa Hefa was a five year resident of the City and provided dedicated and loyal service to the family and the Tongan community; and

WHEREAS, His Royal Highness, Prince Tu'ipelehake visited often, speaking at the various churches throughout the United States and though he had a very busy traveling schedule he never passed on an opportunity to visit East Palo Alto. He tried to keep a connection with all the Tongan people in America where he was "much beloved and respected". His Royal Highness was instrumental in attempting democratic reform in his own country of Tonga where he served as chairman of the National Committee of the Kingdom of Tonga on political reform; and

WHEREAS, Her Royal Highness, Princess Kaimana traveled with her husband and supported him in his pursuits and was a loyal, dedicated, loving wife and mother who loved her Tongan culture and church; and

WHEREAS, Vinisia Alosa Hefa was a familiar and well known part of the Tongan community here in the City and will be dearly missed by loving family and community members.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council and Residents of the City of East Palo Alto celebrates the lives and memories of His Royal Highness Prince Tu'ipelehake, Her Royal Highness Princess Kaimana and royal staff member/city resident Vinisia Alosa Hefa; and extend heartfelt condolences to the royal family, the country of Tonga and the East Palo Alto Tongan community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED THAT, Tuesday, July 18, 2006 be declared His Royal Highness Prince Tu'ipelehake, Her Royal Highness Princess Kaimana and royal staff member/city resident Vinisia Alosa Hefa Day in the City of East Palo Alto.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I, Ruben Abrica, Mayor of the City of East Palo Alto have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of East Palo Alto to be affixed this 18th day of July 2006.

Ruben Abrica, Mayor

Vava'u, Tonga, said, "It's so sad. I feel sympathetic for the Royal's loss. He was a good, nice, and caring prince." Moala was also one of the many mourners who helped build the original memorial site off of

Highway 101. He was one of the many that helped build the original memorial site.

Tevita and Latanoa Hufanga, members of Penieli, the First Free Tongan Wesleyan church in

East Palo Alto, showed their sympathy by also taking flowers to the memorial. "We feel sorry for him because he's a nice guy. He and his wife helped the Tongans in East Palo Alto.

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City, County & State Government Meetings & Contacts

East Palo Alto City Council

The City of Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers, East Palo Alto City Hall, 2415 University Avenue; (650) 853-3100 or Fax: (650) 853-3115. Website: www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us

East Palo Alto City Council Members

Ruben Abrica - Mayor
(650) 321-4001

A. Peter Evans - Vice Mayor
(650) 321-1009

Patricia Foster
(650) 328-3944

Donna Rutherford
(650) 327-7926

David E. Woods
(650) 853-1907

East Palo Alto Boards, Commissions, Committees

Planning Commission
Second and Fourth Monday

Rent Stabilization Board
Second and Fourth Wednesday

Public Works & Transportation Commission
First and Third Wednesday

Youth Advisory Committee
First Thursday of each month

Senior Advisory Committee
Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month - 6:30p.m. - City Hall.

Menlo Park City Council
The Menlo Park City Council holds meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers located at 801 Laurel Street. You can subscribe to receive the

agendas and minutes by e-mail when they are published. An agenda is posted in advance of the weekly meeting, and past agendas and minutes are filed by the date they were held. If you have questions about an agenda please call the City Clerk at 650.330.6620.

Menlo Park City Council Members

Nicholas P. Jellins - Mayor
(650) 329-1300
Kelly J. Fergusson - Vice Mayor
(650) 327-4533

Andrew M. Cohen
(650) 327-5332

Lee B. Duboc
(650) 322-3651

Mickie Winkler
(650) 473-9722

Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees

Arts Commission
Bicycle Commission
Environmental Quality Commission
Housing Commission
Las Pulgas Committee
Library Commission
Parks and Recreation Commission
Planning Commission
Transportation Commission

San Mateo County Bd. of Supervisors

Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, Fourth District

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meets on February 7, 28 March 7, 14, 28, 2006 in the County Government Center: Hall of Justice & Records 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. Roll call

at: 8a.m. 9a.m. Regular & Consent Agenda Items.

State Officials

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
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Fax: 916-445-4633
Email: governor@governor.ca.gov

Assembly Member Ira Ruskin
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Los Altos, CA 94022
650 691-2121

Senator Joseph S. Simitian
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160 Town & Country Village
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 688-6384

News Briefs Continued

ML Gordon

The East Palo Alto city council has decided to spend between \$10,000 and \$30,000 on the investigation of a complaint filed by Assistant City Manager, M.L. Gordon against Vice Mayor Peter Evans.

According to the city attorney Michael Lawson, the sum will be taken from the city's General Fund, and will be spent on the legal advice of San Francisco attorney, Cynthia O'Neill. O'Neill might also use the funds to hire a private investigator.

M.L. Gordon wrote a letter dated June 9 complaining that Council member Evans' behavior was creating a hostile working environment for certain employees of the city of East Palo Alto.

Given that the city has been forced to make major budget cuts in order to reduce its deficit, some find it difficult to understand how quarrels within the administration could take financial priority over maintaining basic services provided to the public by the city.

Nanny Convicted

An East Palo Alto resident working as a nanny in Redwood Shores was convicted of child abuse on Thursday, July 13th. The jury found her guilty of violently shaking a 2 ½ month old baby boy and causing skull fractures and brain hemorrhages, but acquitted her of intentionally injuring the child, according to the Associated Press.

She was arrested on March 17th when police officers responded to her 911 call and found the baby unconscious when they arrived. The nanny told investigators that he had fallen off the couch, but later examinations revealed that he was violently shaken.

The baby was released from the hospital after a week and was in good condition, but it could be years before doctors can determine whether or not he suffered permanent brain damage.

The nanny remains in custody in lieu of \$1 million bail. She will be sentenced on Sept. 29.

Foundation Merger

Two of the Peninsula's largest charity foundations merged on July 12th to form the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Their total budget now exceeds \$1.5 Billion, which includes stocks from many companies. Patricia Breese, spokesperson for the foundation, said that the intention of the merger is to pull from the "best practices" of each foundation in order to operate at "at even higher level of excellence."

The foundation will issue grants to many types of non-profits, funding projects in the arts and programs aimed at increasing child literacy rates. One of their innovative programs provides technical assistance grants of up to \$5000 to help organizations improve their administrative effectiveness.

The next information meet-

ing for grant-seekers is scheduled on August 8th in their current Downtown San Jose Office. For more information see their website at www.cfsv.org.

Mayors Promote Political Participation

EPA Mayor Ruben Abrica and former mayor of Cupertino, Michael Chang, are collaborating on a program called the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute (APALI). The program aims to increase political participation among the Peninsula's Asian and Latino youth.

Mayors Abrica and Chang are immigrants themselves--from Jalisco, and Hong Kong respectively--and both are faculty members at De Anza College, where the program is based. Their next conference will be held next January 10th.

"What's innovative and cutting edge is nurturing Asian-American and Latino leaders together to prepare them for leading very diverse populations, Chang was quoted in a recent Mercury News article, "It goes to the heart of a multicultural democracy."

East Palo Alto Explorers

Last month, East Palo Alto's Police Explorer team took third place in a national competition in Flagstaff, AZ. The eight-member EPA team beat about 5000 Police Explorer competitors from



14 year old EPA Explorer Gilberto Soria

around the country. The teams competed in several rounds of mock emergencies, and were judged on their ability to respond to such situations as a domestic violence call, a burglary, a bomb threat and hostage negotiations.

The aim of the Police Explorer program is to provide 14-21 year olds with basic law enforcement training and to allow them to ride along with local officers. According to their website, the aim to inspire young people to pursue careers in law enforcement,

Grant for Free At Last

David Lewis, the executive director of Free at Last, announced to East Palo Alto Today that his organization has received funding to provide access to Health Care Services for East Palo Alto's homeless, Pacific Islanders and the Latino residents of East Palo Alto.

Lewis said, "A team of outreach workers will be strategically located throughout the community to implement this very important growing initia-

tive." For more information see the Free At Last job announcement in this issue of EPA Today's classified advertising section.

Phoenix Academy

The Ravenswood City School Board held a special meeting on July 20 and decided to revoke the charter of the Phoenix Academy, a private East Palo charter school.

The Phoenix Academy served 53 students in grades K through 8. Some of the students lived in East Palo Alto; others came from Menlo Park, Sunnyvale, Fremont, San Jose and Milpitas.

Elaine Bryant, the school's co-founder and its Director of Finance Administration, said "It was a surprise that the district scheduled a special meeting and we had 48 hours to respond.

"It all appeared to be very orchestrated," she said.

The Phoenix Academy was in its second year. It had formerly been called The School of Wisdom and Knowledge, which had been founded by Nobantu Ankoanda, a longtime East Palo Alto resident who moved to Georgia.

Bryant said, "The Phoenix Academy will be working with its attorney to decide on future steps."

Aumenta De Impuestos

continuado de la pagina 2

presente, para dar voz a sus preocupaciones y sugerencias. El vice alcalde, Peter Evans, tampoco estuvo presente durante la junta.

El alcalde Abrica estaba de acuerdo con la division de 70/30 de los fondos pero tuvo que llegar a un acuerdo de 50/50 cuando los otros miembros del consejo se opusieron a la primera sugerencia.

Jose García, un miembro de PIA, fue una de bastantes personas que estuvieron presentes durante la junta para apoyar a la medida. García usó una pequeña etiqueta púrpura que usaron todos los miembros e invitados de PIA. Escuchaba en silencio, con su hija de cuatro años en brazos, mientras el consejo de la ciudad hizo los ultimos cambios a la propuesta antes de aprobarla.

"Estamos pidiendo a la ciudad que traigan mas programas para los jovenes para que baje la criminalidad y pueda mejorar toda la ciudad," dijo García.

García vive en East Palo Alto desde hace 16 años con

su esposa y cuatro hijos. Dos de sus hijos tienen 15 y 14 años, y fue su preocupación por ellos que lo trajo a la reunion como un partidario de la propuesta y de la asignación 70/30 de los fondos.

García se sintio feliz al escuchar que la medida aparecerá en la boleta pero él quería que la mayoría de los fondos fueran hacia los programas para la juventud.

"No estamos pidiendo mas de lo que necesita la comunidad," dijo García.

Carolina Cervantes, una joven de 18 años y voluntaria de PIA esta de acuerdo con García.

"¡El 50% de nuestros jovenes estan dejando la secundaria antes de graduarse! La comunidad quiere una solución, nosotros somos votantes, pagamos impuestos y sabemos lo que queremos," les dijo Cervantes al alcalde y a los miembros del consejo mientras otros residentes aplaudían sus palabras.

Cervantes estuvo presente con otros adolescentes que apoyan a PIA y a la medida.

Varios de los muchachos llevaban muestras que tenian "Mas Programas Comunitarios" escrito en un lado y la fracción "70/30" escrita en el otro.

"Yo soy madre, y tuve que buscar los programas que necesitaban mis hijos fuera de esta ciudad," dijo Bunnie Finley, una residente de la ciudad. Ella también habló acerca de la necesidad que tiene la ciudad de programas para prevención de violencia juvenil.

"La semana pasada, vi cuando unos muchachos se prebaraban para balasearse," dijo Finley. "Queremos que nuestros hijos regresen a nosotros, no queremos que las calles los controlen. ¡Solamente pedimos \$2 a la semana!"

Algunos residentes, sin embargo, no estuvieron molestos con la fractura de 50/50. Al contrario, a ellos les enfado que la medida aparecerá en la boleta de cualquier modo.

"Yo siento que los impuestos ya son demasiados y muy altos para que nosotros podamos seguir cuidando a nuestros hijos," dijo Rigoberto Zamora, quien ha vivido en la ciudad por mas de 25 años.

"Yo no estoy de acuerdo con el impuesto que se puede introducir a la ciudad...como familias de bajos ingresos, necesitamos que todo el dinero que se pueda de nuestros cheques sea para nuestras familias."

La residente Luella Parker, de la Garden Block Club, dijo que a ella no le importaría un aumento de impuestos si esto mejorara la situación en la ciudad, pero ella confesó que no se "siente bien con esta situación."

"No necesito a PIA para ayudarme a tomar una decisión," ella dijo. "Me gusta la juventud pero no quiero que aumenten mis impuestos para estas otras organizaciones...tenemos [a funcionarios de la ciudad] calificados para hacer programas, no necesitamos a PIA."

R.B. Jones también desaprobó la cantidad de financiamiento que recibirían las organizaciones si la medida pasa.

Él preguntó, ¿"Qué puede hacer cualquiera de esta gente más allá de ofrecer a nuestros niños un trabajo de verano?" Él se refería a las organizaciones no lucrativas y religiosas que recibirían la financiación por el impuesto.

"Sugiero una medida que daría todos los fondos al departamento de policía ... ustedes estan garantizando el fracaso para ambos [programas] poniendolos en la misma medida," dijo él.

Votantes rechazaron a la medida K, una medida que también propuso aumentar impuestos para finaciar programas de prevención de crimen, durante las elecciones del año pasado. Ahora, los residentes de East Palo Alto tendrán hasta el 9 de noviembre para tomar su postura final en la nueva medida y echar sus votos a favor de, o en contra de, el impuesto.

"Estos niños necesitan amor y necesitamos darselo de su propia ciudad," dijo Finley, que cerró los ojos y bajo la cabeza cuando el consejo de la ciudad decidió disminuir el porcentaje de los fondos que financiarían a programas para jovenes si la medida pasa. El pastor Baines de la iglesia de San Samuel de Dios en Cristo, que está situada en East Bayshore, esta de acuerdo con Finley.

"Oigo a la gente decir que los niños son nuestro futuro, pero yo creo que son nuestro presente," dijo Baines. "Si no cuidamos a nuestros niños

Beware home loan rip off lenders

By Rashid Sigg and Rose Baldwin
EPA Today Contributors

For the past several years predatory home lenders have been stalking neighborhoods throughout the United States. Borrowers lose more than \$25 billion annually due to predatory lending. Predatory lenders are not the average low brow thief. They are often smooth, sophisticated, and know how to gain people's trust on one hand and intimidate on the other. A common example is a homeowner who signs a contract with a mortgage broker for a refinance mortgage or home equity loan, usually to consolidate bills, pay for remodeling, or lower payments during a rough period. Only later do they realize that the interest rate is much higher than promised and that the loan includes thousands of dollars in unexpected fees that legitimate lenders don't charge. The result is a

monthly payment that's higher than the homeowner can pay. Unable to pay the mortgage, homeowners are forced to try and refinance again and again until they eventually deplete the equity in their home. This is known as the "equity stripping". This repeat refinancing results in huge profits for the lender and mortgage broker. Other common home loan rip-offs are bait and Switch; you are promised a low rate and no cost loan and the terms change just before you sign. Affinity Fraud; someone who speaks your language, attends your church or belongs to the same club tells you they can give you a great deal. Just because you have something in common does not mean they won't cheat you. Prepayment penalties are extra payments you must make if you pay off your loan early. These fees are usually high and can add up to thousands of dollars. Look out for this penalty.

The primary victims
Predatory lending has traditionally taken advantage of borrowers who are unsophisticated, have below average credit, or are desperate for the money. People of color and seniors are often victims. According to HUD, over half (51%) of refinance mortgages in predominantly African-American neighborhoods are subprime loans, compared to only 9% of refinances in predominantly white neighborhoods. According to estimates from Fannie Mae, up to half of borrowers with subprime mortgages could have qualified for loans with better terms. Check your credit rating. If your credit score is 700 or above you don't need a subprime loan. Ask for a prime loan.

The next wave: Seniors and Reverse mortgages
A reverse mortgage is a type of loan available to consumers, 62 year of age or older, in which homeowners

convert their equity (the value of their home, minus the amount of mortgage(s) into cash while retaining ownership and occupancy of their home. The loan does not need to be repaid during the time that the borrower lives in the home. In the event the borrower dies or is absent from the home for 12 months, the property is sold and the loan is repaid from the proceeds. This type of loan can be very useful to a senior who cannot meet living expenses. But, reverse mortgages are very expensive and very complicated, even though they may appear simple. If you are a senior and are considering a reverse mortgage, there may be better options available. You should talk with a loan counselor. Loan counseling is free and available through HUD. To get a referral to a free reverse mortgage counselor call: 1-800-209-8085 (toll-free). Getting a home loan is the biggest financial transaction

that most people will ever enter into in their lives. You need to be well informed so that you can take care of business. Please ask questions, compare loans from different lenders, don't sign documents that contain blank spaces and talk to someone whom you trust before you sign the papers. If you are considering a loan or have a question regarding your present loan call (866) 954-9495 (toll free). If you are in San Mateo County, you can get free legal assistance at Community Legal Services. Please call (650) 326-6440 for an appointment. Rashid Sigg and Rose Baldwin are law students who have been working with Sirley Hockhausen to prevent predatory lending. Hockhausen is a professor at San Francisco State University and a volunteer at the Community Law Center in East Palo Alto.

A day for celebrating local businesses

On July 15, East Palo Alto's Bell Street Park was transformed into both a marketplace and a community festival to celebrate the achievements of local business owners. The transformation marked Start Up's Second Annual Celebration of Entrepreneurship. The day-long celebration featured a festive array of yellow, blue, and red umbrellas which shaded 30 local businesses and nonprofit agencies that provide essential resources for small business owners. During the festivities, children painted their faces, played in a bounce house, and ate free popcorn while their parents browsed the



A scene from Start Up's celebration in the park.

aisles of merchandise that included everything from fashion jewelry and Christian books to an on-the-spot chair massage. "Performances by Velocity Circus Troupe, including a Latin juggler and a magic act, were the highlights of Start Up's festive event. Awards were given to outstanding local entrepreneurs: some

who had just started their businesses and others who had been in business for decades. Award recipients included Feliciano Zavala, Carolyn Khojasteh, Georgina Peraza, Anthony Thomas, Celina Rodriguez, Manuel Chavez, Betty Burgess, Stephen Stewart, Stephanie Griffin, and Keenan Wright. Five winners received equity awards from the Women and Company Microenterprise Boost Program. Adrienne Bachleda, DaNesha Fuller, Yolanda Rhodes, Aurea Rodriguez, and Valerie Wiley received cash awards of \$2,230. Attendees at the event included Assemblymember

Ira Ruskin, 21st District, California Legislature; Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, Fourth District, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors; and Guillermo "Memo" Morantes, San Mateo County Board of Education. The celebration was sponsored by Citibank (lead sponsor), Wells Fargo, California Bank & Trust, and the East Palo Alto - Belle Haven Chamber of Commerce. Start Up, which is now in its 12th year, teaches people how to start a new business or grow an existing one. In many cases, Start Up's services are aimed toward those who are struggling to make ends meet. Through its class-

es, the organization shows its students how to achieve financial freedom. Start Up offers a comprehensive 19-week entrepreneurship training program in Spanish and English. A flexible structure lets you take what you need when you need it, and our practical focus will let you apply what you learn from day one. The program will help you understand if you're ready to start a business, prepare yourself financially, make a plan to achieve success, and launch your business! Fall session begins Sept. 12. For more information call (650) 321-2193 or visit www.startupepa.org.

Valdez opinion cont'd from page 9

The hatred and hostility aimed at undocumented immigrants is latent and has increased since immigrants have become more vocal about the social and structural changes that need to be made with respect to the legalization process and their human rights. These changes are necessary to establish the stability and calm in all of the communities. The atmosphere surrounding these issues, especially for the last few days, only highlights the need for an urgent, and a bit radical, shift in the conscience of those legislators who are against cultivating an ambience of understanding in this great nation. Attorney General, Alberto Gonzalez, said that despite the instability and criticisms faced by the Senate after

their project on immigration, declaring English as the "national language" of the United States would not change the current norms and standards. If President George W. Bush considered the benefits to be had in a society where social justice exists and if he considered the principles upon which this great country was founded, he would do well in neither signing nor supporting any amendments or laws attempting to disrupt communication between neighbors. The support of celebrities and North American citizens themselves is a clear indication of the need to come to a positive resolution for the masses and, in this way, offering them the opportunity for integration and social unification. It is unjust to understate the contributions of the workers and laborers who, without receiving any benefits, help this

country to continue being powerful and wealthy. Attorney General, Alberto Gonzalez, said that despite the instability and criticisms faced by the Senate after their project on immigration, declaring English as the "national language" of the United States would not change the current norms and standards.

Valdez continua de la pagina 9

Se podria considerar como discriminacion la aprobacion de la enmienda que convertiria "el ingles como idioma nacional "....? Aprobada con 63 votos a favor y 34 en contra. La enmienda fue presentada por el senador James Inhofe (republicano de Oklahoma) . Esta enmienda exige el comando del ingles y el civismo o la "integración patrioti-

ca", los grupos que estan a favor de los derechos de los inmigrantes sostienen que esa aprobacion no es la correcta ya que esto pone en peligro la buena aplicacion de los servicios para las personas que no manejan bien el ingles. Tambien aprobaron por un voto la proteccion a los indocumentados que usaron tarjetas fraudulentas para trabajar y que puedan obtener beneficios al legalizarse. La integracion social fue y sigue siendo un intento de mejorar las oportunidades de las minorias raciales y etnicas, han sido muy pocos los paises que se han atrevido a darle forma a una sociedad multicultural, aunque las comunidades de distintas razas compartan una misma ciudad, estado o pais, es claro que mientras existan

personas negativas o con un criterio tan pequeño con una ceguera social y con una falta del conocimiento real comunitario que carezcan ademas del valor moral del respeto al ser, como ser; no veremos una evolucion social como tal. Los perjuicios culturales y raciales no conllevan a una mejora interactiva, un cambio conductual y de accion, mas bien, afectan negativamente y marginan a las razas. Las relaciones imparciales entre iguales y los programas de enriquecimiento cultural es lo que abre la puerta a una socializacion, es decir, la adquisicion de sensibilidad ante los estímulos sociales, ante las presiones y obligaciones de la vida grupal y aprender a armonizarlas y a comportarse como otros en

Perspectives

From the Editor's Desk

A Step Forward

When representatives from Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) stood before the East Palo Alto City Council and asked that the council support its anti-violence tax measure, the group might have received a rude awakening when the city council announced its decision.

In fact, the organization was hit with a dose of reality that really should not have been a surprise.

The city council agreed with the initiative PIA was asking it to support, but, instead of approving a measure that would give 70% of tax revernues to youth and 30% to the police, the council approved a measure for the November ballot that makes a 50/50 allocation.

As surprising and as disappointing as that decision was for PIA members and other council watchers, the council's decision was, in fact, a subtle improvement that amounted to a noticeable step forward.

As things currently stand, more than 70% of East Palo Alto's budget goes to the police with less than 30% going to other city services. We will know that the state of East Palo Alto has improved when the percentage of the city's budget allocated to law enforcement begins to decrease.

We will likewise know that the state of the health of California has improved when the money allocated to building state prisons is shifted to social services.

We will also know that the state of the nation has improved when the money spent on fighting crime and allocated to federal penal institutions is shifted to programs aimed at seniors

and young people. Until these things happen, it's the same old, same old. It makes us wonder how

much our local, state and national leaders really believe the saying that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

If it is, indeed, true that young people in East Palo Alto commit most of the crime, then wouldn't it be better to put the bulk of the money into job programs and youth programs that deter young people from criminal activity.

Those individuals and organizations that supported East Palo Alto's Summer Employment Program think this approach makes sense.

Many reasonable people also believe that if we can educate our youth and provide them with meaningful jobs that offer them a future; if we can encourage them to dream big dreams and support those dreams with solid values rooted in ethical and honorable activities, then we can reduce their need to turn to crime and violence.

We've heard all too often how it makes sense to deal with potential problems at the front end before they happen rather than at the back end after they happen.

So, while the East Palo Alto City Council's decision might have disappointed many, the council took a big step in putting youth programs on par with the police in importance.

Maybe, in the next tax measure that goes on the ballot the youth will get more money. When young people start getting more of this city's tax revenues and when other city services get a bigger allocation of the city budget then the police department, then we will truly know that East Palo Alto is really moving ahead.



Henrietta J. Burroughs



Over 500 residents gather in support of creating a property tax to fund after-school programs, job-training, family counseling for youth and parolees.

Letters to *East Palo Alto Today*

The truth about Vinisia and Kolotina

Dear Editor:

I, Jane Taufa, resident of East Palo Alto and niece of Kolotina Penisoni, would like to share the truth and speak on behalf of my aunty Kolotina Penisoni who has been disrespectfully treated and spoken about. Kolotina Penisoni is the aunty of the late Vinisia Hefa. Before the tragedy that took Vinisia's dear life, my aunty Kolotina lovingly paid for her ticket on two occasions to come live at her home in California, USA to get a better life for herself, and to help her family in Tonga. From the day Vinisia stepped foot onto USA grounds, Kolotina and her family were always there for her until the day she passed away. Vlnisia has always been respectful towards my aunty and was very grateful for what Kolotina provided for her. Vinisia worked every day, and the children she cared for loved her dearly. Vlnisia helped out when she can at the house, and was a like an older cousin/aunt at the house. Vinisia was a dedicated member to her church, a very religious young lady. Kolotina supported and displayed nothing but care and love for Vinisia, she did not charge Vinisia rent or any bills while living at her house. I know that for a fact because I

also lived rent-free at Kolotina's home.

When we heard of the horrific news of her passing, it was hard for my aunty to cope with on top of other difficulties she and her family was going through at the time. But Kolotina being a strong dedicated woman I've always known her to be gathered herself together with the help of her daughter Alice Penisoni, to do her best in organizing a beautiful and memorable service for Vinisia before departing to Tonga. Kolotina sent Vinisia home to her mom to be buried.

My aunty has always been a very loving person not only to her family but to everyone that she comes across. Despite any ill-hearted treatments from people towards my aunty, she does not let it get the best of her. But what everyone needs to understand is that a person is only human, and a human being can only take so much maltreatments. Therefore, I just want to acknowledge the unconditional love and hard work my aunty did for Vinisia since her hard work went without being acknowledge and was not gratified by her in-laws. This is a learning experience for everyone to know not take things for granted. God Bless!!

Jane Ramona Taufa is the

niece of Kolotina Penisoni. Her letter was reprinted with her permission from Matangi online.

Refrain from feelings

Dear editor:

In response to the desperate situation Ms. Edith Delgado might be enduring regarding her involvement in the tragic death of the royal couple and their driver, I would like to ask our communities to stay calm and pray for a peaceful developing of this sad story.

As a member of the Hispanic community here in East Palo Alto, I feel necessary to ask my Tongan neighbors to refrain from feelings that may lead to misunderstandings, in spite of years of assimilation into the American culture, both communities are distant from one another and the recent incident will acerbate the differences.

This incident opened wounds, it will continue breaking relationships for several reasons, some members of our communities know details of the crash, but prefer to remain quiet, there are some investigative reports being circulated by different agencies, the law firm of Alexander , Hawes & Audet, llp in San Jose, has been retained by family members in hopes that some light will eventually help

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EPA Today's Policies & Principles

In order to better serve the communities of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven, East Palo Alto Today has made the commitment to operate with high professional standards and to adhere to a strict code of ethical conduct. The principles and policies stated herein serve as an agreement with our readers, advertisers and

all others within our service area.

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

one over another.

We will hold ourselves accountable to common standards of decency, treating our colleagues, news sources, and the public with respect. We are committed to maintaining our independence by avoiding partnerships, investments, or business relationships that will compromise the integrity of our news reports.

East Palo Alto Today

Publisher: East Palo Alto Center for Community Media
Editor: Henrietta J. Burroughs
EPA Mentorship Director:Julie Patel

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epamedia.org and epatoday.org

Community Opinions

Bad Business Needs to Stop

By Jaribu (John) Bostic

Lets say ouch! In East Palo Alto to pimps that do business in our town. Do you know the so-called big business player that makes and takes a lot of money from our community? The ones that boast, that they own us and sell us for their gain and our loss. They live large and get rich at our expense. They want us to know it, rich and famous Amos. Matter of fact, they remind me of those old Amos and Andy sit Com's of the 50's and 60's I grew up watching on black and white T.V., but just not as funny.

Today, in 2006, we need to be serious and look at how business is being done. Bad service, poor business practices, and a high costs for doing business with them must be put in check. That means stopped. Especially in real estate actions, brokering of causality and property protection, and auto or life insur



Jaribu (John)Bostic

ances, that take place each and every day in our town. These are the things that are expected to make us feel secure, safe, sheltered, and protected in the community which we have chosen to live and sometimes die. Here in the 94303 neighborhood things are going to have to change.

Why do we continue to trust our important assets, our property, and our property decisions to the wrong people?

Our story in our community

is clear, the Realtor gets rich while we stay poor. They sometimes play with us, like we are stupid or dumb to trust their word or trust them at all.

They do not share anything about who we are or what we expect to become. They do not buy flowers here, they do not even buy Mother's Day cards in town.

They hardy buy anything here, but they make sure they do business here. They laugh at us as they pimp us. They truly do not care. Do they remind you of a vampire, sucking the life out of us and the community in which they take, but very seldom give.

What's their record for supporting youth sports? What's their count in contributing to special community events? What about participation in the chamber of commerce or membership in civic groups? Don't look good.

Yes, they live large, but out of sight and out of town. Almost like the white folks they tell us not to trust. But always promising a special

deal, a good deal, a special price, and special care. What we really get is a special screwing we may never forget.

Sometimes so slick to believe and too painful to ever have repeated. Telling us not to cry,"I'm not hurting you"! Just say ouch, and let the pain of a dab deal be silent.

Screw that! We are the big E. now, a city and we know how to holler. Here's hollering back at you. You can not do business in this town disrespecting our intelligence without being exposed.

We have had our role models, mentors, and people we looked up to in the past. They worked for the greater good. They cared and they loved East Palo Alto.

The business heroes of the past that we lost too soon. People like Charles Sullivan, Sam McDonald, Realtor Roy Ager & family, realtor Joseph Goodwill who also did people's taxes was a bail bondsmen and sold houses, Israel

Harris Sr., owner, loaner, and business friend to the community.

And we watch new business leaders come and take their place. Ken Harris, Century 21, opening up, and others loving the town, loving the people, and doing their best.

It's over, poor business services and poor business practices. It's over for bait and switch, twisting, non-certified agents, and making money and taking it someplace else. It's over for not hollering when it hurts doing business with you.

It's over for not filing complaints and not seeking legal relief for mistakes made. We can read and we can write. We know how to reach the state insurance commissioner, John Garamendi.

It's what we do in East Palo Alto in the year 2006. All that we ever asked or wanted was to be treated right and get the service we were willing to pay

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Is it Discrimination?



Maria Del Carmen Valdez

Could the passing of the amendment to "set English as the national language" be considered discrimination? Approved by the Senate with a vote of 63 in favor and 34 in opposition, it was first proposed by Senator James Inhofe, Republican of Oklahoma.

This amendment requires proficiency and a good command of the English language, or "patriotic integration". Groups who favor immigrant rights maintain that this amendment puts the effective practice of government services at risk for people who are not native English speakers or who still struggle with the language. The Senate

also decided, by a single vote, to protect undocumented immigrants who used false social security cards to obtain jobs in the past, by letting them receive full benefits once they legalize their status.

Social integration has always been, and continues to be, an attempt to improve and broaden the opportunities available to racial and ethnic minorities. There have been very few countries that have dared to give shape to a multicultural society. It is clear that as long as there are socially ignorant people, with negative views on immigration and who lack knowledge not only of what a real community constitutes but also the moral courage to respect how others live, we will not see true social changes.

Racial and cultural prejudices are not conducive to an improvement, change we can act upon, rather they negatively affect and alienate the different races. Impartial communications, relationships

among equals, as well as programs about cultural enrichment are what truly open the door to social understanding. They lead people to react in a sensitive and sensible manner when confronted with different social situations and the pressures that come with being part of a social group. It is obvious that the kind of restrictions being placed on our society will only lead to a marginalization of minorities, which is a step backward for everyone involved.

Social equality is an essential part of a community. Laws are created to construct and build nations, not prevent them from going forward or to harm them. Families are the cells of our societies and they are the molecular structure of our nation, this is why communication is so important to our evolution as a nation and the amendment passed by the Senate is blocking and preventing the communication between different communities.

¿Es Discriminacion?

Maria del Carmen Valdez

Se podria considerar como discriminacion la aprobaci3n de la enmienda que convertiria "el ingles como idioma nacional "....? Aprobada con 63 votos a favor y 34 en contra. La enmienda fue presentada por el senador James Inhofe (republicano de Oklahoma) .

Esta enmienda exige el comando del ingles y el civismo o la "integraci3n patriotica", los grupos que estan a favor de los derechos de los inmigrantes sostienen que esa aprobaci3n no es la correcta ya que esto pone en peligro la buena aplicaci3n de los servicios para las personas que no manejan bien el ingles. Tambien aprobaron por un voto la proteccion a los indocumentados que usaron tarjetas fraudulentas para trabajar y que puedan obtener beneficios al legalizarse.

La integraci3n social fue y sigue siendo un intento de

mejorar las oportunidades de las minorias raciales y etnicas, han sido muy pocos los paises que se han atrevido a darle forma a una sociedad multicultural, aunque las comunidades de distintas razas compartan una misma ciudad, estado o pais, es claro que mientras existan personas negativas o con un criterio tan peque1o con una ceguera social y con una falta del conocimiento real comunitario que carezcan ademas del valor moral del respeto al ser, como ser; no veremos una evolucion social como tal.

Los perjuicios culturales y raciales no conllevan a una mejora interactiva, un cambio conductual y de accion, mas bien, afectan negativamente y marginan a las razas. Las relaciones imparciales entre iguales y los programas de enriquecimiento cultural es lo que abre la puerta a una socializacion, es decir, la adquisici3n de sensibilidad ante los estmulos sociales, ante las presiones y obligaciones de la vida grupal y

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Runnymede Ramblings

By JT
Baggy Pants

Young males have been sporting baggy pants well below the hips. The hip-hop look offends many elders and parents. Studies show, however, that those who wear them are not into crime. Those who wear their pants low know they can't run in them and when combined with sneakers with shoe laces adrift, they couldn't get very far anyway. It's a cool look for these young males. Let "em" be cool.

The Supreme Court ruled that a couple's home, where one resident gave permission for the search but the other resident "unequivocally refused to give consent", is unconstitutional as to the resident who refused consent. The Court rules 5-3 that " a physically present co-occupant's stated refusal to permit entry renders warrantless entry and search unreasonable and invalid as to him."

The Court ruled 9-0 that police can enter a home without a warrant when they have not knocked or announced their presence if they have an objectively reasonable basis

to believe that someone inside the home has been seriously injured or there is an imminent threat of injury.

The Court ruled 5-4 that evidence collected under a search warrant is admissible even when police officers failed to knock before entering a home. The rule of "knock and announce" is now up for grabs.

It may be harder to prosecute domestic violence cases. The Court ruled 8-1 that a crime scene report detailing the victim's claim cannot be used in court unless the victim testifies on the stand. The Court said such statements

would violate a defendant's Sixth Amendment right to confront witnesses in court. This ruling could cause problems for prosecutors and leave women more vulnerable to domestic violence.

We need to get clear about whether firecrackers are a permissible expression of public citizen behavior. We, in the Runnymede corridor, have experienced both personal and property damage by firecrackers. We need to have a more clear expectation from the City Council and the Chief of Police on what is permissible and what is not.

We all know just how traffic

violations have risen in EPA. Illegal turns, speeding, doughnutting are on the increase. Greater emphasis should be placed on traffic enforcement and the issuing of citations with clear penalties demanded. The use of this police power could become a great source of money that might be used to enrich the coffers of the City in its struggle to maintain personnel at current levels.

We invite the Chief of Police and the San Mateo County District Attorney to comment on these ramblings from a long time EPA resident.

Men's health is a family issue

By Margaret Allan
EPA Today Contributor

This past Father's Day on June 18th was a day for celebration and family get-togethers. Tragically however, some fathers died on Father's Day. Often this is because they didn't take care of what is so vital to them and their families - their health.

A report from the Centers for Disease Control, out last week, shows that 47% of men in this country are fathers. Even though many are young - 28 million fathers are under the age of 19 - 75% have stepped up to the plate and live with their children. Accepting this responsibility, however, does not always include taking care of their health.

And surveys show that men don't like to go to the doctor. Why is this? Maybe we expect men to be too tough. A recent study found that 7% of men drove themselves to the hospital while they were having a heart attack. They said they were too embarrassed to go by ambulance, or didn't really think their problem was serious.

There are practical reasons men don't go to the doctor - inconvenient clinic hours, feeling unwelcome in a clinic that seems to be full of women and children, and perhaps not enough male health care providers. But the American Medical Association found that many men see going to the doctor as a sign of weakness, preferring to "tough out" their illnesses. Others are embarrassed, and still others



Margaret Allen

don't want to be told not to smoke or drink heavily, change their diet, or use sunscreen.

And many men are afraid they will be told that they have cancer. Should they be? Well, yes and no ...

- Smoking causes cancer in places such as the mouth, lips, throat and lungs. If all those men smoking at the Father's Day barbeque were to quit, their chances of an early death would go down. A doctor can help someone quit smoking.

- Testicle cancer is the number one cancer of young men. Men should take seriously any ache or unusual feeling of heaviness in their genitals, and examine them monthly for lumps or swelling. If there is cancer, it won't just go away by itself. Young men should not hesitate to go to the clinic with any concerns.

- Prostate cancer affects one man in 9 after age 75. Risk is higher in African American men than others, and strikes them at an earlier age. Men should discuss screening with their health care providers - because a test might be right for them.

A quick visit to the local clinic may help to uncover a chronic disease. For instance,

58 million men have diabetes and high cholesterol, 29 million men in the US have high blood pressure, and 30 million men have impotence or "erectile dysfunction". A few simple lifestyle changes, good medical care, and perhaps some medication could help them avoid that stroke that frightens families and leaves a person unable to speak or move properly, or save them from a heart attack, blindness, kidney failure, or brain damage.

The list goes on. Homicide is the leading cause of death for black males aged 15-24 years of age. Gay men are frequently exposed to violence and stress, and are more likely to remain silent about important health issues.

Men also have a suicide rate double that of women, and a greater risk of contracting HIV and AIDS. Men in poor communities have more stressful life events and less social support. Reasons for these tragic statistics include poverty, racial discrimination, cultural acceptance of violent behavior, immediate access to firearms, and substance abuse.

Recognizing and preventing men's health problems is vital to our communities. Because of its impact on their wives, girlfriends, and children, men's health is truly a family issue. Make some simple changes now, and be around to play with the kids on Father's Day next June.

Margaret Allen is a family nurse at the Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto.

El señor Uhila dijo que el fue la ultima persona que estuvo en contacto con la Princesa Kaimana aproximadamente hora y media antes del acci-

“Es una perdida enorme para la isla de Tonga, incluyendo a las comunidades de Tonga en los Estados Unidos. Esto a tocado el corazón de nuestra comunidadcomo si una bomba nos hubiera explotado.”

La señora Fuata era una familiar lejana del Príncipe Tu'ipelehake y creció con el en Pelehake, una villa en Tonga.

El mismo día que los cuerpos del Príncipe y la Princesa

fueron trasladados a Tonga, el Concilio de la Ciudad de East Palo Alto formuló una proclamación celebrando las vidas de los fallecidos. La procla-

mación fue presentada a Lavenia Fusitua, tía de la fallecida Princesa que reside en Oregon.

Durante la presentación de la proclamación el Alcalde de la Ciudad de East Palo Alto el Honorable Rubén Abrica señaló que aunque el Príncipe siempre estaba ocupado en su visitas a los Estados Unidos "El nunca dejo pasar una oportunidad para visitar a East Palo Alto..." y "fue una persona instrumental en llevar reformas democráticas

al reinado de Tonga."

El día Domingo, Julio 9 los residentes locales de Tonga se reunieron para participar en un servicio en la Iglesia Unida Metodista en San Carlos y para escuchar a la hermana del Príncipe honrar la memoria de su hermano y esposa.

El residente de East Palo Alto señor William Webster dijo que estaba profundamente conmovido cuando atendió los servicios funerarios al ver que atrajo juntas a las comunidades de las Islas del Pacífico y que enfatizo la conexión entre la comunidad de East Palo Alto y la Isla de Tonga.

Siosifa Moala, un joven de 14 años que se movió a California en el 2004 desde Vava'u, Tonga dijo " Es muy triste. Y me apegó a la perdida Real. El era un Príncipe caritativo y bueno" Moala fue uno de los muchos dolientes que ayudaron a alzar un sitio en memoria a el Príncipe y a la Princesa en la carretera 101 y reporto que los gente en Tonga estaba levantando un memorial permanente.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STAY HEALTHY?

- 1. Don't Smoke.**
But if you do, talk to your doctor about quitting.
- 2. Eat a Healthy Diet.**
Fruit, vegetables, whole grains, low fat dairy products, and some protein-containing food such as chicken, fish, or beans. Fast food is not healthy food!
- 3. Be Physically Active.**
Walk, dance, ride a bike, rake leaves, or do any other physical activity you enjoy. Start small and work up to 20-30 minutes most days of the week.
- 4. Stay at a Healthy Weight.**
Don't over eat. It's better to stay just a little bit hungry than to feel full and bloated.
- 5. Drink Alcohol Only in Moderation.**
Have no more than 2 drinks a day. A standard drink is one 12-ounce bottle of beer, one 5-ounce glass of wine, or 1.5 ounces of spirits.
- 6. Make sure your shots are up to date.**
- 7. Get plenty of sleep.**
Eight hours is great, but seven will do.
- 8. Get a check up.**
If you feel awkward or uncomfortable making an appointment for personal issues, tell clinic staff that you need a check-up when you call for your appointment. You won't be the first!

SCREENING TESTS: WHEN TO SEE YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

CHOLESTEROL: Every 5 years, starting at age 35. If you smoke, have diabetes, or if heart disease runs in your family, start at age 20.

BLOOD PRESSURE: At least every 2 years.

COLORECTAL CANCER TESTS: Begin regular screening at age 50.

DIABETES TESTS: Get a test if you have high blood pressure, high cholesterol, if you are overweight, or some one in your family has the disease.

DEPRESSION: If you've felt sad, or hopeless, and have felt little interest or pleasure in doing things for 2 weeks straight, talk to your doctor about a screen for depression.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS: Discuss whether you should be screened for STIs, such as HIV.

Luto

mente en \$300,000 y luego el 7 de Julio fue aumentada a tres millones.

La petición para que le bajaran la fianza a \$100,000 fue negada por la corte el 13 de Julio. Delgado tendrá que aparecer en corte otra vez el día 20 de Septiembre.

La familia real había llegado a California tan solo unas hora antes de la colisión con Delgado. Estaban visitando California para reunirse a discutir reformas políticas con la comunidad de Tonga. El Príncipe y su esposa habían retornado de Tonga de la celebración del cumpleaños 88 de su tío Taufa'ahau Tupou IV Rey de Tonga.

Algunos de los dolientes que reunieron para dar el pesame

continuado de la pagina 2

y demostrar su respeto a la familia real, se reunieron en los servicios efectuados en la mansión del Rey Tupou IV en la ciudad de Hillsborough. Los dolientes se presentaron en ropa negra y con sus cuerpos cubiertos en Tauvala, un tapete tradicional de Tonga que esta hecho de una baya molida y se usa en ocasiones especiales en muestra de respeto.

Los residentes de East Palo Alto Fatani Uhila y su hija Tofe acompañaron los cuerpos de de la pareja Real de regreso a Tonga. Donde un enorme funeral se efectuó en Lapaha, Tonga en el cementerio real. Tonga estará observando seis meses de duelo.

Estaban visitando para reunirse a discutir reformas políticas con la comunidad de Tonga. El Príncipe y su esposa habían retornado de Tonga de la celebración del cumpleaños 88 de su tío, Taufa'ahau Tupou IV Rey de Tonga.

Penisoni’s Sentencing Postponed

this month for first degree murder in the Superior Court of San Mateo County. Ricardo Arana, who was also convicted for the crime, was scheduled to be sentenced on the same day. Penisoni and Arana were both tried and convicted of the murder of Ortega Barnes, who was killed in a drive by shooting on Wisteria Street in East Palo Alto in March, 2004.

Prosecutors have also accused Senetuli of three counts of attempted murder. When he is sentenced, it is likely that he could face life in prison without parole. Their July 18 sentencing was postponed until September 7, when the defense attorneys filed a joint petition for the release of the jurors' names, so that they could be interviewed before the sentencing.

According to Arana's attorney, Savas Loukedis, Penisoni is entitled to the sentencing delay because the jury did not talk to the defense immediately after issuing their verdict, as a normal jury would. His lawyer said that Arana and Penisoni's defense team would like to make a formal inquiry as to how they reached their decision. If any new information reveals that the jury's decision-making was somehow unjust or flawed, then the judge would have to grant Penisoni and Arana another trial.

According to three members of the jury who were present at the court on July 18th, the jury was escorted out of the courthouse by the bailiff as soon as the verdict was given, for what they thought to be safety issues.

These members of the jury attended the sentencing in order to "see the case all the way through," and agreed to continue discussions with the defense "as a measure of courtesy."

Request for a new trial

In a telephone interview before the scheduled July sentencing, Penisoni's attorney, Phillip Johnson, said that the defense was planning to "...jointly file a request for a new trial based on what [they felt] to be newly discovered evidence."

Both the County Prosecutor, Sean Gallagher, and the three members of the jury who attended the July 18 court date said that the likelihood of further investigation uncovering "anything new or anything of interest at all," was very slim.

Some say that Penisoni and Arana's trial was unfair,

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS ARRESTED

1. Answer all basic questions

It is a misdemeanor to lie in this situation, but during arrest, he or she should not talk unnecessarily.

2. Speak with a lawyer ASAP

Your child has the right to an attorney, even if your family cannot afford one. Call the San Mateo Bar Association or the Community Legal Services organization for assistance in getting a lawyer.

SAN MATEO BAR ASSOCIATION:
(650) 369-4149
COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES IN EAST PALO ALTO
(650) 326-6440

3. Bring positive documentation

Bring school progress reports, pay stubs from an after school job, letters from teachers, coaches, or religious leaders to the hearing. These help the probation officer decide whether he or she should be charged with crime, or released with community service.

4. Keep children in the home

Explore your options. If possible, try to keep your child in the home, on house arrest or probation, instead of being to a detention facility. Ask your lawyer to push for this option.

5. As a parent, you have the right to an interpreter

because they were tried by a San Mateo jury, which probably had preconceived notions of gang-related crime in East Palo Alto. It is alleged that Senetuli was a member of the Sacramento Street Gang, which has gained ill fame in the community since the murder of Police Officer Richard May in January of this year. For this reason, the defense might petition the court for a

If any new information reveals that the jury’s decision-making was somehow unjust or flawed, then the judge would have to grant Penisoni and Arana another trial.

change in venue, so that he could receive a fair trial in a county where the Sacramento Street gang is less known.

The reliability of the only witness to testify against Penisoni and Arana, Luis Vargas, has also been questioned. According to a March newspaper article, defense lawyers blamed Vargas and two others for the murder. They accused Vargas of lying in order to avoid being prosecuted himself.

Allegations of racism

Issues of biases due to race have also been raised. One anonymous jury member said, "We could have all had blinders on and come to the same conclusion. Our decision was based strictly on what was placed in front of us. In our discussions leading up to the verdict, we only discussed the evidence." The three members of the jury that came to the sentencing maintain that there was no racism guiding their decision.

However, a recent report released by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) shows that Pacific Islanders are disproportionately accused of crime in San Mateo County. In 2002, Pacific Islander youth were put on probation at a rate of 5.8 times their proportion of the population. Of 12 defendants charged with death penalty crimes in San Mateo County during 2001 and 2002, 9 were Pacific Islanders. Other minority youth are also over-represented in San Mateo's criminal justice system.

Unfair Practices

The National Council's report also stated that unfair practices can result from seemingly race-neutral policies.

During a six week trial, for example, jurors are given a

\$15 per day stipend. "It's about enough to buy lunch," said one jury member. It is often wealthy people, retirees, or those who are sponsored by their employers who can afford to follow through with their civic duties. The sole bread-winner of a family, or somebody dependent on child care, would not be able to take six weeks for jury duty. The eventual result is that many East Palo Alto residents are not being heard by their "peers" in the courthouse, as the justice system mandates.

High suspension rates

Some groups say that San Mateo's public school system is a possible contributor to the over-representation of youth of color in juvenile justice system. They cite the fact that minority youth have higher rates of suspensions and expulsions, dropouts, and lower academic achievement than their white peers.

The NCCD report said that San Mateo County is attempting to remedy this situation by focusing on reducing drop-out rates, suspensions and expulsions, and improving minority students' academic achieve-

ment. The report recommended that public schools strive to diversify the ethnic composition of their teaching staff in order to accommodate the student population both culturally and linguistically.

A close friend of the Penisoni family, Michael Uhila, said that although society plays a large part in cultivating gang related violence, "The most important thing is to help kids find creative outlets for their energy."

"Going to church is not enough," he said, "There has to be something to keep the kids busy and utilize their talents. We have to tackle that issue. When parents are juggling two jobs, their kids have time to do other stuff when they aren't around. Call it friends, call it gangs... it is what it is, and there's mischief."

Community residents who were interviewed said that the Penisoni's are a loving family-a family that has faced and is still facing a very difficult time. They said that the family is enduring a long series of unfortunate and painful events and this is an ideal moment for the community to support them and offer them an additional source of strength.

When this article was written, Bonnie Swift was a contributing writer and an intern at EPA Today.

“The most important thing is to help kids find creative outlets for their energy... Going to church is not enough, there has to be something to keep the kids busy and utilize their talents. We have to tackle that issue.”

-Michael Uhila, friend of the Penisoni family

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Lifecycles

A Tribute to Bob Hoover

From the time he moved to East Palo Alto in 1962, Hoover has worked tirelessly to assist and encourage the city's youth and to improve the quality of life in the East Palo Altocommunity. This past June, he moved to Houston, Texas. The following article is the first of a two-part tribute that honors Hoover and the rich legacy that he has left the community.

By Kathleen Alexander
EPA today Contributor

If there were a statesman for the city of East Palo Alto, it would be Bob Hoover. He is one of the few who cuts across generations and cultures. For more than forty years he has mentored young people. Two generations have been tutored, encouraged, and loved by him. He doesn't realize how unique he is. He's unassuming and speaks in a quiet voice that is soothing and kind and puts anyone at ease.

A simple credo

Bob has followed a simple credo that he learned in his own youth from two men in particular who deeply affected him. The first man was his grandfather who raised him on a farm in North Carolina. His grandfather taught him to *'Always be honest with people and carry yourself with dignity.'* Bob himself mirrors the kind of man that he describes when he talks about his grandfather.

He told me that they grew crops and vegetables on his grandfather's farm. Bob said that he worked with his grandfather, walking behind the horse-drawn plow that tilled the fields or the neighbors' vegetable plots. What they didn't need for themselves, they sold. His grandfather was a resourceful man, and a self-made entrepreneur. He had a wood and coal business and also ran a country store.

"Spend time with young people. Listen, really listen to them. When you win their trust, then they listen to you..."

One of Hoover's teachers

Bob remembers that his grandfather was fearless and would never cow-tow to the white man's rules of segregation in the South. He ignored them. He would just go in to a restaurant that served only whites and order what he wanted. Because people in the town respected him, they served him.



Robert Hoover

The real turning point for Bob came when he decided to drop out of school in the 9th grade. "I figured I had already learned what I needed to know and since I was a good ball player, I wanted to become a professional and be a Jackie Robinson. At the time my mother was working as a domestic in Philadelphia. When she heard that I had dropped out of school she came and got me and put me in a military academy in New Jersey.

There he met a teacher who changed his life. "He had a real impact on my life," Bob said. He spent a lot of time talking to me that year and he made me rethink the relationship of education and my career. From him Bob learned a simple credo that guided his future in working with youth.. "Spend time with young people. Listen, really listen to them. When you win their trust, then they listen to you, then they'll take to heart the advice you give."

Different goals

Bob's goals changed. When he returned to North Carolina, he remembers, "I went back to school and I did well. Then, in 1951 when I was 19, I joined the Air Force. In my training I had to learn the turret system. They gave us an incentive; the top 5% of the class would be given a promotion. I knew that I had to prove to whites that I was just as smart as they were. In the first year and half I went through three schools. By the end of the first year, I was sergeant, and in year and a half, I made it to staff sergeant.

I was a gunner on a B-29. I ended up as a gunnery instructor and eventually flew on a B-26 in Korea on low-level night missions. I liked flying but not combat. It was very impersonal.

In the military I experienced a lot of problems as an

African American," Bob said. "Once when I was in Cheyenne, Wyoming with the Air Force baseball team, the whole team went into a restaurant and ordered dinner. We were all dressed in our military uniforms. Everybody else got their order, and they were eating. Finally I asked the waitress "Where is my dinner?" She told me that they didn't serve coloreds. In protest, the entire team got up and left the restaurant before finishing and without paying."

Bob said that his experience in the military had a lot to do with the way he saw race relations. "I had come into the military at a time that they were just beginning to integrate. It made me angry to know I was being asked to serve and at the same time, I wasn't being treated as a full citizen. It never made sense to me. That whole experience set the tone for me. I learned to carry myself with dignity and pride."

"In the military I experienced a lot of problems as an African American," Hoover

After the Air Force, in 1955, Bob enrolled at Penn State. There, he lived on campus. "Even though I was a vet," He said, "I still couldn't get an apartment. I studied physical education because I wanted to be a coach-and biological science. When I graduated from there in 1959, I came out to Stanford to study physical therapy. I wanted to be an athletic trainer. At Stanford I got a room in the house of a professor. I had an internship at Stanford and worked as a therapist at the V.A. and I was a coach for Little League in Palo Alto."

When Bob married Mary Hoover another Stanford graduate, he went to look for an apartment in Palo Alto. "No one would rent to us," he said. "But my wife and I found an apartment in East Palo Alto on Woodland, just across the border."

The owner of the apartment building lived in New England. "When he came out to California and found out that we were renting an apartment," Bob said, "he told us that we would have to leave. That was in 1961. I told him that we had a lease and that he would have to get the police to get us out. We

finished out the lease and because we couldn't renew the lease, we bought a house in East Palo Alto in 1962. It is the same house I have now."

Bob said that he started to coach Little League for East Palo Alto and he saw the issues that the high school kids had. "We went to a Presbyterian minister in East Palo Alto who had control of a house at University and Bay. We asked him if we could turn it into a teen center and he agreed. We called that place "Community House". I was still working as a therapist at the V.A. but after work we would open the place up for the kids in the community-six days a week from 5 pm to 9 pm.

"We wanted to see if we could get kids to do better. So we went to the local high school, Ravenswood, and asked them to identify 25 kids that weren't doing well. We named our organization Youth Unlimited Corps (YUC) .

"I began to give them the kind of counseling that Mr. Holmes gave me. Then we added outings-and took them on hikes and adventures. The group began to knit together, developing what nowadays you call a positive peer group. It included such people as Maurice Bundy and Reid Stephenson."

Bob then talked about the 1960's. He described it as a dynamic period when the community pulled together following the Civil Rights Act and African Americans claimed their equality.

It was also a time when education became very important to community residents, so Bob and other black leaders in the community started Nairobi School.

Like other parents, Bob and Mary wanted to make sure their kids and others in the community had access to a good education.

From the 1960s through the 1980s, Bob and others in the community cultivated the confidence and pride that is indelible and shows up on many of the young who are now the middle-age leaders in the community.

Bob is over seventy now, but he still works for the community. He is just as involved as ever in helping young people. Before he moved to Texas, he was on the staff at Free at Last, an agency that was started by men and women, several of whom Bob once mentored.

When he worked at Free at Last, young people stopped in to talk. They are from different ethnic groups, but they hug him as though he was their honored grandfather.

One of his more recent community programs was developed to introduce young people in the community to golf, one of Bob's passions. He started the Junior Golf Program and every week ten to 12 kids get to practice at the Palo Alto golf club.

"In the Junior Golf Program," Bob said, "I spend more time with the kids than their parents do, One of them wrote me an email. In it, she said, 'I cannot tell you what an impact you've had on my life. Almost everything I know and understand about life is a direct result of being in the Junior Golf Program.'" Summary:

His work with youth has always been based on the premise that above all else, kids really need someone to talk to who will listen. Once he has their trust, then he talks with them about the way to conduct yourself. He always teaches them that to achieve what they really hope for, they need to know that education is a key to their future.

"And that's the theory that I've been working with for 40 years. That's way the Nairobi School and College worked. That's why the Junior Golf Program works."

In 2004 Bob invited ten people that had been in YUC to share how being in the program had an impact on their life. "Several people said exactly the same thing. It surprised me. They said that what they had learned in YUC and been key to how they raised their own children."

Bob Hoover has outlasted almost everyone that committed to helping young. He embodies what his grandfather taught years ago -be honest, and carry yourself with dignity and pride.

Why does he continue, long after others have retired?. Perhaps because he always sees what people are capable of becoming. He really cares and knows how to communicate that. He is wise and humble and elegant.

Lifecycles

Moving On

By Sekou Black

In everyone's life, there is a moment or memorable event that changes us. For some, there are many events that may impact their life or their view of it. For me, it was the moment that I decided to go back home to EPA and make a difference. EPA has made a complet U-turn in many



Sekou Black

ways since my early childhood, but some things and some people never change. After

spending two years helping folks in my community. I feel odd saying that I'm moving away to New York. My return home has sparked a strong sense of belonging, and pride for my city as well as my neighborhood, the Village. I feel respected; I feel loved, but most of all, I feel sad that I'm leav-

in. My goal in NYC is to pursue school full time, majoring in biology with an emphasis on zoology and ;icking up a double major in psychology or something dealing with human behavior and emotions. I'll miss everyone and everything about EPA, but I'm determined to come back home once again and

start something BIG. Some leave EPA with hate and bitter feelings, but I know that home truly is where the heart is.

Editor's note- Sekou Black was an Outreach worker and UTurn Counselor for Free at Last. He lwas also a contributor for EPA Today. Sekou left East Palo Alto for New York City on August 7.

Dirk Alvarado

For 7 years, Dirk Alvarado served as the recreation supervisor at the Oneida Harris Recreation Center in Menlo Park. He recently announced that he had accepted a position with the City of Half Moon Bay. So, on August 14, he leaves Menlo Park to assume similar duties in Half Moon Bay's Parks and Recreation Department.

There he will oversee school age programs, work with teens and coordinate special programs. He told EPA Today, "I have had a difficult time accepting the fact that I will not be working within the [Menlo Park] community, but am excited about the work I will be doing coast side. " Read Alvarado's letter to the editor on page 9 of this edition of EPA Today.

Bonnie A. Swift

EPA Today would like to say,"Goodbye and thank you" to Bonnie Swift who interned with the paper for six weeks this summer. Swift is a sophomore at Stanford Univ. majoring in history. She is on her way to Paris where she will spend two quarters In Stanford's overseas program this fall. Swift wrote several articles in this edition. I enjoyed meeting the people that I interviewed in East



Bonnie A. Swift

Palo Alto, while I interned at East Palo Alto Today," Swift said. I have a different perspective of East Palo Alto. I think it is a really ethnically diverse version of suburbia. It

is nothing more or less than that." There is a stronger sense of community than in Palo Alto. In East Palo Alto, people are interacting on a more personal level. There is a warmer feeling. Even though she is in Paris, Swift has promised that she will continue to write two more articles which will appear in the next EPA Today. Look for her byline in the next edition.

Bonnie, bon voyage!



Glenda Savage-Johnson

EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR

At its August 3 board meeting, the Board of Directors for the East Palo Alto Sanitary District voted to appoint Glenda Savage-Johnson to fill the vacancy left by Director Bob Hoover who resigned from the board in June.

Savage-Johnson is a long time resident of East Palo Alto. This is her second appointment to the Sanitary board, since she served on the board between 1990 and 1994. She has also served with the East Palo Alto Childcare Task Force, the Community Development Institute and the 4 C's of San Mateo County. Congratulations to Glenda Savage-Johnson.

Other EPA Today Interns

EPA Today would also like to thank Seanteonna Johnson, Eseta Uhila and Roneisha Meachan for their assistance. All three are SEP (Sponsored Employment Program) interns who worked at the paper this summer. During their internship, they made telephone calls on behalf of the paper and helped research and draft articles. Johnson, Meachan and Uhila graduated from the summer program Friday, August 4. EPA Today extends its best wishes to all three as they return to high school this fall.

Remembering good deeds

Events may come and go, but some good deeds should never be forgotten. So EPA Today would like to acknowledge the many community organizations and individuals who made proclamations and gifts that were presented to Dr. Wangari Maathai during her recent visit to East Palo Alto. As many readers of EPA Today might remember, Dr. Maathai is the first African woman to receive a Nobel Prize for Peace. She visited East Palo Alto to participate in a tree planting ceremony to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Palo Alto's nonprofit agency Canopy and the launching of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative through which East Palo Alto will have 1,000 new trees planted in the city by 2010.

Here are the names of a few of the local businesses and organizations which might not otherwise be acknowledged for the contributions they presented in honor of Dr. Maathai's visit:

B&S Dismantlers, Church of Christ, City of East Palo Alto, Drew Medial Foundation, Open Bible Baptist Church, Faith Missionary Baptist Church, the Ujima Security Council.

East Palo Alto resident Keisha Evans wrote the following narrative about Dr Maathai's visit.

Honoring Dr. Maathai

East Palo Alto's Special gifts to Dr. Wangari Maathai were as unique as the East Palo Alto community. To

begin the ceremonial event, Mayor Ruben Abrica presented Dr. Maathai with the Key to the City that was encased in a hand woven kente cloth bag from Ghana. By giving the ceremonial "Key" to our Nobel Laureate visitor, a special welcome was extended with the hope that Dr. Maathai, would feel encouraged and comfortable to return over and over. The key unlocks our hearts, our homes, and our entire community for her whenever she is in the area. Next she was given a hand-made tote bag of authentic mud cloth created by local artisan, Gloria Scott, to hold the various items. Into this beautiful custom made bag went different commemorative items with the name of East Palo Alto on them. Beginning with a unique 2004 Juneteenth souvenir tee shirt,

we gave her Collard Greens Festival tee shirts, an East Palo Alto College Faire Crew program tee shirt and the very special YUCA 'Welcome to East Palo Alto' tee shirt. A copy of the book, "Liberation Saturday" by East Palo Alto's own Joe Prince was included as well as a copy of the Collard Greens Festival Souvenir Book with a Collard Greens Festival baseball cap and apron. East Palo Alto City department baseball caps along with East Palo Alto Recycle Program pencils were there, in addition to the East Palo Alto metal lapel pin that prominently features the City logo. This unique custom-made bag of East Palo Alto memorabilia was presented to our regal guest by three local children, and was graciously received by Dr. Maathai. A special book was prepared and presented to Dr. Maathai at the dinner later in the evening. It consisted of articles and photos of the recent YUCA demonstration

for the removal of the local toxic waste recycler, archival copies of the Ujima East Palo Alto Alert that contain the background on the fight to have the toxic recycler removed from our community, and a set of wonderful drawings and expressions of support from Mrs. Grace Funn's second grade class at Belle Haven School. The clear simple messages from the children were charmingly illustrated, showing that they understood the necessity for trees in our world and the role Dr. Maathai is playing in spreading the message. A couple of copies of Silicon Valley deBug magazine were included to share regional information. The YUCA 2004 East Palo Alto Health Survey was also a part of this special book as well as various flyers and pamphlets to show our Sister Dr. some of the work already completed in East Palo Alto to improve our environment and to extend the "green belt" worldwide

Tax Measure

Over 15 members of the community stood before Mayor Abrica, Councilwoman Rutherford, and Councilman David Woods to state their suggestions and concerns. . Councilwoman Pat Foster and Vice Mayor Peter Evans were not present,

Jose Garcia, a member of PIA, was one of the many supporters of the parcel tax who attended the meeting. Garcia wore a small, purple sticker, which all supporters of PIA wore. He sat silently clutching his restless, four year-old daughter as the city council made the final amendments to the measure.

"We are asking the city to bring more programs for our young people," said Garcia. "I think this will reduce the crime rate and the whole city will benefit from it."

Garcia has lived in East Palo Alto for 16 years, along with his wife and four children, two of whom are 15 and 14 years old. It was his concern for his teenagers that brought him to the meeting and made him a staunch supporter of the tax measure and the 70/30 division of the

funds.

He was happy the Council decided to include the measure on the ballot but was disappointed that only 50% would be funding youth programs. "We are not asking for more than the community requires," he said.

Caroline Cervantes, an 18 year-old member of PIA agrees with Garcia. "50% of our youth are dropping out of high school! The community wants a solution, we are voters and we pay taxes and we know what we want," she told the Mayor and the City Council as the room burst into applause.

Cervantes was there with several other adolescents who support PIA and the tax measure. Several held signs that read "More Community Programs" on one side and

the fraction "70/30" on the other.

"I am a mother and I had to go out of the city to get the programs my children needed," said East Palo Alto resident, Bunnie Finley. She also spoke to the City Council about the need for city sponsored programs to stop youth violence.

"Just last week, I saw fellas on Bay Road getting ready to shoot each other," Finley continued.

"We want our children back, we don't want the streets to run them. All we ask is \$2 a week!"

Some residents, however, were not disappointed with the 50/50 split. On the contrary, they were upset that the tax measure made it on to the ballot at all.

"I feel that the property taxes are too high and too many for us to continue caring for our children," said Rigoberto Zamora who has been living in the city for 25

“
...property taxes
are too high ...as
low-income families,
we need as much of
our paychecks to go
to our
families as
possible.”

- Rigoberto Zamora 25-
year resident of East Palo
Alto

Penisoni

continuado de pagina 2

varios programas noticieros de televisión, donde ella habló de su sobrina y expresó su pena sobre las muertes repentinas.

El hijo de 26 años de Tina y de Sione, Senetuli Penisoni, estaba programado para ser condenado este mes en la corte superior del condado de San Mateo por asesinato en primer grado junto a Ricardo Arana, quien también fue hayado culpable por el crimen. Penisoni y Arana fueron acusados del asesinato de Ortega Barnes, quien murio en un tiroteo en la calle de Wisteria en East Palo Alto, en marzo del 2004.

Los abogados también han acusado a Senetuli de tres asesinatos atentados. Cuando lo condenen, es probable que enfrente una sentencia de cadena perpetua. La condenación de Senetuli fue pospuesta hasta el 17 de septiembre. Sus abogados de defensa hicieron una petición para recibir los nombres de los miembros del jurado, de modo que puedan ser entrevistados formalmente.

Según el abogado de Arana, Savas Loukedis, Penisoni tiene derecho a una condenación retrasada porque el jurado no habló con la defensa inmediatamente después de publicar su veredicto, como se debe hacer. El abogado dijo que el equipo de la defensa de Penisoni quiere hacer una investigación lformal en cuanto a cómo llegaron a tomar su decisión los miembros del

jurado. Si nueva información revela que el jurado llegó a tomar su decisión de alguna manera injusta o incorrecta, el juez tendrá que concederles a Penisoni y a Vargas otro juicio.

Según tres miembros del jurado que estuvieron presentes en la corte el 18 de julio, el alguacil escoltó al jurado fuera del juzgado tan pronto como el veredicto fue dado, por razones de seguridad. Estos miembros del jurado acordaron a continuar discusiones con la defensa, "como medida de cortesía."

En una entrevista telefónica antes del juicio de julio, el abogado de Penisoni, Phillip Johnson, dijo que la defensa planeaba "... pedir otro juicio basado en lo que [sentían] era evidencia nueva."

El abogado acusador, Sean Gallagher, y los tres miembros del jurado que atendieron el juicio del 18 de julio dijeron que la probabilidad de que una investigación adicional pueda destapar "cualquier cosa nueva o cualquier cosa de interés," es muy pequeña.

Algunos dicen que el juicio de Penisoni y Arana fue injusto, porque los miembros del jurado eran de San Mateo, y es probable que tenían nociones preconcebidas del crimen relacionado con pandillas en East Palo Alto. Se alega que Senetuli era un miembro de la pandilla de la calle de Sacramento, que ha ganado mala fama en la comunidad despues del asesinato del oficial de policía Richard May en enero de este año. La defensa pudo solicitar a la corte para cambiar el juicio a un conda-

Que Hacer si Su Hijo es

Arrestado

1. Conteste todad las preguntas básicas

Es un crimen mentir pero no hable mas de lo necesario.

2. Es importante hablar con un abogado inmediatamente

Tiene derecho a un abogado. Lláme a los siguientes telefonos si no puede pagar por un abogado.

SAN MATEO BAR ASSOCIATION:

(650) 369-4149

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES IN EAST PALO ALTO

(650) 326-6440

3. Traiga documentos positivos

Traiga cartas de maestros, trabajos, o líderes religiosos al juicio. Ésto ayudará a las autoridades a decidir si el joven tendrá que ir a la carcel o si puede servir su tiempo por medio de horas de servicio comunitario.

4. Mantenga a sus hijos en la casa

Conosca sus opciones, trate que su hijo salga en libertad condicional en vez de ser mandado a una carcel.

5. Como padre, usted tiene derecho a un interprete

do donde la pandilla de Sacramneto es menos conocida, de modo que él pueda recibir un juicio justo.

El único testigo contra Penisoni y Arana, Luis Vargas, también ha sido criticado. Según un artículo periodístico de marzo, los abogados defensores culparon a Vargas y a dos otros del asesinato. Acusan a Vargas de haber mentido para evitar ser condenado.

También existen acusaciones de racismo . Un miembro del jurado anónimo dijo, "podríamos estar ciegos todos y llegar a la misma conclusión. Nuestra decisión fue basada terminantemente en la evidencia qué fue colocada frente a nosotros. En nuestras discusiones, discutimos solamente la evidencia." Sin embargo, un informe reciente, lanzado por el con-

years. "I don't agree with the parcel tax that could be introduced...as low-income families, we need as much of our paychecks to go to our families as possible."

Resident Luella Parker, member of the Garden Block Club, said that she would not mind an increase in taxes if it would improve the standard of living but she admitted that she doesn't "feel good about this situation."

"I don't need PIA to help me make up my mind," she said. "I like the youth but I don't want to raise my taxes for these non-profits...we have qualified [city officials] to make programs, we don't need PIA."

R.B. Jones also disapproved of the amount of funding the non-profits would receive if the measure passes.

He asked, "What can any of these people offer our kids beyond a summer job?" He was referring to the non-profit and religious organizations that would receive funding through the parcel tax. "I suggest a measure that would give all of the funding to the

continued from page 1

police department... you are guaranteeing failure for both [programs] by putting both of them in the same measure," he said.

Measure K, a measure which also proposed raising taxes to increase crime prevention programs, failed to pass during last year's elections. Now, residents of East Palo Alto will have until November 9 to take their final stance on the new measure and cast their votes in favor of or against the parcel tax.

"These children need love and we need to give it to them from their own city," said Finley, who closed her eyes and shook her head when the city council decided to decrease the percentage that would go to non-profits if the measure passes.

Pastor Baines of St. Samuels Church of God in Christ, which is located on East Bayshore, agrees with Finley. He said, "I hear people say that children are our future, but I believe they are our present. If we don't care for our children now, we won't have to worry about a future."

sus deberes cívicos. Alguien encargado del cuidado de un niño, por ejemplo, no podría tomar seis semanas para formar parte de un jurado. El resultado es que muchos de los residentes de East Palo Alto no son escuchados por los miembros del juzgado.

Algunos grupos dicen que el sistema escolar público de San Mateo es un contribuidor a la sobre-representación de los jovenes minorías en el sistema juvenil de la justicia. Citan el hecho de que estos jovenes tienen índices más altos de suspensión y expulsión, salidas antes de graduarse, y bajas calificaciones que sus compañeros anglo sajones.

En el informe de CNCD, aparece que el condado de San Mateo está procurando remediar esta situación, centrándose en la reducción de de los estudiantes de la minoría. El informe recomendó que las escuelas públicas se esfuerzén por diversificar la composición étnica de los estudiantes para acomodar a la variedad cultural y lingüística.

Un amigo cercano de la familia de Penisoni, Michael Uhila, dijo que aunque la sociedad tiene un papel importante en la cultivación de la violencia relacionada con pandillas, la cosa más importante es ayudarlos a encontrar actividades creativas para ocupar su tiempo y energía.

Uhila dijo que, " tiene que haber algo para mantener a los muchachos ocupados y para utilizar sus talentos. Cuando los padres están trabajando, sus hijos tienen tiempo para hacer males."

Renters

continued from page 1

November election, the proposed initiative, labeled the City of East Palo Alto Drug and Violence-Free Homes Act, would substantially modify existing rent-control laws, making it possible for a landlord to evict a tenant on “any basis permitted by the landlord’s rental agreement with the tenant and applicable state law.”

Incorporated in the amendment is a provision meant to keep landlords from simply clearing out their properties to make way for higher rent-payers. Following the eviction, the landlord would have to notify the Rent Stabilization Board of the event, and could not increase the rent on the next tenant for 12 months thereafter.

However, a further provision of California State law nullifies this local provision: the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995 states that when a tenant whose rent has been gradually increased under rent control is evicted, the landlord can charge whatever amount he or she desires to the next tenant. The proposed initiative would make it easier for landlords to evict tenants and State law would enable them to be replaced with higher paying renters.

Supporters of the initiative claim that its purpose is to make it easier to evict drug dealers and other criminals from rental units. However, opponents believe that it directly attacks the City’s “good cause for eviction” policy; thus undermining one of the city’s fundamental founding provisions passed by general election in 1984, shortly after incorporation in 1983.

Opponents point out that current law provides clear pathways through which drug dealers can be evicted, and that, therefore, there is no need for an amendment. They claim the drivers of the initiative are using the “anti-

drug dealer label” to unfairly gain support in a community that has long fought drug related activities and associated violence, but that, in fact, this is not the true purpose of the initiative. They urge landlords to use current legislation to its full extent to get rid of drug dealers, instead of supporting an initiative that would put the innocent at risk.

Under the proposed new law, if a tenant were renting month-to-month—and many East Palo Alto residents are—the landlord could evict him by simply not renewing the lease and giving the tenant a 30-day notice to vacate, warned William B. Webster, long-time EPA resident and 14-year member of the City’s Rent Stabilization Board. If the tenant refused, the landlord could have the tenant forcibly removed by the police.

“The unjust eviction initiative strips the residents of East Palo Alto who rent of the additional civil rights they enjoy as residents of East Palo Alto”, said Webster. “The fact is that the initiative would give any landlord carte blanche to evict any renter for any reason or no reason whatsoever.”

The controversial initiative is driven by R. S. Jones, who works with William J. Rosetti, a San Francisco-based realtor who owns and operates several hundred rental units in East Palo Alto. Jones, a former mayor of East Palo Alto, was sentenced in 2000 to 27 months in federal prison on counts of tax fraud, bribery, and mail fraud, as reported in the July 8th edition of the Palo Alto Daily News.

Mr. Jones solicited the assistance of 3 East Palo Alto residents in sponsoring the ballot initiative: Jorge Luis

Miranda, 39, the maintenance supervisor for Mr. Rosetti’s West Park apartment complex, Geneva Whatley, 67, and Ola Mae Parker, 77. Both Mrs. Whatley and Mrs. Parker expressed their surprise at learning their names appeared as sponsors to the initiative. They said they did not read or fully understand the initiative’s language and thus did not know what they were supporting.

“If I knew then what I know now, I would not sign it again”, said Whatley of the eviction initiative. “It wasn’t explained to me, with all that fast talking; I was told something different.”

Whatley, who has suffered the scandal of her uninformed decision and hopes that no one is “done wrong”, concluded: “I hope it doesn’t pass. They are ruthless down there at Rosetti’s apartments.”

In fact, Jones’ ambitions for the coming election do not end with this eviction measure. He is also supporting a second initiative—not without its own dose of controversy—calling for a property tax to benefit the Police Department, but which conflicts with a similar city-proposed initiative. Details about it are provided in the box to the right.

On Thursday July 6th, city officials sent two sealed boxes containing approximately 2,200 signatures of local voters in support of the initiatives to be verified and approved by the county. With only 1,000 signatures needed for the initiatives to be placed on the November ballot, many foresee that voters will most likely have to face this crucial decision in the coming months.

During a meeting held that same Thursday with representatives of the Rent Stabilization Board and other concerned community members, the city’s mayor Ruben Abrica called both Jones-driven initiatives a “smokescreen” which could lead to widespread evictions and the weakening of the city-spon-



Former Mayor of East Palo Alto, R.B. Jones.

A SECOND INITIATIVE

A second initiative, also supported by Mr. Jones and called the East Palo Alto Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act, is being placed on the November ballot as well. This property-tax measure would impose a 10-year parcel tax on property owners in the city. The amount of the tax would vary depending on the use of the property—\$75 per year for homeowners, \$40 per year per individual apartment unit, and approximately \$300 per year for commercial properties depending on their size. These amounts appeared in a June 7th report prepared by Michael Lawson, East Palo Alto City Attorney. The money raised would be used to fund police services and programs ranging from officer training to school safety and domestic violence intervention.

If placed on the ballot in November, this initiative, will compete with the Council’s own crime-fighting initiative to benefit the Police Department and the much-needed expansion of youth programs in the city. The city-sponsored measure is being drafted as an improvement and reiteration of Measure K, which in 2005 election earned 55% of the votes but not the 66 2/3% required to pass a property tax. Measure K was designed to raise funds for both Police and Youth Alternative Programs. Stewart Hyland, a long time community activist and youth advocate in East Palo Alto had hoped that the measure sponsored by PIA and the City of East Palo Alto would have been an improvement on Measure K.

“We care about the destruction caused by drug-related crime because of the havoc it has wreaked upon our children and grand-children. EPA parents and young adults, along with education and law enforcement officials agree that our young people, especially older teens need alternatives to the lure of street life but have few options here in town”, Hyland said.

“It would be a real tragedy if our residents would not be able to pass the very much needed parcel tax measure because we could not gather the 66% because our votes have been split.”

Mr. Hyland’s concern is that, because both measures similarly benefit the Police Department, voters will not be able to distinguish between the purpose of two and consequently neither will garner sufficient support to pass in the election. Furthermore, the City Council’s proposed parcel tax measure would benefit Youth Programs, whereas the private measure would not. A split vote may well leave the city’s youth in the dust.

In a recent telephone interview, Mr. Jones said, “We believe that children are not the perpetrators of crime in the city of East Palo Alto. Statistics show that most rapes, shootings and robberies are committed by people who are 18 and over.”

“We want all the money to go to the police department,” he said, “because we are concerned with public safety.”

sored tax initiatives which would benefit the city’s youth. Alarmed at the prospect of the measures passing, Abrica noted that “we need a rent law now more than ever”, referring to the threat posed by gentrification and the prospects of developers converting their properties to more profitable condominiums.

When asked about the threat of condo conversion and its relation to the eviction initiative, City Attorney Lawson declined to comment.

Living and renting in East Palo Alto has long been possible because of the tenant protection laws against rent increases and eviction without

good cause. The Rent Stabilization and Good Cause for Eviction Ordinance, passed by general election in 1984 and modified at a second election in 1986, protects renters—which comprise the majority of the City’s residents—from unjustified and arbitrary eviction by landlords who wish to gain larger profits from their properties by renting to a more affluent demographic. This Ordinance is now threatened; it will be up to the voters—renters and homeowners alike—to decide whether they will allow a modification to this law and the repercussions many claim it will carry with it.

Leveraging East Palo Alto's Economic Strength

By Kaara Baptiste
EPA Today Contributor

East Palo Alto has a great amount of buying power. A recent analysis of Census data, compiled by The Community Development Institute’s (CDI’s) applied research program, Empowerment Research! (ER!), found that EPA consumer expenditures will total over \$500 million dollars in 2006.

Underlying the strength of these numbers, however, is the fact that a lot of EPA’s dollars do not remain here.

The phenomenon of a continual draining of community consumer dollars into other communities, known as consumer leakage, has long been an issue for EPA.

At one point in the 1990s this leakage was measured as being a \$76 million annual lost from the community. It appears this phenomenon might have lessened only slightly but EPA’s dependency on outside businesses continues.

The most recent delayed effort to bring a supermarket to East Palo Alto and the imminent closure of the near-

est market, Albertson’s in Palo Alto’s Edgewood Plaza, highlights this persistent issue.

EPA residents often cite better quality, lower prices, reliability and non-existence as the reasons they shop outside of the community. If there aren’t stores here to cater to basic needs, like pharmacy or supermarket, what other option do they have?

It is clear that residents have the means to financially support their community. But there are not enough outlets to do so. Many have

expressed a desire for redevelopment that better serves their needs.

As a response to these requests, the Community Development Institute created the Leadership Institute East Palo Alto (LIEP), a new program that is geared towards informing and training the community to get more involved in the issues that affect it.

The LIEP recently sponsored a two-part public forum that was designed to discuss economic development in East Palo Alto and look at ways community

members can pool their resources and work with the City to encourage development that will be of use to all of the city’s residents.

The forum was originally scheduled to take place over two Saturdays beginning August 5th. Much of the work of the forum took place on Saturday, August 12.

The forum was extended to Saturday, August 19. To get more information about the forum or LIEP, contact Valicia Saucedo at 650-327-5846 ext. 314 or Kaara Baptiste at 650-327-5846 ext. 313.

EPA Today's Youth Page

Local Organization Helps Students Afford College

By **Natalie Rios and Seanteonna Johnson**
EPA Today Contributors

In 1929, Pearl Moulden, a resident of Palo Alto, gathered a few of her friends and started a club. Her new group called itself the Excelsior Club. The members first came together based on their mutual interest in "literary self-improvement."

After a few meetings, however, the group's focus changed and its members decided to dedicate their club to helping local youth achieve their dreams of a higher education.

The group later changed its name to the Community Activities Committee (CAC), in order to better reflect its new interests and commitments. Following its new priorities, the CAC gave its first scholarship of \$50 to an African American student in 1934.

This past June, the CAC held its 77th annual Scholarship Award Ceremony at the

Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, and it gave away \$11,000 in scholarship money which it divided among 22 students.

Today, the CAC's scholarships are given to benefit students of underserved communities and they are available to minority students of various races and backgrounds.

For the past few years, the CAC has awarded scholarships to a minimum of twenty students, chosen from schools in the Sequoia and Palo Alto school districts. This year, the recipients of the awards represented seven different schools: Carmont High School, Gunn High School, Menlo Atherton High School, Palo Alto Senior High School, Redwood High School, Sequoia High School, and Woodside High School.

In order to receive a CAC Scholarship, students must first complete and submit applications that are reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. Award recipients

are chosen based on their need for assistance, academic merit, and their desire to achieve a higher level of education.

In their brochure, the CAC states that its scholarships are specifically directed towards students "who [lacking the necessary funds], might decide otherwise not to go to college." The whole emphasis, according to the brochure, "is on encouraging a borderline group to try for something higher, to equip themselves for better jobs, more secure places in society."

In order to provide scholarships to needy students, the CAC holds various fundraising activities such as an annual bazaar and white elephant sales.

Over the years, CAC has been so successful in its fundraising efforts that it has been able to increase its donor base significantly. Next year, the group expects to increase both the amount of money for each scholarship and the number of award recipients.

Students and families who wish to learn more about this scholarship opportunity can send requests for information, or tax-deductible donations to: Shirley Lowler, Treasurer, CAC



CAC members left to right: Shirley Lowler, Charlotte Nasr, Lily Quan and Helen Hymes



Mr. & Mrs. Fletes stand with their daughter Christina, a 2006 CAC award recipient who is going to the University of Berkeley this fall.

2588 Dell Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94043
Congratulations to the 2006 CAC Scholarship Recipients

Carmont High School: *Mary Halapio*
Gunn High School: *Jodi Chan and Jre Hunter*
Menlo Atherton High School: *Kyra Brown, Sammetra Daniels, Hector Fajardo, Sharana Majabir, Jahmal White*
Palo Alto Senior High School: *Brianna Clay and Alejandra Martinez*
Redwood High School: *Barbara Balcita, Kimberly Bannister, Jessica Harrison, Lorraine Landa, Donald Pressley*
Sequoia High School: *Iris Bustos, Jeannette Salazar, and Giselle Williams*

Woodside High School :
Christina Fletes, Derek Perez, and Hanna Song

Editors note: When this article was written, Seanteonna Johnson was working with EPA Today as an intern sponsored by the Summer Employment Program (SEP). Seanteonna graduated from the SEP program this past Friday, August 3.

Natalie Rios is still working with EPA Today as a summer intern. Natalie is an East Palo Alto resident who is currently a sophomore at Stanford University. Natalie received a CAC scholarship in 2003 when she graduated from Palo Alto High School in Palo Alto.

Junior Giants Offers Youth A Healthy Alternative

By **Natalie Rios and Seanteonna Johnson**
EPA Today Contributors

Summer break can be risky for the children of East Palo Alto. Many have no summer school to attend and no plans to keep them occupied. Most clubs, sports teams, and after school programs in the city close every year around the middle of June. After that, children are often left to their own devices.

Ray Askew, an East Palo Alto resident who often serves as a team coach, sees this as a circumstance that could lead children and adolescents into trouble.

"We have to show these kids that there's something else to do besides violence, besides getting into trouble," he said.

Enter the Junior Giants Program in East Palo Alto. The program began in 1991, when founder Gene Tate recruited Askew to help in his efforts to start a baseball program for children of all ages, skill levels, and economic backgrounds.

"We started seeing that we had a lot of kids going onto Little League with no experience," said Askew. "Other



Ray Askew (center) sits with a few of the Junior Giants he coaches during weekly practices and games.

cities have programs that start earlier and their Little Leagues were more advanced than ours."

Askew and Tate began with a team of T-ball players and a group of kids who played using a pitching machine.

After many fundraising efforts, which included car washes and yard sales, they were able to attract the attention of the San Francisco Giants who went on to sponsor the Junior Giants of East Palo Alto by providing funds, as well as coaching and

game workshops for all of the participants involved.

The Junior Giants accept players from 4 to 18 years of age, with every three years being a different level.

Participants are asked to register beginning in June but registration continues through July.

The standard fee is \$25 per participant but Askew recognizes the difficulties the fee could raise for some families.

"We have never turned a kid away for lack of money," said Askew. "One of the pur-

poses of this team is to get kids off the street and give them something to do and money [isn't an issue]. This is a free team [if you can't afford it] and the 16-18 year olds can get the entire uniform for free...minus the shoes."

Originally, the Junior Giants began as an effort to improve children's baseball skills and provide them with a healthier alternative to spending the summer sitting in front of a television set.

But, it soon became obvious that the program grew to become a way of fighting delinquency.

According to Askew, their current baseball field in Jack Farrow Park used to be "a hotbed for crime and drugs" but ever since the Junior Giants began using the field 10 months out of the year, the incidents of violence have decreased.

"The whole community benefits from this [program]. If your kid is doing something in a positive vein, than you don't have to keep running after them...we try to make this a family organization so the older people help the younger people, but the young people also have something to teach the old people," said Askew.

Askew remains optimistic about the direction the program is headed.

"I see us expanding," he said. "We were even contacted to help with the development of Costano's baseball field but that is still being decided...this year, we had our first Babe Ruth league with 18 players, which is pretty good for our first year. We got to help these kids because if we don't, what do we expect them to do?"

Interested in joining or volunteering for the **Junior Giants**? Call their offices at **(650) 322-5440**.

For information on Natalie Rios and Seanteonna Johnson, see above note.

See page 20 for more sports information and signup dates this month

English Language Learners are "Talking with the Police"

A visitor to the Nuestra Casa ESL Program's level one class on any given Thursday evening during the past couple of months may have been surprised by a sight not often observed on the streets of EPA: uniformed police officers and Latino immigrants joking and laughing together and spending time getting to know one another.

The Nuestra Casa ESL Program, an English as a second language program for immigrants in East Palo Alto, bases its curriculum around the specific everyday needs of English learners and their families. Program participants are encouraged to voice their needs and concerns within the safe community of the ESL class. So when Nuestra Casa teacher Vanesa Ieraci continued to hear stories of miscommunication, mistreatment, and misunderstanding in learners' encounters with police, she knew the issue needed to be addressed. The following stories were written for Chief Davis by ESL participants and exemplify the experiences of many Latino immigrants with the Police in EPA:

"We Latinos who don't speak English are so scared of the EPA police officers. I don't know what to do if the police stop me, I don't even want to speak because I am afraid I am going to be arrested or deported. We are scared of the police. That is why we never complain when police officers constantly treat us badly. We keep very quiet, even if the police are being unfair to us. The officers know that. They know we are scared and they can do whatever they want with us. That is



"Talking with the Police" program participants on a tour of the EPA Police Department.

why I think it is important you know this, Chief. Maybe you can tell the officers to treat us a little better."

"We don't want to 'break the law' by driving without a license but we need to go to work so we can feed our families. We need to take our kids to school, go to buy groceries..."

Please tell your officers I am not a criminal. All I do is work two jobs to feed my family. Please tell your officers to be kind if they stop me-that would help us a lot. Thank you for listening to me, Chief!"

"I work late as a janitor. I was driving and a police officer stopped me. Because I couldn't speak English, I waited. More and more police officers were coming and surrounding me.

They made me feel very scared, and the officers treated me as if I was a dangerous criminal...just because I could not speak English. Chief, I think we need more Spanish-speaking cops or more Spanish translators"

Ms. Ieraci responded by heading up a collaboration with the East Palo Alto Police Department in which learners studied a special ESL curriculum called "Talking with the Police" and police officers made weekly visits to the ESL

class to teach students about police practices, answer questions, practice conversations with the students, and engage in a cultural exchange.

Program participants learned important information about their rights, what to do when stopped by an officer, common police procedures, how to prevent and report crime and domestic violence, and many other essential topics.

The police officers, in turn, learned which issues are of most importance to the Latino community, increased their cultural competence, and were able to clear up some misunderstandings that have contributed to local mistrust of police. The program culminated in a tour of the East Palo Alto Police Department and a graduation ceremony where participants received diplomas.

Ms. Ieraci says she was inspired by Martin Luther King's words, "People hate each other because they fear each other, and they fear each other because they don't know each other," and by her belief that the ESL classroom needs to not only serve as a means for immigrants to learn English but to also learn how to live in the United States.

She stated, "In this cyni-

cal modern age when a great many people believe that conflict is the base of all human interaction, I was happy to be a part of the "Talking with the Police" program. People in the program seemed to see through to the clear truth that understanding is the base and that cross-cultural communication is what builds that base."

This innovative collaboration has resulted in increased communication between the Latino community and the local police and has helped to remove barriers to trust and cooperation. ESL learners reported that they feel more confident approaching police officers now that they understand their own rights and the role of the police. One learner stated that she used to think that police officers were unfriendly, but now she realizes that "they may actually be friendly, but for their own protection they can't offer you their hand."

At the "Talking with the Police" graduation event Chief Ron Davis stated that the EPA Police Department benefited even more from the program than the ESL learners and that a major challenge of a police chief, particularly in a city such as East Palo Alto, is that officers demonstrate cultural sensitivity.

About the Nuestra Casa "Talking with the Police" program he stated, "There is no program or training that we could have done to accomplish this [cultural sensitivity] like this program has done. Hopefully it will be the beginning of a long-term friendship." East Palo Alto ESL learners hope so, too.

Estudiantes de Inglés están "Hablando con la Policía"

Un invitado a la clase de inglés del primer nivel del Programa de Inglés de Nuestra Casa a lo mejor se hubiera quedado sorprendido cualquier jueves por la tarde durante los últimos meses al ver algo que no mucho se ve en las calles de EPA: policías e inmigrantes Latinos bromeando y platicando juntos y conociéndose mejor.

El Programa de Inglés de Nuestra Casa, un programa para inmigrantes en East palo Alto, tiene un programa de estudio que está basado en las necesidades específicas de los participantes y sus familias. El programa anima a los participantes a que manifiesten sus preocupaciones y necesidades dentro de la comunidad segura de la clase de inglés. Así que cuando maestra Vanesa Ieraci se dio cuenta de muchos casos de malos

entendimientos, falta de comunicación, y maltrato entre las experiencias de sus estudiantes con la policía sabía que tenía que tomar acción. Los siguientes relatos fueron escritos para el Jefe de Policía Davis por los estudiantes de inglés y demuestran ejemplos típicos de las experiencias de muchos inmigrantes Latinos con la policía en EPA:

"Nosotros Latinos que no hablamos inglés tenemos miedo a los agentes de policía de EPA. No sé que hacer si me para un policía; ni quiero hablar porque tengo miedo que me vayan a detener o deportar. Tenemos miedo a la policía. Por eso no nos quejamos cuando los policías siempre nos tratan mal. Nos quedamos callados aun cuando los agentes no son justos. Ellos lo saben. Saben que tenemos miedo y

que pueden hacer lo que les da la gana con nosotros. Por eso pienso que es importante que usted lo sepa, Jefe. Quizás usted puede decir a los agentes que nos traten un poquito mejor."

"Nosotros no queremos "romper la ley" al manejar sin licencia pero necesitamos ir a trabajar para alimentar a nuestras familias. Tenemos que llevar a nuestros niños a la escuela, ir a comprar comida...Por favor diga a sus agentes que no soy un criminal. Lo único que hago es trabajar dos trabajos para alimentar a mi familia. Favor de decir a sus agentes que sean amables si me paran-eso nos ayudaría mucho. Gracias por escucharme, Jefe."

"Trabajo tarde como janitor. Yo estaba manejando y me paró un policía. Porque no podía hablar ingles, me esperaba. Llegaron más y

más agentes y me rodeaban y me hicieron sentir mucho miedo y me trataron como un criminal peligroso-sólo porque no podía hablar ingles. Jefe, pienso que necesitamos más agentes que hablan español o mas traductores."

La señora Ieraci respondió por manejar una colaboración con el Departamento de Policía de East Palo Alto en la cual los participantes estudiaron un programa de estudio especial que se llama "Hablando con la Policía" y los agentes de policía visitaron semanalmente a la clase de inglés para dar charlas acerca de las funciones de la policía, contestar preguntas, practicar conversaciones con los estudiantes, y tomar parte en un intercambio cultural. Los participantes del programa aprendieron información importante acerca

JUST ANOTHER THOUGHT...

Words burning through my skull
so you know I write them down
It's addictive like a drug or sum
money I just found
Gotta have it and gotta get it
done
Lyrical Genius at work, come
and get some
I lead a trail, but is it in the right
direction
I always ask myself, but never
answer the questions
Look up at the stars, does mine
really glow?
Physically young but mentally
grown
I'm at the end of my wits
Who cares about the future all I
want is a new whip
Material mentality then suddenly
I switch
I'm from the slums, but intellec-
tually rich
It's not easy being me, matter of
fact, it's a bitch
I want my momma to live worry
free
But a part of me wants to be
making G's
A new day... A new dialogue
Is it really true that two rights
can make a wrong?
Hurry now call the coroner
I'm feeling colder than a Russian
foreigner
Close my eyes cuz its time to
sleep
Attempt to survive until the end
of the week
-JUICE

I'm from East Menlo Park or
better known to those who sit
high in regards to our communi-
ty, the Belle Haven Community.
I mean im not too sure what to
tell you other than im one of
the hundreds of struggling
youth, whom everyday fight
against adversity in order to find
themselves. Raised on the
exact same street I still live on, I
grew up in the wrong and con-
tinue to find a way to starigten
my path. Some look up to me
and others look down on me,
either way, eyes are on me. I'm a
member of Ghetto Made, a
rythym and poetry (rap) group.
The group members are Ra4real,
Juice, and Beat and we represent
all those with or without thier
own voice from the G to East
Menlo.

de sus derechos, que hacer
si la policía les parara, los
procedimientos comunes de
la policía, como prevenir y
reportar un crimen o violen-
cia domestica, y muchos
otros temas esenciales. Los
agentes de policía por su
parte aprendieron cuales son
los asuntos mas importantes
para al comunidad Latina,
aumentaron su competencia
cultural, y pudieron resolver
algunos malos entendimien-
tos que han contribuido a
que hubiera una falta de con-
fianza en la comunidad hacia
la policía. El programa ter-
minó con una gira del

Alquiler

droga" injustamente para obtener el apoyo de una comunidad que ha luchado por mucho tiempo contra las actividades y violencia relacionadas al uso de la droga, pero que, en hecho, no es éste el propósito verdadero de la iniciativa. Insisten que los propietarios usen la legislación actual para liberarse de traficantes, en vez de apoyar una iniciativa que pondría a gente inocente en riesgo de perder sus hogares.

Bajo la nueva ley propuesta, si un arrendatario alquila su casa de mes-a-mes (y varios residentes de East Palo Alto lo hacen) el propietario podría simplemente no renovar el arriendo y darle al arrendatario un aviso de 30 dias para desocupar la casa o apartamento, advirtió Guillermo B. Webster, residente de EPA y miembro del Consejo de la Estabilización de Rentas de la ciudad desde hace 14 años. Si el arrendatario se rehusa a dejar su el hogar, el propietario podría llamar a la policía para sacarlo de cualquier manera.

"La iniciativa injusta del desahucio les quita a los residentes de East Palo Alto los derechos civiles adicionales que ellos gozan como residentes de East Palo Alto," dijo Webster. "El hecho es que la iniciativa les daría permiso a los propietarios para desahuciar a cualquier inquilino por cualquier razón o por ninguna razón."

La iniciativa polémica fue introducida por R.B. Jones, que trabaja con Guillermo J. Rosetti, un vendedor de bienes raíces basado en San Francisco, quien es dueño de varias unidades que alquila en East Palo Alto. Jones, alcalde anterior de East Palo Alto,fue condenado en el año 2000 a 27 meses en la prisión federal. Lo condenaron por cuentas de fraude de impuestos y fraude del correo, y soborno, según lo divulgado en un periódico local.

"East Palo Alto es la única ciudad donde la única razón por la cual un dueño puede desahuciar fácilmente a alguien es porque no están

UNA SEGUNDA INICIATIVA

Una segunda iniciativa, también apoyada por el Sr. Jones y llamada La Medida para Seguridad y Prevención de la Violencia en East Palo Alto, también podría estar en la balota de noviembre. Esta medida impondría un impuesto de diez años ante propietarios de la ciudad. La cantidad del impuesto variaría dependiendo del uso de la propiedad -- \$75 cada año para los dueños de una casa, \$40 cada año por un apartamento, y aproximadamente \$300 cada año para las propiedades comerciales dependiendo de su tamaño. Estas cantidades aparecieron en un informe del 7 de junio y fueron preparadas por Michael Lawson, abogado de East Palo Alto. El dinero juntado sería utilizado para financiar los servicios y los programas del departamento de policía, que se extienden desde el entrenamiento para los oficiales hasta la seguridad de las escuelas y a la intervención de la violencia doméstica.

Si es colocada en la balota de noviembre, esta iniciativa competirá con una iniciativa, apoyada por el consejo, que recaudaría fondos para el departamento de policía y la extensión de los programas contra la violencia para la juventud de la ciudad. La medida, patrocinada por la ciudad, es la medida es descrita como una versión mejorada de la medida K, que en las elecciones del 2005 ganó el 55% de los votos pero no los 66 2/3% requeridos para pasar un impuesto territorial. La medida K fue diseñada para recaudar fondos para el departamento de policía y los programas alternativos para la juventud. Stewart Hyland, activista de la comunidad y abogado de la juventud en East Palo Alto, esperaba que la medida patrocinada por PIA y la ciudad de East Palo Alto sería mejor que la medida K.

"Nos importa la destrucción causada por el crimen relacionado con la droga porque les ha causado tanto mal a nuestros niños y nietos. Los padres de EPA y los jóvenes, junto con funcionarios de la educación y de la aplicación de ley, estamos de acuerdo que nuestra gente joven,necesitan alternativas a pasarse en la calle pero tienen pocas opciones aquí en nuestra ciudad," dijo Hyland.

"Sería una tragedia verdadera si nuestros residentes no pueden pasar ésta medida de impuestos tan necesaria solo porque no podemos recolectar el 66% de los votos que se necesitan."

La preocupación del Sr. Hyland es que, porque ambas medidas benefician semejantemente a el departamento de policía, los votantes no puedan distinguir entre el propósito de las dos y por lo tanto ni una ni otra gane suficientes votos para pasar en la elección. Además, la medida de impuestos propuesta por el Consejo de la ciudad beneficiaría programas para los jóvenes, mientras que la medida privada no lo haría. Si los votantes lo deciden, a la juventud de la ciudad se puede quedar sin nada.

En una entrevista reciente, Sr. Jones dijo, "creemos que los niños no son los autores de los crímenes en la ciudad de East Palo Alto. Las estadísticas demuestran que la mayoría de las violaciones, de las balaceras y de los robos son cometidos por gente mayor de 18 años."

"Quisiéramos que todo el dinero sea para el departamento de policía," dijo él, "porque nos preocupa la seguridad del público."

pagando la renta." Dijo Jones en una entrevista reciente. "Es un proceso muy largo para desahuciar a alguien que es sucio, desordenado, y esta destruyendo una vecindad." Él dijo que su medida propuesta, a la que él llama la medida para la "causa justa para el desahucio" proporcionaría una lista específica de las violaciones que permitirían que un propietario más fácilmente desahucie a un inquilino, violaciones que tendrían un impacto negativo en la comunidad. Jones solicitó la ayuda de 3 residentes de East Palo Alto para el patrocinio de la iniciativa: Jorge Luis Miranda, 39, el supervisor de mantenimiento para el complejo de apartamentos West Park de Rosetti,

Ginebra Whatley, 67, y Ola Mae Parker, 77. La señora Whatley y la señora Parker expresaron su sorpresa en aprender que sus nombres aparecieron como patrocinadores de la iniciativa. Dijeron que no leyeron la iniciativa y que no la entendían completamente y no sabían así lo que apoyaban. "Si supiera entonces lo que ahora sé, no lo firmaría otra vez", dijo Whatley de la iniciativa del desahucio. "No me la explicaron, solo hablaron rápidamente. Me dijeron algo diferente." Whatley, que ha sufrido el escándalo de su decisión mal informada y espera que "nadie sea perjudicado", concluyó: "Espero que no vaya a pasar la enmienda. Son despi-

adados allí en los apartamentos de Rosetti." Cuando se le pregunto al Sr. Jones sobre la confusión evidente de los tres miembros de la comunidad, él dijo que "se les habló a esta gente. Si esta gente es muda, estúpida, o fue engañada, también lo son el resto de las 2000 personas que firmaron la petición, y también lo soy yo." Él dijo que expresaron confusión porque ellos, "... se asustaron de la prensa irrespetuosa... que los acosaron." Las ambiciones de Jones para la elecciones que vienen no terminan con esta medida del desahucio. Él también está apoyando una segunda iniciativa-con su propia dosis de controversia- para que un impuesto territorial beneficie

al departamento de la policía, algunos dicen que esta iniciativa está en conflicto con una iniciativa similar que ha propuesto la ciudad. Los detalles sobre las iniciativas se proporcionan en la caja a la izquierda.

Durante una reunión, ese mismo jueves, con los representantes del Consejo de la Estabilización de Rentas y otros miembros de la comunidad en cuestión, el alcalde Ruben Abrica de la ciudad llamó a ambas iniciativas de Jones "cortinas" que podrían conducir a los desahucios extensos y al debilitamiento de las iniciativas patrocinadas por la ciudad que beneficiarían a la juventud de la ciudad.

Abrica observó que "ahora necesitamos una ley del alquiler más que nunca," refiriéndose a la amenaza de los reveladores que podrían convertir a sus propiedades en condominios más lucrativos.

Cuando se le pregunto sobre la amenaza de la conversión a condominios y de su relación a la iniciativa del desahucio, el abogado Lawson de la ciudad declinó comentar.

El vivir y el alquilar en East Palo Alto ha sido posible debido a las leyes de la protección del arrendatario contra aumentos del alquiler y el desahucio sin buena causa. La Estabilización de Alquiler y la Buena Causa para la Ordenanza del Desahucio, leyes pasadas por la elección general en 1984 y modificadas en una segunda elección en 1986, protegen a inquilinos -quienes forman la mayoría de los residentes de la ciudad- del desahucio injustificado y arbitrario por los propietarios que desean ganar beneficios más grandes de sus características propiedades, alquilando a un demográfico más afluente. Esta ordenanz esta amenazada; estará en manos de los votantes y si permitirán una modificación a esta ley y las repercusiones que, muchos dicen, llegarán con ella.

continua de la pagina 16

"Hablando con la Policía"

Departamento de Policía y una ceremonia de graduación en la cual los participantes recibieron certificados. La Señora Ieraci dice que tomó su inspiración de las palabras de Martin Luther King, "Las personas se odian porque se temen, y se temen porque no se conocen", y también de su creencia de que la clase de inglés debe no solamente servir para aprender inglés sino también para aprender como vivir en

los Estados Unidos. Ella dijo, "En estos modernos tiempos cínicos cuando muchas personas creen que el conflicto es la base de todo intercambio humano, me dio mucho gusto ser parte del programa "Hablando con la Policía". La gente que tomó parte en el programa pudo ver la clara verdad de que el entendimiento mutuo es la base, y que la comunicación entre culturas es lo que hace esa base."

Ésta colaboración innovadora ha resultado en mejor comunicación entre la comunidad Latina y la policía local y ha ayudado a quitar barreras a la confianza y la cooperación. Participantes reportaron que ahora se sienten más confianza en acercarse a un agente de policía ya que entienden sus propios derechos y el rol de la policía. Una de las participantes dijo que antes creía que los agentes de policía no eran

amistosos, pero ahora entiende que "ellos si son amistosos, pero no pueden dar la mano por su propia protección." En el evento de graduación del programa "Hablando con la Policía," el Jefe Ron Davis dijo que el Departamento de Policía de EPA se benefició del programa aun más que los estudiantes y que un gran desafío de ser jefe de policía, especialmente en una ciudad como East Palo Alto,

es que los agentes demuestren sensibilidad cultural. Acerca del programa de Nuestra Casa "Hablando con la Policía" él dijo, "No hay otro programa o entrenamiento que pudiéramos hacer para lograr ésta [sensitividad cultural] como este programa lo ha hecho. Espero que esto puede ser el principio de una amistad de largo plazo." Los estudiantes de inglés están de acuerdo.

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Attention Citizens of East Palo Alto!

Detective Jeff Liu and Officer Elizabeth Lam have asked the community to help them fight crime in East Palo Alto by asking you, your neighbors and friends to call in any suspected crime situations to the following number: **853-TIPS (8477)** Please let others in the community know the EPAPD Tip Line phone number.

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Job Opportunities with the City of East Palo Alto

The City of East Palo Alto is currently recruiting for the following positions:

Nutrition Site Supervisor (Part Time) - High School Diploma or GED, one year of supervisory experience, current Food Handler's Certificate. Experience working with seniors is desirable. Salary Range: \$1,650- 2,005/ month. Open until filled. Submit application by August 4, 2006 to be included in the first round of testing.

Public Works Maintenance Worker I - High School Diploma or GED; CA Class C Driver's License with a good driving record at the time of appointment. Salary Range: \$2,901- 3,526/ month. Final filing deadline is August 17, 2006.

Public Works Maintenance Worker II - High School Diploma or GED; two years experience performing construction or related labor duties; a valid CA Class A or B Driver's License with applicable endorsements and a good driving record at the time of appointment; and a Flagman Certificate. **Salary Range: \$3,309- 4,022/ month. Final filing deadline is August 17, 2006.**

Police Officer - Academy Graduate - High School Diploma or GED; P.O.S.T. Academy Graduate Certificate, or currently enrolled in a P.O.S.T. Academy; valid CA Class C Driver's License and a good driving record at the time of appointment. Salary Range: \$4,922- 5,983/ month. Recruitment ongoing.

Police Officer - Lateral - High School Diploma or GED and one year of experience, and completion of a probationary period with another police department; a P.O.S.T. Basic, or above Certificate; and valid CA Class C Driver's License and a good driving record at the time of appointment. Salary Range: \$4,922- 5,983/ month. Recruitment ongoing.

Executive Assistant - Requires a High School Diploma or GED; and four years of secretarial experience, or two years experience equivalent to a Secretary with the City of East Palo Alto, or a combination of training, education, and experience that is equivalent to one of the minimum qualifications listed above. Salary Range: \$ 3,537- 4,299/ month. Final filing deadline: August 28, 2006.

Public Works Inspector - High School Diploma or GED; and two years of college level engineering and/or construction related courses; two years experience performing broad and varied construction and inspection activities or related duties. Experience with a public agency is preferred. Salary Range: \$4,235- 5,148/ month. Position open until filled.

Crime Analyst (Part-Time) - Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with a major in Public/Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Economics, Political or Social Sciences, or a related field; two years experience in data collection and analyses, program evaluation or management analysis. Experience in law enforcement is highly desirable and the incumbent must be able to pass a detailed background investigation and DOJ/FBI fingerprint clearance. Salary Range: 4,458-5,419/ month.

Instructors (Temporary - 06-07 School Year)
-Performing Arts
-Media Arts
-Expressive Dance
-Musical Arts

For more details about the Instructor positions, please contact the Human Resources Department at 650.853.3100.

For more detailed information on any of these positions and/or an application packet, please contact the Human Resources Department at 650.853.3100.

Hands On Bay Area for East of Affluence, a volunteer exploration of East Palo Alto. This series will bring volunteers, 18 and older, together for a deep volunteer experience that focuses on East Palo Alto.

If you are interested in join-

ing our volunteer team, please email Michael Cook at Michael@handsonbayarea.org or check out other Hands On Bay Area volunteer opportunities at www.handsonbayarea.org.

Dry Film Operator/Tech-

Day Shift in Milpitas. Set-up and operate Dry Film Imaging equipment. Perform visual inspection. Complete required documentation and other duties as required. One or more years of experience in Printed Circuit Board Manufacturing, specific to Dry Film Operations, required. Good communications skills in English. Apply in person at 1988 Tarob Ct, Milpitas or online at www.ddiglobal.com/contact/careers.cfm

Audio Testing Engineer

Build VST sft/hardware testing stations. Compose elec. music & prgm scripts to test audio circ. Visual Basic/C++/Unix. M.A. in Elec./Comp. Music, or Audio Engr. Send Res to Job Site: Muse Research, Inc., 970 O' Brien Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Strip Etch Strip Operator in

Milpitas. Must be able to work with machines that load panels onto the resist stripper, machines that etch copper and solder off surfaces of panels, machines that measure copper inside bath, and must be able to inspect product to ensure customer specifications are met. Must have 2 years of experience in wet process environment, preferably in the PCB industry. Some knowledge of chemistry and chemical properties. Able to communicate in English and able to lift 30 pounds without straining. Apply in person at 1988 Tarob Ct, Milpitas or online at www.ddiglobal.com/contact/careers.cfm.

Are you interested in working in recovery?

Free At Last Community Recovery & Rehabilitation Services

is seeking qualified individuals for the following positions:
-Outreach Workers
-Counselors
-Men's Residential On-Call Mentor
-Women's Residential On-Call Mentor
-U-Turn Counselor
-Employment/Education Director

All positions require two years continuous sobriety if in recovery.

To Apply, please mail or fax cover letter and resume to:

Free At Last
Attn: Yseda Mustiful,
Human Resources
Director
1796 Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
or fax to (650) 462-1055

Reward!

Stolen Scooter!
\$200 cash to the person who returns it!
1986 white Honda Elite.
**Please Call
(650) 327- 5846 Ext. 311**

AOI Operator

-graveyard shift in Milpitas. Will have to scan cores and panels on automatic optical inspection equipment using reference from database per traveler instructions. Read and interpret traveler to verify all previous operations were completed. Must have 2 to 5 years experience and must be able to communicate in English to the extent necessary to to accomplish the job. Must pay critical attention to detail. Apply in person at 1988 Tarob Ct, Milpitas or online at www.ddiglobal.com/contact/careers.cfm

Letters

solve the mystery surrounding the story.

The Tongan and the Hispanic communities were accepting of each other but did not trust much and part of the blame can be caused by miscommunication, though both have the same family values and desire to progress, the death of Tonga's Prince Tu'ipelehake, his wife, Princess Kaimana, and their driver, Vinisia Hefa, earlier this month in Menlo Park has pushed an issue all adults in Northern California had in mind, kids should not be given a driver's license at 18, when and if approved, the driving age must be 21 or older.

The royal couple and Hefa died July 5 when their vehicle was hit by a Ford Mustang apparently racing a black Cadillac on Highway 101, this mystery vehicle and its driver remain in the shadows, the details of the accident is also ignored by all of us, seems like "the mafia" or "la cosa nuestra" has forced people to keep their mouths and ears shut, I am beginning to think that there was a conspiracy to kill the royal couple since their trip had purposes to indoctrinate Tongan communities to consider political reforms in their homeland, the vast members of this community live here in Northern California.

If that was true, it is an infamy that a young woman ended up being "dragged" into this dirty game of racing up to 100 miles per hour. The vehicular homicide she caused in that collision not only lost her freedom to enjoy life as any other 18 years old person

does in California, but polarized our communities, the Hispanic youth of driving age is now perceived as inept, uneducated, disrespectful of law and order, some even think of us as criminals and of undetermined legal status, not a good way to start a friendship.

Therefore I pray that you can, through your newspaper, ask my neighbors to help solve this unfortunate case of misunderstanding, we need our communities to remain friends, we need our hearts to heal the pain and the sorrow the Delgado family is suffering now and in September, after the investigations finally shed the light to this case, a young woman will be charged with involuntary manslaughter which will probably be a lesser sentence and therefore, the time she will spend in jail can be spent learning a career that will lead her to be a better person, perhaps law or international human relations.

Everyday people

Dear Editor:

I had meant to write you immediately after reading your editorial in the last issue of EPA Today. Thank you for your article. Overall I think we often miss the everyday people doing special things within the community. To be included in THAT article filled me with a great sense of pride. I even gave my parents a copy, which don't normally do. It really meant a lot to me. Thank you for your gracious inclusion....

I wish you the best of luck with the paper and hope it continues disseminating information and giving people a

continued from page 9

voice for a long time to come.

Dirk Alvarado
Recreation Supervisor
Community Services
Department

Great article

Dear Editor:

A family friend sent me your column on fathers. Congratulations on your publishing venture. It was a great article. And in addition to just wanting to say "hello," I wanted to tell you that you have a loyal following in East Palo Alto!

Dr. Joyce King
Atlanta Georgia

Bostic opinion cont'd from page

for. So when things go wrong, we holler' Maybe if we work and complain enough, we can get your house, instead of you taking mine. Remember, you're in my hood and my house, E. Palo Alto.

It's what we do in East Palo Alto in the year 2006. All that we ever asked or wanted was to be treated right and get the service we were willing to pay for. So when things go wrong, we holler' Maybe if we work and complain enough, we can get your house, instead of you taking mine. Remember, you're in my hood and my house, E. Palo Alto.

Jaribu (John) Bostic is seeking damage from a loss claim that he said was not honored as a result of illegal business practices and poor services.

Free Report
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1.800.665.5944x3000
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505 Hamilton Ave. Ste 100
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Adam Atito
Realtor

Youth soccer signup dates

The Ravenswood Youth Athletic Association will begin taking signups for soccer on August 20th from 10 am - 12 noon at the Boys Club behind St. Francis of Assisi church.

Boys and Girls ages 4 to 18 of all abilities are welcome. Most games will be played at Cesar Chavez school on Saturdays from September 16th through November 18th.

The cost is \$40, and includes a uniform, picture, and award. Scholarships are available.

Parents should bring a copy of a birth certificate, immunization record, or other proof of age.

Coaches and referees are needed as well. Also, churches, schools or other organizations are invited to enter teams in the following age categories:

- 5th and 6th grades
- 7th and 8th grades
- 9th and 10th grades
- 11th and 12th grades

Signup Dates and Locations:

Sunday Aug. 20, 10 am - 12 noon
St. Francis of Assisi Church,
1425 Bay Road, EPA

Saturday Aug. 26, 10 am - 12 noon
Cesar Chavez School, Bay Road, EPA

Saturday Aug. 26, 3 pm - 5 pm
E. O'Keefe Family Center,
380 E. O'Keefe #18, EPA

Sunday Aug. 27, 10 am - 12 noon
St. Francis of Assisi Church,
1425 Bay Road, EPA

For more information, call (650) XXX-ryaa, or see the RYAA Web site at www.ravenswoodsports.org

SAY

SEE IN THIS GAME I'M JUST A
INFANT
SO EXCUSE ME IF THIS
SOUNDS A LITTOLE DIFFER-
ENT
WATCHING THE LYRIC ACFE
I KNOW THERE'S A PLACE IN
THE BAY
WHERE I CAN SAY
WHAT I NEED TO SAY
BE HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR
WhETHER I SPEAK FRENCH
PARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS
I KNOW THERE'S A PLACE I
CAN SAY
WHAT I NEED TO SAY
HABARI GANI ENDUGU AND
INDADA
WHETHER I SPEAK SWAHILI
OR ANoTHER AFRIKAN
DIALECT OF SPEECH
WHAT INFANT YOU KNOW
WHO TEACH
HABLA ESPANOL A LITTLE
BROKEN SPANISH
YOUNG BLACK AND MANISH
ALIGOTTO GOZI OMAS,CHE
CHE
I KNOW THERE'S A PLACE I
CAN SAY
WHAT I GOT TO SAY
MAY IT BE ABSTRACT OR DIF-
FERENT
WHO'LL LISTEN TO A INFANT
MAYBE A GENIUS OR A
PRODIGY

PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLO- GY

LET ME SAY
HOW I KNOW HOW TO SAY
I KNOW A PLACE IN THE BAY
WHERE'S THERE'S NOT A
SECOND
THOUGHT OF HOW I SPEAK
WHERE I CAN JUST BE MALIK
CLYDE, SAMUEL OR ANOTH-
ER PSEUDONYM
DOESN'T MATTER IF I'M THE
CREME DA LA CREME
OR WORKING TIMS
AFITTED OR A WHITE T
WHERE NO ONE WILL LAUGH
AT YA
THE EASTERN PART OF AFRI-
KA
NAIROBI 94303 EAST PALO
ALTO EPA
THIS IS WHERE I FOUND MY
PLACE IN THE BAY
WHERE I HAVE A SAY
THANK YOU MISS BUR-
ROUGHS AND EAST PALO
ALTO TODAY!

CLYDE BEASLEY IS AN ASPIR-
ING POET/WRITER.WHO
WOULD LIKE/NEEDS YOUR
FEED BACK ON HIS CONTRI-
BUTIONS.YOU CAN CONTACT
HIM AT:

clydebeasley@yahoo.comOR
[WWW.MYSPACE.COM/CLYDE-
BEASLEY](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/CLYDE-BEASLEY).

Community Calendar

Events

6:30-8:30pm Monday, Aug 7
Police Beat Two Meeting
Location: The Ecumenical Hunger Program
2411 Pulgas Avenue, East Palo Alto, Ca 94303
Host: Sgt John Chalmers

9-11am Saturday Aug 19
Police Beat Three Meeting
Location: Palo Mobile Estates
1885 East Bayshore Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
Host: Sgt. Renaldo Rhodes

6:30-8:30pmThurs, Aug 24
Police Beat One Meeting
Location: The Community Room at City Hall
2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
Host: Sgt Bob Uchida

6:00PM - 7:30 PM 8/1, 8/3, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22
The San Mateo County Health Department is offering free group classes to quit smoking for residents of San Mateo County. Nicotine patches are offered to program participants. Pre-regis-

tration is required.
Where: San Mateo Medical Center, 222 39th Avenue, San Mateo 94403
For more information please call (650) 573-3989 or go to the organization website: www.smhealth.org or contact: Same program is offered in Redwood City.

El departamento esta ofreciendo clases, en grupo, para dejar de fumar a los residentes del condado de San Mateo. Participantes recibirán parches de nicotina. Todos los interesados deben pre-registrarse. Para mas información llame al (650) 573-3989 o visite al sitio web: www.smhealth.org
El mismo programa es ofrecido en la Ciudad de Redwood City.

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Aug 2, 4, 9, 16, 23
The same quit-smoking program is also offered in a different location.
Where: Sequioa Health & Wellness Center, 749 Brewster Avenue, Redwood

City. Call: (650) 573-3989
www.smhealth.org.

Tambien en Sequioa Health & Wellness Center, 749 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City. Info: Información para el público (650) 573-3989
www.smhealth.org.

Civic Club Meetings
Kiwanis Club of the Bayshore Community
Meetings every 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at noon at El Galope Restaurant located at Donohoe and Capitol Avenues in East Palo Alto. For more information call Court Skinner 650-353-1646.
For more information on other area Kiwanis Clubs, visit www.kiwanis.org.

East Palo Alto/Bayshore Rotary Club
Meets every Wednesday at noon at the East Palo Alto Senior Center. For a listing of other area Rotary Club meetings visit www.rotary.org.

East Palo Alto Senior Center

Special Events for August, 2006

Produce Market Fridays 1:30- 3 p.m. Fresh produce at near-wholesale prices.
Brown Bag Program sponsored by Second Harvest Food Bank. Thursdays from 9-11:30 a.m.
Country Breakfast Thursdays 8:30-10 a.m.
Suggested donation of \$2.75 for seniors.
Computer Skills for the Beginner Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. in the Tapp Room
New Bridge Class begins Wednesday, August 2nd 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 15th
Fieldtrip to San Mateo County Fair
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Transportation Fee: \$2
Thursday, August 17th
Free blood pressure screening. 9:30-11a.m.
Monday, August 21st
Fieldtrip to Cache Creek Casino
7 a.m. pick up from home, 4 p.m. return.
Transportation Fee: \$2, Register by Aug. 15th
Tuesday, August 22nd
Update on the YMCA Building Project
11:30-noon
Monday, August 28th
Mystery Trip
Transporation Fee: \$3

Visit the TAP Room!
FREE access to computers, the Internet, printers, a copy machine and a fax machine. The TAP Room is open each day from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Closed Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday).

Youth Soccer Signup Dates!

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St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road, EPA
For more information, call (650) XXX-ryaa, or see the RYAA Web site at www.ravenswoodsports.org

HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL CABLE PROGRAMMING

Channel 29

Every Thursday at 7 p.m.
See coverage of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meetings.

Tanu Sia Ma'a Tonga TV

Thursday 8/10 @ 5:30 PM Ch 30
Friday 8/11 @ 9:30 AM Ch 30

The Bay Area Tongan community reacts to the tragic deaths of Prince Tu'ipelehake and Princess Kaimana.

Veterans Helping Veterans



Saturday 8/12 @ 4:00 PM Ch 27
An examination of grassroots campaigns against the Patriot Act.



Seated on the set (from left to right) are: Annie Loya, Miriam Cruz, David Low, Henrietta Burroughs, Margo Sidener, Shari Wilson, Alvaro Alvarez, and Dalila Adofo.

Do you know which disease is the third leading cause of death in this country and the things you can do to protect yourself from it?
Find out this week on **Talking with Henrietta**.
Replays on Channel 27 and video streaming:
Sundays@ 5pm, Mondays & @8am, Thursdays@8pm, Fridays@noon and Saturdays@1:30pm

VIDEO STREAMING AT WWW.COMMUNITYMEDIACENTER.NET

Dear Readers,

East Palo Alto Today is written and distributed by a team of volunteers who are committed in their desire to provide news coverage to and about our community. This edition of the paper is our very first issue. We plan to publish the paper as a biweekly, and as the readership, advertising and funding increase, we will publish the paper as a weekly.

In addition to publishing and distributing 8,000 copies of this issue, we have also launched a web site which will carry online editions of the paper. Currently you can log on to www.epamedia.org and obtain information about East Palo Alto Today and the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, the nonprofit agency under whose sponsorship the paper is published.

In time, our website www.epatoday.org will be fully operational, and you will be able to read all of the articles and features in the paper as well as access past articles that you might have missed or want to review. We hope you will participate in our live ongoing "Community Viewpoint" chat site where you will be able to log on and post your opinion about community, state and national issues. We will take the best of these postings and make them a permanent part of our online web site.

East Palo Alto Today represents a communication breakthrough for the East Palo Alto community. In order for East Palo Alto Today to fulfill its goals and thrive, however, we need your support. We would like to continue with the very positive strides that we've already taken, and your contribution will allow us to continue to bring you the real news taking place in this community. Paid staff will ensure that the paper can meet its publication deadline every two weeks and update our website daily. We invite you to partner with us; your donation will truly make a difference.

Please fill out the attached partnership card and mail your contribution, making your check to the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, 321 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303. Or, you can make your donation through our "Donations" link at: www.epamedia.org. The East Palo Alto Center is in the process of applying for its 501c3. When our tax exemption is granted, your donation will be retroactively tax deductible.

Thank you for helping us make our dreams for East Palo Alto Today a complete reality.



321 Bell Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303;
(650) 327-5846 ext. 311
(650) 327-4430 (FAX)
EPAMedia@aol.com
www.epamedia.org
www.epatoday.org

Name: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Yes, I am interested in becoming a partner with the Center. Please accept this donation as a personal one

_____ or as a donation on behalf of my organization _____

_____ \$25

_____ \$50

_____ \$100

_____ \$250

_____ \$500

_____ \$1,000

_____ \$2,000

_____ \$2,000 to \$5,000

_____ \$5,000 and above

_____ In-Kind _____

_____ Please check back with me about becoming a partner..

Advertising. Please contact us if your business or organization would like to use East Palo Alto Today to advertise your services or products. Please call us at (650) 327-5846 or send us an email at epatoday@aol.com.

Distribution Site. You can also help us by allowing us to use your agency or business as a distribution site for the paper.

Contributor to the paper. with your news and views. If you have article ideas or other items of interest that you would like to contribute to the paper, call or email us.

2006 is a New Year. It is a year in which we expect, *with your help*, to achieve our goals for what East Palo Alto Today can do within the East Palo Alto community. We are looking forward to it being an exciting year for East Palo Alto Today and for the East Palo Alto community. So, from all of us to all of you, Happy New Year!

Thank you,
Henrietta J. Burroughs
Director
East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

Queridos lectores:

East Palo Alto Today está escrito y distribuido por un grupo de voluntarios comprometidos en su deseo de proveer cobertura acerca de lo que pasa en nuestra comunidad, para nuestra comunidad. Esta edición es nuestro primer número. Nosotros planeamos publicar el periódico cada quince días, y en la manera en que los lectores, la publicidad y los fondos aumenten, lo publicaremos cada semana.

Además de publicar y distribuir 8,000 copias de este número, nosotros también estamos lanzando un "Web Site" el cual tendrá la edición del periódico. Actualmente usted puede visitar www.epamedia.org y obtener información sobre East Palo Alto Today y el Centro de Comunicación de East Palo, la agencia sin fines de lucro que está auspiciando el periódico

Pronto, nuestra "pagina-web" www.epatoday.org estará en función, y usted podrá leer todos los artículos y publicaciones en el periódico de la misma manera que artículos ya publicados que usted no pudo leer a tiempo o que quiere revisar. Esperamos que usted participe en nuestro "Punto de Vista de la Comunidad", un sitio para conversar y en donde usted podrá registrarse para dar su opinión sobre asuntos de la comunidad, del estado y de la nación. Nosotros escogeremos las mejores contribuciones y las haremos permanentes como parte de nuestra "pagina-web".

East Palo Alto Today representa un gran avance para la comunidad de East Palo Alto. Para que East Palo Alto Today pudiese realizar su misión y prosperar, sin embargo, nosotros necesitamos su apoyo. A nosotros nos gustaría continuar con los mismos pasos agigantados con que empezamos, y su contribución nos ayudaría a continuar trayéndoles las verdaderas noticias que ocurren aquí en la comunidad. El personal pagado se asegurará que el periódico pueda cumplir con las fechas de sus publicaciones cada dos semanas y poner al corriente la "pagina-web" diariamente. Nosotros les invitamos a que sean nuestros socios; su donación realmente hará una diferencia.

Por favor, complete la tarjeta de socio y mándela por correo con su contribución. Haga su cheque a nombre de East Palo Alto Center for Community Media. La dirección es 321 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303. Usted también puede hacer su donación a través de nuestro "Donation Link" en www.epamedia.org. El Centro de East Palo Alto está en el proceso de solicitar su status 501c3. Cuando nuestra exención de impuestos sea otorgada, su donación será retroactiva para que usted la pueda deducir de sus impuestos.



Gracias por ayudarnos a convertir nuestro sueño, East Palo Alto Today, una realidad.

321 Bell Street,
East Palo Alto, CA 94303;
(650) 327-5846 ext. 311
(650) 327-4430 (FAX)
EPAMedia@aol.com
www.epamedia.org
www.epatoday.org.

Nombre: _____

Nombre de la Organización: _____

Dirección: _____

Numero Telefónico: _____ Correo Electrónico: _____

Sí, Estoy interesado en ser socio del Centro. Por favor acepte esta donación personal _____ o en nombre de la organización _____

_____ \$25

_____ \$50

_____ \$100

_____ \$250

_____ \$500

_____ \$1,000

_____ \$2,000

_____ \$2,000 a \$5,000

_____ \$5,000 o mas

_____ Por favor comuníquense conmigo en otro momento para hablar sobre la posibilidad de ser socio.

Para efectos de Publicidad Por favor contactarse con nosotros en nuestro horario de atención al público si su negocio u organización desea hacer publicidad a través de East Palo Alto Today, para promover sus servicios o productos. Por favor llamarnos al (650) 327-5846 o mandar un correo electrónico epatoday@aol.com.

Puntos de distribución. Usted podría también ayudarnos permitiéndonos usar su negocio o agencia como punto de distribución de nuestros ejemplares.

Sea parte de nuestro periódico con sus ideas, noticias y puntos de vista. Si usted tiene ideas sobre algún artículo u otros puntos de interés para la comunidad por favor comunicarse por teléfono o a través de correo electrónico.

2006 es un Nuevo Año. Es un año en el cual nosotros esperamos, con su ayuda, alcanzar nuestras metas, y estamos ansiosos por ver lo que puede hacer East Palo Alto Today en nuestra comunidad. Esperamos que este sea un año emocionante para East Palo Alto Today y para la comunidad de East Palo Alto. De todos nosotros para todos ustedes Feliz Año Nuevo.

Muchas Gracias
Henrietta J. Burroughs
Director
East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

Building Communities through Housing and Education
Construyendo Comunidades por Educación y Vivienda



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Faltas de Pago
Prevención de la Ejecución de Una Hipoteca
Revision del Presupuesto Y MAS.....

If you are interested in any of our workshops please contact us between 9am-5pm or leave a message at extension 10.

Si está interesado en cualesquiera de nuestros talleres, por favor llamar entre las 9:00am - 5:00pm dejar mensaje al extension 10.

East Palo Alto Community Alliance Neighborhood Development Organization

2389 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
650-473-9838 office 650-473-0913 fax
www.epacando.org