

A native son

returns

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An investment

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Barry Bonds

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New owners for University Palms

By Daniella Garcia and
Henrietta J. Burroughs

When East Palo Alto residents exit the 101 freeway in 2009, they can expect to be greeted by a new, revamped University Palms project.

On August 7, Palo Alto developer Owen Byrd as well as his partners, Brock & Company and the Rockefeller Group Development Corporation sold the University Palms property to MacFarlane Partners and TMG Partners, both companies based in San Francisco.

"I am so excited to bring TMG and MacFarlane to town," Byrd said. "They are such a good fit for East Palo Alto. TMG is the largest most successful commercial developer in the Bay Area. MacFarlane is the largest owned minority firm in the United States.

Both have a commitment



A project rendering of the proposed University Palms complex on University Avenue and Donohoe in East Palo Alto

to revitalizing a place like East Palo Alto. I feel a sense of personal accomplishment in bringing them to town." Byrd said.

In speaking for the new

owners, David Cropper, who is the managing director of TMG Partners said, "We do a lot of projects in the Bay Area and we are very excited about this one.. Is is a first

class ..project It is in an incredible location on the Peninsula. The community has already supported it. It offers community benefits and it comes at a time when

the market is strengthening." Plus, he said that the project "has been on the boards too long."

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Romic is closing

By Henrietta J Burroughs
EPA Today

Did community pressure force Romic to sell its waste facility and all of its assets in East Palo Alto? If you ask members of Youth United for Community Action (YUCA), the answer is yes. But if you ask that question of Chris

Stampolis, the leading spokesperson for Romic in East Palo Alto, the answer is no.

While there is a huge difference in opinion over the reasons for Romic's discontinuing its operations in the city, some facts are clear?

On August 3, Romic com-

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Important commitment

By Silvia Ramirez
EPA Today Contributor

San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks made a life changing decision that pleased the assembled group of 400 clergy and community leaders who heard his words. Munks expressed his commitment



Members of the audience to create and enforce a county-wide policy to ensure that San Mateo County officers would not ask for immi-

gration status or report undocumented immigrants to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) without a warrant.

Munks spoke at the First United Methodist Church in Redwood City on Saturday, July 21. Not only did the

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SEP graduation day arrived

Excitment was high at the Sponsored Employment Program's third graduation.

Fifty eight of East Palo Alto's youth started the summer employment program in June, but by the time it ended, 100 had found jobs through the program, thanks to last minute funding that was received.

The graduation ceremony took place at OICW's offices

on O'Brien Street in Menlo Park on August 6.

As one attendee said, the



SEP intern at graduation

biggest highlight of the ceremony was what the youth themselves had to say.

The speakers were Gabriela Acuna, a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School; Michael Corado, a ninth grader; and Roshonia Cotton, a single mother seeking her GED.

Cotton told the audience, "I thought I was going to be a failure and that my life was

going to be terrible. This is the first time I've been successful at anything, and I appreciate the opportunity you gave me to see what you saw in me. Allan and the counselors at OICW never gave up on me, and now I see how important it is not to give up on myself."

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Inside

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Una compromiso importante para la comunidad

By **Silvia Ramirez**
EPA Today Contributor

Greg Munks, Encargado de la policía del condado de San Mateo hizo una decisión que dio gusto al grupo de 400 pastores y líderes comunitarios que escucharon sus palabras. Munks expresó su compromiso para crear una póliza que asegure que los policías del condado de San Mateo no pueden pedir el estatus migratoria ni reportar un inmigrante indocumentado al departamento de Inmigración (ICE por sus siglas en ingles) sin un orden de arresto.

Munks habló en la iglesia la primera metodistas unidas en Redwood City el sábado 21 de julio. Su compromiso dio gusto a todos los líderes de PIA quien estaban presentes para expresar su preocupación sobre los leyes migratorios en este país, muchos de ellos fueron afectados de los recientes redadas de ICE.

"Mi hija esta pegado a mi cuando la dejo en la escuela. No me quiere dejar por miedo que quizás no vuelvo," explicó Lidia, líder de PIA de la iglesia del Buen Pastor en Redwood City, "el acción por el Sheriff es crucial para proteger las familias en la península."

Otra líder de PIA Maria Teresa dijo, "Seis miembros de mi familia, incluso a mis dos hijos, fueron agarrados por el ICE. Ninguno de ellos tuvieron órdenes de deportación. Tuve que prestar \$16,000 para recuperar mis hijos. El resto de mi familia sigue en detención. Tengo una deuda grande y no se como voy a pagar mi renta este mes.

Debido a que al congreso no logro pasar una ley justa para la reforma migratoria, muchas iglesias de PIA patrocinó la junta de Julio para asegurar que haya pólizas locales que pudiera proteger las familias que siguen aterrorizados por las redadas federales.

Líderes de estas congrega-

ciones crean que es posible que ICE aumenta sus ataques en contra de las familias considerando que el presupuesto para ICE ha doblado en las ultimas dos años y es probable que sigue creciendo.

En Febrero y Marzo de 2007, agentes de ICE, quienes se identificaron como 'policía' esperaba cerca de las escuelas, acercaron los lugares adonde jornaleros buscan trabajo, y pasaron por apartamentos y casas en Redwood City, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, y San Mateo. De acuerdo a los records de ICE, no más que 44% de los 400,000 deportados en el país, como parte el 'operación devuelve a lo que les mandan', tuvieron una record criminal.

"Las agentes de ICE presentaron como policías locales, fueron puerta a puerta en los vecindarios buscando personas, quedaron afuera de las tiendas y siguieron a los padres que estaban dejando sus niños en la

escuela," dijo Silvia Ramirez, líder de PIA y miembro de la iglesia católica de Mt.Carmel.

Durante la junta adonde habló Munks, el arzobispo de la iglesia Católica Neideraur también habló con la diversa publica presente, "Esto no es la primera asunto en la historia de los EEUU adonde tuvimos que luchar entra la leyes legales y los leyes morales. Nuestra iglesia luchó en contra de las leyes inmorales de la esclavitud y de la segregación. Ahora, luchamos en contra de estas leyes injustas que quiebran a las familias."

En sus comentarios durante la junta, Concejal de East Palo Alto Rubén Abrica aconsejó a la alcaldesa de Redwood City que toma acción. Unos meses atrás, el concilio de East Palo Alto paso una resolución que denuncia las redadas.

Esta resolución se prohíbe que los empleados de la ciudad pidan estatus migratorio ni reportan el estatus migratorio de

ninguno a sus residentes al ICE, incluyendo la policía.

La alcaldesa Pierce de Redwood City se comprometió para estudiar la resolución de EPA y considerara tomar acción parecido. Además, la Alcaldesa Pierce se comprometió su apoyo para que la ciudad de Redwood City aprueben fondos para proveer servicios legales de bajo costo a los que necesitan apoyo con casos de inmigración y deportación.

"La península es una comunidad unida para proteger todos nuestras familias y vamos a continuar a luchar para que estos compromisos se llevan a cabo," dijo Richard Antonchuck, líder de PIA de la iglesia metodista.

Silvia Ramirez es una miembro de la iglesia catolica de Mt. Carmel en Redwood City y una lider de la Accion Inter-religiosa de la Peninsula (PIA).



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News Briefs

Making history

Bay Area credit unions make California history

Four major credit unions will make state history as they commit to a partnership this week to open a community credit union in East Palo Alto.

The goal of the project is to establish an institution that will contribute to the economic stability in East Palo Alto by providing basic financial services to members of that community.

The doors of the new credit union are scheduled to open for business at 1836 Bay Road in September.

John Liotti, CEO of the Northern California Urban Development Corporation, led the effort and said, "Our

goal is to fight the causes of systemic poverty by building structures that can make people financially independent.

"A credit union that serves the unique needs of the East Palo Alto community fills that role by offering a range of financial services at reasonable terms. Until now, many people in East Palo Alto have had no options other than predatory lending institutions."

Local goalie in World Cup

The next time Larry Jackson blocks a ball hurtling toward the goal, he will be doing it on one of soccer's biggest stages. Jackson, a teenage soccer phenom from East Palo Alto, recently earned a spot on the 21-man



Larry Jackson

squad that will represent the United States at the FIFA Under-17 World Cup. The tournament will take place in South Korea from August 18-September 9.

Soccer stars such as Brazil's Ronaldinho and Italy's Francesco Totti began their professional careers at the same tournament.

Jackson spent the past year training at the IMG Soccer

Academy in Bradenton, Florida. Prior to IMG, he attended Gunn High School and played club soccer with the DeAnza Force as a forward.

He ultimately hopes to make the full Men's National Team and play soccer professionally.

He will train with the rest of the team in Clemson, South Carolina in preparation for the team's first match on August 20th against Tajikistan.

Local fans can watch Jackson and the US team on ESPNU and ESPN2.

Police Department to Publish Operating Policies Online

"No Visible Tattoo Policy First on Website"

Effective August 1, 2007, the East Palo Alto Police Department will publish its operating policies online for public view and access.

By providing unfettered access to policies that govern officers' actions, the department will enhance its professionalism and be more open, accessible and accountable to the community.

"I believe this information will assist the community to better evaluate the department, understand the legal actions of officers, and identify actions that are not in accordance with established policies", according to Chief Davis. The Department will

continued on page 5

Seeking affordable health care

Raylene Scott
EPA Today Contributor

Six hundred members of Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) - many from churches in East Palo Alto - met with three county supervisors on June 18 to push for affordable healthcare. Two San Mateo County Supervisors, Adrienne Tissier and Jerry Hill, are leading a "Blue Ribbon Task Force" to create a plan for low-cost health coverage in the county. Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss is also leading a "Healthcare



Solutions Task Force" in that county. PIA leaders brought their research and testimonies to the supervisors at Woodside High School on June 18 to get them to push

the counties on to the next step - to make sure the plans get funded.

The power of the meeting and the people's testimonies moved the supervisors to

act. They heard stories from people who had gone into the hospital and had treatment done and when they got home they had huge bills that they couldn't afford and they were stunned. PIA members also explained that if they had affordable health coverage, it would be easier for them to go to the doctor on a regular basis, not just wait until they got so sick that the bills got too high to pay.

The supervisors answered "yes" when PIA asked them to help find funds for the new programs. People standing

up for other people - that's power. The community coming together and speaking up about what they need, that's the second step. The final step will be to see the plan through. The county supervisors promised to work together with the community to make affordable health coverage a reality in the two counties.

Raylene Scott is with Faith Missionary Baptist Church, East Palo Alto
650-305-0106
lafayescott@yahoo.com

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

David E. Woods- Mayor
(650) 853-1907

Patricia Foster- Vice Mayor
(650) 328-3944

Ruben Abrica
(650) 321-4001

A. Peter Evans -
(650) 321-1009

Donna Rutherford
(650) 327-7926

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

Kelly J. Fergusson -**Mayor**
(650) 327-4533

Andrew M. Cohen - **Mayor Pro Tem**
(650)327-5332

John C. Boyle
(650)323-5438

Richard Kline
(650) 228-5166

Heyward Robinson
(650) 330-6631

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
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-445-4633
Email: governor@governor.ca.gov

Assembly Member Ira Ruskin

District Address
5050 El Camino Real Ste.117
Los Altos, CA 94022
650 691-2121

Senator Joseph S. Simitan

District Address
160 Town & Country Village
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 688-6384

EPA parents visit lawmakers

By Mateo Jaffe
EPA Today Contributor

With voting and budget negotiations on the forefront of lawmakers' minds at the state capitol, a group of concerned parents from East Palo Alto did their part to let their local representatives know where their priorities stand for this year's upcoming state budget.

The group which included Juana Rosales, Patricia Chavez, Ernestina Flores, and Ester Contreras made a visit to the local offices of Assemblyman Ira Ruskin (District 21) and Gene Mullin (District 19).

They visited Ruskin and Mullin to let them know about their complex and challenging experiences as parents committed to supporting their children's education in East Palo Alto.

While speaking to the staff at the offices, they also presented a platform asking the



Left to right, Ester Contreras, Patricia Chavez, Patricia Artia, Ernestina Flores, Mateo Jaffe, and Juana Rosales.

state legislature to pay more attention to certain issues, which they hoped would not be left out of the state's budget.

They spoke about four main topics: educational equity, parent representation, childcare, and economic justice.

They also brought a host of suggestions and recommendations on: how to increase parent access to schools through translation and childcare services and how the schools can provide resources to better prepare

youth to go to college.

Prior to their visit, the parents had worked intensively to research the issues and prepare their testimonies as participants in the Parents as Leaders program offered by Nuestra Casa, a community-based nonprofit in East Palo Alto. The program at Nuestra Casa seeks to support parents who want to work together to improve the quality of education for all students in East Palo Alto.

"It's important to have more contact with the people

who are making the decisions that affect us," said Juana Rosales, a parent-leader.

"I thought I was going to be really nervous," Ernestina Flores said. "But after preparing what I wanted to say, and seeing that the representative was interested in my story, I relaxed and had a good time." Flores, who raised three daughters in East Palo Alto, is currently concerned about the schools her grandchildren now attend.

Currently, 71% of the students from the Ravenswood School District are not completing high school. 65% of them are Latino.

Nuestra Casa's Parents as Leaders program also offers in-depth training for parents to learn about the ins and outs of the educational system, while preparing them to take action to improve education in the community.

In the program, parents receive training and practice in how to communicate with their children more effectively to advance their emotional development and support their studies while they are at home. In the upcoming school year, this training will be offered in schools and community spaces throughout East Palo Alto. The training is open to any and all interested community members.

Ester Contreras, who is a parent-leader in the Nuestra Casa program, said she believed, "The most important thing is that we parents work together to create change for the benefit of our children, who are the owners of our future."

For more information about the Parents as Leaders program and a current training schedule, please call Mateo Jaffe at (650)330-7472.

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A native son comes home

By Daniella Garcia and Maricela Torres
EPA Today Interns

The new assistant superintendent for the Ravenswood City School District, Adam Escoto, described himself as a person who wants to help the East Palo Alto community.

Escoto moved to East Palo Alto when he was 2 years old. He attended many schools in the Ravenswood School District while living in East Palo Alto,

As a teenager, he attended seven different high schools. "My family was constantly looking for affordable housing and decent wages, so we moved wherever that was," said Escoto.

He found it difficult to catch up in terms of his work while going to elementary and high school since he would move from school to school.

"As a child, I remember



Adam Escoto

worrying about how far I was going to be behind the class," Escoto said .

"My educational experience was fragmented. The problem is you never really start up again right where you ended."

He recalled that during his childhood, teachers thought that students had learning disabilities if a student would move frequently and would not catch up in terms of their school work.

"In those days, if they saw that you had gaps and weren't at grade level, then they thought that maybe something was wrong with

you," said Escoto. He, himself, thought it was more of a cultural issue.

He said that he decided to work for the Ravenswood City School District because he had a sense of what was happening in the East Palo Alto community.

"I felt I was ready to go to the next level of service in education," Escoto said. "This opportunity came. I knew people who worked here, and I felt I wanted to be a part of East Palo Alto."

Escoto graduated from San Jose State University in 1971. While going to college he wanted to be a biology teacher. Escoto earned three masters degrees: in Education, in Social Work, and in Administration and Supervision.

His career started when he became a high school counselor at the Old Mountain View High School. He served there about four years. Then, for five years he served as Assistant

Director of the Mexican American Community Service Agency (MACSA),, which is a non-profit organization in San Jose for youths and seniors.

In 1985, he worked as a member of a school desegregation team in San Jose that formed to respond to a lawsuit that charged the district with segregating Latinos.

Escoto then served two years as the assistant principal at Hoover Middle School in San Jose.

For the past 11 years, Escoto worked as a principal at Horace Mann Elementary School in San Jose.

He said his years as a principal were the most significant years for him because those years shaped him as a leader, allowed him to focus on collaboration, and helped him find out about the needs of people in the community.

Escoto's short-term goals are to learn more about facilities and operations in the

East Palo Alto community. His long-term goals are to help teachers, parents, and students get involved in the community.

He would also like to provide a high level of "customer service" to those involved with the schools: the principals, teachers, parents, and students.

"I'm looking forward to not only getting to know them, but to becoming a member of the community," Escoto said.

Escoto ultimately hopes to change the image of the Ravenswood City School District. "I'm hoping sometime in the not too distant future, when people reference Ravenswood, they won't have to reference IKEA," said Escoto. "

People will know that this is a school district that's very successful in educating kids and supporting kids and families and is an organization that is well run and efficient.."

Sometimes wishes really do come true

By Michele Ashley
EPA Today Contributor

Wishes do come true. Just ask the students and teachers of Green Oaks Academy in East Palo Alto.

After the school created a long "wish list" to help improve its classrooms, local accounting firm, Armanino McKenna LLP, announced plans to purchase every item listed.

Teachers and students requested various items, ranging from DVD players to ink cartridges, glue sticks, and hula hoops.

The firm's generous contribution was the largest donation to a single school in the history of the community effort.

Through the "Adopt-A-School" community initiative,

Wells Fargo Bank pledged \$100 for Bay Area public schools every time outfielder Randy Winn and his teammates score during KNBR-Am (680) baseball broadcasts.

To date, 277 runs have already been scored and at least \$27,700 will be received by local schools. Of that amount, five adopted schools, including Green Oaks Academy, will receive financial support.

"This amazing donation from Armanino McKenna is a great example of how the community can work together to help our local schools," commented Bob Ceglie, Wells Fargo's Peninsula Market Regional President.

Armanino McKenna, the largest California-based accounting and consulting firm, made the donation as



Green Oaks Elementary School first graders stand with Paloma Salazar a paraeducator. Others in the picture include Jeannette Martinez standing on the left.Wells Fargo Community Development Officer Denise Miles sitting in the middle of the first row beside KNBR Radio Personality Dan Dibley, with other guests including Marco Chavez from Ravenswood City School District, sitting at the end.

part of a 15-week firm wide charitable initiative called "Armanino McKenna Gives Back."

The firm split its 260 employees into 21 teams and

each was seeded with \$1,500 for charitable giving. The teams were also encouraged to leverage community and client contacts to raise additional funds beyond the initial

\$31,500 seed money for Bay Area community organizations.

Michele Ashley is a Wells Fargo Communications Consultant.

News Briefs

continued from page 3

Sessions resume in September

The East Palo Alto City Council took a summer vacation after its last session on July 17.

Regular meetings will resume on September 4, when the city council members will return to their regular twice monthly meeting dates on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

See regular meeting schedules for city, state and county government on page 3 of this issue.

policies are under final review by the Chief of Police and will be posted on the website after they have been finalized and published.

City of East Palo Alto
Police Department
Ronald L. Davis
Chief of Police
141 Demeter Street
(650) 853-3125
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
rdavis@cityofepa.org

start the program by posting a new policy that prohibits officers from visibly displaying tattoos and body art while in uniform.

Future postings include a policy that governs the Department's acceptance, processing and investigation of citizen complaints, and a policy that prohibits racial profiling and requires data collection for all stops made by officers.

The Department recently had all of its policies reviewed and updated by a legal expert. These



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Knocking out adversity

By **Daniella Garcia**
East Palo Alto Today Intern

As he goes on his morning run from East Palo Alto to Menlo Park and back again, Johnnie Gray hurls his fists at the air in front of him.

"Everybody think I'm crazy because I be throwing punches," he says. "They see me and they be like 'ooh, here comes the boxing man.'"

In East Palo Alto, Gray, 49, is more than just "the boxing man." He's the man who established the East Palo Alto Boxing Club in 2003 and the man who created controversy in city hall by accusing East Palo Alto Mayor David Woods of stealing money from the boxing club.

Amid the quest for a new gym and the accusations of political corruption, the man at the center of it all is simply trying to do one thing: Run his program his way.

"This is my program. I'm the president. I'm the CEO," says Gray.

Like many of his students, Gray grew up in a single

parent home in East Palo Alto.

He didn't seriously pursue boxing until he was 18. He recalls walking into a gym at what was then Ravenswood High School and immediately getting thrown into the ring.

"Back in the day, all those coaches and trainers wanted to see was a fight," he says. "They didn't care. I don't train like that."

Gray prefers to use a military strategy when training his students.

Every Wednesday, he can be seen running with them from East Palo Alto to Menlo Park in a single file line. Along the way, they shout slogans such as "We represent EPA. We work hard everyday. They may say we're crazy, but we not lazy."

He strives to instill discipline in his students not just through physical training, but also through lifestyle choices.

When students complain about their parents nagging them, Gray offers the following advice: "Get up in the morning, make your bed, clean your room, clean your-



Johnnie Gray

self up. Don't leave no mess. Do that kind of stuff everyday and see what happens."

Gray's approach to training his students in boxing and in life has been successful. The EPA Boxing Club boasts more than 30 students, including four who recently graduated from local high schools.

His club has generated such a positive response from the community that he plans on expanding it to include an elementary school division.

However, where his boldness and no-nonsense attitude have succeeded with students, they have sometimes failed with local leaders. As a result, Gray experi-

enced difficulty securing a location and funding for his program.

Gray turned down offers to house his program at the YMCA and the Lord's Gym, a new recreation center run by his former landlord Paul Bains. His primary reason for doing so was the desire to control the management of his program.

"We can work together," says Gray. "But you're not going to be my boss with something that I brought to the table."

He recounts an incident in which a representative from the Lord's Gym entered his gym and informed him that he could make \$40,000 if he agreed to a collaboration. Instead of simply saying no, Gray responded more emphatically.

"I looked at that guy and I said 'I like chicken. You starting to look like chicken.' I ran him out of there. Haven't seen him since," he says.

Perhaps Gray is so protective of his program because it goes beyond just a love of boxing. It's about a

love of his community.

"It's about changing this city. It's changing young people's minds about how to think, about how we can work together," says Gray. "This is how we clean up East Palo Alto."

Since receiving \$45,000 from the East Palo Alto City Council on July 10th, the future of the EPA Boxing Club is much more stable. Gray plans to move into a new building on Pulgas Street in August and eventually turn the management of the club over to his current students.

"I'll still be a part of it, but they're the future leaders," says Gray. "I'm creating them. That's our future right there. I'm just trying to guide them in the right way."

Donations to the East Palo Alto Boxing Club may be sent to P.O. Box 51622, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Daniella Garcia is a Stanford graduate and is working at EPA Today as part of Stanford's Rebele Internship Program.

A Community Investment EPA leaders and parents create committee to establish parks & recreation department.

By **Daniella Garcia**
East Palo Alto Today Intern

Jack Farrell Park is a little cleaner and a lot safer thanks to Marcia Perez.

Perez wrote an opinion piece for East Palo Alto Today that criticized the lack of maintenance in the park and alerted citizens about safety hazards regarding playground equipment. After her article appeared, the city repaired the equipment and picked up garbage in the park.

But Perez is still not satisfied.

"The city did the minimum," said Perez. "Basically they protected themselves from liability."

She claimed that the city has yet to clean the bathrooms or mow the grass. For Perez, all of these smaller issues stem from a larger issue that she feels the city has failed to address: the lack of an active Parks and Recreation Department.

In order to address this issue, Perez and Meda Okelo, Community Services Director for the City of East Palo Alto, have spearheaded the establishment of an ad hoc committee composed of parents and the East Palo

Alto Community Services Department.

"This committee is going to be comprised of users of services," said Okelo. "We're going to establish new standards."

Perez, who serves as a manager for the Babe Ruth baseball team in East Palo Alto, stated that the city should allocate more of its budget toward collaborating with community organizations that offer sports and recreational activities.

By doing so, she said the city's responsibilities would be minimal, namely providing space and assisting with registration.

Okelo responded that the process is not that simple.

"The issue is bigger," said Okelo. "Every organization has a reputation... some good, some bad. Even if you have centralized registration, if the organization is bad you won't have takers."

Okelo stated that the city would need to gain access to more facilities and establish protocol for its role in the registration process in order for a collaboration to work.

Perez claimed that another factor inhibiting this process is the lack of communication

between the Community Services Department and East Palo Alto residents.

"East Palo Alto has no communication system" she said. "If it's not on the fence on a banner at Cesar Chavez (school), you don't know about it."

Perez thinks that sending activity guides to East Palo Alto residents could easily remedy the communication issue.

Okelo asserted that at this time, the city lacks the resources to fund such an endeavor.

He added that the failure of organizations to communicate with the Community Services Department also impedes the department's ability to communicate with East Palo Alto residents.

"Organizations don't give us information," said Okelo. "If you don't get information, you don't have anything to publish."

Although there are many barriers to overcome in order to improve the state of recreation in East Palo Alto, both Perez and Okelo said they're committed to working together to make a fully functioning parks and



Children playing in Jack Farrell Park



Playground at Jack Farrell Park

recreation department a reality.

They said that the primary focus of the committee will be facilities and programming. The committee will seek to gain access to new facilities and maximize the efficiency of the existing facilities. Additionally the committee will work to overcome the barriers preventing collaboration with outside organizations.

Perez stated that the committee is still in the organization process, but once it's fully formed, there will be efforts to seek support from the larger community.

"Of all places, East Palo Alto will have the hugest need to keep young people engaged," said Perez. "We're just trying to lay the foundation."

Enjoying the trails by the Bay

By Sean Charpentier
EPA Today Contributor

If you like the wide open vistas of the San Francisco Bay (Bay), you will be pleased to know that on June 5, 2007, the East Palo Alto City Council unanimously approved the EPA Bay Access Master Plan (BAMP).

The BAMP creates a vision for public Bay access that will benefit the residents, employers, and people who work in East Palo Alto.

The BAMP proposes approximately 4 miles of trails and 10 pocket parks in the Ravenswood Business District (RBD) and along the San Francisquito Creek corridor.

Over the next 20 years, the RBD is anticipated to transition from an industrial area into a community with office, R&D, retail, and residential uses.

As the changes in the RBD occur, the City has an opportunity and an obligation to expand public access to the Bay.

The San Francisquito Creek corridor was included because it is a natural pathway for Bay access and the Woodland neighborhood does not have a single park.

There are five major themes that influence the BAMP. The first theme is to increase public access to the Bay in East Palo Alto. The second theme is to provide open space for families and

East Palo Alto residents.

East Palo Alto has many large families with children and a severe shortfall of parkland.

The third theme is to protect the environment. Increasing access to the Bay will help more people understand the importance of a healthy Bay ecosystem.

The fourth theme is to expand East Palo Alto residents' access to regional recreational opportunities along the San Francisco Bay Trail.

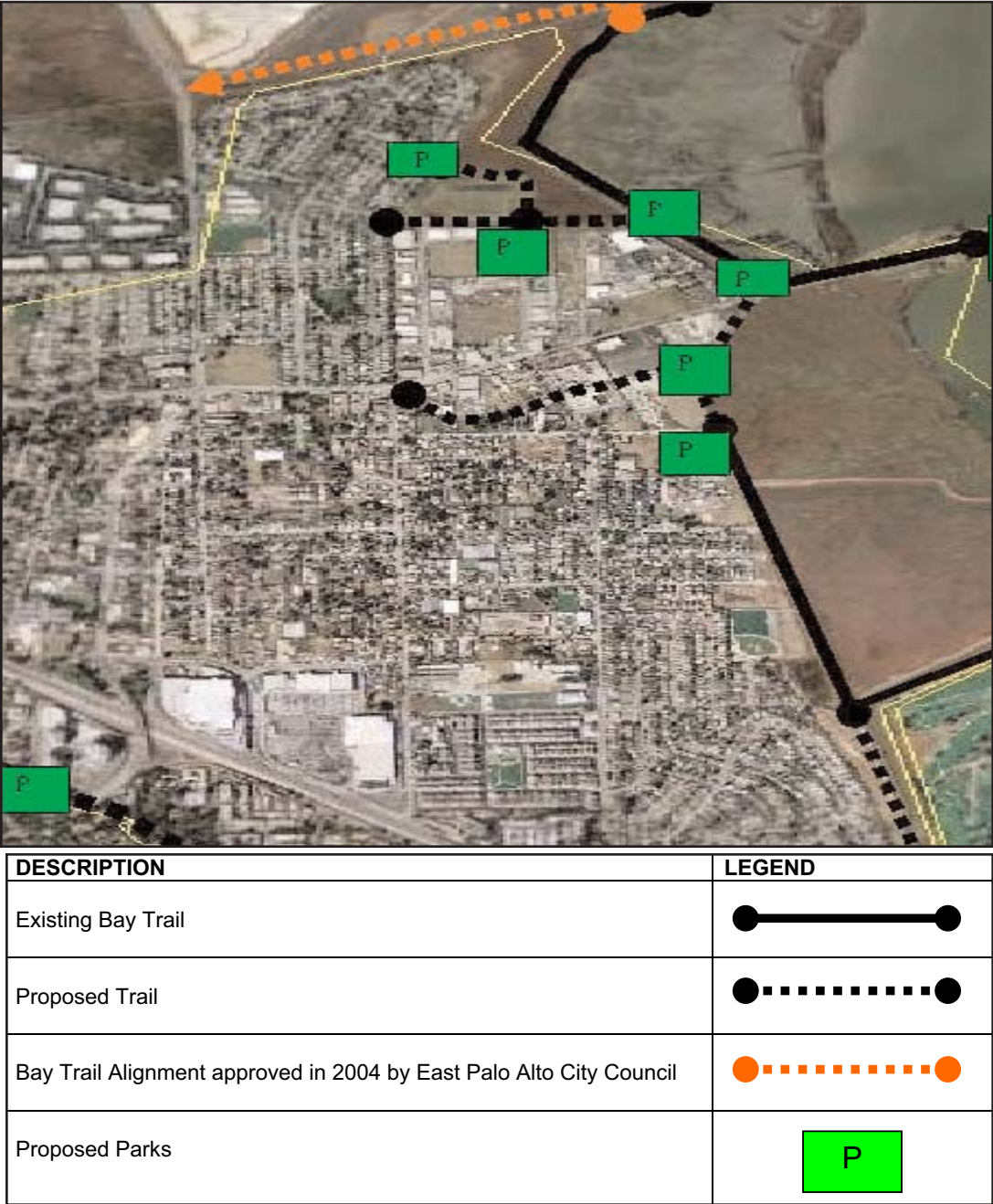
The fifth theme is to encourage economic development in the RBD. Open space is an amenity that increases the attractiveness of commercial and residential projects.

The BAMP creates a comprehensive vision of how East Palo Alto will access the Bay to benefit existing and future residents and employers.

The vision consists of 10 proposed pocket parks (including Cooley Landing) connected to each other by 8 trail segments totaling approximately 4 miles of trail. The goal is to establish Cooley Landing as the future centerpiece.

Sean Charpentier serves as the Redevelopment Coordinator for the Redevelopment Agency in the City of East Palo Alto.

Map 1: Comprehensive Trail and Park Network



Romic

continued from page 1

pleted the sale of its assets in East Palo Alto to Clean Harbor, an environmental and hazardous waste management company which is headquartered in Norwell, Massachusetts.

On Thursday, August 9, YUCA and many of its followers held a victory celebration near Romic on Bay Road to celebrate the fact that Romic's East Alto plant is closing. For more than a decade, YUCA and its supporters lobbied to get the plant out of East Palo Alto charging that its operations were hazardous to the well being of the community. The group claimed that Romic mishandled waste products in its plant, was cited for numerous violations and was, among other things, guilty of endangering its employees.

On May 30, the DTSC ruled in YUCA's favor and, according to one report gave Romic 30 days to cease handling hazardous waste in the city.

The sale of Romic to Clean Harbor came neally three months after the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) ordered Romic to start shutting down its East Palo Alto operations.

Romic appealed the decision, which according to Stampolis, stayed the DTSC's order.

In other words, according to Stampolis,

as long as Romic's appeal was pending the company could have continued its operations.

So why did Romic choose this time to sell its assets and leave the city? "The sale to Clean Harbor was strictly a business decision," Stampolis said.

"Romic had been in discussion with Clean Harbor and other suitors for some years. The offer to sell was deemed to be good," he said.

Larissa Flores, a 14 year old who has been a member of YUCA for two and a half years doesn't agree with Stampolis' logic. The fact that Romic is leaving has another meaning for her.

"It just shows that if you put a lot of time and work into something, you can get things done," she said.

During its victory celebration, YUCA held an award ceremony for those whom, they thought, were most influential in shutting Romic down. The nominees were: the DTSC, Romic, Silicon Valley, City Council member Ruben Abrica and the East Palo Alto community. Flores said that the community received the award because of the constant pressure it brought on the company and for its ongoing support for Romic's closing.

Now that the sale of Romic is complete, Stampolis said that Romic will not be bringing new waste to the East Palo Alto facility to recycle, but will continue to process the waste that it already has. He said that all of the processing will be completed by the end of the year.

Obtaining a home mortgage

Jackey Wilson
EPA Today Contributor

When shopping for home mortgages, there are some critical things that you should know about.

You would be wise to familiarize yourself with second Liens and types of product offerings.

There are two types:

1)Equity Lines of Credit are referred to as H.E.L.O.C or Home Equity Lines of Credit.

2) Home Equity Loans are commonly called Fixed Rate Second or Stand Alone 2nds.

H.E.L.O.C's are equity lines of credit where the rate can move up or down at anytime. These rates are tied to the prime. For example, the current prime rate is 8.25% and it could increase at the rate of .25% each time a decision by the Feds is announced.

Note: The Federal Reserve meets quarterly and determines if these rates should go up or down. An example of a HELOC is a line of credit for \$160,000 but using \$50,000 obligates you only to pay back on the \$50,000 rather the whole amount of \$160,000.

Another benefit is that you can

draw on this money on an as need basis and the bank will only charge you for what you use.

The next option is a Stand Alone 2nd this loan product is a fixed rate. However, if you take out a stand alone 2nd for \$160,000 you start paying the full amount of the loan of \$160,000 immediately.

Note: The benefit is that fixed rate does not have the fluctuation like the HELOC when prime change your monthly payment remains the same for the life of the loan.

An easy way to remember the difference between the two is the H.E.L.O.C is like a revolving credit card. Each time you use it, your payment will increase.

The Stand Alone 2nd is like a car payment. You have a set term and at the the end of that term, your loan is paid off and you are free and clear of your obligation.

If you have any further questions about second mortgages feel free to give me a call. Enjoy the month of August.

Jackey Wilson is a mortgage broker who lives in East Palo Alto. To get more information from him, see his ad on page 17 in this issue of East Palo Alto Today.

From the Editor's Desk

A worthwhile experience

East Palo Alto Today hosted seven interns in its office for six weeks this summer. Do you have any idea what it was like to suddenly have at least five teenagers show up for work, with four coming on the same day?

Five of the seven were interns from the Sponsored Employment Program (SEP), East Palo Alto's special job employment program for youth and two were interns from Stanford University's Rebele Foundation.

Having seven new people, especially teenagers, join an organization for work within a few days of each other would be a challenging experience for any employer. But, having them come for six weeks was an intense experience.

Most days were great. But, there were those brief moments when I wanted to put my head in my hands and ask, "Why?" But this issue of East Palo Alto Today shows why - why having seven summer interns was a very positive and productive experience. I can say without reservation, that all of the interns were talented, enthusiastic and very focused.

When they first arrived at the paper, the interns had little, if any knowledge, about what it meant to work on a newspaper. With one exception, they had never written a news article and none had any experience laying out articles or pictures in a publication. Their first assignment was to interview each other.

Once they were given the necessary tools, and they learned what to do and how to do it, they arrived to work before me. When I walked through the door, they were busy researching, writing or laying out their articles.

The article in this issue titled, "Summer interns at EPA Today," shows the biographical articles that they

wrote about each other. In this article, you will read about their backgrounds and their short and long term

goals. Given the brief time that they worked at EPA Today, there is every reason to believe that they will reach their stated goals and accomplish much more.

By the time their internship ended all had written articles, taken pictures and laid out their articles in the paper. They worked very well with each other. When one of them learned a new skill, they were called upon to assist the next person thereby showing each other what they had learned.

The articles you see in this issue with their bylines are the product of their handiwork. I have always had high expectations. In many ways, the interns who worked at EPA Today for six weeks this summer exceeded my expectations.

I will always remember this summer and my experiences with them, particularly the time when I gave five of the SEP interns a ride to OICW in Menlo Park so that they could attend their payday workshop (described on page 16).

Upon returning to the office and getting out of my car, I found that one of the interns sitting in the back seat had taken one of the long stemmed artificial roses I had under my back window and hung it out the back passenger window and put the window up.

Can you imagine what it must look like seeing someone driving down the street with a long stemmed rose hanging about a foot out the back passenger window? For all I know, that might have been worthy of a traffic

continued on page 10



Henrietta J. Burroughs



Photo courtesy of Youth United for Community Action
This picture shows members of YUCA (Youth United for Community Action) and other East Palo Alto residents marching on Bay Road during the public celebration that YUCA held to celebrate the fact that Romic is shutting its facility in East Palo Alto.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

Changing the system

Dear Editor
When the innocent go to prison, the guilty go free. Herman Atkins spent 12 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit—hear his story, then help fix California's criminal justice system.

Three bills in the California Legislature would help prevent the most common causes of wrongful conviction:

- *Senate Bill 511 *(Alquist) will require the electronic recording of police interrogation in cases involving homicides and other violent felonies.
- *Senate Bill 756 *(Ridley-Thomas) will require the appointment of a force to draft guidelines for the conduct of police line-ups and photoarrays to increase the accuracy of eyewitness identifications.
- *Senate Bill 609 *(Romero) will require the corroboration of testimony by jailhouse informants.

TAKE ACTION:
http://action.aclunc.org/site/R?i=2rQcMgxEw_ftDEC1irKvHA. Urge your State Assembly Member to support these bills.

The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice—a group of law enforcement officers, prosecutors and defense attorneys—has recommended all three reforms. These reforms will help protect the innocent and make sure the guilty are convicted.

Help End Wrongful Convictions!
<http://action.aclunc.org/site/R?i=OA5QRtVpUYBbAIDTS9SGIQ..>

Sincerely,
Maya Harris
Executive Director, ACLU of Northern California
[editor's note: Atkins story can be seen on YOUTube at http://action.aclunc.org/site/R?i=OqLlo4DCS553EM9_2UldgQ.]

EPA Greyhounds

Dear Editor
We are growing! Instead of the greyhounds track n field club, we will now be the epa greyhounds youth athletic association. We will provide pop warner football, aau basketball, cheerleading and of course track n field. I have been asked by city officials to give it a try.

We are trying to bring back the after school programs full force to cater to the needs of our youth in the epa community. Join our board or please become an advisory to the board.

Donate to us we are our own non profit and checks can be made out to east palo alto greyhounds and mailed to 36707San pedro drive #102, fremont, cam 94536. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Eric Stuart/founder
East Palo Alto

Safe Water

Dear Editor,
Mike François has asked the East Palo Alto City Council, numerous times for a copy of the resolution exempting Romic from EPA standards. John Bostic ex-councilman voted for and admitted there was one. Councilman Pete Evans and William Webster claimed there was one on public record. The council can't find it. What happened to the Sunshine Act for transparency in government? Do they need a outside lawyer to help them find the documents?

Mayor Woods missed 3 council meetings that I attended and the May 2007, BAWSCA meeting. BAWSCA water board is where your city gets bond money and your recycled water from the Redwood City plant. There still isn't a allowable parasite count, but I'm sure the politicians will come up with one! Mayor Woods is on that board to get more recycled water for redevelopment. Pete Evans hasn't missed any meetings and the council didn't want him as mayor! Patricia Foster doesn't like to hear the speakers and have complained about it taking too much time. Watch her on TV. Why should she be acting mayor when Woods doesn't show?

Feinstein and Boxer are getting a bill passed to use

continued on page 18

East Palo Alto Today

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Editor: Henrietta J. Burroughs
EPA Mentorship Director:Julie Patel

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

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 agree-

ment 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.

Opinion

The ideas expressed on this page are solely the views of the individual authors who do not represent East Palo Alto Today's Board, management or staff.

Stopping gentrification

By Kevin Robinson, Jr.

Being from a neighborhood as mine which is now predominantly Latino, I think the city is developing the roots of a gentrified working class small town with future plans of becoming a venture capitalist's dream.

A city which is only 2.5 square miles is now being colonized from a hotbed of history for many blacks, Latinos, and Polynesians alike into a manufactured city.

Destroying the majority of the small businesses in our community to build one hell of a four-star hotel that I am

sure has driven up the property taxes in my area tremendously.

Every time I have returned home from college in Maryland to comeback and find out another one of the few small business owners in my town have been bought out to be replaced with a conglomerate owned chain store.

There was once a auto parts store called Tadlock's in my town. I came back home last summer from college to find that it has now been turned into an Autozone.

I walked into the store to see if anything has been

changed; nothing different about the store other than better lightning and some Autozone promotional items everywhere.

And it just gets worse. I now see that the city has plans to build a marina where there are also many other small businesses that will be no longer very soon.

This marina will have any restaurants, shops, and such that I'm sure will include Starbuck's, Panera Bread, and other various chain restaurants.

Wow, I can only imagine what this will do for the already ridiculously inflated prices of real estate in East Palo Alto, California.

All of the places that were



Kevin Robinson, Jr.

once part of the culture in East Palo Alto and even my side of the neighborhood, Belle Haven in Menlo Park, have been destroyed to build Starbuck's, Ikea, Home Depot, Four Seasons, etc. If at all the peninsula of the San Francisco Bay Area (San Mateo County) wasn't corporate enough, the few neighborhoods such as mine

that had immense roots of culture and tradition have been turned into a cash cow for venture capitalists.

Building plush and lavish manufactured homes and condos to drive up the cost of blue collar citizens' property taxes is putting a strangle hold around our citizens' necks.

Many people cannot afford to live in East Palo Alto any longer, and have moved to areas of the Central Valley such as Stockton and Modesto where the cost of living is much cheaper.

In twenty years, when I bring my kids back to my neighborhood to show them

continued on page 18

Streetwise: community viewpoints

Has crime in East Palo Alto decreased?



"Yeah, I think it has decreased(crime in EPA) because there is a stepped up police force. There are good neighborhood watch groups."

-Roy Cobbs
Resident of EPA since 1963.



"Yes, I do believe crime in EPA has decreased because the zone is quite. On the other hand I would like to see more security."

-Jesus Romero,EPA



"Recently I have not seen any crime. One thing that I would like to see is more protection on University Ave. and Bay Road".

-Resident of EPA



"I do think so, I have lived here since 1956 and I have no problems. Things have been good for my children and I feel there is a lot we can do with our children -- things like activities that will benefit them".

-Ruth Daniel,EPA Resident



" Yeah, it has maybe because I used to hear a lot about crimes and now I do not hear about it".

-Jazmine Ewing
Resident of EPA

Punto de vista de la comunidad: Los crímenes de East Palo Alto an desminuido?

"Si, yo pienso que si han desminuido(los crímenes de EPA) porque hay fuerza de policía... hay buenos grupos de vecinos mirando".

-Roy Cobbs
Residente de EPA desde 1963.

"Ioe, oute manatu ua fa'aitiitia fa'afitauli i totonu o

"Si, yo si creo que el crimen de East Palo Alto a desminuido porque la zona es calmada. Por otro lado quisiera ver mas seguridad

-Jesus Romero
EPA Residen

"Ioe, oute talitonu ua

"Recientemente no he visto ningún crimen. Una cosa que quisiera ver es, mas protección en University Ave. y Bay Road".

-Residente Hispana de East Palo Alto

"Yo pienso que si, yo he vivido aquí(EPA) desde 1956 y no eh tenido problemas. Cosas han sido bien para mis hijos. Yo creo que hay muchas cosas que podemos hacer con nuestros hijos--cosas como actividades que les beneficié".

-Ruth Daniel
Residente de EP

"Si, a la mejor porque antes escuchaba muchos crímenes en las noticias, ahora ya no he escuchado sobre ese tema"

-Jazmine Ewing
Residente de EPA

Samoan Translation: Ua fa'aitiitia ea fa'afitauli i East Palo Alto?

East Palo Alto, ina ua tula'i mai ni vaega o leoleo. Ma o lo'o iai foi ni vaega lelei o tuaoi o va'avaaia ia tulaga".

-Roy Cobbs
Resident of EPA SINCE 1963

fa'aitiitia fa'afitauli i East Palo Alto, aua ua filemu itu uma. O le isi itu, oute fia vaaia ni tele o leoleoga".

-Jesus Romero, EPA

"Talu mai nei lava, oute le'i toe vaaia ni fa'afitauli. Ae tasi lava le mea oute fia vaai ai, o le tele o ni puipuiga i luma o University Avenue ma Bay Road".

-Resident Of EPA

"Ioe oute manatu iai, sa ou nofoinei talu mai le 1965 ae sa leai ma ni fa'aletonu. Sa lelei mea uma mo la'u fanau, ae oute lagona o lo'o tele ni mea e mafai ona tatou faia mo a tatou fanau - o ni mea e fa'afiafia ai, ma o ni penifiti lelei mo'i latou".

-Ruth Daniel
EPA Resident

"Ioe lava, masalo! Aua sa masani ona ou fa'alogolele tele o fa'afitauli, ae ua ou le toe fa'alogolele ai lava".

-Jazmine Ewing
Resident of EPA

Summer interns at EPA Today



Lakia Young

Lakia Young is 16 years old. She attends Palo Alto High School and will be a junior at the beginning of the fall.

Lakia has lived in the city of EPA all her life with her mom and little sister. She has two older brothers.

She likes to play basketball, dance, hang out with family and friends, make money and party.

Some of her goals in life include graduating from high school, attending North Carolina University and majoring in business.

She also wants to be rich so she can support her family. She has been part of the Student Employment Program (SEP) since last summer.

Then she worked at the East Palo Alto YMCA and

had a blast. This summer the SEP placed her at EPA Today where she writes articles on upcoming rap artist from EPA .



Samnit Kumar

Samnit Kumar is also a resident of East Palo Alto. He is 15-years-old. He moved here from Fiji 3 years ago with his older brother and parents.

The hardest thing for him was adapting to a new culture and not knowing many people.

He attends Woodside High School and will be a sophomore in the fall. His goals in life are to graduate from high school and to attend a UC.

Some of his interests are reading, watching tv and sports, specifically football and basketball.

For the past two summers Samnit has been part of the

Sponsored Employment Program (SEP). This summer he got a job working at EPA Today as an intern.

He writes the sports section in the paper and the other interns think that he is doing a very good job at it.



Maricela Torres

Maricela Torres is 19 years old. She graduated at East Palo Alto Academy as the Salutatorian of her class.

She will be attending Chico State University this fall.

Maricela was only 2 years old when she and her family migrated to the United States.

Maricela's short-term goal is to finish her freshmen year successfully. One of her long term goals is to get her Masters Degree in Language Arts.

Maricela's hobbies and interests are helping elementary students with reading and math skills. One of her past job experiences included volunteering as a tutor since 7th grade for elementary students.

Maricela joined the SEP program to see how her job experiences might fit her career as far as what she likes to do.

She lives with her single mother, along with her brothers and sisters. She was raised by her mother and older brother. She will be the first generation in her family to go to a four-year college.



Lasara Lacy

Lasara 15, will be a sophomore at Menlo Atherton High School. One of her hobbies is to run Track, being her second year.

Lasara's short term goal is to make it to the Nationals. Her long term goal is to

graduate from high school. After high school she plans to attend the University of Berkeley.

Wilfred Opeta is 15 years old. He attended East Palo Alto Academy until his sophomore year.

He is about to attend West High School in Tracy.

Opeta's future goal is to attend San Jose State University and become a biology or guitar teacher.

He has been in the SEP Summer Internship since last year.

"I feel that working for the EPA Today newspaper will be a fun and new experience."

One of Wilfred's interests is being part of a Christian Youth Group in Tracy. Wilfred's hobbies are singing and playing guitar.



Daniella Garcia

Daniella is a recent graduate of Stanford University, having completed her degree in the field of communications.

She is an avid sports fan and is currently working towards her master's

degree in Sports Management at the University of San Francisco.

In college, Daniella held internships with both the Oakland A's and the Stanford Athletics Department.

During her senior year at Stanford, Daniella was also marketing director for the 6th Man Committee.

Daniella is the only child of parents originally hailing from Sonora, Mexico.

This summer, she hopes to gain further experience in the field of journalism and contribute to the coverage of sports at East Palo Alto Today.

A worthwhile experience

continued from page 10

citation. But it gave me a laugh.

This summer was a growth experience for all of us, even with its fun moments, and there was lots of laughter. I am immensely proud of what each intern accomplished while working at EPA Today. I trust that you will be proud, too.

You will not see any of the work featured by one of the Stanford interns, Erika Amaya. She worked on sales and marketing materials and spent only two weeks at the paper. But I'd like to give her a personal thanks as well.

Good news

This past June, the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, the nonprofit organization under which East Palo Alto Today is published, was notified by the IRS that it had been granted

the 501c3 status that it had requested.

So, we would like to let all who have donated to the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media know that their donations are now fully tax deductible, retroactive to June 2004, when the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media became a California nonprofit Corporation.

Now, when you donate to the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, your donations not only assist us, but also give you an added tax deduction.

If you like to make a financial contribution and we hope you will, please send your donations to the:

East Palo Alto Center for Community Media
321 Bell Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
or make your donation

via our web site:
www.epatoday.org.

Board of Contributors

East Palo Alto Today is looking for volunteers who will serve on its Board of Contributors.

No meetings are necessary.

Your service could not be easier. We are looking for individuals who are willing to voice their ideas about the issues affecting the East Palo Alto and Belle Haven communities.

The only requirement is that you express your ideas on East Palo Alto Today's Opinion Page about once a quarter.

For more information, call us at: (650) 327-5846, ext. 311.

We are interested in hearing from you and hearing what you have to say.

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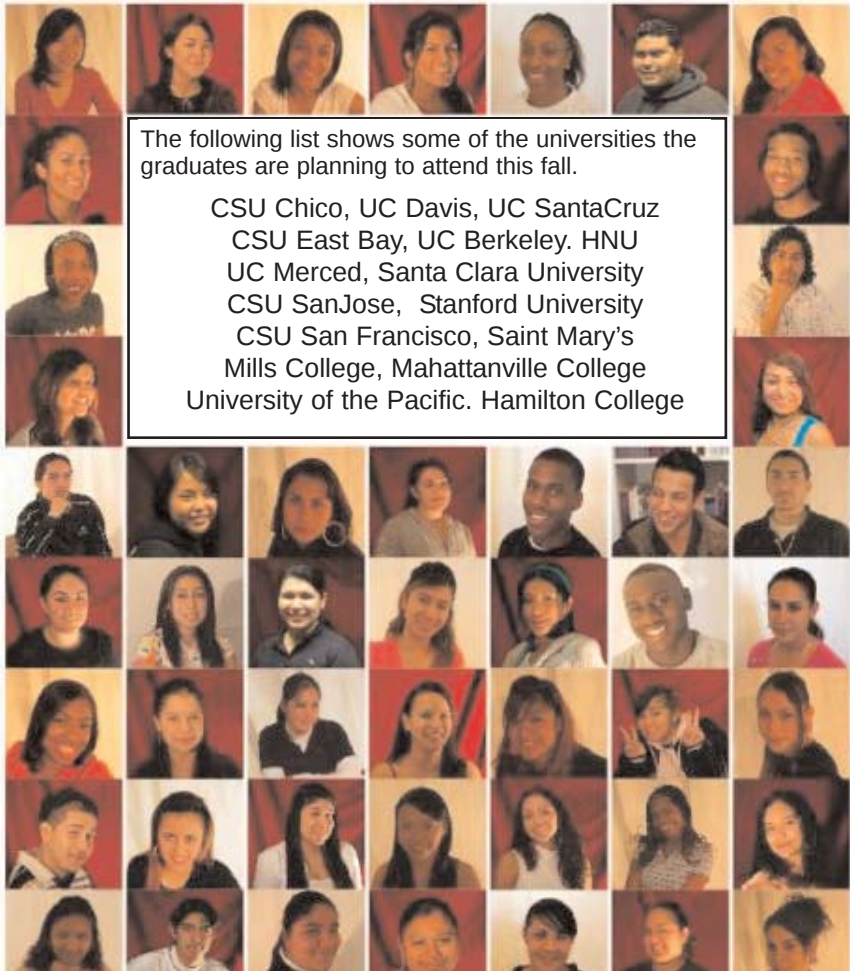
"Since my involvement with Start Up, I've noticed more opportunities opening up for me. It's been life changing."

THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS - EL FUTURO ESTA EN SUS MANOS

Salute to the Graduates

College Track : Celebrating It's 10th Annual Graduation

East Palo Alto and Oakland 2007 Graduates



- East Palo Alto**
Jennifer Acuña
Renita Bhartu
Christafer Brown
Johanna Calvillo
Anna Diaz
Tiffany Duong
Sarait Escorza
Karina Flores
Braulio Gonzalez
Ivan Guerrero
Atziry Gutierrez
Himeka Hagiwara
Jessica Jimenez
Jesenia Landaverde
Noemi Oseguera
Lorena Patiño
Alfredo Pineda
Luis Pimentel
Maggie Razon
Wendy Renderos
Amy Rodriguez
Luis Salinas
Maricela Torres
Maria Valladares
Elizabeth
- Oakland**
Velazquez
Karen Zamora
Oscar Acosta
Omar Bala
Jai'la Bell
Bycha Buxton
Juliana Casanova
Lina Chhim
Ana Duran
Mechan Earls
Evelyn Garcia
Elicha Green
Karla Gutierrez
Carolina Hernandez
Jayme Jones
Rachel Kuiken
Nohemi Maciel
Guadalupe Magaña
Isabel Montes
Madia Moore
Ignacio Moran
Anayanci Ortega
Stephanie Ortiz
Erica Oseguera
Leonor Ramirez
- Elizabeth Rojas
Isabel Ruiz
La Creasha Sellers
Mai Thinh
Huong Vaong
Ramon Zavala
- College Track is the catalyst change in the lives of high school students who are motivated to earn a college degree, but lack the resources. We help students realize their potencial through academ-ic excellence, community service,and civic leader-ship.



Celebrating Glow's 2nd Annual Awards Ceremony

Glow 2007 Scholars

The Glow Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2006. Glow's mission is to provide finan-cial educaation, mentoring, and scholarships to high school stu-dents from under resourced com-munities. Most of their students are from East Palo Alto, San Jose, and East Menlo Park communities. Glow Foundation has provided financial education classes to approximately 50 students and provided college scholarships for 17 students. For 2008 their goal is to provide finan-cial education to 100 students and scholarships to 20 students. GO GLOW!!

www.glow scholarship.org



Front row: Angelica Gallardo, Cindy Oseguera, Maricela Torres, Mayra Gomez, Michelle Urmeneta, and Pauline Brown .Back row: Fernando Munguia, Jolene Walton, Luis Martinez, Luis Mora, and Peter Sok.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of the 2007 graduates and award recipients.

From the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media and East Palo Alto Today

Celebrating June graduates



East Palo Alto Academy High School 2007 Graduates

The Class of 2007
By Advisory:

Marisol Castillo, Advisor
Maribel Angel
Ivette Arevalo+
Elizabeth Arteaga
Rosa Avalos
Mayra Gomez* §
Luisa Guerrero

Raul Gutierrez
Luis Martinez +
Juan Carlos Moreno*
Manuel Vargas

Misla Barco, Advisor
Celedina Arreguin+
Ivon Chavez
Maria Galvan
Perla Garcia+
Erica Guizar
Losaline Kofutua+
Azucena Mendoza
Luis Mora*+
Daisy Patino
Quinnesha Powell
Nictrae Smith
Mayra Tafolla
Ereyda Yanez+

Justin Green, Advisor
Ana Gornez

Patrick Harris
Maria Hernandez
David Navigato §
Yesenia Rodriguez
Freddy Rosales
Maricela Torres* §
Clara Tuipulotu
Tuuta Tuipulotu
Luis Villa
Nancy Villegas*+

Staci Kavanagh, Advisor
Norma Campos+
Lilyana Chavez
Jose Contreras
Richard Cornejo+
Folauhola Fiefa
Viviana Herrera
Ana Jimenez+
Jose Moya

Alexander Nava
Berenice Nuñez



From left to right: Raul Bentancourt., Mayra Tafolla, Robert Horton, Vice Principal, and Ereyda Yanez.

Valedictorian:
Mayra Gomez

Salutorian:
Maricela Torres

* = cum laude, top 10% of class
+ = Graduation with distinction (all but one exhibi-tions with distinction)
§ =Graduation with highest distinction (all exhibitions with distinction)

Salute to the Graduates

Nuestra Casa's 2007 adult ESL graduation celebration

By Lourdes Muguerza
EPA Today Contributor

Nuestra Casa's Adult English as a Second Language Program held its annual graduation celebration on June 13th. Ninety four adult graduates (all Latino immigrants) received certificates for attending English classes during the 2006/07 school year. The event was attend-

ed by nearly 200 members of the community, including the proud children and other family and friends of the graduates.

The graduates were recognized for the dedication and commitment they showed in attending the two-hour classes three times per week despite busy work schedules and family commitments. During the past school year,

students have increased not only their English proficiency but also their self-confidence and have made significant progress towards reaching



Nuestra Casa 2007 graduates

their goals for learning English. The graduates

received certificates from both Nuestra Casa as well as a special certificate of recognition from the California Legislature Assembly presented to them by the office of Assembly Member Ira Ruskin.

Lourdes Muguerza, Director of Community of Learners Programs, (650) 330-7471

Graduación 2007 de Ingles para Adultos de Nuestra Casa

By Lourdes Muguerza

El Programa de Ingles para Adultos de Nuestra Casa celebro su graduación anual el 13 de Junio pasado.

Noventa y cuatro graduados recibieron certificados por haber asistido a las clases de Ingles durante el año escolar 2006-2007.

El evento fue atendido por aproximadamente 200 miembros de la comu-

nidad incluyendo a los hijos y miembros de la familia y amistades de los graduados.

Los graduados fueron reconocidos por la dedicación y el compromiso que demostraron en atender clases dos horas al día tres veces por semana a pesar de tener muchas responsabilidades de trabajo y familia.

Durante el pasado año escolar, los estudiantes



Nuestra Casa graduados de la clase del 2007

no solo aumentaron su conocimiento de el Ingles sino también aumentaron su confianza en poder emprender variadas actividades con éxito.

Los graduados recibieron certificados de Nuestra Casa al igual que un certificado de reconocimiento especial de la Asamblea Legislativa de el Estado de California que fue otorgado por la oficina de el Representante Ira Ruskin.

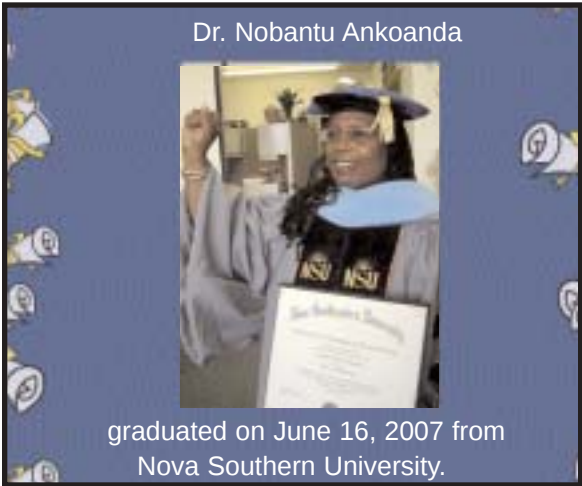
Lourdes Muguerza, Director of Community of Learners Programs, (650) 330-7471.

Third Annual Baccalaureate Celebration

These are pictures of some people who participated in the program in 2006. This year the event took place on June 3, 2007



Celebrating Third Annual Baccalaureate for African American Students Graduating from Sequoia Union High School District- Carlmont, Menlo-Atherton, Redwood, Sequoia, and Woodside.



Dr. Nobantu Ankoanda graduated on June 16, 2007 from Nova Southern University.

SEP Graduation

continued from page 1

The following pictures show some of the graduates of this summer's Sponsored Employment Program. They received their certificates and final checks on August 6, 2007





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE PENINSULA

Boys and Girls Clubs recognize over 350 children for Achievement and Leadership.



"Achievement Matters" is the name of a recognition and awards program that serves to motivate children by celebrating the academic, their character and their leadership achievements.

The program sets specific criteria for academic and leadership achievement it and encourages members to strive for excellence in those areas.

When participants meet the criteria, their club rewards their effort and determination in a public way". Christian Canter, Dir. of Development, Boys and Girls Clubs.

East Palo Alto Today would like to salute all of the 2007 graduates from all of the area schools and youth programs



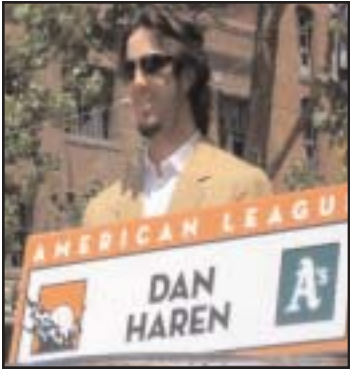
5



Ichiro Suzuki



David Ortiz



Dan Haren



Vladimir Guerrero



Josh Beckett



Splash Hit!

All-Star Game Takes Over San Francisco

By Daniella Garcia

East Palo Alto Today Intern

When most people think of San Francisco, they think of bridges, cable cars, and clam chowder. However, on July 10th, San Francisco was dominated by images of baseball players, pickup trucks, and a man in a hot dog suit.

This spectacle was the 2007 Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

The festivities began at noon with a red carpet procession in which the All-Stars, coaches, and their families paraded past fans on a 2,000 foot long red carpet. This event allowed fans to get within six feet of baseball greats like Barry Bonds, David Ortiz, and Ken Griffey Jr. to name a few.

Many of the athletes signed autographs as they rode by in Chevrolet Silverados. Men dressed as a hot dog, a slice of apple pie, a baseball, and the Chevrolet logo chased after them and entertained the crowd.

The celebration continued inside the stadium where Major League Baseball paid tribute to Willie Mays. The former San Francisco Giants centerfielder received a standing ovation as he rode around the diamond in a pink Cadillac convertible.

After the tribute, it was time to play ball and the All-Stars did not disappoint the sold-out crowd of 43,965.

The American League defeated the National League 5-4 in a game that had the fans on the edge of their seats until the very last pitch.

The Giants may have hosted the game, but the real Giant among the All-Stars was Ichiro Suzuki. The Seattle centerfielder was named Most Valuable Player after going 3-for-3 and astounding the crowd with an inside-the-park homerun off of San Diego pitcher Chris Young. The ball popped off Ichiro's bat and



struck the asymmetrical outfield wall at an odd angle. It bounced past Griffey and rolled into deep rightfield. By the time Griffey reached the ball, Ichiro was rounding third base and solidifying his place in baseball history. That hit was the first ever inside-the-park homerun in the history of the All-Star game.

Two other homeruns by Cleveland catcher Victor Martinez and Tampa Bay leftfielder Carl Crawford gave the AL a 5-2 lead going into the bottom of the ninth

inning.

With two outs, Washington first baseman Dmitri Young initiated the NL rally with a single. Chicago Cubs' left-fielder Alfonso Soriano then launched a homerun into rightfield to make the score 5-4.

After Seattle pitcher J.J. Putz walked Milwaukee shortstop J.J. Hardy, AL Manager Jim Leyland replaced Putz with Anaheim's Francisco Rodriguez. The Angels pitcher known as "K-Rod" then walked Cubs' first baseman Derrek Lee and Arizona's Orlando Hudson to load the bases.

The crowd braced itself in anticipation as center-fielder Aaron Rowand stepped up to the plate with the opportunity to break the NL's ten game losing streak in the All-Star game. Rowand ended the game by flying out to rightfield.

Regardless of whether fans were delighted or disappointed with the outcome of the game, many can agree that the 2007 All-Star Game was an event to remember. Baseball's best played with passion, showed love to the fans, and even made history.

Next year's game at Yankee Stadium definitely has a tough act to follow.



4



Barry Bonds



Jose Reyes



David Wright



Orlando Hudson



Ken Griffey Jr.



Working on my first summer job

By Lasara Lacy
East Palo Alto Today Intern

I am fifteen years old, and this is the first summer I have ever worked in the sense of going to a job and getting paid. I would say it has been a summer of ups and downs. Mostly ups. Serious downs, though, and some of those downs were my responsibility and others were related to things completely out of my control. I am one of the East Palo Alto youth working in the Sponsored Employment Program, and I'd like to tell my story (so far!).

This whole experience started back in the spring

when I filled out an application. My Uncle Doug gave it to me. He said something like, "Sign this paper and you can get a job." So I signed the paper.

It's kind of hard to admit that my expectations at that point were simply that I was going to get paid. For working, of course, but I was mostly focused on the money. I'm not embarrassed to say that I was looking forward to spending that money on me.

I'd had money before-don't get me wrong-but I'd never had money on a regular basis and it had always come from somebody else. It hadn't ever been all mine, every two weeks, to do what-

ever I wanted with.

I was hecka nervous the day I had to go in for an interview. I was embarrassed because my Uncle Doug made me dress up in clothes I'd never worn before. My mom had gotten me these clothes, but I had never thought I'd ever wear them: slacks, this top with a collar and heels. It was weird, especially the heels. And I was nervous. I wanted to get the job, and I didn't know what they were going for and I worried I'd say the wrong thing.

The lady who interviewed me was nice. She loosened me up. I wish I knew her name. She asked me about

my family at home, my school, my grades, whether I had to go to summer school, and why I wanted a job. I didn't really want to talk about some of this stuff, especially my family. That's because it's really nobody's business, in my opinion.

Another thing she asked me was what kind of a job I wanted and what kind of job I didn't want. This was connected to a question about what I wanted to be in life. I want to be a lawyer. I didn't figure there were any summer jobs where I could be a lawyer, and I was right.

I don't know if I should say this, but the lady told me at the end of the interview that I

had gotten the job. Allan tells me that's not what happened, but I was there and the lady told me I got the job. That's why I was mad when nobody called me. Other people got called, but I didn't. I thought maybe I had gotten lied to. I expect people to tell me the truth, but sometimes they lie. This is very disappointing.

My sister got a letter telling her she hadn't been selected. I didn't get anything. This was confusing. Maybe I had gotten the job, but why weren't they calling me? Then, a couple of days after other people started their

continued on page 18

East Palo Alto Sanitary District

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT

JULY 23, 2007

Information on your Sewer Service Charges

East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD) is a non-profit public agency providing wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services to portions of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. EPASD has been providing service to the community since 1939 and looks forward to its continued involvement into the 21st century. The regional treatment plant, located in Palo Alto, treats approximately 26 million gallons of wastewater per day to a quality level that meets stringent Environmental Protection Agency and State standards for discharge into San Francisco Bay.

Revenues to operate the District are collected yearly from residents and businesses whose properties are connected to the sanitary sewer system. The purpose of this newsletter is

to explain how yearly Sewer Service Charges are calculated and what steps can be taken to minimize the charges.

Annual sewer service charges are placed on your San Mateo County property tax statement. Sewer service charges are not a property tax and are not related to the assessed value of a property. They represent a charge for a service provided, similar to your telephone and electricity bills. We simply include the yearly charges on the property tax statement to save the administrative cost of generating and mailing our own invoices. More details on how the charges are calculated are provided below and on the following page.

Renting or Leasing

Due to the high billing, commercial or industrial customers who rent or lease their property should carefully consider how sewer service charges are addressed in the lease or rental agreement. Charges in tenants with different demands for water or that have different wastewater strengths will affect the yearly service charge. A property owner may not become aware of potential changes in service charges until well after tenant changes have occurred. All sewer service charges are billed to the property owner. Property owners are responsible for paying the charges whether or not they are able to collect from their tenants.

How Wastewater Strength Affects Charges

Sewer service charges for commercial and industrial customers are based on four components: volume, chemical oxygen demand (COD), Ammonia (NH3) and suspended solids (SS). COD, Ammonia NH3 and SS are indicators of wastewater pollutant strength. Wastewater with high strength costs the District more to treat. For example, wastewater with high levels of suspended solids produces more sludge (a by-product of treatment). Sludge is burned to ash and then shipped to Offset Agri Industries Inc. in Merced and used as fertilizer for farmland. See www.cleanbay.org for more info.

Flat Rate Charged for Residential Service

Charges for residential customers are on a flat rate per equivalent residential dwelling unit (ERDU). The current rate per dwelling unit is \$380.00 per year. This would be the charge for a single family home, condominium or townhouse. A property with multiple housing units such as an apartment complex is charged the same flat rate (\$380.00 per year) for each dwelling unit on the property. For example, a ten unit apartment complex would be charged \$380.00 x 10 (ERDU) or \$3,800.00 per year.

Water Use Determines Commercial and Industrial Charges

Charges for commercial and industrial customers are based on the volume and pollutant strength of the wastewater being treated. The volume of wastewater is determined from records of water usage, as metered by the East Palo Alto Water District, less any credits for water used that is not discharged to the sanitary sewer, such as landscape irrigation. Due to the lead time involved to get yearly charges placed on the County property tax statements, the sewer service charges on the current year's tax statement reflect services already provided. The current year's charges are based on water use and strength factors from the previous year. Water use for purposes of computing the service charge is measured from May through April. The sewer service charge for this period is then placed on the property tax statement that is mailed out in October, with the first installment due December 10th.

ATTENTION

SAVE THIS REPORT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR SEWER SERVICES

Lyrically spoken

LaKia Young, EPA Today Intern

An Interview with Lady Doe

Speaking with Shortz



-India Hodges

Lady Doe is an upcoming rap artist from East Palo Alto. We interviewed her earlier this month to find out a little bit about her music career and where she wants to go with it.

Q: At what age did you start rapping?

A: "I started rapping when I was eleven years old"

Q: What inspired to start rapping?

A: "Just being able to express how I feel and so other people could understand what I was going through"

Q: Do you plan on staying local or going world wide with your music? Why or Why not?

A: "I plan on going world wide because more people will be able to hear my music, understand some of the things I'm going through and be able to relate to it"

Q: What do you rap about in your songs?

A: "I rap about what I've been through growing up, what goes on in my surroundings such as all the parties, society in the hood and people dying."

Q: How many mix tapes have you came out with? What is the title of it?

A: "None, I'm in the process of one now. My title would relate to something representing the ladies and taking over, but I'm not sure yet because I have so many different personalities."

Q: Do you have a favorite rapper and what is your favorite song by him/her?

A: "Young Jeezy-Soul Survivor."

Shotz is another upcoming rap artist from East Palo Alto trying to get his career together.

He is a youth trying to do something with his life and earlier this month we decided to interview him to find information about his rapping.

Q: How long have you been rapping?

A: "I have been rapping for 3 years"

Q: What inspired you to start a rapping career?

A: "My cousins because I just like rapping and just seeing how big they were doing it"

Q: Do you plan on staying local or going worldwide? Why or why not?

A: "Both because I just like doing it and I can let other people hear my voice and get money"

Q: How many demos or mix tapes have you came out with and when is the next



-JJ Bivins

one coming out?

A: "I did three mix tapes and I'm working on a little album and another mix tape by me and T-baby (Gudda Squad)"

Q: What does it take to be a rapper?

A: "Express yourself and not let people criticize you. Don't trip off of other people and do what you do"

Q: What do you rap about?

A: "Cars, clothes, money and stuff that I know about in EPA"

Q: What about you makes your music unique?

A: "Because it's just me. I don't copy anybody else stuff. I do what I do and I don't care about what everybody else say"

Q: A lot of rap music puts down women is yours any different?

A: " No I don't because I show a lot of respect for women but sometimes I have to because they talk mess but it's only certain females not all women in general"

Q: Why do you think rap music has a negative impact on kids?

A: "Because they copy whatever everybody else say and do. I don't think rappers try to do that but it just happens"

Q: Why do you think the youth then adults accept rap music more?

A: "Because it's a younger generation and they're getting with the movement."

An interview with Biv Da kid

By LaKia Young, EPA Today Intern



-Biven Johnson

Biv Da Kid is a very talented young man coming from Menlo Park. Music is his life and he has started a career at the age of 16. Earlier this

month we interviewed him to see how his rapping career is going.

Q: How long have you been rapping?

A: "3 or 4 years"

Q: What inspired you to start rapping?

A: "The Hot Boyz and weak ass rappers and my big brother"

Q: Do you plan on staying local or going worldwide? Why or why not?

A: " World Wide. When you local you just stay in the hood. When you worldwide you get to see more and meet more people and experience stuff I don't want to

stay local"

Q: How many mix tapes have you came out with and when is the next one coming?

A: "I got about 7 mix tapes 51 including stuff I did with groups and 2 albums my next mix tape Biv the Great will be out July.24th"

Q: What does it take to be a rapper?

A: "Um You got to be patient because nobody just blows up real fast you got to really put a lot into it if you really trying to go somewhere with it its really hard in the music business you just got to work hard I guess and stay on top of your game it don't really

matter how good you rap now a days people make the dumbest songs and get rich its all who you know"

Q: What about you makes your music unique?

A: "I know how to rap about different stuff a lot of people make a cd and have 16 songs about the same thing I can't do that also I'm just original the words I use I know how to switch my style on the mic I been doin it for a minute"

Q: A lot of rap music puts down women is yours any different?

A: "I treat hoes like hoes and women like women"

Q: Why do you think rap

music has a negative impact on kids?

A: "I think the parents not raising they children right if a parent raise a kid to have his own mind then its not gone matter what they listen to all we're doing is rapping what's really going on in everyday life in our environment everything I rap about is all I know"

Q: Why do you think rap music is accepted more by the your then adults?

A: " Cuz rappers rap about stuff the kids is into"

Three views about rap music

How do you feel about rap music?



-Prince

YOUTH:

"I like rap music but I think it promotes drugs such as thizz pills and it leads some kids towards the wrong direction and tells them how they should treat their women"



-Kenny Young

ADULT:

"Rappers could be positive only if the rapper been threw it, as long as they display something positive in their music."



-Darell

SENIORS:

"In the beginning people rapped for what they believed in, now rap is nothing, its more about the beat. Now is instead of what they believe in."

Business Profile



JT Turner reaches a lifelong goal

By Wilfred Opeta
EPA Today Intern

J.T. Turner has been in business since 1976. He was influenced by a friend who introduced him to the idea of owning his own business. In the following years, he began to think seriously about starting his own business. In 1996, he became an independent insurance agent.

As an independent agent, he assists his clients with their financial needs. He provides several different financial packages, including life insurance, investments, and 401ks. In the process of running his own business, he rented space for a number of years in a building on Bay Road which also housed a



photos by LaKia Young
JT Turner is interviewed by Wilfred Opeta

barbershop. This year he purchased his own building at 237 University Avenue in East Palo Alto where he will run his insurance company.

He has been driven by his interest in using his business to serve the community by educating people about the importance of having insurance. He also wants to help his customers choose the proper insurance for their needs.

He said that the main responsibility of being a business owner is to give service to people in a wholehearted way that is based on trust.

He also said that the responsibility sometimes gets overwhelming and challenging especially since he has to work with thousands of customers and adjust his service to meet the expectations of each customer.

Turner has already met some of his major goals. He said that actually purchasing his own building was a major accomplishment because he always wanted to own his own building. The process of building ownership was rigorous because it took about 8 months to meet the city's

requirements, get all of the necessary permits and deal with the construction challenges.

He is happy that he can now create the type of environment that he wants for his customers. He said that, In the future he would like to see more businesses move into

East Palo Alto. For him, his new office will allow him to provide service for his costumers in a whole-some way so that they can leave feeling that they have had a good experience. He said that he would like to make sure that all insurance agents are licensed.



J.T. Turner's new location at 237 University Avenue in East Palo Alto.

Olga Talamante: An Inspiring Person

By Wilfred Opeta
EPA Today Intern

Olga Talamante is a political activist and the current executive director of the Chicana/Latina Foundation in Burlingame.

Talamante spoke at an OEPA meeting in June. She said that she was born in Mexico and came to America when she was a young girl. When she was in school, she did not know any English at all so she relied on the students that surrounded her to help her with

her English. Talamante said that she felt that those students who-surrounded her were also her first mentors because they were some of the first to give her lessons and advice.

As she grew older she began to understand English better and she also had more people who became her mentors.

One mentor was Mercy who worked with her in the fields picking crops. She said that Mercy taught her to do her work well and she inspired her to do her work



photo by Wilfred Opeta
Olga Talamante

right then and there, not little by little.

Another person Olga felt was her mentor was Maggie Burton who was part of the leadership program for colored students and Talamante said that she inspired her

because even though Maggie was a part of the corporate world, she still came back to her community to help out.

Years later, Talamante said that she became a part of the Chicana Foundation which was a political movement in Mexico so that she could fight with the people who lived there to help them gain their freedom.

She and her colleagues were sent to prison for their involvement in political activities. When she was in prison she was tortured, but she

thought about what she and her colleagues did and she knew that they were doing the right thing.

She said that she taught her inmates a song called "de colores" which basically says that they come from farms and that they will come through.

During her presentation at the OEPA meeting, she urged her listeners to come back to their communities and work to help other people even if they should succeed in the corporate world.

Happiness comes on payday

By Wilfred Opeta
EPA Today Intern

Youth SEP employee's start their summer with a training workshop to prepare them for jobs with local government, businesses and non-profit agencies.

After the workshop each participant is given a placement telling them where they will be working for the summer.

The second workshop comes two weeks later. This workshop which was on July 5, is also payday.

When the SEP interns enter the room where the workshop is held each participant has to

sign in. The order in which they sign in is also the order in which they will get their checks.

Before giving out their checks Allan Johnson, OICW's Director of Youth Programs, asked a few participants how they felt about their first two weeks at their jobs. He also asked them if they liked what they were doing.

Some were unhappy about a few things. Others were happy, but overall everyone liked their placement.

The interns were told that they would have to stay at the workshop throughout the entire time from 3:00 p.m. to

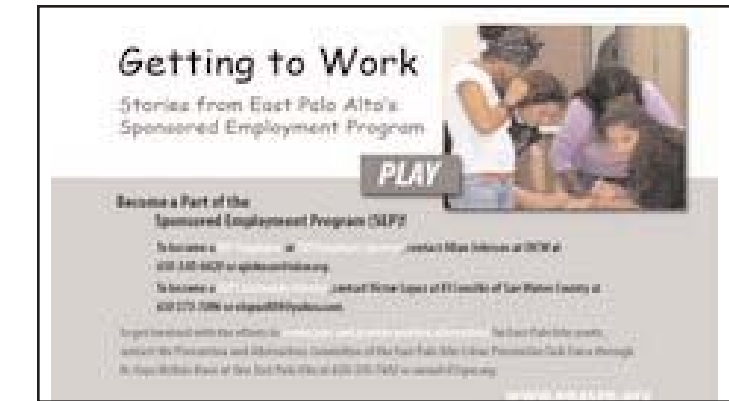


photo courtesy of www.epasep.org
SEP participants signing their initials to get their checks.

5:00 p.m. before they could get their check.

So when it was time to get their check, the participants were called in the order that

they had signed in. Apelu Tito was the first one to get a check. "Yes I can finally go shopping now," Tito said, showing how

happy he was about getting his first check.

After the participants got their checks, they could go home. On their way out I was able to ask one of the participants how she felt about getting her first check.

"I am very happy about getting my first check and I'm so excited to cash my check," Lasara Lacy said, as she explained to me how she felt.

This is also Lasara's first year under the Summer Employment Program and she said that, so far, she felt everything is going well.

New owners

When the land for the University Palms project was purchased in 2000, it cost between five and six million dollars. Cropper said that the new owners purchased the property for 10 million to 15 million dollars.

With the change in ownership comes significant changes in the project's layout and structure. The new five-story project features 25,000 sq ft of ground floor retail and 183,200 sq ft of office space above ground in comparison to the 20,000 sq ft and 180,000 sq ft of the original plan.

MacFarlane and TMG also plan on constructing University Palms in accordance with green building standards. In this way, the new project plans will save energy, water, and materials, as well as reduce the impact

of construction on the environment.

Patrick Brock, one of the original partners in the project, acknowledged that the new plans are a significant upgrade over the old plans.

"That was like a 2003 Volkswagon against a 2008 Cadillac," said Brock. "TMG and MacFarlane's project is the Cadillac."

The improvements in the project's design don't come without a price. The new University Palms project will cost \$80 million to build, a \$20 million dollar increase from the original project.

Brock predicts, however, that new property taxes will generate about \$800,000 per year for the East Palo Alto Redevelopment Agency.

Marie McKenzie, the Redevelopment Project Manager with the City of East

Palo Alto, is more circumspect. She said that it is hard to know what the tax revenues will be until the project is built and assessed by the tax collector.

The construction of University Palms is expected to begin in April 2008 and last approximately 18 months.

Prior to the April groundbreaking, a relocation company will move all businesses on the east side of Donohoe Street between University Avenue and Cooley Avenue to another location.

Brock, who owns Brock & Mendoza's Food & Grill at 2118 University Avenue, will be among those business owners who will receive compensation for their business' relocation. Upon completion of the project, the relocated

businesses will have the option of moving into University Palms at a below market rate rental.

Both the former and the new owners of the University Palms project said that the entire East Palo Alto community will benefit from it in terms of increased job and leisure opportunities.

As for the community jobs that will be generated, McKenzie said that that will be based on the type of companies that lease the retail space, It might be restaurants, real-estate firms or other businesses.

On the whole, McKenzie is working closely with McFarlane and thinks that "the changes are phenomenal." She said that she is more concerned about the businesses that are there now and she wants to make

sure that when the University Palms project is complete that they stay in East Palo Alto.

Ultimately, Brock views the future of the project under the management of TMG and MacFarlane as a business decision that will improve East Palo Alto.

"Owen Byrd, Rockefeller, and Brock Co. don't do projects without community benefits,"Brock said.

"In property management, I value myself in helping make this a better community."

The new complex will be designed by Hoover Associates of Palo Alto,the same architectural firm which designed University Circle. The new improvements being proposed must still be approved by the City of East Palo Alto.

continued from page 1

Important commitment

commitment he made please the clergy and the leaders who were at the meeting to express their concern about the country's immigration policies, it also pleased many in the audience whose families had been affected by current ICE policies.

"My daughter clings to me when I drop her off at school, afraid I might not return" explained Lidia, a Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) leader from El Buen Pastor Episcopal Church in Redwood City, "this action by the Sheriff is critical to protect peninsula families."

Another PIA leader Maria Teresa said, "Six family members, including my two children, were taken away by ICE, none of them had deportation orders. I had to borrow \$16,000 dollars to get my children out, while the rest of my family remains in detention. I am in debt and don't know how I will pay next months rent."

Since Congress failed to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill this year, several congregations associated with PIA hosted the July meeting to ensure that



A cross section of attendees who heard the speakers at the meeting in San Mateo.

local policies were in place to protect families who have been terrorized by federal immigration raids.

Leaders of the congregations believed that more ICE incursions against local families were likely since federal funding for ICE had doubled over the past two years and was likely to increase.

In February and March of 2007, ICE agents who identified themselves as 'police' waited near schools; approached areas where day laborers gathered, and swept through homes and

apartment complexes in Redwood City, Palo Alto, and San Mateo. According to ICE records, more than 44% of the 400,000 people deported nationwide as part of 'operation return to sender' had no previous criminal record.

"ICE agents posed as local police, went door-to-door in neighborhoods searching for people, stood outside grocery stores and followed parents as they walked home after dropping their kid at school," said Silvia Ramirez, a PIA leader who is a mem-

ber of the Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

During the meeting where Munks spoke, San Francisco Catholic Archbishop Neideraur also addressed the racially and ethnically diverse crowd "This is not the first issue in American history over which a battle had to be fought between what was legal and what was moral. Our church stood against the immoral laws of slavery and segregation. Today, fight unjust laws that divide families."

In his remarks at the meet-

continued from page 1

ing, East Palo Alto City Council member Ruben Abrica encouraged the mayor of Redwood City to take action. Earlier this year, the East Palo Alto City Council passed a resolution that denounced the raids. The resolution also prohibited city employees, including the city's police department, from reporting the immigration status of any resident to ICE.

Mayor Pierce of Redwood City vowed to study the East Palo Alto resolution and to consider taking similar action in Redwood City. Pierce also committed her support to efforts that would allocate funds to provide low-cost legal services to residents who needed help with deportation or immigration cases.

"The peninsula community is united to protect all of our families and we continue to stand together to make sure these plans become a reality" explained Richard XXXX, a PIA leader from the First United Methodist Church, who preferred that his last name not be used.

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Community Calendar

Soccer and Karate Signups

RYAA will be taking accepting signups for soccer and karate on the following days:

Friday, Aug. 17
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
EPA Charter School

Wednesday, Aug. 22
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Soccer Field at Cesar Chavez School, EPA

Friday, Aug. 24
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Soccer Field at Cesar

Chavez School, EPA

About [RYAA Soccer](#)
RYAA Soccer is an exciting league for boys and girls ages 4-18. Practice begins in late August, and games go from September through November. The cost is \$40 and includes a uniform, a photo and an award.

About [RYAA Karate](#)
RYAA will be hosting FREE, one-month, self-defense classes starting in September. Classes will be on Monday and Wednesday nights for ages 6 - adult at the People's

Plaza, 1848 Bay Rd. in East Palo Alto. After passing the self-defense class, you can sign up for a three-month Karate session for \$100.

About RYAA in general
RYAA is a fun, faith-based league. Activities begin with prayer and participants learn good character as well as good skills. We emphasize fun, positive coaching, and good sportsmanship.

Monday, August 27
The Critical Mass Health

Conductor Initiative -- an effort to make people of African descent become change agents and conscious health advocates in the African American community will be conducting its second "journey" in the mid-peninsula, beginning Monday August 27th at 6pm at the Ravenswood Family Health Center/California Room located at 1798 Bay Road in East Palo Alto. All interested in making the journey and graduating to become health change agents in the African American community please come to the "Start Journey"

that Monday. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd gatherings will be held respectively on [September 17th](#), [October 15th](#), and [November 19th](#) at the same Ravenswood Family Health Center/California Room at 1798 Bay Road in East Palo Alto. Graduation will be on Saturday, December 8 in Oakland. For further information regarding Critical Mass Health Conductor, and the upcoming "journey" please contact Gloria Brown at 347-5724, Patrisha Ragins at 329-9085 or Meda Okelo at 323-4477

Working on my first summer job continued from page 14

jobs, Lizz Moala called me and told me I had been selected to be an alternate and that I should hold tight until they got more money and then they would call to tell me about where I would be working.

When Lizz called me back, she told me I had a job but I had to come in for a workshop and they would tell me then where I would be working. The workshop was about taking a test and getting some information about how we should look and how we should act when we started working. The test was easy. Then Lizz told me I'd be working at Canopy.

I had heard about Canopy. They planted trees, so I thought I'd be planting trees. On the first day I found out I'd be doing a lot more than planting trees, and the lot more would be stuff I didn't like to do: pick up trash, shovel mulch, pick weeds, and get dirty. At first I thought I would give it a try, but the second day I

wanted a new job. Things started going wrong with one of the people who were in charge of me. I wouldn't call her my boss, because I don't think she was my boss. My boss was another person, but she was sort of in charge. We were picking up trash, and she said I wasn't picking it up right or enough or something, but my bag was full. I asked her to look at my bag and look at the bags of the other people, but she wouldn't listen.

Then she did something me and my friends don't think is right: she snitched on me to Allan. Allan is like the director or something. I don't know. All I know is that Allan snitched on me to my Uncle Doug. Snitching is bad no matter what, but it's especially bad if it isn't true.

None of my friends like a snitch. I got really mad and left. I wouldn't talk to the woman. She tried to talk to me, but I

wouldn't say anything to her. I told everybody at my job what had happened-how she had snitched-and I don't think anybody liked her after that.

Then my Uncle Doug called and told my dad that he needed to talk to me. My dad kept asking what he needed to talk to me about. I thought he wanted to talk to me about my school, but it turned out he wanted to talk to me about this woman who thought she was my boss. He talked for like two hours about how I needed this job and how I needed to act like a worker and how I needed to stop being a racist.

I didn't think I was a racist then, and I don't think I'm a racist now. I think this woman overheard me repeating something a friend had said. Whatever, I had to listen to my Uncle Doug for a long time. My Uncle Doug is always there for me, and I love him very much. It hurt me to know he was disappointed. He was right,

too, about everything but the racist part. Even so, my thoughts after that were that I was not going back to that crappy job. I was mad. The money was not even on my mind anymore.

You want to know what I know about racism? One time this lady was driving me to a track meet, and we were driving up the street by Hillcrest. She looked at me and asked if this road looked familiar to me. She was white, and I think she meant she thought I had been in juvenile hall. Because I'm black. I haven't, but even if I had, it was wrong of her to think that I had and rude of her to say it out loud.

My situation regarding this supposedly racist stuff is different. I don't feel bad about it, even if people think what I did was wrong. I didn't say what she thought I said, and it wasn't even me, anyway. I was just repeating what I had heard, and it wasn't any of her business. She made it seem like I was saying it to her. That's not true.

The main point here is that I

didn't go back to that job, but my summer wasn't over. After a couple of phone calls, I had a meeting with Allan and we talked about what I had learned. I don't remember what I said. He says I said I had found out I would rather be working and making money than sitting at home not making money. That sounds OK. I'm glad I'm back at work. Pay day is tomorrow. That's good.

What I've really learned, though, is that work is hard. It makes me tired. Sometimes people ask me to do things that are hard to do, that I don't want to do. This is probably true for everyone.

I've always thought unemployed people were lazy, but getting a job and keeping a job is hard. I still want to be a lawyer. Allan told me this job, working for EPA Today, would be the right job for me down the line-that I was too smart to spend my life waiting tables. He says this job will look good on a resume or a college application. I hope he's right.

Letters

continued from page 8

recycled water on our crops. These legislators have passed bills to protect water polluters, raise allowable chemical limits and ignore prop 65 to label our bottle water with arsenic! Are they poisoning us?

Ira Ruskin has ignored the peer review evidence, given to him by Dr. Winn Parker, when Ruskin was head of the BAWSCA water board.

He is now spending millions to restudy the studies on Chloramine. Health Officials are political appointees and they have all ready declared a corrosive, lead leaching, skin burning, kidney and liver damaging, cancer and stroke causing, reproduction malfunctioning, THM producing, mutagen, gene damaging poison safe!

Will they come up with

new findings that it's bad so Dennis Kula-Johnson's group can sue the SFPUC? VOTE IRA RUSKIN OUT! Was Mayor Woods on BAWSCA when Ruskin headed the BAWSCA board?

I spoke for EPA to get bond money to fix your creek. Now this city needs federal bond money for a sea wall. With global warming, they predict the bay will raise

three feet in 20 years.

This city will flood and contaminate the Bay with the poisons from Romic. Newark and San Leandro desalinate water. There is a potential danger to thousands of people. Where are your city leaders to protect us?

Wynn Grcich
Union City
94587



David Lewis, Henrietta J. Burroughs and Chief Ron Davis talk about a new program to keep our cities safe.

Talking with Henrietta

The complete one hour discussion can be seen beginning on Fridays @ noon, Saturdays @ 1:30 p.m., Sundays @ 5 p.m., Mondays @ 8 a.m. and Thursdays @ 8 p.m. on Channel 27, which airs locally. It can be seen on the web at the above days and times at: www.communitymediacenter.net.

Gentrification

continued from page 9

the place that molded me into the upstanding young Black man that I am, they won't believe that this small two square mile city was a working class city.

Many of the places where I used to play and eat in this town will no longer be here, and they will laugh at me thinking that I have lied about the neighborhood I so loved to

say I grew up in.

As much as East Palo Alto has been given a bad dose of news headlines slated with murder and drug problems, let's not forget about programs such as College Track, EPA Can Do, and OICW that are shining examples of positivity in East Palo Alto. The gentrification must stop.

Youth sports page

Junior Giants, hitting a homerun for East Palo Alto

Samnit Kumar, EPA Today Intern



Arnold Hart with the Junior Giants

The Junior Giants is a FREE summer baseball league for inner cities and rural communities.

The East Palo Alto Junior Giants, established in 1994, offers summer baseball to youths ages 4 to 18.

The EPA Junior Giants was one of the first leagues to join the program. The organization is currently in need of coaches who can teach the fundamentals of the game. The EPA Junior Giants is composed of nearly 20 teams of all ages and skill levels.

The team provides its participants with all of their uniforms and equipment, with coaches who run professional training sessions and with unique opportunities such as clinics, festivals, Giant tickets and special scholarship awards.

To obtain more information about the EPA Junior Giants, contact Hilary Laurie (650) 548-6700 or visit the website www.jrgiants.org.

RYAA
The Ravenswood Youth

Athletic Association (RYAA) is another youth athletic organization formed in East Palo Alto. In partnership with local churches and school principles, the RYAA offers children a variety of athletic programs. When it began in the fall of 2006, the RYAA initially focused on soccer. Soccer has now become the largest sport in our community, and it is also the sport most in need of development.

Now that soccer has become widely known in the East Palo Alto community, RYAA is shifting it's focus to other sports and working with the city and school district to improve current sports facilities, and expand to make their sports programs more accessible to the community.

They also intend to help the youth within the program by focusing on their academic, social and spiritual needs.

The RYAA successfully finished a season of soccer and is now developing the

winter and spring soccer seasons, with other physical programs such as martial arts and boxing.

Representatives for RYAA said that the organization's partnership with local churches has played a major part in its development, especially since East Palo Alto has many churches, and a strong tradition of Christian faith and activism.

RYAA officials said, "Any organization can be a part of this exciting and empowering program that strengthens families and community." Community businesses are also invited to take part in RYAA's programs.

I recently spoke with Shannon Pekary, one of the leaders of the RYAA program who mentioned

that RYAA has started two new sports programs: basketball and karate.

Pekary said that since 2006, 500 kids have participated in the program and most were East Palo Alto residents.

Several local organizations including, the local law firm of DLA Piper, the Four Seasons Hotel and St. Francis Church, have contributed a lot to RYAA's programs.

For more information call : (650) 248-0488 or visit www.ravenswoodsports.org



Shannon Pekary with Basket Ball team

Running for the East Palo Alto Greyhounds

My name is Lasara Lacy I started running for the East Palo Alto Greyhounds Track and Field Team in January 2007. For years, East Palo Alto never had a track club unto January 2006. East Palo Alto Greyhounds has been a big success.

Eric Stuart the founder and director had a track career in high school and college. That's what inspired him to create this big success plus to give back to his community. He says its something he has a passion for.

This track team means a lot to me. I have a family within the team. I never really knew



Lasara Lacy and two of her teammates what a family was until Eric showed me.

I was what you might call a troubled child. But once I met Eric I wanted to be better because for once someone cared. My coach cared. Now I have tried to better myself in all ways.

Since the club started off rocky, people doubted it from the beginning. All kinds of unfair things were said. People believed that the youth couldn't behave or carry them selves right because we are from East Palo Alto. We showed them. Now we are in the top ten of what some call the most successfully organized track clubs out there.

That goes to show you that East Palo Alto is being judged before people really know who we are. There are so many success stories in this track club. It all started wit Eric who believed in us.

He's a great coach and leader.

Good luck on your nationals. Keep the good work up,

Greyhounds.

Lasara Lacy was an SEP intern when she wrote the above article.

Local Giant goes off to college

Samnit Kumar
EPA Today ntern

On August 11th, The Giants Community Fund will honor their first group of graduating students from the Junior Giants Scholars program in a pre-game ceremony.

One of the scholars, Ramon Meacham, a resident of East Palo Alto, overcame numerous obstacles to gain acceptance into Santa Clara University, a university some have called one of the best colleges in the Bay Area.

Meacham was chosen because he was a positive

role model for kids in his area, who are exposed daily to common urban problems.

The Junior Giants had four requirements that Meacham had to meet to become a candidate to receive the award.

He had to show confidence, integrity, leadership, teamwork. Ramon had said a few words about the program.

In an interview, Meacham mentioned how the Junior Giants helped him make it through East Palo Alto's high risk community "The kids in the community



Ramon Meacham

are falling into a life of crime, as they see people selling drugs," he said. "Sports allowed me to gain a different entrance."

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A collage of various sports images, including basketball, football, and baseball players in action.

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- *In the United States, women make up 25% of new HIV infections and of those new infections, **81%** are among **women of color**.
- *The rate of AIDS diagnosis for African American women is approximately **24 times** the rate for white women.

For information about HIV&AIDS and where to get tested, call the San Mateo County Health Department:
650-573-2346



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