COUNCIL FORCES CASTILLEJA TO PIVOT ON PLANS
Controversial garage must be redesigned

Page 5

Hate crimes on the rise in county
Page 5

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- Upfront  City set to appoint new housing panel  Page 9
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Castilleja forced to revise redevelopment plan

City Council asks for smaller underground garage, fewer events

By Gennady Sheyner

Castilleja School’s plan for modernizing its Bryant Street campus suffered a blow Monday when a skeptical Palo Alto City Council demanded major revisions to the school’s application, including a redesign of its controversial garage.

While the council didn’t take any formal action Monday during its third public hearing on the school’s contentious plan, its direction means that the school will have to modify its application and return for a fresh round of public hearings in front of the city’s Planning and Transportation Commission and Architectural Review Board. It effectively ensures that the project, which has been in the works for nearly five years, will not reach the finish line any time soon.

Much like the broader community, council members held a wide range of positions on the school’s proposed redevelopment, which would involve replacing campus buildings, building a new underground garage, relocating the school’s swimming pool to an underground location and gradually expanding student enrollment from the current level of 426 to 540.

Some, including Mayor Tom DuBois and council members Lydia Kou and Greer Stone, were deeply critical of the proposal and suggested that they could not support the plan in its current form. Others, including Vice Mayor Pat Burt and council members Alison Cormack and Greg Tana, were more willing to advance Castilleja’s project, albeit with some modifications.

Despite the division, council (continued on page 11)

HATE CRIMES

Hate incidents spike around the county

District Attorney: Cases are thought to be in the hundreds or thousands

By Sue Dremann

A man in the grocery store made an ominous gesture toward an Asian couple shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began last year. Pointing his hand in a gun gesture, he said, “If I had an AK-47, I would kill you (expletive) Chinese right now.”

The incident, as related by Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Erin West during a recent Palo Alto Human Relations Commission meeting, is one of many examples of hate crimes county and city law enforcement and prosecutors are dealing with, they said.

Hate crimes and hate incidents — demonstrations of hatred that are not associated with a criminal act — are rising dramatically in Santa Clara County and in Palo Alto, police and the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office said during a Palo Alto Human Relations Commission meeting in mid-March.

The troubling trend caught the commission off guard. The rise was far steeper and the range of incidents were more alarming than they knew, said commission members, who have been aware of multiple hate incidents in the city since at least 2020.

Representatives of the Palo Alto Police Department and the DA’s office presented the sobering news as the commission was (continued on page 36)
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (surname) (first name):

MELANIE ASHLAND
151 Caldonia Ave #123
Mountain View, CA 94040

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (surname) (first name):

Soul Turning, located at 2136 Creeden Mountain View, CA 94041

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (surname) (first name):

CYNTHIA HAINES
2716 Waasch Drive
Mt. View, CA 94040

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (surname) (first name):

VICKI JAMIESON
2152 Carol Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

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The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (surname) (first name):

JANET STONE HERMAN
2152 Carol Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (surname) (first name):

WATERSTONE CONSULTING SERVICES
2152 Carol Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (surname) (first name):

JANET STONE HERMAN
2152 Carol Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (surname) (first name):

CREEKSIDE REALTY WEST
2176 Waasch Drive
Mt. View, CA 94040

This business is owned by: An Individual.

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As police encrypt their radios, Palo Alto eyes new measures to boost transparency

City Council set to consider alternatives to encryption of all public safety radio communications

By Gennady Sheyner

Facing a new claim of excessive force by a police officer in a recent case, and ongoing concerns about transparency within the Palo Alto Police Department, the City Council will consider on Monday whether to move further in the department’s abrupt decision in January to encrypt all police dispatch communications.

The council’s discussion will come three months after Palo Alto became one of the first cities in Santa Clara County to encrypt all communications, a move that was made without any council direction and no advance warning to the community. City Manager Ed Shikada and Police Chief Robert Jonsen have consistently said that the move was made to comply with an October directive from the state Department of Justice, which requires agencies to protect personally identifiable information (including Social Security numbers and driver’s license numbers) from being published.

Palo Alto opted for the simpler and more dramatic option of flipping the switch to full encryption in January — a move that has since been replicated by all Santa Clara County cities except Santa Clara and Milpitas.

The April 5 meeting will offer the council its first opportunity to discuss and possibly revise the new encryption policy, which has been strongly opposed by this publication, the Palo Alto Daily Post and The Mercury News because it removes the ability of newsrooms to monitor police scanners and gives the Police Department almost complete control over which incidents get reported to the public.

In explaining the decision to encrypt, Jonsen highlighted in January the various challenges of adopting alternative approaches to protecting personally identifiable information, including having the police officer use a cellphone or a different frequency to transmit that information. Requiring officers to switch frequencies in the middle of a police action would complicate their ability to transmit information quickly, creating more dangers for officers and the public, he said.

He also noted at that time that to develop alternative policies would be complex, potentially expensive and time-consuming.

At the same time, the city is leaving the door open to further tweaks to the radio policies. Earlier this month, Jonsen sent a letter to the Department of Justice requesting permission to switch back to a nonencrypted channel while the city considers other options. (As of Wednesday, the city had not received a response from the department, Jonsen said.)

A change of direction, Jonsen wrote, is “to allow for great transparency with the public.” He acknowledges in the letter, however, that switching back would result in personal information being released on a non-encrypted channel.

“The city of Palo Alto would remain on a publicly accessible channel until Dec. 31, 2021, unless a viable alternative has been identified before that date,” Jonsen wrote.

A new report from the Police Department notes that department staff are “currently exploring the feasibility of alternative options for complying with these state and federal security requirements while simultaneously providing for as much transparency with radio transmissions as legally possible.” Yet it also underscores the challenge of adopting these approaches.

“Of the other agencies in the county already using encrypted radio channels, none considered alternative options due to the nu-meric, technological and time-consuming challenges they present; as a result, there is no local model using alternative options that staff can readily replicate,” the report states. Any effort by Palo Alto to move away from encryption may also complicate its ability to communicate with surrounding agencies. According to a letter from the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority and former Palo Alto fire chief Nick Nickel, who has been helping various police agencies come into compliance with the new DOJ mandate, said that when Palo Alto switched to encryption, it lost many of the interoperability features that it had previously enjoyed with its mutual-aid partners, Mountain View and Los Altos, which had not yet encrypted their radio transmissions.

“If some are encrypted and some are not, there are a lot of interoperability features that we can’t use,” Nickel told this publication.

As a result, dispatchers had to do extra work to establish “talk groups,” Nickel said. Any agency that switches away from encryption while all of its neighbors encrypt would face the same challenge.

Furthermore, when an agency with encrypted radios communi- cates with one with nonencrypted radios, the communication de-faults to nonencrypted communi-cation and, as a result, the agencies fall out of compliance with the DOJ order when personal infor-mation is transmitted, Nickel said.

While Nickel said that the choice of whether or not to encrypt is ultimately up to each individual agency, his agency has been working to ensure that these decisions do not compromise the abilities of police departments throughout the county to work together.

He also noted that it is possible to encrypt public communications while still maintaining some transparency. One way to do that is to stream the radio traffic on a computer server and give only certain people — such as members of the media — access to that server. That method, which is used in Orange County, would allow authorized users of the systems to log on to the server through their computers or phones and listen to the police communications.

“We’re trying to come up with ways that would meet the intent of the Department of Justice, while keeping the interoperability

(continued on page 37)
Mental Health

Would Laura’s Law have saved a Mountain View man’s life?

Santa Clara County debates whether to adopt state’s mandatory mental health treatment policy

By Kevin Forestieri

For years, former Mountain View resident Jeffrey Middlebrook said he watched his son crumble after returning home from military service. Suffering from a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), his son Kenneth attempted suicide multiple times, grappling with drug addiction and simply could not stick to a treatment regimen that would get his life back together, the older Middlebrook said. The episode led to two felony convictions, including for possession of child pornography, and ended up landing his group. Since his return, he has jumped off the streets.”

Kenneth’s story is similar to that of many others. The emotionally charged back-and-forth has already caused a rift at the county level. Behavioral health officials want the county to stay the course and not implement Laura’s Law, calling it unnecessary and ineffective. But at a meeting last month, two county supervisors said they are keeping an open mind. “Supporters of the law say it’s about time and that Laura’s Law would offer a real path to recovery for patients who have been failed by the county’s mental health system. They pointed to homeless people on the street, many of whom are suffering from a mental illness and unable to care for themselves, as visible proof that the change is sorely needed.

Others caution that Laura’s Law is not a panacea for the state’s mental health woes and that taking away the civil liberties of a threatened man unless they posed an immediate threat to themselves and others — a high bar that was tantamount to waiting until the problem got worse.

The legalization passed Laura’s Law in 2002 following a groundswell of support from mental health advocates who worried that the status quo was untenable. People without care who were psychotic could not function without involuntary commitment unless they posed an immediate threat to themselves and others — a high bar that was tantamount to waiting until the problem got worse. The law is named after Laura Wilcox, a 19-year-old woman who was shot and killed by a schizophrenic patient who was psychotic, and her family tried desperately to get her help. But in California, the idea of compulsory mental health treatment has fallen out of favor: State psychiatric hospitals have shuttered, and people tend to bristle at the idea of involuntary commitment. “We used to lock people up, and now we went so far to the other side that we aren’t providing care to the people who need it,” she said.

Johnny Khamis, a former San Jose councilman, has relentlessly pushed the county to adopt Laura’s Law for years and said the unwillingness to implement court-mandated treatment amounts to sending sick people out onto the street. Families have loved ones who aren’t getting the intervention they need, he said, while businesses have to tolerate verbal and physical assaults by people suffering from severe mental illness.

“The fact of the matter is the people who are running into traffic and hitting their heads into a wall are not making good decisions for themselves to begin with,” Khamis said. “I think it’s a lack of compassion not to use Laura’s Law.”

Walking away from treatment

Kenneth Middlebrook served more than two years in the U.S. Army before his discharge in June 2012. During that time, he suffered a traumatic brain injury and returned with PTSD that required residential treatment. Four months after his return, he jumped off the roof of a three-story building.

Jeffrey Middlebrook said his son has been haunted by his experiences in Iraq, including an incident in which an improvised explosive device blew up his vehicle and decapitated members of his group. Since his return, he has become addicted to drugs including methamphetamine, been arrested several times and fallen in and out of homelessness.

It was clear that his son’s situation was deteriorating, but it felt impossible to do anything about it, Middlebrook said. He lamented that the courts did not commit his son to rehab while he was only facing misdemeanor drug offenses.

In April 2014, Kenneth Middlebrook approached a 19-year-old Alviso woman and asked for a ride to Mountain View, according to court records. When they arrived, Middlebrook reportedly got agitated, grabbed her phone and threatened to snap her neck, according to the victim’s statement. He demanded that she drive them both to Palo Alto, and when the victim intentionally crashed into another car in order to help, court records said.

Later that day, he entered the home of a 61-year-old Mountain View woman and forced her into the passenger seat of her car before driving the vehicle out to the city of Ione, 40 miles southeast of Sacramento, according to court records. He got out of the vehicle and wandered off.

The episode led to two felony convictions and sparked three years of fruitless referrals for mental health treatment. Santa Clara County Superior Court ruled that Kenneth Middlebrook served more than two years in the U.S. Army before his discharge in June 2012. During that time, he suffered a traumatic brain injury and returned with PTSD that required residential treatment. Four months after his return, he jumped off the roof of a three-story building.

Jeffrey Middlebrook said his son has been haunted by his experiences in Iraq, including an incident in which an improvised explosive device blew up his vehicle and decapitated members of his group. Since his return, he has become addicted to drugs including methamphetamine, been arrested several times and fallen in and out of homelessness.

“Kenneth has walked away from three programs, failed to engage in treatment, and has not reported to offices of adult probation,” probation officer David Villalobos wrote in January 2018. “After two years in jail for the 2014 felonies, Middlebrook was released but unstable, getting arrested and taken into custody every few months due to probation violations. The cycle abruptly ended in November 2018, when he was arrested and later convicted for possession of child pornography. He remains in state prison, with possible release in 2022.”

Jeffrey Middlebrook said he would emphatically support
Eighty applicants vie for seats on Palo Alto’s new housing panel

Group will be charged with evaluating strategies for incentivizing residential construction

By Gennyday Sheyner

Seventeen volunteers, including residents, community activists and property owners, will be chosen next week from a group of 80 applicants for a complex two-year assignment: drafting a roadmap for the expansion of Palo Alto’s housing supply.

The City Council is preparing to appoint on Monday a new citizens panel devoted to crafting the city’s Housing Element for 2023-2031. The state-mandated document they’ll be working on will propose new housing programs and identify existing sites that can be used for housing.

The group also will attempt to bring the city into compliance with a new state law, Assembly Bill 686, which requires cities to “affirmatively further fair housing” by establishing a policy aimed at combating discrimination, overcoming patterns of segregation and promoting inclusion.

“It’s looking at breaking down barriers to entry and discrimination in our zoning regulations to address social equity,” Planning Director Jonathan Lait told the council during a Feb. 1 discussion of the new working group.

In Palo Alto, where new housing is both a top priority and a rare commodity, the panel’s appointment comes at a time when city leaders are facing increasing pressure to relax zoning standards and consider new sites for residential construction. Under a methodology proposed in the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, Palo Alto will be expected to produce 6,086 housing units between 2023 and 2033. More than half of the new housing would be for people in the very low-, low- and moderate-income categories.

The Housing Element Working Group, which will consist of 15 regular members and two alternates, will be charged with evaluating strategies for meeting these goals in monthly meetings, starting on May 6 and concluding in October 2022. It will work with a new council ad hoc committee composed of Mayor Tom DuBois and council members Eric Filseth and Greer Stone to craft the document, which would then be submitted to the full council for review and potential approval.

Under state law, the document must include an analysis of the city’s housing needs, an inventory of sites to accommodate future growth, a discussion of constraints that inhibit housing production and a list of programs that implement the city’s housing policies.

Despite the complexity of the task and the time commitment it would entail, the city has seen a surge of interest from residents wishing to serve on the new Housing Element Working Group. According to the city’s planning staff, 80 people applied for the panel by the March 5 deadline. Those interested include past and present city commissioners, housing advocates, nonprofit developers, community activists, school volunteers, unhoused residents and citizens interested in housing policies.

Stanford University also will have a role in the group. In choosing categories for the new group, Stanford University is included in the list of potential appointees: Jessica von Borck, director of land use planning, and Jean Soder, associate vice president for real estate. The list of applicants also includes representatives from two housing developers: John Hickey from Summerhill Housing Group and Sheryl Klein from the nonprofit Alta Housing.

In keeping with council criteria, the list of applicants also includes three advocates for the unhoused community (including two former unhoused individuals) and three who represent residents with special needs children.

The full list of applicants is available on the city’s website at CityofPaloAlto.org.

Email Staff Writer Gennyday Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.
Eligibility expands for COVID-19 vaccines

By Embarcadero Media staff, CalMatters and Bay City News Foundation

Meanwhile, uncertainty builds over supply of doses

PUBLIC HEALTH

Eligibility expands for COVID-19 vaccines

State expands vaccine eligibility

All Californians 50 and older are now eligible to be vaccinated, a provision that kicked in on April 1, while everyone 16 and older will qualify two weeks later, on April 15.

The expansion means that the state will open up vaccinations to all adults before May 1, when President Joe Biden had anticipated the move nationwide.

Even with this expansion in eligibility and supply, it will take several months to vaccinate everyone who wants a vaccine, health officials warn.

It also is likely to spur a rush for appointments, leaving many people frustrated that they are unable to line up vaccinations.

Some counties have already been expanding the list of who is eligible. Solano County opened up vaccines to residents 50 and older two weeks ago. Contra Costa followed last week.

But health officials in Santa Clara County said despite the expanded eligibility, there are still far too few doses available.

Dr. Marty Fenstersheib noted at a briefing last week that the county has about 400,000 residents aged 50 to 64, but it would get only 58,000 doses this week despite having the capacity to vaccinate as many as 200,000 people.

“We are concerned,” said Fenstersheib, the county’s COVID-19 vaccine task force lead and testing officer. “We really just want to caution people to please continue to be patient” as they seek appointments.

Sutter Health, which includes CalSutter, D-Menlo Park, on Monday urged Californians to expand vaccine eligibility in San Mateo County’s vulnerable communities ahead of April 15 when the state plans to allow all adults 16 and older to get vaccinated.

In a news release, Becker restated a state-wide policy for vaccinations for all residents 16 and older in communities like East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks, which have had higher infection rates and lower vaccination rates compared to the rest of San Mateo County.

The goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to get vaccinated, Becker said.

“Communities like East Palo Alto are home to large numbers of essential frontline workers who have heroically stepped up and supported all of us through the entire pandemic but remain largely unvaccinated,” Becker said in a statement.

Vaccination rates in East Palo Alto continue to lag behind the average in San Mateo County. As of Thursday, 25.8% of eligible East Palo Alto residents have been vaccinated so far compared to 44.2% countywide.

In terms of infection rates, East Palo Alto represents about 4% of the population in San Mateo County but has had 10% of COVID-19 cases overall. In the last 30 days, 8% of the county’s cases were in East Palo Alto, according to county data updated on March 26.

In San Mateo County, residents eligible for the vaccine include health care workers, residents 65 and older and essential workers in the education, child care, food and agriculture and emergency response sectors.

The county is also vaccinating people experiencing homelessness, workers while some health care providers are providing vaccinations for people 16 to 64 years old with underlying medical conditions.

Becker took issue with the current scope of eligibility categories.

“Firstly, roles like construction worker, housekeeper, and gardener are not listed,” Becker said.

“Secondly, many in East Palo Alto may, for example, take care of other people who are not a licensed childcare provider. These people are not coming in if they think they may not be eligible because they don’t want to take someone else’s spot.”

Expanding eligibility would also help families who live together.

“When you have a hard-hit community with massive community spread and folks living in crowded homes together, it doesn’t make sense for a 49-year-old to drive a 70-year-old and for that 49-year-old not to get vaccinated,” Becker said.

This isn’t the first call for increased vaccinations in East Palo Alto.

In a news conference March 1, Becker and other local leaders called for the state to increase vaccine clinics in East Palo Alto given its low vaccination rate. Since then, the county announced weekly vaccination clinics in East Palo Alto through the Ravenswood Family Health Center.

Becker commended the county for its efforts and said, “Now we just need to make it as easy as possible for people in these communities to get vaccinated and that’s why I’m calling for this expanded eligibility.”

People can sign up at MyTurn.ca.gov to be notified when they become eligible for the vaccine.

A MyTurn help line is available at 833-422-4255.

Those struggling to make an appointment can also contact Becker’s district office at 650-212-3313.

New COVID-19 cases, deaths

Santa Clara County as of Wednesday had 114,570 cumulative COVID-19 cases and 1,942 deaths. There were 114 hospitalizations, 14 of which were new.

San Mateo County as of Wednesday had 40,424 cumulative COVID-19 cases, with 547 deaths. There were 32 people hospitalized.

Since the start of the pandemic, 1.69% of Santa Clara County cases of COVID-19 have been fatal and 1.35% of San Mateo County cases have been fatal, according to the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange and San Mateo County Health.

CalMatters reporter Ana B. Ibarra and Bay City News Foundation reporter Astrid Casimere contributed to this report.

Updated March 31, 2021
Castilleja
(continued from page 5)

members generally agreed that the key to Castilleja’s success will be traffic management. The proposal already includes a “no net new trips” requirement, suggested by planning commission- ers, that mandates the school not incur more traffic than currently exists. It also includes an aggres- sive transportation-management program that relies on shuttles, carpooling and bike programs so that students and faculty don’t commute in cars.

If traffic counts show Castilleja failing to limit its traffic, the school would face penalties and be required to halt its enrollment growth.

But despite this requirement, implemented to minimize the impact of the school’s growing enrollment on the neighborhood, council members said Monday that they are skeptical about the city’s ability to enforce the traffic measures. Council member Eric Filseth wondered whether it’s even possible for Castilleja to add students while keeping traffic levels steady.

“We’re running up against some laws of physics here,” Filseth said.

“It’s hard to have a destination school in a residential neighbor- hood that continues to grow and doesn’t run into traffic problems. That’s kind of what we’re grappling with.

The council’s biggest accompl- ishment over the course of Monday’s five-hour discussion was its decision on the plan’s most controver- sial element: an underground parking garage. Having failed to offer a clear direction on the garage at its prior two hear- ings, the council Monday backed the only compromise that could muster majority support: a scaled- down version of the garage that would accommodate up to half of the school’s required parking spots, or 57 cars.

Burt said allowing the under- ground garage but in a reduced form achieves the “right balance” and alleviates community concerns about the facility, which many residents had criticized as being incompatible with the single-family residential neighborhood.

For DuBois, Kou and Stone, even the smaller garage proved too much. DuBois and Kou both said they would prefer no garage at all, while Stone asserted that he would need more information about the smaller garage before he could support it.

While the council’s vote offered Castilleja a tenuous path forward, it effectively dashed the school’s hopes that the project would advance soon. Instead, the proposal will now be remanded to the planning commission, which already held six hearings on the project, and the architectural board, which reviewed the project over three hearings. Each panel ultimately recommended approval of the project.

Tanaka said requiring a smaller garage constitutes “a total reset of this whole project.”

“It’s not like we’re changing a window. It’s an entirely different project,” he said.

The council’s decision to require a smaller garage appeared to catch Castilleja by surprise. Mindie Romanowsky, Castilleja’s attorney, said the new direction would require the school to offer more surface parking on its cam- pus, potentially encroaching into its playing field and green spaces.

“My concern here is, if only 50% of the parking spaces are allowed to be underground, I’m not sure where else we’d park,” Romanowsky said. “That’s the concern.”

Aside from its split over the parking facility, the council largely agreed that Castilleja should be required to prove definitively that it can manage its traffic before it can increase enrollment.

To that end, council members approved a two-page motion crafted by Stone and Burt that calls for stronger penalties for noncompliance, a possible cre- ation of a TDM Oversight Com- mittee and an increase in the pro- portion of Castilleja students who live within bicycle distance from the campus.

In another blow to the school, council members also indicated they favor lowering the number of special events of 50 or more at- tendees that Castilleja is allowed to hold on its campus. After the planning commission recom- mended a maximum of 74 spe- cial events annually (and none on Sundays), Kou suggested that the commission and staff consider limiting the number to between 50 and 70.

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly. com.

About the cover: Castilleja School, which is looking to rebuild its Bryant Street campus, was directed this week to revise its plans. Photo by Magali Gauthier. Design by Douglas Young.

Bentley Square, a Mountain View signature neighborhood.

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News Digest

Ravenswood district to reopen schools April 12
The Ravenswood City School District school board voted 5-0 on March 25 to start reopening schools on April 12, with some reluctance from Board President Mele Latu and Trustee Bromynn Alexander. Teachers will be required to return to work, but the four schools will lack the flexibility to identify what kind of model to imple- ment, either livestreaming, a half-day of in-person instruction or a full day. Families will still have the option to keep their children at home for fully remote learning.

A previous vote on March 23 reflected an ongoing ten- sion between teacher concerns and students and families who are desperate to get back to face-to-face learning. The majority of about 680 parents who responded to a survey want their children to go back to school, but there are not enough teachers willing to volun- teer to teach in person to serve them all.

Superintendent Gina Sudaria advocated for a full reopening, cit- ing improving public health conditions in San Mateo County and East Palo Alto and vaccination rates among staff. The district re- ceived priority from the county to get staff vaccinated, and 63% of employees have received at least their first vaccine shot.

Until the March 25 vote, Ravenswood was the only elementary school district in San Mateo County that hadn’t reopened district- wide or approved a plan to do so, Sudaria said.

Ravenswood started slowly reopening schools for small groups of students in January. Only teachers who volunteered had to return.

The districtwide reopening will start on April 12 with a phased- in approach through May 5. ■

—Elena Kadavny

Man arrested in Baskin-Robbins robbery
A 30-year-old man has been nabbed for the March 22 robbery at the Palo Alto Baskin-Robbins store and is being held in connection with 12 additional alleged robberies in other cities.

The man was arrested by the U.S. Marshals Service and the San Jose Police Department on Wednesday night in San Jose after other robberies, Palo Alto police said in a press release on March 26. De- tectives have served an arrest warrant on him for the Palo Alto case.

On March 22, around 7 p.m., a robbery occurred at the Baskin- Robbins store at 260 South Sand Hill Road. A man entered the business and ordered food. When the employee, a woman in her 20s, returned with the food, he allegedly pointed a black semi- automatic handgun at her, ordered her to open the cash register, and took cash.

Video surveillance showed he also stole money from the tip jar. He exited the store and was last seen driving southbound on Middlefield Road in a four-door sedan.

The suspect was later identified through a collaboration with local detectives and regional law enforcement agencies.

The San Jose Police Department and multiple Bay Area law en- forcement agencies worked together for months to identify and ap- prehend the person responsible for six armed robberies of Subway stores in San Jose and seven additional armed robberies throughout the Bay Area, including in Millpitas, Fremont, Union City, Redwood City and Palo Alto, San Jose police said in a separate statement. ■

Siblings plead guilty to $4M theft of laptops
A former Stanford University employee and her brother have pleaded guilty to federal charges related to thefts of Apple MacBooks worth more than $4 million from Stanford University, fed- eral prosecutors said on March 10.

Patricia Castaneda, 37, of San Carlos, pleaded guilty to one count of federal program theft. Her brother, Eric Castaneda, 36, of Red- wood City, pleaded to conspiracy to transport property interstate, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert said.

The case involves two individuals — including one who reportedly worked for Tesla in Palo Alto — who were charged and have taken plea deals; they took part in a crime operation that also involved an unnamed person from Folsom. The Folsom resi- dent is alleged to have purchased hundreds of MacBooks from the four defendants for sale to others outside of California, according to documents filed in court by the U.S. Attorney’s Of- fice for the Northern District of California.

Patricia Castaneda worked in the Stanford University School of Humanities and Sciences, according to the documents. One of her responsibilities was to order Apple MacBooks for university faculty and staff. In 2009 or 2010, she allegedly began stealing MacBooks from the store and later sold the stolen computer to a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a $250,000 fine. The actual sentences are at the court’s discretion, prosecutors said. ■

—Sue Dremann

BY THE NUMBERS
People served by Laura’s Law in San Francisco

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source: San Francisco Department of Public Health, Nov. 2015 - Dec. 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>82%</td>
<td>were previously admitted to a psychiatric hospital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63%</td>
<td>were previously incarcerated at least once in San Francisco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81%</td>
<td>previously required emergency psychiatric services</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>of 129 clients treated through a mandatory court order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54%</td>
<td>had recently experienced homelessness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>clients needed enforcement to comply with treatment</td>
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</tr>
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Laura’s Law (continued from page 8)

Laura’s Law in Santa Clara Coun- ty and that it was “non-stop frustra- tion” to get his son to stay in any VA treatment programs, which he said make the false as- sumption that young people with dysan is mentally capable of making the right decisions for themselves.

“None of this would have hap- pened had the treatment programs for guys like my son been court- mandated. It blows my mind that the VA doesn’t realize that guys like my son need these treatment programs,” Middle- brook said. “The system failed my son miserably.”

Early success with outpatient treatment
While Santa Clara County remains steadfast in its opposi- tion to Laura’s Law, other Bay Area counties have warmed up to the idea. In early February, San Francisco launched its assisted outpatient-treatment program in 2015 and found participants were more likely to stick with a treat- ment regimen and less likely to end up in a hospital or in jail.

San Mateo County has provid- ed assisted outpatient treatment for the last five years through the nonprofit Caminar, which has a cadre of mental health profession- als and social workers helping roughly 50 clients at a time. Few- er than 1% of patients have been incarcerated or admitted into an inpatient psychiatric hospital since enrolling in the program, said Mark Cloutier, Caminar’s chief executive officer.

Cloutier said that Laura’s Law, despite being conflated with a loss of autonomy, is actually a last-ditch effort to save someone’s civil liberties. The program, which started in 2005, has provided treat- ment through assisted outpatient treatment, people with severe mental illness who are not getting treatment and who will end up in a conservatorship, which would shatter all pretenses of personal liberty by putting treatment deci- sions in the hands of someone else.

“It’s important to think of (as- sisted outpatient treatment) as an extra level of protection for clients that gives them an oppor- tunity for compliance before the possibility of being conserved,” Cloutier said.

Laura’s Law is also written with precise language that tightly lim- its who can be forced into treat- ment. They must be an adult with a severe mental disorder and be “unlikely to survive” in the community without supervision. They also have to have a history of fail- ing to comply with voluntary treatment and one or more seri- ous or violent incidents in the last two years.

It’s the treatment services that assisted outpatient treatment provides — rather than the compulsory element — that leads to all the positive results, says Becky Moskwitz, an attorney with the Law Foundation of Sil- icon Valley, said it’s the treatment services that assisted outpatient treatment provides — rather than the compulsory element — that leads to all the positive results, says Becky Moskwitz, an attorney with the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley.

It’s a narrow approach, yet Cloutier said he worries some advocates think that Laura’s Law will clean up the streets or some- how eliminate homelessness. While there is an overlap between homelessness and mental illness, most will not qualify.

“For policy makers or the pub- lic who think AOT is going to solve everything, it’s not how it works,” he said. “The problem with homelessness is much more complicated than what a program like this can actually do.”

California’s new law requires Santa Clara County officials to decide whether to opt into Laura’s Law by July 1. While the county has yet to make a decision, it has spanned nearly two de- cades. The county has long held that assisted outpatient treatment is redundant and that existing programs reach far more people than Laura’s Law ever could. In a report last month, county behav- ioral health staff also suggested that people of color could be disproportionately subjected to court-mandated treatment, which has been the subject of scrutiny in New York.

Eggman said claims of possible inequity don’t hold water.

“I think the data shows the ma- jority of people who have been treated are Caucasian men be- tween the age of 26 and 46,” she said. “The data doesn’t hold up to the emotional argument.”

Becky Moskwitz, an attorney with the Law Foundation of Sili- con Valley, said it’s the treatment services that assisted outpatient treatment provides — rather than the compulsory element — that leads to all the positive results reported out of counties like San Francisco and San Mateo. County supervisors should not confuse the two, she said. At a Feb. 17 committee meeting, she argued that those with mental illness would be better served by stable housing, which is a key part of the recovery process.

Cloutier said housing is a seri- ous lack in better treatment in San Mateo and that no real clinical progress can be made for those who are insecurely housed. Housing subsidies are available for those participating in assisted outpatient treatment over its two-year period, but all that progress is at risk once they expire. Of the people who have gone through the program, 23% are homeless.

“Once you’ve stabilized some- one and they lose their housing, they are likely to go back to the circumstances that had them re- ferred to AOT in the first place,” he said.

Though Eggman has advocated for Laura’s Law, she said the in- tent of her bill is to force coun- ties who have opted out to at least take a hard look at reconsider- ing, which is exactly what Santa Clara County is doing today. She said that if outpatient treatment won’t be a cure-all and will only affect a small population, which is exactly the point.

“When it comes to mandating something against peoples’ will, it should be used very sparingly,” she said. ■

Email Staff Writer Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv- voice.com.
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Vandalism after         ......................... 2
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Editorial

Nearing zero transparency

City Council should reverse police department decision to silence its radio communications

In the late 1800s, when police began using vehicles in the United States, it meant no one could be reached using special red lights located near major intersections or on tall buildings. When the officers saw the red light, activated from the police station, they would use a police box on the street or forlornly watch the light until someone called in for police assistance.

One-way radios, which enabled officers on patrol to receive dispatches from headquarters, but not transmit a response, were first introduced almost a century ago in Detroit. San Francisco, Berkeley and others quickly followed suit.

Then in a major advancement, in 1933 the Bayonne, New Jersey, police became the first department to use two-way radios. Within a few years, cities all over the country adopted the new technology.

Since radio transmissions were over the public airwaves and open to anyone with a receiver to listen in, hobbyists, curious members of the public and the news media began following police activity going on in their city. It became an essential reporting tool for journalists. Without it, the public would only know what the police chooses to tell them in press releases.

Today, the ability to monitor police dispatch communications with officers is the only way for the media and public to have any independent visibility into police activity as it is happening, unless one stumbles upon it. Police scanners have been monitored by virtually every local news organization and allow editors to keep an eye out for what is going on in the community.

When a major incident occurs, it is immediately obvious because of the increase in radio traffic, enabling reporters and photographers to cover it when appropriate. Without this monitoring, the news and public would have no ability to inform the public, quell rumors or observe police practices and conduct in real time.

In Palo Alto, this all came to an abrupt end on Jan. 5, when Police Chief Robert Jonsen unilaterally made the decision to encrypt all police department radio frequencies due to a belief at the time, he says, that he was required to do so by the state Department of Justice in order to protect personal identifying information about suspects, such as drivers’ license numbers, from being overheard.

Encryption makes the radio traffic understandable only by specially equipped police radios. For everyone else, the police frequencies are now silent.

Other police departments in the area are now following Palo Alto. In spite of a national call for more transparency into police behavior, our law enforcement leaders are doing exactly the opposite.

Three years ago, as scattered police departments around the state began encryption, law enforcement lobbying groups killed a bill in the legislature to require police to provide the media with access to radio transmissions when departments implement encryption measures. The right journalists have to cross police lines as long as it does not interfere with the police activity.

On Monday, the Palo Alto City Council will hear a report on police operations from Chief Jonsen that will provide elected officials the chance to question this policy and reverse his January action. The directive from the state Department of Justice did not require encryption, only that departments adopt a way to prevent personal identifying information regarding suspects from being heard on police radio.

There are at least three options short of blocking all communications that will achieve the required privacy protections: implement encryption only on the non-dispatch frequencies, keeping the primary dispatch frequency un-encrypted; issue an encrypted radio receiver to news organizations that meet certain reasonable requirements; or implement a real-time automated dispatch log/alert system similar to that used by the fire department, providing a live feed of all calls for service, their status and the dispatched units.

In early March Jonsen took a step in the right direction when he asked the state Department of Justice if Palo Alto could temporar-ily return with a plan that does not take away the only means of monitoring police activity in the city. No other city department operates with as little transparency as the police. At a time when the need for public scrutiny of police conduct has never been greater, we can’t afford to make transparency worse.

The power outage: From a lemon to lemonade

By Diana Diamond

A t 5 p.m. on Saturday, my power went out, along with 7,000 other Palo Alto residents. I think for all of us on the Peninsula, power outages occasionally occur, so this was our turn — residents in the 94301 and 94306 areas.

My husband tried to report it. He called the Palo Alto Utilities emergency number, but there was no answer. He tried several times and finally heard a robot say, “If you want to report an outage, call this number.”

When it was answered, he was asked to go down the telephone tree — do you have a question on billing, your account, etc. Final-ly, to report an outage, press #4 (or some number she said). First question: Do you want a techni-cian to call you to help you with your problem? If not, he was to call a certain number number, and the right journalists have to cross police lines as long as it does not interfere with the police activity.

On Monday, the Palo Alto City Council will hear a report on police operations from Chief Jonsen that will provide elected of-ficials the chance to question this policy and reverse his January action. The directive from the state Department of Justice did not require encryption, only that departments adopt a way to prevent personal identifying information regarding suspects from being heard on police radio.

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Another man nearby said, “No. I’ve been checking everywhere but there’s no information about the outage.”

The man behind us said that the outage was a big one and went up to Atherton. Next to him the woman said she understood it hit the whole Bay Area.

Someone else said that the blackout was supposed to be over by 9 p.m. The waiter chimed in that he’d heard there was a prob-lem at the park on Park Boule-vard, where a mylar balloon got caught in the power lines.

The woman two tables over suggested we “ban the balloons.” Someone else said we should just ban kids with balloons. Another facetiously said that maybe we should just ban babies.

And so, we ate the oysters, bread and a leafy green salad while watching the table hopping. By the time we left at 7:15 p.m., most of the customers waved to us. We waved back.

It was one of the funniest din-ners I’ve had in a couple of years — a new experience talking with everyone in the outside eating area. And the oysters from Or-egon (with a lemon slice) were wonderful.

The maître d said the blackout was a big surprise — and such a big loss. Business was coming in your car; and, of course, have a good book ready to read in a dark house.

Diana Diamond is a longtime Palo Alto journalist, editor and author of the blog “An Alternative View,” which can be found at PaloAltoOnline.com/blogs. You can email her at DianaDiamond@gmail.com.

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European grandeur and sophistication await in this spectacular gated estate, nestled in supreme privacy on 2.16 acres. Introduced by a courtyard entrance with a cascading 9-tier waterfall, this home wraps you in elegance from the moment you step inside. Luxurious appointments include stained and leaded glass, crystal chandeliers, gilded accents, hand-forged ironwork, and custom wall coverings. Offering 5 bedrooms, 6.5 bathrooms, and over 9,100 square feet of living space, this estate includes an in-home apartment, while a beautiful 1-bed, 1-bath guest home offers 700 square feet of living space. Entertain guests with ease thanks to gathering spaces scaled for entertaining, a gourmet kitchen, and incredible grounds with a pool and swim-through grotto. Work from home in style in the executive office, and unwind in the whimsical Parisian wine cellar and Old English bar. The palatial master suite features a fireplace and spa-like bathroom, while 3 additional guest suites are perfect for friends and family alike. Convenient to Stanford University, Sand Hill Road, and both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, this impressive home is also served by acclaimed Las Lomitas schools, with top private schools close at hand.

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:
www.97RidgeViewDr.com
Offered at $14,988,000

Easy and safe access for potential buyers and Realtors®

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Atherton

Data from BrokerMetrics based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Atherton, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Mountain View jeweler Kelly Morgen melds art nouveau style, mystic traditions with modern business savvy

By Karla Kane

The artwork of Kelly Morgen is small in scale but rich in meaning. While perusing her collection, you encounter ancient goddesses, fairy-tale figures, Arthurian legends and animal totems, all inspired by the things she loves most, be they nature, art history, mythology, folklore and psychology as well as the art nouveau and arts and crafts movements, with their emphasis on ornate, graceful design, and the art nouveau from mythology, folklore and psychology, as well as the art nouveau movement. The Mountain View jeweler draws her inspiration with an investigation into the things she loves most, be they nature, art history, mythology, folklore and psychology as well as the art nouveau movement.

“Every piece has a story,” Morgen said. “People seem to really resonate with my work on a deeper level.”

While her pieces may be etched in style and mystical in nature, their physical creation comes from hard work and painstaking craftsmanship. Starting with a flat sheet of silver, Morgen uses a small hand-saw to carve out the first layer, then saws out the small decorative details and polishes them together with a flame torch to fuse the metal. She scrimshaws the faces of her portraits on tiny keys gleaned from her grandmother’s old piano (or occasionally mother of pearl or opal). Behind it all, she often sets a colorful stone, making each necklace reversible. Being completely hands-on, each piece, depending on its complexity, takes from weeks to months — or more — to finish.

She happily takes commissions, but Morgen said she often works intuitively, following her initial inspiration with an investigation into who or what the design might turn out to be, feeling a sense of recognition when she’s on the right track. “I usually sketch the goddess first, from an idea in my mind, and her companion animals, her symbols,” she explained. “Then I do some research and look up who that goddess is and so many times it’s like, ‘Oh yeah!’ Oftentimes I feel that it’s just sort of magically happening. I’ve never not found a goddess, I’ve always found the one she’s supposed to be.”

Personal favorites in her pantheon include fellow animal lovers Artemis and Diana, the (Greek and Roman, respectively) goddesses of the wilderness and the moon. “They’re very independent and free-spirited,” said Morgen. “She’s also partial to her ‘Astrea’ design — the big, expensive elaborate one.” In this piece she said with a laugh — a depiction of a celestial figure bedecked in golden stars and small diamonds, its details much more complex than any she’d done before. “‘Astrea’ is based on the painting ‘Zodiac’ by art nouveau master Alphonse Mucha,” Morgen said. “It’s one of only two jewelers worldwide licensed by the Mucha family, whom we met in England after a monthlong metalsmithing workshop in 2015, to create his work. ‘That’s the accomplishment I’m most proud of,’ she said.

Making a living as an independent artist is a difficult prospect, and calls upon other skill sets in addition to talent and diligence. Morgen said she also has a knack for business: making spreadsheets, crunching numbers and record keeping (growing up in a family of mathematicians may have helped). “And there’s a lot of creativity to business, to say, ‘OK, what else could I do?’” she said.

Willingness to experiment with new marketing tools and technologies has become all the more valuable during the coronavirus crisis, she said, with her usual income source — participating in about 10 art fairs and festivals a year, including in Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos — cut off indefinitely, forcing her business completely online.

Through her website and her social media channels she now shows off such skills as videography, photography and even voice-over, film making and social media promotions for each piece and holding livestream events to showcase her collection. She admitted she’s not fully comfortable with selling via social media yet — “I feel a little bit like a talk show host,” she said — but so far, so good.

Back in the U.S., she met artist, silversmith and Cherokee medicine man Heyoka Merrifield, who became her biggest mentor. “He was the one who taught me how to infuse my work with meaning, and to work with archetypes,” she said.

She founded her business, Kelly Morgen Jewels, in 2005, and has been based in Mountain View, where she said she enjoys the youthful demographic and lively art scene, since 2010. Thinking back over her career and journey thus far, “there’s a sort of kismet to it all. I’ve been lucky,” she said. Morgen grew up in Marin County, then headed east to Williams College, where she majored in art and psychology — twin interests reflected in her current practice — and began to explore what would become her signature style. “I’ve always been obsessed with drawing and painting, and an artist, so it’s all natural, so feminine,” she said. “And I was interested in the psychology perspective of going, art meaning just beyond being something beautiful,” she said.

During a study abroad term in Florence, Italy, Morgen took her first metal smithing course, which she loved so much, she ended up getting an apprenticeship with the master goldsmith there and staying for a year.

“‘That’s what I want to do, I’m 100% going to be a jeweler,’ she recalled telling herself.

Back in the U.S., she met artist, silversmith and Cherokee medicine man Heyoka Merrifield, who became her biggest mentor.

“He was the one who taught me how to infuse my work with meaning, and to work with archetypes,” she said.

She founded her business, Kelly Morgen Jewels, in 2005, and has been based in Mountain View, where she said she enjoys the youthful demographic and lively art scene, since 2010. Thinking back over her career and journey thus far, “there’s a sort of kismet to it all. I’ve been lucky. I think a lot of it is just connecting with people who resonate with the things you love,” Morgen muse. “We all have these kinds of needs for stories and archetypes in our life: fairy tales and folktales. It fulfills something we all are searching for inside.”

For more information is available at kellymorgen.com.
Some Stanford art venues announce upcoming reopening plans for spring

Cantor Arts Center, Anderson Collection, Frost Amphitheater will gradually reopen starting in April

Shuttered for a year thanks to COVID-19, Stanford University’s art venues will gradually reopen for in-person visitors starting in April, according to a release from Stanford News Service. While reopening plans are, of course, subject to change depending on the public health situation, local arts lovers can feel optimistic this spring with Stanford’s latest announcement.

The Cantor Arts Center will open to 25% capacity starting on April 21 (Stanford faculty, students and staff will be allowed in starting the weekend before). Museum hours will be Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with members allowed in at 10 a.m. during the first week of reopening. Free, timed tickets are required for every visitor and can be reserved online starting the week before reopening. The exhibition “When Home Won’t Let You Stay” will be on view through May 30.

“Public tours, group and class visits, and programs will remain virtual and in-person events will be scheduled at this time,” according to the Cantor’s website.

Next door, the Anderson Collection will open its first floor to 25% capacity, exhibiting “Formed and Fired: Contemporary American Ceramics” and “Hostile Terrain 94” through May 2, after which it will be closed for the summer for planned maintenance and reopen in the autumn.

The Cantor and Anderson Collection have set up a special web page for updated information regarding their planned reopening, including information on health and safety policies.

In the realm of performing arts, Frost Amphitheater, Stanford’s outdoor concert venue, will reopen in the spring for music screenings and — conditions allowing — transition back to live performances over the summer. More information will be forthcoming at live.stanford.edu. ■

— Karla Kane

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 39.

Alley Edits Fan
Seize Noche Lie
Sharpojactado
Aria Bro Often
Yes Mae Unfit
Republicoffil
Ray Srl Trap
Abbey Pta SeeYa
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Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby given that the governing board of the Palo Alto Unified School District will receive, by electronic submission, sealed bids for the following project, Bid No. QPI-21:

GUNN HIGH SCHOOL PARKING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Project consists of:
Reconfiguring the existing Visitor and Staff parking area to provide better vehicular flow and parking.
To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors’ license(s):
A, B, or C or as appropriate for this scope of work
The Bidder’s license(s) must remain active and in good standing throughout the term of the Contract.
To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.
Contract Documents will be available on or after March 26, 2021 and may be downloaded from the District’s Project page at the link below, or from ARC Document Solutions. Contract Documents available for download at:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pzn2SFpPeUJBqQnknMuWJg8FjN7yVLX2?

Contracts are also available for bidders’ review and hardcopy purchase at:
ARC Document Solutions 829 Cherry Lane
San Carlos, CA 94070 Phone: (650) 631-2510

Hardcopy Contract Documents are also available for purchase for One Hundred dollars ($100.00), contact ARC above.
This fee is refundable if the Contract Documents are returned in clean condition back to the District Facilities Office no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of the bid opening.

Bids may only be submitted by e-mail to vmroller@pausd.org

E-mailed Bids, together with all required bid documentation, will be received until Tuesday, April 27, 2021 — 2PM, after which time the bids will be tabulated and posted publicly at:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F1H6t3x5y9F9F3d4d2Z2zW3C857M4g38JxqT7Hm2G/edit?usp=sharing

Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be nonresponsive and returned to the bidder.
Each bidder is solely responsible for timely submission of its bid; the District is not responsible for any technological issues in a bidder’s ability to timely submit its bid or portion thereof. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with section 5100 et seq. of the Public Contract Code. Prior to publicly posting bids on the District website, the District reserves the right to verify the genuineness of any bid security.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 20111.5, only prequalified bidders will be eligible to submit a bid for this Project. Any bid submitted by a bidder who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive and returned unopened to the bidder.

All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders. A legible photocopy of (i) bid bond by an bid an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District, (ii) a cashier’s check or (iii) a certified check, drawn to the order of the Palo Alto Unified School District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price, shall accompany the Bid Form and Proposal, as a guarantee that the Bidder will, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid. Bidder must deposit the original of the bid bond, cashier’s check, or certified check on the mail on the same day as the bid opening. Bids without necessary bid security will be deemed nonresponsive and will be rejected.

A mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 10 a.m. at Gunn High School, 780 Arastadero, Palo Alto, California. All participants are required to sign in front of the Administration Building. The site visit is expected to take less than one hour. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the Contract for the Work.

The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of section 22300 of the Public Contract Code.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available from the District or on the internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/>. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall comply with applicable federal, State, and local requirements relating to COVID-19 including, if required, preparing, posting, and implementing a Social Distancing Protocol.

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on:
A. The bid amount only.
B. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to:
Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Attn: Jian Zhao, PM
Email: jazhao@atinsd.com

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • April 2, 2021 • Page 23
601 Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park

Sophisticated Luxury in Menlo Oaks

Luxury, elegance, and sophistication – this stunning estate embodies all of these qualities and more, nestled on a lot of nearly one-half acre in the coveted neighborhood of Menlo Oaks. Fine craftsmanship, high-tech accoutrements, and spectacular build quality are hallmarks of this incredible residence. Offering 5 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, and almost 6,800 sq ft of refined living space, this home presents high-end finishes at every turn. Expansive formal rooms invite entertaining on a grand scale, including the living room that doubles as a world-class music room, the kitchen is fit for a Top Chef, and a fitness center provides added convenience. The self-contained master suite presents a private retreat with its own office, and three of the home’s additional bedrooms are en suite, perfect for family or overnight guests. The backyard offers amazing space for outdoor enjoyment, with a covered patio, fireplace, and drought-friendly synthetic grass. Topping it all off is a location close to Facebook, less than a mile to Flood Park, convenient to US 101, and with access to acclaimed Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:
www.601MenloOaks.com
Offered at $6,495,000

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Coming soon, Humphry Slocombe ice cream and New York-style BBQ

Plus, a customer is taking over Palo Alto’s Vino Locale

By Elena Kadvany

I n the latest news on the Midpeninsula food scene, Humphry Slocombe confirmed plans to bring its wildly popular ice cream to downtown Redwood City, the owners of Vino Locale wine bar in downtown Palo Alto are handing over the business to a customer, and a recent transplant to Mountain View is opening a craft barbecue pop-up featuring an upstate New York specialty.

Ice cream expansion
San Francisco ice cream favorite Humphry Slocombe is coming to downtown Redwood City this fall.

Humphry Slocombe will open its first Peninsula store at 2075 Broadway, Suite 1, co-owner Sean Vahey confirmed.

“After opening two locations in SF and two locations in the East Bay, the natural area to expand is the Peninsula,” Vahey said. “Our fans have been asking for a location further south for a while and we found the perfect location in Redwood City. Broadway is such a great, dynamic street for food and we felt like there were a lot of complementary businesses there.”

Vahey and Jake Godby opened Humphry Slocombe in 2008. Godby had worked as a pastry chef in San Francisco and Vahey was a food and beverage manager at the Hyatt and the Four Seasons. They soon became known for their inventive, often-changing ice cream flavors — in particular the “Secret Breakfast,” bourbon ice cream with cornflake cookies mixed in. Other flavors have included balsamic caramel, brown sugar fennel, Meyer lemon pound cake and strawberry candied jalapeno.

Humphry Slocombe has been delivering pints on the Peninsula since 2019, when the owners joined DoorDash’s shared commission kitchen in Redwood City. Humphry Slocombe also now delivers out of a ghost kitchen in Palo Alto.

In the months leading up to opening the Redwood City shop, the owners plan to bring an ice cream truck to Broadway to serve scoops, sundaes and floats.

Humphry Slocombe’s banana split ice cream includes strawberry-banana ice cream with crushed chocolate cookies. He was surprised at the relative dearth of quality barbecue in the Bay Area, besides spots like Horn Barbecue in Oakland, Capelo’s Barbecue in Redwood City and Mesquite & Oak in San Jose.

Irwin said his barbecue is rooted in upstate New York but also reflects Texas and Kansas styles. He makes smoked brisket with miso peach barbecue sauce, bone-in chuck short ribs and St. Louis-style pork ribs with jalapeno homemade glaze. He cooks all the meats in an offset smoker, which has a fire box where wood burns, requiring skilled supervision.

“You’re managing that fire by hand. You’re usually cooking in smaller batches,” he said. “That, to me, is what craft barbecue means — learning the craft of fire management and how it impacts the flavor and texture of a piece of meat 18 hours later.”

The smoked meats — sourced from Creekstone Farms in Kansas — are come with pickled onions, brown butter cornbread and cider pickles. He cooks the cornbread in a cast iron skillet and serves it with whipped honey butter. Irwin also makes a mac and cheese, cooked over live fire, with aged cheddar, Parmesan, pepper jack and mozzarella, crusted with panko bread crumbs and herbs.

Whole cuts of smoked meat, fresh or cooled and vacuum sealed, are also available for purchase.

“I think of it as a project, an experiment,” Irwin said of his pop-up. “The things I do well are grounded in this low and slow, Texas-style barbecue. I’m in the process of experimenting with combining these barbecue (styles) and these different flavors.”

Going forward, he plans to release menus on Mondays for curbside pickup in Mountain View on Saturdays. Orders will close on Tuesdays or when sold out.

To order for opening day on Sunday, April 4, go to irwinbbq.com. And look for the speckies the following Saturday, April 10.

By Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweekly.com

Humphry Slocombe’s banana split ice cream includes strawberry-banana ice cream with crushed chocolate cookies.
ShopTalk

TWO SUBWAY SHOPS CLOSE — Two Palo Alto Subway sandwich shops have permanently closed their doors within weeks of one another: The shop at 421 California Ave. shuttered at the end of February and the shop at 205 University Ave. on March 24. “Closed” signs were posted on the doors at each shop for the past few weeks, directing customers to other nearby Subway locations — there are four additional Palo Alto sites, including one at Stanford University. Amanda Lee, who co-owned the two franchise eateries with her husband, Amos Wu, confirmed last week that the closures are permanent. “COVID-19 affected us a lot,” said Lee, who has operated Subway restaurants in Palo Alto since 2003. “The rent is very high in Palo Alto, and we lost many employees during COVID.” Lee said Steam, the downtown Palo Alto diner, restaurant next door to the University Avenue Subway location, plans to expand its kitchen and take over that site. There are no plans yet for the California Avenue restaurant, which Lee and her husband operated since purchasing the business from its original owner in 2008. Lee also owns two other Palo Alto Subway shops, including the one at Stanford University. She said there are no plans at this time to shut down those locations, which are now employing some of the workers from the California and University avenues shops. — L.T.

MARRIOTT OPENS REGION’S FIRST NEW HOTEL — After a yearlong struggle to stay afloat during the COVID-19 era, the hotel industry may be showing signs of a bounce back in Palo Alto with the opening of the region’s reportedly first new hotel since the outbreak of the coronavirus in March 2020. AC Hotel by Marriott Palo Alto is scheduled to open its doors at 744 San Antonio Road the first week of April. The five-story, 144-room hotel, which will serve both business and leisure travelers, features more than 2,100 square feet of meeting and event space as well as outdoor fireplaces, a pool, a fitness center, a lounge, and a kitchen that will serve Spanish-inspired breakfast daily, according to the company’s website. General Manager Michael Lerman told the East Bay Times earlier this week that the hotel is seeing “really good reservation patterns from the community. We have bookings from some people all the way through December.” AC Hotel, which is part of the Marriott International group, is geared toward a more hip, urban and cosmopolitan feel. The hotel is part of Marriott’s two-complex hotel campus on the Mountain View border at 744 and 748 San Antonio Road that gained approval during Palo Alto’s hotel boom in 2017. The project, when completed, will also include a Marriott Courtyard on the site. Both hotels will share a courtyard.

SPECIALTY’S MAKES A COMEBACK … Specialty’s is back. The Bay Area-born cafe chain, which filed for bankruptcy and closed all locations last May, reopened March 1 at 645 Ellis St. in Mountain View. “Specialty’s” original founders, Craig and Dawn, missed the business, so they’ve returned and they’ve brought their (now grown!) kids with them,” the Specialty’s website states. “We’ve downsized to just one location and have updated the menu with new delicious creations. This will allow us to focus on the great food and customer experience.” The owners did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The company, which Dawn Sandnes and Craig Saxton founded in San Francisco in 1987, once ran more than 50 cafes in California, Washington and Illinois. Specialty’s was particularly for its cookies. This will allow us to focus on the great food and customer experience.” The owners did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The company, which Dawn Sandnes and Craig Saxton founded in San Francisco in 1987, once ran more than 50 cafes in California, Washington and Illinois. Specialty’s was particularly for its cookies.

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc… presents

AUTHORS Salon

Sunday, April 11 at 2:30 p.m.

Jan Yanehiro  Esther Wojcicki  Daniel Mason  Louise Aronson

REGISTER TODAY for PVI’s 30th annual Authors Salon virtual event. Jan Yanehiro, renowned broadcaster, will be the moderator for our fabulous local authors. Proceeds to benefit PVI’s Meals on Wheels program.

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.

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Business & Tech

CareerGenerations
2225 E. Bayshore Road
Palo Alto
650-619-2214
info@careergenerations.com
careergenerations.com
CareerGenerations currently offers group workshops and 1:1 help via Zoom to meet the career needs of a variety of individuals, including college students looking for internships, and graduates and professionals exploring career options or looking for employment.

ReBoot Accelerator for Women
585 Broadway, Redwood City
650-387-3743
reboot@rebootacceler.com
rebotaccel.com
ReBoot Accelerator for Women keeps local women current, connected and confident about re-entering the workforce through workshops taught by instructors from LinkedIn, Google, Apple and social media experts.

Dance

Dance Connection
4000 Middlefield Road, L-5
Palo Alto
650-322-7932 / info@danceconnectionpalalto.com
danceconnectionpalalto.com
Dance Connection offers a mix of in-person, online, hybrid and outdoor dance classes tailored for preschool-age children (beginning at age 3), youth and adults of all levels. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, Pilates and other instruction is available. Spring registration is ongoing until Memorial Day, May 31.

Zohar School of Dance & Company
4000 Middlefield Road, L-4
Palo Alto
650-494-8221
zohardance@gmail.com
zohardancecompany.org
With roots going back to 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of adult dance classes in jazz, contemporary, modern ballet, musical theater and tap. Livestream classes via Zoom are available.

Sports & Outdoors

Baylands Golf Links
1875 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto
650-836-0881
baylands@golflinks.com
Private lessons teaching golf techniques, rules and etiquette are available at any level of experience. Check online for spring registration.

Kim Grant Tennis Academy
3065 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto
650-752-8061
admin@kimgranttennis.com
kimgranttennis.com
The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children, including those with special needs. Registration for spring clinics now open.

Health & Fitness

SoulCycle
600 Stanford Shopping Center
Palo Alto
650-784-7510
soulpaloalto@soul-cycle.com
soul-cycle.com/studios/palo/28
SoulCycle combines inspirational coaching, high-energy music, indoor cycling, choreography and more to create an enjoyable, full-body workout. The studio is only offering outdoor classes. Call for the latest updates.

Studio Kicks
796 San Antonio Road
Palo Alto
650-855-8868
info@studioskicks.com
studioskicks.com
Studio Kicks is a family fitness center offering cards, kickboxing classes and training in martial arts for children and adults. Classes are currently held remotely on Zoom and in-person two days a week. Check online or call for registration.

Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto
4000 Middlefield Road, M-4
Palo Alto
650-327-9350
michael@topa.com / topa.com
At Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto, established in 1973, students learn the classical Yang Style Taijiquan Slow Form style of tai chi. Outdoor classes are available. Call or email for more information.

Avenidas
4000 Middlefield Road Building B, Palo Alto
650-289-5400 / avenidas.org
Avenidas offers many classes, as well as lectures and workshops, for Midpeninsula seniors focusing on topics such as general health, physical fitness, languages, humanities, computing, music and writing. Classes via Zoom are available for members and non-members. Register online.

Special Needs

Bay Area Friendship Circle
3921 Fabian Way, Suite A023
Palo Alto
650-885-6990
info@bayareafc.org
bayareafc.org
The Bay Area Friendship Circle currently offers virtual programs for children, teens and young adults with special needs ages 2 to 22, year-round as well as weekly virtual summer camps. Trained teen volunteers provide one-on-one and support. For more information to register, visit the website.

Language Courses

Berlitz Palo Alto
Language Center
3000 El Camino Real Building 4, Suite 200
Palo Alto
650-294-4362 / berlitz.com
language-centers@palo-alto
Berlitz provides adult and youth language instruction in Spanish, German, French, English and other languages. Private lessons, tutoring, testing services and cultural agility training for businesses are available online and in-person.

Language classes at the Palo Alto Adult School
Palo Alto High School, Tower Building, 50 Embarcadero Road,
Palo Alto
650-329-3752
adultschool@pausd.org
pausd.org/adultschool
Live online classes are offered for Spanish, French, Italian, Mandarin Chinese and sign language. They cover beginning and advanced skills. Check online for start dates.

Music & Arts

Art & Soul
Webster Street Studio
2326 Webster St., Palo Alto
650-269-1442
artandsoulpaloalto@gmail.com
artandsoulpaloalto.com
Art & Soul offers private and small group lessons online or in-person by bringing the class to home backyards. Programs allow children to explore drawing, painting and sculpture techniques, as well as develop their observational skills. Email or call for more information.

Community School of Music and Arts
Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View
650-917-6800
info@arts4allorg / arts4all.org
The Community School of Music and Arts offers classes year-round in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children of all ages. Most classes are currently held online. Register for classes through the website.

New Mozart School of Music
2100 El Camino Real Suite C, Palo Alto
650-324-2373
info@newmozartschool.com
newmozartschool.com
New Mozart School of Music offers music lessons year-round to students of all ages and abilities. Piano, violin, viola, cello, voice, guitar, flute and early childhood music classes are taught by person private lessons are available. Group classes remain online. Check website for more details.

The Midpen Media Center
900 San Antonio Road
Palo Alto
650-394-8866
info@midpenmedia.org
midpenmedia.org/workshops
The center offers workshops for a range of media arts, including video production, photo enhancement, studio work and more. The center suggests starting with one of its free hour-long orientation classes. Classes held via Zoom.

Pacific Art League
668 Ramona St., Palo Alto
650-321-3891
info@pacificartleague.org
pacificartleague.org
The classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League are taught by qualified, experienced instructors for children and adults with varying experience. Instructors teach many mediums, including drawing, painting, watercolor, digital art and more. Registration for online spring classes is open.

Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto
650-329-2366
cityofpaloalto.gov/depts/csd/artcenter
Palo Alto Art Center classes and workshops — teaching children, teens and adults — cover areas like ceramics, painting, drawing, jewelry, sculpture, Adobe Photoshop and more. Virtual and outdoor classes are available.

Sur La Table Cooking School
Town & Country Village,
855 El Camino Real, 857 Palo Alto
650-289-0019 / surtable.com
Sur La Table offers hands-on cooking classes, guiding students in making regional cuisines, themed meals or special foods like bread, croissants and baked goods. In-person classes are available.

Silicon Valley Boychoir
600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto
650-424-1242
julia@svboychoir.org
svboychoir.org
Silicon Valley Boychoir offers rehearsals, musicmanship classes and performance opportunities for boys ages 7 and up. Private and small group classes are currently online. Auditions by appointment only.

Parent Education

Children’s Health Council
650 Clark Way, Palo Alto
650-325-5550
info@chconline.org
chconline.org
Children’s Health Council helps parents of children and youth facing child mental health, dyslexia, anxiety and depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism and other topics related to encouraging all children’s success. Classes are taught by the organization’s experts.

School Days

Amigos de Palo Alto
1611 Stanford Ave., Palo Alto
650-493-4300
info@amigosdepaloalto.com
amigosdepaloalto.com
Amigos de Palo Alto is a Spanish-immersion preschool for children 2 1/2 and older. Students are a mix of native and new Spanish speakers, and the program combines reading, writing, art and play to develop a love of learn- ing. The school offers in-person care only. Enrollment is ongoing.

Emerson School
5040 W. Bayshore Road
Palo Alto
650-424-1267
emersonschool@headsup.org
emersonschoolmontessori.org
Emerson School provides a year-round program for grades one to eight, teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum. Lessons draw from classical subjects and other areas, including art, music, foreign language, physical education, communication, life skills and more. Classes are remote and in-person. Apply online.
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CATHY LADMAN
OF CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM

SAMSON KOLETKAR
OF COMEDY OAKLAND

Register at:
kehillah.org/LOL

Classes start April 5

foothill.edu/spring
Spring Class Guide

Class Guide (continued from page 28)

Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School
459 San Antonio Road
Palo Alto
650-494-4404
admissions@hausen.com
hausen.com
Instructing children in kindergar-
ten through eighth grade, Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School pro-
vides academics, instruction in Jewish studies and the Hebrew
language, enrichment opportuni-
ties and after-school programs.
In-person and remote instruction
available. Visit the website for more information and to apply.

HeadsUp! Child Development Center
2800 W. Bayshore Road
Palo Alto
650-424-1221
kkhoo@headsup.org
emersonmontessori.com
HeadsUp! Child Development Cen-
ter serves infants, toddlers and pre-
schoolers (to age 6) with a full-day
program, year-round. The Montes-
sori curriculum focuses on building
thinking skills and personal values.
Classes are remote and in-person.
Call or visit the website for more information.

Silicon Valley International School
151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto
650-251-8500
svintl.org
Silicon Valley International School, formerly the Interna-
tional School of the Peninsula, offers bilingual immersion day
school with two nursery-to-fifth-
grade programs in French and Mandarin Chinese as well as an international middle school pro-
gram. Some programs include media and technology, music,
gastronomy and athletics classes.
Check the website for the latest information.

Kehillah Jewish High School
3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
admissions@kehillah.org
kehillah.org
This college-preparatory high school (grades 9-12) features modern science and computer lab,
art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of academic courses with small
class sizes, sports teams and more. Contact the school or visit
the website for information on re-
opening plans.

Oshman Family JCC Leslie
Family Preschool
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-236-7279
earlychildhood@paloaltojcc.org
paloaltojcc.org/preschool
The Oshman Family JCC’s preschool provides one-
five days-per-week options for children from
months to 5 years old (ages 2-4 at Congregation Beth Am),
with an emphasis on experiential learning, family involve-
ment and play.

Living Wisdom High School
of Palo Alto
Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
650-646-1066
livingwisdomhighschool.org
Living Wisdom High School serves
nine through 12th grade students and offers a strong em-
phasis on personalized learning as well as project-based, experien-
tial, in-depth development in creativity,
inner development, compassion,
critical thinking and problem-
solving. In-person and online in-
struction available.

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Summer Writing Camps
Expository Writing 7/12-7/16
Creative Writing 7/19-7/23
Presentation Skills 7/26-7/30
Grades: 2-8
Cost: 1 week: $500
2 weeks: $950
3 weeks: $1,350
Emerson Montessori Schools
For applications and information: (650) 424-1267
writenow@headsup.org www.headsup.org

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4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
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kkhoo@headsup.org
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admissions@kehillah.org
kehillah.org
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earlychildhood@paloaltojcc.org
paloaltojcc.org/preschool
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New book looks at how baby boomers are changing the formula

By Chris Kenrick

Members of the baby boom generation — now in their late 60s and early 70s — are upending the traditional concepts of retirement, says Woodside resident Richard Haiduck, who spent months prior to the pandemic interviewing dozens of retired people for his new self-published book, “Shifting Gears: 50 Baby Boomers Share Their Meaningful Journeys in Retirement.”

With longer lives and greater affluence than their parents’ generation — plus a history of political activism — boomers are reinventing this stage of life with more activity, more passion and more experimentation, Haiduck said.

In his book, which was released in November, Haiduck offers 50 brief retirement stories from those whom he interviewed. “Over time, I recognized a generational trend that couldn’t be ignored,” he wrote in the prologue to the book. “Active, engaged retirement is a driving force for this generation.”

A boomer himself, Haiduck was easing into retirement from a business career when he decided to dig more deeply into the subject. “I stumbled into several people telling me retirement stories that I just thought were amazing,” he said in a recent interview. “I thought of seeking out more stories, and all of a sudden, I had a project.”

The retirement choices of Haiduck’s subjects range from the traditional — RV life, gardening, leisure, travel and tennis — to the less expected: A retired U.S. diplomat becomes a cowboy conservationist; a couple retires from medicine to teach weekly Buddhist mindfulness classes in a maximum-security prison.

One retiree described a passion for daily fly-fishing, another for surfing.

While some of the stories are mundane recitations of daily activities, others offer degrees of thoughtfulness and introspection on how the retiree arrived at his or her choices and what creates meaning at this stage of life.

A common theme is the struggle to balance serious commitments with flexibility and free time.

Dan, a retired fire chief still under 60 who continues to teach EMT classes at the College of San Mateo, said he doesn’t want to “overcommit.” At the same time, he doesn’t want to become “the guy sitting on the recliner watching TV.”

Marla, 78, said she struggles with “wanting to be involved in things but not wanting to be fully about expanded plans for water re-use in the county to ensure a reliable, drought-resilient supply. Tucker has worked with the water district’s Recycled and Purified Water Program since 2017. The free, virtual presentation, which is part of the Community Conversations series at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, will take place Tuesday, April 6, from 1 to 2 p.m. To register for a Zoom link, email Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

ORGAN AND CELLO CONCERT ... Organist Jonathan Dimmick and cellist Angela Lee will present a free, virtual program including the works of J. S. Bach, Maurice Ravel, Edward Elgar, Ad Wammes, Craig Phillips and Duke Ellington on Tuesday, April 13, from 1 to 2 p.m. Dimmick is principal organist at the Legion of Honor, organist for the San Francisco Symphony since 2006 and music director for Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco. Lee is the founding cellist of The Lee Trio, and coaches chamber music at San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The performance is part of the Community Conversations series at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center. To register for a Zoom link email Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

CURING WITH STEM CELLS? ... Kevin McCormack will discuss the activities of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the only state-level agency focused on stem cell therapies. McCormack, the institute’s communications director, will include information on the institute’s current focus on arthritis, as well as potential treatments for Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other brain disorders. The institute was created by voters in 2004 with the passage of Proposition 71, and taxpayers last November voted to provide an additional $5.5 billion in funding. The virtual event will be held Wednesday, April 21, from 12:25 to 1:30 p.m. The free presentation, open to the public, is sponsored by Branch 35 of Sons in Retirement, whose mission is to enrich the lives of its members through activities, events and luncheons. To receive a Zoom link, call Paul Schutz at 408-313-6852 by April 19.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ... Angela Mitri, a community resource specialist with Sourcewise, will discuss what older adults can do to prepare for earthquakes, fires, heat waves and other disasters in a free, virtual session on Friday, April 23, from 11 a.m. to noon. The presentation will include informational slides, a video and time for questions. Since 1973, Sourcewise has contracted with Santa Clara County to coordinate services for older adults. To pre-register and receive a Zoom link, email register@avenidas.org. Details will be emailed the morning of the session.

TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS ... Social worker Paula Wolfson, director of Avenidas Care Partners, will moderate a discussion about navigating health care systems, dealing with dementia care and isolation, and handling advance care planning in a free, virtual session Wednesday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The workshop will feature two local elder care experts, hospice physician Ellen Brown and psychologist and gerontologist Rita Ghatak, founder and CEO of the consultancy Aging 101. For more information or to register call Wolfson at 650-289-5434.

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • April 2, 2021 • Page 31
Our trained, professional caregivers always follow best practices for your safety and security, which is especially critical during this challenging time.

Kendra Benisano, RN, BSN
Director of Homecare and Nursing Services
committed to a time schedule.”

Other retirees mention the challenge of reinventing themselves after losing the identities they’d gained through long and fulfilling careers.

The 24/7 job of representing the U.S. overseas “was my whole persona,” said Chuck, the retired diplomat. “When I retired, that whole persona flew away.”

After running a South Africa-based birdwatching tour company for four years, Chuck became a volunteer back-country ranger in Colorado for the U.S. Forest Service.

Once, while blocking traffic to help a rancher move his cattle, Chuck overheard some parents pointing him out to their child and saying, “Look, there’s a real cowboy.”

“My thought was, ‘You should have seen me four or five years ago when I was riding in a black limousine with the American flag on the fender,’” Chuck said.

Some of Haiduck’s subjects said they’d been surprised to find retirement life so enjoyable.

“I never thought life in one’s 60s could be so much fun,” said Dave, a retired CEO who has repurposed his business skills to contribute on several nonprofit boards. “I would say this is probably the happiest stage of my life.”

Noting he has fewer deadlines as well as the time and money to travel, a retiree named Ken said. “I am enjoying myself about as much as when I was in college,” he said.

At the same time, many mentioned a heightened awareness of the ticking clock.

“We all think we’re going to live forever in our 20s,” said Dan, the retired CEO. “Somewhere along the line, you realize that’s probably not going to happen, but it’s hard to internalize that.”

After seeing his father and grandfather die at 63 and 60 — before they’d had a chance to retire — Dan determined at 51 that he would retire early, which he did, at 61. “I wanted to make sure I was around to have some fun,” he said. “You never know, so enjoy it while you can.”

Nancy, who travels the world with her husband and also volunteers as a tutor and on the board of her homeowners association, said they travel because “We want to do it while we can.”

After a heart attack, James, a multi-sport competitor in the Senior Olympics and the Chinese Olympics, said, “I realize we’re all living on borrowed time. I’ve got to make a point of spending more quality time with my wife and friends.”

Though several retirees felt they’d gained wisdom and perspective as they aged, Don, a 76-year-old marathon runner who retired from the insurance business, stressed he’s still got plenty to learn.

“I don’t have the answers, especially the older I get,” Don said. “I thought I’d have it figured out a little bit better by now.”

For more information about “Shifting Gears: 50 Baby Boomers Share Their Meaningful Journeys in Retirement,” go to richardhaiduck.com.

Email Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

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Data from Better Homes & Gardens based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Menlo Park, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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For more information contact: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 我們精通國語和粵語
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221 SOUTH SPRINGER ROAD, LOS ALTOS

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www.221SouthSpringer.com
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After attacks on Asian Americans, California lawmakers push to expand hate crime laws

State bills propose to improve data, train police and establish a hotline

By Byronda Lyons and Robert Lewis

Palo Alto children and adults raise up signs against Asian hate during a march on March 28.

S
ince 2017, California law-
makers have introduced more than a dozen bills aimed at hate crimes, including attempts to improve data, train police and establish a hotline. Most of those bills died in committee, never getting a vote, according to a CalMatters analysis.

But in the wake of recent, highly visible crimes targeting Asian Americans, lawmakers are introducing some of the same measures their colleagues once rejected.

“There wasn’t the same level of urgency that I think is true today,” said Democratic Assemblymember David Chiu of San Francisco, who is reintroducing his bill from 2017 that would require the state attorney general to maintain a hate-crime number when people could report hate crimes.

“The Atlanta shooting woke up much of the rest of America to what’s been happening in the Asian American community have been experiencing for quite some time,” said Chiu.

Data on hate crimes is spotty at best. A recent California State University, San Bernardino study showed an uptick in anti-Asian hate crimes reported to police in 18 large American cities from 2019 to 2020. The numbers, however, are small. San Jose reported a rise from 4 to 10, while Los Angeles saw an increase from 7 to 15, the study showed.

Experts say hate crimes are widely underreported, especially when they are, police officers sometimes fail to document incidents involving bias as a hate crime.

“We know that reporting rates of hate crimes by victims are really low,” said Phyllis Gerstenfeld, California State University, Stanislaus criminal justice professor and author of several textbooks on hate crimes.

“We’re not doing enough to reach out to potential victims, in part because victims don’t know about the laws, they don’t understand them, or they don’t feel comfortable talking to police for a wide variety of reasons,” Gerstenfeld said.

California Department of Justice figures show that the state averaged 31 anti-Asian hate crimes a year between 2015 and 2019, as reported by police and enforce-

ment agencies. It’s a slight uptick from the years before, though the figures fluctuate and were higher in the years before 2019, when Asian hate crimes accounted for more than 60 incidents a year.

State data on 2020 isn’t available, so the full impact of racist rhetoric surrounding the pandemic remains unclear. Still, some widely covered crimes have Asian American communities on edge and officials looking to act.

In Oakland’s Chinatown, video of a 28-year-old man slamming a 93-year-old Asian man to the ground went viral. In San Francisco, a 75-year-old woman garnered national attention when she fended off an attacker with a wooden paddle. In Sacramento, police are investigating whether the vandalism of an Asian-owned gelato shop — the third such incident at his business in a year — is a hate crime.

Even when police label a case as a hate crime, prosecutors can have a hard time proving motive in court.

“Hate crimes are among some of the scariest and most vile crimes we deal with, and they’re some of the most difficult to prove,” said San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin.

In Long Beach, the Long Beach City Prosecutor’s Office and the Long Beach Police De-

partment received a prize from the Anti-Defamation League for its role in combating hate. The office filed hate crime charges in all of the cases referred to its office. City Prosecutor Doug Haubert attributes the city’s success at prosecuting hate crimes to having trained officers who know what to look for.

“We handle so many cases so quickly, that unless the report itself or the officer noted that, ‘Hey this could potentially be a hate crime,’ it’s unlikely to go noted by the prosecuting office,” Haubert said.

Some organizations — including the California District Attor-

neys Association — are trying to make it easier for prosecu-

tors to bring such cases, and to increase penalties.

Larry Morse, legislative direc-
tor for the association, said it’s time to examine the laws on the books and determine whether they are adequate.

“We haven’t introduced many bills along that line because this Legislature has not been inclined to create any new crimes or to in-

crease punishment for any con-
duct,” said Morse, former Mer-
ced County district attorney.

The DA’s association last week threw its support behind a bill by Democratic Assemblymember Jim Cooper of Elk Grove to in-

crease penalties for some hate crimes. The group also opposed a measure to soften penalties for some robberies, suggesting the bills would “lessen the con-

sequences for violent crime and would directly benefit the preda-

cers currently committing hate crimes against Asian Ameri-
cans,” according to a statement from the association.

California does have a num-

ber of sentencing enhancements written into the penal code, such as adding time for a variety of crimes targeting victims on the basis of race, gender or bias.

There’s also a law making a hate crime a standalone misdemeanor.

Since 1978, California has made it a capital offense to kill someone because of their race, religion or for another bias-re-

lated reason.

Gerstenfeld, the CSU Stan-

islaus professor, said the state has plenty of laws that aren’t being used that often, and the key to success with hate crimes prosecution is getting people to report them.

“If people don’t feel comfort-

able dealing with the police, no-

body is ever going to be aware that these crimes happened,” she said. “Better training for police officers and prosecutors is also key.”

These are all things California lawmakers have pushed for in the past.

Improving reporting is one reason Assemblymember Chiu is reintroducing his hate crimes hotline bill. He thinks it failed because of concerns over cost. But that’s changed.

“It’s reached a point where we have to take action as a state, certainly as an Asian American,” Chiu said. “What we’ve seen in this past year has been horrifying and cries out for response.”

He is also co-author of a bill that would push law enforce-

ment agencies to better track hate crimes. It follows a 2018 State Auditor report that found “underreporting and misreport-

ing of hate crimes among law enforcement agencies.”

Chiu, whose parents immigrat-

ed from Taiwan, grew up in the Boston area in the 1970s. He said anti-Asian racism was a regular experience. He said good data is critical to understanding what minority communities often face.

“There are also many incidents of hate that don’t rise to the level of a hate crime, but are disturbing-

ing nonetheless and need to be documented and understood for us to consider other policies to address them,” he said.

California generally has strong laws meant to fight hate crimes, said Beth Holtzman, a law-

yer with the Anti-Defamation League.

“The issue,” she said, “is with implementation.”

Email CalMatters reporters Byronda Lyons and Robert Lewis at byronda@calmatters.

.org and robert@calmatters.org, respectively.

(prepared a letter of concern to the City Council that asks for spe-
cific steps to help combat hate crime and incidents in the city.

Chief Assistant District Attor-

ney Jay Boyarsky, who spoke at the meeting, said there are hate incidents and hate crimes. While there are far fewer known hate crimes, the number of incidents is the highest in recent history, according to data by the city.

Boyarsky said there are im-

portant distinctions between a hate crime and a hate incident, although both are abhorrent. A hate incident might involve racial, ethnic, gender or other targeted epithets and can be targeted at any group, and it is separate from a hate crime because it doesn’t involve violence or the threat of harm or property damage.

“Given the First Amendment, it does not constitute a crime, unless it’s accompanied with a specific threat to cause someone bodily harm or injury. But if you commit a hate crime, such as a battery or vand-

alism, and there’s evidence that shows it was done substantially because of the victim’s actual per-
cussion, color, race, religion, etc., it constitutes a hate crime, he said.

It’s also the only crime where prosecution is a use beyond reasonable doubt that there was a motive, making convictions dif-

ficult. A prosecutor doesn’t have to show a motive for a murder conviction, but for a hate crime, the DA must show what was in the person’s mind when they com-

mitted the crime, he said. This bias against the victim must be substantial.

In a recent hate crime in Palo Alto, officials said a two-ton bronze sculpture of a Zorro statue was knocked over in a road-rage incident which the city had six hate crime reports, and five through 2019. In 2020, the city had six hate crime reports, mostly involving tampering with yard signs or theft of yard signs.

The judge ordered the woman to serve a year in jail, where she was ultimately released. The woman had been arrested and released six times for criminal threats. During a dispute between a passenger and a bus driver, the passenger made a threat to throw a lighter, which turned into a slug during the threat. The second case was a road-rage incident which the driver made a threat against the other, using a slur.

(continued on page 37)
Police (continued from page 7)

in place and meeting the public policy concerns (relating to transparency) of some of our agencies,” Nickel said.

On racial justice and use of force

The council discussion of radio encryption comes at a time when the city is reviewing numerous policies within the Police Department in response to community concerns about the use of force and racial justice. The department has already reviewed its use-of-force policies to ban techniques that restrain airflow and to emphasize de-escalation. The department is also building a portal to share data about individuals with whom police officers make contact, consistent with the requirements of Assembly Bill 953. While the legislation, also known as the Racial and Identity Profiling Act, requires all state law enforcement agencies to publish the data by April 1, 2023, the department plans to start releasing the information well before the deadline.

The city is also gradually expanding the scope of the city’s independent police auditor, OIR Group, which has di-

independently reviewed incidents that involve Taser use, police shoot-

ings or citizen complaints against the police. Nickel said that OIR Group has recently directed the firm to review other types of use of force. This includes incidents in which an officer uses a baton, a chemical agent, a “less-lethal” projectile or a K-9, as well as any other cases that involve serious injuries. Among the cases that the auditor will be reviewing is the June 25, 2020, attack by a Palo Alto police K-9 on a Joel Alejo, who was sleeping in a backyard shed in Mountain View and whom the police mistook for a suspect in a kidnapping. The incident has prompted a claim against the city of Palo Alto from Alejo, who is now seeking $20 million in damages from the city. It has also prompted public calls for the firing of police Agent Nick Enberg, who can be seen on recently released body-worn camera footage yelling instructions at the animal control officer.

The Rev. Jethro Moore, presi-
dent of the San Jose/Silicon Val-

ley NAACP, is among those who called for Enberg’s firing. In a public letter this week, he called Enberg’s action “an act of aggres-
sion with intent to do harm.”

“There is an urgent need to root out and identify the departmental deficiencies that allowed these officers to remain on the force in the first place,” Moore wrote in a public letter to city leaders.

In another recent shift, the OIR Group has recently started evalu-
ating internal complaints and “inquiry reviews” — public com-

plaints that don’t entail full for-
mal investigations by the Police Department. The depart-
ent’s analysis shows that OIR Group, these include matters such as “misun-
derstandings or minor issues of protocol.”

The council has yet to decide, however, on whether to restore to the police auditor the power to review internal complaints within the Police Department. While OIR Group does so for other cities, the council voted in December 2019 to explicitly remove these com-

plaints from the auditor’s purview thus ensuring that they will be shielded from public disclosure. The council made the change just as OIR Group was reviewing an incident in which a white officer allegedly used a racial slur in 2014 while talking to a Black employee, who has since left the department.

In November, as the council considered ways to improve acc-
countability in the department, the council agreed to an OIR report that would bring to itself, Shikada said at the March 22 meeting.

“Rather than calling for the fir-
ing of any individual officer, that accountability is appropriately brought to myself,” Shikada said at the March 22 meeting.

But notwithstanding the in-
creased scrutiny, Palo Alto has no plans to back the police K-9 program despite comments from a German shepherd and their two human handlers. A new report from Palo Alto police notes that the department has employed po-

lice dogs for more than 30 years. Both of the agency’s current dogs are trained for basic patrol ser-

vices (which include searching for and apprehending people) and one of them is certified in detect-
ing explosives.

The report notes that police dogs can be used in a variety of circumstances, including search-

ing in locations not safe for of-

ficers. “This kind of work is volun-
tary compliance by their mere

presence.

According to the report, the de-
partment deploys its K-9s about 600 times a year, deployed 350 times between 2018 and 2020 and to search for people or evidence, apprehend a suspect, ex-
ecute a warrant or assist in crowd control. Of those 350 deployments, five had resulted in a K-9 biting or holding the suspect, the report states.

“The vast majority of the time, the K-9 team is able to assist in finding the wanted person without direct contact with the person,” the report states.

The council is scheduled to discuss at an April 5 study session on policing, also notes that both the dog and the of-

ficer on each K-9 team have to un-
dergo a four-week, state-certified course and then participate in on-
going regional training with other K-9 units twice monthly. This, according to the city, adds up to about 60 hours of training each month for the team.

For police dogs that are se-
lected for specialty assignments (like explosive detection), addi-
tional multi-week training schools may be required, the report notes. “Some of these resources are not necessarily required,” the report states. “All training for each K-9 team is doc-
umented and retained as part of the handler’s personnel file.”

Palo Alto police had sent the K-9 unit to Mountain View on June 25 after receiving a request for assistance with a kidnapping case. They were looking for a man who allegedly kidnapped his ex-
girlfriend and drove away with her. After a chase, they forced the man out, taking her phone and running away, according to the Mountain View Police Department.

The suspect in the case was related to a residential area, officers then re-
portedly asked a neighbor if they could search the backyard. After searching the area, officers had to leave the shed with Alejo inside. They con-
firmed shortly after the dog attack that he was not the man they were looking for. Mountain View police found and arrested the actual kidnap-
ping suspect three weeks later.

“Email Staff Writer Genny Sheyner at gsheyner@paweweekly.

com.”
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at the end. Not to be able to be there and comfort them when they were so sick.”

The daughter and mother of two doesn’t carry any resentment against the nursing home or caretaker who most likely gave her parents the virus. But what has gnawed at Walker during the last few months, and continues to frustrate her today, are the things beyond her control — like why the places were getting it and others weren’t?”

Walker’s certain that if her parents had received the vaccine earlier, then they still would be alive today.

Walker said the last time she was able to visit with her parents in person was on Father’s Day last June. She remembers the day vividly: “I brought Dad his favorite depression-era food, mac and cheese, and mom a carrot cake.”

Email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com.

### Upfront

**Silicon Valley REALTORS’ To Hold 2021 SILVAR Leadership Academy**

The Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® is launching the 2021 SILVAR Leadership Academy this month. The leadership program will begin on April 15 and is open to all REALTOR® members of the association who are interested in learning more about how they can make a difference in real estate and grow in their professional and personal lives.

The SILVAR Leadership Academy will be an intensive six-month program. Participants will learn about the REALTOR® association structure of SILVAR, the California Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS®, fair housing and implicit bias in real estate, and how local, state and national legislation affects their business and their clients. They will receive “hands-on” training on communicating and conducting meetings effectively, networking with other real estate professionals, resolving conflict situations and building consensus.

The leadership academy is the second part of a Diversity & Inclusion grant which SILVAR has received from NAR. In February the local trade association completed the first part of the grant with a program that focused on “Faces & Voices of Leadership in Real Estate.” The event featured a panel of past and present leaders of multicultural real estate associations. Key speakers were Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee and Bay East REALTOR® and community leader Monty Nop. Discussions focused on their leadership roles and experiences.

Joanne Fraser, president of SILVAR, said NAR is working to ensure REALTORS® are active leaders in the fight against bias and discrimination. Last year, NAR began implementing the fair housing “ACT” plan, which emphasizes Accountability, Culture Change, and Training. As a part of this plan, NAR released “Fairhaven,” a new interactive training platform designed to help combat discrimination in the real estate market. In addition, NAR developed an implicit bias training video with strategies to help REALTORS’ override biases in their daily interactions.

“SILVAR is committed to fair housing for all. The Leadership Academy is in step with our goal of inclusion and diversity in the housing market and within our association,” said Fraser.

The sessions are scheduled for April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, and September 23 from 1-4 p.m. Additionally, participants will be required to attend C.A.R.’s annual Legislative Day on April 27. There is no cost to attend, but attendance in all sessions is required in order to graduate. Past SILVAR president and current chair of SILVAR’s Professional Standards Committee Suzanne Yost is coordinating the Leadership Academy. SILVAR REALTORS® may access an application to join the program at www.silvar.org. They can also contact Yost at susanneyost.realtor@gmail.com.

Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Melly at rmelly@silvar.org.

### SUDOKU

**This week’s SUDOKU**

Sudoku by Matt Jones

Across
1 Bowling locale
6 Fixes typos
11 Supporter
14 Grasp
15 When to see a luna
16 “Where’s the ___?”
17 It’s got a point to it
19 “Much ___ About Nothing”
20 Oratorio part
21 Sis’s counterpart
22 Frequently
24 “Owner of a Lonely Heart” rock band
25 Astronaut Jemison
26 Not qualified
28 Island country north of New Zealand
33 Singer LaMontagne
34 35mm camera choice
35 “The Parent ___”
36 “Downtown ___”
39 “Harper Valley ___” (1968 hit)
40 “Byebee”
41 “__ ___ all a favor ...”
42 1.5-volt battery size
43 Actor Barinholtz
44 His Secret Service code name is “Celtic”
45 She is best known for singing “Rolling In The Grass”
46 “Roger ___” (1960s cult cartoon hero)
47 English, in Spanish
48 Strawberry brand since 1915
49“Doomsday” band
50 “The Art of More” author
51 “Feel great!”
52 They’re raised by mechanics
53 Part of PSL
55 “Oh, nasty!”
56 “Tickle Me” doll
57 Brooding music genre
58 Tequila brand since 1886 whose name means “Old Town”
62 Tiny bite
63 First name in cosmetics
64 Let go
65 6-point football scores
66 Beloved ones
67 Paintball mementos

Down
1 Chemistry test
2 “The Elements” satirist Tom
3 Be a go-between
4 Cornell who founded Cornell University
5 “Uh-huh”
6 Pharmaceutical for rheumatoid arthritis
7 Martial arts facility
8 It may be crushed
9 Active chemical in cannabis
10 Light, as fireworks
11 Reason to pull over
12 Helper
13 Bar sign light
14 1994 Siouxsie and the Banshees single
15 23 Highest number on a billiard ball
20, June 17, July 15, August 19, and September 23 from 1-4 p.m. Additionally, participants will be required to attend C.A.R.’s annual Legislative Day on April 27. There is no cost to attend, but attendance in all sessions is required in order to graduate. Past SILVAR president and current chair of SILVAR’s Professional Standards Committee Suzanne Yost is coordinating the Leadership Academy. SILVAR REALTORS® may access an application to join the program at www.silvar.org. They can also contact Yost at susanneyost.realtor@gmail.com.

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### Your Realtor & You

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We are delighted to let you know that our team is expanding.

Last year brought about many significant changes in response to COVID-19, and real estate was no exception. In order to continue providing our clients with the highly personalized service that is a hallmark of our team, we have invited our colleague James Steele to join us. We’ve known James since he first joined the real estate profession in 2009 and have admired the way he has developed a loyal following of clients and grown his business.

Our team has grown but our philosophy, our dedication to service and professionalism, and our commitment to you remain the pillars on which we have built our business and reputation.

We invite you to read more about James on our newly launched website, CarolNicoleandJames.com.

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6. Be authentic & approachable
7. Take the complicated & make it simple to enhance our clients’ experience and help them make informed and sound decisions.
8. Collaborate & leverage our unique strengths to the benefit of our clients.

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Check out what our clients are saying.

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