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Stanford Hospital is once again ranked as one of the nation’s top hospitals.

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As fire danger increases, city keeps eye on foothills

City Council considers expanding ban on barbecue pits, using new surveillance technology to mitigate risk

By Gennady Sheyner

With wildfire threats growing more common and more severe, Palo Alto is looking to shut down barbecue pits in the foothills, accelerate its efforts to trim the notoriously flammable eucalyptus trees and potentially become a “test bed” for new surveillance technologies that could help with fire detection.

The city is working with Stanford University and regional agencies such as the Santa Clara County Fire Department, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CalFire) and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to identify and manage risks in the vulnerable areas in and around the foothills that make up the “wildland urban interface.” And as part of a recently formed partnership with the county, the city is now operating Fire Station 8 in the foothills seven days a week. On days where fire risk is particularly steep, crews extend their shifts at Station 8 from 12 to 24 hours.

Even these efforts may not be enough, city officials acknowledged Monday. The city’s wealth of open spaces, particularly in and around Foothills and Arstradero preserves, could turn into a tinderbox, as almost happened a year ago, when the CZU Lightning Complex fires began to approach the city. During the council’s discussion of fire management, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin McNally recalled being told that the wind...

ECONOMY
Downtown, El Camino feel city’s economic pain

New report shows steep revenue drops over the pandemic in prominent commercial areas

By Gennady Sheyner

It’s no secret that the pandemic has been brutal for Palo Alto businesses, with hotels hollowing out, retailers struggling, commuters staying home and restaurants scrambling to stay alive amid shifting health restrictions.

Like in other cities, the struggles of the business community trickled down to City Hall, which banks on hotel and sales taxes to pay for basic services like firefighters, police and libraries. But because the city has long depended on its huge daytime population of employees to spend money at its businesses, the shift to remote work has had a particularly devastating effect on Palo Alto. A new report indicates that while most cities took a hit over the course of the pandemic, Palo Alto far exceeded the declines experienced by other jurisdictions, the shift to remote work has had a particularly devastating effect on Palo Alto.

According to the analysis from the city’s consultant, Avenu Insights & Analytics, the city’s sales tax revenues in 2020 declined by 27.3% from the prior year, with losses particularly steep in the downtown area and in commercial corridors along El Camino Real and Midtown. The drop in Palo Alto far exceeded the declines experienced by other jurisdictions, the shift to remote work has had a particularly devastating effect on Palo Alto.

ECONOMY

In murder trial, evidence points to fierce struggle

 Arrested two years ago for 1974 homicide, alleged serial killer John Getreu comes to trial

By Sue Dremann

In her last moments alive, Janet Ann Taylor was caught in a struggle so intense with her attacker that her rain jacket was torn from the shoulder and her shirt was ripped all the way down one side, according to evidence presented on Tuesday in San Mateo County Superior Court during the second day of the trial of John Arthur Getreu for first-degree murder.

Taylor, a La Honda resident, was 21 years old when she was murdered on March 24, 1974. The daughter of the late Stanford University football coach and athletics administrator Chuck Taylor, she was found dead along the side of Sand Hill Road near Manzanita Way on Stanford University land.

She had been strangled by hands strong enough to have left the ribbed impressions of her turtleneck sweater on her neck, a forensic pathologist testified. Her face showed she’d been severely beaten.

Getreu, now 76, was about 29 when Taylor died. It took 45 years to identify him as her alleged killer through new DNA technology and an ancestry database. Police detectives assert he’s a serial killer through new DNA technology and an ancestry database. Police detectives assert he’s a serial...
It was such a vindication ... that it worked.

— Carlos Romero, East Palo Alto mayor, on door-to-door vaccination campaign. See story on page 8.
purred by complaints from downtown business leaders and property owners, Palo Alto is preparing to expand the Police Department’s role in addressing homelessness.

In a move that in some ways runs counter to the city’s broader effort to shift certain emergency calls away from armed officers and toward clinical professionals, the City Council agreed on Monday to reconstitute a police team that will help link unhoused individuals with shelter and services. By a 6-0 vote, with Mayor Tom DuBois absent, the council directed staff to return with an “outreach plan” that in addition to a caseworker, would include a police unit — now known euphemistically as a “utility team.”

The utility team is a rebranded version of the “special enforcement team” that the department had deployed in the past to address issues relating to homelessness. According to a report from the office of City Manager Ed Shikada, officers assigned to the teams often built relationships with unhoused residents throughout the city and “focused on the health and safety of downtown and commercial cores.” The two-officer team was eliminated during the COVID-19 pandemic because of budget cuts. Since then, the city has been fielding calls from residents and prominent downtown property owners, including developers John McNeill and John Smith, for enhanced enforcement. Some pointed to the recent phenom-enon of growing numbers of unhoused residents in downtown garages. Others suggested that the growing number of homeless individuals on the downtown streets is hurting businesses that have already been devastated by the pandemic and its economic restrictions.

Shikada told the council on Monday that the city has had a number of situations recently where “having police contact and maintain connection with individuals who find themselves in these difficult circumstances has proven valuable.” Assistant Chief Andrew Binder cited a recent incident in which the homeless encampment at the Webster/Cowper parking garage, which was disbanded shortly after a July incident in which fire-fighters were summoned to knock down a blaze. The department, Binder said, is in a new position to address homelessness because it has the ability to seek charges or make arrests.

“Fortunately, we didn’t have to issue any citations when we were doing that but that was one of the options that was at our disposal as police law enforcement officers,” Binder said.

Shenk framed the problem as one of both public safety and homelessness. The council that just that day, he saw several unhoused individuals using vacant storefronts in the downtown area as homes. One of them had camped out on the sidewalk with personal items spread out next to and underneath the retailer’s glass windows.

“It’s not right and we need to get the … helping hand extended consistently to take them to the services you all already provide that are already out there as well as others that you are working on,” Shenk said.

Charlie Weidanz, CEO of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, said his organization regularly hears from members about how their businesses have lost vice Mayor Pat Burt supported hiring an outreach worker who could provide case management services to the unhoused population and then considering police involvement at a later date, as part of the larger context of the city’s budget. But council members Alison Cormack and Eric Filsfet spoke for the majority in asserting that police officers will need to play a role, even if that role has yet to be defined.

“If you’re dealing with somebody who starts a fire in the garage, a case worker alone isn’t going to be able to tell that person to put the fire out,” Filsfet said. “They need to go together.”

The creation of the new police team, which is expected to cost about $350,000, is part of the council’s broader effort to address homelessness. A key component of that effort, which the council endorsed earlier this month, is pursuing a transitional-housing facility on San Antonio Road, a former site of a water treatment plant, through the state’s Project Homekey program.

Palo Alto has also recently established a “safe parking” program for vehicle dwellers. The program allows local congregations to provide overnight parking to up to four vehicles. Move Mountain View, which administers a similar “safe parking” program in Mountain View and on Geng Road in Palo Alto, is charged with providing case management services to participating individuals, with the goal of linking them to more stable housing.

To keep the momentum going, the council on Monday endorsed Santa Clara County’s 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness, a vision document that includes among its strategies an expansion in safety-net services, construction of thousands of affordable housing units, adoption of policies to prevent eviction and enabling the number of temporary housing beds across the county.

But while the council was united in supporting the county’s vision, members diverged over a key detail in the city’s “safe parking” program: background checks. Move Mountain View does not perform background checks on its clients in any of its sites, consistent with guidance from Santa Clara County.

Some council members, including Lydia Kou and Greg Tanaka, believe that it should.

The question of background checks is also at the heart of a debate between the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, which is trying to establish a “safe parking” program in its parking lot, and Stevenson House, a residential facility for low-income seniors that is appealing the program. On Aug. 9, approval of the program was delayed when three council members — Vice Mayor Pat Burt, Kou and Tanaka — voted to remove the appeal from the council’s “consent calendar” and to schedule a full hearing on the church’s application. The hearing is now scheduled for Sept. 20.

Numerous residents and community activists pushed back Monday against the council’s decision to delay its approval and implored council members not to treat homeless individuals like criminals. Mary Wisniewski, board member of Heart and Home Collaborative, a shelter that relies on a rotation of local congregations, argued that requesting background checks from impoverished individuals “relates on a disturbing assumption that somehow these people are more likely to be criminals than any other visitor to the city or to a specific church location.”

“People who are in such deep need live in much greater fear of being victims of crime than they experience committing crime,” Wisniewski said. “People who are experiencing homelessness have nowhere to put their belongings to keep them safe and they are more likely to have things stolen from them than to steal.”

Patricia Regehr, a member of the city’s Human Relations Commission, also spoke out against background checks in “safe parking” programs. Regehr, who was speaking for herself and not for the commission, called background checks “social and economic profiling” of a vulnerable population.

“I think background checks would be a horrible way to bring injustice to people who are disadvantaged socially and economically,” Regehr said.

The council appeared split on the subject. Kou and Tanaka both supported background checks, arguing that this would help ensure safety for neighborhood residents. Council member Greer Stone pushed back against the implication that unhoused individuals need to go through background checks and cited numerous studies indicating a lack of a connection between homelessness and violent crime.

“I think when it comes to making public policy, we really need to rely on empirical evidence and scientific studies to direct our decision-making,” Stone said. “And the studies really overwhelmingly show that unhoused people are not only less likely to commit violent crimes than housed people but are also far more likely to be victims of violent crimes.”

Email Staff Writer Genny Shyener at gshyener@pawweekly.com.
‘Radical convenience’ spurs East Palo Alto vaccination push

Local leaders, high schoolers lead door-to-door vaccination campaign to boost city’s immunization rate

By Zoe Morgan

Two Saturdays ago, East Palo Alto Mayor Carlos Romero tried a novel approach to getting more residents vaccinated against COVID-19 — driving his beat-up, 1987 Mazda pickup truck through town with a microphone in hand and a speaker in the truck bed, announcing a vaccine event was underway nearby.

Sure enough, a few people came running into the clinic at the last minute, saying they’d heard the announcement and wanted to get their shot.

“It was such a vindication of that particular approach and a verification that it worked,” Romero said.

The truck may have been a new addition, but this type of grassroots, direct vaccine outreach is something the mayor has been championing for months in an effort to increase East Palo Alto’s vaccination rate, including personally knocking on 3,000 doors.

Romero actually got the idea for the pickup truck announcements from a group of local high school students who also have been working on a door-to-door canvassing campaign. Over a dozen high schools have knocked on doors roughly 9,000 times, sometimes the same home more than once, as part of an effort organized by the nonprofit Youth Community Service (YCS).

When someone answers, the teens ask whether the person has been vaccinated, and if not, whether they’d be interested in getting a shot. They’ll then share information about upcoming local vaccine clinics and answer any questions the resident might have.

“Instead of just posting a flyer, we actually walked up, knocked on the door, engaged (and) had a conversation,” YCS Executive Director Mora Oommen said.

“People of color make up the overwhelming majority of East Palo Alto’s population. According to the 2020 census, roughly two-thirds of East Palo Alto’s residents are Hispanic. Only 7.7% are white,” Romero said.

According to Romero, local leaders realized early on that “high touch” outreach would be necessary to reach working class and low-income minority communities in the city.

Currently, 79.5% of those aged 10 and up in the city have received at least one vaccine dose, according to county data. That’s much higher than it once was, but lower than nearby cities like Menlo Park, where the vaccination rate is 99%.

A broad coalition of local leaders, community groups, health care providers and others have come together under the banner of Umoja Health San Mateo County to expand access to vaccination, particularly in East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks.

The door knocking campaign is one part of that effort.

Umoja Health San Mateo County was started in March by Kala Mehta, a Palo Alto resident and associate professor at UCSF in the department of epidemiology and biostatistics, and Lisa Tealer, the executive director of the Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council. The original Umoja Health chapter was founded in Oakland by Dr. Kim Rhoads, who is a colleague of Mehta at UCSF.

Umoja uses a “for us, by us” model, Oommen said, where people within the community work collectively.

The group has focused on providing “radical convenience,” Romero said, bringing accessible clinics right into the neighborhoods with the lowest vaccination rates.

One problem early on was that many vaccination events were held during the work day or at mass sites out of the area.

“Those kinds of larger events are really geared toward people with cars and computers,” Tealer said.

Another issue was clinics asking for substantial documentation, which can be a barrier for many, especially undocumented residents. Umoja worked with health care providers to simplify the process.

“We don’t want people to not get a shot because they mistrust the government or they mistrust a medical institution,” Romero said.

By partnering with health care providers to offer convenient, low barrier clinics, Mehta said roughly 13,900 vaccine doses have been administered with Umoja Health’s support. The plan is to expand Umoja Health’s model to nearby San Mateo County, Tealer said.

“We needed to bring everyone together (and) have a forum for folks to talk and help coordinate,” Tealer said.

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“When she told her story about what was going on in Oakland, I recognized what was happening and thought something very similar was happening in East Palo Alto,” Mehta said.

Communities of color were not accessing vaccines at the rates of the overall population, primarily due to a lack of availability in their local area, Mehta said.

Over 50 local leaders are now meeting weekly as part of Umoja Health San Mateo to collectively work on increasing vaccination rates.

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Going door-to-door
Starting in March, Mehta helped organize a group of university students in a door-to-door outreach effort. Over the summer that transitioned into YCS’ work with local high school students. They focused on the west side of the city, which had the lowest vaccination rate, Oommen said.

Weekly vaccine clinics were scheduled in the area and the students engaged individually with each person who opened the door, telling them about the clinics and often answering questions.

In some cases, people believed “outright falsehoods” about the vaccine that they saw on the internet, Romero said, like that it will make you sterile or enlarge your heart. The person doing the outreach generally tried to talk through those concerns, but they also encouraged the resident to talk to medical staff at a vaccine clinic.

Medical student Rayan Lotfi volunteered last week to take part in an “Ask a scientist” booth at a vaccine event in East Palo Alto, where he helped answer people’s questions. In addition to sharing information about the vaccine, Lotfi said it also often helped to talk about his own experience getting vaccinated.

“It puts a more human face to the medical providers who are getting vaccinated and advocating for it,” Lotfi said. He also talked about encouraging his own family and friends to get vaccinated.

Often though, he didn’t so much have to combat misinformation as ensure people knew about the clinics and felt comfortable accessing them.

In one case, Palo Alto High School junior Angel Solorio was walking down the street and saw a man standing nearby. Solorio asked the man in Spanish whether he’d been vaccinated, and when he said no, offered to walk with him to a nearby vaccination clinic. He took Solorio up on the offer, saying that he’d seen the clinic already but had heard a lot of people talking in English, so he didn’t go in.

“Since I came to him talking in Spanish and he only (spoke) Spanish, I feel like he felt more comfortable,” Solorio said.

The canvassers would also often go to the same house multiple times, including on the day of a clinic, letting residents know there were nearby options to get vaccinated.

“That’s what we were trying to get across — this is happening right here for you,” Oommen said. “You don’t need to go far. You don’t need an appointment. There are no questions asked.”

The last in a series of Saturday clinics that have been running at the Woodland Park apartment complex in East Palo Alto was held last Saturday. For information on other clinics in San Mateo County, visit smchealth.org/vaccine-clinic-calendar.

Email Staff Writer Zoe Morgan at zmorgan@pawekly.com.
Fire danger (continued from page 5)

will turn east and that they will be “hot and fast,” forcing the city to consider evacuations for the hundreds of homes in the foothills.

“We prepped and we prepped and we started going through the homes in the neighborhoods and letting them know that something might be coming,” McNally said. “We were asking them to fill out cards, letting us know if people were left behind.”

Luckily, the wind shift never came and the crisis was averted. But as Vice Mayor Pat Burt and other council members acknowledged Monday, the city may not be so fortunate next time. Even with the increased investment in fire prevention and improved coordination between agencies, Burt suggested that the city and its partners need to invest even more in fire protection.

“We’re facing a very acute risk,” Burt said. “It’s not good enough to say, ‘We’re doing a lot more than we were before and we’re doing a pretty darn good job compared to other agencies that we benchmark against.’ The benchmarking has to be against the level of risk, and I don’t think we’re there yet.”

The city’s emergency responders have been taking some action to boost fire-prevention efforts, including conducting annual inspections to foothills properties to ensure residents are creating adequate “defensible space” around their homes. This includes removal of all dead plants and branches and removing leaves from their yards, roofs, rain gutters and other spaces within 30 feet from buildings, as well as cutting grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches within 100 feet of buildings. Earlier this month, staff from the Fire and Office of Emergency Services outlined these steps in a community meeting with residents from Palo Alto Hills and other vulnerable areas.

“The more that could be done at the front end by property owners to make their properties savable, the better chance we have of saving them on the back end.” McNally said. “If we have three homes and two are well prepared and one is not, oftentimes we do the most we can with the resources we have and save the two, if the one requires too much work.”

Ken Duerer, director of Palo Alto’s Office of Emergency Services, said his office has also been encouraging residents to sign up for early warning systems such as AlertSCC and Zonehaven to get information about evacuations. They should also be prepared to leave even without an official order. Duerer said.

“Really, those of us in the first-responder community want to encourage people to not hesitate — not wait to be informed by some official channel, much less a knock on your door at 2 a.m.,” Duerer said. “That’s what we’ve been telling everyone consistently.”

City staff also acknowledged in a new report that even the actions recently taken collectively by agencies, landowners and property owners in the near- and mid-term “might not be sufficient to mitigate or prevent a major fire.”

“As we are seeing now with large fires in California and other areas of the Pacific Northwest, the usual concepts of defensible space, fuel reduction, and firefighting can be obviated when such fires generate their own winds (fire weather) and become unstoppable by humans,” the report states.

Other agencies are also stepping up their efforts to meet the growing threat. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has recently expanded firebreaks along Montebello Road and removed about 100 eucalyptus trees in the area of Page Mill Road and Skyline Boulevard in 2020, said Craig Beckman, area manager for the open space district.

Stanford University is also accelerating its vegetation management plan in areas such as Jasper Ridge, though the effort is hampered by a shortage of contractors available to perform the work. Stanford Fire Marshal Aaron McCarthy said.

“There’s not a lot of people available to do this all as quickly as we need it done,” McCarthy told the council. “That’s something we’re going to try to address as we move forward.”

Stanford is now developing artificial intelligence technologies for fire detection. It is also evaluating the use of fire retardants in frequently visited areas, including around Interstate Highway 280, along Junipero Serra Boulevard and under power poles.

To help develop new technology, Palo Alto officials are proposing to use the city as a “test bed” that convenes different government agencies, academics, nonprofits and private companies.

“All of us really need to work together. This is not a single agency or single discipline challenge,” Duerer said. “Wildfires in particular stretch everyone beyond their limits, even the big state agencies.”

While the council didn’t take any formal actions Monday, members strongly supported the recent efforts to improve coordination with Stanford and other partners in the region. They also supported recent moves by the Community Services Department to shut down nine barbecue pits in camping areas in the foothills. The city has not, however, closed down the 28 pits in the Orchard Glen picnic area or the two in the Orchard Glen area in Foothills Nature Preserve.

Burt and council member Greer Stone both said they would support a broader prohibition on fire pits in the foothills until the end of the fire season. Stone recalled last year, when his parents and his sister left their homes due to hazards posed by the CZU fires. After spending several anxious weeks with friends, they were relieved to learn that their homes were saved.

“My family was lucky. Many others were not,” Stone said. “Driving up to their house is just always a heartbreaking reminder of those who lost their homes.”

To boost fire-prevention efforts, emergency responders are encouraging home owners to create “defensible space” around their properties.

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“My family was lucky. Many others were not,” Stone said. “Driving up to their house is just always a heartbreaking reminder of those who lost their homes.”

To boost fire-prevention efforts, emergency responders are encouraging home owners to create “defensible space” around their properties.
Nestled on over one-half acre within the chic enclave of Crescent Park lies this impeccable Italianate estate designed by Palo Alto’s most revered architect, Birge Clark. Extensively renovated over a 3-year period, this home has been designed to provide for a modern Silicon Valley lifestyle while still offering an abundance of nearly century-old Palo Alto beauty, charm, and grace. Offering 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and 3 powder rooms, including a beautiful guest house, this estate boasts a total of over 7,200 square feet of living space, with expansive interiors brimming with elegant appointments and providing incredible venues for both entertaining and everyday living. Highlights of the estate include 7 fireplaces, including one outdoors, sizable formal rooms, the flawless chef’s kitchen with a La Cornue range, and the magnificent library with a secret passageway to the adjacent dining room. The self-contained master suite is a retreat in and of itself, with a spa-like bathroom, exercise room, laundry, and sauna. The crown jewels of the estate are the brilliant grounds cultivated with assistance from renowned landscape designer Ken Schoppet, showcasing vibrant, distinctive plantings as you enter the property with seating areas to relax and unwind. The resort-like rear grounds are reminiscent of the French Riviera, accentuated by the remarkable pool that draws inspiration from Hearst Castle and features hand-set Murano glass tiles in a deep, striking shade of blue. For added convenience, this estate also offers a 3-car garage, porte-cochère, and a motor-court with ample parking. And though this Crescent Park location affords outstanding privacy, you will still be mere moments to University Avenue, Stanford University, top tech companies, and US 101.

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A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS
Palo Alto
Aug. 25-Aug. 31
Violence related
Pasture Drive, 8/23, 11:44 a.m.; sex crime
Oxford Avenue, 8/24, 10:30 a.m.; sex crime.
Araratadero Road, 8/24, 2:44 p.m.; sexual battery.
Embarcadero Road, 8/24, 2:20 p.m.; sex crime.
Middlefield Road, 8/28, 12 p.m.; simple battery.
Maddux Drive, 8/29, 12:01 a.m.; domestic violence/battery.
University Avenue/Bryant Street, 8/27, 4:11 p.m.; elder abuse/physical.

Theft related
Commercial burglaries 2
Embezzlement 1
Grand theft 1
Identity theft 1
Proxler 2
Residential burglaries 1
Shoplifting 6

Vehicle related
Auto theft 1
Bicycle theft 1
Driving with expired license 2
Hit and run 2
Lost/stolen plates 1
Misc. traffic 2
Stolen catalytic converter 1

Theft from auto

Vehicle accident/major injury 1
Vehicle accident/no injury 1

Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence 1
Possession of drugs 1

Miscellaneous
Disturbance/annoying phone calls 1
Found property 1
Info. case 1

Menlo Park
Aug. 25-Aug. 31
Violence related
Santa Cruz Avenue/El Camino Real, 8/25, 4:01 p.m.; battery.
1200 block Crane Street, 8/25, 4:28 p.m.; battery.

Theft related
Fraud 2
 Petty theft 2
Shoplifting 1

Vehicle related
Bicycle theft 1
Driving w/ suspended license 1
Hit and run 2
Lost/stolen plates 1
Stolen catalytic converter 1

Theft from auto

Vehicle accident/major injury 1
Vehicle accident/no injury 1

Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence 1
Possession of drugs 1

Miscellaneous
Disturbance/annoying phone calls 1
Found property 1
Info. case 1

Mental evaluation 1
Missing person 1
Other/misc. 2
Threads 1
Vandalism 2
Warrant/other agency 2

PARKSON'S DISEASE AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS CENTER OF SILICON VALLEY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. FBN977509
The following person (person(s)) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Midtown Management, 2.) Midtown Realty, 3.) Midtown Realities, located at 2775A Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is/are:
MIDTOWN MANAGEMENT
MIDTOWN REALTY
MIDTOWN REALTY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
DISORDERS CENTER OF SILICON VALLEY
File No. FBN977511
The following person (person(s)) is (are) doing business as: Parkson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center of Silicon Valley, located at 512 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is/are:
DR. SALIMA BRILLMAN, PC
512 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Regisrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/01/2017.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on August 30, 2021.

(Prep Aug 30, 2021, Sep 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021)

AMARI HHH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN978300
The following person (person(s)) is (are) doing business as: Amari HHH, located at 2625 Middlefield Road, #315, Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is/are:
AMARI HHH
733 Layne Court
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Regisrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/11/2021.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on August 30, 2021.

(Prep Aug 30, 2021, Sep 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-4578 or email asantillan@paweekly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Pulse

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 35.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • September 3, 2021 • Page 15
MAGNIFICENT LINDENWOOD ESTATE ON NEARLY AN ACRE

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SEPTEMBER 10-18, 2021

SOME OF OUR EXCITING EVENTS

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – FREE
AT MITCHELL PARK ATHLETIC FIELD,
SEPT. 10 @ 7:30 P.M.
Featuring “Zootopia” with a tribute
honoring Palo Alto’s first responders.
Registration is required.

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE
AND REMEMBRANCE
AT MULTIPLE SERVICE SITES IN PALO
ALTO AND EAST PALO ALTO, SEPT. 11

ACGA PALO ALTO CLAY
AND GLASS FESTIVAL
AT THE PALO ALTO ART CENTER,
SEPT. 11 & 12 @ 10 A.M.
Stroll the beautiful Art Center grounds,
meet the artists, and find inspiration in
amazing works for the home and garden.

ENJOY LIVE MUSIC FROM ARTISTS
ON CAL AVE –
• SEPT. 11 @ 5 P.M., Steve Poltz
• SEPT. 13 @ 5 P.M., Inspector Gadje Sextet
AT LYTTON PLAZA –
• SEPT. 13 @ 12 P.M., Dayna Stephens Group
• SEPT. 14 @ 5 P.M., Mitch Woods &
  His Rocket 88s ft. Nancy Wright
• SEPT. 15 @ 4:30 P.M., Ben Goldberg
  & Scott Amendola Play Monk

CANTOR ARTS CENTER –
MUSEUM DAY
SEPT. 12 FROM 1-4 P.M.,
Open for a special welcome for Palo Alto residents.

STANFORD ATHLETICS
WELCOMES YOU BACK!
WOMEN’S SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL,
& MEN’S SOCCER, SEPT. 11, 12, & 14
Be one of the first to see the Cardinal
return to play.

GOLF COURSE CLINIC DAY
& OPEN HOUSE
SEPT. 13 @ 9:30 A.M.

2021 MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK
SEPT. 17 @ 5:30 P.M.
A Palo Alto Weekly/Online benefit event
that supports local non-profits dedicated to
helping kids and families on the Peninsula.
Registration is required.

OPEN HOUSE: PALO ALTO LAWN
BOWLS – FREE LESSONS!
AT PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS,
SEPT. 18, FREE FROM 10 A.M.–1 P.M.

OPENING NIGHT OF “WORKING”
BY PALO ALTO PLAYERS
AT LUCIE STERN COMMUNITY
THEATER, SEPT. 18 @ 8 P.M.
"WORKING" is a brilliant, hilarious, and
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Each of this year’s nine Avenidas Lifetime of Achievement honorees has one of many nonprofit and charitable organizations where Codispoti has worked tirelessly for over many decades.

Among Codispoti’s many talents are her formidable fundraising abilities, often the least popular duty in charitable or political campaigns.

“She has no problem asking people to open up their wallets and their hearts for a good cause,” Rao said.

Human Rights Watch is just one of many nonprofit and charitable organizations where Codispoti has worked tirelessly for over many decades.

Among Codispoti’s many talents are her formidable fundraising abilities, often the least popular duty in charitable or political campaigns.

“She has no problem asking people to open up their wallets and their hearts for a good cause,” Rao said.

For more information, call 650-289-5445.
BETSY GIFFORD
SHE’S SPENT HUNDREDS OF HOURS LENDING A HAND TO NONPROFITS
By Sue Dremann

Betsy Gifford is finally getting used to the idea of being honored with an Avenues Lifetimes of Achievement Award. She’s not keen on the spotlight. “I like to do things quietly in the background. I don’t want any bugs,” she said on a sunny August afternoon.

But Gifford’s — and her family’s — quiet imprint is on many things benefiting the Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Stanford communities: Stanford athletics and arts programs; the YMCA in East Palo Alto; the Children’s Hospital at Stanford; the Music Guild at Stanford University; Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula; a local PTA, as well as numerous others.

From being a Palo Alto Community Fund director emerita to being a 30-year member of the Dirty Knees Brigade at Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, Betsy Gifford isn’t shy about one thing: rolling up her sleeves. With privilege comes responsibility, and that’s how she was raised, she said.

“Family ethic — that’s it,” she said during an interview with the Weekly. “There’s nothing better than to see the results of quietly contributing to the benefit of all. It fills your heart.”

— Betsy Gifford

From being a Palo Alto Community Fund director emerita to being a 30-year member of the Dirty Knees Brigade at Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, Betsy Gifford isn’t shy about one thing: rolling up her sleeves. With privilege comes responsibility, and that’s how she was raised, she said.

“Family ethic — that’s it,” she said during an interview with the Weekly. “There’s nothing better than to see the results of quietly contributing to the benefit of all. It fills your heart.”

— Betsy Gifford

BILL AND GAY KRAUSE
THEY’VE SPENT DECADES WORKING TO IMPROVE LOCAL EDUCATION
By Chris Kenrick

I t felt like an enormous risk to Bill and Gay Krause back in 1981.

Bill quit his good management job at Hewlett-Packard — where his personal mentor was the legendary co-founder Bill Hewlett — to join an uncertain but interesting startup.

“There were months when there were no paychecks,” recalled Gay in an interview with the Weekly. “There were months when there were no paychecks,” recalled Gay in an interview with the Weekly.

The startup — 3Com — turned out to be wildly successful. As CEO from 1981 to 1990 and board chair from 1987 to 1993, Bill grew the data networking firm into a global, $1 billion-plus publicly traded company.

The wealth created from that venture has since allowed the Los Altos Hills couple to pursue many other directions.

In the case of Gay, a former schoolteacher and principal, she’s been able to create and grow her own startup — the Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Under her direction since its founding in 2000, the center has offered professional training to more than 23,000 educators in the effective use of classroom technology and more engaging, high-quality instruction in math and related subjects.

“Education, from our point of view, is really the foundation of all benefits to society.’”

— Bill Krause

For Bill, his success at 3Com allowed him to execute on a three-part idea he’d hazily concocted as a 20-year-old, broke college graduate. The plan — which he calls “learning, earning and serving” — was to spend one-third of his career learning about business; another third building a business and the remainder giving back.

His learning phase took place at General Electric and then at Hewlett-Packard, where on his very first day in 1967, Krause was introduced to company president Bill Hewlett in the cafeteria. He began accompanying Hewlett on sales calls for an early programmable machine they called a desktop calculator. Krause later went on to turn the money-losing HP 3000 computer into a $1 billion business for the company and, still later, to manage HP’s first personal computer division.

Intrigued by the then-new idea of connecting PCs into a network, Krause embarked on his risky but ultimately successful “earning” phase, joining Ethernet co-inventor Robert Metcalfe and others in the early days of 3Com. Among the company’s first customers were the young Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Sun Microsystems co-founder Andy Bechtolsheim.

Now in his “giving back” phase, Krause mentors young entrepreneurs through the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz and also is a senior adviser to the private equity firm Carlyle Group. Having served on boards of more than 15 publicly traded companies, he now sits on the boards of two startups, Forward Networks and Smarctar, as well as the privately held Veritas. Gay currently serves on the boards of the YMCA of Silicon Valley, the Foothill-De Anza Foundation, Children Now, the Mountain View-Los Altos-Los Altos Hills Challenge Team, as well as the community board of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

For both Krauses, most of the other “giving back” flows from their shared passion for education. They’ve funded the Krause Innovation Studio at Penn State University — Gay’s alma mater — and

(continued on page 25)

(continued on page 26)
**ARMAND AND ELIANE NEUKERMANS**

Together and individually, couple is dedicated to serving local and global communities

By Heather Zimmerman

It’s certainly not uncommon for long-devoted couples to have met in college, but a truly special partnership was forged some decades ago when an economics student met an engineering student at Louvain University in Belgium.

That meeting brought together Armand and Eliane Neukermans, who have been married close to 60 years, have four children and nine grandchildren. But that meeting in college also brought together two people dedicated to being of service to others, whose numerous philanthropic projects make a difference in the lives of people both locally and globally.

Together and individually, the Neukermanses’ philanthropic work takes a stunningly broad scope, from complex social issues such as education and accessibility to the gnarliest of environmental challenges, with projects aimed at mitigating climate change.

“The only way to live is to share what you have with your family and community. We don’t live for ourselves.” — Eliane Neukermans

Armand and Eliane Neukermans’ philanthropic work takes a stunningly broad scope, from complex social issues such as education and accessibility to the gnarliest of environmental challenges, with projects aimed at mitigating climate change.

(continued on page 26)

**ALMA AND JIM PHILLIPS**

They’ve changed lives through more than a dozen local organizations

By Jocelyn Dong

When Jim Phillips met Alma Howard at the University of Texas at Austin in the late 1950s, it was pretty much love at first sight, he recently recalled. But a year later, the soon-to-be graduates faced their first quandary: He was staying for graduate school at the university; she was thinking of moving to Houston to find work as an elementary school teacher since Austin’s school district was so highly competitive.

But demonstrating a commitment to Jim, as she would for decades to come, Alma sought advice from her dean, who told her to go to the district office immediately.

“You’re the best graduate of your year in your field. There’s no question you’ll get a job teaching in Austin,” he said.

So Alma did. And she got the job.

Thus began the Phillipses’ partnership for life, which has taken them from Austin to New York to Palo Alto, where they and their two children set down roots in 1972.

“Put a lot of effort into doing things for others, and you will realize a richer life.” — Jim Phillips

Their’s, Jim said, has been a lifetime of joy, built on mutual support and service to others.

As Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement honorees, the Phillipses’ contributions to the Palo Alto area have been broad, spanning education, diversity, housing, civic affairs and services to seniors. Their impact also has been deep, helping people in ways that have changed lives.

For Jim, the ethos of service to others was planted in him when he was young, as he observed his parents’ volunteerism. His mother, a registered nurse, provided health care for early Silicon Valley companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Xerox. He went on to create his own consulting firm and also founded a company based on a revolutionary optical switch.

Armand was named Silicon Valley Inventor of the Year in 2001 by the Silicon Valley Intellectual Property Law Association. He holds over 75 patents, and his work has led to everything from the development of the inkjet printer to innovations in fiber optics, advancements in hearing aids to transdermal medical delivery systems.

For more than a decade, Armand has been one of a small group of engineers and scientists volunteering their time and expertise to tackle one of the biggest challenges there is: climate change. One aspect of their work focuses on a “geoengineering” strategy known as “marine cloud brightening,” which aims to lower temperatures through a process that makes clouds denser and capable of reflecting sunlight back into the atmosphere. It’s being experimentally to try to cool Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, Eliane said.

“Other people who influenced Armand’s work for two decades have been (Stanford professor) Steve Schneider and (scientist and futurist) James Lovelock who each in their own way promoted the need for involvement, action and research in climate change. We had several meetings with them. Armand’s work with fellow engineers and scientists on climate change and geo-engineering is the

(continued on page 26)
Stephen Player

He Lent His Legal Expertise to Help Launch Startup Nonprofits

By Lloyd Lee

From the get-go as a fresh law school graduate, Palo Alto attorney Stephen Player spent much of his 30-year career lending his skills to help local nonprofits get off the ground all while working full-time representing some of Silicon Valley’s biggest tech names.

Player was among those who helped form the Senior Coordinating Council of Palo Alto, which later became Avenidas. He also assisted with the launch of Center for a New Generation, an afterschool enrichment program in East Palo Alto, and Foundation for a College Education, which helps students in underrepresented communities pursue college.

Looking back on his accomplishments, Player, now 80, describes his life trajectory as a series of serendipitous moments, with one thing unexpectedly leading to another.

“It was just kind of a series of decisions, or non-decisions, that helped me through my career,” he said.

From day one, Player said, his career as a lawyer started with a stroke of good luck. After graduating from Stanford University and University of California, Hastings College of the Law, Player said he took a gap year in England. When he returned to the United States, Player struggled for a few months to find a job. His prospects finally changed in 1967 when his wife’s uncle introduced Player to a close friend named Nathan Finch, who ran a small law firm in Palo Alto.

When the two met, Finch told Player, “Hey, we just terminated our law firm.” At the time, Player didn’t know much about Finch or whom the firm represented. He was mostly happy for the opportunity to work for free. When Finch told Player about a small law firm in Palo Alto, it turned out, had been David Packard and Bill Hewlett’s personal lawyer through the founding of Hewlett-Packard, and the firm also now performed corporate work for the tech company.

This association with HP led to the beginning of Player’s foray into the nonprofit sector. Player said Packard approached the firm with a request from fellow Stanford University alum John Gardner — who at the time was serving as secretary of health, education and welfare in the Lyndon Johnson administration — to help establish a local chapter of the nonprofit Urban Coalition.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to really deal with some real life issues, and Urban Coalition was right on top of things,” Player said.

Player’s involvement with the Urban Coalition opened the floodgates for what would amount to several decades of volunteer legal work for nonprofits and a seat on more than a dozen nonprofit boards, including the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, Palo Alto Recreation Foundation and Palo Alto YMCA.

He was approached to help start Foundation for a College Education, a nonprofit by Christopher Roe and Glenn Singleton, who were interested in helping minority high school students get into college. He also was tapped by John Wesley Rice, the father of former U.S.Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to help start Center for a New Generation in 1991. The organization now operates as an extension of the Boys & Girls Club.

In his sole practice as a general business and real estate lawyer after he left Finch’s law firm, Player became known as a friendly neighborhood lawyer, settling disputes between Palo Alto residents and the city. If a resident’s fence was too high or their home was too close to someone else’s, for example, Player said he would often step in as a mediator to help both sides come to terms amicably.

“The thing about law — sometimes it’s about beating the other person,” he said. “I never was that way. I always felt there had to be a meeting point somewhere.”

In his 60s, Player’s career took another unexpected turn.

While serving on the board of the Midpeninsula Hospice Foundation, which later became Pathways, Player called his friend Howie Pearson, Stanford’s current senior philanthropic adviser and development legal counsel, to ask him to give a talk about planned giving and how to raise endowments.

And in tune with Player’s serendipitous world, when he called to confirm Pearson’s appointment, Pearson’s administrative assistant asked if Player would be willing to take a half-time job as the university’s planned giving officer.

“I said, said, sure. That’s why I talk about serendipity,” he said.

Player lives in his longtime residence in the Leland Manor neighborhood with his wife, Nancy, who has been involved in much of his volunteer work since the ’80s. Currently, Player’s on a committee trying to get the Palo Alto Museum off the ground and raise money.

“I was really blessed as a young lawyer to have a chance to meet all these people,” he said. “As I get older, I look back and think, ‘I was a lucky son of a gun.’”

Email Contributing Writer David Goll at David.W.Goll@gmail.com.

Codispoti (continued from page 21)

“As a kid, there was one Christmas when I needed money to buy gifts, so I went door to door in my neighborhood selling Christmas cards. I made some money not only for gifts but to buy a savings bond, too,” she said.

Codispoti said that, because of her father’s employment in the military, her family moved every two years when she was growing up. Along with such domestic locations as Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Florida and California, her father also was stationed in Santiago, Chile, where she and her sisters learned to speak Spanish.

But it was the move she made after accepting a position at Time Life Co. in New York City following her graduation from Syracuse University in 1965 that ended up having a profound effect on Codispoti’s life. When her father accept ed a military assignment in Japan, she decided to leave the Time Life job and join her parents and sisters in the East. While working as a social studies teacher in a school for the children of American military personnel in Japan — despite lacking a teaching credential — Codispoti befriended a fellow American teacher.

Though her new friend eventually had to return home to Ohio due to the death of her mother, Codispoti forged a now 54-year friendship with Jude Wolken, which included the latter introducing the former to her future husband, Kenneth Schroeder, at a party she hosted a few years later in California.

“We have developed an amazing friendship over the years,” said Wolken, who also resides in Los Altos Hills. “Fran and I really consider ourselves to be sisters.”

A friend of Wolken hosted the outdoor wedding of Codispoti and Schroeder at their home in Portola Valley.

Their friendship grew ever stronger during the ensuing years, as Codispoti juggled starting her own family — having a son and daughter — with working as a scheduler at Hewlett-Packard during the 1970s. Channeling her own mother, whom she described as a mid-20th century feminist, Codispoti advocated and agitated for her own career advancement, as well as for other women, not only at HP, but in a high-tech industry generally that is still struggling with misogyny nearly five decades later.

“Feminism has been a continuous thread throughout my life,” Codispoti said.

In the midst of working, having children and pursuing an MBA at Santa Clara University, Codispoti had to undergo six months of chemotherapy after discovering a lump that led to a Hodgkin’s lymphoma diagnosis.

Emerging from that health scare after several years of treatment, Codispoti became involved in charitable work for many different schools and organizations, including Gunn High School and the Palo Alto Unified School District. Becoming acutely aware of issues involving aging, since her mother was in her late 80s at the time, Codispoti also became active with Avenidas, the Palo Alto-based nonprofit that provides programs and services for Mid- peninsula seniors.

Among the projects she led for Avenidas was the capital campaign to remodel the organization’s aging headquarters at 450 Bryant St.

All in a day’s work for Codispoti. Her unique talent, according to her legions of friends and fans, is dedication.

“This is her gift,” Wolken said of her dear friend’s devotion to charitable groups and causes. “Fran is fiercely dedicated and loyal to her causes, her family and all the people in her life.” Wolken said.

Email Contributing Writer David Goll at David.W.Goll@gmail.com.

Living Well
 League and PTA in Palo Alto. When her husband died — Gifford was in her early 40s — her volun-
teerism and giving intensified. Leonard Ely conscripted her to join the Palo Alto Community Fund in 1993, and she began directing her attention to East Palo Alto.

“It was a ticket for me to learn about the community on both sides of Bay-
shore Freeway,” she said. Gifford wanted to continue her fam-
ily legacy involvement. It’s wanting to know the results of quietly contributing to the
community,” she said.

When Gifford visits East Palo Alto’s YMCA and sees the community enjoying
the programs, she feels satisfaction. “There’s nothing better than to see the rest of yourself contributing to the benefit of all. It fills your heart. Money can’t build those feelings,” she said.

Volunteering and donating “gave me the opportunity to expand my curiosity. The curiosity of my surroundings has
the opportunity to expand my curiosity. I can’t build those feelings,” she said.

For complete schedule or info about Avenidas events, call 650-289-5400.
Krause

(continued from page 22)

the Krause Center for Leadership and Ethics at The Citadel, Bill’s alma mater.

An early agenda for the Krause Center at Foothill College sprang from Gay’s observation, as a local school principal in the 1980s and ’90s, that computers and printers in many classrooms were gathering dust because teachers didn’t know how to use them. She set about helping educators master the new machines to improve student outcomes. Today’s young teachers are well-versed in computer technology, and the locus of the Krause Center for Innovation has shifted.

We still do a lot of the technology-based training, but that isn’t the driver now,” Gay said. “One of the things that most concerns me is that, here we are, a math-driven society (where) computer science is so big in our valley, and yet most of our teachers only have one semester of math in college so they aren’t as well prepared to teach students.

Neukermans

(continued from page 23)

the neighborhood where leaders in the fight against climate and Ethics at The Citidel, Bill’s the Krause Center for Leadership and Education Volunteers and Deer Enthusiasts for Fair Housing and League of the U.S. The Krauses thus feel it’s to bring many processes back to the U.S. The Krauses thus feel it’s critical to educate students in the skills available in the MakerSpace.

“Given Gay’s involvement, education has been a natural focus for our philanthropy,” Bill said. “Education, from our point of view, is really the foundation of all benefits to society. An educated person is fundamental to a successful society, to a successful economic environment so the Social Security checks can keep coming.”

Email Contributing Writer Chris Keerick at ckeerick@paweekly.com.

Email Arts Editor Heather Zimmerman at hjzimmerman@embracemediagroup.com.

Phillips

(continued from page 23)

are amazing. I wish you knew how many children are better readers because of you.”

“The kids love Alma,” Jim said, sitting at the kitchen table of their Burlingame home recently as birds chirped outside. “I think it’s her strong understanding of education and her way of connecting with children that makes such a beautiful complement to me in the tech industry. During his career, he was a development engineer, adjunct professor, technical manager and managing director for a third of the business in Lockheed’s Space Systems Division.

When Mehta came to Castilleja to share his work with students, faculty and parents at the school, he stayed with the Neukermans, and introduced him to researchers at Stanford and hosted their meetings at the Neukermans’ home — meetings that led to the development of a low-cost prosthetic called the Stanley-Jai- pur knee.

“D.R. Mehta was a true inspiration on how to go about philan- thropy,” Eliane said. Armand is now supporting research for a hand prosthesis with Santa Clara University following the retirement of Professor Thomas Andriciacci, Stanford’s lead researcher on the project.

Eliané counts many nonprofits and schools among her philan- tropic projects, but she notes that her focus is introducing others, bringing people together.

“Often people refer to me as more of a facilitator with all the projects that we have done together. I know quite a few organizations, and one thing that I really do like to do is try to bring them together so they can work on projects. I like bringing different interests and diff- erent talents together. That’s very satisfying,” she said.

One such symbiotic project grew out of inviting Judy Koch of the children’s literacy nonprofit Bring Me a Book Foundation to visit Palo Alto’s St. Elizabeth Seton School. Koch, in turn, brought a friend, Deborah Mudd, the Stanford Dean of Education on the trip.

“This developed into a train- ing program for teachers offered by Stanford in collaboration with principals as well as a Stanford tu- toring program for preschool-aged children,” Eliane said. She notes that when visiting scientists, academ- nics and nonprofit leaders come to town, she is frequently organiz- ing the visit — especially because she says, “They often become houseguests.”

Though the couple happily discusses the projects they support, it’s clear that they both prefer to shine the spotlight on the efforts of others — and not on themselves. For instance, Ar- mand was knighted several years ago by the king of Belgium but is modest about the honor.

Looking at their impressive philanthropic resume together and individually, the Neukermans’ long list of accom- plishments inspires — and with so many needs in the world, may lead to wondering how to possibly take the first step in voluntarism.

“Get to start, support the people you know that are making a difference. Don’t stand by the sidelines. (Justice advocate) Bryan Stevenson says it well: ‘Get proximate. Change the nar- rative. Do uncomfortable things. Stay hopeful,’” Armand said.

Email Arts Editor Heather Zimmerman at hjzimmerman@embracemediagroup.com.

Phillips

Each of this year’s nine Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement honorees have donated countless hours of hands-on service to local organizations and programs aimed at improving education, health care, the environment and services for seniors, among other areas. The honorees, who will be recognized during a virtual celebration on Sept. 26, include, from left to right, Betsy Gifford, Stephen Player, Eliane Neukermans, Armand Neukermans, Fran Codispoti, Gay Krause, Bill Krause, Alma Phillips and Jim Phillips.

Programs approved for the U.S. are amazing. I wish you knew how many children are better readers because of you.”

The decades of coming along- side others have made him hum- bler, Jim said, and taught him that the key to living a life of achieve- ment, meaning and joy lies in serving others.

“Don’t just concentrate on your own success and appearance. Put a lot of effort into doing things for others, and you will realize a richer life,” he said.

Alma offered her own words of wisdom: “Follow your talents and where your interests lie.”

“That sort of says, ’Be your self,’” Jim said to Alma, “and don’t try to be somebody else!”

Now-silver-haired and decades from their coed days, they looked at one another and laughed.

Email Editor Jocelyn Dong at jdong@paweekly.com.
Inside a spacious, well-appointed tent somewhere on the desert playa at Burning Man, there’s singing, dancing, sparkly costumes, and moments of both crushing doubt and soaring personal enlightenment. Outside, the weather is harsh; swirling in the wind, it’s not powdery playa dust, but snow.

This deluxe campsite has been built on a soundstage in upstate New York, where in the spring of 2021, a small cast and crew is filming “Burning Man: The Musical.”

The scene is a couple of thousand miles from the Nevada desert where Burning Man takes place every Labor Day weekend, but the camp and its cast of characters have origins much closer to home: places like a hacker house in Mountain View.

Matt Werner, creator of “Burning Man: The Musical” lived in that house for a time, with housemates who worked at various tech companies, both startups and established names — Werner himself at Google, where he still works as a senior technical writer. An Oakland native, Werner developed the musical over a number of years. The show is as much about the camp and its cast of characters and those of his older sister, Hazel (Michelle Duffy), in tow, leads her to various camps — they actually hire ‘sherpas.’ They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and they have wristbands. ‘They hire models to serve drinks and 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which was founded in 1986 in San Francisco, doesn’t just have close ties to tech and Silicon Valley, Werner noted: the festival’s ethos, with its 10 principles including radical self-expression, radical self-reliance and civic responsibility, has plenty in common with the roots of Silicon Valley.

“The original techies were actually counterculture people back in the ’70s. ... They were kind of renegades back then and we forget about that,” he said.

People building their own home computers or experimenting with robotics as a hobby used to be pretty unusual, Werner pointed out, and that same curiosity and technical skill has helped foster the art cars, robots and fiery sculptures that have been populating the playa over Burning Man’s 35 years.

But musicals aren’t known for nuance, so for storytelling purposes, Werner said he unblurred these lines, though he did purposely create a character with a foot in both worlds, representing the valley’s early renegades.

“The dichotomy that I’ve created in the musical is a false dichotomy, techie vs. hippie, because there was at one point a tremendous crossover,” he said.

As the show began to come together, it had several staged readings pre-pandemic in New York and San Francisco and it was well-received, particularly among the audiences who might have been most critical: the regular, dedicated festival-goers sometimes called Burners.

“As I’ve been developing this piece, I wanted to make sure that the tone of it is ‘laughing with us’ and not ‘laughing at us,’” Werner said. Some early test performances of the show in December 2019 invited the feedback of several hundred Burners.

“Overall, they just loved it. So they totally got the humor, they got the satire,” he said.

“Burning Man: The Musical” is not affiliated with the Burning Man organization that hosts the festival, but the company did give its blessing to the production for the use of the Burning Man name. The organization will feature the film as part of the official festivities, which due to the pandemic will take place virtually over this Labor Day weekend.

“Burning Man: The Musical” will be screened online as part of the celebrations on Burn Night, the festival’s culmination, when the iconic towering man sculpture is set aflame. The “Burn” will be shown via webcast on Saturday, Sept. 4.

Werner said that he still hopes to someday bring the musical to in-person theater as more of an experiential event, perhaps with heat lamps simulating the desert sun and fans mimicking dust storms — and of course, there would have to be a significant budget for pyrotechnics.

For more information, visit burningmanthemusical.com.

Hazel the Hippie (Michelle Duffy, center) and her fellow Burners (Michael McBride, left, YJ Jasa, foreground, and Mila Jam, right) have a different view of Burning Man than the techies who attend just to make deals.

**BUSINESS & TECH**

**CareerGenerations**
2225 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto 650-494-8222 / careergenerations.com
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.

**DANCE**

**Dance Connection**
4000 Middlefield Road, L-5, Palo Alto 650-322-7127 / info@dancedconnectionpaloalto.com / danceconnectionpaloalto.com
Dance Connection offers a preschool combination class for preschool-age children (beginning at age 3), graded classes for youth, and teen and adult programs to help meet dancers’ needs. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, Pilates and other instruction is available for students at various levels of ability. Full registration now open.

**Zohar School of Dance & Company**
4000 Middlefield Road, L-4, Palo Alto 650-494-8222 / zohar.dance@gmail.com / zohar.dancecompany.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. In-person and livestream classes via Zoom are available. Reserve ahead of time.

**SPORTS & OUTDOORS**

**Baylands Golf Links**
1875 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto 650-836-0881 / baylandsgolflinks.com
Private lessons teaching golf techniques, rules and etiquette are available at any level of experience. Full season for junior programs begins Sept. 7.

**Kim Grant Tennis Academy**
3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto 650-752-8061 / admin@kimgranttennis.com / kimgranttennis.com
The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis clinics and programs for adults and children, including those with special needs. Registration for classes online.

**United States Youth Volleyball League**
Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto 310-212-7008 / info@usyвл.org / usyвл.org/hometown-palo Alto
Run by the league and volunteers, the youth volleyball program teaches boys and girls the skills and fundamental techniques for ages 7 to 15 to play and learn the sport in a fun, supportive and co-ed environment. Late registration ends Sept. 25.

**HEALTH & FITNESS**

**Equinox**
440 Portage Ave., Palo Alto 650-319-1700 / equinox.com/northern-california/paloalto
Equinox’s Palo Alto location offers a variety of fitness and wellness activities including yoga, cycling and high-intensity interval training classes.

**SoulCycle**
669 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto 650-764-7250 / soulpaloalto.soul-cycle.com / studio/palo/28
SoulCycle combines inspirational coaching, high-energy music, indoor cycling, choreography and more to create an enjoyable, full-body workout. Some classes require vaccination.

**Studio Kicks**
2741 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto 650-855-8988 / info@studiokickspaloalto.com / studiokicksinpaloalto.com
Studio Kicks is a family fitness center offering cardio kickboxing classes and training in martial arts for children and adults. Call for more information on classes.

**The Midpen Media Center**
900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto 650-494-8868 / 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. Small-in-person group workshops and online classes are also available.

**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 experiences. Online and in-person classes are available.

**Pacific Palo Alto Art Center**
1313 Neilwell Road, Palo Alto 650-329-2366 / cityofpaloalto.org
Palo Alto Art Center classes and workshops — teaching children, teens and adults — cover such areas as ceramics, painting, drawing, jewelry, sculpture, Adobe Photoshop and more. Indoor classes are available. Visit the website to see the class catalog.

**Silicon Valley Boychoir**
3149 Waverley St., Palo Alto 650-494-0950 / info@svboychoir.org
Silicon Valley Boychoir (SVB) offers an after-school program, music immersion classes and performance opportunities to boys ages 7 to 17. Auditions by appointment.

**Silicon Valley School of Music**
303 Parkside Drive, Palo Alto 650-493-7200 / losaltosmontessori.org
Montessori School of Los Altos is committed to nurturing and educating each child, in all facets of social, growth, creativity and learning. The school offers Montessori Primary curriculum in half and full-day programs for children ages 2 1/2 to 5 1/2. It also offers year-round admission, summer camp and a swim program.

**Oshman Family JCC Leslie Family Preschool**
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto 650-233-8642 / lberman@almaUC.org / paloaltojcc.org/preschool
The Oshman Family JCC’s preschool program provides one-to-five-day-per-week options for children 28 months to 5 years old (ages 2 to 4 at Congregation Beth Am), with an emphasis on experiential learning, family involvement and play.

Living Wisdom School of Palo Alto
456 College Ave., Palo Alto 650-462-8150 / livingwisdomschool.org
Offering daily yoga, meditation, and experiential, project-based learning, Living Wisdom School has 24 years of proven success.

**Montessori School of Los Altos**
303 Parkside Drive, Palo Alto 94306

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We nurture & educate each child supporting their social growth creativity & learning Half & full-day programs Ages 2.5 to 5.5 100% Teachers Vaccinated

We look forward to connecting with your family - schedule a tour with us! 650.493.7200 / hello@losaltosmontessori.org

Looking for a place to utilize your business? This is the place to be. Here are the classes we’re offering this fall! Sign Up

Montessori School of Los Altos
303 Parkside Drive, Palo Alto

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Class Guide (continued from page 29)

success and serves students in transitional kindergarten through grade 8. It offers a low teacher-student ratio; an integrated arts program; a balanced approach to technology; and after-school care.

**Living Wisdom School of Palo Alto**
456 College Ave., Palo Alto
650-462-8150 / info@livingwisdomschool.org / livingwisdomschool.com

Offering daily yoga, meditation and experiential, project-based learning, Living Wisdom School has 24 years of proven success and serves students in transitional kindergarten through grade 8. It offers a 1:6 teacher-student ratio in kindergarten; an integrated arts program that includes music, theater, art and dance; a balanced approach to technology; and after-school care.

**Lydian Academy**
815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
650-321-0550 / staff@lydianlink.com / lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering individualized instruction to prepare students for college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions; it also offers tutoring, after-school programs and summer workshops. In-person and on-campus instruction are available. Registration is open.

**Meira Academy**
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-485-3589 / office@meiraacademy.org / meiraacademy.org

Meira Academy is a traditional, all-girls Jewish high school devoted to academic excellence in general and Jewish studies and preparing its students for college.

**Learning Links**
3864 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
650-299-7331 / ered@learninglinks.org / learninglinks.org

Learning Links, formerly Milestones Preschool, offers year-round programs for junior preschool and preschool, pre-kindergarten and special education students to foster social, emotional, cognitive and physical development. The school offers in-person care.

**Mustard Seed Learning Center**
2585 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
650-494-7389 / info@mustardseedlearningcenter.org / mustardseedlearningcenter.org

The Mustard Seed Learning Center is an after-school tutoring and care program that teaches local youth to speak Mandarin Chinese, in addition to emphasizing social development and excellence in mathematics, science, arts and music. Registration is ongoing.

**Penninsula**
920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park
650-325-1384 / info@penninsulaacademy.com / penninsulaacademy.com

Penninsula School is a progressive institution training students from nursery through eighth grade, with an emphasis on choice and experience. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, physical education, drama, ceramics, woodshop and more. In-person and online instruction options are available. Call or visit the website for admissions information.

**Sand Hill School**
650 Clark Way, Palo Alto
650-688-3965 / info@sandhillschool.org / sandhillschool.org

Sand Hill School is an after-school tutoring and care program that teaches local youth to speak Mandarin Chinese, in addition to emphasizing social development and excellence in mathematics, science, arts and music. Registration is ongoing.

**September is recognized as REALTOR® Safety Month and National Preparedness Month. This year Northern California has been hit hard by wildfires. The Dixie Fire, the largest wildfire in the state, has burned more than 750,000 acres and the Caldor Fire, which was first ignited on August 14, has spread at a catastrophic rate, and is now bearing down on the Lake Tahoe region. “This is wildfire season and even if the large fires are not in the Bay Area, this is a good time to stress safety and preparedness,” said Joanne Fraser, president of the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® (SVVAR). “We need to be vigilant and have a plan in case we face the same situation or any disaster for that matter and we are told to evacuate our home.”**

SVVAR shares the following tips from ready.gov, the official website of the Department of Homeland Security, and HouseLogic.com, a source of information for homeowners, homebuyers and sellers from the National Association of REALTORS®.

Make a Plan

- Assign an out of state contact whom you will contact to let them know where you are going.
- Decide on where to meet as a family in case you must evacuate right away.
- Always have your gas tank full or half full at least you must evacuate right away.
- In case the power shuts off, have a battery-operated radio and keep a charged battery pack for your cell phone, so you will not be cut off from the news and can contact people.
- Use your phone to safely shut off all utilities in your home. What to Take

- Your driver’s license, proof of insurance, medical records and other important documents, including passports and Social Security cards
- A grab-and-go bag with essential supplies such as water, food, medication, and first-aid supplies, pet food, including face masks and hand sanitizer to protect you from coronavirus
- Cash in small bills, as the ATM machines may not be working
- What To Do Before You Leave

- Lock all the doors and windows in your home
- Unplug electrical equipment and small appliances. If you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity.
- Wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing
- According to Fraser, “Having a plan will keep you and your family calm should a fire or other disaster strike and you are ordered to evacuate your home.”

Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Meily at rmeily@svvar.org.

Class Guides are published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and The Almanac. Listings are free and subject to editing. To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Class Guide, email the editor at VirtualRealEstate@paweekly.com or call 650-223-6526. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.

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The analysis by Avenu showed a drop in every sales tax category, with particularly poor showings among department stores, furniture and appliance businesses and restaurants. In many cases, the declines in Palo Alto far exceed those in nearby jurisdictions. In the category of “general retail,” the city saw a declining 33.5% between the final quarters of 2019 and 2020.

Mountain View and Los Altos saw decreases of 11.2% and 16.8%, respectively, over the same period, while Cupertino experienced a drop of 18.5%. Among the surveyed jurisdictions, only Milpitas saw a bigger drop in this category than Palo Alto, with receipts dipping by 35.5% between the fourth quarters of 2019 and 2020.

Palo Alto also had by far the worst showing in the “food products” category, with a drop of 42% in sales tax receipts between the final quarters of 2019 and 2020. Mountain View and Los Altos, by contrast, saw sales taxes diminish by 21% and 28.2% over the same period. None of the jurisdictions surveyed by Avenu showed a steeper decline in the food segment than Palo Alto.

‘The retailers who have multiple stores on the Peninsula report that Palo Alto is by far the worst retail environment.’

—John Shenk, CEO, Theo’s Brothers

The news, while gloomy, isn’t entirely dire. Some segments of the local economy started to rebound in the final three months of 2020, according to the report. The restaurant segment, which traditionally generated about $1.1 million per quarter in sales tax receipts, brought in only about $339,414 in the quarter that spanned between April and June 2020. The number moved up to $543,111 in the third quarter of the year and to $600,427 in the final three months.

Department stores also had a particularly dismal 2020, with the segment generating only $29,823 in sales tax receipts in April, May and June (down from $453,439 in the same period in 2019). Sales have since picked up, however, with sales tax receipts rising to $186,208 in the third quarter of 2020 and to $315,453 in the fourth.

Not every commercial area in Palo Alto faced the same level of decline. Stanford Shopping Center — a regional destination that includes major sales-tax generators such as Tesla, Apple and Hermès — saw its sales tax receipts drop by 17.7% between the fourth quarter of 2019 and the same period in 2020, going from $1.7 million to $5.4 million. California Avenue also weathered the storm reasonably well, despite a 26% drop in restaurant receipts. Spurred by an increase in receipts from the “general retail” segment, Palo Alto’s “second downtown” showed a decline of 19.9% in total receipts, which fell from $123,009 in the fourth quarter of 2019 to $98,543 in the same period of 2020.

In downtown Palo Alto and the commercial areas along El Camino Real and in Midtown, the drop was far more precipitous, with each of these areas seeing a drop of more than 50% in sales taxes generated. Food products, which account for the greatest share of sales tax receipts in the downtown area, fell off by 48.6% between the last quarter of 2019 and the last quarter of 2020. The next two largest categories — general retail and business-to-business — showed declines of 54.8% and 62.2%, respectively. El Camino and Midtown had a combined drop of 47.7% in the “food products” category over the same period.

The Town & Country Village shopping center did marginally better in 2020, with its sales tax receipts falling by 36.4% between the final quarters of 2019 and 2020. Numerous shops and restaurants at the shopping center — including Patrick James and Mayfield Bakery & Café — have recently shuttered, bringing the center’s vacancy rate to about 21% as of June, Dean Rubinson, director of development for Ellis Partners, which owns the center, told the council at a recent hearing.

Hotel taxes also have plummeted over the course of the pandemic. With business travel grinding to a halt over the course of the pandemic and Stanford University operating in remote mode, Palo Alto’s hotel tax revenues plummeted from $25.6 million in 2019 to $18.6 million in 2020, to a projected level of just $4.8 million in 2021.

The sobering report from Avenu is already shifting some of the conversations at City Hall. On Monday night, council member Greg Tanaka cited its findings in explaining his opposition to increasing the construction contract for the city’s new public safety building. Tanaka called the decrease in Palo Alto’s sales tax revenues “pretty striking.”

“It’s something for us to keep in mind, in terms of our budget for our city, and to make sure our resources are very well allocated,” Tanaka said.

John Shenk, CEO of Theo’s Brothers, a major commercial property owner in downtown Palo Alto, also cited the new report during Monday’s discussion of homelessness. He urged the council to fund a police unit to provide outreach services to downtown’s homeless population, which he argued is hurting downtown’s already struggling business community. Shenk noted that while Stanford Shopping Center has done reasonably well, the “community-serving retail areas have really suffered.”

“The retailers who have multiple

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**Public Agenda**

**A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week**

**CITY COUNCIL** The council has no meetings scheduled this week.

**COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE** The commission plans to review a resolution to approve a verified emission reduction agreement with the Intergovernmental Organization of Oaxacan Indigenous and Agricultural Communities to purchase 24,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent for $228,000. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 992 2730 7235.

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION** The commission plans to discuss amendments to the zoning code to allow virtual parking permits and paid parking; it also will hold a public hearing for 1865 Channing Ave. to remove a recorded height restriction on the underlying parcel map. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 8. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 916 4155 9499.

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Stanford Shopping Center has been able to withstand the pandemic better than other commercial areas in Palo Alto.
Economy
(continued from page 32)
stores on the Peninsula report that Palo Alto is by far the worst retail environment,” Shenk told the council, which subsequently directed staff to come up with an outreach plan for homelessness that involves police officers.

The dismal economic trend has eaten into the city’s general fund, which went from $225.8 million in fiscal year 2019 to $209.7 million in fiscal year 2020 and to $188.9 million in fiscal year 2021, which ended on June 30.

While the council has already made some adjustments, including freezing or eliminating more than 70 positions, the city’s financial pain was somewhat ameliorated by federal assistance — namely, the roughly $13.5 million that the city was allotted through the American Rescue Plan and by a withdrawal from the city’s budget stabilization reserve.

Some council members, most notably Vice Mayor Pat Burt, have suggested that the best way to fill the budget gap in future years is through a business tax, a funding mechanism that the council had previously considered for major infrastructure priorities such as “grade separation” at rail crossings and construction of affordable housing.

Last month, the council reaffirmed its intent to place a business tax on the 2022 ballot, with most members favoring a tax based on square footage. During the Aug. 16 discussion, Burt suggested that the decision on how to spend the business tax will be “somewhat dependent on the status of economic recovery.”

He suggested that a business tax would allow the city to address problems like traffic gridlock, insufficient housing and deterioration of services, thus helping to sustain the city’s historically dynamic business climate.

“We’ve had drastic service cuts to police and fire, code enforcement, libraries, parks and other services — every place across the board — and the community is just starting to understand how deep those cuts are,” Burt said.

“We don’t yet have a projection that allows us to restore ourselves to the services that this community has had for decades and decades.”

Email Staff Writer Gennady Shyner at gshyner@pawweekly.com.

Trial
(continued from page 5)
killer who also murdered Stan- ford graduate Leslie Marie Per- lov, also 21, on Feb. 16, 1973. Her body was found in a remote area near what is now the Stanford Dish. Getreu’s DNA was allegedly found under her fingernails.

By that time, Getreu had already been convicted of murder- ing a 15-year-old classmate in Germany, Margaret Williams, whom he was 18 years older. All three cases had “frightening similarities,” San Mateo County Deputy District Attorney Josh Stauffer told jurors in his opening statement on Monday. The victims were all young, white, female and had dark hair. They were strangled, beaten about the face and the crimes had some sexual elements.

Expert testimony on Tuesday indicated the force with which Taylor was attacked. Celia Hart- nett, a forensics science consultant and retired criminologist for the San Mateo County Sheriff’s crime lab, said the right arm of the cloth jacket was dangling from a rip that nearly detached the sleeve. She found a similar rip on the right shoulder of a blue shirt Taylor had worn, and the tear went nearly all the way down one side. Taylor had worn the shirt beneath a bulky ribbed turtleneck sweater.

There were no injuries indicating that she’d been sexually assaulted, but there was evidence of sperm fragments in her body, according to testimony entered into the trial from the Nov. 5, 2019, preliminary hearing by the late Dr. Peter Benson, a county forensic pathologist who died in 2020.

To those who knew her well, Taylor’s death remains baffling. “Janet had a brown belt. It really surprised me what happened here because I thought she’d be taking anybody apart” if they tried to attack her, said Russell Bissonnette, Taylor’s companion who lived with her in La Honda, during his Tuesday testimony.

“How sad it is … to have somebody ripped out of your life.”
—James Schroeder, friend of Janet Ann Taylor

On the morning of the day she died, Bissonnette drove Taylor to her job on Page Mill Road, he testified. Her car had broken down and he was trying to fix another one for her. Bissonnette dropped Taylor off at about 10:30 a.m. She wasn’t sure if she wanted him to pick her up. She planned to visit her best friend, Debbie Adams, who was about to return to an out-of-state college. She thought she might hike back to La Honda, he said.

In the late afternoon, Bisson- nette drove to his job at the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, a jazz club in Miramar. When he arrived home later that night, Tay- lor wasn’t there. He thought she might be staying overnight with Adams. In the morning, however, there was no word from Taylor.

I started by breaking out. I knew something was wrong but
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Trial

I didn’t think it was that drastic. This just put me in another world,” he said.

He and close friend James “Gideon” Schroeder looked for Taylor, Bissonnette called her parents, but they didn’t know where she was, he recalled.

Taylor, in the meantime, had been found in a ditch that morning by a Peninsula Creamery dairy truck driver, Ernest Evangelo. He was on his way to make deliveries in Woodside when he thought he saw debris by the road. Then he noticed a foot, he testified.

Seeing Taylor laid out on her back, he checked her pulse. Taylor was dead. He asked a neighbor to call the police.

Bissonnette saw Taylor for the last time in the morgue; he went with her parents to identify their daughter’s body, he said.

“We were connected,” he said. “We were in love.”

“We were in love.”

As for Schroeder, he said outside the courtroom that Taylor was a warm, honest and loving person.

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“Gideon” Schroeder said.

“I’ve thought about this. Why didn’t we get that car done? If that car was ready, we’d all be sitting around drinking beer with Janet,” he said.

Mostly, though, he thinks about Bissonnette.

“How sad it is for Russell — to have somebody ripped out of your life,” he said. “I wonder, ‘Why?’”

At the time of his arrest, Getreu was an Explorer Scout troop leader, a one-time leader of his local Elks Lodge. In the mid-1970s, he was an Explorer Scout troop leader who was arrested for raping a 17-year-old girl. He pleaded guilty to statutory rape and received a minimal sentence.

On Tuesday, he looked down and seemed disinterested during much of the testimony. When Bissonnette and Schroeder took the stand, he looked directly at them and they looked back.

Schroeder said he’s been waiting for this day for 47 years.

“He’s happy to be here,” he said, and plans to attend the trial every day.

“I didn’t feel much when he saw Getreu. Maybe, if he’d seen him four decades ago he’d feel different. Now he just thinks ‘let the court system do its thing,’ he said.

“John Getreu, who is being charged with the murders of Leslie Perlov and Janet Ann Taylor, waits in a courtroom at the Santa Clara County Hall of Justice on July 15, 2019 during a hearing relating to the Perlov killing.”

DNA showdown opens the trial

Getreu’s trial is expected to last one month. On Monday, during opening statements, prosecutors and Getreu’s defense attorney indicated that a key piece of evidence — Taylor’s green corduroy pants — will be a focal point of contention during the trial.

The prosecution said DNA found on the pants in 2019 clearly belongs to Getreu; the defense contends the DNA evidence might have been placed there after the crime.

On the outside and inside of the torn crotch of the pants was DNA, allegedly Getreu’s. The chances of the DNA belonging to anyone other than Getreu is 1 in 102 billion from the sample taken inside of the pants, Stauffer said.

The green pants are “pivotal in telling who it is that killed Janet Taylor,” he told jurors.

But John Halley, Getreu’s attorney, asserted that the key piece of evidence is flawed. No one ever mentioned that the pants crotch was ripped when they initially examined the item. The evidence has been altered, he said.

“It was not in the same condition as when it was collected and placed in a bag in 1974,” Halley said.

A 1989 document shows some of the evidence was transferred between San Mateo and Santa Clara county detectives, he said. This record discussed only photographs, but Halley raised the question of what other evidence might have been exposed at that time or at other times thereafter.

“The question is going to be — beyond a reasonable doubt — if the DNA was put there on March 24 or 25, 1974, or over the last 27 years when it was stored or moved from place to place,” Halley said.

On Tuesday, Stauffer and Halley continued their battle over the green pants and handling of evidence.

Hartnett testified that she was tasked with examining Taylor’s clothes for trace evidence — fibers, hair, dirt and other potential clues. She noted in her report the large rips on a black rain jacket found partially beneath Taylor at the crime scene. She didn’t note the two-inch tear in the pants, nor did she note small tears in a scarf Taylor had worn.

“It doesn’t surprise me that I missed the tears. In my notes, I said the purpose for which I was receiving evidence was to collect trace evidence,” she said.

Benson, the pathologist, also never mentioned the tear in the pants. Halley noted during his opening statement. In Benson’s preliminary hearing testimony, however, he said his job was to examine the body, not the clothing.

“Okay to proceed?”

“Okay to proceed?”

Answers on page 15.

Across

1 Joan who sang “I Love Rock ’n’ Roll”
2 Shaq’s former college team
3 “Family Guy” dog
13 Laguna contents
14 Street through the middle of town
15 Casual eatery, in Canadian slang
16 Underground illegal activity that may be busted by the Feds
18 Passing notices
19 “Butter” group
20 Bella ___ (cut time, in music)
21 Adorable pet
22 Some negatively persuasive strategies
24 Goes by
27 Some med. insurance groups
28 Time magazine co-founder Henry
29 Intuitive ability
30 Sports drink ender
33 Unrealistic comparisons for real-life couples (since problems don’t often get resolved in 30 minutes)
38 Obnoxious person
39 Willful participant?
40 Fit one within the other
41 “Bye Bye Bye” group N
42 Former spelling of “Westworld” actress Newton’s name (she restored the W in 2021)
43 Teased up on the beach
49 Otherwise named
50 Moby-Dick, for one
51 URL ending, sometimes
52 “___ Holmes” (Netflix movie)
53 Watkins ___, NY
54 Dwarves’ representative in the Fellowship
55 Searchlight used in Gotham City
57 “___ Holmes” (Netflix movie)
58 Release, as energy
59 MC ___ (“Keep On, Keepin’ On” rapper)
60 Jorts material

Down
1 Door frame component
2 Multi-award-winning accomplishment
3 Margarine containers
4 Paving material
5 Shaq’s former pro team
6 Pasta-drawing device
7 Release from a leash
8 Food that comes in florrets
9 Counterargues
10 Question about Biblical betrayal
11 High point of a house
12 They get counted or turned up
14 Jazz vocalist Carmen
17 Basics
22 Built to ___
23 4FL-CIO part
24 “Frozen” princess
25 “Sesame Street” human character for 25 years
26 Does something
29 To an advanced degree
30 Like some bourbons
31 Lucie Arnaz’s dad
32 90 degrees from norte
34 Strident agreement
35 Heal up

Answers on page 15.

61 ___ ipa loquitr
62 Yoked animals

36 Optimistic “David Copperfield” character
37 2nd or 4th of VII?
41 “Okay to proceed?”
42 “In other words...”
43 “The Planets” composer Gustav
44 “Whose woods these ___ think...”: Frost
45 Carried on, as a battle
46 Flaring dress style
47 Judge seated near Sofia
48 Iago
51 Stone used for chess sets
52 Give out some stars
53 Watkin’s ___ NY
56 Day ___ (fluorescent paint)

Answers on page 15.

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Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@pawweekly.com.

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