



The Bowfin Inquirer

Since 1993



November 2025

A Bit About the PJCC

by Jerry Lerman (344)

Since I was elected to join the PJCC Board of Directors in July, 2024, I've been learning more about the institution than I had ever learned over the more than 20 years that Eve and I – and way back then, our kids – have been members. It turns out that it's a LOT more than a place for me to use the treadmills when the weather precludes my exercise walking around the neighborhood.

I thought I would share with my neighbors some of the activities/opportunities available there that may be of interest. Note that I'll be keeping this brief, so you can learn more from the PJCC website: <https://pjcc.org/>, from which I've drawn these descriptive snippets.

Aquatics – “Whether you're here to swim laps, enjoy a family swim, or relax in the whirlpool, our pools are a place for fun, fitness, and connection.”

Pilates – “Where grace meets strength, Pilates at PJCC offers a journey to improved core strength, flexibility, and total body awareness. More than just a workout, Pilates is a pathway to balance—mind, body, and spirit. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced practitioner, our classes are designed to meet you where you are and help you achieve your wellness goals.”

Yoga – “Step into a space where your mind and body unite. At PJCC, our yoga classes provide more than just movement—they offer a community of support, a place of healing, and an opportunity to breathe

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Aaron's Question Column

New General Education INCOMPLETE

Credits required: 31 Credits applied: 23 Catalog year: 2022-2026 GPA: 4.00

Unmet conditions for this set of requirements:

31 credits are required. You currently have 23, you still need 8 more credits.

	Course	Title	Grade	Credits	Term
ALACRUEL WRITING I	ENGL 1070	Intro to Acad Writing CC	CCR	3	2022 SPRING
	Satisfied by: AP R-C20000 - Region Language & Composition Adv PI - Region Language (PI)				
ACADEMIC WRITING II	Still needed: 1 Class in ENGL 1010 or 1010H				
QUANTITATIVE LITERACY - With Grade of C or above	MATH 1219	Calculus I CC	CCR	4	2022 SPRING
	Satisfied by: AP MATH0000 - Calculus BC - Adv PI - Calculus BC (S)				
AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS					
Option 1	POLS 1100	American National Government AS	A	3	2022 FALL

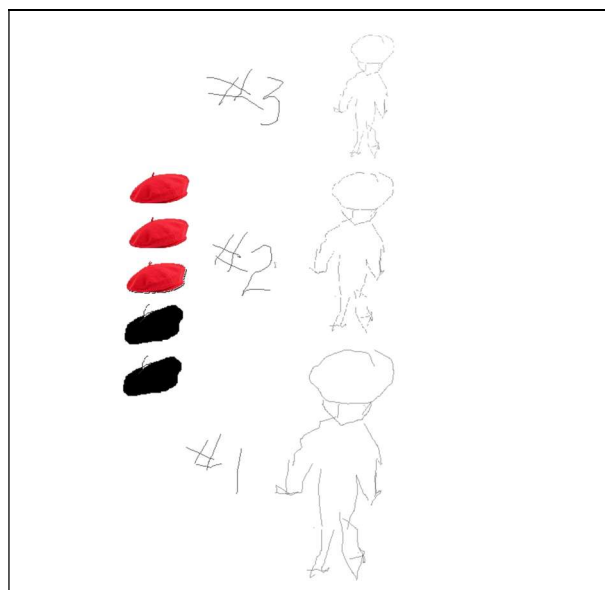
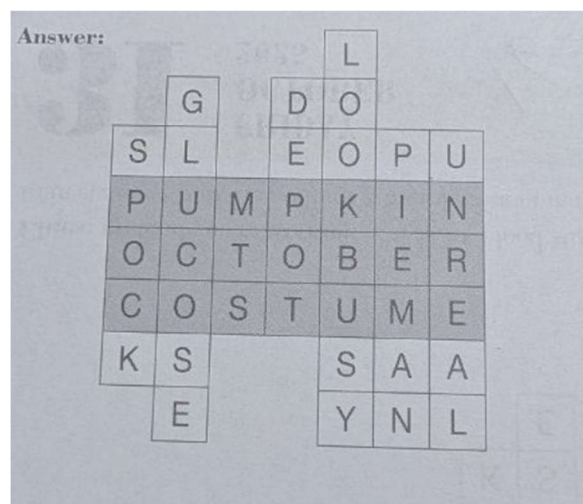
*A screenshot of **Wolverine Track**, showing completed and incomplete course requirements, classes which you can take, and everything else a student may need*

Question: When I went to college (almost 60 years ago), I selected my courses using a printed catalogue, and I didn't get any counseling assistance. What is the 'state of the art' now for students making decisions about their curricula? Has this worked well for you so far? – Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Decades ago, students selecting courses relied entirely on printed catalogues. Requirements were listed in text, there were no integrated tools and counseling support was minimal or nonexistent. Students had to navigate these catalogues on their own, manually tracking their progress toward degrees. Today, course selection has evolved dramatically, yet the experience varies widely depending on the institution and available resources. Counseling support is always available, but its usefulness is often dependent on the counselor.

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz



Three people wearing three berets

This Month's Quiz

A Classic Logic Puzzle

There are 5 berets, identical except for color: 3 are Red and 2 are Black. Three people are asked to stand in a column and stare ahead, while an experimenter takes three of the berets, placing one on each person's head. Person #1 can only see the hats worn by #2 and #3, while person #2 can only see the hat on Person #3. (See diagram in right column.)

The experimenter then explains that he'll be asking what color beret a person is wearing, and giving a right answer will yield a wonderful reward. However, a wrong answer will result in a severe penalty, thus convincing the participants not to risk guessing: they would simply apply logic. Here are the responses the experimenter received.

Person #1: "I don't know."

Person #2: "I don't know."

Person #3: "My beret is colored _____."

Person #3 received the wonderful reward. What color was his beret? (And why?)

Coming to Hillbarn Theatre



Target Date for Next Month's Contributions:

December 15, 2025

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos,
CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our
email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM or by

adding a NOTE on our website:
BOWFININQUIRER.COM

Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1

I was accepted into and did research on classes for multiple universities in my final year in High School, 2024-25. At Utah Valley University, the course selection process was highly structured, and made perfect sense. Counselors were courteous and knowledgeable, directing me to multiple resources, none of which conflicted with one another, all of which were clear, and which one I chose to use depended on my own preference. Degree requirements and general education expectations were clearly outlined, and an especially useful tool provided a personalized checklist of completed, in-progress, and remaining courses, known as Wolverine Track. Color coding made it immediately apparent which requirements had been met and which still needed attention. There were also degree plans, designed to automatically generate an “average” (based off of when students normally take certain classes) schedule based off of what I still needed to take. This system made it possible to plan efficiently, avoid unnecessary courses, and make decisions about my academic options with ease. Any questions I had were fully and quickly answered by counselors, although I hardly had any due to how intuitive the systems were.

At my current university, the University of Texas at Dallas, I believe we can see the other side of this college coin. Despite being a school focused almost entirely on STEM subjects with a focus on Computer Science, many websites are outdated, in disrepair or confusing, often presenting conflicting information about degree requirements or course offerings. Credit hour totals not making mathematical sense, degree requirements changing from site to site and a lack of decent user navigation options made my experience quite unpleasant. To make matters worse, my academic counselor is apparently renowned around my college for being unhelpful or unclear, often providing vague answers that fail to resolve questions about course planning or

degree progress, and even forgetting appointments she made with students. She was equally unhelpful with my course scheduling for my Fall 2025 semester. That being said, UTD is not entirely bad. As a member of the Collegium V Honors Program at UTD, I get access to a special counselor for Honors students who was quite helpful: she directed me to a single site which is the *most* accurate, created a custom degree plan with me that instructed me on when she recommends I take certain classes, and always made the utmost effort to be thorough and precise in answering any questions I had. Her guidance, combined with careful attention to my academic goals, made navigating UTD's otherwise confusing system far more manageable. Most of the legwork was still done by me; however, thanks to her contributions I was able to plan my courses more efficiently, avoid unnecessary mistakes, and ensure that I stayed on track for graduation (I probably would have gone to UVU or another college if I hadn't had the opportunity to meet with her, in fact).

So we clearly have contrasting experiences. Sometimes, modern technology and well-structured support systems make course planning straightforward and nearly effortless, as at UVU. In other cases, even with abundant digital resources, unclear guidance and poorly maintained tools can make the process confusing and time-consuming, as I experienced at UTD. Perhaps I can be thankful that there are useful systems such as UVU's checklist, which clearly communicates requirements, tracks progress automatically and reduces the cognitive load on students trying to navigate their degree paths, but as technology and the whole system grows, maybe we've taken some steps back as well.

Editor's note: Aaron sent us this article, along with this nice message:

P.S.: I'm thankful for the chance to stay in touch with my old neighborhood, and take a load off of my academic schedule to write articles like this.

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deeply, move freely, and reconnect with yourself. Whether you're looking to build strength, improve flexibility, or simply find peace in the present moment, we have a class for you."

Listed under **Adult Activities** are these:

Discussion & Learning

Let's Talk About It (Virtual Program)

Mondays · 3:30 – 4:30 pm

A thought-provoking discussion on current events, led by David Nigel & Jon Levinson. All opinions welcome!

Join on
Zoom →

Food for Thought (in person at PJCC)

"2nd Tuesday of the month · 2:00 – 3:00 pm

A fascinating lecture series featuring expert speakers on diverse topics."

Peer-to-Peer P2P Speaker Series

"A community-driven lecture series where members share their expertise."

(Editor's note: I spoke on the subject of Scrabble in July. Interested in being a speaker? Contact Debi at dbohmerwald@pjcc.org.)

Allyship Project (2025 Cohort in progress)

“

I joined the Allyship Project to deepen my understanding of the experiences of my Jewish friends and colleagues. As a non-Jewish participant, I also wanted to offer my perspective to help shape programs that feel inclusive and engaging for everyone.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the cohort was the intentional space it created for connection. Through guided conversations, storytelling, and shared learning, we had time to listen deeply and reflect together. These moments allowed us to build trust, challenge assumptions, and form genuine relationships across difference.



For Kids

TREEHOUSE: A Home Away from Home for After-School Adventures

"Welcome to **Treehouse @ the J**, where every afternoon is filled with friendship, exploration, and fun! Our vibrant afterschool

program offers children in **Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through 5th grade** a safe and enriching environment where they can **learn, grow, and make lasting friendships.**"



A Treehouse activity

PRESCHOOL

"At PJCC Preschool, we **embrace** the profound importance of early childhood, recognizing these formative years as a time of **exploration, curiosity, and growth**. Our curriculum is designed to foster inquiry-based learning while nurturing strong relationships and **instilling essential values** that guide children in making the world a better place."

This is just a sampling of what's going on in this important community center, open to ALL.

If you haven't yet visited the PJCC, would like to learn more, or get a guest pass to see and experience it, please feel free to contact me at editor@bowfininquirer.com

A Granddad Riddle

Some Friday, try this one on a friend: "Why are you happier today than you'll be tomorrow?" and after an "I don't know" – you answer

"Because tomorrow is SADDER day!"