

Snapology delivers fun, interactive, online environment for children
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Doing good
Gifts for Teens Club at Pioneer High School is making a difference
SEE PAGE 4

'Newsies' still hopes to seize the day at Pioneer High
SEE PAGE 8



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Times

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COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK

Gov. Newsom announces physical school closures through end of academic year

By William Bellou
Publisher

Gov. Newsom announced the physical closure of schools for the rest of the 2019-20 academic year at an afternoon press conference on Wednesday, April 1.

"This in no way suggests school is over for the year, but rather it will continue education through distance learning," said California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

Many see the closure of schools as the right move to keep coronavirus from spreading, but many parents said they are disappointed with the current distance learning process.

Several parents of students attending Leland High School expressed their concern about the quality education being offered through long distance learning.

"We don't want our kids' education be neglected," said a Leland High School parent. "There are only one or two assignments per day and there is no attendance taken. It seems like an extended school holiday."

"The San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD) has a wide range of quality educational resources available for students and families at www.sjUSD.org and the District will continue to update it," said Nancy Albarrán, SJUSD Superintendent. "Lessons are being produced, teachers are connecting with students, and the long-term plan is now available to view at www.sjUSD.org."

SJUSD is working on arranging large-scale distributions of devices to students which include new Chromebooks and iPads with pre-loaded educational software and free WiFi. The District said it is in the process of transitioning www.sjUSD.org to be the best possible interim solution for replacing the social experiences and connections for its schools.

The California Teachers Association (CTA) is working diligently to meet local students' needs and implement distance learning plans and is also providing teacher-led online-learning webinars to help teachers meet new teaching challenges.

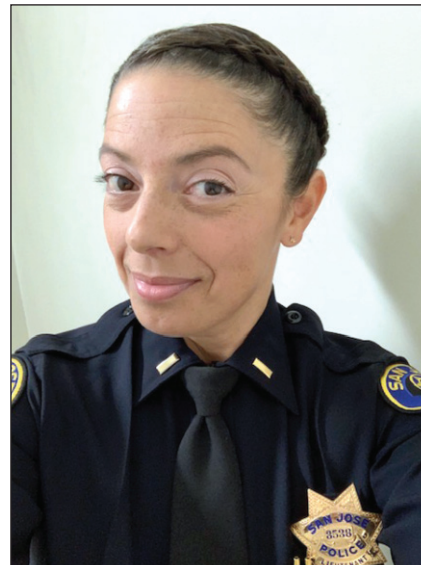
"The governor's announcement is not unexpected, and I know educators across the state are stepping up to ensure students continue to get the learning opportunities they need," said CTA President E. Toby Boyd. "This is a tough situation for all of us – students, educators and families. Many schools closed so quickly that teachers didn't get a chance to help them prepare for this new reality."

A call to service

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Newly minted San Jose Police Department Captain **Ellen "Elle" Washburn** (inset) is looking forward to her new leadership role and taking a bite out of crime in the Southern Division, which includes Almaden Valley.

Washburn says that she worked hard for 25 years in the hopes of having a greater influence in raising a young department and elevating the position of law enforcement in the community.



"There are only nine captains in the department," she says. "It's a huge vote of confidence and an awesome responsibility."

Washburn has led a life of service, including seasonal and EMT work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and Special Operations and Narcotic Covert Investigations with the San Jose Police Department.

She has worked in law enforcement for about 26 years, having joined the force at age 21.

"Who I am today has a lot to do with growing up in the San Jose Police Department," she says.

A daring athlete, who has completed Ironman Arizona (a 140.6-mile race), and the Alcatraz Classic (swimming across the Bay), Washburn is undaunted by this challenge.

"I've always been into pushing the limits and challenging myself," she says. "When I do something, I'm all in."

See WASHBURN, page 17



Photo by f8 Real Estate Media

Chiavetta's of Almaden spread kindness with front yard sign

By William Bellou
Publisher

Madeline and Mark Chiavetta of Almaden Valley had an idea to promote kindness during the COVID-19 pandemic, so they unveiled their "Spread Kindness" sign on their front yard lawn on Friday, March 27.

The Chiavetta's, realtors for Coldwell Banker, said: "We have been so surprised by the reaction with people stopping their

cars, taking pictures and thanking us (from afar) for spreading the kind words." "We've seen so many Facebook and Instagram posts of friends we know and those we don't enjoying the words of hope."

In addition to the "Spread Kindness" sign, the Chiavetta front yard is also decorated with hearts, stars, balloons, smiley face and another sign that says, "In This Together." The American flag is proudly displayed.

"This is history being made sad as it is, so I encourage families to take a photo in front of the 'Spread Kindness' sign," said Mark. "When someone asks about the pandemic in the ensuing years; you can show photos to our families."

Cupcake delivery

To spread even more kindness, the Chiavetta's delivered a box of cupcakes on the doorstep of their friends, neighbors

See KINDNESS, page 6

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

Dear friends and neighbors,

We are thinking of you and we very much hope you are all staying safe and healthy during this difficult time. If you have questions about the impact on the local housing market or what changes to expect when selling your home, please feel free to call us. We are always happy to hear from you and answer your questions.

On a personal note, as I am out walking on the paths and roads in our neighborhoods that allow for fresh air and exercise, but plenty of social distance, I am grateful to live in a community like ours — one that has so much physical beauty and one that has such friendly and caring neighbors. We are indeed fortunate! Take care of yourselves and be safe.

Kind regards always,

Margaret

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IRS extends tax filing deadline to July 15

The IRS is extending the federal income tax filing deadline to July 15 as part of a growing effort to stem the financial pain from the coronavirus pandemic.

The move gives Americans three months more than they normally would have to file their income tax returns for the 2019 tax year, without incurring interest or penalties.

Newsom orders statewide ban on evictions

California, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday ordered a statewide ban on evictions through the month of May.

"We don't believe our fate is predetermined," Newsom said. "It's in our individual capacity to continue to make good decisions on physical distancing, and continuing to maintain strict standards in the state of California as it relates to our stay-at-home order."

San Jose and Santa Clara County have already passed eviction bans since the governor recently granted local jurisdictions. Any legislation that goes further or deeper than Newsom's statewide order will remain intact.

Renters are required to declare in writing that they have lost work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Evictions are also on hold for those that have fallen ill or who have been forced to care for family members, according to the order.

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Valley Currents

cur | rent (adj.) *Present, topical, timely, newsworthy.* (n.) *Movement in a definite direction, a flow.*

Gifts for Teens - Pioneer High School Club making a difference

12,000 personal handwritten letters inserted into teen gift bags

By Jan Giroux

Special to the Times

Gifts for Teens, a local non-profit that creates and distributes holiday gifts bags to low-income teenagers and the homeless was fortunate to have a teen advocate at Pioneer High School this past year.

The "best ever" holiday gift bags had a personal touch due to the efforts of Sammy Schweizer and her Gifts for Teens Club at Pioneer.

As a 7th grader, Sammy started volunteering with National Charity League and became familiar with the annual Gifts for Teens holiday gift bag assembly. Once in high school, Sammy realized that Pioneer High School was not directly involved with needy teens and decided to do something about it.

As a sophomore, Sammy started the Gifts for Teens Club at Pioneer and recruited fellow students through school announcements and posters distributed through the school. In 2018, Sammy and the Gifts for Teens Club had a sock and cosmetic drive for Gifts for Teens



Gifts for Teens give from the heart. Pictured (left to right), top row: **Julia Smith, Grace Kenyon, Claire Guazelli, Joëlle Dörfliger, Heidi Spence, Ethan Schweizer, Josh Holt, Sarah Bhatti and Emma Carlson.** Middle row: **Nathasya Hardijanto, Yubin Lee, Emily Ngyuen, Seeun Ahn, Kayla Gutierrez, Emily Landrok and Kaylee Feierfeil.** Bottom row: **Sammy Schweizer, Mikayla Thurber, Allison Grove, Norah Zaro and Meagan Bald.**

but felt something was missing. Now a junior, Sammy and her club decided along with a sock drive, the club members would write 1,200 personal handwritten letters and insert them in the teen gift bags. This ambitious endeavor took about 3-4 months at the club meeting time

at school. As Sammy explained, the club members were "excited about doing something personal and helping teens their own age."

Even though each letter had the same basic message, there was also a personal touch added. Sammy and her club plan to do let-

ters for the Gifts for Teens holiday gift bags this year and wish to carry on the tradition for years to come.

Gifts for Teens will continue the tradition of fostering enthusiastic, community minded teens like Sammy and her high school club who give from the heart.

LETTERS

Let's fly the flag

Dear Editor,

I'm flying my American Flag in our time of need during our fight for the Corona virus.

Since we're all in this together – it helps make us stronger!

Jan Higgins

Almaden Valley

Gates warned us

Dear Editor,

I googled "Bill Gates TED talk pandemic warnings" and found that Bill Gates has been frequently warning that the world was NOT ready for a pandemic, since at least 2014. There were probably others giving similar warnings.

Why was so little done to prepare the USA for the coronavirus? Why is Bill Gate's

own home town one of the hot beds of the coronavirus in the USA? Will the USA learn now that we need to get prepared for the next virus and have ample masks and other materials needed for our hospitals? Or will we do like we did after the Swine Flu and forget that there will be a new virus coming in the future from China or other countries that have wet markets. Perhaps we voters need to insist that our politicians focus on protecting us, instead of fighting each other.

Louise Cate

Almaden Valley

Sheltering works

Dear Editor,

If not for our early shelter in place, we would have the same curve that New York is currently experiencing. Everyone keep up the good work!

Bruce Anderson

Almaden Valley

Senior shopping times designated for seniors amid coronavirus pandemic

Food retailers in and around the Almaden area have set aside time for seniors and vulnerable customers amid the coronavirus crisis.

Costco, Lucky's, Safeway, Target, Walmart, Whole Foods Market and other stores have acknowledged that older adults, especially those with underlying health conditions are more susceptible to COVID-19 and are helping out by dedicating earlier hours for senior shoppers and other at-risk groups.

Here is a list of stores with designated hours for senior shopping.

Costco: Tuesday & Thursday 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Lucky's: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6 a.m. - 7 a.m.

Safeway: Tuesday & Thursday 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Target: Tuesday & Wednesday 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

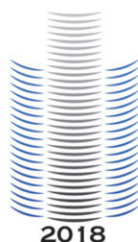
Trader Joes: Everyday 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Walmart: Tuesdays 6 a.m. - 7 a.m.

Whole Foods Market: Everyday 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

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The Chiavettas of Coldwell Banker Realty in Los Gatos spent the weekend spreading kindness.

Madeline and Mark had gourmet cupcakes delivered to clients with a note: "Stay healthy and enjoy!"

Madeline put up a "Spread Kindness" sign on her lawn which became popular in the neighborhood and made the front page of the local newspaper.

"We want to remind everyone how special they are and wanted to do something to make people smile and spread kindness," Madeline said. "Every week we will be changing our sign. I hope that when you walk by it, it puts a smile on your face and reminds you to keep spreading kindness."



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Times **Community****The historic \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package will help small businesses**

Small businesses will have access to \$350 billion in forgivable loans

The hallmark of the \$2 trillion stimulus package is the one-time \$1,200 direct payments to adults making up to \$75,000. But the legislation also includes \$350 billion in forgivable loans to keep small businesses afloat that have been hard hit due the pandemic.

The federal government may need to supply up to \$1.5 trillion in liquidity to businesses that employ 500 or fewer people if the coronavirus emergency were to last three months. That's obviously a much larger amount than the current \$350 billion business package.

Here are key points of the stimulus package for businesses:

- A \$350 billion forgivable loan program designed to ensure that small businesses do not lay off employees
- A 50% refundable payroll tax credit on worker wages will further incentivize businesses, includ-

ing ones with fewer than 500 employees, to retain workers

- Looser net operating loss-reduction rules that will allow businesses to offset more

- A delay in employer-side payroll taxes for Social Security until 2021 and 2022

- Sole proprietors and other self-employed workers could be eligible for the expanded unemployment-insurance benefits the bill provides

- A portion of the \$425 billion in funds appropriated for the Federal Reserve's credit facilities will target small businesses

How does the \$350 billion small-business loan program work?

The Small Business Administration, under the stimulus package, will oversee the Paycheck Protection Program, which will distribute \$350 billion to small businesses that can be partially forgiven if the companies meet certain requirements.

The loans will be available to companies with 500 or fewer employees.



Why not use your downtime to take up a new hobby... perhaps scrapbooking or painting?

Activities you can do indoors while shelter in place isolating amid the coronavirus pandemic

As Almaden residents continue to shelter in place, here are some activities you could undertake to keep yourself entertained.

Stay active

Although gyms are shuttered it doesn't mean that you must avoid exercise! There are thousands of fitness videos online, many with lively music that you could try. Also don't forget yoga and Pilates. Why not set yourself a routine to work through every day to ensure you keep moving. Also, take advantage of the gyms offering online streaming services.

Catch up on some reading

Do you have a stack of books piled up at home that you never got round to reading? Use your time at home to finally give them your attention and escape into a world of storytelling for an hour or two.

Get writing

Have you always wanted to write a story or a blog? Whatever your creative writing interest, dedicate your extra time at home to getting started on a project you may have been putting off for a while. There are dozens of self-publishing book companies that can also assist you in your dream to become an author.

Start scrapbooking

If you enjoy creative activities, spending plenty of time indoors could be the perfect opportunity to delve into a new project. If you have old photos, tickets from shows you've been to, or keepsakes from trips abroad, why not start putting

them together into a scrapbook to house all those precious memories. This is a great task to undertake as a family or as a couple, while those who have kids can get the little ones involved with the cutting and sticking.

The next master chef

If you have the ingredients on hand, why not use your downtime to take up a new hobby that comes with the reward of a delicious treat at the end? There are plenty of sweet and savoury recipes you could give a go, from sponge cakes and biscuits, to cheese straws and traditional scones. Even if baking isn't your thing, you could learn from someone who is a master chef in your home. Use the additional home time to hone those skills you've always wanted to learn, such as making your own pasta or pizza base, or perfecting a family recipe.

Dig out your board games

While computer games are the rage these days, sometimes you can't beat a great board game like Monopoly or Scrabble! Dig out some of your old board games and enjoy hours of friendly competition with those in your household.

Do some house maintenance

It may not be the most exciting task in the world, but if you have been meaning to spring clean your house, or fix something that has been broken for a long time, use your extra time at home to get around to those jobs you've been avoiding.

Discover a new series

Being advised to stay at home

is not the worst thing to have to do, and it can be used as an opportunity to relax on the sofa and watch TV. If you subscribe to streaming services, you could use your newfound downtime to discover a new series, or re-watch one of your all-time favorites.

Embrace video calling

Many of us may be fond of text messaging and keep in contact with our loved ones by alternative means such as video calls, making the most of services like FaceTime, Skype and Google Hangouts to keep in touch with those you love.

Get spring cleaning

Give your wardrobe a thorough spring clean by throwing out any old clothing you no longer wear. And you could give it a reshuffle by digging out your spring clothes and packing away those winter woollies.

Do some DIY

Finally get round to those household tasks you've been putting off for a long time, such as fixing a broken shelf, or painting a tired looking wall.

Do some gardening

Even if you've got to socially distance you can still go into your own garden. Spring is the perfect time for tending to flowers, or even starting to grow your own vegetable patch.

Practice an instrument

If you've got a piano in your house, or maybe a guitar you strum now and again, it's a good time to hone your skills and try learning some of your favorite songs.



Cupcakes were delivered on Friday, March 27 by the Chiavetta Real Estate Team to clients sheltered at home.

Kindness

Continued from page 1

and clients on the same day as the unveiling of the sign.

"In Italian, Chiavetta means: 'Little key,'" said Madeline. "That is where we developed our tagline: 'Let our family help yours'. In keeping with the spirit of 'spreading kindness' we wanted to remind everyone how special they are to us," said Madeline. "We decided to do something to make our clients, neighbors, friends and strangers

smile. It just feels like our community needs that right now."

"You just made my day a little sweeter, thank you," said a client. "Another text message read: 'Thank you Chiavetta's for the yum-yum food!'"

"Since our front yard display seems to have brought so many smiles and joy, we've decided that each week we will be changing our sign," said Madeline. "I hope when people walk by it puts a smile on their faces and remember that we could all use a little extra kindness right now."

While this is a very challenging time and priorities have changed, I want to assure you that Coldwell Banker and their agents are committed to “social distancing” and “shelter in place.” We are working hard to help clients in need and using all of the virtual tools available to us. We are here to support you!

Be well and stay safe,
Jackie

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'Newsies' to seize the day at Pioneer

By Jane Johnson

Special to the Times

UPDATE: Due to COVID-19/Coronavirus, the performance of *Newsies* is planned for a future date to be announced. Please check back to the website, listed at the end of the article, for updates. All currently ticketed patrons will receive an update once new performance dates are scheduled via their email contact information provided at time of Ludus ticketing. These kids have worked so very hard they deserve the chance to stage "Newsies" within safety guidelines in effect at the TBD future date and many thanks to the always super creative and flexible, out-of-the-box thinking Director, Mrs. Coleman! Stay tuned.

Per Mrs. Coleman: "Many people think it's a lost cause, but I disagree. We live in a world of uncertainty. I believe that's why actors always cry at the end of closing night. We create a perfect world in which everything is predictable, and that's hard to leave behind and face reality. But artists are dreamers at the core and time spent doing what one loves is never wasted. The world has decided we need art now more than ever. Free opera, free concerts, free books, free museum exhibits, free theater...all online. Art is fundamental to the human spirit. Far be it for me to take joy, creativity, and artistic expression away from my students. If we can find a time and place and way, within the safety guidelines, to make this happen, we will!"

The local famed theater program at Pioneer High School is anxious to present Disney's "Newsies" as soon as the all clear signal to go back to school is issued.

Just a few years back, even supporters of this local famed theater program were surprised by the ambitious undertaking of "Les Miserables." Much to the surprise and sheer delight of those supporters, and to the shock and awe of the detractors who had come to see it fail, "Les Miserables" proved to be one of the finest productions ever staged by Pioneer High School's Drama Department.

Enter last May, when Director Mrs. Ashley Coleman announced to the assembled group of performers and supporters that spring 2020's musical would be Disney's "Newsies!" Like the announcement of "Les Mis," there again issued forth a thunderous outpouring of excitement, followed quietly by concern for the sheer enormity and great expectations a blockbuster like this brings.

Many of the performers had previous knowledge of "Newsies," shared Lydia Watson, who plays Katherine Plumber. "I saw it when the national tour first came to San Jose with my mom and grandma. I absolutely loved every song, every dance, every character - and that was before I was into theater. I loved watching it. But I'd never performed in a musical production before. Once I started doing musicals at Pioneer, it kind of became a fantasy, like 'Newsies' would be a fun show to do!' It's so exciting, the music is great and the dancing is great. When I found out it was 'Newsies' I was over-the-moon excited and I knew I had to audition."

Main newsboy Edward "Racetrack" Higgins, played by Emily Nguyen, said "Newsies" is my personal favorite show of all time. It's the first show that got me interested in musical theater. At my old (dance) studio, we just happened to do a Broadway theme. 'Newsies' was one of the songs we performed. This was 7th or 8th grade - before I ever saw myself doing anything with musical theater. Now doing my



The cast of Pioneer High School's production of *Newsies* is looking forward to performing, if possible.

favorite show of all time during my senior year - all the stars aligned!"

Josh Radzinski, who portrays Crutchie, shared, "For a few years people rumored it was going to be 'Newsies' but I thought 'no way, it won't be 'Newsies.' So when it was announced I was so shocked, I was so surprised. I thought 'really?' Then I thought 'uh-oh!' because it's such a heavy dance and really hard-to-sing show and I thought I really have to work hard for this show! I'm glad I get to work hard for a show. There are certain musicals that are easy songs and dances...you're not as challenged. So I really like 'Newsies' as it really challenges us all. I took tap class over the summer. It was such a fun class. But it's so funny as my character is 'Crutchie' so I don't get to tap for the show!"

Mrs. Coleman's vision matches this cast's capabilities. "Audience members will be surprised at the sheer skill level of this show. They will be very surprised a public high school theater department will do this show, and do it justice," she proclaimed. "Justice is just what these very dedicated performers, tech, stage and production crew will bring."

A Moment in US History

"Newsies" is based on the true 1899 newsboys strike in New York City. Much prior to child labor laws and protections, and a short while after the end of the Spanish-American War, the U.S. news headlines weren't very exciting any longer. At the same time, the economy was slowing, driving down demand for luxuries like newspapers. People living farther away from the city center no longer frequented walk-by newsstands. Newsboys peddling papers on street corners became the norm. But in this environment, even corner sales declined. Pulitzer and Hearst, famous news icons, chose to raise prices of their respective papers to increase profits. Struggling newsboys, often orphans, were left squeezed between slowing demand and rising prices. Adding insult to injury, neither news tycoon's empires would purchase back unsold newspapers. "Newsies" musically documents these boys' actions and outcomes in energy becoming Disney.

This dynamic, movement-filled and endearing story is a departure from your typical Disney musical. It's not about a princess or prince.

Instead, it chronicles a historic event, including a few undercurrent stories akin to "Titanic" that will catch your imagination. Think also about "Hamilton" - but with many more dancing feats and tricks, a whole lot more energy, and appropriate language for a family audience. That said, there's still plenty of visual and musical stimulation to engage even the youngest members of the audience.

"Newsies" took Broadway by storm when it debuted in 2012. Subsequently, it debuted as a movie musical. The musical's starring actors were even tapped to reprise roles - some well into their 30s by the time the musical movie was made. Interestingly, the original release, a 1992 Disney movie released under then studio name Buena Vista Pictures, wasn't able to clear a fifth of budget. Not so with the musical itself or its musical movie version - they were an instant success. This musical isn't often performed because of its sheer difficulty in all 'triple threat areas' - especially vocals and dancing.

Pioneer Up to the Challenge

"The songs are the greatest challenge in this role (for me)," Colin Smith, who plays Jack Kelly, shared. "The lines I can get through, the acting I can get through, but the songs - they're the hardest part. It's hard for me to bring emotion sometimes when I'm singing. You have to act and sing at the same time. I have to pull different emotions into my songs in order for them to feel right, and that can be hard for me. I'm working a lot with Mrs. (Marissa) Bacon (Musical Director) on emotion and just what she's looking for from each individual song. I'm also taking voice lessons twice every week on both Friday and Saturdays. Those help with my confidence and help me feel confident in my songs vocally. Also the choreography in the big numbers is extremely hard; the amount of dancing, the amount of memorizing. Also being at the front and center of it all, you feel like you have to represent the leadership role. You kind of have to perform in that way, too. That's tough."

This undertaking is so intense; dancers regularly work to their very limits every night - and on their own time at home - to perfect each movement. Singers work nightly with Mrs. Bacon to clarify and reach each note pitch-per-

fect. They take musical rehearsal notes home and continue practicing on their own - while working out, doing homework, driving, during after school sports commitments, and of course, in the shower. Those solos and ensemble numbers alike won't shine up to Pioneer's Director, Mrs. Ashley Coleman's, expectation without that level of dedication and persistence.

Besides the energy-filled song and dance numbers, there's a new constant energy level required from many of the cast members not experienced in the past. "For me, the greatest challenge will be so much more time I'm on stage than I've experienced in the past. This is the first very big role in a musical that I've ever had at Pioneer with lines and everything, and I'm on the stage a lot of time. It's going to be hard for me - because normally I have time off-stage to go and change or just take a break," shared Ian Do, who plays Davey, the inadvertent union organizer.

For Renee Boissier, who plays Miss Medda Larkin, the show is a departure from her previous Pioneer Drama experience. "Already this show has given me a different experience because I've never had a singing part in a show before. This is my first singing part. And already that has given me a couple of different experiences; just a different approach to theater. So far I've acted only - I've learned to go out there, learn my lines, blocking and how to express - and that's all very important. But this is very interesting, to take my years of singing experience - I've been working on it four years now practicing two hours a day just because I love it so much - and take that experience and combine that with my acting experience into one product...It's also interesting to belt a bit more, which is very difficult for me, but I'm having fun working on it."

In this cast there are an unusually high number of males (20 from the Advanced Drama class itself, plus many more from the school community at large who heard this was the show and auditioned). "The group of principals for this show have been preparing for this show for the last four years. They asked for a challenge. This cast is up for the challenge and I trust them to bring it home. I have the utmost confidence in this cast," stated Coleman. "Also, I feel in recent years, there has been an increase in young people around the United States, and really around the world, getting involved with bigger issues. Whether that's environmental issues, human rights issues, equality issues - and being in a public school setting I see this in my own backyard, this desire of young people really desiring to get involved in important matters. 'Newsies' is a call to arms for the exploited and the oppressed, it's a protest for change, it's an emphasis for importing injustice and it stands as a watchdog for those without a platform. I see that same intensity and passion in our students, and I figured what better show for them to do than 'Newsies' at this time?"

Auditioning for such a difficult show raised the bar for many cast members. "I just was a little scared, a little timid because I knew I had to prepare a song. I wanted to do well because I knew this was the last show with all my friends. Honestly I didn't really care if I got the main part - I mean I wanted it - but I didn't care if I got the main part, I just wanted to do the show really well with all of my friends. One last time,"

See *NEWSIES*, page 18

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Times **Community News**

Parents of students concerned about lack of communication

By Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

I've heard from numerous parents of San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD) students who are concerned with what is viewed as a lack of communication and a slow start to distance learning options during the COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place order.

As the parent of an SJUSD student myself, I hear and share your concerns. With schools closed until at least May 1, 2020, high-quality distance learning is essential for our children.

Several of my colleagues on the City Council and I have been in close contact with Kimberly Meek, who is the elected Trustee who represents most of my constituents on the SJUSD Board, as well as with Superintendent Albarran, to share your correspondence and emphasize the importance of getting online classes up and running quickly, like our local private and charter schools have done as well as other public school districts. It's imperative that Silicon Valley schools be leaders in educational innovation. As we are witnessing, it is absolutely necessary to be prepared. I encourage all of our local school districts to unleash their creativity and team spirit to work through the challenges presented.

Councilmember Peralez, I, and three of our colleagues took two specific actions after meeting recently - first, we asked Jill Bourne, Library Director for San Jose Public Libraries to reach out to SJUSD to ensure that they are aware of the public library learning resources available to all of their students at www.sjpl.org. Second, Councilmember Foley volunteered to reach out to the SJUSD superintendent's office to request a single point of contact for parents who had concerns to express to the district. The District recommended using their web contact form which may be found on their website at this link: <https://www.sjUSD.org/contact-us/>.

I took actions to be helpful, as well, including connecting Superintendent Albarran and Trustee Meek with Sunne McPeak with the California Emerging Technology Fund that administers the San Jose Digital Inclusion program to ensure that SJUSD is aware of the resources available to students who need internet access or internet-accessible devices for distance learning. I also ensured that they were aware of resources that Google is providing to aid teachers with online learning.

It is encouraging to report that, after a slow start, they have now started rolling out

educational resources for teachers and students, which you may find at the COVID-19 page on their website: www.sjUSD.org/your-resources/covid-19-update. Many teachers have already started using the new materials and are busy contacting students.

SJUSD informs us that other teachers are developing lesson plans and that the district will have a long-term distance learning plan available by the end of the week. They indicated that challenges - including legal concerns about rolling out solutions that don't take into account students with special needs - had prevented them from

introducing lesson plans as quickly as they may have liked, but they appear to have overcome these obstacles and they assure us that they continue to work on ensuring educational opportunities for all students within the district.

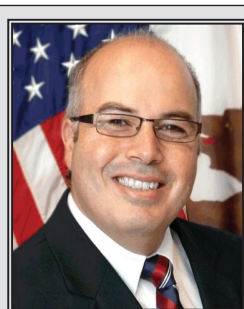
Please be sure to visit siliconvalleystrong.org for information on various resources available to parents to keep their children engaged in learning (scroll down to the COMMUNITY RESOURCES section and the RELIEF EFFORTS section for more information). You may also volunteer or donate to help

those in need at siliconvalleystrong.org. If you have needs that are not being met - or you know someone who needs help - please direct them to 2-1-1, the County's help line - to get them to the right resource. The County Office of Education is also working to support local school districts in their efforts to ensure all students are able to access the internet-based resources they need for distance learning.

While we, as a city, have no authority over school operations, I am committed to make an effort to be as helpful as possible, through initiatives like the Digital Inclusion Fund that provides resources to get

economically disadvantaged children devices and high-speed internet connectivity, so that our kids' schools can deliver a quality education to them while they are sheltered at home.

Remember to stay safe by sheltering in place with only those in your dwelling unit, staying mentally healthy and connected to others by phone or internet, and physically healthy by getting out for a walk or other exercise, if you are able. When you do go out for essential grocery or pharmacy items, be sure to practice good hygiene - washing hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, and maintaining six feet of safe social distancing. We may be social distancing - but we all must continue to stay connected and work together as a community to minimize the spread of this deadly virus!



District 10 Report
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

SJUSD informs us that other teachers are developing lesson plans and that the district will have a long-term distance learning plan available by the end of the week.



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Snapology: Fun, interactive environment for children

New online classes developed

Almaden Valley entrepreneurs Amita Dhingra and Vaishali Dubal, co-owners of Snapology of Los Gatos, have created a fun, interactive environment for children to learn science, technology, engineering, art, math, robotics and video game design concepts using LEGO® bricks, K'Nex and technology.

The Snapology programs, designed for children ages 3-14, are normally presented through after-school enrichment programs, summer camps, workshops, birthday parties, scouting events, field trips, and play dates.

Just as these two entrepreneurs were launching their business, they realized that they needed to make an immediate pivot. "The closure of schools can be challenging for students and parents, so we've taken our popular Snapology Classes online!" said Amita. "We have adapted our curriculum so that your child can make their screen time count with engaging and entertaining activities."

Parents get an hour to themselves while kids engage and get valuable social time with friends during a fun, small group activity led by a Snapology instructor. As children begin virtual learning, Snapology is focusing on the fun and social qualities of their classes to give students a welcome break from independent studies.

"We are hopeful that our programs can provide some fun, focused activities and challenges for students who have access to LEGO® bricks and other creative materials at their homes," Vaishali said.

Snapology of Los Gatos is also currently offering free LEGO® building challenges on their Facebook page. Children can take on a new challenge every day and enter to win or vote for their favorites!

More info on what a virtual class looks like here: youtu.be/Qb0u4C-cVbY

For enrollment info call (408) 464-1814 or visit: losgatos.snapology.com.

Pictured: **Amita Dhingra** and **Vaishali Dubal**, co-owners of Snapology of Los Gatos, have created a fun, interactive environment for children to learn science, technology, engineering, art, math, robotics and video game design concepts.



San Jose man starts petition to extend property taxes second installment

Hitesh Patel of San Jose has started a petition on the website Change.org to extend the second installment of the Santa Clara

County property tax due April 10.

The petition states: *The entire population of all the Counties are going through a lot of economic and hardship challenges as a result of the spread of COVAD-19. They could most surely use the funds they need to pay the 2nd installment (due April 10th) to take care of other more urgent and pressing needs for the well-being of their Families.*

I am calling on the County, State Officials

& Governor Newsom to go ahead and extend the due date of that payment to August 10th. If the IRS and the Franchise Tax Board could extend their deadlines, there is no reason why the Counties cannot be sympathetic towards such an unprecedented calamity as well.

To view the petition, Google search Patel extend property tax change.org

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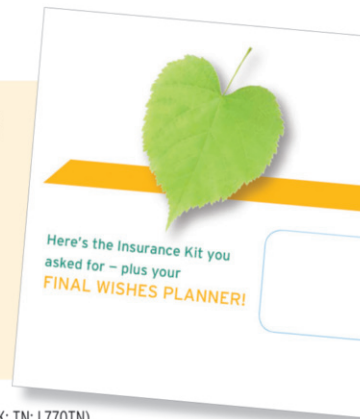
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How downtime forced by coronavirus could be an entrepreneurial opportunity

For would-be entrepreneurs who have longed to turn a side hustle into their main hustle, the shutdown created by the coronavirus may have provided that long-awaited opportunity.

Often, a lack of time is one of the major reasons people give for not starting their own businesses. But these days – with everyone urged to stay home and outside activities limited – those newfound extra hours could be invested in taking steps toward creating that business, says Shravan Parsi, CEO and founder of American Ventures, a commercial real estate company, and ForbesBooks author of *The Science of the Deal: The DNA of Multifamily and Commercial Real Estate Investing*.

"It definitely takes effort, energy, and a willingness to step out there, but the rewards can be great," Parsi says.

Parsi was a full-time pharmaceutical research scientist working 9 to 5 and dabbling in real estate on the side when he realized his regular job was hampering his real estate deals because he wasn't available to talk with people or show a house during the day. Eventually, he bid farewell to his old career and launched his new one in commercial real estate.

Parsi has a few tips for those who long to shake loose from their current careers and venture into something that drives their passions:

- **Be bold and flexible.** A willingness to take chances and adapt to changing circumstances is critical. Even in seventh grade in his native India, ambition boiled in Parsi. He realized that to become the kind of global leader he aspired to be, he would need to know English. So, he transferred to an English school. "My parents supported my decision even though they knew it would be challenging," he says.

- **Be interested in everything and observe closely.** You never know when opportunities to expand your knowledge – and be inspired by new ideas – will present themselves. Parsi says he learned this lesson at age 14. His father was a doctor who himself invested in real estate as a passive investment, and was having a two-story house built – one story for the family and one as a rental. "He pointed out that I had time to kill over summer vacation and recommended I watch the process," Parsi says. "So my brother and I watched the construction and supervised the contractors. It left a strong impression on me."

- **Pivot when necessary.** Life doesn't always go as planned – as the coronavirus has shown – so you need to be prepared to change direction, Parsi says. As an example, Parsi originally planned to follow in his father's footsteps and become a doctor. But admission to medical school in India is highly competitive and he missed the cutoff criteria by one-tenth of a point. That's when he pivoted and became a pharmaceutical scientist instead.

- **Learn how to sell anything.** At different periods in his life, Parsi worked in a cell phone store, sold Amway products, and sold nutritional supplements. Those expe-

riences weren't always the best, he acknowledges, but he did gain something from them. "I realized that if I can sell the products and a story and recruit others, then I can sell anything," Parsi says. "Selling is a pivotal skill most entrepreneurs must have."

Anyone who is inspired to get their entrepreneurial drive moving during the current downtime should not completely throw caution to the wind, Parsi says.

"I did not quit my pharmaceutical job right away," he says. "I had an objective to stay in that job until the real estate income was twice the value of my salary. When I hit that objective – when real estate was no longer a side hustle – I decided it made sense to invest more time in real estate than the scientific position."

Now American Ventures is a successful multifamily and commercial real estate investment firm with a proven track record.

"Never settle for less," Parsi says.

Extreme weather forecasting in the Bay Area has a new high-tech tool

Valley Water unveils first permanent x-band radar in Santa Clara County

Valley Water joined local, regional, state, and federal agencies in the unveiling of the first permanent X-Band radar in the San Francisco Bay Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) System.

The radar, located on top of the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant in San Jose, is the cornerstone in a new network of high-resolution, low-elevation radars that will improve weather forecasting of atmospheric rivers and extreme weather events across the region.

"Today marks a great milestone in a collaboration that will provide vital information during storms," said Valley Water CEO Norma Camacho. "We and our partners across the region are committed to helping keep our communities safe from floods."

Forecasting rainfall from powerful Pacific storms can be a challenge for meteorologists due to the complex terrain of the San Francisco Bay Area. Precipitation from these storms often forms at low levels, well below the range of existing radars. Once complete, the AQPI network will consist of four X-Band Radars and one C-Band Radar placed at strategic locations across nine counties in the Bay Area.

"We are aligning our regional expertise and resources to provide critical information for flood emergency response and integrated water management tailored to a specific area's needs," said Michael Anderson, State Climatologist for the California Department of Water Resources. "This is an excellent demonstration of our Weather-Ready Nation initiative, to help communities prepare for extreme weather, water, and climate events," added NOAA's Rob Cifelli, who will monitor the system, designed by Colorado State University.

The system will provide improved data for forecasting, which will assist water managers, reservoir operators, wastewater plant managers, flood, and emergency responders to make operational and safety decisions during extreme weather events.

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Report: 2020's best places to find a job

With the unemployment rate rising due to the coronavirus, (after a near 50-year low) the personal-finance website WalletHub recently released its report on 2020's Best Places to Find a Job.

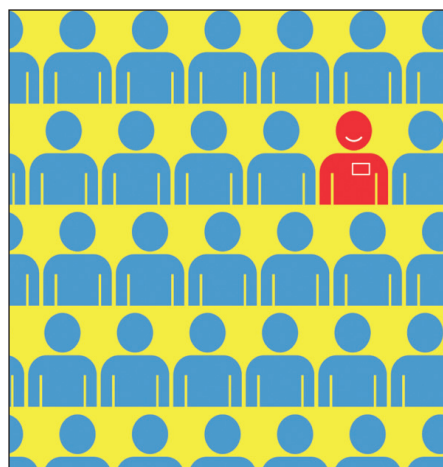
To determine the strongest local job markets in the U.S., WalletHub compared more than 180 cities across 31 key metrics. The data set ranges from job opportunities to employment growth to monthly average starting salary.

Best Cities for Jobs

1. Scottsdale, AZ
2. South Burlington, VT
3. San Francisco, CA
4. Austin, TX
5. Fremont, CA
6. Chandler, AZ
7. Boston, MA
8. Tempe, AZ
9. Portland, ME
10. Boise, ID

Worst Cities for Jobs

173. Cleveland, OH
174. Anchorage, AK
175. Gulfport, MS



176. Toledo, OH
177. Huntington, WV
178. Brownsville, TX
179. Stockton, CA
180. Newark, NJ
181. Fayetteville, NC
182. Detroit, MI

Best vs. Worst

• Gilbert, Arizona, has the highest median annual household income (adjusted by cost of living), \$89,903, which is 3.4 times higher than in Hialeah, Florida, the city with the lowest at \$26,281.

• San Jose, California, has the highest monthly average starting salary, \$6,019, which is 3.2 times higher than in Brownsville, Texas, the city with the lowest at \$1,876.

• South Burlington, Vermont, has the lowest unemployment rate, 1.70 percent, which is 5.3 times lower than in Detroit, the city with the highest at 9.00 percent.

• Plano, Texas, has the fewest part-time employees for every 100 full-time employees, 32.86, which is

3.6 times fewer than in Burlington, Vermont, the city with the most at 118.23.

• Fremont, California, has the lowest share of workers living in poverty, 1.84 percent, which is 10.3 times lower than in Huntington, West Virginia, the city with the highest at 18.86 percent.

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-jobs/2173/>

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3 ways it's designed to protect you

Soon, your driver's license may not be enough to get you through airport security in the United States.

Oct. 1, 2020 is the deadline for U.S. citizens to have REAL ID-compliant state driver's licenses, a requirement passed by Congress in 2005 in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Without a compliant driver's license, those who are 18 and over won't be able to board a domestic flight, unless possessing other specific forms of acceptable identification.

"The thought behind this was that with standardization, it will become a lot harder to forge documents and gain access to aircraft," says Stephen Hyduchak, CEO of Aver (www.goaver.com), an identity-verification service.

While the main idea of REAL ID is to better protect U.S. citizens and their identity, there is controversy over the law. Critics cite privacy issues. Some states delayed getting cards in circulation because residents and legislators worried REAL ID was a way for the federal government to collect personal information for a national database. The Department of Homeland Security, however, says REAL ID is not a national ID card, and each jurisdiction maintains its own records and controls who gets access to those records.

Hyduchak thinks the security features of REAL ID outweigh privacy concerns, and says the technology behind the card makes keeping people safer more achievable.

"Government agencies say this is a significant step forward in the battle against terrorism, identity theft and other crimes, and illegal immigration," Hyduchak says. "New technologies like facial recognition have advanced our security capability at a time we dearly need it."

Hyduchak analyzes the different ways the technology within REAL ID can protect U.S. citizens:

Document verification. The Department of Homeland Security requires applicants for the REAL ID driver's license to show more documentation. "Artificial intelligence leads the way

in document verification," Hyduchak says. "More personal information is contained in the new card, and new things will be standardized, like barcodes, in a universal machine-readable format. The features and standards of the card cover everything from the process of verifying cardholders' identities to the facilities storage of those credentials where they are produced. This will aid in the avoidance of tampering with and counterfeiting documents."

Facial recognition. The new images on the cards will be compatible for facial recognition searches. "One piece of technology that could give states an upper hand in detecting the kind of fraud that REAL ID wants to deter is biometric identification," Hyduchak says. "This is the ability to verify the identity of a person through digitized images of fingerprints or facial features. Facial recognition technology is most effective; it uses a database of photos, such as driver's licenses, to identify people in security photos and videos. Using facial recognition surveillance technology, digital photos in the Homeland Security data bank can be used to match anyone anywhere. Facial recognition uses biometrics to map facial details and verify identity through those key features."

Linking state and international databases. While some states were already sharing some of their Department of Motor Vehicles-collected details, the REAL ID Act mandates that this national pool of private information has to include photographs conducive to facial recognition, which can make identification faster from state to state or from U.S. to foreign country. "The reasoning behind connecting the data bases has to do almost entirely with catching potential terrorists, duplicate applications and illegal immigrants," Hyduchak says. "Because the U.S. exchanges information with other governments and global organizations, the digital photos will probably be shared with foreign and international intelligence and police agencies."

"REAL ID is a great way of using the latest technology to confirm identification and protect U.S. citizens," Hyduchak says. "As soon as new document standards are processed, we can update our machine learning models, and everyone benefits."



Public Service
Announcement



DO THE FIVE

Help stop coronavirus

- 1 **HANDS** Wash them often
- 2 **ELBOW** Cough into it
- 3 **FACE** Don't touch it
- 4 **FEET** Stay more than 6 ft (2m) apart
- 5 **FEEL** sick? Stay home

General public health information

MEME AND NOT HEARD

Can we uninstall 2020 and install it again?

This version has a

Virus !

Posted on social media by Annu Prasad.

Times **Community News**



Washburn talks paw and order with a suspicious bunny.

Washburn

Continued from page 1

When she joined the Santa Cruz Triathlon Association, she was afraid of swimming in the ocean, but three months later, she jumped off a ferry by Alcatraz and swam to shore.

“I came out of the ocean baptized,” she says. “It’s about facing your fears and the empowerment that comes from that.”

After becoming certified in scuba diving, she completed 300 dives in three years, traveling the world for destination dives.

A San Jose native, Washburn was raised in Milpitas by a blue collar, working class family with a strong work ethic. She always had a calling to service, and as a youth wanted to be a nurse or park ranger. Her first job was lifeguarding. She also taught first aid and CPR.

After working for about five years as a dispatcher, Washburn realized she was well-suited for law enforcement. In 2008, after working with the metro unit doing drug enforcement, she was promoted to sergeant. She resumed patrol work before leading research and development in 2013 on the Body-Worn Camera Program.

The new technology required her to work with city managers, unions, and the community. Washburn tried to get to the core of peoples’ concerns through training, outreach, and policy development. In the end, the project was deployed on time and on budget, and since 2016, all San Jose Police Department sworn personnel have been outfitted with the cameras and trained on their use and policy.

In 2015, Washburn was promoted to lieutenant. In 2017, she returned to special operations. She says it was a dynamic two-and-a-half years in which she grew personally and professionally.

“We went after the worst of the worst, working in collaboration with other apprehension units,” Washburn says. “It was especially unique being a female commander in special ops.”

Washburn received an Associ-

ate of Science degree in Fire Science Technology at Mission College. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Leadership and Organizational Studies at Saint Mary’s College of California and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership degree there.

At Sherman Block Leadership Institute, an eight-month progressive training program, Washburn discovered leadership as her purpose. She has a passion for mentoring and developing others and understands the importance of interconnectivity.

“It’s not just about being the best officer,” Washburn says. “As sergeant, you want to have the best team. As lieutenant, you want the best division. But you get to the point where you realize it’s bigger than the department. You want to elevate the profession and partner with the community to solve problems. We can’t write policies or make decisions in a vacuum.”

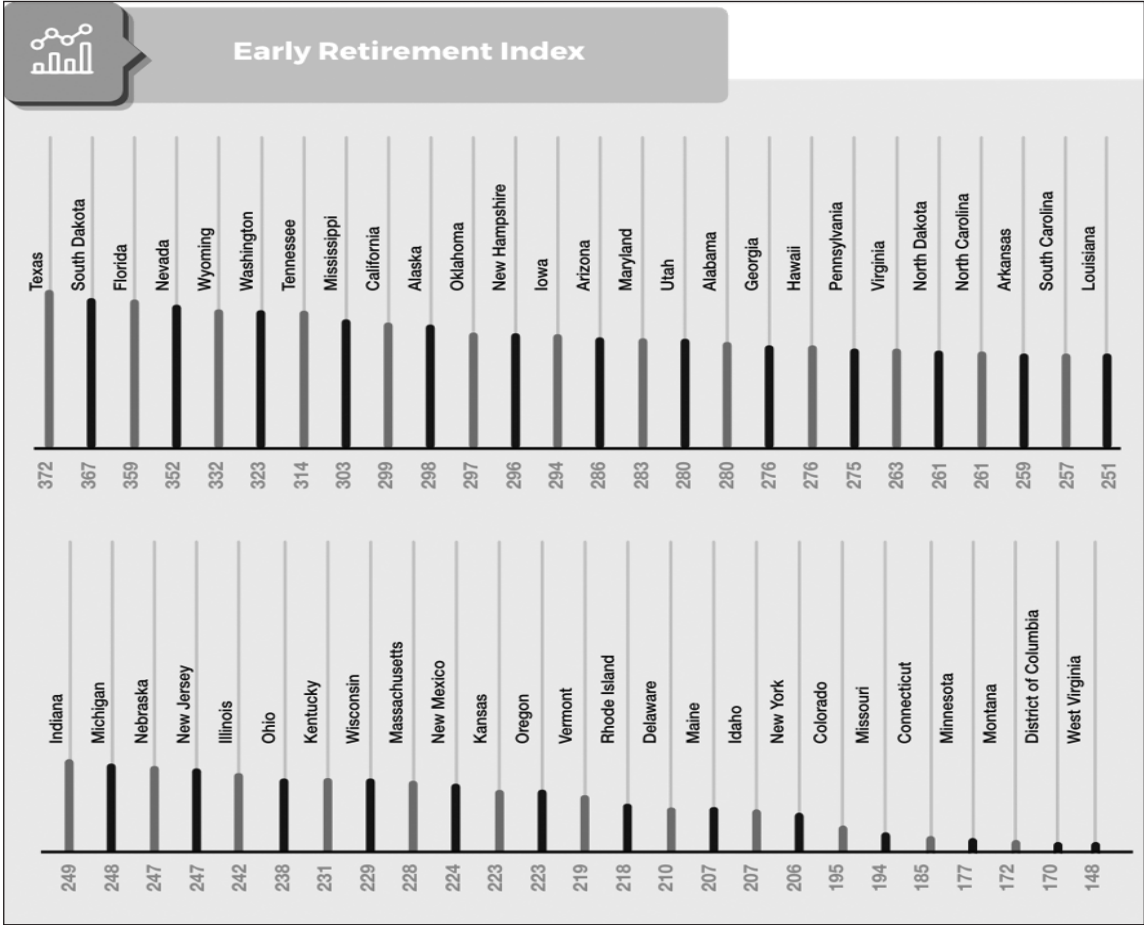
Involvement on the body-worn camera program taught Washburn the value of community engagement and working together.

“The program happened because of the power of influence and relationships,” she says. “We had many difficult conversations, but everyone rolled up their sleeves and went to work. People recognize I do everything from a place of integrity and because of that, there’s trust.”

Washburn says that her divisional priorities are aggravated assault, burglary, and community engagement. She wants to build on police deployment strategies by engaging, empowering, and educating the community to take ownership and use resources in fighting neighborhood crime.

She favors community policing and recommends residents remain vigilant and report crimes to the police department. She also urges residents to contact their city councilmember regarding neighborhood concerns like speed bumps.

“It’s about what we can accomplish together,” she says. “I’m super excited to have this opportunity. I’m honored and humbled to wear the San Jose police uniform and the bars, and I’m ready to serve.”



New study: Best and worst states to retire

A new study finds California is the ninth best state for people planning to retire early, after analyzing a multitude of financial, health-related and lifestyle factors.

Last year, one study showed 4 in 10 people retired sooner than they’d planned, often for health reasons. Whether by choice or necessity, picking the best place to hunker down for the long haul is critical.

TheSeniorList.com has released a new study on the best states for early retirees utilizing the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Journal of the American Medical Association, among others.

The study analyzed life expectancy, income, housing costs, income tax rates, insurance premiums, consumer spending and average temperatures to determine the state rankings.

Here are key findings in California:

- Median household income: \$75,277 (No. 7 highest in the country)
- Average health insurance premium: \$168
- Median monthly housing cost: \$1,626 (No. 3 highest in the country)
- Average temperature: 60.1
- Median life expectancy from birth: 80.9 (No. 2 highest in the country)

Here are key national findings:

- 5 best states to retire early: Texas, South Dakota, Florida, Nevada, Wyoming.
- 5 worst states to retire early: West Virginia, D.C., Minnesota, Connecticut, Missouri.
- Nine states don’t have a state

income tax or don’t levy it on wages. • Insurance premiums are highest in DC (\$447) and lowest in Mississippi (\$76.08). To view the report, visit: theseniorlist.com/best-states-early-retirees



Make your stay at home nicer with flowers

Now that so many of us are either working at home or have to be there anyway, what could be nicer than having flowers to enjoy? They brighten up your life and make things downright cozier.

Spring flowers

Right now, the most popular seasonal flowers of all have to be tulips.

And they’re widely available, too. Just arrange them in a vase and start admiring the way they grow and bloom. Other spring flowers will also perk you up and give you a nice warm feeling.

What about hyacinths, daffodils and grape hyacinths? Ready-potted bulbs bring a bit of nature’s wonders indoors. Once you’ve given them a special little spot, you can watch them grow and produce a beautiful display of flowers. In short, why not make the best of staying at home and working at home by surrounding yourself with flowers?

More information is available at www.ilsaysays.com.

Times **Community News****Newsies***Continued from page 8*

Colin intimidated. "It was just a little bit of fear of getting up in front of Mrs. Coleman and singing like that, I mean, it's hard. But I'm really glad I did it."

Jack is a fictional character embodying the leadership of the newsboys. The central themes he represents resonated with Colin: "I've known my friends since kindergarten. I've always tried to keep my friends together in a group... I always felt like it was important for me to keep us all together no matter whatever happened, and to just always try to have us as a group that we could rely on each other and always have each others' backs. So that's really important to me - having the friends I have now - keeping them together and keeping them connected."

Katherine Plumber is pivotal to the overall story line. "She is very passionate, very confident and she is the love interest of the male lead, Jack Kelly... I've always loved her character: she exudes confidence and excitement, and she really roots for the group of newsies throughout the entire show... she's kind of a rebel,

which I love. But she's also very innocent and I like that about her too. She's a pretty complex character," reflected Lydia. "Katherine is the one who spreads the story of the newsies and their strike. She's the one who calls attention to them and puts them on a bigger stage for the entire city to take notice of - which was a big deal. Without her journalism and without her article, the newsies wouldn't be getting as much public attention, which is necessary for them to make a change later in the musical."

Lydia continued "Being a newsie would've been just as fun for me, but as a senior you always cross your fingers hoping you get a leading role and when I found out I was Katherine it was just a huge honor and I was so grateful that Mrs. Coleman trusted me with that part, because it's a huge role vocally, dancing-wise, acting-wise and I have limited theater experience, so I don't consider myself to be a big actor compared to some of my classmates. I've only been in the class the past two years - but I've done the spring musical all four years. I saw "Les Mis" when I was in 8th grade and I just loved it. So when it came down to picking my schedule I had to choose (between two of my

passions): art or drama? It was a really tough decision for me. The way art works (at Pioneer) you have to work through the levels of it and I wanted to do art as long as I could in high school. I knew I could audition in to the musicals and audition for the classes so I chose to take Beginning Art as a freshman, but tested the drama waters by doing the spring musical, "Footloose." The next year I was in Advanced Art, and did "Guys and Dolls", and that year I auditioned and was accepted into Advanced Drama, so last year was my first year being in the class. I did AP Art with that, and then this year (my senior year) I'm in Special Projects Art and Advanced Drama again. It worked out really well because I got to do all of it." One prop she is too humble to mention is the hand-painted backdrop in Miss Larkin's theater. Lydia rallied a team of fellow artists and created these two masterpieces, herself at the helm of the team murals.

One area stood out as the most concerning for Mrs. Coleman: Dancing. "The high level expectation of dancing was definitely a concern. It's not just the student's ability to dance, but it's dancing that requires years and years and years of previous training prior to Pioneer High School... Keep-

ing the show intensity and the show-stopping nature of these choreographed numbers....it was important to me not to lose any of the energy by watering down the numbers. These students are up for the challenge. They've been working on things outside of class, they've taken time over their flex study periods to come in and polish choreography and learn some tricks and stunts - with safety and supervision of course - but that's something I've never had to look for in the past, things like acrobatics - it's never been a need like it has until now."

Emily noted the high level expected: "I get to do a lot of dancing in this show, which I'm very excited about. I also do a whole lot of the harmonies in the show. I go from a super intense, fast dance - a pretty exhausting dance - straight into singing at the same time, multiple times. It's going to be pretty challenging. I've been challenged by it so far just in rehearsals. For a full two hour show we'll see how my stamina holds up! It's a marathon of a dancing show. Fellow cast member Jannika Johnson and I get to do a lot of acting, singing and the dancing together - it's going to be so much fun, I can't wait to do it! But I'm going to be exhausted at the end of every night. I'm one of those people that give 110% every night - even if it's just rehearsal. My cardiovascular system will be perfect by the end of this!"

On the opposite end of the spectrum lies Crutchie. "In the beginning I'm Jack's right-hand man. We sing a little duet in the beginning... My leg doesn't work so I have a crutch. I go along with the flow and just do whatever Jack tells me to do. Crutchie's trying to make the most of it in life. You see a glimpse of him at the end of Act 1 when he gets sent to the Refuge - a jail for people without homes. You get to see his emotion really brought out. There he sings "Letter from the Refuge" - that he 'wants to get out of here and go to Santa Fe and ride Palominos every day,' said Josh. "Right when everyone's caught up in the show Crutchie gives a moment of what's going on for him. I really like this character. I have to learn to walk with a crutch, and dance with a crutch. I can't actually do whatever is choreographed - I get to improvise a bit. That's fun as I get to take my little twist on everything." As in previous roles, Josh researches this to the hilt and is practicing daily to insure he's portraying what it's like to walk with just one crutch/one bad leg vs. the usual now-a-days two-crutch approach accurately. "For example, a lot of the choreography has my bum leg facing the audience so luckily I can use my crutch in some portions, but then there will be a spin added so how do I do that?" queried Josh. "I may spin around and then hit someone with it (on accident)." These and more are all questions Josh is contemplating as he fully studies this and brings Crutchie to authentic life.

Besides actors' contemplations and rehearsing, a dedicated main pro-

duction team and many additional volunteers work countless hours behind the scenes to perfect a show like this. Lorie Biviano and Jim Wolk, long past having their own students involved or even in high school, work tirelessly to insure sets are constructed safely and appointed in perfect period and show-appropriate decor. Co-Costume Mistress, Jan Vincent, also has long since had any of her progeny involved. Jan and Marissa, also Co-Costume Mistress, once again applied their vision, tweaking each and every minute detail, ensuring visually appealing costume pieces from head to toe for the entire cast. Each cast member is costumed by Jan, Marissa and their dedicated team of volunteers, working with donated pieces and pulling together fit and flare for each and every actor. Tech is overseen by Chris Raimondi, both a previous graduate of the program and a college student majoring in recording arts with an eye and ear for detail. Similarly, Rose Wiley insures the student-run stage crew completes crisp set transitions and prop dissemination. Recent graduate, Ricky Covey, takes a spot, literally, in the tech booth this year. The sheer dedication of these community members and volunteers insures top quality support for the actors and production to soar.

In the end, this show is a work of heart presented as a sort of love letter to the community at large. These students give every bit of themselves beyond not only school and all the associated homework, but also volunteer activities like Boy Scouts Eagle projects for Ian, volunteering weekly at Sacred Heart for Colin or Angels on Stage for Lydia, countless lessons to improve their craft across the board, jobs, sports like track for Renee (which both Josh and Ian mentioned missing this year), and family, friends and high school experiences like rallies and dances. Emily has been particularly devoted to her career passion: Pediatrics. "I've taken zero through sixth period for all three years of high school. If I could've done it for the fourth year (my freshman year) I would have. It's normal for me now (to balance it all with nightly 3 hour rehearsals). It's public school - if they're going to offer it to me for free I'm going to take it. Why wouldn't I? It's an opportunity to learn something. The good thing about senior year is I've gotten to choose the courses I enjoy doing. So I took AP Bio and Physiology. I want to be a Pediatrician. The science of how life works as a whole has always interested me. I find it so interesting. It's like dancing; it just sort of clicks. Everything is so fascinating it's hard not to enjoy every moment in it. I'm lucky to be able to find what I love so much early on. The thing with drama is it's such a stress reliever with all this going on...The reason I can handle such a big class load - all of these honors, all of these APs - is because I look forward to something every night. I look forward to coming to rehearsals. I look forward to coming to rehearsal to let go and just

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Times **Community News**

Jack and Crutchie dream of a place called Santa Fe.

act, dance and sing and relax. It's a really refreshing thing, even if it's tiring."

Each cast member interviewed had a different take on desired audience outcomes:

"Audience members will be surprised by the diversity of the cast," observed Ian. "In this show especially there are some who haven't been in Drama before, or have only been in it for a year or two, so it's a big experience. For example Claire Guazelli and Alan Nguyen used to be in drama in middle school with me, so it was really cool to see them come back. It was nice. The diversity extends all the way across the cast, too."

Renee said "When I first saw 'Newsies,' I walked away again with a renewed love of theater. It's one of the few productions that can really draw out emotion in me. 'Miss Saigon' and 'The Color Purple' have made me cry out of the raw sad emotion and tragedy of it. But Newsies has made me cry out of the inspiration and power of it all. So I hope that audiences walk away inspired and with an appreciation for the importance of theater and for the emotion it can make you feel...The real importance of theater lies in its ability to let audiences have a cathartic way to express their feelings and to tell the story. Musical theater combines all the different storytelling methods we've all grown up with, music and dance and actually just storytelling in a way I think is the ultimate way to tell stories. It is vitally important to add that kind of flavor to our lives. It's more than just an escape for a night because of what it allows us to feel."

"The amount of energy in this show will really surprise audience members. The energy's going to be crazy compared to any Pioneer show they've seen before. This is a very loud and full energy show. We are constantly 'on' - there's not a moment

where we're not bombastic and hyped. I hope this reflects to the audience. It's going to be overwhelmingly loud and exciting and I think people are really going to like it. I hope audience members leave here with a big ol' smile and the word 'fun!' - that this was a fun show!"

Emily said "I hope audience members walk away with the same amount of joy that we get out of performing it. In this group of people, we have so much energy to give, so much energy feeding off each other. And we hope to spread that to the audience...The newsies have each other and that's where they get their strength and happiness from. That love and camaraderie they have for each other, I hope that spreads out into the audience so they feel our love for each other, our love of performing the story, our love for the show. I hope the audience feels our happiness at the same time and that happiness spreads to them."

"I think the audience will be surprised at how professional this show is - especially with the dancing and the singing...We're the first public school to attempt this locally. It's such a difficult and time-consuming show, a lot of high schools won't take it on. I hope the audience appreciates what we are putting on for them. I think it's going to be shocking to the audience what we're able to do... I think it's going to look very similar to the original Broadway show because of the high level of dance in this show. They're doing all the leaps and the flips and it looks so cool - it looks so good. I know the audience will be like 'wow! this is so much more than a high school show!'" exclaimed Josh.

"Newsies" level of excellence has already spread far and wide via word of mouth - long before opening night.

The Newsies performance dates will be announced. So far more than 1,000 tickets have been sold. For more information, visit phsdrama.ludus.com or at the door nightly

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backgrounds. We work in
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and feel the difference
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All are welcome! We are
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brated at 8:30 a.m. Mon-
day - Friday. Our week-
end Mass schedule is
Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30
a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of
Reconciliation is every
Saturday at 4 p.m. or by
appointment. Our Parish
Office is open Monday -
Thursday 8:30 a.m. -
4:30 p.m. and Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Call 408-997-5100 for
recorded information or
408-997-5101 to speak
with someone in our
parish office. Information
on Faith Formation for
children and adults can
be obtained by calling
our Catechetical Office at
408-997-5115. Get in
the loop with our Sixty
High School Youth Min-
istry by calling 408-997-
5106. Holy Spirit School
serves grades Pre-K
through 8th, and is locat-
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Cambodian Service:
11:00 AM
Cantonese Service:
11:00 AM
Mandarin Service:
11:00AM
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PM - 8:30 PM

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nity, promoting spiritual
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where you get to know
people by name. We
offer children's religious
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Youth Ministry (BLAST
& X-STATIC); Scripture
Study (day & evening);
Senior's Group and
many other adult min-
istries as well. Saint
Anthony parish is locat-
ed in Almaden Valley at
20101 McKean Road,
San Jose, 95120. Our
weekend Masses are at
4 p.m. on Saturday at
our historic church at
21800 Bertram Road in
New Almaden, CA
95042 and on Sunday at
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
and 5:30 p.m. at the
McKean Road location.
Our Parish Office is open
Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
and Tuesday thru Thurs-
day, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and
1 - 4 p.m. For more infor-
mation, stop by the
Parish Office or call
(408) 997-4800, or visit
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Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



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ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave.
San Jose, CA 95148 The
word Sikh (see-kh) means
"disciple" or "student." A
Sikh is a practitioner of the
faith founded in the 15th
century by Guru Nanak in
Punjab of old British India.
A Guru who is a "teacher"
or "enlightener" completes
the relationship of teach-
ing and learning. Sikhism
is monotheistic and
stresses the equality of all
men and women. Sikhs
believe in three basic prin-
ciples; meditating on the
name of God (praying),
earning a living by honest
means and sharing the
fruits of one's labor with
others. Currently there are
close to one million Sikhs
living in the USA and
Canada and 25 million
Sikhs living around the
world. Sikhism is the 5th
largest religion in the
world. At the Gurdwara
(House of God) in San
Jose we welcome all. We
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prosperity for everybody
in the world. Come to
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the year and serves com-
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meals. We also encour-
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or www.stfrancisofassisi.org
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the community. We offer
spiritual opportunities for
all ages, including chil-
dren's liturgy, dynamic
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6:00 PM Youth Mass
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ering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sun-
day 11:00AM, Igbo Mass -
Second Sunday of the
month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange -
2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Com-
munity (Cribari Auditori-
um) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information,
please call or visit us at
the Parish Mission Center
open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00
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