

Med Life Plus donates emergency kits to serve local communities
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Students helping seniors
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Evergreen Times

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Agencies take extra precautions to keep the water supply safe by monitoring workers

As the coronavirus pandemic spreads, water agencies across the Bay Area are taking unprecedented steps to keep the water safe.

The main goal of all water districts is preventing workers who run the drinking water treatment plants from getting sick and contaminating the water.

"This event is unique," said Alexander Gordon, emergency services and security manager for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which provides drinking water to 2 million people in and around San Jose. You have an emergency where people are the problem, in terms of passing potential infection."

Many water districts are initiating contingency plans to instruct workers to live on-site at their job site to assure they do not come into contact with anyone except each other.

In San Diego County, 10 employees are currently living in rented RVs at the massive ocean desalination plant in Carlsbad.

Meha Gaba of Evergreen makes protective masks for health care workers and essential personnel

As the Bay Area and U.S. COVID-19 cases increased, Meha and Parth Gaba of Evergreen Valley felt the need to step up and do something positive for the community, specifically health care workers and essential personnel.

Before the pandemic caused the shutdown, Meha, a freshman at Basis Independent, barely had enough time to get through her school work along with extracurricular activities. Now at home all day she has the extra time she wanted to contribute to those at the frontline of the fight against COVID-19.

After Meha learned about the acute shortage of personal protection equipment (PPE) for health care and the essential services workforce, she thought to get her family's sewing machine and sewing kit out from the garage to make cloth masks.

"Many of them are worried about their own safety as well as their family's health but they are doing everything possible to help so we should do something to protect them: that was the motivation," Meha said. "The thought that our medical staff and essential services workers are exposed to dangers while helping us, gave me goosebumps. I wanted to do something to keep them safe."

After viewing a couple of YouTube videos



Meha and Parth Gaba of Evergreen Valley felt the need to step up and do something positive for the community, so they are sewing protective masks to distribute to health care workers and essential personnel.

Meha taught herself how to hand make a protective mask with two layers of tightly knit cotton fabric and elastic. Procuring the material during the pandemic was challenging, but JOANN Fabric Store pick up made it possible.

With no experience in sewing, at first it looked a little daunting and Meha wasn't sure how it would work, but 30 minutes into it and 10 completed masks made her feel much
See GABA, page 2

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Grazing horses on a sunny day in the Evergreen foothills
"Glad that we can experience a moment in time with peace and beauty just waiting to be seen," said Evergreen resident Jeanette Campa. "I would love to start seeing photos that give you peace and joy. Let's start sharing them!"
Photo by Jeanette Campa

Coronavirus: wearing face coverings will help slow the spread of COVID-19

Bay Area health officials' recommendation that people who leave their homes for essential travel cover their nose and mouth with a mask, scarf, bandana or towel to slow the spread of COVID-19.

"Wearing a mask in public is an important tool to stop the community spread of this disease because people with no or mild symptoms may have coronavirus and not know it," said Scott Morrow, MD, San Mateo County health officer.

The regional recommendation

is in addition to shelter-in-place and social distancing requirements.

The release issued by San Mateo County urged the public to avoid using medical masks such as N-95 or surgical masks, which are in short supply and must be preserved for healthcare workers.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has resisted issuing statewide guidance on face coverings and instead reminded people that they are not a substitute for physical or
See MASKS, page 2

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

Times **Community News**



Gaba

Continued from page 1

better and she got her Mom and brother involved in cutting the fabric and adding finishing touches by removing extra thread. Pretty soon their kitchen table was filled with more than 70 masks. As soon as a photo of the masks on her table was posted on her mom's WhatsApp, news spread like wildfire as friends and acquaintances started texting and leaving messages about how they knew where the masks would be best utilized.

The first batch of 75 face masks went to Sunrise Hospital Medical Center and University Medical Center in Las Vegas. Soon after, three local grocery stores reached out to her to request 30 face masks for their employees. Then a request came in from San Jose Gurdwara and many more. As of now Meha and her brother Parth have sewn and distributed nearly 300 masks.

"The next step to this project includes making protective transparent shields as well as sewing nurse caps for the medical staff," Meha said. "I hope our small effort can make a difference in their lives."



Masks

Continued from page 1

social distancing.

Santa Clara County Health officials warned that face coverings should not be medical masks or other similar products but include any type of breathable material that will cover nose and mouth. Medical masks are in short supply and need to be reserved for health care personnel.

Covering the nose and mouth with cloth may also help serve as a reminder to keep physical distancing after a report was issued that a person can become infected by the virus from someone nearby breathing.

A research panel cited several studies out of Hong Kong, the University of Nebraska, The New England Journal of Medicine and others that found evidence of the viral RNA in the air where infected patients were present.

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Distance learning amid COVID-19 crisis explained

By **Chris Funk**

*Eastside High School
District Superintendent*



As we all adjust to the new normal, while fighting the spread of COVID-19, the impacts on educators, students and families has increased the fear and anxiety among all of us.

Although schools across the Bay Area have been closed, we are thankful for Gov. Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-26-20 to continue funding schools at current levels this year, reduce the instructional calendar and keep public employees on paid status, which is critical to deliver ongoing educational opportunities for all students in Santa Clara County and the greater Bay Area.

There has been a push by many to move straight into distance or online learning. Each district is responsible for providing resources, digital platforms and opportunities to learn while schools are closed.

The California Department of Education defines "distance learning" as instruction in which the student and instructor are in different locations. This may include interacting through the use of computer and communications technology, as well as delivering instruction and check-in time with their teacher. Distance learning may include video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the student and instructor is online interaction, instructional television, video, telecourses, or other instruction that relies on computer or communications technology.

It may also include the use of print materials incorporating assignments that are the subject of written or oral feedback.

Taking the complex structures of the school day and transforming it to an online experience simply cannot be duplicated nor

can it happen overnight. East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) took the first two weeks of school closures to take a more balanced approach to distance learning in order to complete the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school year.

Like any organization, we have staff who are early adopters with digital platforms and others who are digital immigrants, less savvy tech enthusiasts. Our teachers have been involved in on-line professional development using digital platforms such as Google Classroom, Google Hangouts, Zoom and School Loop. As educators, it is important we provide support to all technology users in order to not further the opportunity gaps that exists in education.

It is important to remember that while students are not physically in the classroom, school is still in session and we expect students to engage in their coursework.

ESUHSD officially launched its distance learning on March 31. Each teacher will provide a Distance Learning Green Sheet (syllabus) and will communicate, post assignments, resources and grades internally through School Loop or Canvas.

All classes have a designated time for students to engage with their teacher for that specific period. These are dedicated times for students to connect with their teacher to review content and assignments, have small group discussions, and/or interact with their classmates. Each teacher will be able to conduct class check-ins through an online meeting using Zoom, Google Hangout,



or loss of learning. Students can only improve their grades moving forward.

This is a new paradigm facing all educators: K-12, community colleges and four-year universities. We must allow for a learning curve to take place for both educators and students. Moving forward, distance learning will become more of a hybrid approach to everyday learning for schools.

Another key component to the governor's order is to provide free lunches to students during the closure period. All public schools across the Bay Area are participating in the Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option to provide meals to students.

In East Side, we are providing a hot, brown bag lunch five days per week to any student who is 18 years or younger, regardless if they attend one of our high schools. For many of our students, they depend on the meals they receive at school for their main source of food. During this COVID-19 crisis, providing these meals is critical to support our community.

I want to personally acknowledge the amazing staff at all our schools in Santa Clara County who are working diligently to provide meals to our communities and for continuing to provide ongoing, meaningful learning opportunities to our students. I appreciate the shared, coordinated leadership from the 31 Santa Clara County district superintendents and from Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, our Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, for her facilitated leadership.

We are all in this together and we will get through this period together.

School Loop, Google Docs, an email exchange, or some other method the teacher has specified to demonstrate that students are engaged in the class (ESUHSD Distance Learning Plan).

How does grading work with distance learning? Some districts are taking the approach of eliminating grades for the spring semester and moving toward a pass/fail grade.

In ESUHSD, grades are to be formative and not punitive. During these times, we must allow for flexibility and to a certain degree leniency given the various factors that are currently out of our control. We must take a culturally, trauma-informed lens as we shift to distance learning as we determine how our students will be graded and/or assessed. We recognize that this learning environment cannot replace the in person experience, yet our goal is to maintain a level of learning to prevent regression

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Dental emergencies do not belong in the ER

There is an increasingly alarming trend that is occurring with dental emergencies showing up in hospital emergency rooms.

With many dental offices closed for care nationally, more and more patients with dental emergencies are unfortunately heading to already overwhelmed ERs.

But the fact is that these facilities are not equipped to perform dentistry and the most a dental patient can hope to receive at the ER or urgent care are prescriptions for pain management and antibiotics.

"It's important to educate the public not to burden ERs with dental cases they can't treat," said Dr. Robert Crim, Chief Dental Officer at Smile Brands Inc. "We want to educate people nationally to the right course of action in a dental emergency. Our offices are partnering with local hospitals to make sure we can accommodate their emergency dental cases during this crisis."

With many dental practices closed down due to the current crisis, some patients are having a difficult time finding an available provider. However, your dentist should have a referral emergency number available if they are no longer seeing patients.

Valley Currents

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

EVHS students start Supplies2Seniors, aiding the elderly during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis

By Sonya Ahuja and Om Goswami
Special to the Times

A team of Evergreen Valley High School eleventh grade students founded an organization named Supplies2Seniors that delivers essentials such as groceries, medications, and meals to the elderly and those with health conditions free of charge in the Evergreen Valley.

The new free delivery service is accepting PayPal, Zelle, and Venmo as payment services to avoid the handling of cash. The payment is only for the items; there is no delivery fee.

"As the pandemic continues to spread throughout the nation, something must be done to help the elderly survive," said Om Goswami, co-founder of Supplies2Seniors. "Something must be done to ensure they have food on their table every day. Something must be done to help them re-stock on household necessities. Something must be done to protect our beloved senior citizens from this deadly virus. That's why Supplies2Seniors was founded."

As the public limits their contact with the outdoors by staying at home to take precautions and the elderly population, who are at heightened risk from the virus, the Supplies2Seniors team is taking orders for groceries online and buying their essentials for them so that the elderly do not have to leave their homes. Their groceries will be delivered to their doorstep by sanitized teens wearing gloves and masks to keep the elderly and vulnerable out of danger.

"Recently some of our friends were walking from the parking lot into Costco in Almaden when we noticed a senior couple begging several shoppers to purchase their groceries for them because they were afraid of catching the coronavirus," the team said. "Every single shopper rejected their request, even though it is well known that seniors are the most vulnerable. They and their families, wearing masks and gloves, lent their helping hands to the couple and took their grocery list and money to buy them their essentials safely."

The team believes that healthy youths and adults must not be selfish in this desperate time of need by panic buying and hoarding food and household items. They say, "We cannot afford to let our senior citizens down in this time of crisis. Rather, we must help the elderly."

To learn more about the organization and to place an order (there is no charge for delivery) visit <https://supplies2seniors.web.app>

For additional questions, contact supplies2seniors@gmail.com



Pictured (left to right): Saketh Jakka, Aydan Pirani, Om Goswami, Yashika Batra, Achintya Sanjay, Garvit Agarwal. Illustration by Yashika Batra

CORONAVIRUS:

Low-wage worker in San Jose to receive paid sick leave if they become ill on the job

Low-wage workers in San Jose employed during the coronavirus pandemic will soon receive paid sick leave if they start to feel ill on the job.

The San Jose City Council decided to move forward after a unanimous vote for a new emergency ordinance, one week after Mayor Sam Liccardo introduced policy.

"We believe that compliance is the most important thing," said Kim Walesh, the city's economic development director. "Workers at essential businesses. If they are sick they should stay home to protect those essential business operations and the broader public health."

The city's new paid sick leave ordinance will give all essential workers impacted by COVID-19 an immediate 40 hours of paid sick leave with an additional hour of sick leave for every two hours worked, up to a cap of 80 hours for the duration of the public health emergency.

California law only requires 24 hours or 3



days of sick leave a year. The new ordinance will cover an employee for the duration of two weeks, equivalent to the incubation period of the virus.

San Jose City Councilmember - District 8, Sylvia Arenas said the ordinance will prevent people like custodial workers, childcare providers and grocery store clerks from getting others sick and avoid overwhelming the region's health care system with new coronavirus cases.

"Now more than ever, our working families living paycheck to paycheck need access to paid sick leave to be able to stay home when necessary without having to further strain their limited resources," she said.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis voted for the ordinance, but didn't support it at a committee meeting last week because it doesn't exempt small businesses with 35 employees or less.

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Times **Community News**

EARTH DAY NETWORK LAUNCHES 22 DAYS OF EARTH DAY

Highlights daily challenges for individuals to take to fight climate change in the face of the coronavirus pandemic

To count down to the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Earth Day Network is launching 22 days of Earth Day with daily challenges that individuals can take every day to fight climate change in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Each day will highlight an individual action people can take, no matter where they are.

The challenges fit into Earth Day Network's S.A.V.E.

LETTER

Teddy bear scavenger hunt spreads joy

Dear Editor,

Alva, Oklahoma has come up with a way to entertain young children while they are sheltering-at-home. Neighbors are asked to put a teddy bear in their front window. Then parents can walk or drive through the neighborhood and their children can try to spot the teddy bears! Maybe they can count the different stuffed toys they find or draw one when they get home.

Any stuffed animal will do. It doesn't have to be a teddy bear. Even a print-out of a teddy bear taped to the front window is alright. The idea is to make a fun project or activity for the kids.

I have my grandkids' toys in the back window of my car, facing towards the street. Grumpy Cat and Fred are waiting and watching for children to come by and wave to them!

Evergreen neighbors, what do you think? It's simple and easy and I know the children will like a reason to be out of their house, doing something different and getting fresh air. It's almost like "Where's Waldo?" in real life!

I hope you will join us. I look forward to seeing teddy bears on my neighborhood walks.

Deborah Sandell
Evergreen Valley

framework for action for the 50th anniversary: Speak up, Act, Vote, Educate.

Topics will feature actions that bolster Earth Day Network campaigns like the Great Global Cleanup, Foodprints for the Future and Earth Challenge 2020, as well as specific individual asks, like switching to renewable energy, adopting plant-based diets and registering to vote.

Recognizing the ever-changing ability of individuals to move and act outside in light of the novel coronavirus outbreak worldwide, all actions in the global challenge can be either taken online or from the safety of one's home.

"While we collectively take action as individuals to bend the curve and reduce the spread of coronavirus, we cannot lose sight of the bigger picture — our global climate crisis. The intrinsic connections between human health and planetary health sparked the first Earth Day in 1970, and today, we must rise to meet these dual crises again as Earth Day marks 50 years," said Kathleen Rogers, president of

Earth Day Network.

"In the face of a challenge that forces us to stay apart, we offer challenges to bring the world together. This 22-day series will allow people to connect through challenges to take action right now, and every day, for our planet. Because no matter where you are in the world, we are connected by a fierce and urgent determination to overcome our shared emergencies, be it coronavirus or climate change," said Rogers.

Each challenge will be posted daily on Earth Day Network's social media channels (@earthdaynetwork). Participants can get involved by following the channels and adding their actions with the hashtags #EarthDay2020 and #EARTH-RISE.

"Though we may be physically apart, we're all in this together. Individual actions, when working together for a common good, can create a mass movement of change," said Rogers.

"The year 2020 kicks off a decade of change, and April will kick off a month of bold actions for the planet. The Earth needs us now more than ever," said Rogers.

On April 22 as Earth Day goes digital, the world will seize all the tools and actions that we have, big and small, to change our lives and change our world — not for one day, but forever.

Follow for the latest updates at earthday.org.



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Times **Community News**

Med Life Plus donates emergency kits to serve local communities

Snikitha Banda of Evergreen Valley founded Med Life Plus last August to serve communities. Banda is a ninth grader at Notre Dame High School in San José.

Med Life Plus (MLP) is an international non-profit organization that donates first-aid kits used to treat illnesses and injuries in emergency situations and portable medical information kits that can help paramedics treat patients on-site in emergencies.

While volunteering at programs at the local Sunday Friends, Banda realized that families lacked medical supplies at home because they often requested first-aid kits from the organization. The Med Life Plus initiative was established to supply these first-aid kits. Sunday Friends Foundation Executive Director James C. McCaskill quoted, "You are gifting very low-income families not only with your donation, but also with the sense of preparedness and safety. Many of our families do not have the money to purchase medical supplies. We are inspired by your generosity and leadership to take care of the impoverished communities across the world."

One day, as a volunteer at Sunrise Villa Senior Living, Banda witnessed a resident she had worked with for two years on a stretcher, hyperventilating; she had suf-

fered a heart attack. Because her extended medical information was unavailable for the paramedics who arrived on the scene, complications arose leading to her hospitalization. After observing this same situation repeated with other patients, Med Life Plus was used to distribute portable medical information kits with essential health information that would be helpful to first responders.

Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Trevino from Fire Station 31 says, "This program would vastly improve the ease-of-access of patient's important medical records for emergency personnel. In emergency medicine, it is essential to gather these records quickly to determine potentially life-saving treatment during someone's medical crisis."

From these firsthand experiences with the lack of first-aid kits and medical information, Med Life Plus has grown and now addresses the healthcare gaps prevalent at homeless shelters, senior living centers, day worker centers, and other impoverished and vulnerable (underprivileged, unemployed, low-income, poor health) communities around the world. Med Life Plus currently partners with the Salvation Army Emmanuel House - Homeless Shelters, Sunday Friends, Day Worker Center of Mountain View, Sunrise Villa Senior Living,



Snikitha Banda with Sunday Friends Foundation representative Ms. Diana.

Cambodia (Kampot), Mexico (Mexicali), and South Africa.

Day Worker Center of Mountain View Executive Director Maria Marroquin quoted, "Your generosity allows us to continue providing vital services to our day labor community at this time of emergency."

Combining her passion for teaching and serving others, MLP founder, Snikitha, has tutored middle and high school students

since June of 2019 to raise funds for the organization. She says, "Starting this non-profit organization has introduced me to a community of humble people who only need the support and generosity from their community to have the basic medical supplies they deserve. Our community can help make a difference."

To find out more, visit Med Life Plus website: www.medlifeplus.org.



Snikitha Banda with Day Worker Center of Mountain View representative Mrs. Pearla.



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How often do I need to use my car to prevent my car's battery from draining?

If you let your car battery sit for extended periods of time due to the shelter in place because of COVID-19 your vehicle's battery can begin to drain.

You should start your car at least once a week and let it idle for at least ten to fifteen minutes. If you're in the garage, back it out to avoid exposure to carbon monoxide. It's actually best if you can drive the car for at least five to ten minutes.

For some European vehicles, it's possible for a battery to drain sooner due to power-hungry gadgets and computers. It may be a good idea to invest in a portable battery

charger, especially BMW owners. (This is something we can install for you.)

We used to say that a battery would last five to seven years, but now it's dropping to two to five years because we are driving for shorter periods of time.

If you have a question regarding your vehicle email us at sosautorepair2004@gmail.com, if your question is published you'll receive a free oil change!

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Times **Community News**

Evergreen Valley College receives \$400,000 grant for mental health services

Evergreen Valley College (EVC) has received a \$400,000 grant from the California State Chancellor's Community College Mental Health Services Program to address the mental health needs of students at EVC. Evergreen Valley College is one of 16 to be awarded this grant.

The California State Legislature approved \$10 million of one-time funding in the 2018-19 State Budget for California Community Colleges (CCC) designed to support mental health services and training.

It's estimated that as many as one in four students has a diagnosable mental illness, but as many as 40 percent of those students are not currently seeking mental health services. Stigma is one of the leading barriers to students accessing mental health services and supports.

Addressing student mental health leads to greater learning outcomes, fewer instances of homelessness and a reduction in suicide rates, which is the second leading cause of death among college students. In addition, According to research by the

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 27 percent of college students live with some kind of depression. Depression can take many forms, from a major depressive episode to general feelings of sadness. The NAMI study identifies bipolar disorder as the second most common mental health issue for college students, with 24 percent of survey respondents identifying themselves as having the disorder.

"This grant could not have come at a better time," said Evergreen Valley College Acting President Denise F. Noldon, Ph.D. "With both anxiety and depression rates likely to soar as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, having these additional resources are going to be critical to allow us to support the holistic needs of our student population."

EVC is planning to use these funds to improve students' access to mental health services and support, it will also allow EVC to develop and expand existing programs and resources, provide pertinent education and training to faculty, staff, and students, and establish partnerships with community and county agencies. Furthermore this grant provides EVC with the resources to address campus safety and focus on early intervention, prevention, and support for the campus community while reducing the stigma attached to mental health.

States with biggest increases in the unemployment rate

With the U.S. experiencing a record number of initial unemployment claims, WalletHub today released its report on the States with the Biggest Increases in Unemployment Due to Coronavirus.

To identify which states have experienced the largest unemployment increases, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across two key metrics. These metrics compare initial unemployment claim increases for the week of March 23, 2020 to both the same week in 2019 and the first week of 2020. Below, you can see highlights from the report, along with a WalletHub Q&A.

Increase in California Unemployment Due to Coronavirus (1=Worst, 25=Avg.):

- 2180.75% increase in the Number of Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims – from 38,528 the week of March 25, 2019 to 878,727 the week of March 23, 2020. 9th lowest increase in the U.S.

- 2293.05% increase in the Number of Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims – from 36,720 in the first week of the year to 878,727 the week of March 23, 2020. 17th highest increase in the U.S.

WalletHub Q&A

How do red states and blue states compare when it comes to increases in unemployment?

"With an average unemployment rank of 25, Blue States suffered a higher increase of their unemployment during the coronavirus outbreak than Red States,



which rank 27 on average," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "The lower the rank, the higher the increase in initial unemployment claims that state received during the coronavirus pandemic."

The state with the current largest number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. is New York. How has New York's unemployment rate been affected?

"New York has seen a 717% increase in initial unemployment claims from the beginning of 2020 to the 13th week," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "This is better than the average increase of 2,002%."

What can states do in order to minimize the rise in their unemployment rates?

"States should aggressively focus on helping the companies in the most need. The federal response will include sending checks to most citizens, even those whose income has not been affected by the coronavirus. States can use a more targeted approach to divert resources to the companies affected the most, thus having maximum impact for the money spent," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst.

To view the full report and your state or the District's rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-biggest-increase-in-unemployment-due-to-coronavirus/72730>



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EVERGREEN
12:30PM-1:30PM

HOLLY OAK
12:30PM-1:30PM

LAURELWOOD
12:30-1:30PM

LEYVA
10:30AM-11:30AM

MATSUMOTO
10:30AM-11:30AM

MILLBROOK
10:30AM-11:30AM

MONTGOMERY
12:30PM-1:30PM

NORWOOD
12:30PM-1:30PM

QUIMBY
12:30PM-1:30PM

SILVER OAK
12:30PM-1:30PM

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12:30PM-1:30PM

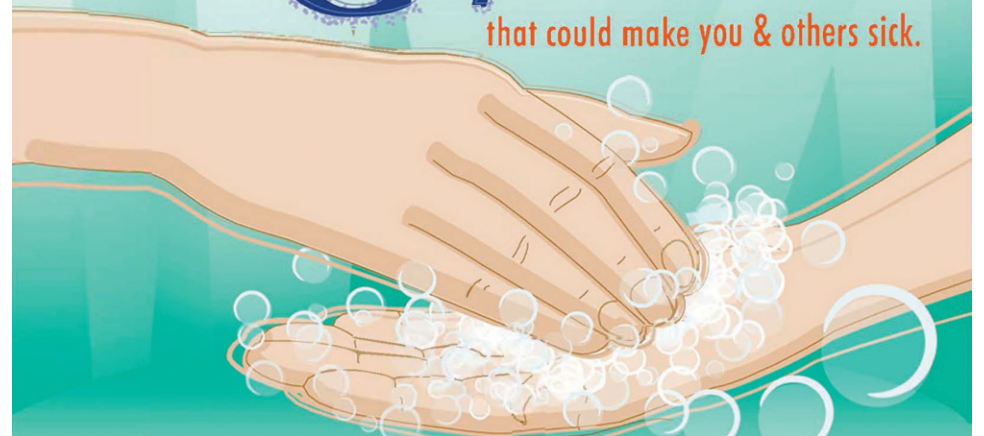
In effort to minimize close contact and large gatherings, simply walk or drive up to the front of the school for service. A typical lunch will include an entrée, fruit or fruit juice, vegetable, whole grain snack and milk. A vegetarian choice will be available. Entrees will be served cold for families to heat in the convenience of their own home. Children and teens must be present to receive a meal. Please do not attend if anyone in your party is sick or having any respiratory symptoms. For more information, please call Child Nutrition Services at (408) 223-4500.



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Wash your hands **with soap & warm water** -OR- clean your hands **with alcohol-based hand cleaner.**

Santa Clara County
PUBLIC HEALTH

Times **Community News**

Gro-STEMS hosts homeless shelter donation drive

By **Adarsh Ambati**
Special to the Times

Gro-STEMS is a non-profit, San Jose-based organization entirely run by local high school students.

The organization sells succulents to raise funds to promote climate change awareness and STEM education for the underrepresented especially in homeless shelters across the Bay Area.

It all began when I was working at the local homeless shelter teaching fun yet educational science experiments. One day, a lady who I had taught came up to me and gave me my first ever succulent.

She said that she was moving out of the facility and was going to take the information that she had learned to teach her kids back home. I was moved, so I decided to take good care of the succulent even though

I had a bad history with gardening. To my surprise (and my mother's), it is still alive today. I am now an avid succulent gardener, as they are the only plants that I cannot seem to kill.

Succulents have a low environmental impact, needing 90% less water than traditional plants. They also need minimal intervention. Furthermore, succulents symbolize endurance and longevity.

I am now in my sophomore year at Archbishop Mitty High School, and I have a team of five like-minded high-schoolers supporting Gro-STEMS. We are supported in our endeavors by the Succulent Gardens Nursery in Castroville, local succulent lovers who donate their succulents and generous local patrons who buy our succulents. To date, we have raised more than 1000 dollars and conducted several STEM classes and science fair boot camps. We have also distributed more than 500 care cards that raise climate change awareness by providing tips to reduce our carbon footprint in addition to instructions on how to take care of succulents.

Given the severity of the COVID-19 crisis, Gro-STEMS is now engaging in an initiative

to raise funds to serve those who are disproportionately affected. We have two requests. First, please consider donating to our GoFundMe by visiting www.gofundme/groSTEMS-covid19-fundraiser to provide supplies to local homeless shelters. Homeless shelters are struggling right now. They cannot get donations, and their residents have a hard time maintaining their regular income. They are nearly entirely dependent

on our help. Please consider donating to this cause and receive a free succulent favor as an added bonus.

Second, please support your local businesses in these trying times while staying safe. Take-out and ordering services are extremely helpful. Try to buy local goods, and if you can please tip generously.

If we all do our part, the impacts of this crisis will be greatly lessened.



Opera San Jose to offer free streaming of *Idomeneo re di Creta*.

Opera San José announces free live stream of *Idomeneo: Ré Di Creta* April 18-May 18

While it will not be opening *The Magic Flute* in April due to COVID-19 restrictions, Opera San José has announced something all opera patrons can enjoy at home instead: the FREE live stream viewing of its breathtaking 2011 production of Mozart's first dramatic masterpiece, the rarely produced *Idomeneo: ré di Creta*.

Beginning on April 18, *Idomeneo* will be available to stream at no charge on www.operasj.org, and will remain available through May 18, 2020.

Jointly produced with the Packard Humanities Institute, which generously underwrote the production and all rights for continued sharing online, this rarely presented, larger-than-life work features ground-breaking performances by artists who have since gone on to international fame, dance segments by choreographer Dennis Nahat performed by the Ballet San Jose (which ceased operations in 2016), and an orchestra conducted by world-famed Mozart interpreter George Cleve (who passed away in 2015).

It was met with critical acclaim, with *The Mercury News* calling it a "jaw-dropping, must-see production," and the *San Francisco Chronicle* applauding the company's "vividly colorful" execution mixed "with a keen sense of Mozartean style."

Hailed as "arguably the most extravagant production ever at Opera San José," (ArtsSF) this lavish realization of *Idomeneo* featured a cast of 73 singers, with 41 chorus members, 14 ballet dancers, 180 Cretan costumes, and an elaborate three-story-high set inspired by Crete's ancient history.

"We are offering this video to the community on what would have been the opening night of *The Magic Flute*, our season finale cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. We hope second best to actually sitting in the beautiful California Theatre is reliving this highlight from our company's rich history," said Opera San José General Director Khori Dastoor, "We are reminded how important this work is to both our company and the artistic community as we celebrate this rarely performed masterpiece. This production truly encapsulates the artistry, musicality, and experience of the dedicated professionals that OSJ's Artists and Musicians Relief Fund is currently supporting during this unprecedented time."

Idomeneo: ré di Creta is set at the end of the Trojan War and follows the tale of a mythical king of Crete. Adapted from the French drama *Idoménée* by Antoine Danchet, it offers a rich and complex score by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with libretto by Giambattista Varesco, sung in Italian with English supertitles with a run time of approximately three and a half hours, including two intermissions. The creative team included George Cleve (Conductor), Anthony Quartuccio (Assistant Conductor), Brad Dalton (Stage Director), Steven Kemp (Set Design), Johann Stegmeir (Costume Design), Lori Schepher (Props), Christopher Ostrom (Lighting Design), Jeanna Parham (Wigs/Makeup), Ian Robertson and Andrew Whitfield (Chorus Directors), and Dennis Nahat (Choreography).

Evergreen School District *From strong roots grow bright futures*

UPDATE

Evergreen Senior Citizen Property Owners Are Eligible for Measure EE Parcel Tax Exemption

Evergreen property owners age 65 by June 30, 2021 or older are eligible to file for exemption from the annual \$125 Evergreen School District parcel tax for parcels they occupy as their principal residence.

For joint owners of a principal residence, only one owner needs to be age 65.

More information regarding the parcel tax exemption, including a form to request for the exemption, can be found on our District website at <https://www.eesd.org/page.cfm?p=2896>.

Due to "shelter in place", residents may submit the form with copies of the documents to prove their home ownership, residency, and age eligibility.

The completed form and supporting documentation may be mailed to:
Evergreen School District
3188 Quimby Road,
San Jose, CA 95148.

The completed form and supporting documentation may be e-mailed to:
spinedo@eesd.org.

Residents sending in documentation via e-mail will receive an e-mail confirmation of receipt.

Those who have previously been granted an exemption from the Measure H Parcel Tax, their exemption will continue to be automatically renewed each year as long as you remain eligible for the exemption.

Residents unable to print a copy of the application from our website or need additional information, contact Santha Pinedo or Janet Ayers at (408) 270-6863.

Times News



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.

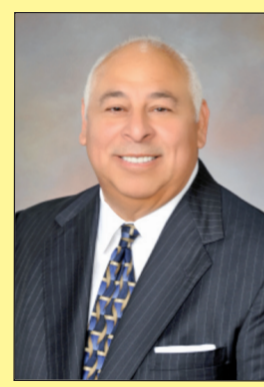
Renters are required to declare in writing that they have lost work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Evictions are also on hold for those that have fallen ill or who have been forced to care for family members, according to the order.

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Times **Community News**

CAREER COLUMN

Working from home sounded like a dream?

By **Angela Copeland**
Special to the Times

Working from home always sounded like a dream. It was this amazing concept that you heard about on TV that people in California did. You always wished you could try for a few days a week.

I guess this is what they mean when they say, "be careful what you wish for." Here we are working from home, playing from home, schooling from home, and everything else-ing from home. At least there's no commute. But, working from home isn't as great when it's not a choice.

But, let's try to make the best of it. We may be here for a while. So, what can you do to effectively work at home?

For starters, find a space that you can designate for work. If you're lucky, you may have an office or an extra bedroom. Or, you may want to designate a space like your dining room table. If you have a house with a garage, you may even want to temporarily turn your garage into an office. This is the time to get creative.

Once you've found your space, set it up. At a minimum, you'll likely need a table, a desk, and your computer. If you have them, a printer and an external monitor can also be very helpful. Keep your office supplies nearby, including paper, pens, headphones, and anything else you may need. Take the time to set up your new home office in a way that is enjoyable to you. You will be spending a lot of time there.

After you setup your home of-

fice, it's time to use it. Start out by creating a schedule for yourself. One of the most important components to successfully working from home is routine. Try to start working at the same time every day. Set aside time to eat lunch, and possibly for breaks. And, finish at a reasonable time. Try not to spend every waking hour sitting and working, as this could lead to burnout.

Look for ways to stay connected to colleagues. One of our biggest hurdles when working from home is how to stay relevant at work without being too much. In other words, without sending too many emails or making too many phone calls. Over time, work to develop a routine. Try to stay in touch with coworkers and management without wasting time, but while still creating a human connection.

Don't forget to ask how people are really doing. When you open up, you'll learn that your coworkers are just as stressed and as afraid as you are. They're also trying to figure out how to keep their spouse, pets, and kids out of their workspace. They're also worried about their parents. They're also running low on toilet paper.

Working from home is an adjustment, even under normal circumstances. Virtual companies share that it takes months for working from home to become normal and routine. You're in good company.

Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com

California has 5th lowest rate for seniors with cardiovascular disease

California has the 5th-lowest rate of seniors with Cardiovascular disease at 6.75 percent according to our recent report.

A team of industry experts analyzed CDC BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data to find which states had the highest prevalence of seniors with serious underlying medical conditions which include: diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma.

With the senior population most at risk, here are California's key findings:

- Diabetes rate of 20.4 percent, which is ranked 22nd in the country.
- C.O.P.D. rate of 8.3 percent, which is ranked 47th.
- Asthma rate of 9.3 percent, which is ranked 24th.
- West Virginia, Kentucky and Alabama have the most at-risk group of seniors.
- Minnesota, Colorado and Massachusetts have the lowest number of at-risk seniors.
- 76 million Americans are over 60 years old with underlying health conditions.
- Michigan, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana are the most at-risk states when comparing the number of at-risk seniors and confirmed cases of COVID-19.

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Times **Community**

Coronavirus expected to become No. 1 leading cause of death in America in April

As Americans debate the deadliness of Coronavirus and how we must respond, a new study and daily tracker launched recently shows Coronavirus is expected to become the No. 1 leading cause of death in America in April.

It is also projected to be either the 7th or

16th deadliest event in American history including pandemics, wars, influenza and other leading causes of death.

AssistedLivingFacilities.org today launched a daily tracker on Coronavirus Versus Other Causes of Death using White House projections from March 31 and data from the CDC.

The numbers in the study will be updated daily for media to reference in their reporting and for the American people to monitor.

Here are a few key findings today and these numbers will be updated daily:

- On April 1: COVID-19 was the 3rd lead-

ing cause of death (954). Heart disease (1,774) and cancer (1,641) were 1 and 2. It is projected to become No. 1 during peak days in April.



- Since March 1: COVID-19 is the 9th leading cause of death in America (4,700) behind heart disease, cancer, accidents, Bronchitis, stroke, Alzheimer's, diabetes and influenza.

Deadliest events in U.S. history:

1. Civil War: 750,000 deaths (1861-1865)
2. HIV/AIDS: 700,000 (1981 to present)
3. H1N1 / Spanish Flu: 675,000 (1918)
4. Heart disease: 647,457 (2017)
5. Cancer: 599,108 (2017)
6. World War II: 405,000 (1941-1945)
7. COVID-19: 240,000 (Upper White House estimate from March 31)
8. Accidents: 169,936 (2017)
9. Bronchitis, emphysema, asthma (CLRD): 160,201 (2017)
10. Stroke 146,383 (2017)
11. Yellow fever: 125,000 (1600s-early 1900s)
12. Alzheimer's: 121,404 (2017)
13. World War I: 116,000 (1917-1918)
14. H2N2 / Asian flu: 116,000 (1957-1958)
15. H3N2 / Avian flu: 100,000 (1968)
16. COVID-19: 100,000 (Lower White House estimate from March 31)



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Times **Community News**

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 cut-off 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 experiences 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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Evergreen 6th grade/12u girls basketball team win national championship

The "Evergreen Saber Cats" 6th grade/12U girls National Junior Basketball (NJB) team won their National Championship last month at a tournament played in Anaheim, California.

Evergreen qualified to participate in the NJB national championship tournament by finishing 2nd in the Silicon Valley NJB Section Championship Tournament on February 23. Only the top two teams from each NJB section qualified to compete in the National Championship Tournament.

After losing to a very good 6th grade girls team from Foothill NJB, 32-33, Saber Cats Coach, Luis Carranza, correctly predicted that these two teams would meet again in the National Championship Tournament final.

Foothill made it to the National final by defeating RSM (Rancho Santa Margarita) 26-21 and Newport Mesa 41-2 in pool play, and then beating Visalia 33-4 in their quarter final, and Hanford 30-7 in their semi-final.

Evergreen made it to the National final by defeating Capo Dana 44-11 and Hanford 29-12 in pool play, and then beating RSM 39-23 in their quarter final, and Irvine 35-13 in their semi-final.

In the final, Foothill got off to an 11-7 lead in the first quarter. Solid team defense and some sharp shooting by Mia Kagita kept Evergreen close as she scored 5 of the 7 points. Approaching the end of the 2nd period, Foothill lead 19-15 but then Ever-

green's power forward Aliya Azum went off and led the Saber Cats on an 8-0 run where she scored 6 points and an assist to point guard Astha Bhagat. With 4 minutes left in the 3rd quarter, Evergreen lead 23-19 and never looked back. Foothill fought back to a 28-30 score with 2 minutes left in the game but then Evergreen's Myra Thakker scored a basket off of an offensive rebound pushing the lead to 4 points.

The Evergreen Saber Cats held on to win the national championship by a score of 32-30.

All eight girls that were able to make the trip contributed in winning this tournament. The following is the individual scoring for each player for all 5 games: Aliya Azum 35 points; Aastha Bhagat 35 points; Jordyn Scettrini 32 points; Sarina Subidar 28 points; Myra Thakker 19 points; Mia Kagita 18 points; Malaea Puntanilla 8 points; and Maya Hernandez 4 points.

"I want to congratulate both Evergreen and Foothill for being the top two teams representing the South Bay at this national tournament," said Carranza. "The team was very lucky to get this tournament done just prior to the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. Now the team is experiencing basketball withdrawal while they stay sheltered in their homes. We are looking forward to the day when things get back to normal and we can safely get back to practicing and playing basketball."



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Family-Friendly Ways to Rethink Favorite Recipes

FAMILY FEATURES

Freshen up family dinners by adding new ingredients like pecans, with natural richness and subtle sweetness coupled with irresistible crunch.

Kitchen staples are being used to add twists to traditional dishes, so finding an item you can use to mix up classic family recipes is key. Pecans pack flavor, texture and nutrition all in one bite, and they have a long shelf life. Shelled pecans can be kept in airtight containers in the refrigerator for about nine months and for up to two years in sealed plastic bags in the freezer.

While pecans are beloved in classic desserts, like pecan pie, they also offer a variety of nutrition benefits that can be added to nearly any meal. They are among the highest in “good” monounsaturated fats, contain 3 grams of plant protein per serving and are a source of fiber, flavonoids and minerals like manganese, which is essential for metabolism and bone health.

Nearly two decades of research document the heart-health benefits of pecans. In fact, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, scientific evidence suggests but does not prove that eating 1 1/2 ounces per day of most nuts, such as pecans, as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of heart disease. One serving of pecans (28 grams) has 18 grams of unsaturated fat and only 2 grams of saturated fat.

Add crunch to this Chinese Chicken Salad with Pecans by swapping out croutons, use chopped pecans as a flavorful and nutrient-dense coating for Pecan Chicken Meatballs and bake this Pecan Banana Bread as a nutritious and kid-friendly breakfast or snack to fill your home with a delicious scent.

Discover more nutritious recipes at AmericanPecan.com.

Pecan Chicken Meatballs

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Yield: 9 meatballs

- 1 pound ground chicken
- 1/4 cup spinach, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1 cup finely chopped fresh pecan pieces, divided

Heat oven to 400 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

In large bowl, mix ground chicken, spinach, lemon juice, egg, garlic, onion powder, paprika, salt, pepper, cayenne (if desired) and 1/2 cup pecans until well combined.

Roll chicken mixture into 1 tablespoon-sized meatballs.

Place reserved pecans in bowl. Roll meatballs in pecans to coat then place on prepared baking sheet.

Bake 20-30 minutes until meatballs are cooked through.

Serve warm with sauces for dipping or over pasta.



Pecan Chicken Meatballs



Pecan Banana Bread

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 60 minutes

Servings: 8

- 10 ounces gluten-free baking flour mix
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 2 flax eggs
- 1 cup organic brown or coconut sugar
- 1/2 cup coconut oil
- 1/2 vanilla bean
- 1/2 cup vegan yogurt
- 3/4 cup mashed bananas, ripe
- 1 cup raw pecan pieces, chopped, plus additional for topping

Heat oven to 350 F. Prepare 9-by-5-inch banana bread pan.

In medium bowl, sift flour mix, baking powder, baking soda and sea salt; whisk to combine.

In mixer bowl, mix eggs, sugar and coconut oil 2 minutes on medium-low speed.

Scrape vanilla bean and add to mixture. Add vegan yogurt and mashed bananas; mix 2 minutes on medium-low speed.

Remove bowl from mixer and fold 1 cup raw pecan pieces into batter until evenly distributed.

Add batter to banana bread pan and use spatula to smooth down top. Sprinkle additional pecan pieces on top.

Bake banana bread on top rack 60 minutes until toothpick comes out with few crumbs but not completely clean.

Remove from oven and allow to cool 10 minutes in pan. Hold sides of pan and flip onto wire rack.

Allow bread to cool completely. Slice as desired.

Times Features

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.

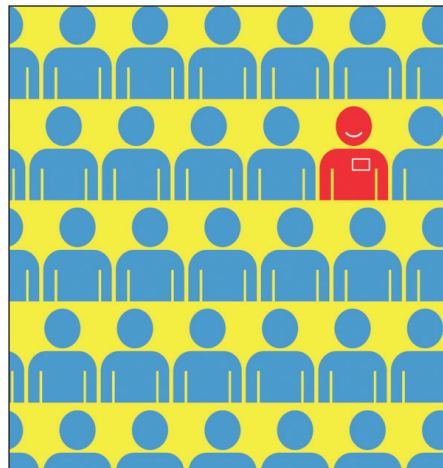
To determine the strongest local job markets in the U.S., WalletHub compared more than 180 cities across 31 key metrics. The data set ranges from job opportunities to employment growth to monthly average starting salary.

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/>

Is REAL ID a real security solution?

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."

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MEME AND NOT HEARD

Can we uninstall 2020 and install it again?

This version has a



Posted on social media by Annu Prasad.

Times News



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 Evergreen 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.

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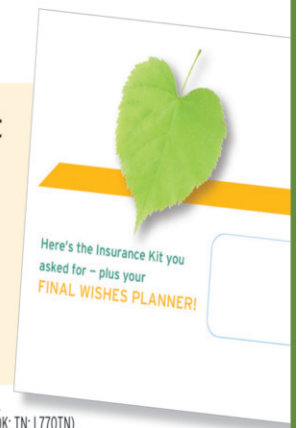
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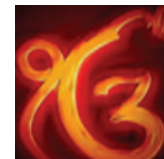
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Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
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Gifts

Calendar for sale featuring wildlife in Evergreen Valley



The 2020 Calendar featuring wildlife pictures taken by Lou Alexander is now available for \$23.95. About \$5 goes to the Villages Medical Auxiliary. The calendar is on the far right of the first row at www.zazzle.com/store/thevillagesvma. There are also some small note cards for sale on the site, all featuring scenes from inside The Villages.

Watch out for mercury pollution!



Fluorescent lights save energy, but contain mercury which is a toxic pollutant. When it's time to replace the bulbs, dispose of used fluorescents properly to prevent polluted runoff into our creeks and Bay.

To find a convenient and FREE bulb drop-off location near you, call (408) 299-7300 or visit www.HHW.org

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Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;
Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

Notice

!! MISSING !!

REWARD of \$1,000



A Nuclear Gauge was stolen from a locked truck at the Creekbridge Community near Beacon Hill Drive in Salinas on Monday, October 21st at 2:38 a.m. A reward will be provided for the return of the missing item and its contents. If you have any information please contact:
Alan (RSO): (650) 444-4270
Steve (ARSO): (650) 804-6274

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