

Pacifica aids in battling wildfires

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

If you have smelled smoke recently, you've caught a whiff of the CZU Lightning Complex fires, some of many fires within the San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties, all of which were caused by a freak lightning storm last month. The CZU fires were 43% contained as of Tuesday; the other major fires currently burning in nearby counties are the SCU Lightning Complex fires and the LNU Lightning Complex fires, which were 70% and 74% contained, respectively, as of Tuesday.

California faces peak wildfire season from August through November, which have dry, arid conditions, ideal for fires. So far, there have been approximately 23 large-scale fires and dozens of smaller fires. With an estimated 1,660,332 acres burning with low containment, an estimated 2,000 homes and properties have been decimated with more homes expected to burn.

Our local fire department at Station 72 on Linda Mar Boulevard has been called upon to assist in fighting the fires. Fire Captain Giorgio Lavezzo said, "When the state gets overwhelmed with fire necessities, they'll send



Sophie Phelps / Terra Nova Times

"The Green Machine" is specially equipped for fighting wildfires.

us out as part of a group called the strike team [...] our guys were actually just out at the ranch fire down in Monterey county."

Wildfires are nothing new to California; however, the sudden onset and rapid escalation due to climate change has led some to believe this year could be one of the worst years yet. Fire Captain Giorgio Lavezzo said, "With climate change, the fuels are getting drier, and the winds are getting worse [...] and it's in August, which is still considered relatively early in the fire season, so this is shaping up to be

a rough year...The Santa Ana winds haven't even started blowing down south, the Diablo winds haven't started blowing up north."

If additional wind is factored in with more dry weather, California may be seeing even more wildfires this season.

Thousands of people, including at least one Terra Nova family, have been forced to evacuate, bringing whatever belongings they can. I spoke to one LNU fire victim, who preferred to not have their name used; their home was burned to the ground with "only

six residences remaining standing out of thirty plus homes."

As California continues to fight the flames, its residents are already looking into the future. Although pressed with unfortunate circumstances, fire victims are building courage to do whatever it takes to get back on their feet. LNU fire victim said, "The compassion, empathy and consideration, across the board, has given birth to a support network that I suspect will continue onward, through time, as we lean into and upon one another to heal, to recover."

The lingering threat of COVID-19 makes it incredibly difficult to serve large groups of evacuees. The Red Cross has been helping evacuees by finding them lodging at local motels and serving them packaged meals.

Californians have also come together to help and support those looking for refuge and will continue to do so until the fires have been put out. If you would like to donate to help support fire victims, the Red Cross and California Community Foundation are accepting donations on their websites at www.redcross.org and www.calfund.org/wildfire-relief-fund. Cal Fire continues to work endlessly to stop the spread of these wildfires, calling on fire departments like ours as needed.

COVID-19 pandemic heats up with summer

By Naomi Sanft
Times staff writer

Even after enduring months of mask acne, awkward air hugs, and that sticky hand sanitizer feeling, returning to our normal lives still seems out of reach. Here's the honest truth: June and July saw a dramatic increase in cases of COVID-19.

These surges were mainly caused when California attempted to reopen the economy back in May. However, August has seen a significant decrease in cases. Over the last week, there has been a 34% decrease in cases in California. Some experts say that decreased access to testing may have contributed to this decrease; however, there has been a 20% decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations over the past two weeks, indicating an actual decrease in cases.

The CDC recently announced controversial testing guidelines suggesting that people do not have to get tested if they had contact with someone COV-

ID-19 positive and show no symptoms. California Governor Gavin Newsom, along with numerous public health experts, was quick to reject these new guidelines. "I don't agree with the new CDC guidance, period, full stop. It's not the policy in the state of California. We will not be influenced by that change. We're influenced by those who are experts in the field who feel very differently," Newsom said.

California is partnering with global healthcare corporation PerkinElmer to increase COVID-19 testing capabilities. This will provide an additional 150,000 COVID-19 tests per day, with a much faster turnaround time of 24 to 48 hours. The upcoming flu season will put a strain on testing; however, the partnership with PerkinElmer should relieve this stress.

On Aug. 28, Governor Newsom announced new guidelines that will categorize counties into four tiers of reopening. Currently, 87% of the state's population is in the most restrictive category. Each county

Widespread Most non-essential businesses are closed.	More than 7 daily cases per 100,000	More than 8% testing positive
Substantial Some non essential businesses are closed.	4-7 daily cases per 100,000	5-8% testing positive
Moderate Some businesses are open with modifications.	1-3.9 daily cases per 100,000	2-4.9% testing positive
Minimal Most businesses are open with modifications.	Less than 1 daily case per 100,000	Less than 2% testing positive

Naomi Sanft / Terra Nova Times

San Mateo County, like much of CA, is still purple.

must meet requirements for 21 days in order to open and an additional 14 days to open schools. If counties exhibit 14 days of high case numbers, counties will be subject to more restrictive guidelines.

Despite exhaustive research, there is still little evidence that

anyone has contracted the virus via surface transmission. However, the CDC says it's not impossible, just unlikely. Infectious-disease physician at the University of Washington, Gretchen Snoeyenbos Newman, explained, "We have very little evidence of outdoor transmis-

sion. It's not zero—there are definitely cases reported—but it's much, much lower than inside." One study showed that you are twenty times more likely to contract the virus indoors rather than outdoors. Studies have also shown that wearing a mask lowers your risk by 85% and social distancing further lowers your risk by 90%. Wearing masks and social distancing are vital to slowing the spread of the virus. Additionally, being vaccinated against influenza this season is vital.

There have also been many advancements towards developing a vaccine. According to the World Health Organization, there have been 170 candidate vaccines to prevent COVID-19. Pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca has started trials on a drug code named AZD1222 that could be used as prevention or treatment for COVID-19. Currently, the vaccine has entered stage three of testing, meaning it is being administered to thousands of people to confirm its safety and efficacy.

What to know about mail-in voting

By Samantha Guerrero-Contreras
Times staff writer

In recent years, many states have turned to vote-by-mail because of its convenience, but with COVID-19 restrictions, even more voters are opting for mail-in ballots. There are two forms of mail balloting systems: the “universal system” mails ballots directly to all voters, while the “absentee system” requires voters to request a ballot by writing, calling, or going online, as well as providing their name and address. With varied systems across the country, will people have to put themselves at risk to exercise their right to vote?

As COVID-19 cases peak, President Trump has repeatedly claimed that mail-in voting can result in electoral fraud. In a tweet, Trump said, “Millions of mail-in ballots will be printed by foreign countries,” and calling it the “scandal of our times.” However, he says this with no actual evidence. According to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, there is zero evidence that voting by mail increases chances of electoral fraud because of the existing anti-fraud protections incorporated in the procedure.



Samantha Guerrero-Contreras / Terra Nova Times

Shannon Carew has her hands on her copy, what are you waiting for?

These protections include the requirement of people to be registered voters, the mailing of ballots to registered addresses, the requirement of voter signatures, and election authorities checking everything; furthermore, if a ballot seems suspicious, states can use a signature-matching technique to verify the signature of the voter.

While Trump’s tweets have rallied support against mail-in voting, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has been accused

of purposefully slowing down the postal service, cutting overtime and removing high-speed mail-sorting machines. A major Trump donor, DeJoy was appointed as postmaster general in May 2020. DeJoy has stated that the postal service may not meet mail-in ballot deadlines for the election due to the recent changes made under his command. DeJoy claims that those changes were due to the Postal Service’s financial state; however, ac-

ording to an article in the Washington Post, written by Jacob Bogage, “[DeJoy] has drawn the ire of Democrats and voting right advocates, who worry postal slowdowns will interfere in an election in which nearly 180 million Americans are eligible to vote by mail.” Terra Nova alumna and first time voter, Marissa Colombo said, “I was planning on voting by mail because I don’t want to possibly contract and spread COVID, but now I might have to find a polling place, which is not ideal because I have a heavy college load, and I just want my vote to count.”

In order to obtain a vote-by-mail ballot, one must be a registered voter. To register, the voter must fill in their driver’s license number, California identification number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number. This year, all registered voters will be sent a vote-by-mail ballot on Nov. 3, 2020. You can mail your ballot in (postmarked before or on Election Day and reach one’s officials no later than 17 days after Election Day). You can also use CA’s new system “Where’s My Ballot?” to track the status of your ballot. You can also return your ballot to a polling place, an election official’s office, or a county’s ballot drop boxes before 8 p.m. on Election day.

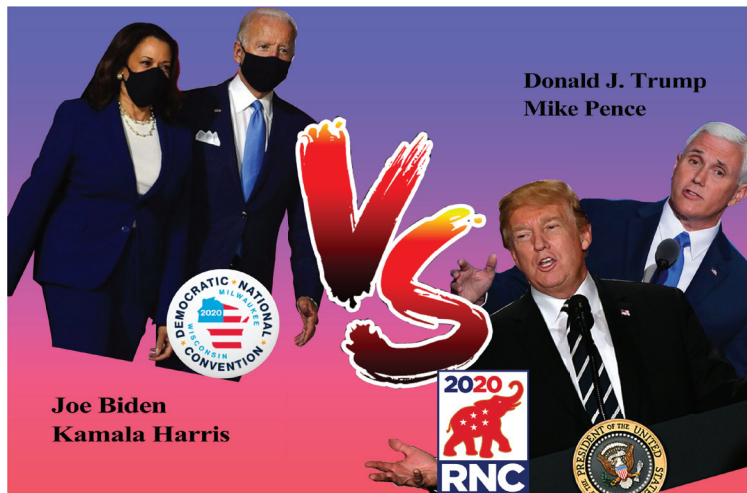
In case you missed it: the DNC

By Savannah Sky Escobar
Times staff writer

Love it or hate it, the presidential election is coming. The Democratic National Convention took place from Aug. 17-20, in which Joe Biden and Kamala Harris expressed their messages on what’s wrong and what they’ll do as president/vice-president to fix America’s problems. Now, let’s dive off the deep end and talk about the specifics of what took place.

In both the DNC and Republican National Convention, each political party is trying to gain the support of swing voters throughout the country. Biden and Harris both discussed COVID-19’s negative effects on the U.S., with jabs being thrown at Pres. Trump’s handling of the virus. Biden said, “He keeps waiting for a miracle. Well, I

have news for him, no miracle is coming,” while Harris addressed how the virus has affected people of color, saying, “[COVID-19] is not an equal opportunity offender. Black, Latino, and Indigenous people are suffering and dying disproportionately.” She also mentioned the effects of structural racism on education, jobs, health care, and the police forces’ excessive violence towards people of color, and her goal of fixing these problems with Biden. If Biden wins in Nov., Harris would be the first woman, first Black person, and first South Asian to become VP. Harris spoke on the importance of representation for black women: “We celebrate the women who fought for that right. Yet so many black women who helped secure that victory were still prohibited from voting long after [...]” Biden detailed how he would



Victor Wu / Terra Nova Times

An epic showdown is brewing: stay tuned for November 3.

rebuild the economy by increasing jobs in infrastructure, like building modern roads, bridges, and “pipes that transport clean water to every community.” He also plans to build on the Affordable Healthcare Act, a bill that he helped to produce during

Obama’s administration. Biden said he wants a world where, “cost doesn’t prevent young people from going to college, and student debt doesn’t crush them when they get out,” and to change the over taxing towards lower income people — “We

don’t need a tax code that rewards wealth more than work.”

Throughout the convention, Biden brought up the importance of unity saying, “This is not a partisan moment. This must be an American moment.” After a long week of coverage, I spoke with political scientist and Assistant Professor of Washington University, Jake Grumbach, on Biden and Harris’s campaign this year, to which Prof. Grumbach said, “They’re mostly pitching themselves as a continuation of Obama’s presidency. However, there has been some progressive progress on their policy agenda, like on their climate change plan...One question is whether their moderate policy agenda and style is up to the task of solving the crises the US is facing in terms of threats to democracy, police brutality and racism, and the coronavirus economic crisis.”

In case you missed it: the Republican National Convention

By Justin Arnaudo
Times staff writer

From Aug. 24-27, the Republican National Convention (RNC) was held in Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina and the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington D.C. Like the DNC, the RNC is a four-day event where Republicans try to convince people to support the Republican party. Here’s what you need to know about this year’s RNC.

The purpose of the convention is to outline the goals, principles, and strategies a political party is going to aim for the next four years. In a break from past RNC events, Trump and the other speak-

ers did not directly discuss what they planned on doing if President Trump is reelected. Many speakers at the RNC instead focused on what Trump has done in the past four years, reinforcing his image. During his speech, on the fourth night of the RNC, President Trump said, “We have spent the last four years reversing the damage Joe Biden inflicted over the last 47 years.” In what will come as a surprise to no one who has followed Trump’s speeches, there were many insults and false claims during his speech.

Trump, during his speech, presented his response to the pandemic as a success story. For weeks prior, Trump has pushed this same claim, even in an interview on the HBO series AXIOS on Aug. 3. Additionally, speakers like

Clarence Henderson and Senator Tim Scott constantly reaffirmed that Trump cares about Black people. Many speakers, such as Vice President Mike Pence, condemned the protests, saying that Trump would be the one to bring back law and order. Trump said, “Your vote will decide whether we protect law abiding Americans, or whether we give free reign to violent anarchists, agitators, and criminals who threaten our citizens.”

The convention also featured many speakers that were a part of Trump’s family. Donald Trump Jr, Eric, Tiffany, Lara, and Melania Trump all spoke in support of the president, as did Don, Jr’s girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle. All had a similar theme to their speech: the caring man that Donald Trump is behind

closed doors with no cameras around.

Overall, the RNC was mainly to promote Trump’s image and to balance appealing to both staunch conservative and also moderate swing voters. According to an ABC News/Ipsos Poll conducted by Chris Jackson on Aug. 28 to Aug.29 after both conventions, approval ratings for both Biden and Trump remain relatively unchanged. Jackson said, “Currently, 31% of Americans feel favorable toward Donald Trump, unchanged from last week (32%) and similar to his standing before both conventions (35%). The same is true for Joe Biden: 46% feel favorable, virtually the same as last week (45%). However, more Americans feel positive toward Biden than negative, an improvement from earlier in August.”

Tracing the history of BLM

By *Natasha Valdez*
Times staff writer

2020 has brought a resurgence in mainstream protests, petitions, and donations for the Black Lives Matter movement, but the reality of this situation is that widespread racism and police brutality have been a constant in America for centuries. In order to truly understand where we are now, it helps to know how we got here and what we are talking about when we throw around words like “police brutality.”

Police brutality is the violation of civil rights that occurs when a police officer uses unnecessary violence and power to violate a civilian. This ranges from verbal harassment to physical harassment and/or physical injury to murder.

Many historians and activists point to the origins of policing in the United States as the



Justine Valdez

Scenes of a recent protest in Oakland, CA.

root of the problem. Our policing system originated in 1704 as slave patrols in the South. Slave patrols were given the power to imprison Black people for the smallest reasons and essentially enslave them again. Full-time police were created in 1938 in Boston. A statistic from mappingpoliceviolence.org stated that 99% of the po-

lice perpetrators of murder have not been charged as a crime.

The murder of Trayvon Martin, a Black teenager in Florida whose “crime” was wearing a hoodie and appearing “suspicious” while walking home, spurred the start of the Black Lives Matter group. Martin was shot by George Zimmerman, who was initially not charged

with any crime under Florida’s “stand your ground” law. After national outcry, he was charged, but a jury later acquitted him. In 2020 alone, 751 people of color have experienced death by police brutality. Mappingpoliceviolence.org stated that 28% of these people were Black, despite the fact that they make up 13% of the American population.

The Black Lives Matter foundation works to amplify voices in the Black community and fight racism across the country. The murder of Michael Brown, who was suspected of stealing a pack of cigarillos, at the hands of a Ferguson police officer led the Ferguson and St. Louis communities to organize a national ride during Labor Day weekend. This prompted cities across America to establish Black Lives Matter chapters in their communities and towns. Eventually, the foundation’s founders created the Black Lives Matter, a global network

whose stated goal is “to support the development of new Black leaders, as well as create a network where Black people feel empowered to determine our destinies in our communities.”

Black Lives Matter’s impact has stretched far beyond its initial reach. Terra Nova senior Anna Julian said, “After receiving a thorough and explicit education this past year on the brutal and inhumane treatment that African Americans have faced since the birth of this country, I am able to draw parallels from back then and today. When we have these alarming numbers of Black people getting murdered by white cops, it truly poses the question: has anything really ever even changed? I think that the use of social media has allowed the messages of this movement to circulate. My generation has a lot of passion and fire, and I’m hoping we will be the ones to make a difference forever.”

Convenience comes at high cost for the planet

By *Maya Orsi*
Times staff writer

Innovation and creativity have always been part of the human condition. The invention of the light bulb killed candlelight. Telephones made the telegraph largely obsolete. However, our craving for convenience has led to worldwide pollution. Instead of carrying your takeout box, you are given an extra plastic bag for the comfort of having a handle. Instead of refilling a water bottle, you can just grab a new one every time. This convenience comes at a cost, however, for our planet, as most of these conveniences require the burning of oil and fossil fuels: the environment pays for our thoughtlessness twice — first, in the burning of oil, and second, in the waste single-use items creates.

How did we let it get this bad? Where did all of this pollution come from? Take a good ol’ cup of coffee: it’s served in a disposable cup, with a plastic lid, a plastic straw, and a plastic stopper in the sipping hole. This makes the consumption and transportation of the beverage painless and easy, but what happens after you dispose



Maya Orsi

Discarded single-use plastics wind up literally everywhere. What a waste.

of the plastic? Despite the misconception that all plastic can be recycled, only 9% of plastic is actually recycled, according to Laura Parker from National Geographic.

According to National Resource Defence Council journalist Courtney Lindwall, “We

produce 300 million tons of plastic each year worldwide, half of which is for single-use items. That’s nearly equivalent to the weight of the entire human population.”

Consumers often make environmental changes only when it costs them money

if they don’t. When grocery stores started charging a small fee for plastic bags in grocery stores, even the most unwilling environmentalist started bringing their own bags to the store. Rachel Nuwer of The Washington Post wrote about the effect of charging for plastic bags: “This small change disrupts habitual behaviors and helps people draw a tighter linkage between the environmental awareness that they already possess.” This charge on plastic bags acted as a wake-up call for many people who recognized that maybe convenience should not always be prioritized.

It’s not hard to spot where we prioritize convenience over the health of the planet. Junior Buddy Vaughan, like so many of us, often chooses what is easy over what we know would be the better choice. “I drive to places I could easily walk to, I use single-use plastic... I should start using reusable containers and utensils, and lower the amount of meat I eat,” Vaughan said.

Most people know their actions can hurt, or help, the environment. And yet, the majority still makes the easiest lifestyle choices because, once again, humanity has always sought short-term solutions to make our lives more convenient.

Choosing a college in a pandemic means exploring choices from home

By *Eleanor Jonas*
Times staff writer

Despite a global pandemic, high school seniors are still approaching college applications with the same might. College search engines such as Big Future, though useful, fail to provide students with an in-depth understanding of university life. However, colleges are attempting to supply this understanding through online tours and info sessions.

Many universities offer virtual tours, usually in the form of self-guided tours with background audio. For example,

UC Santa Cruz’s virtual tour includes various 360° views and recorded descriptions of its ten residential colleges. These tours are available on university websites and YouVisit, which offers virtual reality tours if you have access to a VR headset.

Check university websites for informational sessions, which may be held by current students or admission counselors via Zoom, allowing students to enter any questions they may have into the chat box. Discussed topics usually include details concerning campus social life, housing, academics, and offerings in nearby metropolitan areas. Additionally, several col-

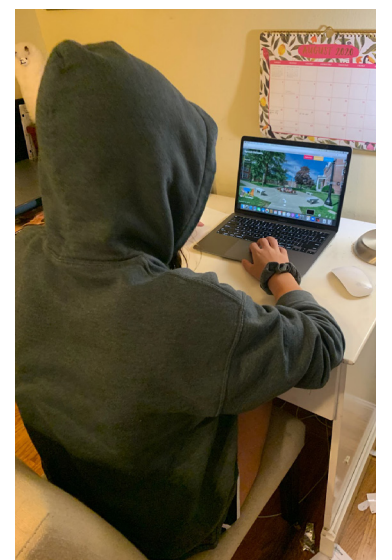
leges provide sessions focusing on the admission process.

CampusReel offers a different perspective in which students post short clips about their college experience. For example, a search for UC Berkeley comes up with 41 videos highlighting dorms, the general campus, and classes. CampusReel is useful for getting an unfiltered representation of the school atmosphere, though it doesn’t include all colleges. Social media is an additional method for learning about schools without much effort; plenty of colleges have Instagram accounts.

Although virtual alternatives to college tours are con-

venient, they are not the same as an in-person college visit. Shannon Carew (12) has been making use of digital college tours and said, “You especially miss the ‘vibe’ of the school, which is usually the most important part. But they’re good for gauging if the school is worth further research.”

According to Emily Bauer, vice president for agency services for EAB, the company that owns YouVisit, “There is nothing that replaces that in-person experience that makes a student fall in love with a campus, but the goal of a virtual tour is to do as much as it can to replace those moments.”



Hannah Araquistain

Hannah takes a virtual tour for Norwich University.

High school sports left in limbo

By Leila Eliares
Times staff writer

Proposed changes for fall sports

These dates are not for 2020	Normal Practice start date	Practice start date	Normal 1st day contests*	1st day for contests	League Competition end date
Season 1 Volleyball	Early August	Dec 14	Mid Sept.	Dec 28	Mar 3
Cross Country	Late Aug.	Dec 14	Sept. 27	Dec 28	Mar 13
Football	May	Dec 14	Early Sept.	Dec 28	Mar 20
Water Polo	Aug.	Dec 14	Sept.	Dec 28	Feb 27

Victor Wu / Terra Nova Times

High school is a time to meet new people, try new things, and take part in the school community, and at Terra Nova, participating in sports is a way for students to become more involved in their school community. But with classes currently online, student athletes are left wondering how and when school sports will come back. With our country still in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, reintroducing school sports is still up in the air.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), sports are permitted as long as a distance of at least six feet can be maintained. However, if a sport is unable to do so, then conditioning and training are allowed only in an open area where social distancing can be achieved. The CDPH has limited some aspects of conditioning, though, as it is not allowed indoors in counties that do not permit gyms to be open. Due to a surge in cases, the county of San Mateo has remained on the state's watchlist for a little over a month, causing indoor facilities to shut down, including gyms. This means that all

physical activity must be held outdoors.

Although athletics that require athletes to come in close contact and indoor activities may seem like a lost cause, the CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) and CCS (Central Coast Section)

have both agreed to push back start dates of sports, allowing the state of California time to recover from the increase of cases.

Jefferson Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Terry Deloria said, "I'm grateful to the CIF for delaying

fall sports instead of canceling them. There is considerable evidence of the benefits of student participation in athletic programs...My hope is that health data in our county will improve enough that we can plan for winter sports."

Reintroducing sports safely is one thing, but being able to maintain this safety is another. While sports like golf and swimming have a lower chance of passing the virus along, participants still share common spaces and equipment, such as being in the same locker rooms, which are usually crowded with athletes, increasing the chance of spreading COVID-19. According to the LA Times, "The risk is even greater at high schools that cannot afford expensive cleaning equipment or big staffs, relying instead on a janitor or two." According to Dr. Deloria, the district has yet to come up with any new policies regarding athletics.

TN baseball and basketball player Jacob Reeder (10) said that he's worried about the possibility of sports seasons merging. "I don't know what they are going to do with winter sports... my biggest concern is what will two-sport athletes do when or if their two sports start at the same time?"

With a lot of uncertainty remaining, only time can decide the fate of high school sports.

College football faces challenges with season

By Miles Palmer
Times staff writer

Although students and fans alike love tailgate parties, rowdy student sections, and the unbelievable on-field talent that is college football, there is a good possibility none of it will happen this fall. Already, 54 out of the 130 teams in the FBS will not play this year. In addition, the Pac-12 and Big 10, two of the Power Five Conferences, have cancelled all of their fall sports for 2020-21, leading many to worry about the fate of their beloved game.

Football is the most viewed college sport by far, and those millions and millions of views equal more money for the NCAA and for the schools, so colleges that decided to opt out of this season could potentially lose a lot of money. Football enthusiast Dominic Gordon (11)

said, "I feel like the NCAA is too important of an organization to cancel the whole season. They're going to lose a lot of money from it. College players careers could be ruined by this season." All that lost revenue could possibly damage hinder the colleges' future growth and success. Although a season could potentially happen in the winter or spring, nothing is certain. The COVID-19 pandemic is already forcing colleges to lose income due to enrollment and attendance, so cancelling sports would be another tough blow for schools across the nation.

The NCAA is a big business that is partnered with many others, such as CBS and ESPN. Without the television networks showing the NCAA's games, both parties stand to lose profit. All in all, this pandemic has taken a huge toll on the NCAA, the individual programs at each school, and



Maureen Burke

Although schools like the University of Wisconsin are used to packed stadiums, this year will look very different.

student-athletes themselves.

Although the problem may seem centralized on schools that have decided to forgo their season, that doesn't mean other schools aren't feeling the effects of this pandemic as well. For example, there are many

players who are opting out of playing this year due to concerns with COVID-19. Sage Suratt, a wide receiver at Wake Forest University, is choosing to not play this season, despite the fact Wake Forest is in a conference, the ACC, that

is still playing this fall. Suratt said via Twitter, "After careful consideration, I will forgo the upcoming season due to the many uncertainties and risks associated with COVID-19. My family and I have decided it is best for me to focus on training for the 2021 NFL draft." With many other players following the steps of Suratt, even schools that are playing are at a loss, and the likelihood of football being played on Saturdays in September is still on the edge.

At the end of the day, everyone would like to see football played this year. The NCAA would like to continue to become a billion-dollar industry. However, it is easy to get sidetracked from the fact that these athletes are students first, then athletes, meaning that sports are not the biggest focus. Also, safety is the top priority, so until a universal solution is presented, college football won't be the same.

Basketball, Disney, and a pandemic: how the NBA saved a season

By Eric Ellison
Times staff writer

On Mar. 11, 2020, all seemed relatively normal, until the NBA announced that Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert had tested positive for COVID-19, and until further notice, the league was suspending its season. Things were looking bleak for the sports world, with no one knowing what the next step would be. But on June 4, fans of the game and sports as a whole were given hope, as the NBA approved the implementation of an isolated system for the season and

postseason, known as the NBA Bubble. The idea is simple: if basketball can't be played with teams traveling and fans in attendance, then isolate the NBA. The league partnered with Disney World in Orlando, Florida, to build three official courts used for games, and three "bases" that consist of practice courts and housing, along with anything else the players might need to be happy, such as spas and barbers. The league worked with players to accommodate players' needs, including their mental health needs. When questioned by Paolo Uggetti, a journalist for online publication The Ringer, Los Angeles Clippers

player Patrick Patterson said, "There's opportunities to talk. There's people here, physicians, staff members, doctors we can open up and have conversations with if we need to... I think mental health has definitely taken a huge step."

But the most important question on everyone's mind is whether this idea of a "bubble" is really effective at protecting players and staff from contracting and spreading COVID-19. The answer is a resounding "yes." Through the first two weeks, every person in the bubble was tested for coronavirus every other day, and zero tests came back positive. This impressive streak has continued, as

there haven't been any positive tests for the past five weeks. Every person entering the bubble, whether they are brand new or left and are now returning, goes through a quarantine period of 36 hours and a minimum with four negative tests.

And even though it isn't ideal, fans are still happy to see basketball back. Terra Nova student and basketball fan Daniel Ortner said, "I have liked the viewing experience, but no fans makes the plays less exciting for the most part. The virtual fans have not really done much, but it's nice that they found a way to include fans, and I don't think I would've redone anything."

A SUMMER IN QUARANTINE

(SPENT SOCIALLY DISTANCED, OF COURSE)

"This summer, I got my driver's license!!"

- Izzy Morrow (11)

"I went to Burney Falls over the summer with my family, and it was so fun. The waterfall was so beautiful!"

- Devon Benham (11)

"I went parasailing for the first time with my God sisters."

- Lailah Aranzaso (10)

"I went skateboarding a lot and hung out with my friend Katie Bagdon."

- Abigayle Breisach (9)

"This summer, I hung out and swam with my cousins, who recently moved to Livermore."

- Joshua Ababseh (11)

"I went biking with some friends."

- Khri Glenn Garino (12)

"My friend Sara and I took a drive to Davenport and explored the old pier."

- Crystal Melton (11)

"I made bracelets for some of my friends since I wasn't able to see them that often."

- Sabina Surmaitis (12)

"I am working on a giant beaded tapestry, and I've been going to the park when I can and just working on it for hours—I've been learning to actually enjoy my own company."

- Ryanne Reynolds (10)



A SUMMER TO REMEMBER