

# Terra Nova Times

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Terra Nova High School

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## Barrett Senate confirmation begins

By Matthew Lim  
Times staff writer

As Amy Coney Barrett aims for a seat on the Supreme Court, her confirmation hearings in the Senate were her most important test as a judicial candidate and an indicator of what will happen if she gets confirmed to the bench. Although her history and previous stances have garnered some controversy, her hearings are the largest exhibit on what decisions she could make for the future of America. In this circumstance, it's important to note what these are and how they could impact how people's lives in the future.

For day one, the hearing was mostly simple, but there was obvious tension between both the Democrats and the Republicans. During that day, Barrett went over her life, detailing that both Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg were some of her inspirations. However, she stressed how important former Justice Antonin Scalia was to her, stating that Scalia's writing and reasoning skills helped her learn immensely. She also talked about Scalia's judicial philosophy, remarking that "A judge must



Matthew Lim / Terra Nova Times

The faces of Amy Coney Barrett at her confirmation hearings.

apply the law as written, not as the judge wishes it were." Overall, this helps provide a good background on how she might make her decisions, especially given her inspiration from one of the most famous conservative justices. As for day two, one of the main focuses was the handling of the Constitution; her view on it, she states, is that she "interprets its text as text,"

a philosophy known as originalism. She elaborated by saying, "I understand it to have the meaning that it had at the time people ratified it... it's not up to me to update it." She also commented on Roe v. Wade and the Affordable Care Act, with her response to Roe v. Wade being that of defending the right to life from conception to death. Throughout the hearing, she

maintained she had no agenda.

The third day was concerned with the topic of presidential power. Throughout the questioning, she remained mostly neutral and vague in response to questions concerning the abuse of power and the transition of the power of the president. This day also saw questioning on the rights of immigrant children, specifically the separa-

tion of child and parent due to immigration concerns. On the topic, Barrett declared it as a matter of border policy issues and debate, essentially backing out of the conversation. She also refused to speak on climate change when asked by Senator Kamala Harris, claiming that it was a "very contentious matter of public debate" and that she would not express a view that garnered political controversy.

On the final day, the hearings called forth multiple witnesses to testify for and against Barrett, including a former student of hers. Witnesses for Barrett argued that she had the skill and qualifications to become a justice, while those who opposed her confirmation argued that she could cause serious harm to people who want to maintain abortion rights and the Affordable Care Act. Ultimately, the Republicans decided to press on with a confirmation vote on Oct 23, in spite of Democrat disapproval.

Barrett's current status in the Supreme Court still hasn't been decided, but with a fast approaching vote and a push from the President and Republican's to have her confirmed before the election, this story will be rapidly changing in the coming days and weeks.

## Twin SSF fires remind us fire season is still hot

By Samantha Guerrero  
Times staff writer

A four-alarm fire broke out Friday, Oct. 16, on San Bruno Mountain, prompting evacuations and a battle to contain the fire. Shortly after, a second four-alarm fire burned a South San Francisco warehouse, sending black smoke across the city. Both fires stand as reminders that fire season is far from over.

The vegetation fire was reported just before noon near homes on what is known as the Sign Hill, a sign well known to travelers along Highway 101 near San Francisco International Airport. Four-time South San Francisco Mayor Rich Garbarino told news outlet KPIX 5, "That hill gets dry pretty quickly; all that vegetation. All those wonderful trees, that eucalyptus and pine, look beautiful, but their content is a lot of oil and a lot of burning material. We always worry about that."

The South San Francisco Fire Department was informed of the Sign Hill fire at 11:54 a.m. and

quickly ordered evacuations for Carnelian Road, Sonja Road, Mountain Road, RidgeView Court, and Viewmont Terrace. According to the fire department, a temporary evacuation center was set up at MSB Social Hall at 33 Arroyo Drive. Chief Fire Officer Matthew Samson described the response, saying, "There was a local government response, and there was a state fire response — the state fire response is called Cal Fire. [There was] a total of 20 fire engines, five battalion chiefs, four aircrafts, two hand crews, and one bull bulldozer for a total of 110 people helping to fight the fire."

Aerial fire units helped to contain the fire, dropping flame retardant around homes while hand crews separated burning tree limbs by covering them with dirt and patrolled firelines; meanwhile, the bulldozer removed flammable grass, trees, and brush alongside the fire.

Samson said, "15 acres were burnt in the process," but no properties were burned down. According to Samson, the fire was contained at around 2:18

p.m. Shortly after 3:30 p.m., the Fire Department said residents who live on Larch Ave between Kearny Street and Lincoln Street were cleared to return to their homes. About two hours later, all evacuation orders for the fire were lifted by officials. Residents were asked to use caution as fire crews were still working in the area.

Shortly after the Sign Hill fire was contained, news reached the fire department of a new, unrelated fire in the baking facility and warehouse of Raison D'Etire bakery on 179 Starlite Street, a bakery that has operated in the Bay Area for more than 25 years, just miles away from the previous fire.

Samson said, "We were informed of that fire at 2:54 p.m. Not even an hour after the last fire." Similar to the Sign Hill fire, more than 18 engines also arrived to fight the fire at Raison D'Etire. The owners were forced to escape the burning building and watch from the outside. A notable section of the 22,500 square foot baking facility was destroyed,



@Leticia

The Sign Hill fire could be seen for miles.

but no injuries were reported.

"That Starlight fire was contained just to that warehouse, and no other buildings or nearby areas were damaged at all. That fire was contained at

around 5:45 p.m.," Samson said.

When asked about the cause of the warehouse fire, Samson replied, "That one is currently

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# Teens feeling pressure to get jobs

By Sophie Phelps  
Times staff writer

For some, COVID-19 meant more time to lie in bed and watch Netflix, but with mass unemployment plaguing the country, the role of teenagers helping provide for their families has grown. Parents are being laid off or put on unemployment after their jobs are deemed “nonessential,” creating an income disparity that is hard to overcome. According to a study by Columbia University released just last week, an additional eight million Americans have fallen into poverty due to the pandemic, with Black and Latinx communities and children being the hardest hit. For some students and their families, extra work is paramount at the moment, a difficult reality when students should be able to focus on their studies.

Teenagers across the country

are being faced with the hard decision to give up their education so that they can help their family make ends meet. Although not all teens with jobs this year are working in order to support their families, many work to pay for their cars or other necessities. However, with the threat of COVID-19, some teens are torn between getting a job or staying home to protect their health. As Jeff Manalang, manager of Tea World in Eureka Square, said, “A bit fewer [teenage employees] I think because teenagers are afraid I guess to get exposed, or some are not given permission by their parents.”

In addition to teens feeling wary, parental concern has a large impact on a teenager’s decision to go to work during a pandemic.

The larger population of teenage employees at local stores such as Grocery Outlet and Starbucks is nothing new; however, the continuous obstacles COVID-19 poses within the workforce often affects the ways in which these companies operate. One benefit that COVID-19 has



Anastasia Vasquez

Teen employment during a pandemic is more complicated.

brought is the ability for teens to work more hours in a week, as a result of revised school schedules. But, these additional hours

can put stress on teenagers who are balancing both work and school, something that ultimately has a negative impact on teenagers’ mental health.

The added pressure from At Home Learning and the constant subconscious worries take a toll on families’ — specifically teenagers’ — mental health. One Terra Nova student, who asked that they not be named due to the personal nature of the conversation, said, “My mom was coming upon her 30th year at her work when she got laid off... my mom’s mental health has not been good...and being around her 24/7 has made me have a lot of anxiety, very depressed, and just not myself.”

In an effort to combat these types of feelings, teenagers feel it is necessary to get a job, to not only help their family, but to provide an escape for themselves as well. With negotiations for COVID release stalled, teens are feeling the stress.

# Celebs and organizations start to take sides

By Matthew Lim  
Times staff writer

As the year goes on, more and more people, along with companies and brands, are beginning to choose sides in politics. You can tell political biases based on donations or endorsements. It’s a trend that’s not only affected previously apolitical sectors of modern culture, but has also motivated the polarization of America. Because of how surprising and influential these figures can be, it’s noteworthy to take a look at who is doing it and what this could imply.

One of the most eye-opening figures

within this situation would be the popular scientific journal “Scientific American.” The journal itself has focused on scientific research and achievements over the years; founded in 1845, scientific researchers such as renowned Albert Einstein have contributed to the journal. For almost 200 years, it has largely remained an apolitical magazine. However, as of Sept. 15, 2020, the magazine released a statement that supported Democrat Joe Biden for president. Within the article, Scientific American made their case by listing Trump’s shortcomings, stating, “The evidence and the science show that Donald Trump has badly damaged the U.S. and its people—be-

cause he rejects evidence and science.” They also cite that the president’s COVID-19 response as a part of the reason for their endorsement of Biden, claiming Trump’s response to the pandemic “cost more than 190,000 Americans their lives by the middle of September.”

The current political landscape has also caused long-standing politicians to switch sides. A recent example of this would be long-term Republican Cindy McCain, widow of Republican presidential candidate and war hero John McCain. On Sept. 22, Cindy McCain vocally opposed Trump and endorsed Biden’s candidacy, stating her reasons behind it mainly being Biden’s vocal support of the army

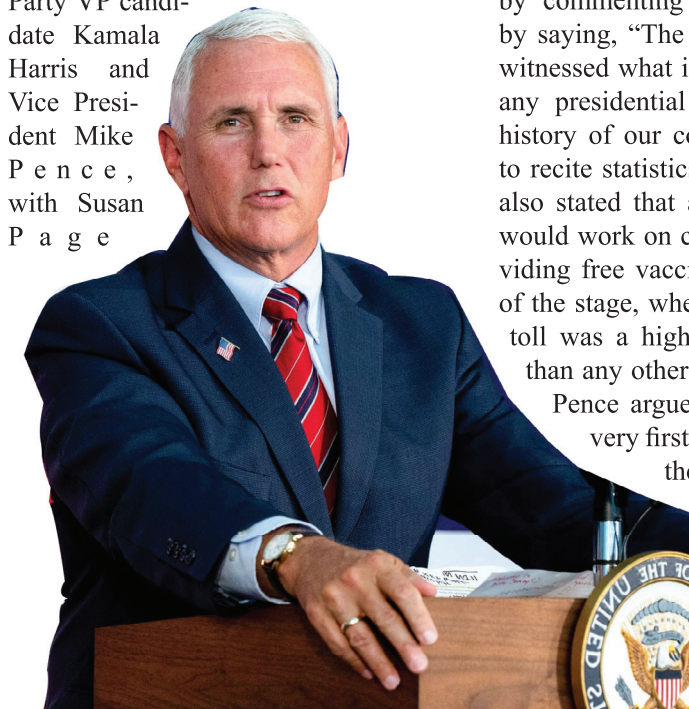
and of American troops. In her address, she said, “You may have to step out of your comfort zone a little bit, but Biden is by far the best candidate in the race.”

With many other celebrities jumping into the endorsement arena like Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, Scarlett Johanson, Liza Koshy, Taylor Swift, and even Michael B. Jordan, you have to wonder what effect this could have on not only this election, but future elections as well. But this is very hard to tell, as Ron Elving, a senior editor and correspondent on the Washington desk for NPR News, said, “Voters, as a rule, don’t volunteer that they made their choice based on an endorsement.”

# Vice presidential debate a far tamer affair than its presidential version

By Luke Avery  
Times staff writer

With the President debate, originally scheduled on Oct. 15, cancelled because President Trump caught COVID-19 and refusal to conduct the debate virtually, let’s recap between the Democratic Party VP candidate Kamala Harris and Vice President Mike Pence, with Susan Page



moderating. Pressing topics like climate change, health care, and COVID-19 protocols were discussed, and overall, the debate was blissfully fairly normal after the chaotic presidential debate last month. Here’s a rundown of what you missed.

**COVID-19:** When asked what Biden’s administration would do in response to COVID-19, Harris started by commenting on Trump’s response by saying, “The American people have witnessed what is the greatest failure of any presidential administration of the history of our country.” She continued to recite statistics of the pandemic. She also stated that a Biden administration would work on contact tracing and providing free vaccines. On the other side of the stage, when asked why the death toll was a higher percent in the U.S. than any other wealthy country, Mike Pence argued that, “That from the very first day, Donald Trump put the health of the American people first...he suspended all travel from china, the second largest economy in the world.” Pence then stated that this choice saved

hundreds of thousands of lives and that Joe Biden’s plan reads a lot like what the Trump administration had been doing every step of the way.

**Climate change:** Pence pushed the notion that while former senator Kamala Harris wanted to get rid of tax cuts (not very related to climate change), and end fracking, the Trump administration will be and has been reducing CO2 emissions as well as supporting American innovation through natural gas. In response, Harris spoke about how the Democratic nominee wouldn’t raise taxes or ban fracking, but instead referenced a prediction from Moody’s Analytics, a well trusted source of economic forecasts, of the economy, where they would have seven million more jobs for clean and renewable energy. She also spoke about the Trump administration’s neglect of the environment, saying, “Joe’s plan is about saying we’re going to deal with it, but we are also going to create new jobs, Donald Trump when asked about the wildfires in California said ‘science doesn’t know.’” Pence replied that they will follow the science, noting that according to the National Oceanic Administration Natural

Disasters, hurricanes haven’t been getting worse and climate alarmists are instead using it to ruin the economy and trying to pass the Green New Deal.

**Health Care:** Harris began the segment by saying that during these trying times, the Trump administration is trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, causing 20 million people to lose their health coverage and will end the ability of young adults to be able to stay in their parents’ healthcare coverage. She

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# Conflict heats up in Western Asia

By Samantha Guerrero  
Times staff writer

Violence recently broke out in the long-running conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the area of Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed territory in between the two Western-Asian countries, leaving hundreds dead. It is important to acknowledge this ongoing feud and understand the reasoning behind it, as well as the current situation.

The two former Soviet Union states (Armenia and Azerbaijan) have had disunity for centuries, and the blame usually falls on Joseph Stalin, the preceding Soviet Union leader. He grouped the ethnic Armenian stretch of Nagorno-Karabakh into the country of Azerbaijan after the Caucasus (a mountain region lying in between the Black and Caspian Sea that is occupied by both countries) was defeated by the military force of the Soviet Republic known as the Red Army in 1924. Neither side was satisfied, and it's not hard to predict the ethnic fighting that would arise. When the USSR began to collapse, nationalist forces turned the region into a powder keg. After the enclave's Armenians proclaimed independence in 1994, Azerbaijan viewed it as an infringe-



Victor Wu / Terra Nova Times

The disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh in Western Asia.

ment of its borders and sparked a war.

The UN still perceives Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan; furthermore, no country thinks of the enclave as an independent country. However, both Armenia and Azerbaijan have hidden on either side of a line of control consisting of snipers and landmines. They have had multiple instances of intense fighting, April 2016 being one of the most catastrophic periods. The two sides announced cease-fires, but tensions still remain high.

Negotiation efforts have also failed to produce a permanent solution. The

Minsk Group, a mediation effort led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), is co-chaired by the United States, France, and Russia and was created in 1994 in attempts to settle the disputes. They have agreed on cease-fires, but the tensions have continued to remain unmanageable. A notable and lasting compromise has yet to be constructed.

On Sept. 27, Armenia accused Azerbaijan's military of bombing civilian settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh. In response, Armenia's defense ministry

claimed to have shot down two Azerbaijani helicopters and three drones, to which Azerbaijan set a counter offensive attack in motion with tanks, war planes, artillery missiles, and drones. Historically, fighting usually lasts a few days and ends with a cease-fire; however, their fighting this go-round seems to only be intensifying.

The fighting has drawn in regional powers Turkey and Russia. Turkey's capital, Ankara, has close ties with Azerbaijan, whose people are mainly ethnic Turkic. Russia is seen as an ally of Armenia, but also has good relations with Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has confidently stated he will regain the disputed territory by force, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has backed him up and urged other countries to stand with Azerbaijan in order to "battle against invasion and cruelty." Both presidents have accused Armenia of stealing oil from Azerbaijan's city of Baku.

President Aliyev recently said in an interview, "Armenia is trying to attack and take control of our pipelines...If Armenia tries to take control of the pipelines there, I can say that the outcome will be severe for them." However, Armenia has denied such claims. Apart from that, Nagorno-

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## UAE, Bahrain, Israel normalize relations

By Eleanor Jonas  
Times staff writer

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, officials from Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain met in Washington, D.C., to sign an agreement normalizing relations between Israel and the two Gulf nations. For Israel, still in conflict with Palestine and attempting to secure its own place, this is a major foreign policy achievement. The last agreement of its kind occurred in 1994, between Israel and Jordan.

By establishing diplomatic ties with Bahrain and the UAE, Israel brings itself closer to the Arab states, creating the possibility of additional agreements. Already, the nation of Oman has expressed its approval, indicating it may be the next to normalize relations with Israel. Some, like Kirsten Fontenrose, a director at the Atlantic Council,



Victor Wu / Terra Nova Times

Diplomacy is a matter of a series of handshake deals.

believe Bahrain's decision suggests that Saudi Arabia may support normalization, but Israeli experts are doubtful. Saudi Arabia, though closely connected with Bahrain, has traditionally supported Palestine. The New York Times reported Israel's General Gilead saying, "...I cannot imagine them signing a normalization of relations with us."

The UAE's condition for normalization was for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to suspend his plans to annex parts of the West Bank, the area that Palestine and Israel are fighting over. Additionally, as the US pushed for and oversaw the agreement, one of the benefits for the UAE is easier access to the US military's F-35s,

fighter jets that would give them advantage over most countries in the region. Both the UAE and Bahrain will gain Israel's cooperation with health, tourism, and economic exchanges, plus the prospect of buying Israel's military technology.

However, one Arab territory is extremely dissatisfied with the normalization deal: Palestine. The 2002 Arab Peace Initiative called for conflict between Palestine and Israel to cease and for Israel to return certain territories before normal relations could occur. Bahrain and the UAE's decision is an abandonment of that initiative, leading Palestine to accuse the two countries of betraying Jerusalem and the Palestinian cause. The deal leaves them isolated as more Arab countries gravitate towards Israel because of the anti-Iran alliance.

In January, the Trump administration presented a peace

plan for Israel and Palestine that Palestine quickly rejected, as it favored Israel. Being unable to progress in that conflict, the Trump administration began their efforts to push Israel and the Arab states closer. Though Bahrain and the UAE had unofficial connections and warming relations with Israel and the normalization agreement appeared inexorable, Trump is attempting to use his recent push for the agreement as momentum for the election. Glorifying his role in the deal, he said, "Things are happening in the Middle East that nobody thought was even possible to think about."

Although the agreement is a significant sign that the region is progressing towards peace, Brian Katulis, a Middle East expert at the Center for American Progress, stated in the New York Times, "It's hard to credit the Trump administration with this deal."

## Uyghurs and Kazakhs face continuing oppression in China

By Emily Cottrell  
Times staff writer

There are currently up to 1.5 million Uyghur (also spelled Uighur) Muslims being held in Chinese internment camps, specifically in the region known as Xinjiang. The Chinese government has made many arrests and put Uyghurs into "re-education" camps solely on the basis that they are Muslim. So, exactly how bad is the Uyghur situation in China?

In 2017, there were about 87,000 arrests of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, and a majority of those were sentenced to five years or longer to jail. In Xinji-

ang, an area with a population of 21.82 million people, Uyghur and Kazakhs make up about more than half the population, and 230,000 have been arrested throughout 2017 and 2018. So many Muslims are currently being arrested because the China's judicial system is loyal to the Communist party and is trying to convert Muslims into loyalists as well. China is also forcing Uyghurs to work in factories; the U.S. was getting their cotton and other textile imports from these factories, though, as of Sept. 14, 2020, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has issued a Withhold Release Orders on these products.

Not only are these Muslims being

forced to work, according to those who have been released from the camps, they have also been forced to eat pork and to drink alcohol, which goes against their religion. It is hard to say exactly what goes on in these camps, as China monitors the media heavily, but for now, what we know is from the few people who have escaped the camps, such as Kazakh Omir Bakali, who told The Independent about his 7.5 months in prison.

As the Uyghurs are arrested and taken to these camps, they are also separated from their children. The Uyghur children are sent to re-education camps, where they try to teach the kids to be loyal to the Communist party. They are not al-

lowed to practice their religion, nor are they allowed to speak Uyghur. The children are only allowed to visit with family only every 1-2 weeks, as the authorities want to make sure that there is not a religious atmosphere at home. Abdu-rahman Tohti, a Uyghur man who was separated from his 4-year-old son, left Xinjiang, and immigrated to Turkey, and in an interview with New York Times, he said, "What I fear the most, is that the Chinese government is teaching him to hate his parents and Uyghur culture."

The Uyghur people are seemingly going through a cultural eradication, even though China repeatedly denies any negative claim.



## WHY DON'T PEOPLE VOTE?

By Justin Arnaudo  
Times staff writer

In 2016, it became evident to the American public that Millennials, in particular, were not voting in either local or national elections. The question is why are these people not voting? What is deterring them?

Donovan Potter (11) said, “As someone who is going to be able to vote soon, the main thing that I see deterring people from voting is the Electoral College. The only thing that seems worth

voting for are local elections and laws that affect me more.”

First, what is the Electoral College and how does it work? The Electoral College is the system the government uses to elect the president. Each state is represented based on population, and the total amount of electors in the Electoral College is 538. For a presidential candidate to win, they need to hit 270. For most states, each state counts the amount of people who voted for each candidate, and whomever gets the most individual votes in the state gets

the number of electors that state has.

Why do people not vote because of this system? One voter told me, “I did not vote because the Electoral College is outdated and does not count everyone’s individual vote. The president should be decided based on popular vote not the electoral college.” Because the popular vote in each state generally determines the Electoral College vote, the system leaves many voters feeling that their vote didn’t count. For example, in the 2016 election, if some-

one voted for Hillary Clinton in Florida, their individual vote would not be counted in the finals because all of Florida’s Electoral College votes went to Trump, as he won the majority of Floridians’ votes. This could have discouraged some of the 100 million non-voting Americans in 2016.

Even though some people do not think voting for president is worth it, they still believe voting locally is positive. It is understandable why this form of voting is more appealing. When voting locally for people and

laws, the citizens who are casting their votes are directly affected, and therefore have more of an incentive to actually vote. For some young people, direct impact is what drives them to the polls and really matters. However, the fact that Millennials sat out both local and national elections indicates that voter apathy and the feeling that their vote doesn’t matter may be playing a bigger role.

With the 2020 presidential election underway, voter turnout is already way up over 2016, so perhaps things are changing.



## ELECTION PAGE



# 2020

## ROUND 1: 2020 SAN MATEO MEASURES

By Shayla McCann  
Times staff writer

Sometimes understanding propositions can be confusing, especially when you are in the poll booth on election day — the mounting pressure leaves you disengaged with what feels like a never ending list of propositions. But no need to fear — here are the two most important tax-related ballot measures that affect San Mateo County, summarized in simple terms so we all can understand how they will (or will not) impact us in the

coming future.

**Measure Z** is a bond measure for Jefferson Union High School District, which incorporates Terra Nova, Oceana, Jefferson, Westmoor, and Thornton. It authorizes the sale of bonds to pay for campus security, emergency communications, and notification systems. Money from bond measures can only go to the school buildings for upgrades. Measure Z will upgrade computer labs, software, technology and will support new libraries. This Measure would raise \$163 million to upgrade our schools and intends to make the school more accessible for

people with disabilities (ADA compliance, which stands for American Disability Act).

**Measure RR** is a measure for San Mateo, San Francisco, and Santa Clara Counties to provide additional funding for Caltrain by raising sales taxes by 1/8 of a cent. Caltrain transports people from San Francisco all the way to Santa Clara County. Even though only about 60,000 people ride Caltrain daily, half of its annual funding is from fares (people who buy tickets to ride the train), and because of the pandemic, ridership is way down. Caltrain gets voluntary funding from the

three counties it services. The increase in sales tax would provide Caltrain with \$100 million to keep the train moving so it will not shut down. The sales tax increase, which would add a fractional increase in the price for every product you purchase, would last for the next 30 years.

In case you are still confused, Measure Z enables our school district to sell bonds to upgrade Jefferson Union schools, while Measure RR increases sales taxes to keep Caltrain running through San Mateo, San Francisco, and Santa Clara Counties.

## ROUND 2: SOME OF 2020'S PROPOSITIONS

By Naomi Sanft  
Times staff writer

There are many important initiatives on the ballot this year. However, understanding these propositions and measures can be difficult due to some of their legal jargon and confusing language. It is vital that voters have clear understanding in order to make well informed decisions. Here are a couple brief summaries of some of the propositions on this year’s ballot:

**Proposition 15.** A YES vote on Prop 15 would raise taxes on commercial properties worth more than \$3 million.

This prop would reassess property taxes of large business holdings while protecting small businesses and homes. If passed, Prop 15 would generate between \$6.5 billion and \$11.5 billion for local government and schools. A NO vote on Prop 15 would keep taxes on commercial properties the same. This prop would repeal protections for commercial property that cap annual increases of property taxes. If passed, Prop 15 could increase annual property tax for large businesses.

**Proposition 18.** A YES vote on prop 18 would allow 17 year olds to vote in the primary election and any special elections in the case that they will turn 18 before the next general election. This

prop would support youth engagement in elections, which will benefit democracy. A NO on Prop 18 would mean citizens, who are not legal adults, cannot vote in any election. Both statewide and nationally, the agreed upon age of reason is 18.

**Proposition 22.** A YES vote on Prop 22 would protect the ability for app-based rideshare and delivery companies to hire drivers as independent contractors. If passed, drivers could continue to decide when, where, and how often they work. A NO vote on prop 22 would require app-based rideshare and delivery companies to hire drivers as employees. If drivers became employees, they would be eligible for benefits and protections

such as sick leave, healthcare, and unemployment, which are not available to independent contractors.

**Proposition 23.** A YES vote on Prop 23 would require chronic dialysis clinics to have a doctor on-site during all patient treatment hours. This proposal intends to combat poor hygiene in dialysis clinics. A NO vote on Prop 23 would allow dialysis to continue functioning without a doctor on-site. If passed, many dialysis clinics would be forced to close, leaving thousands of patients in remote places without lifesaving treatment. Dialysis clinics are already required to have a physician medical director and registered nurse on-site.



# COVID outbreaks shake up NFL

By Miles Palmer  
Times staff writer

On Sept. 24, Greg Mabin, a practice squad player on the Tennessee Titans, tested positive for COVID-19. Since then, a total of 23 players and staff members of the Titans tested positive, and three NFL players on different teams have tested positive. The NFL has erupted like a volcano. The schedule has done a whole 180 degree turn, and changes still may need to be made.

The NFL acted quickly, postponing the Week 4 Titans vs. Pittsburgh Steelers game that was set for Oct. 4. This match-up is now set for Week 7 on Oct. 25. The Steelers' bye week being moved up due to the Titans' mistake is seen as unfair, but head coach Mike Tomlin does not seem phased. "We do not care," Tomlin stated when asked how he felt about having to play 13 weeks straight.

At the same time that this decision was made for the Steelers-Titans game, it was also decided that the Kansas City Chiefs and New England Patriots game would be pushed from Sunday to Mon-



Miles Palmer / Terra Nova Times

## 49ers fans are grateful that their team hasn't seen an outbreak yet.

day. A week after playing the Kansas City Chiefs, three more Patriots players tested positive, causing their Week 5 match-up against the Denver Broncos to not be played. Throughout this past week, more and more members of Tennessee's team have contracted COVID-19, causing

their Week 5 game against the Buffalo Bills to be played on Tuesday instead of Sunday. Since the Bills were scheduled to face the Chiefs on Thursday night following their game against the Titans, and two days of rest is not enough, the Bills and the Chiefs will go head-to-head on

Sunday instead. More members of the Patriots testing positive has led to their game against the Denver Broncos played on Monday instead of Sunday. While the Patriots have had four players test positive, including quarterback Cam Newton and reigning defensive player of the year Stephon Gilmore, this is nowhere near the number of members of the Titans. The reason for the Titans getting so many cases is speculated to be their own fault.

After it was announced that the Titans had COVID-19, players held a secret workout at a high school's field. This workout was not supposed to happen — the league told the Titans they were not able to workout because they had players with the illness. Tennessee also violated another rule and did not follow the mask protocol. Even TN athletes like Danny Ortner (11) say this was a foolish act, and now the Titans must face repercussions.

This NFL season has dealt with a lot of hardships. Many players have been injured, and most think the reason for this is due to no preseason games. Ortner said, "It's kind of ruining the season, but injuries and Covid were expected going into the seasons."

# Nick Saban tests positive, then tests negative

By Miles Palmer  
Times staff writer

The number two ranked Alabama Crimson Tide took down the number three ranked Georgia Bulldogs Saturday night. This was a big game in the SEC, with arguably the two best teams in the conference both fighting to stay undefeated. While on paper this may just look like a win for Alabama, it was an emotional and controversial game due to head coach Nick Saban and his complicated week with COVID-19.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, Saban tested positive for Covid. There were a lot of suspicions about what would happen with the game coming just three days after Saban's diagnosis. At first, Saban wanted to coach his team virtually, a suggestion that reminded many fans of Hugh

Freeze coaching his Liberty University team from a hospital bed. The NCAA, however, said they would not allow Saban to do so, and Offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian was supposed to coach the Tide. Terra Nova football player Dimitri Fabiani-Wyatt expressed the views of many a out the NCAA's decision: "If [Saban] could find a way to effectively coach virtually without giving his team an unfair advantage, then yes it should be allowed." As upset as Alabama fans, players, and coaches were, the implications of Saban's test were more pressing. With how physically close the players get with their head coach, it was speculated that others within the organization may have contracted the virus, but the only other positive test was that of Athletic Director Greg Byrne.

In the days that followed, the story took another twist.



Jack Gillen / Terra Nova Times

## Saban's test results momentarily shook the sports world.

On the day after Saban's positive test, he had a new COVID test show up negative. Then, the head coach had two more negative tests, one on Friday and another on Saturday. After the third negative test, Saban was allowed to go onto the field with his team. This surprised many players on the Crimson Tide.

"It was very crazy. We were in our little quarterback meeting and he just showed up," quarterback Mac Jones said.

Saban let everyone know it was an emotional joy that he had coming back to his team prior to the game. With their head coach back on the sidelines, Alabama went on to

dominate the Bulldogs, defeating them by a score of 41-24. Georgia fell one spot and is now ranked 4th, while Alabama stays at No. 2, behind Clemson.

This college football season is like many other events right now — uncertain. There are players and staff on multiple teams contracting the Coronavirus, combined with situations like Saban's, with false-positive tests confusing everyone. College football is already looking a lot different anyway, with some schools not playing and others postponing their seasons, but somehow everyone keeps running into new unwanted surprises. The safety of these student-athletes, coaches, and personnel is of utmost importance right now, and everyone should be staying safe so we can go back to packed college stadiums on Saturdays everywhere across the country.

# Tampa Bay Lightning defeat Dallas Stars in finals, win Stanley Cup

By Miguel Valdes  
Times staff writer

With the NHL shutting down due to COVID-19 back in early March, the season and playoffs seemed in jeopardy. But, determined to go on, the NHL created a "bubble" for their teams in Canada to continue their play, as 24 teams were brought in the bubble to qualify for the playoffs. 16 of the teams participated in best-of-five "play-in" series to qualify for the playoff bracket, while the other eight were guaranteed a spot in the playoffs, adding up to eight playoff teams per conference. The number-one-seeded Las Vegas Knights and number-one-seeded Philadelphia Flyers were the favorites to play each other for the Stanley Cup when the league restarted, but the Dal-

las Stars, the three-seed in the west, had other plans, as did the eastern two-seed Tampa Bay Lightning, with these teams being the ones to meet in the finals.

The Stanley Cup finals didn't get as much attention as they usually do because they started at the same time as the NBA bubble and the NFL beginning their training camps, but that doesn't mean the series wasn't compelling. The Stars came out hot and dominated Game 1 with a 4-1 victory over Tampa. Game 2 was a different story, however, as the Lightning came into Game 2 with vengeance and won by a score 3-2, with MVP favorite Brayden Point having a great game. Game 3 was another win for the Lightning with a score of 5-2. Tampa's star defenseman Victor Hedman had key plays to keep Dallas from scoring, but also contributed to the offense, as he

recorded a goal and an assist. Game 4 was a different story, with the game going down to the wire. After regulation time was up, both teams were tied and headed into overtime. Once again, though, it was the Lightning that came out victorious, thanks to a Kevin Shattenkirk power play goal. At this point of the series, the Lightning had a 3-1 advantage in the best of seven series, and with the Lightning now one win away from a Stanley Cup, the Stars had to come up with a win in Game 5 to stay alive. After a gritty battle, Game 5 went to double overtime, when Star's forward Corey Perry scored his second goal of the night to win the game and keep Dallas's hopes alive. Despite this, Lightning fan Evan Leong (11) was optimistic going into Game 6, and said, "I was really doubtful the Lightning were going to beat the Flyers

in the earlier round because they looked good this year, but I'm happy we're here right now, and I think my Lightning will close it out in Game 6, even though they should've taken it in Game 4."

Leong's prediction was spot on, as goals from Point and Blake Coleman helped catapult the Lightning to a victory and a Stanley Cup Championship, making them the first North American team to win a championship in any major professional sport since the pandemic shut sports down in March. Victor Hedman was named Stanley Cup Playoffs MVP after an incredible series, and said after winning his first Cup, "I never in my dreams thought I would win the Stanley Cup, it's a dream. It's so unrealistic. It's what you dream of when you play on the streets back home when you grow up. It's what you imagine all the time."

# Little Free Libraries pop up in town

By Katalina Huazano  
Times staff writer

Whether you've seen them outside of homes in your neighborhood or on Pinterest, Little Free Libraries are gaining popularity. Little Free Libraries are packed with books waiting to be taken, and they enable sharing your favorite reads with a stranger.

The Little Free Library nonprofit organization started in 2009 by Todd H. Bol in Wisconsin. Today, there are over 100,000 Little Libraries in 108 registered countries. Pacifica resident Kirk Hayes got inspired to build his own with his kids after seeing one in San Francisco.

"Everything that has led me to being successful has been because of reading, so I wanted to be able to provide that for other folks...It actually has introduced me to people on our street, and other people in the neighborhood that I normally would not have interacted with, but they stop and love to use the little library," Hayes said.

The beauty behind Little Free Libraries is the honor system that is embedded



Katalina Huazano / Terra Nova Times

**Kirk Hayes' Little Free Library on Crespi Dr. improves his neighborhood.**

into it. To keep the cycle running, people are invited to grab a book, and the next time they pass by, drop off a new book or return the book they grabbed. Their slogan is, "Take a book, return a book."

The process is simple if you are interested in creating one: Build your little library and design it to your liking. Terra Nova student Christian Guido (12), who

has a Little Free Library in front of his house up the street from TN, said, "My mother loves books, and so we have a lot of books. She wanted to share them with the community in her own way, with rainbow flare supporting the LGBTQ community." By personalizing your Little Free Library, you can not only share your love of books with others, but also

make it original and unique to your taste.

Buying a pre-built library or kit from [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org) for a starting price of \$150 is also an option. The Little Free Library website also has guidelines on how to place your library according to city guidelines. Though it is optional, the Little Free Library encourages you to register your library to receive a placard with a unique charter number, which places you onto the Little Free Library map. The fee is \$40.

Recently, they just launched an initiative called Read In Color, advocating for books to be placed in the libraries by authors who are African American, Latinx, and LGBTQ+. By doing this, they hope to create diversity in communities with the books that they read.

Hayes has a plethora of options for everyone. He said, "Sometimes we get Christmas themed or Halloween themed, I'll just separate those out and then stick those in when it gets close to the holidays...I don't believe in censorship of books, I will pull out the books that are completely thrashed, though, but that's about it. So, generally, I want everyone to be able to read and have access to it."

## A lifestyle change starts with a single step

By Elliott Song  
Times staff writer

Feeling overwhelmed by the duties of life is something all too common. A simple remedy is reconnecting with the outside world by going for a walk. Walking has many positive effects on the wellbeing of people, both physically and mentally.

Walking outside is safe, even now. As long as you wear a mask, stay away from large crowds, and maintain six feet distance from other people on a walk or run, there is no real risk. At this point in time, doctors specifically recommend that people go on walks to increase physical activity and immunity. Many people have been using quarantine as an excuse to stop exercising, but maintaining your personal fitness is important as well.

The physical benefits of walking are much more than one would expect. It is a common



**A view of the beautiful Pacific Ocean.**

misconception that people must be sweating and out of breath to get proper exercise, but that is not the case. Research done by the Arthritis Foundation has shown that daily walks help to strengthen muscles all

throughout your body, especially around joints. Along with building muscle, walking also helps burn fat for those looking to lose a little weight without intense exercise or dieting.

For those of us struggling with

stress and anxiety during this pandemic, walks are also beneficial to mental health, helping to relax and ease stress. A recent study conducted by researchers at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center and the Global Brain Health Institute revealed that weekly walks as short as 15 minutes produced vastly more positive emotions among people and reduced the amount of stress they felt. Short walks, referred to as "awe walks," are centered around taking the time to walk while looking around and appreciating the small details of the world around us.

Dr. Virginia Sturm, PhD, specifically said, "Taking walks outside and focusing on the details of the world around us can help us to feel calmer, happier, and more connected to the world around us. Students who are experiencing significant amounts of stress may benefit from taking awe walks because experiencing awe helps us to

put our problems in perspective and to feel like we are part of something larger than ourselves. Getting outside and thinking about the world around us—rather than our long to-do list for the day—can be very soothing and stress-relieving."

As one student told me, "I never realized how different the air inside and outside the house were until I went out for a walk. I eventually started going out to some of the trails out here in Pacifica, and I realized how cool and underappreciated some of the views are. Honestly I feel great when I go out, not only physically or healthwise, but like my conscience feels lighter, because instead of stuffing my face with junk food all day I'm at least getting out and getting some exercise."

Though it may not seem like much, taking the time out of your day to walk on a trail, or even in your neighborhood could improve the quality of your life.

## Montara Mountain is home to some amazing mountain bike trails

By Nicolas Garrett  
Times staff writer

### Montara Trails

Montara Mountain, elevated at 1,898 feet, has over 16 trails including the most popular, the Boy Scout Trail, located about a quarter way up the mountain with tons of jumps and berms. This trail is perfect for experts and beginners because you have the option to take huge jumps and crazy berms or smaller jumps for casual riding.

Terra Nova mountain biker Emil Guibbaduline (11) said, "The Boy Scout trail is the best trail to ride because it's good for beginners, and

it's really fun with all of the jumps." One of the hardest trails on Montara is called Crack Trail and is mostly made up of rocky terrain and rock gardens. This trail is especially hard because of the steep decline with lots of rocks, so you need to maneuver while going very fast. This trail is rated a double black, which is mainly meant for experts and professionals.

### Trail Ratings

Mountain bike trails vary in difficulty from beginner to expert, and most have a "trail difficulty rating." Beginner ratings are white circle and green circle. These trails consist of wide, smooth trails with some avoidable obstacles, perfect for people just getting into mountain biking. Secondly, we have trails for people

who are ready for harder trails, which are rated blue square. Blue square trails are for intermediate riders who are capable of steep slopes, rock gardens, roots, and medium drops. Next are black diamond trails, which are for advanced riders who are ready for decline, rock gardens, roots, skinny trails, jumps, and sharp corners. Double black diamond trails are for expert riders who are very comfortable with their riding capabilities. These trails are steep and technical, especially at the fast speed they are taken. Lastly, double orange diamond trails are rated for professionals. These trails are extremely dangerous to navigate, with super technical sections, huge jumps, big drops, steep incline, and all that with

the trail being three feet wide at times.

### Types of Trails

There are two main types of trails: technical and flowy. Technical trails require you to navigate through rock gardens, roots, trees, and any other type of obstacles. This usually requires slow speed to allot time to react to obstacles. Flowy trails are taken much faster with a steeper decline and clear trail so you can go fast and not have to worry about obstacles getting in your way. When riding on a trail, if you notice you are going fast and worried about running into obstacles, don't worry. Most trail makers take these things into consideration when building the trail, so if you're going fast it's because you're supposed to.

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**Conflict**

*Continued from Page 2*

Karabakh's defense Army has accused Azerbaijan of "targeting peaceful settlements," such as shelling and conducting airstrikes in Martakert.

According to Sabah Chodry, a news reporter from Sky News, "About 600 people are now reported to have died in

clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces. However, it is thought the overall number of those who have lost their lives from fighting is much higher, as both sides regularly claim to have inflicted significant military casualties on the other."

A cease-fire brokered by Russian President Vladimir Putin after a series of calls with leaders of both countries was supposed to take effect on Oct.

10. The truce was intended to exchange prisoners and recover the dead; however, the truce started to fall apart almost immediately with recent reports of shelling in Hadrut on Oct. 12.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that Moscow should send their own observers to track acquiescence with the cease-fire deal by saying, "We believe it would be absolutely correct if they were our [Rus-

sian] military observers." In the meantime, Turkey has been accused of recruiting Syrian mercenaries, arousing concern for a possible proxy war. However, Turkey has denied those claims.

Following this, Nagorno-Karabakh's leader Arayik Harutyunyan stated, "It is not too late to resolve the conflict peacefully, through negotiations. But if the enemy doesn't want to, we are ready to fight to the end."

**Fire**

*Continued from Page 1*

under investigation right now. Our fire marshal is doing the actual investigation on that." However, investigators suspect it started in a part of the warehouse where ovens are used.

As to the cause of the Sign Hill fire, police revealed on Friday night that two teens, a 14 and 16 year old, had confessed to starting it. Police said that a nearby neighbor had seen them leaving the area, and when officers

found them, they admitted to it.

Police told The Mercury News, "Detectives ultimately obtained statements from the juveniles who admitted to being responsible for starting the fire." According to police, the outcome of the investigation will be given to the fire marshal, who will perform a "complete investigation and provide his determination at a later time." In the meantime, the boys have been released to family members as they await the end of the investigation and possible criminal charges.

**Veep**

*Continued from Page 3*

contends that Biden will expand coverage, give private and public choices, as well as lower premiums while lowering Medicare age limits to sixty. In his rebuttal, Pence said that he will always be pro-life and deviated when he said. "The American people deserve an answer, Senator Harris, are you and Joe Biden going to pack the court if Amy Coney Barrett is confirmed?... your party is openly advocating adding seats to the Supreme Court, that's nine seats for 150

years if you don't get your way." Harris responded by stating that past presidents like Abraham Lincoln waited until the election was over before bringing in a Supreme Court nominee. She also referenced the Trump administration to confirm a record number of judges to the federal judiciary, including 50 nominees for federal courts who were deemed incompetent. She also noted that of nearly 200 of judges whom the Trump administration had nominated and had confirmed, not one single judge was Black. Despite this, she didn't answer Pence's question on court packing.

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