

# Terra Nova Times

Volume 15, Issue 5

Terra Nova High School

September 30, 2020

## New San Mateo County guidelines

By Sophie Phelps  
Times staff writer

In a world where bad news seems to be the only news, the recent report that some restrictions have been lifted in San Mateo County regarding businesses seems to bring a sense of hope for the future. With the newly loosened restrictions, businesses are able to host more people and provide more in-person services. The reason for this change is due to San Mateo County moving from the Purple Tier (“Widespread”) to Red Tier (“Substantial”) in California’s color-coded system that ranks counties by number of COVID-19 cases.

This allows businesses to reopen to 25-50% capacity, depending on the type of service. Businesses are allowed to resume semi-normal operations, which includes indoor dining, indoor retail, personal care services, places of worship, movie theaters, and gyms. In order to open, businesses must require face masks and maintain social distancing. Health and Human Services Director Mark Ghaly stressed, “Understanding the number of steps they



Sophie Phelps / Terra Nova Times

**Nail Salons like this one at Linda Mar are clear to reopen at limited capacities indoor.**

can take to make a lower risk environment for both staff and customers with some new addition to that sector guidance and how to set up operations in a way that is lower risk ...”

People are relieved to see any signs of life resuming as normal. April Schneider, a long

time Pacifica resident, is eager to get back in the gym and be active., “Without physical well being, it becomes challenging to keep balanced,” she said. “Some of us really need to workout to feel centered and well. I’m excited to see the local gym reopen and stay open.”

With proper precautions, businesses will be allowed to remain open. With businesses, parks, and recreational areas becoming available, more students are able to enjoy the outdoors. Terra Nova athlete Sarah San Jose (11) said, “For the first few months in quarantine, I’ve

been stuck in the house for quite some time since everything had closed ... so with places being reopened, I’ve been able to practice basketball within my area.”

The closures have been especially tough for small businesses, which will now be able to open their doors and begin to make some badly needed revenue. The county has made it clear that reopening is important in order to sustain the community. As President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Warren Slocum said, “Let’s be safe, be healthy, and help ensure our small businesses are with us today, and tomorrow, and the future.”

In addition to the reopening of businesses, things are looking up in regards to returning back to school. In order for a school to reopen, their respective county must stay in the Red Tier for at least two consecutive weeks, in addition to enforced face masks, social distancing, limited gatherings, and strict hygiene protocols. Although this may not come this semester, it still provides a roadmap for next semester.

In order for the county to stay on the right track, be sure to wear your mask and socially distance.

## What is causing California to go up in flames?

By Justin Arnaudo  
Times staff writer

Northern California is on fire yet again in a fire season that has already been historic for its intensity. The fast-moving Glass Fire in Napa County sprang up Sunday night and has already burned thousands of acres, while at least 25 major fires burn across the state. Every year, California experiences wildfires that impact nearly the entire state, not to mention surrounding states, and once again, we find ourselves in the peak of fire season. These fires are huge and can be difficult to contain and require hundreds — if not thousands — of firefighters. But what goes into predicting the size and scale of a wildfire? The scale of these fires can be daunting, but according to James Arnaudo, a fire captain in Santa Clara, a fire’s magnitude can usually be determined by three simple variables: as he said, “The three biggest factors that can dictate the severity of a fire are fuel, topography, and weather.”

The primary fuel sources that can make a fire worse include dry organic matter, such as dry bushes, grass, and dead trees. To starve the fire of fuel, firefighters remove any dead organic material that might feed the fire, a process which



Firefighter Jimmy Hart

**Fires like these are only going to become larger and more commonplace.**

ranges from bulldozing bushes and grass to cutting down dead trees to pre-burning dead plants in a controlled environment.

Topography, the geographical shape of the land, is another major factor when fighting fires. Before engaging, firefighters must get a sense of where it is and

how they can use the land around it to stop the fire or prevent spread. For example, a lake is always a good geographical area, since a lake is border the fire cannot cross and provides a source of water for helicopters and planes to collect to use to fight a fire. Hills, on

the other hand, pose tremendous challenges. Fires move uphill faster because not only are they burning whatever they are on, they are also heating up shrubbery further up the hill, which makes it more flammable. Most of the time, topography is strategically used to stop a fire from spreading. Once it is contained, then comes the job of putting it out.

Weather is the biggest factor when fighting fire, especially wind, as it can increase how fast and far wildfires move. Sun is also a contributor to the spread of wildland fires, as it heats up plants and trees around the fire, making shrubbery more flammable and easier to burn once caught on fire. There is no real way to fight weather, but you can plan for it. For example, if a fire starts somewhere with no wind, but next week winds are expected to be blowing south to north, firemen will go to the north side of the fire and remove any dead plants that could fuel the fire and then cover all remaining plants in fire retardant. Doing this can prevent the fire from moving north when winds come, keeping the fire as small as possible.

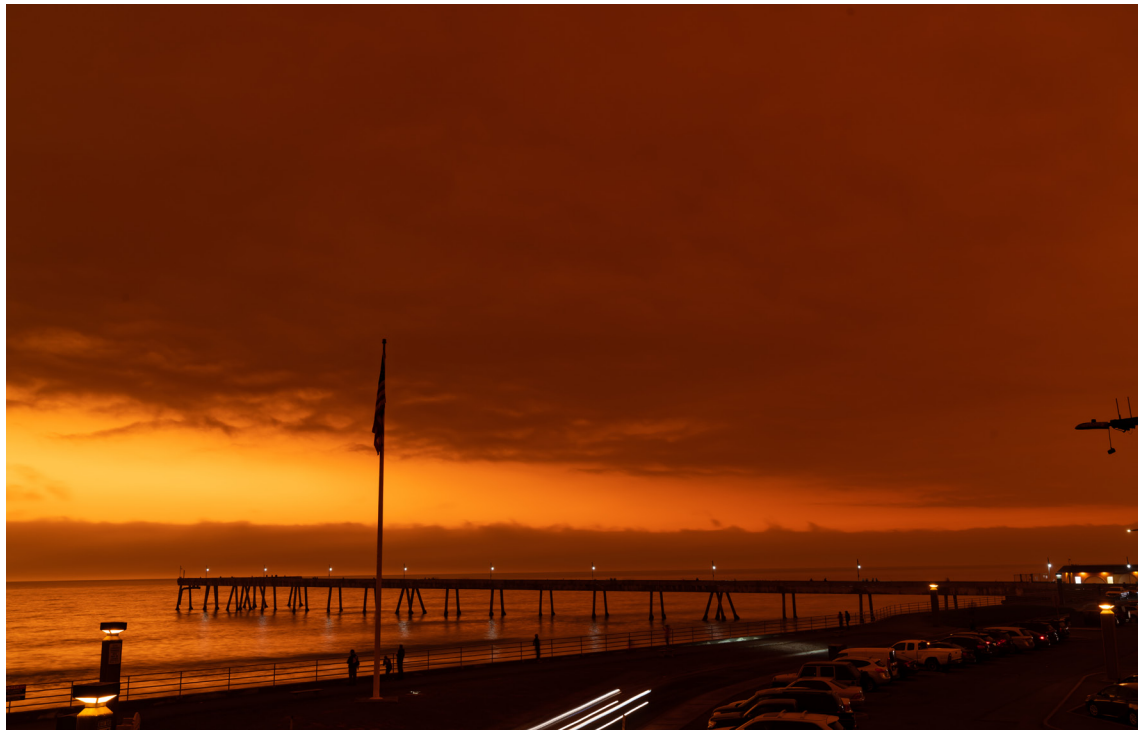
The practice of fighting fires is a mix of strategy and prediction, but by determining what the problems are, firefighters can work efficiently and direct their energy to the most important tasks in order to keep our communities safe.

# Demonic red skies take the stage

By Kyle Gossage  
Times staff writer

You may have noticed the apocalyptic skies overhead a couple of weeks back, caused by the smoke from the worst wildfire season in North America ever recorded. However, the orange color did not come from the smoke or fires, but actually complex processes that were occurring inside the clouds of smoke.

The smoke from wildfires is mainly made up of carbon heavy molecules. Ken Bodie, a meteorologist in Oregon, said, “We have had a very dry summer, which has enabled the smoke from the wildfires to spread out dramatically.” Although the sun may appear to give off a yellowish-white light, it actually emits light over the entire spectrum. The carbon molecules in the air were able to act as a filter or prism due to the amount and density of them in the sky. These carbon molecules scatter more long-wavelength colors like orange and red, rather than shorter wavelength colors like



David Chamberlin

All of Pacifica and the Bay Area was cast with an orange tinge from the sky on Sept. 9.

the normal blue we typically see California was not the only state with the ominous sky. Oregon has actually the most apocalyptic skies of them all. The smoke from all the wildfires have made the air quality

in Oregon the worst it has ever been. The state of Oregon ranks over 300 on the Air Quality Index scale, putting it in the highest category of “hazardous.” Connor Uter (12), who visited Oregon during the fires, said,

“I was touring a college, and when I got home, my head and stomach hurt really badly. The smoke was so bad we couldn’t see more than 50 yards.”

Oregon’s air quality has been so bad that it hit 400 on

the Air Quality Index, far into the category of “Hazardous,” which begins at an AQI of 300.

As Oregon is facing its own blood red sky, Kelly Bayern, a meteorologist at KOIN 6 Weather in Portland, Oregon said, “The Beachie Creek and Lionshead fires in the Santiam Canyon erupted in size on Labor Day as strong easterly winds funneled into the region. This caused the fires to spread rapidly and pushed smoke into the Willamette Valley, and finally into Portland. Throughout the summer, large wildfires burning in California also saw the same growth due to high wind events throughout August and September. Smoke from those fires has also transported into Oregon over the last several weeks, adding to the mix. Our smoke in Oregon had remained thick due to a surface inversion, a warm layer above the surface that has essentially capped the smoke here in Portland and around the valley. With little wind or rain to mix the smoke out, we have kept poor air quality around the bulk of the region.”

## TikTok remains in the App store due to sale

By Naomi Sanft  
Times staff writer

Following months of shutdown threats, TikTok has ensured its stay in the U.S. as TikTok’s parent company, ByteDance, will partner with Oracle and Walmart. The viral video sharing app became a National Security concern over its collection of American user data and ties to China. Although the Trump Administration had been pushing for TikTok to sever all ties in China, a deal has been approved for a partial stake in the company. Tech corporation Oracle and Walmart will together own a 20% share of TikTok, forming TikTok Global, which will be centered in the United States. “As a part of this agreement, TikTok will run on the Oracle Cloud and Oracle will become a minority investor in TikTok Global,” said Oracle CEO Safra Catz. “Oracle will quickly deploy, rapidly scale, and operate TikTok systems in the Oracle Cloud. We are a hundred percent confident in our ability to deliver a high-

ly secure environment to TikTok and ensure data privacy to TikTok’s American users, and users throughout the world.” Since American investors own 40% of ByteDance, the U.S. will own a majority of TikTok Global. Officials at Oracle and Walmart say that the deal will create more than 25,000 new jobs across the country and contribute \$5 billion to the Treasury.

The promise of the proposed \$5 billion has prompted some confusion, as President Trump states the deal will “be making about a \$5 billion contribution towards education. We’re going to be setting up a very large fund for the education of American youth.” ByteDance has made promises to invest in education and create video technology for students; however, it is unclear where the \$5 billion is coming from.

“We would like to clarify that it was also our first time hearing about the news,” ByteDance said in a statement. Oracle and Walmart clarified that TikTok Global “will pay more than five billion in new tax dollars to the U.S. Treasury.” Although TikTok has avert-



Sean Karkazis

Mr. K uses TikTok to educate students and spread his love for history.

ed being banned, it is likely to undergo changes implemented by its new owners.

With Tiktok becoming extremely popular with teens, teenagers are posting their videos everywhere for people to see. But what do they do with our

data? Should we be concerned? Teens don’t seem to care either way. Helen Eichensehr (12) said, “I don’t think it really matters because I use a lot of social media ,and I don’t know where any of the information goes anyway.”

## Understanding the science behind the COVID-19 vaccine

By Kyle Gossage  
Times staff writer

Every day, there is some news story or other about a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are a crucial part of eradicating any virus or disease, as they work by training the immune system to fight off a specific pathogen, namely viruses. Vaccines are composed of antigens, which are molecules of the virus itself. There are two main types of vaccines that are used: live attenuated vaccines and inacti-

ated vaccines. In live attenuated vaccines, the pathogen is still alive when injected into the body. This gives the most accurate simulation for the body to learn from. However, if a person has a weak immune system or the pathogen that is being vaccinated is too dangerous to risk live exposure, scientists use inactivated vaccines. In these cases, the virus is killed, most often through heat or chemicals, before being injected. This allows a safer approach to vaccination, although they may not be as effective. The vaccines

for COVID-19 will most likely vary by demographic to maximize both efficiency and safety.

Vaccines can take years to be finished — luckily, the SARS and MERS vaccines that scientists have been working on have given COVID-19 vaccine a head start. The work around these vaccines is being led by Operation Warp Speed, a partnership among the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institute

of Health, and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. The OWS said, “Operation Warp Speed’s goal is to produce and deliver 300 million doses of safe and effective vaccines with the initial doses available by January 2021.” In an article from CNN Health, Dr. Anthony Fauci said, “A COVID-19 vaccine could be available earlier than expected.” Most scientists believe it will be completed and ready for the masses by early next year.

However, the second issue is getting everyone vaccinated.

In recent polls conducted by the AAAS, only 50% of Americans are committed to getting the vaccine. This is a startlingly low number, as it is not enough to develop herd immunity, meaning that without change, this virus will prevail even after a vaccine is introduced. This phenomenon is called “vaccine hesitancy” and is listed by WHO as one of the top ten global threats we face, as without a critical mass of the population becoming vaccinated, the virus can continue to circulate around the globe, sickening as it goes.

# Skyline Community vs SF State

By Katalina Huazano  
Times staff writer

## College comparison at a glance

As college application deadlines approach, seniors find themselves rushing to determine where to start their next path in life. This is a two-part mini series comparing three schools — a community college, state college, and university — in the Bay Area. The first two types that will be discussed are Skyline Community College and San Francisco State University.

Not only is community college an affordable route to education, it is also a forgiving option for students who may have not received adequate grades to get into the college of their choice. Students have the opportunity to earn an Associates Degree of Arts or Science in two years, which allows them to either transfer to a State or University or apply for a job that requires an Associate's Degree.

According to the Skyline College, it costs \$1,464 annually to attend; however, financial aid can lower this cost to around \$955, excluding books and supplies.

Despite the fact that Skyline doesn't have dorms, you can still

	campus life	student life	sports	clubs	drama	dance	band	wellness center	dorms	on campus jobs	cheaper tuition	AA or AS	B.A. and grad school
<b>Skyline Community College</b>	NO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NO	NO	NO	Yes	Yes	NO
<b>San Francisco State University College</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NO	Yes	Yes	Yes	NO	Yes	Yes

have a student life. Skyline has over 30 different types of clubs, and if you don't see any you're interested in, you can always create one. They offer for men's baseball, basketball, wrestling, and soccer and women's badminton, basketball, soccer, and volleyball, and they play under members of the Coast Conference. Skyline also offers various theater programs, including drama, where they perform a musical every spring, and the Spring Dance Concert gives dancers a chance to perform their own work. Sky-

line also has a music program that includes Concert Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, and Symphony Orchestra. All theater programs perform at The Performing Arts Showcase every fall, and these events are even being held virtually during quarantine.

Dean Danni Redding Lapuz of Social Sciences and Creative Arts at Skyline said, "We have world-renowned faculty who are artists and performers themselves, as well as seasoned professionals from the community who play

in our music ensembles...We have an artist-in-residence program that brings cutting-edge artists and performers to our campus to work with students and host their own creative works."

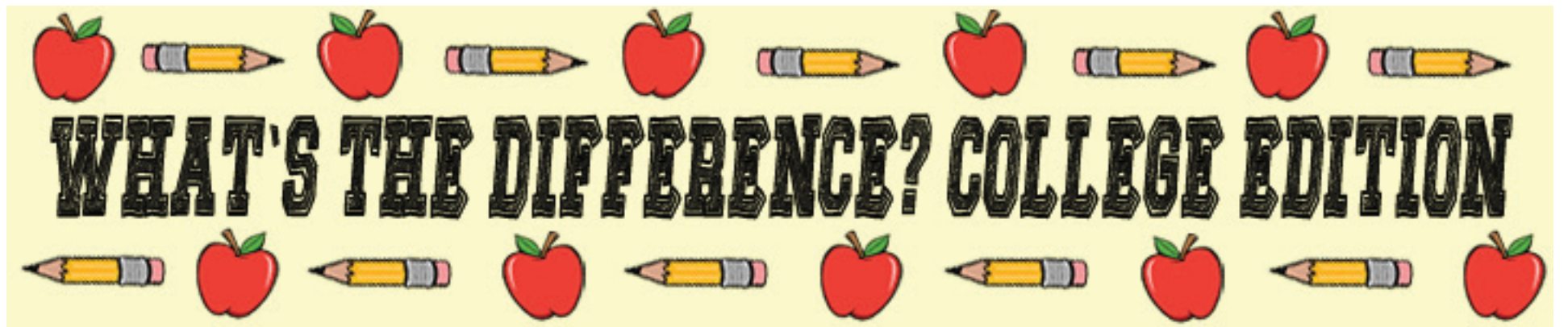
San Francisco State costs around \$26,987 annually; however, financial aid can help lower the price to around \$15,033, excluding books and supplies. SF State provides free shuttle from Daly City Bart during the spring and fall semester, and they do not require freshmen students to live on campus. They also offer housing

in on campus dorms and a total of 49 fraternities and sororities.

SF State has a 72% acceptance rate. The top three programs that they are known for are Business, Management, and Marketing, but they have 73 degree programs and over 500 courses. SF State has over 22,000 students with classes ranging from 32 to 500 students in a class. Despite the large classes, you can still stand out to professors, as SF State grad Adrianna Phillippi found. "I got to be a part of the metro grad program my freshman year which helped me to get all of the classes that I needed to get so that I could graduate on time... But with that program I also was able to get a lot of access to mentoring and advising," she said.

San Francisco State is a Division II college, offering six options for women's and five for men's sports, intramural co-ed teams, and facilities at their wellness center.

Skyline College and San Francisco State are both fantastic choices for college, but if you find yourself yearning for the college campus vibes then SF State is more suitable to fulfill this void in your college experience.



# S.F. State versus UC Berkeley

By Katalina Huazano  
Times staff writer

## College comparison at a glance

To end off the mini series discussing three Bay Area colleges, we will be looking back at San Francisco State, and comparing it to University of California Berkeley. Both schools are rich in diversity and offer a variety of different resources, programs, and curriculum.

SF state offers the METRO Program, which helps students to graduate on time, and the Dream Resource Center, which helps to pay \$7,266 in yearly tuition. It is currently the only college in America to have a College of Ethnic Studies, which is the study of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality.

Dean Amy Sueyoshi of the College of Ethnic Studies said, "Our faculty thinks of students centrally, they think of teaching as their primary purpose. Because we are ethnic studies, we are dedicated to transforming students' lives. There is activist academics — we don't see it as two separate issues, we think teaching is part of transforming the world." If activism and community involvement is important to you, then SF State is a great opportunity to fulfill this value.

Along with the sports listed in the previous segment of this college page, SF State also has an on-campus gym with a rock wall, indoor track, swimming pool, weight room, and various other equipment and facilities. If sports are not your

	campus life	Life Long Alumni Association	sports	clubs	drama	dance	band	wellness center	dorms	on campus jobs	cheaper tuition	College of Ethnic Studies	B.A. and grad school
<b>San Francisco State University</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>University of California Berkeley</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

thing, there are 200 student led organizations available to SF State's student body. Ensembles and various singing programs, dance, and drama programs are available to anyone who chooses to express themselves through performance arts.

There is no doubt that Cal Berkeley is a prestigious school, as it ranks #1 in public schools around the world. With an acceptance rate of 15%, Berkeley is home to 41,910 students. Cal Berkeley's yearly tuition costs \$36,264, if you live on campus, omitting financial aid and supplies. Berkeley has dorms; however, if you wish to live off campus, they provide resources to help you look for housing nearby, such as Cal Rentals.

UC Berkeley is a D1 school with a total of 13 men's and 15 women's sports teams. Other recreational activities include theater, arts, marching band, and 1,200 student led organizations/clubs. Their top three majors are Social Sciences, Engineering, and Biological and Biomedical Sciences. UC Berkeley also offers a variety of undergraduate research opportunities for every field to ensure their students are prepared for life after graduation. UC Berkeley alumna Morgan Borthwick said, "I was challenged academically to live for a bigger purpose in life; to think outside the box and take risks. To think about my future and who I wanted to become

when entering the 'real world.'... The professors were passionate and lived what they taught... Looking back, these were two of my favorite years."

With the competitive atmosphere and rigorous courses, UC Berkeley students benefit from building character and connections with professors and peers that last a lifetime.

SF State and UC Berkeley are both magnificent schools. However, SF State is dedicated to educating students at a much cheaper fee. Both colleges offer their own unique programs, organizations, and curriculum — each proving students with opportunities and education to last a lifetime.



# QUARANTINE ADAPTATIONS AND WOES

## MOBILE PAYMENT APPS: WHICH IS THE BEST?

By Eric Ellison  
Times staff writer

Twenty years ago, owing a friend \$10 was a pain if you did not have cash, but now it's as easy and possible due to the explosion of effective payment/wallet apps that have surfaced in the recent decade. But that's the issue — with so many reliable payment apps ready to be used, how are the people supposed to decide which one to use? Easy — read this article.

To put it simply, every app has its pros and cons — some are better for small amounts of money, some are better with different phones, some are bet-

ter for sending money to other countries, and other apps' effectiveness depends on your bank. Now you might be asking yourself, "Well, how am I supposed to know which one is the best for me?" I'm glad you asked that, because I have the answers.

Certain apps have certain strong suits, so choosing the right payment app all comes down to which fits you. The three main apps everyone is utilizing now are Paypal, Square Cash (Cash App), and Venmo. These apps are the most practical, and they are made for sending money to friends and family. Although created for similar reasons, there are unique aspects all three of these apps have to offer.

**Paypal** has the unique social ability of

money "pooling" much like GoFundMe money pooling, where you can create an open pool that people can send money to, but can be shared via social media. **Venmo's** unique trait is the social feed, which provides more of a sense of community rather than actual service. The social feed allows the user to view transaction messages between people who have sent money to you, that you've sent to them, or random transaction messages between random people in the U.S. **Square Cash** (commonly referred to as CashApp) leans more into productivity and offers extensive investing options that include stocks and Bitcoin, with a very simple and beginner-investor-friendly interface.

If you are looking to send money out

of the country, your options are limited to **Circle Pay** and **Xoom**. Circle Pay does out-of-country money transfer better than Xoom, while Xoom does a better job at allowing users to send more money in a single transaction and during a one-week period. However, Circle Pay allows you to send your money in foreign currency, which is very convenient for international money transfer. But if you need to send more than \$3,000 in a seven-day period, then you are limited to just Xoom.

The answer to the question of what is the best payment app depends on what you are looking for. But with how many reliable options there are, it is hard to make a bad choice.

## WAXING WOES

By Savannah Sky Escobar  
Times staff writer

With COVID-19, many waxing salons have been shut down, leaving many people stuck in a pickle about how to professionally remove their body hair themselves. I think it's safe to say that many teenagers have had their fair share of waxing horrors, and as a result, have gained some useful insight that would be helpful for those who are attempting to wax from home for the first time.

With the internet always at our fingertips, we tend to feel a sense of overconfidence that has now translated to at-home-hair removal during the quarantine. For example, it is important (and tricky) to

know what type of wax you want to use and a safe temperature to apply onto the skin. Especially when it comes to eyebrows. Senior Daniela Barajas said, "Once I tried waxing my eyebrows and the wax was too hot, so it burned a part of it off... it left a scar." Eyebrows for decades have been a popular facial feature to manage since they frame your entire face, and even the slightest difference will be noticeable, which can be stressful for many teenagers who are looking to clean them up, but don't want to put their appearance at risk.

Junior Alyssa Escobar said, "I use an eyebrow pencil or any makeup pencil, and line on the bottom and top where I want to pluck or shave (with a facial razor) and make sure not to go over that

line because that's how you mess it all up. But don't over pluck because over plucking it could mean it won't grow back." Other people have avoided any waxing issues completely by removing their eyebrows entirely. Senior Claire Schaffer said, "The pros of shaving off my eyebrows is I don't have to worry about maintaining them. The cons of shaving off my eyebrows is nothing."

But of course, experienced young women can only leave you with so much reliable knowledge, so advice from a professional esthetician will provide the best answers for your hair removal woes.

Writer Stephanie Capretta interviewed esthetician and owner of Westlake Skin Spa Jamie Greib-Spragg for Dermastore about exclusive tips on how to "Wax

at Home Like a Pro." Spragg mainly stressed the importance of cleansing and exfoliating before you wax. "Prepping the skin first is crucial to avoiding ingrown hairs," said Spragg. "Apply a warm microfiber towel specifically on the area to be treated right before you wax it... Microfiber towels pick up all traces of dirt, oil, and debris." She also made it a point to stress the importance of aftercare as well. "Aftercare is just as important since it will be very sensitive after waxing," she stressed. "Keep the waxed areas clean as possible for a few hours."

Given the risk of burning yourself with wax that is too hot or causing a rash from using a poor-quality wax, it might be best to wait out the pandemic for now.

## FAMILY STRUGGLES

By Gina Lee  
Times staff writer

Ever since quarantine has begun, many people are struggling to cope with suddenly being cut off from family and friends. The paranoia of losing someone you love to COVID-19 has been on many people's minds, and isolation makes it all the worse.

Studies have shown that people suffer greatly from the lack of communication, and it takes a toll on their mental health. In a recent study published in the August issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Betty Pfefferbaum and Dr.

Carol S. North stated, "A recent review of psychological sequelae in samples of quarantined people...revealed numerous emotional outcomes, including stress, depression, irritability, insomnia, fear, confusion, anger, frustration, boredom, and stigma associated with quarantine."

Between distance learning in schools and the decrease of social interaction, it makes sense that so many teens are feeling unheard and depressed. Many teens are forced to not only focus on the threat of losing a family member, but also school, friends, and their own well-being.

Many students worry about their elderly relatives due to how susceptible

they are to the virus. Terra Nova Class of 2020 graduate Shane Lee said, "I miss my grandparents, and they're so old, so I'm worried because I'm not sure how much time I have left with them."

Plenty of people are trying to cope with unfortunate losses and because of the social distancing, they are unable to spend as much time with loved ones as they would like to. As Justin Tsnag (12) puts it, "I do have a lack of motivation since I can't see my friends and family...One of my closest family members passed in the time of quarantine, but not because of the virus. So that hurt a lot since I couldn't see him before quarantine."

Quarantine has also blocked students from seeing family members that live overseas. Amanda Calimlin (10) said, "My family and I cancelled a trip to the Philippines to see my cousin get married because of the pandemic. We were really upset because it's been a bit since we've gone there...they're wondering when the pandemic will end because it's gone on for too long."

With a continuous stream of coronavirus cases, it seems that it will be a while before quarantine (and the virus) is over. Until then, everyone needs to take care of themselves, prioritize their mental health, and make sure to maintain virtual contact with their loved ones.