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PROOF OF PUBLICATION

the TIMES OF WAYNE COUNTY, INC., a weekly newspaper published in the Town of Macedon, State and County aforesaid: does duly state that the notice hereto annexed was published in said newspaper 4 consecutive issues dated _02/05/2023 date of the last publication in which the notice appeared is _02/26/2023 and there being in 4 publications

CHRISTINE HOLDRAKER,

Representing the TIMES OF WAYNE COUNTY

Notary Signature

AIMEE K. PHILLIPS

NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF NEW YORK

No. 01PH6233122

Qualified in Wayne County

My Commission Expires 12-27-2026

Obituaries

Hopper, Helen (Mehlenbacher)

FARMINGTON: Helen Hopper passed away at her home on Wednesday, February 1, at the age

of 86. Predeceased husband, Harold Hopper; son, Justian Rugg; and granddaughters, Stephanie Miller and Andrea Rugg. She is survived by



(Elwood) Balliet, Ray Rugg, Jr., Miles (Donna) Rugg, Keith (Maria) Rugg, Lennie (Donna Taylor) Rugg, Regina (Sam Oswald) Rugg, Kittie Palmer, Nettie (Scott Grant) Rugg; her extended children, Marie (Pete Crespo) Stivers, Patty Artley, David Daggett, Billy Williams; grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; many friends and family and her baby, Princess the chihuahua.

Helen was born on August 10, 1936, in Nunda, NY. She married Raymond Rugg on December 11,1954 and had their nine children. Despite having only a high school education, she pursued various jobs as a waitress, staff at Dunkin Donuts, and a nurse's aide. She was part of the Farmington fire department and Ladies' Auxiliary for over 40

She married Harold Hopper on September 1, 1973. While raising her children, she took in many others, sharing her love with whoever needed it. She valued family above all else and was at her happiest when spending time with loved ones, whether it was bringing day old donuts home from Dunkin when her kids were young, or the many lunches, weekly dinners, summer reunions, and Christmas parties that have happened over the years as her family grew. Helen loved country and gospel music, and the family spent many days singing songs together. Helen had a big heart that was captured through her faith and her unwavering commitment to welcome and love new members of the family, friends, and pets.

Family and friends are invited to gather for a time of visitation on Monday, February 6, 2023, at the Murphy Funeral & Cremation Chapels, 1040 State

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\$37,206

\$34,300

\$33,871

\$42,978-48,692*

\$55,750-67,663*

\$53,196

\$58,071

\$41,870

\$64,681

Salary*

Salary*

Route 31, Macedon, N.Y. 14502 from 4-7pm

Funeral service will be held at Willowbrook Christian Church at 619 High Street, Victor, NY 14564, on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 11AM.

Interment will follow immediately after at the Oakwood Cemetery at 1975 Baird Road, Penfield, NY.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to any of the following:

Ontario Yates County Hospice Care, Farmington Fire Department, or Lollipop Farm in Helen's name.

The family is extremely grateful for the expertise and care of the Ontario Yates hospice team.

Dorn, Earl

FLATWOODS, KENTUCKY: February 1, 2023, age 77. Previously of The Villages, Florida.

Beloved father of Gail P. (Jason) Jette of Troy, New York,

Aaron M. (Rosie) Dorn of Flatwoods, Kentucky, and the late Kathryn M. Dorn. Predeceased by his wife, Shirley A. (Schreiner) Dearest brother of



David L. (late Vir-

ginia) Dorn, of Williamson, New York, and Marcia D. (Robert) Hillegeer, of Sodus Point, New York. Loving friend of Kathleen M. Shaffer of The Villages, Florida. Earl is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Earl was born in Rochester, New York, to the late F. Leslie "Doc" and Jane (Weeks) Dorn. He grew up in Williamson, New York, where he enjoyed fishing, hunting, and hiking.

He attended college in Pennsylvania and became a gunsmith. He returned to Williamson and opened the Apple Town Gun Shop, which he owned for over 20 years. Earl also worked as a professional woodworker and later retired from Xerox, where he worked as a machinist.

Earl was an avid fisherman. He was an inaugural member of an annual fishing trip to Black Lake, New York, with family and friends that continues after 35 years!

Earl's talents were only outshown by his kindness and caring for others. He was everyone's friend for life and he will be missed by all.

Memorial services will be conducted in New York and Florida so many of his family and friends can gather to share memories at a later date. Malone Funeral Home in Grayson, KY is in charge of arrangements. To share a memory or a condolence to the family, please visit www.malonefuneralhome.

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Are vitamins worth taking?

It's very important to talk with your doctor before you take any vitamin and mineral pills, especially if you take prescription medicines, have any health problems or are elderly. Taking too much of a vitamin or mineral can cause problems with some medical tests or interfere with drugs you're

Vitamins and minerals are "micronutrients" your body needs in small but steady amounts. Your body can't make most micronutrients, so you must get them elsewhere.

Vitamins are natural substances found in plants and animals. There are two types of vitamins: water-soluble

and fat-soluble.

Water-soluble vitamins are easily absorbed by your body. Unlike fatsoluble vitamins, they don't have to be absorbed using bile acids (fluids used to digest fats). Your body doesn't store large amounts of water-soluble vitamins. The water-soluble vitamins you don't need are removed by your kidneys and come out in your urine

Your body has to use bile acids to absorb fat-soluble vitamins. Once these vitamins are absorbed, your body stores them in body fat. When you need them, your body takes them out of storage to be used.

Here are some water-soluble vitamins: Vitamin C, biotin and the seven B vitamins — thiamin (B-1), riboflavin (B-2), niacin (B-3), pantothenic acid (B-5), pyridoxine (B-6), folic acid (B-9) and cobalamin (B-12). Here are some fat-soluble vitamins: A, D, E or

Minerals come from the earth or from water. Plants and animals absorb them to get nutrients. The "major minerals" are calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, sodium, potassium, sulfur and chloride. They are considered major minerals because adults need them in large amounts.

The "trace minerals" are chromium,

By Fred Cicetti

copper, fluoride, iodine, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium and zinc. Your body needs them in smaller

It would be hard to "overdose" on vitamins or minerals that you get from the foods you eat. But if you take supplements, you can easily take too much. This is even more of a risk if you take fat-soluble vitamins.

Whole foods are your best sources of vitamins and minerals. They offer three main benefits over supplements;

1. They contain a variety of the micronutrients your body needs. An orange, for example, provides vitamin C but also beta carotene, calcium and other nutrients. A vitamin C supplement lacks these other micronutrients.

2. They provide dietary fiber, which is important for digestion and can help prevent certain diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. Adequate fiber intake can also help prevent con-

3. They contain other substances such as antioxidants which slow down the natural process that leads to cell and tissue damage.

If you depend on supplements rather than eating a variety of whole foods, you miss the potential benefits of these substances.

For some people, including those on restrictive diets, multivitamin-mineral supplements can provide vitamins and minerals that their diets often don't. Older people and pregnant women have altered nutrient needs and may

by Matilda Charles

There are several "brain support" online programs out there, but many cost more than we'd like to pay.

Lumosity (lumosity.com) comes in seven languages and has games that promote memory, attention, flexibility, problem-solving and more. After you sign up, you'll get three free games per day, and the Brain Performance Index monitors your progress. There is a subscription plan, of course, if you want access to more areas of the site, and you can pay by the month or the year. Test the free version first to see if you

BrainHQ (brainhq.com) is another cognitive training program that you can access online. Their exercises explore brain speed, memory, attention and more. And you can design your own program. Their goals are to help you think faster, focus better and remember more. You can try it out by subscribing to their email newsletters, which have free daily exercises to sample.

Ways to Train Your Brain

As for me, I've found books that don't cost much and are good at putting my brain through its paces on a daily basis. The New York Times series of puzzle books begins with the Monday editions, which are the easiest of the week. (The crossword puzzles get increasingly difficult as the week progresses.) I found the whole series of spiral-bound puzzle books (50 to a book) on Amazon.

Then there are the online jigsaw puzzles at TheJigsawPuzzles.com. The puzzles (a new one every day) can be set in any number of ways, including the number of pieces in a puzzle. I've found that the 100-pieces level is plenty challenging when viewed on a computer monitor.

And then there is online chess, for those of us who used to play back in the day but would be embarrassed to lose to a small child now without serious brushing up of our skills. Try this for free at www.chess.com and play against their computer.

Join us for lunch at Club 60 Centers

The Department of Aging and Youth Lunch Club 60 senior centers are located in Sodus, Ontario, Clyde, Palmyra, and Newark. The lunch club locations are offering dine-in only.

Please contact a Center manager between 9:30-11:30 am to reserve your meal. Please call the day prior for the meal you want.

Our agency is available to answer any questions. Call us at 315-946-5624.

Listed below is the contact information for our Lunch Club 60 centers.

Sodus – Melissa Martinez 315-729-

Ontario – Ella Cobb 315-524-3034 Clyde - Brenda Smith 315-359-



Steaks and Snack Sticks 7030 BAUER-VANWICKLE ROAD, NEWARK Palmyra – Sharon Morano 315-597-

4015 Newark - Rebecca (Becky) Jandreau 315-331-8755

January 30: Cheesy Ham & Rice Casserole, Creamed Spinach & Or-

January 31: Chicken Teriyaki, Brussels Sprouts, Roasted Potatoes, & Spicy Peach Whip

February 1: Chili, Broccoli & Cauli-

flower Mix, & Fruit Cocktail February 2: Smothered Chicken w/

Sauce, Corn, Mashed Potatoes, & Caramel Pear Crumble February 3: Fish Morney w/ Mor-

ney Sauce, Scandinavian Mixed Vegetables, Brown Rice, & Cranberry Fruit

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NEW YORK STATE GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION (NYSEG) Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program

On January 27, 2023, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation filed tariff amendments, to become effective on a temporary basis February 1, 2023, with the New York State Public Service Commission to implement the Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program in compliance with the Order Authorizing Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program issued in Case Nos. 14-M-0565 and 20-M-0266. Under the Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program, residential customers and small-commercial customers that had arrears as of May 1, 2022, may be eligible for a one-time bill credit. The costs for this program will be recovered through the existing Arrears Relief Program Surcharge.

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Offbeat News

Man arrested after attacks on LA-area drivers' vehicles

LOS ANGELES (AP) A man suspected of being the Tesla driver seen in viral videos attacking Los Angeles-area motorists' vehicles with a pipe was arrested over the weekend, the California Highway Patrol said Monday.

Nathaniel Walter Radimak, 36, was arrested Sunday by major crimes unit officers in connection with assaults he is believed to have committed on Jan. 11 while driving a Tesla Model X on State Route 2, the CHP said.

"The assaults were captured on a dashcam video and several leads were provided to our department by the public which led to the arrest," the CHP said.

The video showed that the Tesla did not have a rear license plate.

Other drivers came forward with accounts of attacks after video of the Jan. 11 attacks aired.

Radimak was booked into a Los Angeles Police Department jail for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon and on two unspecified outstanding warrants.

Initial bail was listed at \$5.175 million, according to the CHP.

It was not immediately known whether Radimak has a lawyer to comment on his behalf.

Driver in California cliff crash that injured 4 is charged

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP) The driver of a car that plunged off a treacherous cliff in northern California, seriously injuring himself, his wife and their two young children, was charged Monday with attempted murder.

Dharmesh A. Patel, 41, also faces enhancements for great bodily injury and domestic violence in the Jan. 2 crash, San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said in a statement.

Witness statements from family and motorists, and video footage from the

nearby Tom Lantos tunnels provided enough evidence to charge the father of two, Wagstaffe told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Patel's wife, who remains hospitalized, was "screaming" about her husband's "intertionality" to prove the description of the state of the st

Patel's wife, who remains hospitalized, was "screaming" about her husband's "intentionality" to paramedics after they rappelled down the 250-foot (76-meter) cliff to rescue the family, Wagstaffe said. He declined to share what she said.

"We do believe the evidence establishes the necessary intent to kill," Wag-staffe told the newspaper.

Patel's attorney, Josh Bentley, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Patel was scheduled to be arraigned Monday but Bentley asked for a delay until Feb. 9, which the judge granted. The judge also granted the prosecution's request for no bail and ordered that Patel stay away from his family.

Patel, a radiologist at a Southern California hospital, was seriously injured and taken to a hospital after the car went over the 250-foot (76-meter) cliff at Devil's Slide, an area along the Pacific Coast Highway about 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of San Francisco that is known for deadly wrecks. On Friday, he was moved to jail.

Rescuers initially hailed the family's survival as a miracle. Firefighters had to cut open the Tesla Model Y to extract the family, including Patel's 41-year-old wife, 7-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son. Patel was later arrested after California Highway Patrol investigators "developed probable cause to believe this incident was an intentional act," the agency said.

Wagstaffe said his office was still trying to determine why Patel drove off the cliff. Patel has not spoken to investigators since the Jan. 2 crash, Wagstaffe said.

"We're looking into what led up to this. Was there depression or anything else?" Wagstaffe said. "It wasn't just that he was trying to kill them, he was trying to kill himself too."

Fully clothed bathing burglar found in Seattle bathroom

SEATTLE (AP) A man suspected of breaking into a Seattle home has refused to come clean about his intentions, even though police found him fully clothed in a bathtub filled with water.

A woman returned to her home Friday night to find a window smashed and an unknown man inside the house, according to the Seattle Police Department.

She remained outside the home and called police. Upon their arrival, officers instructed anyone inside to come out. When they got no reply, they went in to search the home _ and found a suspect in a bathroom.

"The man was clothed but very wet, and the bathtub was full of water," police said in a statement. The 27-year-old man was arrested for residential burglary and refused to explain his actions, including his choice of a bathing spot, police said.

Daughter charged after mom's body found in Chicago freezer

CHICAGO (AP) A Chicago woman has been accused of keeping her mother's dead body in a freezer for nearly two years while living in a nearby apartment. Eva Bratcher, 69, appeared in court Thursday on charges of concealing her 96-year-old mother's death and possessing a fraudulent identification card.

Regina Michalski's body was discovered this week in a freezer in the garage near the apartment they had shared, police said. Investigators believe she died in March 2021. The cause won't be determined until the body is thawed.

The allegations are "very disturbing," Judge David Kelly said in setting a \$20,000 bond for Bratcher. Kelly turned down a defense lawyer's request for a lower bond to get Bratcher out of jail. She has past convictions for forgery, and investigators said they were trying to determine if Bratcher was collecting her late mother's Social Security benefits, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Bratcher's daughter, who lives in Kentucky, asked police to check the home after losing contact with her grandmother.

"What could go wrong? Apparently, everything," Sabrina Watson said.

California bicyclist struck by car and then stabbed to death

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP) A driver was arrested for allegedly running into a bicyclist and then fatally stabbing him on a Southern California roadway, authorities said. Vanroy Evan Smith, 39, of Long Beach was taken into custody Wednesday on suspicion of murder for the attack Wednesday in Dana Point.

He remained jailed without bail on Thursday. It wasn't immediately clear whether he had an attorney to speak on his behalf.

Michael John Mammone, 58, was in a bike lane on the Pacific Coast Highway at around 3 p.m. when he was struck from behind by a Lexus sedan in an intersection, according to the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

The collision "launched him into the intersection," sheriff's Sgt. Mike Woodroof told KNBC-TV. "At that point, the suspect drove around the victim, exited his vehicle, went back to the victim and continued to assault the victim."

The driver stabbed Mammone, who was pronounced dead at a hospital, a Sheriff's Department statement said Thursday. Bystanders held Smith for sheriff's deputies. He was arrested and a knife was seized, authorities said.

Smith didn't have any known connection to Mammone and investigators were still trying to determine a motive for the killing, authorities said.

Mammone was an emergency room doctor at Providence Mission Hospital in Laguna Beach.

His death is a "stunning tragedy," the hospital said in a statement Thursday.

"The entire Mission Hospital family is grieving over the loss of an incredible physician and friend," the statement read.

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NEW YORK STATE GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION (NYSEG)

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Ittbeat News

Louisiana man allegedly cuts tails off live rodents in videos

FRANKLIN, La. (AP) _ Nutria _ the large, semi-aquatic rodents native to South America _ have become so invasive in Louisiana that the state wants them shot on sight, offering a \$6 bounty for their tails. But the culling has to be done correctly, and animal abuse is a crime.

A Louisiana man has been arrested for allegedly cutting the tails off live nutria and then releasing the injured animals back into the wild. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries said in a news release that agents were told Monday about videos showing the abuse on social media.

They show the 45-year-old man from Patterson using a hook to catch a nutria and then severing the rodent's tail before letting it go. Agents found multiple similar videos, including images where the man taught a minor how to remove the tail while keeping the nutria alive, the department said. It's unclear why the man didn't kill the nutria, which cause widespread marsh damage on Louisiana's coast, The Advocate reported. The animals must be shot, not gaffed or speared. Using pitchforks, bows and arrows, and similar weapons also is not allowed.

The man was arrested the next day on charges of aggravated animal cruelty, illegal hunting and contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. He was fined \$50, for failing to provide the juvenile with a personal flotation device while on his boat. Agents seized his Nutria Control Program permit and cell phone as part of the investigation. Penalties for cruelty to animals include a fine of \$5,000 to \$25,000 and up to 10 years in jail. Contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile carries a fine of up \$1,000 and six months in jail. The illegal hunting charge could add another \$950 fine and 120 days in jail.

Driver arrested after crash through fence at Texas Capitol

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) _ A driver has been arrested after an SUV crashed through a fence at the Texas State Capitol, authorities said.

Troopers saw the vehicle drive through the southwestern portion of the fence about 6:40 p.m. Thursday in Austin, according to a statement from Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Victor Taylor. The vehicle was then driven up the south steps of the building before it stopped, Taylor said. "The driver/sole occupant is in custody. There are no additional known threats at this time," according to a DPS memo obtained by the Austin-American Statesman.

"The scene is secure and safe for normal activity," the memo stated.

Taylor said the investigation was ongoing and unspecified charges were pending against the driver. The driver was not identified and no other information was immediately released.

'Finch-smuggling kingpin' gets prison time in New York

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

A man repeatedly caught trying to smuggle finches from Guyana into New York for birdsong competitions was sentenced Thursday to a year and a day in prison. It was Insaf Ali's second time being sentenced in a Brooklyn federal court for a crime related to bird trafficking, and he vowed it would be his last.

"I'm going to stay away from the birds," Ali pledged in a video he submitted to the court, "because it's trouble."

Ali, 62, pleaded guilty last summer to conspiring to import wildlife illegally. He was stopped at John F. Kennedy Airport in January 2022 with two packs of hair curlers that smugglers use to slip the small birds past customs officials.

He was previously arrested in 2018 carrying finch-stuffed hair curlers in his socks at JFK, authorities said. In that case, he pleaded guilty to smuggling and was sentenced to two years' probation and a \$7,800 fine.

Songbird competitions have been a pastime in the Caribbean for centuries. Aficionados judge the animals on such factors as how many times they chirp or sing. But with the birds sometimes fetching thousands of dollars, the contests have fed wildlife trafficking that authorities in Latin America and the U.S. have tried to combat. Stuffed into curlers and concealed to evade detection, finches sometimes die as they're flown to the U.S., and U.S. Customs and Border Protection worries that such smuggling could spread bird diseases.

Prosecutors argued in a Jan. 31 memo that Ali deserved "significant" prison

time, calling him "one of New York's finch-smuggling kingpins."

His lawyer, Christine Delince, asked for leniency. She said in a Jan. 26 memo that Ali is "incredibly remorseful" for a crime fueled by a love of seed finches that dates to his childhood in Guyana and has given him solace through many personal difficulties. "His actions were not just about money," she wrote, saying the birds "are a part of him and a part of his culture."

Monterey's missing statue of 'Dennis the Menace' found in lake

A statue of the comic strip character that was stolen from a park in Monterey, California, last summer was found submerged in a nearby lake.

"Today is a happy day!" Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto said Wednesday at a press conference where the statue was wheeled in on a handcart.

The sheriff's dive team found the 3-foot-tall (1 meter) statue in Roberts Lake after Monterey city police received an anonymous tip about its location.

Dennis the Menace has a big but oddly troubled local connection. His creator, Hank Ketcham, was a longtime resident of Monterey County and died there in 2001. The park's original statue was stolen in 2006 and hasn't been found. Its replacement was stolen in August 2022 by someone who cut through its foot to remove it. In the years between the two thefts a Dennis the Menace statue was found in a Florida scrap yard and was sent to Monterey, where officials determined it was not the right one, KSBW reported. It had actually been taken from a Florida children's hospital. The hospital allowed Monterey to keep that statue, which is now in front of a city parks building.

Nieto said it's believed the statue found in the lake is the most recently stolen Dennis the Menace because its foot is damaged.

"We're giving you back Dennis," Nieto told Monterey Assistant Chief Mike Bruno. "Don't let him get stolen again."

Debit card left during Florida robbery leads to arrest

R PALM COAST, Fla. (AP) _ Crime might not pay, but authorities say a crimi-

Authorities arrested a Florida man who they said broke into a convenience

store and took a few items, although he left his debit card behind. In a video Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly posted to Facebook, the suspect told deputies he left his debit card so he "could come back later and pay" for the items he took. "I didn't want to steal anything, you know, that's against the law,"

he said in the video. Deputies responded to an alarm at a closed Palm Coast gas station in the early morning of Feb. 5, according to the Facebook post. The store owner showed deputies surveillance video, and they also located a

debit card with the suspect's name on it on the counter near the register, the sheriff said. The deputies actually recognized the man in the video from a vehicle fire near the gas station earlier that night. "He must have really wanted those items to break into a closed convenience

store to get them," Staly said. "Leaving a debit card behind does not absolve you

from theft or committing a burglary." Deputies said they tracked the man down to return the debit card _ and arrest him for burglary and theft.

WayneTimes.com February 26, 2023 **Page C9**

More restaurants are trying monthly subscriptions

Consumers are willing to pay monthly subscription fees for streaming services, pet food and even toilet paper. And now some restaurants are betting they'll do the same for their favorite meals.

Large chains like Panera and P.F. Chang's as well as neighborhood hangouts are increasingly experimenting with the subscription model as a way to ensure steady revenue and customer visits. Some offer unlimited drinks or free delivery for a monthly fee; others will bring out your favorite appetizer each time you visit.

They're following a trend: The average American juggled 6.7 subscriptions in 2022, up from 4.2 in 2019, according to Rocket Money, a personal finance app.

"This is just another way for customers to provide a level of support and joy and love for our offerings," said Matt Baker, the chef at Gravitas, a Michelinstarred restaurant in Washington.

For \$130 per month, Gravitas Supper Club subscribers get a three-course takeout meal for two. Baker said Gravitas shifted to takeout during the pandemic but saw demand fizzle once its dining room reopened. The Supper Club _ which serves about 60 diners per month _ keeps that revenue flow-

The upscale Chinese chain P.F. Chang's also saw an opportunity to increase to-go orders with its subscription plan, which launched in September. For \$6.99 per month, members get free delivery, among other perks.

Other restaurants are experimenting with memberships, which let diners pre-pay toward their visits.

El Lopo, a San Francisco bar, has 26 members in its Take-Care-Of-Me Club. They pay either \$89 per month for \$100 in dining credits or \$175 per month for \$200 in credits. When members come in, El Lopo starts bringing out their favorite dishes. Each visit, they can gift a free drink to anyone in

El Lopo owner Daniel Azarkman started the club in March 2021 to encourage patrons to return as the pandemic eased. Now, he's hearing from restaurants all over the country who are interested in starting similar programs.

"What it really achieves is getting them in more often," he said.

Rick Camac, executive director of Industry Relations at the Institute of Culinary Education, said he expects many more restaurants to offer subscriptions in the coming years. Consumers are accustomed to them, he said, and the regular monthly income helps restaurants manage their cash

But not all subscription programs have had success. In 2021, On the Border Mexican Grill introduced its Oueso Club, which offered free cheese dip for a year for \$1. The program stopped taking new subscribers a year later.

Edithann Ramey, On the Border's chief marketing officer, said more than 150,000 people signed up for the Queso Club, and members visited seven times more often than the average guest. But the Dallas-based chain wasn't making enough to cover the cost of the dip.

On the Border is now retooling the program and expects to reintroduce it later this year. It may charge more or move to a monthly model, Ramey said, but the subscription element will re-

"It's becoming kind of a hot trend and we want to stay as a leading brand," Ramey said.

Taco Bell is also tinkering with its \$10 Taco Lover's Pass, which lets subscribers get a taco every day for a month. The pass was introduced in January 2022 and again in October; it generated buzz, but the chain is trying to think of ways to make it more valuable to consumers, said Dane Matthews, Taco Bell's Chief Digital Officer. A subscription could promise faster service, for example, or unlock unique menu items.

Other restaurants have dropped subscriptions, saying they have their hands full just running the kitchen.

In late 2020, SheWolf, an upscale Italian restaurant in Detroit, started

sending subscribers a box of pasta, sauces and other treats for \$80 per month. But when its dining room fully reopened six months later, it was too much work to put together hundreds of

Still, SheWolf is keeping one foot in the subscription space. Dan Reinisch, the restaurant's beverage director, sends Italian wines to about 80 subscribers who pay \$60 or more each

Other businesses have had better luck. St. Louis-based Panera had nearly 40 million members in its loyalty program in early 2020, but it wanted to convince them to drop in more often. So it launched a subscription program that offered unlimited coffee and tea for \$8.99 per month. Customers started coming in several times a week, and about one-third of the time they bought

Last year, Panera expanded the subscription. Now, members can pay \$11.99 per month or \$119.99 per year for unlimited hot and cold drinks. Annual subscribers also get free delivery.

Eduardo Luz, Panera's chief brand officer, won't share exact numbers but he said members now make up 25% of the chain's transactions.

"It's a huge traffic driver," Luz said. The idea quickly spread overseas. Pret A Manger, a sandwich chain owned by the same private company as Panera, launched its own coffee subscription in the U.K. in 2020. As of November, it was being used 1.2 million times per week. Pret also offers subscriptions in France and the U.S.

Chris Hosford, a communications consultant in southern California, joined Panera's subscription plan a year ago. He passes four or five Paneras on his regular routes and often stops to grab a coffee and a bite to eat.

"It's not a huge amount of savings for me _ probably \$5-10 in the average month," Hosford said. "But I'm good with that.'

> By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Remote Work During the Pandemic Shifted **Daytime Population of Cities**

The daytime population of traditional U.S. job centers plummeted in 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic hit and lockdowns and social distancing pushed more people to work from

This shift to remote work in large

segments of the workforce impacted significantly commuting and consumer spending at restaurants, retail outlets and the demand

sented during a recent webinar hosted by the U.S. Census Bureau's Local Employment Dynamics (LED).

The research used the Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) commuting data, coupled with statistics from other federal government agencies and outside organizations.

During the session that explored the impact of remote work on daytime populations in job centers, Chris Worley, a consultant with Fourth Economy Consulting, presented research showing some of these population shifts may be here to stay.

Why Spatial Shift Happens

He cited the uptick in remote work as the key reason for the shift in daytime population.

Research on paid job postings from LinkedIn revealed remote work shot up 457% from 2020 to 2021. Information and professional, scientific and technical services were among the industries most affected by the switch while retail trade, manufacturing, and accommodations and food services were least eligible for remote work.

The traditional 9-to-5 workday may have become a thing of the past. Surveys show workers expect workplace adaptations to stick, because flexible schedules and reduced commute times outweigh challenges of isolation and longer hours. According to research, employees value flexibility and believe a hybrid model is ideal.

Commuting shifts also affected where people spent their money. Fewer workers meant fewer shoppers and diners for small businesses in job hubs.

For example, workers were no longer stopping at local coffee shops for their daily lattes, dropping off their dry cleaning or gathering at their favorite lunch spots. Places with many daytime jobs but fewer residents were the most

impacted by the move to remote work. Even sales of work apparel, no longer needed when working from home,

'The sales of dress shoes in 2020 were down from the 2019 levels," Worley said. "You don't really wear them around the house. They're meant to be seen by other people.'

This was also reflected in a drop in

information by industry. It is most reflective of conditions associated with the first two years of the pandemic.

The three-county region's daytime population fell by 5,800 because of fewer inbound commuters.

Free tools used for Worley's analy-

sis include the Census Bureau's OnTheMap and other free software, including Tableau Public for mapping. The primary data come from OnTheMap's

<u>Is Remote Work Here to Stay?</u> Industries are segueing into new business models, such as virtual workspaces, to remain relevant. The shift to the new normal of remote work has farreaching implications across a variety

For example, recent results from the American Community Survey (ACS) show that public transportation's share of total commuting fell from 5% in 2019 to 2.5% in 2021 — the lowest percentage of workers commuting by public transportation that has ever been recorded by the ACS.

Surveys have also shown that more Americans are considering relocating to more affordable or convenient U.S. cities or regions amid growing acceptance of remote work.

By Earlene K.P. Dowell

New York State Department of Labor finalizes farm worker overtime regulations

The New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) announced the adoption of the final farm labor overtime regulations, codifying Commissioner Reardon's order that accepted the Farm Laborers Wage Board's report and recommendations in Sep-

The phased-in, gradual reduction in the overtime pay threshold will begin on January 1, 2024, with the threshold set at 56 hours. The process will continue with the overtime threshold limit reducing by 4 hours every other year until reaching 40 hours in 2032. "These new regulations ensure equity for farm workers, who are the very backbone of our agriculture sector," said New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon.

"By implementing a gradual transition, we are giving farmers time to make the appropriate adjustments. These new regulations advance New York State's continued commitment to workers while protecting our farms."

Beginning in 2020, the Farm Laborers Wage Board held public hearings to gather testimony from farm owners, workers, advocacy groups, and academic researchers. Recordings of these hearings and additional materials are available on the NYS-DOL's webpage.

In her State of the State Address, Governor Hochul announced a series of new initiatives designed to bolster demand for New York State foods, increase the purchasing of local farm products, and encourage investments to modernize New York's farms.

The Governor and the New York State Legislature also recently enacted new tax credits to assist farm employers to ease the implementation of the lower overtime standard.

The Investment Tax Credit was increased from 4 percent to 20 percent for farm businesses, providing an encouragement for potential automation of farm production.

The Farm Workforce Retention Tax Credit was increased to \$1,200 per employee to provide near-term relief to farmers. A refundable tax credit was established for overtime hours paid by farm employers at the level established by the new regulation up to 60 hours.

For more information about the new regulations, visit the Farm Laborers Wage Board webpage: NYS-DOL@info.labor.ny.gov.

Assemblyman Brain manktelow stated: "Once again, Albany entrenched bureaucrats have demonstrated that they lack knowledge of where their food comes from and how it gets from farm to table. It seems that at every turn they have tried punishing our local farmers in the name of "equity", yet do not realize the damage that they will cause. The Farm Labor Wage Board held public hearings in an attempt to legitimize their predetermined decision to lower the overtime threshold from 60 hours to 40, despite the overwhelming support from farm owners and farm workers to maintain the current threshold. This will do nothing more than ensure that local farms will shutter their doors, and the cost of food will increase even more."

Commuting shifts also affected where people spent their money. Fewer workers meant fewer shoppers and for commercial real estate, diners for small businesses in job hubs. come from Online wap s Home and Work Area Pro-

sales, value of shipments or revenue of footwear manufacturing, according to the Annual Survey of Manufactures: from \$1.8 billion in 2019 to \$1.5 billion in 2020, the first year of the pandemic. The numbers bounced back in 2021 but not up to pre-pandem-

The shift to remote work also pushed down demand for office space. On the upside: fewer commuters on the road reduced carbon emission and resulted in some of the cleanest air cities had seen in years, according to research.

Pairing Data Sources for Answers

By pairing Bureau of Labor Statistics survey on the ability to work remotely by industry and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) commuting data, Worley's research revealed a shift in daytime population from traditional urban job centers to suburban and rural

He noted, for example, that remote work in the Lansing, Michigan, region clearly drove a shift from the urban core to suburban and rural areas.

This region's economy is based primarily on education, health, manufacturing, and emerging finance and tech sectors. Major employers in the Michigan's capital include Michigan State University (East Lansing), state government and a regional health system. Worley's research used pre-pandem-

ic data for home and work locations of workers to estimate the change in daytime population based on remote work

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NEW YORK STATE GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION (NYSEG)

Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program

On January 27, 2023, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation filed tariff amendments, to become effective on a temporary basis February 1, 2023, with the New York State Public Service Commission to implement the Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program in compliance with the Order Authorizing Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program issued in Case Nos. 14-M-0565 and 20-M-0266. Under the Phase 2 Arrears Reduction Program, residential customers and small-commercial customers that had arrears as of May 1, 2022, may be eligible for a one-time bill credit. The costs for this program will be recovered through the

existing Arrears Relief Program Surcharge.