

Nancy Rivera of Silver Creek High School participates in First Tee - Silicon Valley **SEE PAGE 4**



**Staying afloat**  
San José Mayor, councilmembers propose drought resilience solutions  
— SEE PAGE 14

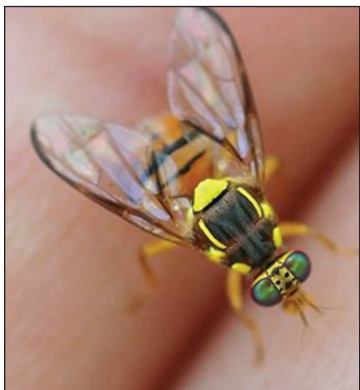
San Jose building height limits come with price tag  
**SEE PAGE 13**



OCT. 22 – NOV. 4, 2021 ■ VOL. 38, NO. 22

# EvergreenTimes

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## Evergreen Valley quarantined after invasive oriental fruit flies discovered

Areas of San Jose are under quarantine for the oriental fruit fly, including Evergreen Valley.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is urging residents in the area to consume or process homegrown fruit and vegetables on site or to take extra care in disposing of them.

Six of the flies were found in an area near the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, prompting the quarantine that covers a zone of

See FRUIT FLY, page 7



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## Actress Tonia Maclean of Evergreen directs new music video for Save Our Shores featuring talented local artists

By William D. Bellou  
Publisher

Actress Tonia Maclean, a resident of Evergreen Valley, recently directed a music video for Save Our Shores which featured talented local artists and volunteers.

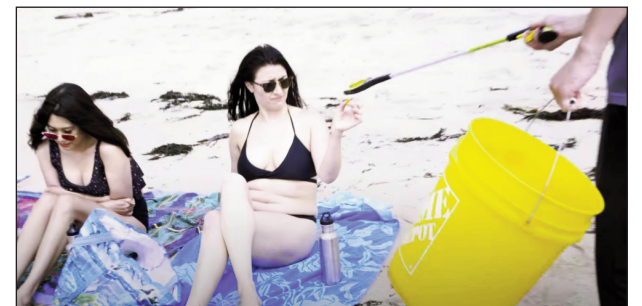
The music video, Butts Up, emphasizes the need to keep our beaches free of cigarette butts, which are toxic waste as they are non-biodegradable, which breaks into microplastics and bioaccumulates in marine organisms.

Tonia and her family had just started working as Sanctuary Stewards for Save Our Shores organization when the COVID pandemic hit, making personal outreach too dangerous.

Tonia, who has appeared in several movies including Through the Ashes (2019), The Infinity Project (2018) and Justified Force (2019), said her son had started working on a YouTube video using his underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) video footage to gain outreach for Save Our Shores which ignited some creative thinking for a full length music video.

"One thing led to another and we found ourselves making mini-documentaries all year long and we're still going strong," Tonia said. "Due to my work for a local independent movie company I have picked up some knowledge along the way about directing videos. So when an idea for a new video for Save Our Shores came up I thought about my friend Ben Harris, who has a regular show at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas but unfortunately it was shuttered due to COVID. Ben, a successful singer/songwriter, grew up in San Jose.

"At first I only asked Ben for a 30 second jingle for one of our outreach documentaries, but everyone at Save Our Shores loved it so much, we decided to make it into a full single, Butts Up," Tonia said. "Ben was so very kind and helpful to get the song onto all streaming services and he's donating 100% of proceeds to Save Our Shores.



Left: Actress Tonia Maclean directed the music video for Save our Shores. Above: a scene from the video. Right: Singer/songwriter Ben Harris grew up in San Jose and contributed to the project.



"My wonderful friends in the independent film community volunteered their time and talent to make the video come to life," Tonia said. "This is my very first time writing and directing any work and I'm so happy with how it turned out. My husband, who is also a keen amateur videographer, helped film and pro-

duce the video with me. It took hours, and hours, but we laughed our way through it all just watching our friends at play.

In addition, some businesses local to Santa Cruz also appeared in the cameo sequence at the end to support our cause."

There were 17 people who partic-

ipate in the video which was launched on YouTube on Sept. 30, 2021. The video was shot during July and August at several beaches along the Monterey Bay.

Editor's note: To view the new Save Our Shores music video, Butts Up, visit: [www.m.youtube.com/watch?v=D17xGwUo\\_Fc](http://www.m.youtube.com/watch?v=D17xGwUo_Fc)

## East Side Union High School District offers extension for changing letter grades to Pass or No Pass (AB 104)

By Times Media staff writers

The pandemic school year of 2019-2020 abruptly pushed students into online learning.

Due to Covid challenges, the State Assembly passed assembly bill 104 which allowed for parents and students to request grades be changed to either PASS or NO PASS on the student transcripts.

When this assembly bill passed it gave scant time for counselors to make those changes for the student requests. Thus, Governor Newsom added time for students and counselors to change grades on transcripts.

**ESUHSd extends transcript change requests to Dec. 17**

The Senate passed a trailer bill (AB167) which allows high school districts to extend the time that students can request PASS or NO PASS grades (which can lift up their grade point averages (G.P.A.).

AB 167 added section 49066.5(g)(2) to the Education Code and made it so a school district may accept an application for grade change after October 1, 2021, for the 2020-21 school year. In other words, acceptance of grade change applications that are received after October 1 is discretionary with each school district.

In light of these recent statutory amendments, administration of East Side Union High School Dis-

trict recommended that the ES-UHSD Board grant the Administration the authority to accept applications for grade changes for the 2020-2021 school year pursuant to AB 167 up to and including the last day of the 2021 Fall semester on December 17, 2021.

At the October 07, 2021 board meeting (Agenda Item 11.02) the school board unanimously passed this extension for students, parents and counselors to have opportunity to change transcripts from the last school year (a pandemic school year of distance learning) from letter grade to PASS or NO PASS for classes as students request with parent or guardian.

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





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## EDUCATION

## California students must take ethnic studies—some in San Jose already do

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of  
San José Spotlight

California high school students will have a better understanding of the state's history, diversity and culture under a new policy.

Some Santa Clara County schools are ahead of the curve, offering ethnic studies as an elective.

Local elementary school districts—such as Oak Grove, Alum Rock and Mount Pleasant—already have ethnic studies as part of the curriculum. It's also an elective at high schools in the San Jose Unified and East Side Union High School districts.

Alum Rock Union School District Superintendent Hilaria Bauer said the district's ethnic studies curriculum promotes respect and understanding among races, builds citizenship, supports student success and teaches critical thinking and civic engagement.

"I believe that it is about time we allow all our students to feel welcome in our schools. By honoring their family background and culture, students feel a sense of belonging," she told San José Spotlight.

On Friday, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation mandating students take an ethnic studies class in order to graduate from public high schools, starting with the 2029-30 graduating class. Schools must also provide ethnic studies as an elective by the 2025-26 school year.

The state's vision for these  
See CLASSES, page 9

# Valley Currents

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

## Nancy Rivera of Silver Creek High School participates in First Tee - Silicon Valley

Nancy Rivera, a senior at Silver Creek High School, participated in First Tee earlier this month.

The 28 teens attending the forum were selected based on academic achievement, community service, chapter involvement, leadership, essay responses and letters of recommendation.

Rivera, who aspires to become an OBGYN, is the Founder of Silver Creek High School's LatinX Club.

The forum highlighted the importance of community innovation and empower the First Tee teens to develop meaningful service projects to take back to their hometowns focusing on raising awareness for issues surrounding education, health, and sustainability.

The keynote speaker was Frank Carbajal, Founder and President of Es Tiempo, LLC and Silicon Valley Latino Leadership

Summit an organization that brings Top Thought Leaders from around the country to Stanford University.

At the end of the forum, a total of \$32,000 will be awarded to 8 participants to further their educational pursuits.

During the Forum, the teens participated in interactive workshops and small breakout sessions covering a variety of topics including education, sustainability, healthcare advocacy and programming.

The participants had the opportunity to learn from global industry leaders including representatives from First Tee's Trustee, CapTech, as well as guests from companies including Tesla.

The forum empowers the teens to be innovators and game changers in their respective communities, culminating with each of the



The Joyce Taylor Eagle Award and \$4,000 Scholarship was presented to **Nancy Rivera** (second from left) at the First Tee – Silicon Valley 2020 Invitational fundraiser in San Martin, CA. Nancy was selected based on her good character, community advocacy, academic achievement, and life-skill level.

teen participants developing a community service project that they will encourage and implement in their local communities.

"Congratulations to our amazing participants on earning a spot in the First Tee Innovators Forum and thank you to First Tee trustee, Doug MacKenzie, for his leadership in developing and

sponsoring this event," said Greg McLaughlin, CEO of First Tee. "These outstanding young leaders remind us how bright the future is for them and in the communities they are determined to serve."

To learn more about First Tee and the Innovators Forum, visit: [TheFirstTee.org](http://TheFirstTee.org).

## Add meaning to Halloween and support a good cause

As the world faces multiple crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, families may have to adjust traditional trick-or-treating plans again this year. However, there are still ways to help make a difference and celebrate Halloween virtually.

One way to add more meaning to Halloween is to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. Celebrating more than 70 years of fundraising, this annual tradition is America's longest running youth engagement campaign and has raised more than \$180 million to help support children's health care, education, nutrition, safe water, emergency relief and more.



Last year, the beloved program was launched as a virtual experience in an effort to celebrate Halloween responsibly while social distancing. This Halloween, it is evolving into a fully digital experience. Getting involved virtually can prove just as rewarding.

Funds raised will help support lifesaving work to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to communities, health care workers and families around the world that need them most. As the

largest purchaser of vaccines each year, UNICEF is helping lead procurement and distribution in the largest and fastest immunization effort of its kind, and you can be a part of that effort by aiding the organization in raising lifesaving funds and safely celebrating Halloween. (Family Features)

To learn more and get involved, visit [trickortreatforunicef.org/join](http://trickortreatforunicef.org/join). Photo courtesy of Getty Images

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PUBLISHER / CEO: **WILLIAM D. BELLOU**  
[williamb@timesmediainc.com](mailto:williamb@timesmediainc.com)

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: **WILLIAM D. BELLOU**  
[williamb@timesmediainc.com](mailto:williamb@timesmediainc.com)

ADVERTISING SALES: **WILLIAM D. BELLOU**  
408-494-7000

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: **DIANE BLUM, SUNAY SANGHANI, SEAN EASTWOOD, KEVIN LARSEN, NIRBAN SINGH, FRANK SHORTT, JUDY LY, EUGENE LUU, APOORVA PANIDAPU**

ART DIRECTOR: **JEFF BAHAM**  
[graphics@timesmediainc.com](mailto:graphics@timesmediainc.com)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: **SANDY BELLOU**

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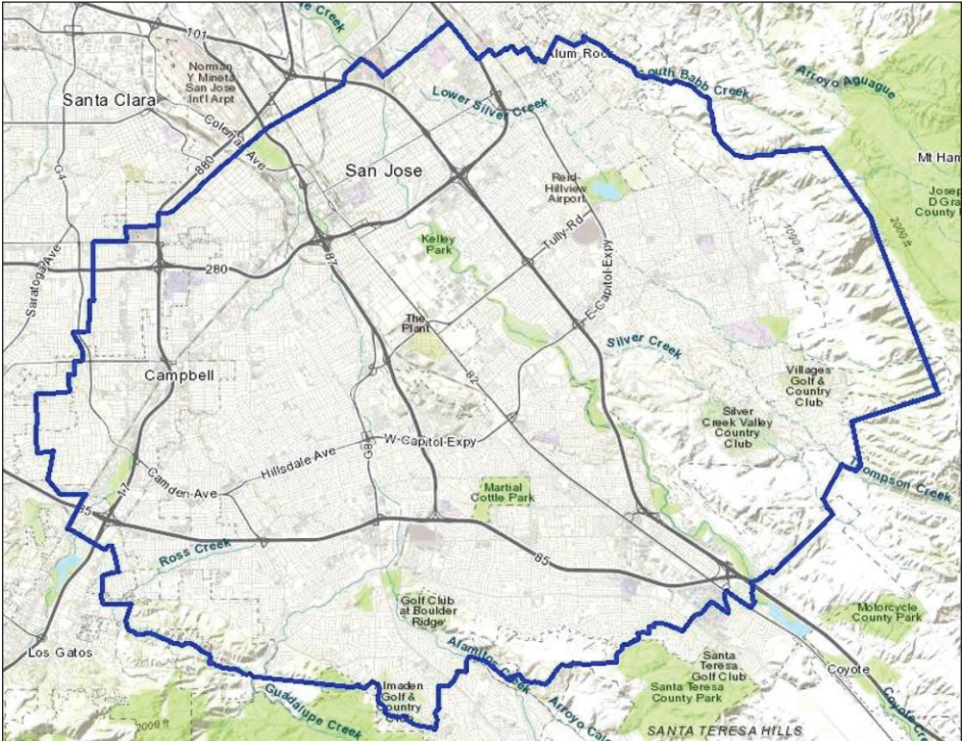
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Times **Local News**



Areas of San Jose are under quarantine for the oriental fruit fly, including Evergreen Valley, as shown in this map.

**Fruit Fly**

*Continued from page 1*  
about 94 square miles, bordered on the north by the Alum Rock neighborhood, on the south by Santa Teresa County Park, on the west by South Bascom Avenue and on the east by Joseph D. Grant County Park.  
The Oriental fruit flies often get into California via fruits and vegetables brought back illegally from elsewhere in the world. They

can cause substantial damage to fruit and vegetables when the female fly lays her eggs inside them and they hatch into maggots.  
According to the state, the quarantine will be lifted if no additional oriental fruit flies are found by trapping or visual surveys for three life cycles of the insect following the last detection of one in the area.  
More information about the quarantine is available online, or call the CDFA Pest Hotline at 800-491-1899.

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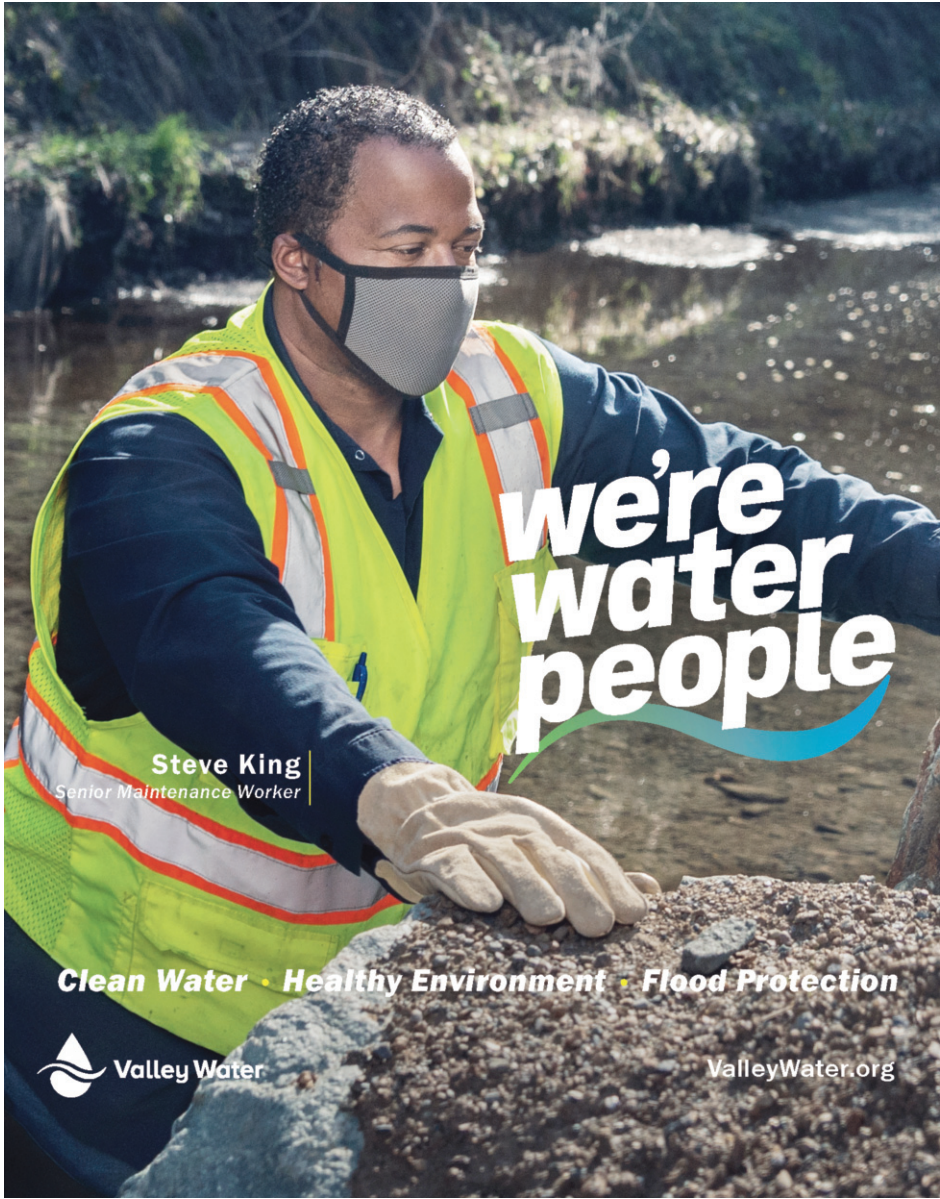
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Times **Community News**



**BASIS Independent Silicon Valley Upper School ranked as 'Top High School for STEM'**

**B**ASIS Independent Silicon Valley Upper School has ranked as #1 Best High School for STEM in California, and #2 Best High School for STEM in America on the 2022 Best School Rankings from Niche.com, a data analyst company.

The school has garnered notable prestige over the last several years by establishing itself as a premier college preparatory program in the Bay Area, with a steady track record of acceptance to the world's top colleges and universities.

BASIS Independent Silicon Valley is opening a new lower school campus later next year. The new lower school is located a few miles from the current BASIS Independent Silicon Valley Parkmoor Avenue campus. This campus is designed to complement the upper grades at the original Silicon Valley location and will offer Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 5.



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Times **News**

## Governor Newsom signs new law to expand California outdoor dining

Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law legislation that will greatly expand opportunities for outdoor dining across the Golden State.

Authored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Woodland Hills), Assembly Bill (AB) 61 will empower local jurisdictions and the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) to provide much-needed regulatory flexibility to neighborhood restaurants struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Neighborhood restaurants are the backbone of communities across California, but too many are barely hanging on by a thread," said Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel. "Outdoor dining has been a critical lifeline that has helped these establishments keep their doors open during these challenging times. AB 61 provides important flexibility so that restaurants can safely expand outdoor dining and continue to serve the communities they call home. I applaud Governor Newsom for his thoughtful leadership in protecting both public health and small businesses as we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic."

AB 61 provides restaurants with regulatory flexibility on a number of key issues, including enabling more outdoor food preparation and service, allowing restaurants to better use their own spaces for increased outdoor dining capacity, and extending existing ABC orders

allowing for alcohol service on outdoor premises. AB 61 also includes an urgency clause, meaning the measure goes into effect immediately.

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged small businesses across the state—particularly in the restaurant industry. While the National Restaurant Association reports modest employment growth in the last 2 months, with California leading the nation in job gains, employment remains below pre-pandemic levels and nearly 4 in 5 restaurants are understaffed. As of August 2021, California also had 234,800 fewer eating and drinking establishments than it did in August 2019.

"The changes we made to support outdoor dining during the pandemic saved countless jobs and businesses, and Angelenos have been clear that they want to see these improvements stay in place for good," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "I am proud to support Assemblymember Gabriel's legislation that will enable us to make outdoor dining a permanent feature in Los Angeles and across the state."

"The restaurant industry has been hit hard by the pandemic. With indoor dining rooms still closed in most places, outdoor dining has become an important lifeline for restaurants," stated Madelyn Alfano, Immediate Past Chair of the California Restaurant Association Board of Directors and owner of Maria's Italian Kitchen, a neighborhood Italian restaurant with several locations in the San Fernando Valley. "AB 61 will help to address issues restaurants face as we have created outdoor spaces to continue to serve our customers. Nothing is more important to me than the safety of our customers and the ability to continue to provide delicious meals for my community."

## Classes

*Continued from page 4*

classes is to focus on marginalized groups such as African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos and Native Americans. Additional lessons will include Jews, Armenians and Sikhs. Ethnic studies is already required at California state universities, including San Jose State University, for students who started school this year.

SJUSD spokesperson Jennifer Maddox said the school board is committed to investing in ethnic studies and exposing students to a broader perspective. Its curriculum team is adding book selections for all grades featuring a wide diversity in perspective, culture and authors, she said.

"It's beneficial for all students, but also gives a voice to student groups that traditionally have maybe not seen someone who looks like them and is represented," Maddox told San José Spotlight, adding it's especially valuable in places where students don't have exposure to diverse cultures and people of different backgrounds.

When the Santa Clara County Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution in June 2020 announcing its commitment to ethnic studies curricula, some residents claimed the material was un-American. Local school districts were to be in favor of the new state requirement.

Teresa Marquez, associate superintendent of educational services for East Side Union High School District, said the district welcomes the state's policy. In the 2018-19 school year, its board passed a resolution in support

of making ethnic studies a graduation requirement.

Marquez said it's important for students to be able to see themselves in instructional material and curriculum. Overfelt High School teaches ethnic studies to incoming ninth graders to help them learn more about themselves and their cultural identity, she said.

"Including ethnic studies as a graduation requirement allows us to engage in conversation and empower students to see themselves through a wider lens," she told San José Spotlight.

Marquez said educators should be trained in how to incorporate cultural awareness in day-to-day teaching so they can promote civic engagement, collective empowerment and cultural understanding.

Santa Clara County Board of Education Trustee Peter Ortiz agrees that students need to see their communities and history reflected within the curriculum. Ortiz said traditional instruction hasn't always been inclusive.

"Unfortunately, our education system has been Eurocentric," Ortiz told San José Spotlight. "It's important that our Latino, Asian and immigrant populations learn about their culture and their community's contributions to this country."

Seeing themselves and their cultures represented in their studies will help students gain self-confidence and a sense of belonging, he said.

"There is not one single American story," Ortiz said. "This is a nation of immigrants. We all are Americans. America is not a skin color. It's not a certain nation of origin. It's all of us. We all have a space here."

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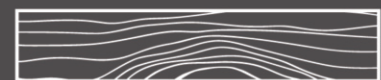
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Times **Local News**

# Coalition announces new goal to house all homeless families in Santa Clara County

## Continuum of Care Announce campaign to end family homelessness by 2025

**A**iming to house 1200 families in the next year and 600 annually thereafter, today, Santa Clara County Continuum of Care announced the HEADING HOME campaign.

As part of the Community Plan to End Homelessness, today marks the beginning of a concerted effort to house local families. The goal is to achieve “functional zero” in five years - meaning the number of housing placements for families is greater than the number of families entering homelessness. Key partners for this effort include: the County of Santa Clara, the City of San Jose, the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, Destination: Home and Cisco.

Currently, there are approximately 600 families in Santa Clara County experiencing homelessness, and another 600 new families enter homelessness for the first time every year. Seventy five percent of these families have a female head of household and 62 percent self-reported having children enrolled in school in Santa Clara County.

To achieve this ambitious goal, this coalition will be focusing on four key strategies:

- **Leveraging Emergency Housing Vouchers** - The Santa Clara County Housing Authority has been awarded approximately 1,000 emergency housing vouchers, which will provide rental support to homeless households for up to ten years. The vast majority of these vouchers will be targeted towards homeless families.

- **Expanding Rapid Rehousing** - The coalition will expand its Rapid Rehousing programs - which provide a time-limited rental subsidy along with case management and supportive services - with a goal to serve another 200 homeless families annually.

- **Expanding Homelessness Prevention Strategies** - The coalition will work to expand homelessness prevention services so that fewer families fall into homelessness. This includes plans to expand the Homelessness Prevention System to serve 2,500 households by 2025 as well as new investments in Housing Problem-Solving programs, which quickly house families who recently became homeless and are sleeping on the street or in a place not fit for human habitation.

- **Creating More New Affordable and Supportive Housing** - New affordable housing developments in the Measure A pipeline include approximately 1,000 new

family apartments in five years. There is also the potential to expand further by leveraging \$1 billion in Project Homekey funding that is dedicated to families.

In the months ahead, the coalition will engage with elected officials, landlords, private businesses, non-profit partners, people with lived experience and other community members to advance these ambitious objectives.

To connect someone who is currently experiencing homelessness with assistance and resources, please call the Countywide Shelter Hotline: (408) 278-6420. To connect someone whose current housing is unstable or at-risk of becoming homeless, please call the Santa Clara County Homelessness Prevention System at (408) 926-8885.

### Quotes from the HEADING HOME Leaders

“Our homelessness crisis is urgent and even more so when it comes to families. A safe, stable place to sleep is fundamental for children’s development. That security – or lack thereof – shapes who they become as adults. This campaign is our message to families that we see them, we understand their struggles, and we have a plan in place to make sure children and parents have a place to call home.” - **Mike Wasserman, President of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors**

“The level of coordination and momentum from the City of San Jose, the County, Destination:Home and our coalition partners are meeting the crisis of family homelessness is admirable. HEADING HOME’s goal of achieving functional zero

for family homelessness within five years by leveraging new funding sources is the urgency we need to ensure that fewer families are left behind. The unhoused families in San Jose and Santa Clara County deserve swift action.” - **San José Mayor Sam Liccardo**

“Every company in Silicon Valley has a responsibility to help create a thriving community for all. As part of that, we must work together to ensure that all families have access to a home. Cisco is proud to support the Heading Home campaign and we invite other business leaders to join us in ending homelessness in Santa Clara County.” - **Chuck Robbins, Chair and CEO, Cisco**

“We need to understand that we have not just a homelessness problem, we have a housing problem. We can absolutely expand our rapid response that keeps people from becoming homeless. We need to build more affordable housing units at a faster rate.” - **Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez**

“When we address and provide for the most fundamental needs and supports for children and families, there are endless possibilities for them to thrive in Santa Clara County. The collaborative efforts being made by all the partners to meet this goal is nothing short of awe inspiring, and I look forward to seeing our families transition into safe, stable and welcoming homes.” - **Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg**

“My advocacy for rapid rehousing and homeless prevention for families comes from years of working with families that endure diffi-

cult living arrangements. Housing has been a long standing challenge for many, long before the pandemic. For years, we’ve seen an exodus of families in San José as a result of the housing crisis which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. The ‘HEADING HOME: No More Families Living on our Streets’ campaign is a critical step in the right direction to address the reality, too often faced by our families, particularly Black, Latino, and Indigenous fami-

lies, that clearly demonstrates that the housing crisis is also a racial equity issue. However, our unhoused families are not only living in our streets, they are also living in non-traditional housing spaces such as living rooms, converted garages, abandoned buildings, and cars. As we search our streets to rehouse families, we must also not forget about the families that are hidden in plain sight.” - **San Jose City Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas**



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Times **Feature**

An aerial view of downtown San Jose is pictured in this file photo.

## San Jose building height limits come with price tag

By Eli Wolfe

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Dan Connolly warned San Jose officials in 2019 that pushing up the height limits on downtown buildings could cost airlines money. They didn't listen to him.

Two years later, his predictions have held true—and he's not happy about it.

"We chose a scenario where the airport and airlines lost and the developers won," he told San José Spotlight. Connolly, who chairs the Airport Commission, said he was speaking on behalf of himself.

Airlines flying out of Mineta San Jose International Airport have lost an estimated \$2.8 million in combined revenue due to a 2019 policy that raised the height limit for towers being built in San Jose by up to 35 feet downtown and 150 feet in the Diridon Station area. According to a city memo, some of the carriers facing losses include Alaska Airlines, Jet Blue and Hawaiian Airlines.

The loss occurs because Federal Aviation Administration safety guidelines force airlines to fly with a reduced number of passengers depending on the height of buildings. San Jose's airport, which is located close to the downtown area, is heavily impacted by this issue.

### 'They just don't care'

A new policy passed last week in San Jose will force developers to pay fees if their cranes exceed the downtown height limit, impacting the operations of nearby airlines. Money from the fund will be used to compensate passengers bumped from flights, with airlines having the discretion to refund fares, pay for a hotel or both.

The proposed height limit change was the subject of fierce debate between developers and the airport commission. The city examined several scenarios for expanding height limits, including one backed by the airport commission that would have raised height limits near Diridon Station but not downtown. The city went with a proposal backed by groups including SPUR and the San Jose Downtown Association.

Connolly and the commission argued

that the height limits could be a major financial setback for SJC, which is debt-heavy from its \$1.5 billion expansion and the millions spent trying to lure new airlines here and brand itself as an international hub to compete with San Francisco and Oakland international airports.

Connolly claims the commission also raised concerns about what would happen to passengers who were forced off flights, but this attracted little interest as a discussion point.

"There's not one mention anywhere of the impact to passengers—they just don't care," Connolly said. "I think it's wrong that families plan their vacation, then the next thing you know they may get bumped off a flight from Hawaii."

### Keeping an eye on things

Scott Knies, executive director of the San Jose Downtown Association and a longtime backer of increasing the height limit downtown, expressed no regrets with how the increased height policy has played out.

"I remember we looked at the data in 2019 and there were very few flights that were impacted," Knies told San José Spotlight. "I remember when we were interviewing some of the airlines directly about it, the operations folks, particularly for some of the carriers that are the biggest customers here—they shrugged at it. It wasn't an issue."

The airport media relations office did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Fred Buzo, San Jose director for SPUR (SPUR is a non-profit think tank focused on regional planning and public policy) said it's too early to tell whether the 2019 policy is going to have a long-term detrimental impact on the airport, citing the COVID-19 pandemic as one potential confounding factor.

"I think the policy is fine as is," Buzo told San José Spotlight, adding that he supports the city creating a separate policy to help the airlines recover losses. "It was always part of the equation... I don't think this is a bad thing at this point, but we'll see. It's still a long-term project and we'll keep our eye on it for sure."

See HIGH RISE, page 15

## WHEN JOURNALISM IS NOT PRESENT TO SERVE COMMUNITIES, BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

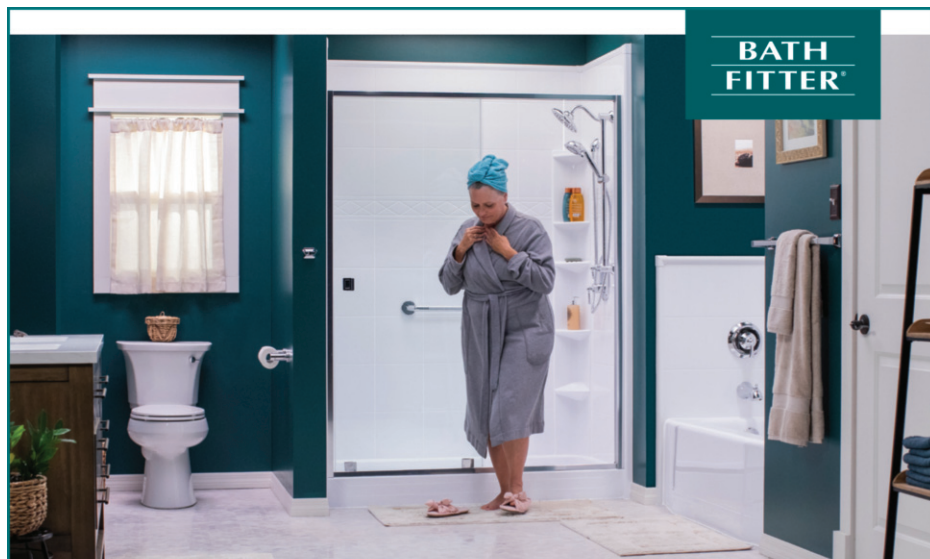
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## Times Feature

# San José Mayor, councilmembers propose drought resilience solutions

*Proposals include resident education and notification, and conducting water-wise surveys*

By Times Media staff writers

San José Mayor Sam Liccardo and Councilmembers Jimenez (D2), Perales (D3), Carrasco (D5), and Davis (D6) submitted a proposal on new drought resilience solutions that was unanimously approved by the Rules and Open Government Committee on Oct. 13.

The proposal calls for an official declaration of a state of water shortage in the city and outlines water conservation measures, which are in addition to a call by San José leaders to allow for a water storage capacity increase at Santa Clara County's Anderson Dam.

The plan also calls for a modification to the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO) requiring all new developments have only drought-tolerant landscapes.

The proposal also aims to align city restrictions on water use with that of existing restrictions put forward by local water retailers to curb residential and commercial irrigation in the face of ongoing drought conditions. City staff submitted an early consideration form that moves forward the proposals in the memo, with two items being referred to the council priority setting process.

"San Joséans know how to adapt their water use in a drought; it's a fact of life for our community to band together in times of difficulty," Liccardo said. "Collectively, we've cut back our water consumption in the past and, with our partners across the County and state, we will once again make the sacrifices necessary to keep our water supply resilient."

Nearly all of California is experiencing severe drought conditions, with San José receiving the lowest rainfall in its 128 years of record-keeping, tallying only 5.33 inches from July 2020 to June of this year. The County's largest reservoir, Anderson Dam, remains in deadpool during construction, and the county's 10 reservoirs are collectively just 15% full. San Jose's groundwater levels have fallen 45 feet since 2017, and continued reductions of more than 25 feet could pose risks of subsidence.

Mayor Liccardo joins a coalition of elected officials and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) in advocating FERC for a variance at Anderson Reservoir to allow Valley Water to increase water storage behind the dam. Prior to this year, FERC instructed Valley Water to draw down water levels behind Anderson Dam for ongoing dam maintenance projects. With 2021's

water shortage conditions, Valley Water and local leaders propose the variance from FERC to be able to hold an additional 20,000 acre-feet of water until November 2022 - dramatically increasing the region's ability to store needed groundwater and ensure all customers can maintain uninterrupted access.

The Mayor and Councilmembers also proposed a revision to the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO) to require only drought-tolerant landscapes in



new developments. This update would not interrupt "greening" efforts for historically underinvested parks and neighborhood areas that include the planting of drought tolerant plants and maintenance of the city's tree canopy to combat urban heat. The WELO revisions will virtually end grass lawns in new property developments as a significant step in reducing San José's reliance on water for non-essential aesthetic uses.

The proposal also outlines rules on residential watering, car washing, public area irrigation, and other commercial water restrictions in coordination with Valley Water's suggested conservation efforts. They also propose utilizing the Resilience Corps, a program started by Mayor Liccardo earlier this year that employs young San Joséans to make our community more resilient through:

- Resident Education and Notification: conducting water-wise surveys, resetting devices for landscape irrigation for residents, and canvassing neighborhoods with educational materials
- Turf replacement and greywater rebates and other incentives
- Deploying free water-saving devices and services available through water retailers and Valley Water District

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Times **Feature**

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			DB Psgrs	Financial Impact	DB Psgrs	Financial Impact
AS	EWR	Boeing 737-800	-	-	-	-
AS	EWR	Boeing 737-900ER	-	-	-	-
AS	HNL	Boeing 737-800	122	\$71,790	78	\$46,027
AS	HNL	Boeing 737-900ER	210	\$123,408	299	\$176,190
AS	JFK	Airbus Industrie A319	1	\$949	-	-
AS	JFK	Airbus Industrie A320-100/200	5	\$3,677	-	-
AS	JFK	Boeing 737-800	0	-	-	-
AS	JFK	Boeing 737-900ER	-	-	-	-
AS	KOA	Boeing 737-800	82	\$48,335	81	\$47,765
AS	KOA	Boeing 737-900ER	122	\$71,648	155	\$91,466
AS	OGG	Boeing 737-800	149	\$87,927	283	\$166,449
B6	JFK	Airbus Industrie A320-100/200	13	\$8,555	21	\$14,258
B6	JFK	Airbus Industrie A321	2	\$1,032	-	-
BA	LHR	B787-900 Dreamliner	100	\$99,166	72	\$72,195
DL	JFK	Boeing 737-800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
DL	JFK	Boeing 737-900ER	-	-	37	\$24,905
DL	JFK	Boeing 757-200	-	-	-	-
HA	HNL	Airbus Industrie A321-200n	0	-	45	\$26,240
HA	HNL	Airbus Industrie A330-200	-	-	-	-
HA	HNL	Boeing 767-300/300er	-	-	-	-
HA	OGG	Airbus Industrie A321-200n	0	-	38	\$22,145
HU	PEK	B787-800 Dreamliner	270	\$267,688	18	\$18,034
HU	PEK	B787-900 Dreamliner	481	\$475,729	295	\$291,965
LH*	FRA	A340-300	-	-	-	-
NH	NRT	B787-800 Dreamliner	439	\$434,232	84	\$83,460
NH	NRT	B787-900 Dreamliner	8	\$8,276	6	\$5,718
WN*	HNL	Boeing 737-800	0	-	0	-
WN*	OGG	Boeing 737-800	0	-	0	-
TOTAL			2,005	\$1,702,411	1,512	\$1,086,819
					3,517	\$2,790,328

A table showing the estimated financial impact to various airlines at San Jose's airport due to denied boardings. (Table from City of San Jose)

High rise

Continued from page 13

Financial burden

When it comes to the crane fee, funds won't be collected for the first six months of use. If cranes are still up after this period, developers must pay tens of thousands of dollars, although fees may be reduced if they're working on multiple projects. Knies said this will help the airlines, but he's concerned with how it could potentially hamper development in the future.

Connolly is worried that fees won't be collected for the first six months of crane use, which means airlines won't be compensated for the entire period they're being impacted.

He's also concerned about how the policy will affect SJC's status as an international air-

port. Airport officials in 2019 said the effects of the height limit policy would be minimal for East Coast, European and Hawaiian flights, although certain flights to Asia would potentially have to operate with fewer passengers.

Connolly said this proved incorrect because flights to Hawaii have been affected. He also noted that China Air and Lufthansa no longer service San Jose, which he said may be partially due to the cost of losing passengers to meet FAA requirements.

"If it's not economically viable, a carrier is just going to go to Oakland or San Francisco with their route," Connolly said. "We should not, in my opinion, be putting the financial burden on the backs of the airlines. They didn't make this decision, the city did."

Contact Eli Wolfe at [eli@sanjosespotlight.com](mailto:eli@sanjosespotlight.com) or @EliWolfe4 on Twitter.



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## Gov. Newsom signs law banning sale of new gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers by 2024

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill into law that will phase out the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers and other small off-road engines by as soon as 2024.

Assembly Bill 1346 directs the California Air Resources Board to phase out the sale of small off-road engines by 2024.

The new law also directs the board to identify and make available, where feasible, funding for commercial rebates to go toward the purchase of electric equipment.

California rebates are being considered for the purchase of electric or battery-powered equipment.

Under the new law, retailers will be limited to selling zero-emission equipment, such as electric or battery powered gear as part of an effort to cut down on emissions in California.

The amount of emissions generated from just one hour of using a gas-powered leaf blower produces the same amount of emissions as driving from Los Angeles to Denver, according to the Air Resources Board.

## Social Security checks expected to be bigger in 2022

In 2022, Social Security retirees will likely receive a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) equal to 6% to 6.1% of their benefits, according to the Senior Citizens League.

This is the biggest benefit increase in decades and will leave the average retiree with about \$93.20 more in their monthly checks. Compared with the 1.3% COLA retirees received in 2021,

The reason for the increase in Social Security payments is high inflation, which is expected to continue into next year. Retirees may also see much higher Medicare Part B premiums in 2022, with the Congressional Research Service estimating a 6.2% premium increase and monthly costs jumping from \$148.50 to \$157.70.

Most retirees pay premiums out of their Social Security checks, so they'll find that some of their raise disappears even before it hits their bank accounts.

Over the past two decades, retirement benefits have actually lost about 30% of their buying power.

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Times **Local News**

# Opera San José returns to in-person performances with Purcell's Opera Dido and Aeneas Nov. 13 – 28

*Presented live at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose*

Opera San José will make its much-anticipated return to the historic California Theatre with a new production of Purcell's baroque masterpiece, *Dido and Aeneas*.

Conducted by OSJ's Music Director Joseph Marcheso and directed by Elkhanah Pulitzer, with choreography by Michael Pappalardo, this celebrated work offers brilliant, soaring, richly nuanced arias.

This opera tells the story of Dido, the Queen of Carthage who, having foresworn romantic love, is tormented by the Trojan hero, Aeneas, who is desperate for her affections. But as their love is kindled, a powerful sorcerer plots the queen's downfall. Through deceit, trickery, and the conjuring of a raging storm, Dido is ripped from Aeneas, culminating in one of opera's greatest tragedies.

Casting includes accomplished mezzo-soprano Nikola Printz as Dido, celebrated baritone Efraín Solís as Aeneas, lauded soprano Maya Kherani as Belinda, multi-award-winning bass-baritone Nathan Stark as the Sorcerer, and dancers from San José Dance Theatre.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be bringing back live opera to the California Theatre stage," said General Director Khorl Dastoor. "After so many months of giving us stunning, intimate performances for the cameras, it's high time that these incredible artists received the standing ovation that they have long deserved. I hope you'll join us for their long-awaited return to what they love doing most – performing live, for you, our community."

Sung in English, with English supertitles, *Dido and Aeneas* will be performed Nov. 13-28, 2021 at the California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street, San José.

For more information or to purchase tickets (\$55-\$195), the public can visit [operasj.org](http://operasj.org) or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

*Editor's note: In accordance with current city and county mandates, the California Theatre will require proof of full vaccination with a valid photo ID to attend any performance. For a full breakdown of the California Theatre's COVID-19 safety and health protocols please visit [operasj.org/health-and-safety/](http://operasj.org/health-and-safety/).*



Lauded soprano **Maya Kherani** stars as Belinda in Opera San José's first live production of the season, Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas," presented at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose, November 13-28, 2021. *Photo credit: Veronique Kherian*



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Op-ed

# The Hidden Pandemic

By Joseph Kertis  
Special to the Times

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month which is designated annually in America to spread awareness about the important issue of domestic violence.

The intent is to spread awareness and information and help people connect with resources. But, this year, with so many serious public health issues afflicting our nation, it would be easy for the event to pass by without receiving the attention it deserves.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused addiction rates to skyrocket nationally, but it may have also had a profound effect on the issue of domestic violence. Growing evidence shows the pandemic has made intimate partner violence

***While 2020 brought the highest death toll our country has ever seen, thanks to the coronavirus, drug overdose rates played a major part as well.***

more common and often more severe. Surveys worldwide have shown domestic abuse spiking since January of 2020, jumping markedly compared to the same period in 2019.

The United Nations refers to this international phenomenon as a "shadow pandemic," a pandemic of domestic abuse within the Covid-19 pandemic. But there may be a link between the two tragedies that is being overlooked: the connection between Covid, addiction, and domestic vi-

olence.

While 2020 brought the highest death toll our country has ever seen, thanks to the coronavirus, drug overdose rates played a major part as well. More than 93,000 people died by overdose last year, also a record-breaking tragedy. This was far more than died during the height of the "opioid epidemic" of the 2000s.

According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, up to 60% of domestic violence crimes are committed by someone with substance use disorder. Further, some form of substance use precedes nearly half of all domestic violence assaults. One report revealed that 92 percent of men who assaulted their female partners had used substances on the day of the assault.

There is hope that as the number of Covid cases declines and we return to some semblance of normal, drug overdose rates will decline and, subsequently, domestic violence incidents. But unfortunately, there's little evidence to suggest that things were "normal" before the pandemic. Drug overdose deaths in the United States rose 4.6% in 2019 to 70,980, including 50,042 deaths involving opioids. So, things were already quite bad.

According to Marcel Gemme of addicted.org, a former intake specialist for substance abuse treatment facilities, there is a strong connection between addiction and domestic violence. "Individuals become intoxicated and or under the influence of drugs, and violent and hostile emotions come to the surface. Alcohol and other drugs act on brain mechanisms that cause a high-risk individual to engage in aggressive and violent behavior."

It's more important now than ever that people access lifesaving substance abuse treatment and domestic violence services. The National Domestic Violence Hotline offers a website where anyone can get anonymous help. The person can call, chat, or text and access templates to create a "Safety Plan." These tools can help potential victims lower the risk of being hurt by their partners and can mean the difference between life and death for someone.

*Editor's note: Joseph Kertis is a healthcare professional turned journalist. His experience in the field of substance abuse and addiction recovery provides a unique insight into one of our Nation's most challenging epidemics. He utilizes this knowledge in his writing to give an expert viewpoint that spreads awareness through education.*

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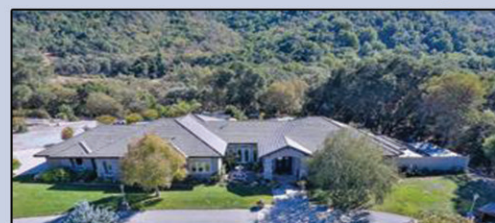
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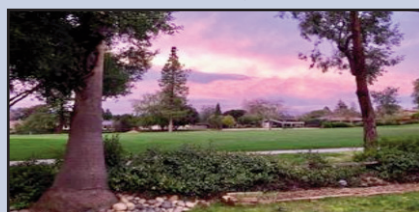
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## Times Community News

### Majority of Bay Area residents plan to move out of region in next few years, new poll reveals

By Times Media staff writers

According to a recent poll released by Joint Venture Silicon Valley, more than 56% of poll respondents from Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties say they plan to move out of the region in the next five years.

Those planning to move out of the region in the next few years cited the high cost of living and increasing housing prices as the top reasons for moving. More than 70% of those polled say the quality of life in the Bay area has gotten worse in the last five years.

However, the poll revealed that residents are split on whether the Bay Area is headed in the right direction; 48% say the region is headed in the right direction while 54% say it's on the wrong track.

Significantly higher percentages of women, 55%, think climate change is an "extremely" serious problem in their area versus 42% among men.

More women, 30%, consider racism to be an "extremely" serious problem versus 19% among men.

Additionally, women respondents say they feel less financially secure than men — 44% of women versus 33% of men who cite low savings as a worry since the beginning of the pandemic.

Overall, 40% of respondents feel financially insecure with higher percentages among Latino and African American respondents.

"We've always known that there was an income divide but the pandemic made it stark and dramatic," said Hancock.

"And the people that weren't able to easily shift into home-work faced economic ruin, and devastating health challenges because they had higher exposure to the disease."

The Silicon Valley public opinion survey was conducted by Embold Research, a division of Change Research Inc.

For some time now, Silicon Valley and the greater Bay Area have experienced a rise in the cost of living, a growing homeless crisis, a stark income divide, and a variety of sustainability challenges.

The pandemic has only highlighted these challenges and a recent poll reveals where residents feel the region is headed towards.

"It has people on edge, people that live here feel like they'll never be able to get ahead, they'll never be able to have ownership, their children won't be able to have ownership," said Russell Hancock, CEO of Joint Venture Silicon Valley.

"And the pandemic has done nothing to address that."

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## Times Feature

## Machine See, Machine Do?: An Intro to Machine Learning

By Apoorva Panidapu  
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! As a recap: this column, Gems in STEM, is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too. This column will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more advanced towards the end.

Have you ever been confused as to why the news is always like data this, data that? Or wondered why everyone is so concerned about data privacy? Sure, you don't want your social security number leaked, but maybe you thought that personally you wouldn't mind if people saw your basic info because it saves you the time of downloading a dating app? No??... Okay, moving on!

The reason data is so important is because the more data we collect, the smarter we can make machines—which is exactly what machine learning (ML) does. Machines learn from huge data sets and use their knowledge to respond to situations they've never seen before! So, it's a pretty intuitive step that more data is better training for the algorithm/machine, which produces more accurate outputs.

How is this different from the old approach? Well, the traditional method was to show your algorithm a fixed data set and, for each set, to tell them exactly how to respond. But with machine learning, the machine has the power to learn and produce new behaviors that aren't explicitly programmed...which, if you think about it, is very similar to human intelligence! We're taught specific skills and then are able to adapt this knowledge in unfamiliar situations. So, it makes sense that machine learning is an important method for artificial intelligence!

Okay, this is just a whole lot of talk right now—let's get into some details and examples!

### Supervised & Unsupervised Learning

Let's pretend our machine recently listened to Billy Joel's "Piano Man" and now desperately wants us to teach it how to play the piano.

We probably can't just leave it alone in a room with a bunch of sheet music—it wouldn't know what to do with them! Instead, we would start by teaching it the correct finger positions for each note—this is called supervised learning! In general, supervised learning trains a machine with a dataset with labeled points, and tells it what the correct response/decision is. After this training, we give the machines new, unfamiliar data to respond to, and we cross our fingers and hope that it has enough training to make good decisions on its own (kind of

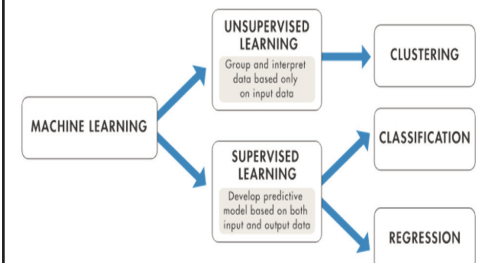
like what my parents will do when they send me off to college). So, for our piano-playing machine, we could give it different sheet music or a different tempo, maybe even a different instrument (even though the machine has its heart set on piano), and see what it does!

Supervised learning should be used when you have known, labeled data for an outcome you're trying to predict. Say I wanted to figure out if my emails are genuine or spam. (I want to keep helping you, prince of Nigeria, but I'm running out of money and have yet to see profit!) To do this, I would use a specific type of supervised learning: classification. Classification techniques are used to sort data into categories, like speech/writing recognition or medical imaging. So if you want a quick way to organize huge amounts of data into discrete groups, classification is your salvation! (...I know, but you try coming up with a word that rhymes with classification.) A real world application of supervised learning, you ask? Clinicians can use patients' data (like age, weight, blood pressure, medical history, etc.) to predict whether they will have a heart attack within a year—really important stuff. Can you imagine actual people sorting through all this data to try and accurately make a prediction for thousands of patients? Therein lies the power of machine learning.

Now, what if I want to predict the time it takes for my best friend to respond to texts (decidedly less important than predicting heart attacks, but it's currently way too long)? This can't really be put into a category (...but have NO fear, regression is here! While classification is to predict discrete situations, regression techniques predict continuous responses—like stock prices or temperature changes. (Mother Earth won't like that one.) If your data is continuous and the responses you're trying to predict are real numbers, it's

regression or REGRETSion. <3

Okay, we've talked about supervised learning, but if I'm being totally honest...I am too lazy to label my data or to teach a machine what to do with it. Does that make me a bad person? Of course not, it makes me a brilliant (and gorgeous) ML engineer! Just like we have supervised learning, we also have unsupervised learning. In this type of machine learning, the training data given to the machine/algorithm is unlabeled and unsorted, and we let it figure out how it wants to label the data and draw its own inferences. This process can obviously be much harder than supervised learning—it's like me handing a baby a bunch of random books and seeing what happens (but if Matilda can teach herself how to read, so can you bébé). However, unsupervised learning can reveal hidden patterns and structures in the data that humans might not have been able to notice. The most popular type of unsupervised learning is clustering, which is when the algorithm groups its training data into similar categories. Clustering techniques are currently being leveraged for things like gene sequence analysis and object recognition!



### So Many Techniques! But Which One Do I Use?

If you're going through a tough time trying to pick which ML algorithm to use, don't worry!

See GEMS, page 22



### Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu





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**Advantage Driving School** is the premier driving school in northern California. Advantage Driving School has trained more than 300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete programs for both traditional classroom and online courses. Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

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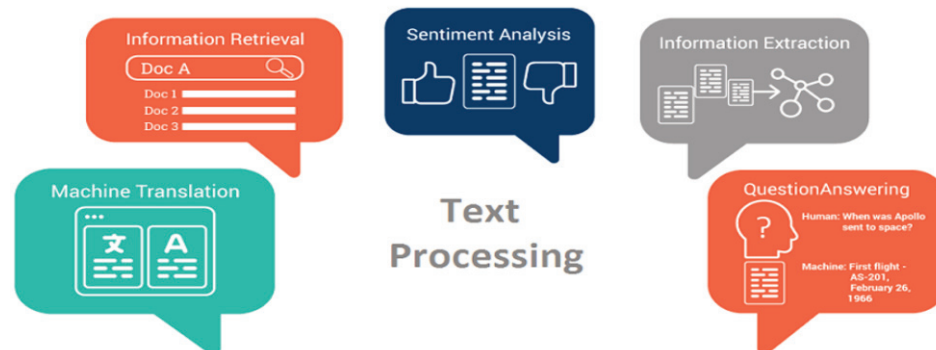
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## Gems

Continued from page 21

(Pitbull has already been there, done that.) Even very Smart and Experienced data scientists can have trouble with this too—sometimes you just need to use good ol' fashioned trial and error to find the best algorithm for your purposes! However, that doesn't mean pick one randomly—there is a bit of method in this madness. A good first step is to consider what kind of data you're working with!

If you want to train your machine to make specific predictions based on your (labeled) data, go for supervised learning! Some examples include predicting house prices from its data (like square footage, number of rooms, etc.), predicting weather conditions, or identifying if an image is a cat or dog (very important).



If you want your machine to explore unlabeled data and draw inferences/find patterns, unsupervised learning is your gal! You could use this technique in recommender systems (grouping together users with similar interests) or to detect fraud!

To provide a bigger picture of how machine learning is changing the world, it's being

used in image processing (like Facebook's automatic tagging), self-driving cars, and healthcare (predicting patient deterioration, detecting eye disease, and more). It is also used to analyze text, from spam filtering to extracting relevant information to sentiment analysis (like identifying an opinion as positive, negative, or neutral), which is being

leveraged to try and combat cyberbullying! I could go on and on and on and on...but don't worry, I'll spare you my rant.

But while machine learning has been a fantastic tool, it's not powerful enough yet to mimic human intelligence for more complex data. NOOOOO, WHAT DO WE DO?!!?!? Alright, take a breather pal. Don't forget that some of the smartest people in the world work on these problems! Since machine learning isn't enough, drastic times called for drastic dives: we're going to dive deeper into deep learning...next time!

For your bi-weekly reminder that I am evil, we're calling it an article here! Next column, we'll talk about deep learning, natural language processing, and the future of AI—make sure you don't miss it. Until next time! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [apoorvapwrits@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvapwrits@gmail.com).



# Just Listed!

Open House - Saturday & Sunday  
1:00pm - 4:00pm



## 391 Castlemaine Court, San Jose

Centrally located just south of Communications Hill, this lovely two-story modern townhome is a dream! Inside, its open floor plan, unique designer touches, and bright, airy atmosphere make for comfortable home living and remote work. Out back, the private patio and lush greenery provide the right atmosphere for outdoor entertaining, gardening, and more. A private, end-unit, the home is part of the wonderful Amber Grove community that features numerous amenities, including a pool and spa. With easy access to downtown San Jose, major thoroughfares, and public transportation, staying connected to all of the incredible experiences Silicon Valley has to offer is a breeze.

- Three bedrooms, two full baths and one half bath
- 1,376 square feet of living space
- Two-story, end-unit townhome on a 3,528 sqft lot
- Part of the wonderful Amber Grove community just south of Communications Hill
- Open floor plan with abundant natural light
- Gleaming tiled entry extends into kitchen and downstairs bathroom
- Sun-soaked dining area adjacent to kitchen with sliding glass door access to back patio
- Spacious kitchen with tiled countertops, four-burner gas range, large pantry cabinet, plenty of space for food preparation, and distinctive angled open wall
- Comfortable and inviting living room provides natural entertaining flow throughout the downstairs
- Bright and airy primary suite with ceiling fan, expansive walk-in closet, great views of the neighborhood, and en suite bathroom
- Primary bathroom features brightly-lit double vanity, separate toilet area, and generously-sized tub



Offered at \$898,000



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# 1052 Via Valiente, Almaden Valley



**Therese Swan**  
408.656.8240  
tswan@tswan.com  
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com  
DRE 01355719



## Just Listed!

**\$1,875,000**  
**4 Bed | 2.5 Bath**  
**2430 Sq Ft | 8436 Sq Ft Lot**

Almaden Valley home on a generously-sized homesite with mature landscaping, privacy, pool, and spa. Gleaming hardwood flooring, ceiling fans, fireplace, wet bar, lots of natural light and double pane windows. Lots of trees and foliage around the perimeter including, roses, geraniums, palm trees, fig, orange and sour cherry fruit trees. Graystone, Bret Harte and Leland Schools. The new owner of this home will have membership at the Almaden Cabana Club.



*The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 12 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2020 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/ RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.*

*If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning.*

*Call me as soon as possible.*



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