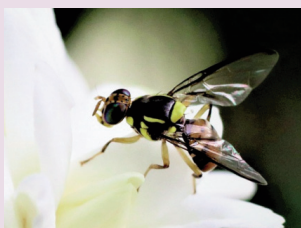


Fruit flies return to San Jose in two Evergreen locations  
— **SEE PAGE 4**



**Councilmember shares**  
Chat with Matt Town Hall meeting addresses pressing city issues  
— **SEE PAGE 4**

County supports free climate education program for middle school students  
— **SEE PAGE 7**



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# Almaden Times

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SEPT. 16 – SEPT. 29, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 19



San Jose is using technology to create homes for the un-housed.

## Tech tackles homelessness, criminals in San Jose

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

San Jose is using technology to create homes for the un-housed and to catch criminals. San Jose is providing a cost-effective solution for homelessness by building 204 multistory, modular units at Branham Lane and Monterey Road. The three-story prefabricated community called “somewhat revolutionary” by Mayor Sam Liccardo at a news conference in August, will be the first of its kind in the county.

“Rather than building apartment complexes that may take five or six years, we’re building projects in a matter of months,” he said. “And rather than building projects that take \$800,000 per unit to build, we’re building units at a small fraction of that cost early on through the pandemic, less than \$100,000 per unit.”

Funding for the transitional quick-build development includes \$51.6 million from the state’s Homekey program and a \$5 million donation from John and Sue Sobrato. Much of the funding will go toward services with a goal of transitioning unhoused people into permanent housing in about 18 months.

Slated for completion next summer, the community will be operated by LifeMoves, which provides

See *TECHNOLOGY*, page 15

## Leland High School Parent Club presents annual Dandiya Raas and Garba Saturday, October 15th

By Amita Samuel  
Special to the Times

An exciting and fun-filled evening of cultural music and dance, Leland High School Parent Club is proud to present Dandiya Raas and Garba on Saturday October 15th from 7-11 p.m.

The annual event, attended by hundreds of families from the Almaden Valley and Bay Area communities, is a night of celebration in honor of the Hindu festival of Navratri.

Raas, the Gujarati socio-religious folk dance performed during Navratri, operates in pairs with two lines of dancers facing each other and dancing with Dandiya sticks (which can be purchased at the event!). Another Gujarati folk dance, Garba, is popularly performed during Navratri in praise of the nine goddesses.

Attendees will be treated to the scintillating performance by Leland Naach. Delicious Indian food and beverages are available for purchase. A separate kids play area will also



be available.

Therese Swan, Compass Real Estate, is a major sponsor of the Dandiya at Leland and has sponsored the event for many years.

If you would like to volunteer, during the event, areas where volunteers assist include registration, check-in, and managing the concession stands. Students will receive volunteer hours for their time.

Leland Parent Club is a 501(c)(3), a US nonprofit with respective volunteers, officers, directors, employees and agents (collectively).

To purchase tickets and to learn more about the event and volunteer opportunities, visit [leland-parent-club.com/dandiya.html](http://leland-parent-club.com/dandiya.html)



## Almaden hikers injured from falling tree on Mine Hill Trail

By Times Media  
Staff Writers

Three hikers on Mine Hill Trail in Almaden were injured Monday morning (Sept. 12) after an oak tree fell on the group.

The incident occurred at Almaden Quicksilver County Park resulting in the trail being closed for several hours following first responders’ rescue of three women amidst tree debris and a sea of branches on either side of the trail.

Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation officials confirmed a large oak tree fell on the three women before 10 a.m. All three hikers were then



An oak tree crashes down on three hikers at Almaden Quicksilver County Park in Almaden earlier this week, injuring them. Photo by Marianne Favro (Twitter)

taken to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, two with moderate injuries and one with minor injuries.

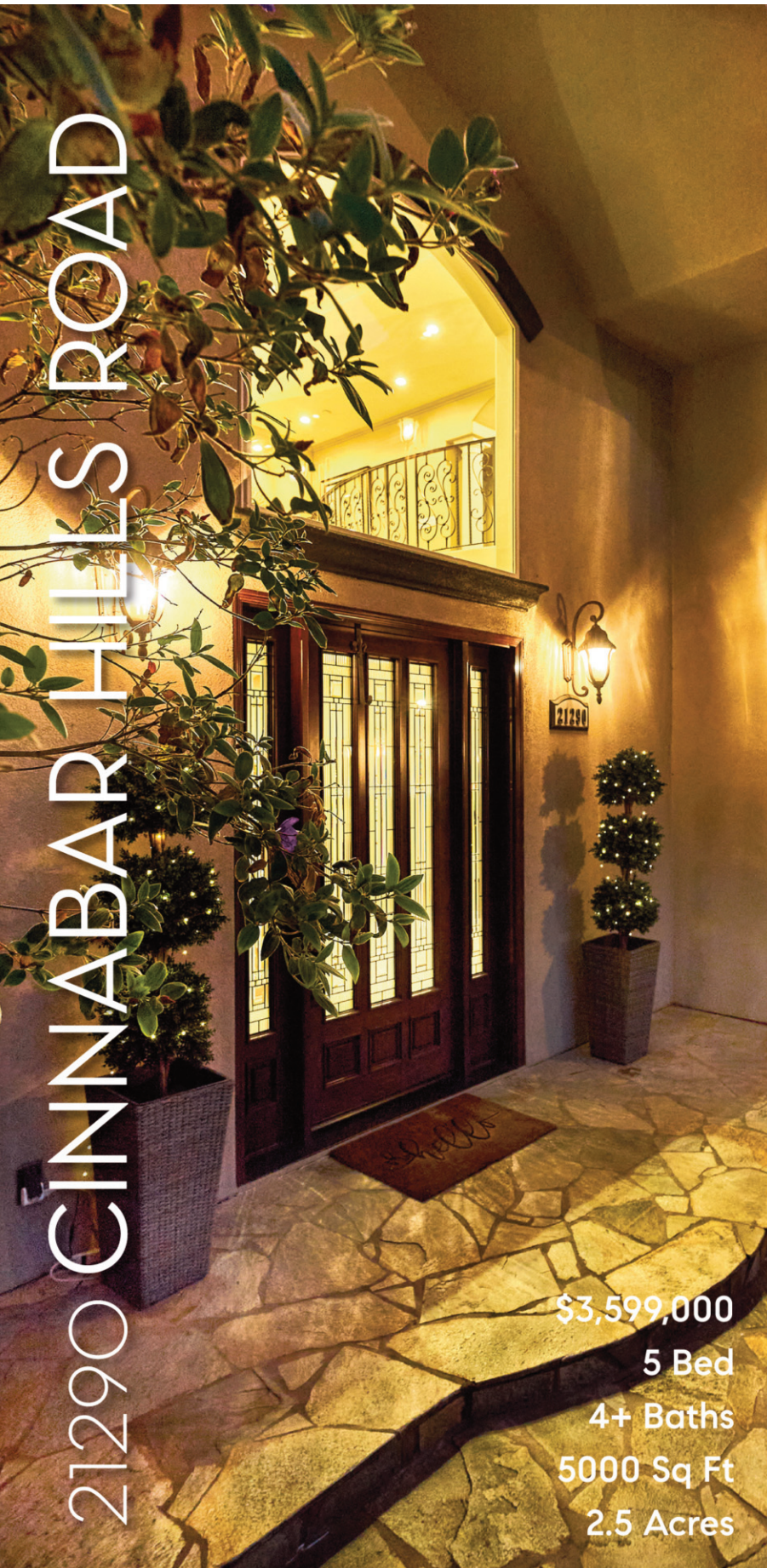
Although no definitive answer has been reported on why the tree fell, many speculate that trees in the area are stressed due to recent hot and dry weather conditions. The tree was removed after the medical response.

“Large mature oak tree branches drop, the phenomenon, called summer limb drop often occurs on hot and windless days,” said Lizzy Israel.

Biologists are assessing the tree to determine why it fell.

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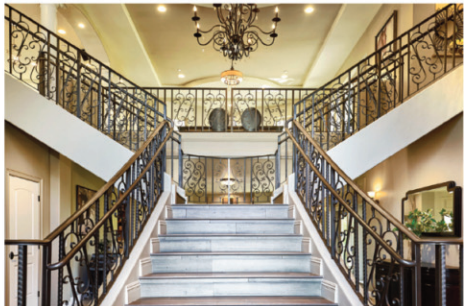




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## NOTEBOOK

## Fruit flies return to San Jose in two Evergreen locations

*Emergency preventative action launched*

On Friday, September 2nd, the State of California launched an emergency action to combat two areas in San Jose where oriental fruit flies were found.

The oriental fruit fly is a significant threat to both the natural ecosystem and California's over \$20 billion dollar agriculture industry stated a representative for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

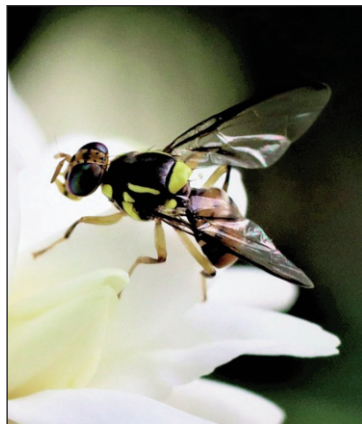
### No helicopter spraying at this time

In the Safeway parking lot on the corner of Quimby Road and Capital Expressway, two California Food and Agriculture employees were seen earnestly hand spraying and wiping down their truck. When asked if at present there are plans to fly over and fumigate the areas with helicopters the response was "No." The workers explained they are just spraying by hand on locations where fruit flies were found.

### Fruit flies found at two locations in Evergreen

Oriental Fruit Flies were reportedly found in Evergreen in the area of South King Road and Enesco Avenue, and near Middle Park Drive and Old-field Way.

The Office of Communication and Public Affairs stated, "The oriental fruit fly is native to Asia and has spread to multiple Pacific Islands, including Hawaii. It is known to infest more than 230 types of fruits and vegetables,



including such valuable California crops as avocados, apples, stone, and citrus fruits, tomatoes, and peppers. The 2020 value of California crops threatened by the fruit fly was \$19.3 billion, according to the CDFA.

### Fruit flies enter the state from travels

The most common ways for the fruit fly to enter California are when people illegally bring fruits and vegetables back from their travels or receive packages of homegrown produce through the mail. County of Santa Clara Agricultural Commissioner Joe Deviney said it's critical for county residents to follow federal and state laws governing what they are allowed to bring home when traveling.

"It would be disastrous for the oriental fruit fly to get established in Santa Clara County and California," Deviney said. "We all need to be vigilant in protecting our agricultural and natural resources. Please do not bring or ship any fruits, vegetables, or plants into California without confirming with agriculture officials that they are free of pests and permitted by law."

CDFA will seek to eradicate the fruit flies by applying bait high on street trees, utility poles and other surfaces within a roughly 1.5-mile radius of the spots where the flies were discovered. The bait contains a natural compound called methyl eugenol, which attracts the flies, and an organic pesticide known as spinosad, which kills them. The small splotches of bait are applied eight to 10 feet off the ground using a pressurized gun.

Oriental fruit flies are larger than common houseflies. They lay eggs under the skin of host fruits. When the eggs hatch into larvae, they tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for human consumption.

### Larva hitchhikes under skin of fruit

Because the larvae can remain hidden within the fruit for up to 10 days, they can "hitchhike" into California undetected. That's why it's important for the public to remember not to pack any pests when traveling or mailing packages. Visit the Don't Pack a Pest website: [www.dontpackapest.com](http://www.dontpackapest.com) for more information.

If you have any questions about what items are permitted to bring into California, or if you come across produce that looks like it may be infested, contact the County of Santa Clara Division of Agriculture at [scc.agriculture@cep.sccgov.org](mailto:scc.agriculture@cep.sccgov.org) or 408-918-4600.

# Valley Currents

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



## Mahan speaks about issues facing the city in another Chat with Matt town hall meeting

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

At his biweekly District 10 Town Hall meeting on Aug. 27, Councilmember Matt Mahan spoke with residents about their concerns and issues facing the city.

Mahan said additional police staffing is needed in San Jose, but the city faces recruiting challenges. Outreach has been increased to include college campuses, he said.

"We have been steadily growing the department," he said. "I want to see us grow it faster."

Mahan said the number of people applying to be a police officer has dramatically declined during the last five years across the country as officers have become liable for their actions. Mahan said he supports having a police auditor to police the police and investigate citizen complaints.

City budget constraints and accrued debt have to be taken into account when considering pay increases for police officers, he said.

"We want to give raises and increase headcount as fast as we can, but no faster than we can sustain," he said.

### Crime

Resident Patricia Brassfield complained of burglaries at her business on Capital Auto Mall.

"The break ins are just increasing," she said. Every month, it's getting worse. A few weeks ago, we had break ins on two consecutive nights."

An officer told her five businesses were broken into by the same people. Her tools were stolen and used on a later attempt to get into her

pay stations. Cigarettes were also taken.

Mahan said not feeling safe in your own community is awful and he hears these stories far too often. He said state ballot initiative Proposition 47 reclassified some felonies as misdemeanors, including basic property theft. If someone steals less than \$950 worth of merchandise per incident, it doesn't matter how many times they do it, he said.

He said policy changes are needed and someone repeatedly arrested should be detained until their court date. Officers arrest someone stealing from a store, take them to the county jail and they're back on the street the same day, he said.

"It's not fair to the community to just keep this revolving door going," Mahan said. "...It's a tax on our policing resources. It's demoralizing for our police department and frankly, for a lot of those folks committing crimes, they need intervention. The only shot they ever have for getting their lives back on track is consequences. We're failing them, too."

### Noncitizen voting

The San Jose City Council participated in a study session on Aug. 23 to consider allowing individuals age 18+ who lived in San Jose for more than 30 days, regardless of immigration status, to vote in

city elections.

Councilmembers Magdalena Carrasco and Sylvia Arenas initiated the proposal which would affect about 100,000 noncitizen residents. Those in favor of enabling noncitizens to vote say as they pay taxes, they deserve an opportunity to weigh in on city government.

Mahan said voting is a right and responsibility of citizenship and he

***Mahan said the number of people applying to be a police officer has dramatically declined during the last five years across the country as officers have become liable for their actions.***

doesn't support expanding municipal voting to noncitizens. Mahan said he is in favor of expanding legal avenues to citizenship instead.

He said San Francisco passed a similar law in 2016, but it was tossed out by a lower court and will be appealed. He said San Jose should wait to see what the courts ultimately decide before proceeding further.

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## County supports free climate education program for middle school students

Acterra, a Palo Alto-based non-profit organization dedicated to bringing people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet, has received support from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for their “You(th) Be the Change” education program offered free to middle school students in the North County.

Championed by County Supervisor Joe Simitian, the County grant enables Acterra to expand its You(th) Be the Change education program that teaches students about the effects of climate change and potential solutions.

The curriculum consists of six interactive lessons covering topics that include sea level rise, agricultural systems and food choice, and more. You(th) Be the Change has already been taught in-person in four Santa Clara County schools, and over 100 additional students have completed the program.

“I’m pleased our County can help bring these resources to a wider audience. When most of us were in middle school, we didn’t have to think about climate change the way young people do today. For those who want to do something about it, Acterra’s free program for middle school students creates an opportunity for better understanding and inspires kids to take action,” said Simitian.

Students learn not only the science of climate change, but also how they can engage in sustainable solutions themselves within their local and regional community. You(th) Be the Change helps youth think critically about their own environmental impacts. Upon graduation from the program, participants receive a guidebook with tips to stay engaged with climate change issues beyond the duration of the You(th) Be the Change program. Students are encouraged to advocate to their local representatives for climate action and get involved in, or create their own, local climate action groups.

Simitian said that, “With this latest effort I feel I’ve come full circle. During my time in the State Senate, I was consistently pushing for renewable energy; eventually we were successful. My legislation mandated that 20% of California’s energy be renewable by 2010, and 33% by 2020. We got there, but man, it was tough. Acterra deserves praise and support in educating the next generation on the urgency of these issues.”

County grant funding will allow Acterra to train educators on the curriculum, provide supplies, and scale-up to serve new schools. Due to the challenges of remote learning, many school administrators and educators struggled to introduce programs beyond the bare minimum over the past few years. You(th) Be the Change offers a ready-made curriculum teachers can use to augment standard climate-based education.

“We are honored to have Supervisor Simitian’s support and the County’s help in building the climate awareness and readiness of Santa Clara County youth.



With the Board’s support, more youth will learn about climate impacts and start engaging with solutions in their schools and communities through the You(th) Be the Change program,” said Lauren Weston, Executive Director of Acterra. “Youth are forever empowered when they experience firsthand the changes that they make.”

To learn more about Acterra and the program, visit [acterra.org/youth-be-the-change](http://acterra.org/youth-be-the-change).



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Times News

## Proposed transitional housing site receives state funding

By Matt Mahan

Councilmember, District 10

Two weeks ago, I joined Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Jimenez to announce that the transitional housing site I proposed at Branham and Monterey has received state funding and will move forward.

The City will also contribute funds and generous local philanthropists John and Sue Sobrato are helping to keep construction costs down for taxpayers by privately contributing \$25,000 per unit of prefabricated, stackable modular housing.

This site—currently a city-owned parcel that is a constant source of neighborhood complaints about encampment noise, trash and fires—will be able to host over 200 previously homeless individuals at a time.

The site operator, LifeMoves, will provide 24/7 on-site staffing, including security and case managers who will work with each resident to develop and progress through personal recovery plans. Depending on each person's needs, these plans may include job training, job placement, treatment for addiction or mental illness, family reunification or other services that empower individuals to achieve greater self-sufficiency over time.

At our press conference, LifeMoves noted that another, similar site they operate on the peninsula manages to graduate over 80% of their clients into permanent housing within 18 months of arrival, which is a phenomenal success rate.

Importantly, we're able to build these units significantly faster and at a fraction of the cost (about one-fourth) of what the public sector has been spending to house homeless residents via Measure A. While this is intentionally designed to be a transitional environment, it provides safe, dignified, individual shelter (including en-suite bathrooms) in a managed environment.

As I've argued previously, I don't believe that waiting for the public sector to build brand-new apartments at an average cost above \$850,000 per unit and wait time of over 5 years is a viable path toward ending street homelessness. My priority is to quickly and cost-effectively help all of our homeless neighbors transition indoors, which will vastly improve

their quality of life and that of the broader community, and reduce the strain on many public services, from emergency rooms to police and fire response. These sites are one model for how we might do that.

To truly solve our broader housing crisis and meet the need for affordable housing, we will need to go beyond publicly-subsidizing new housing construction (which is a necessary, but slow, expensive and hard-to-scale solution) and begin removing barriers to building housing where it makes sense, such as Downtown and near high-frequency transit. Many of our public policies have contributed to the fact that over the last decade our region has added 6 jobs for every 1 home we've built. We cannot tax ourselves enough to build public housing at a rate that will solve that imbalance. We will need major regulatory overhaul and private sector investment in housing, which is a topic for another newsletter.

On homelessness, specifically, some of you may be thinking, what are we doing to help the most severely mentally ill members of our community or those whose addiction has taken over their lives? Good question. This site and others like it will



**District 10 Report**  
Matt Mahan  
Councilmember,  
District 10



be able to serve the majority of our homeless neighbors, including many of those suffering from behavioral health challenges, but it's also true that some individuals will need more intensive and specialized care. As you know, I've been a strong advocate for bringing back a proper mental health hospital and expanding drug treatment centers, including a secure treatment center for those whose addiction has led to a pattern of criminal activity.

We will need to encourage our county and state leaders to prioritize those solutions, but the absence of them should not prevent us from doing what New York, Boston, Chicago and virtually every city with harsh winters has managed to do: provide basic shelter and supportive services to those who need them and

require that people come indoors. Let's start there. And one reason to start there is that even a mental health hospital or a drug treatment center, if successful, will need to graduate the vast majority of its clients into transitional housing.

Sites like the one we are building at Branham and Monterey give us the opportunity to scale up basic shelter and services in a way that can put us on the path to ending street homelessness, especially if the model is adopted in a fair and equitable way across the entire county and state.

Please feel free to email my office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) if you'd like more information on the upcoming Council meetings, including Council agendas, or have feedback for me on any of the items before the Council.

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Times **Feature**

# PG&E lacks accountability for faulty equipment failures leaving nearly 100,000 San José residents in the dark

By **Sam Liccardo**

*Mayor, City of San Jose*

In a frustrating and menacing replay of August 2020, fears of heat-induced rolling blackouts resulting from insufficient load capacity statewide did not materialize last week, but nearly 100,000 San José residents were left in the dark anyway.

San José residents suffered from the failure of PG&E's local distribution infrastructure—primarily blown transformers. These failures shut down power to more than 30,000 households. Two hospitals—Valley Medical Center and O'Connor—remained without power for several hours.

In some East San José neighborhoods—such as in the retail area around Tully and King—residents reported that the power outages also took down cellular networks operated by AT&T, rendering cellular customers helpless to make a phone call or send a text to seek assistance.

This is unacceptable. These infrastructure failures pose life-threatening risks to our most vulnerable, particularly the elderly and medically frail, some of whom rely upon ventilators and other electrically-powered medical equipment. My office has received numerous complaints expressing fear and frustration. Many family members and neighbors found themselves dropping everything to assist someone made more vulnerable in the heat by a power outage.

In numerous California communities that

routinely face three-digit temperatures, such as Sacramento, Fresno, and Bakersfield—the grid operates through heat waves. Lights (and air conditioners and ventilators) stay on. Cell phones continue to transmit and receive calls.

Not so in San José. Preventative capital replacement and maintenance does not appear to be occurring at a sufficient rate. According to one South Bay solar industry executive quoted in last year's New York Times, "My experience...is they just wait until the neighborhood is overloaded and then the transformer blows up."

We need to better understand why these failures disproportionately afflict PG&E's operations in San José. More importantly, we need to get them fixed—whether PG&E does so voluntarily, or under judicial or regulatory mandate. We can no longer merely hope that PG&E will live up to its obligation to San José ratepayers.

In particular, questions arise as to whether PG&E's publicly articulated capital repair and replacement plans adequately prioritize the safety of urban ratepayers.

PG&E has announced plans for tens of billions of ratepayer investment in infrastructure in rural areas, primarily for undergrounding of ten thousand miles of trans-

mission lines, which will likely take decades and consume (at the current rate of undergrounding) more than \$37 billion in ratepayer dollars. The company trumpets that it will save some small fraction of their \$1.98 billion annual vegetation management budget

to underground roughly 8% of their lines, but the annual cost of undergrounding will still dwarf the marginal savings. Experts and ratepayer advocates have questioned the wisdom of the ambitious undergrounding plan, worrying that it will divert scarce ratepayer dollars from the more mundane (but less headline-grabbing) safety maintenance and capital replacement that could be accomplished at a lower cost, with greater safety impact.

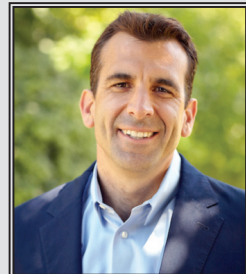
To PG&E's credit, their Chief Executive Officer, Patti Poppe, called me yesterday to commit to working with City officials in the weeks ahead to craft a capital repair and replacement plan that meets San José's safety needs. After the August 2020 power outages, PG&E represented that they replaced hundreds of aging transformers in San José. I take Ms. Poppe at her word, and I also trust that City staff will work collaboratively with PG&E to identify our safety priorities and push for solutions.

Nonetheless, in light of the company's

continued struggle to adequately maintain its distribution infrastructure, the City can no longer wait, watch, and hope. If a sufficiently compelling plan for infrastructure replacement and upgrades does not emerge in the coming weeks, we must take action before whatever body—PUC, Court, or legislature—that can provide relief and protection to 1 million San Joséans. If a satisfactory capital expenditure plan does not emerge by October 31st, the City Attorney and City Manager should provide legal options for the City to act quickly to seek regulatory or judicial mandates for long-overdue preventative safety investment.

I submitted a memorandum to the City Council that urges the City Manager and staff to meet with PG&E to ensure that they prioritize critical local power distribution needs and by October 31st. In parallel with those discussions, the City Manager should report to Council what, if anything, the City can do to require telecommunications service providers to bolster the resilience of their power supplies, to keep cell towers operational during extended blackouts. You can expect Council committee action next week, and hopefully, we can all expect safer and more resilient grid infrastructure thereafter.

To contact Mayor Liccardo: Email: [mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov); or visit the website: [www.sjmayor.org](http://www.sjmayor.org).



**From the Mayor**  
Sam Liccardo

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Times **Notebook**

## Money tips for students

*Federal government offers student loan forgiveness programs*

**T**he federal government may forgive all or part of federal student loans if borrowers meet certain requirements. The forgiveness options, according to KHEAA, include:

- **Public Service Loan Forgiveness.** Employees of a U.S. federal, state, local or tribal government or not-for-profit organization may qualify for loan forgiveness after making 120 months of qualifying payments. For complete details, visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).

- **Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness.** Through Oct. 31, borrowers may receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF. For complete details, visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).

- **Teacher loan forgiveness.** To qualify, you must teach at least five full years in a low-income school in an eligible district. Depending on your field, you may have up to \$17,500 in student loans forgiven. For complete details, visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).

- **Nursing loan forgiveness.** You must be at least a registered nurse and agree to work full time for a minimum of two years in a critical shortage facility. If you fulfill your agreement, 60 percent of your loan balance will be forgiven. Another 25 percent will be forgiven if you work a third year. Nurses teaching at an accredited school of nursing may also qualify. For complete details, visit [bhw.hrsa.gov](http://bhw.hrsa.gov).

One thing to remember is that the Internal Revenue Service may count the amount forgiven as income. You should talk with a tax professional to understand the impact it may have on your taxes.

Editor's note: KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents. KHEAA disburses private Advantage Education Loans on behalf of its sister agency. For more information, visit [advantageeducationloan.com](http://advantageeducationloan.com).

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Times **Feature**

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

**Explainable AI**

**H**ave you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this “techie” word – and even after you’ve broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there’s no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

**Explainable AI**

In 2018, a self-driving car knocked down and killed a pedestrian in Tempe, AZ. There were many issues like who is to blame (accountability), who to prevent this (safety) and whether to ban self-driving cars (liability and policy eval-

uation). All these require AI models that are used to make those decisions to be interpretable. This is where Explainable AI comes into picture! Explainable AI is the idea that an AI algorithm should be able to explain how it reached a conclusion in a way that humans can decipher. There’s a well-known “black box problem” where an AI algorithm can determine something but is not able to give details about the factors that caused that result. Then, how can people feel that they can authoritatively trust what an AI algorithm says?

This is where we need explanations from the AI algorithm, to understand how it reached a conclusion.

The first type of explanation is that which helps to understand the data better. An exam-

ple would be a system that tells you that a particular picture is a cat because it looks like another example of a cat (nearest neighbor). Another AI can tell you it’s a cat because it has whiskers and fur (feature).

The second type of explanations are the ones that give you an understanding of the model better. Approaches to visualize the various neuron activations in neural networks are primarily in this category.

Another thing that’s crucial to realize about explainable AI is that, contrary to what most people believe, we don’t need to look at AI as a starting point for getting the answers. In contrast, making progress with explainable AI means starting at the application level.

For example, an AI app used to facilitate a

loan approval process would ideally function in such a way that allows a person to go back through each step the AI tool took, and the path created through those actions. Then, a person could potentially drill down and see which characteristics of a person’s application triggered an approval or denial.

Taking that approach does not necessarily bring about fully explainable AI for the given application. But, keeping explainability in mind is an excellent strategy for people involved in building applications that use AI.

*Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at [shub.saxen@gmail.com](mailto:shub.saxen@gmail.com). Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.*

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Times **Feature**

## More embalmers report bizarre blood clots amid COVID vax campaign

*'Is something causing people to die prematurely?'*

**M**ore embalmers report they have seen the emergence of bizarre "fibrous" clots in a substantial portion of their cases since the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines as reported by Art Moore, reporter for WND News Center.

In February, as WND reported, a veteran funeral director in Alabama, Richard Hirschman, said he and more than a dozen colleagues in the industry had been noticing the clots.

To follow up on the report of WND, the Epoch Times news reporters spoke to others who are observing the same phenomena, reports preliminary research suggests the clots are produced by spike proteins in the body. And some believe there could be a relationship with COVID-19 and/or the COVID-19 vaccines.

Hirschman told the Epoch Times that in 20 years of embalming, he "had never seen these white fibrous structures in the blood, nor have others in my field." He said that regardless of the cause of death, he's seeing similar substances in the blood post-mortem, which raises the question: "Is something causing people to die prematurely?"

Wallace Hooker, an expert embalmer who lectures internationally, said he's one of many seeing the same phenomena.

"I have people sending me photos almost every week of what they're seeing," Hooker told the Epoch Times.

In June, a pathologist who heads one of America's leading labs, Dr. Ryan Cole, said he was finding unusually long blood clots, as long as one foot, in the bodies of deceased people who received COVID-19 vaccines.

Cole, who runs Cole Diagnostics in Boise,

Idaho, believes the synthetic spike protein in the mRNA vaccines produced by Pfizer and Moderna are "causing inflammation in the lung, the brain, the liver, the kidneys, the heart; it's causing the same damage that the virus was causing."

However, he said in an interview with USAWatchdog.com, "in the body, the shots are persisting and making more spike protein than if you had a natural infection."

Cole, whose laboratory receives tissue samples from morticians across the country, cited a Stanford University study published in the journal Cell that found the vaccine's spike protein remains in the body for at least eight weeks.

Cole also cited studies by South African physician Resia Pretorius finding the COVID "spike protein alone causes the proteins in our blood to clump."

"That spike protein is thrombogenic – it causes clots, and it causes a lot of clots," Cole said.

Morticians, he explained in a March interview with anti-COVID-vaccine activist Steve Kirsch, usually "put a dissolving fluid in to break up clots so they can get their embalming fluid in."

And they were getting back pressure on the system, saying, "What in the world is going on?"

The morticians, Cole said, ended up pulling out "six-inch clots, 12-inch clots, two to three-foot-long clots."

"Because, you know, from the hip down into the leg, you have a long vein called the saphenous vein. And so they were pulling long clots out of your longer veins. And ... they hadn't seen anything like this previously."

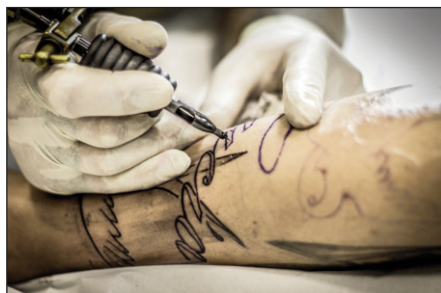
Cole told Hunter of USAWatchdog.com that he's met other pathologists who are seeing the clots but they are reluctant to say anything because they could be fired.

## Free tattoo removal for 14-25 age group

**T**he City of San José's Clean Slate program works in partnership with Valley Medical Center to offer community members 14 – 25 years of age FREE tattoo removal services.

Eligible program participants can remove any visible tattoos on the hand, wrist, neck, and face areas. Participants can also receive assistance with education opportunities, job development, counseling, personal development goals and information about community resources.

For more information on eligibility, call (408) 794-1660 or email [cleanslate@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:cleanslate@sanjoseca.gov).



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## WATER WISE Garden Grandeur

By **Matthew Frazier**

In the summer of 2006 ... I was hired by the general manager of Almaden Valley Nursery, as a nursery consultant and sales associate.

This was a time of transition of ownership from the family who had founded and operated the nursery since 1975. The general manager was to become owner almost immediately after I joined the crew.

I worked for Almaden Valley Nursery from June 2006 to July 2008, learning much during my term as both consultant and salesperson. In an earlier article, I alluded to one of the gems of this landmark: The Collectors' Corner – home to California Native Plants.

The compositional symmetry and geometric allure of this beautiful and ornate family-owned nursery is one which resides in the annals of my memory and will continue to do so for as long as I live. The array and plethora of colors and shapes abound.

Each year, around the end of August, this nursery hosts a year-end ten-day sale, showcasing their stunning botanicals – cacti/succulents, ferns, flowers, shrubs, trees, and vines. The myriad of colors and textures will draw the attention and imagination of those who enter and explore.

After my term with Almaden Valley Nursery ended, I stayed in close contact with management and ownership – bringing my clients onsite to explore and also alluding to the vibrant newsletter and website for years.

After I became a Certified Water Manager through The California Landscape Contractors' Association, and later a Qualified Stormwater Manager through EnviroCert International, Inc., I integrated the aesthetics of this nursery's stock with my own designs.

With California and its valleys plagued by this mega drought ... The opportunity to explore the property at this nursery has never been better! Vibrant botanicals of all shapes and sizes can be found here. As a specialist in Santa Clara Valley native plants ... I have found this to be a very valuable resource in my consultations and designs.

The nursery's stock goes on sale at the end of summer and this is when I contact my clients

and tell them to come with me, or explore on their own, the nursery and all it has to offer. I have clients outside of Almaden Valley and Santa Clara Valley who are interested in visiting the nursery for the very first time while others are return-customers.

The shrubs and trees of this nursery serve as a strong foundation for building a healthy and thriving landscape. Especially shrubs and trees which are California natives. I have long-advised my clients to choose plants which are native to their region, for the best results.

The clay soils we have here in our local valleys provide challenges but the drought-tolerant and low-water-use shrubs and trees of this nursery have long been a staple of my palate. I have met with many clients over the past fifteen years who have made a point of visiting this nursery during the year-end sale and found the plants they so desired for their gardens and landscapes.

I mention native shrubs and trees because their root systems act as a strong foundation for all which follows, supplying nutrients and water. Along with choosing native shrubs and trees comes the added benefit of native beneficial predatory insects and migratory and native song birds.

Another feature of this nursery, and especially their year-end sale, is the gallery of fine statuary, ornate fountains, and wrought-iron decorative pieces which draw birds and butterflies. The very first time I walked the property, as an applicant awaiting a job offer, I was awestruck by all which surrounded me in my initial visit.

With this mega drought raging and affecting each and all who live here in California and its valleys ... The opportunity to draw from such an extensive collection of plants is one which is worth mentioning to each and all.

Come to Almaden Valley Nursery when you can. They have specials and a year-end sale and you can see for yourselves why this small family-owned business is such a draw to local residents and visitors alike.

I encourage you to make a point of exploring their vast array of plants and other botanicals as you delve and venture deeper, to engage your imaginations.

Thank you and best wishes!

*Matthew Frazier is a CLCA Expert Certified Water Manager; ECI Qualified Stormwater Manager; Water Sense Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper. You may contact Matthew by email: [kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com)*



**Water Wise**  
**Matthew Frazier,**  
**Certified Water**  
**Manager**

## Supervisors OK's cash payments to needy high school seniors

By **William Bellou**  
Publisher

Santa Clara County has given the green light to launch a pilot program to bring financial support to unhoused high school seniors which was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The unanimously-approved program runs from April to August 2023 and allows unconditional payments of \$1,000 a month to homeless students in their final year of high school in an effort to ease their transition into higher education or work opportunities.

Introduced by Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, the proposal is a local version of a statewide bill proposed by Sen. Dave Cortese that failed

to win legislative approval.

"This makes Santa Clara County the first county in the state to refuse to graduate high school seniors into homelessness," Cortese said in a statement. "I am grateful to Supervisor Ellenberg for carrying this movement forward and our Board of Supervisors for leading with vision by supporting our students through this critical transition period."

Cortese, a former Santa Clara County supervisor, had sponsored in June 2020 a basic income program for young people exiting foster care. The program was recently renewed by county supervisors to extend into 2023.

Roughly 2,500 students in the county faced homelessness in the 2020-21 school year, according to county records.

Ellenberg said she believes guaranteed income is this generation's extension of protections, just as Social Security, child labor laws, 40-hour work weeks and collective bargaining helped prior generations.



Times **Feature**

**Technology**

*Continued from page 1*  
transitional housing as well as counseling, job training and permanent home searches for its clients.

When combined with mental health services and job training programs, Councilmember Matt Mahan said in a statement the complex will be a model for ending street homelessness in San Jose. He wants to create dignified shelter for the unhoused and require them to come indoors.

At a recent District 10 Leadership Coalition meeting, Mahan said the encampment that was at Branham Lane and Monterey Road before being abated negatively impacted the community.

“This was the source of more complaints than any other single location in the district,” he said, “...frequent complaints about noise, trash, drug dealing, fires...one fire that lit the eucalyptus trees up.”

Mahan said the city has a goal of building 1,000 transitional units and is considering an emergency interim housing site in the Great Oaks area. He said since there are four homeless sites within a half mile in the area, he is against this.

“We need to distribute these sites pretty evenly around the city and around the county,” he said. “San Jose cannot solve homeless-

ness for the entire county.”  
Mahan said another plan to help San Jose’s more than 6,000 unhoused residents is a safe parking program for 50 RVs at VTA’s Santa Teresa station parking lot. The plan was driven by complaints about unmanaged RVs parked in neighborhoods, he said.

The city is again teaming up with LifeMoves to provide those in need with job training and searches for transitional housing. The RV safe parking lot is planned to open next year. The city is negotiating a four-year lease, Mahan said.

**License Plate Readers**

To improve public safety and locate vehicles involved in crimes like hit and runs, theft and sideshows, San Jose is using license plate reader cameras. As part of the pilot program, cameras were installed in April at Monterey and Curtner Avenue, one of the city’s most dangerous intersections.

San Jose Police Department Captain Matchett said the technology has already led to successful arrests. He said rather than using facial recognition, the cameras take photos of license plates and unique conditions of a car like a broken windshield. The readers will be installed at dangerous intersections throughout San Jose to aid in investigations. Matchett said the city will store the data for one year.

“This is the capital of Silicon Valley,” he said. “It’s about time we get more technology onboard. “This is one more piece for us to have better enforcement capability.”

**Silicon Valley food bank HQ cleared to move forward**

By Times Media Staff writers

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley has been given the green light to proceed with its plans for a new headquarters in Alviso following a challenge to its environmental footprint.

The San Jose City Council denied an appeal of the project brought by Alviso resident Mark Espinoza, who questioned the environmental review which he says is out of date for the new 250,000 square-foot warehouse.

The facility is planned to be built on a roughly 10.4-acre site which Second Harvest bought in April for \$37.2 million from South Bay Development Company, according to the nonprofit.

The massive warehouse will have 31 loading docks, and will also house operations offices and a volunteer center. It will generate nearly 900 daily vehicle trips, with 100 of those expect-



This digital rendering shows what the planned Second Harvest of Silicon Valley headquarters facility in Alviso could look like when completed. *Image courtesy of Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.*

ed to be diesel trucks, some with refrigeration units.

The warehouse could be complete by 2024, according to Diane Hayward, spokesperson for Second Harvest.



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Times **Community News****TENNIS TIPS****Keep a 'quiet mind' while competing**

By Ken DeHart

In tennis, when the mind has a thought, the mental eye moves away from the ball and to the thought; score, opponent, conditions, crowd and etc.

The challenge is to manage the mind's thoughts to produce a high level of performance under pressure.

When I have experienced mentally challenging times in matches, I rely upon "counting."

I count, "1" at the point of contact with the ball on my side and "2" as my opponent contacts the ball. I maintain this as my focus for as many shots as I can tolerate before I feel the need to end the point.

The mind can only have one thought at a time, by counting at contact I am able to keep other thoughts from entering my mind. Plus, knowing I am going to count enables me to focus on tracking the ball as it approaches contact so I can time my count at contact and have a "quiet mind".

**Count on counting to focus****Advantages:**

1. Knowing I am going to count as I contact the ball helps me track or be more aware of the direction, depth, speed and spin of the ball. The counting count provides me a mental awareness and purpose.

2. Counting as I contact the ball reminds me to breathe at contact vs holding my breath.

3. Counting as my opponent contacts the ball enables me to be more focused on the contact of the ball and improve my reaction time to the shot. Often I am too focused on my opponent instead of the ball leaving their racquet.

**Set a number = Shot Tolerance:**

What is your shot tolerance? Set a number of balls you are willing to hit before trying to end the point. Just as important is to figure out what is your opponent's shot tolerance, then plan for one more shot than theirs.

For example, I am going to count to 8, the number of my shots and my opponent's shots before I feel the need to end the point offensively. Obviously, if you get the opportunity to end the point appropriately then go ahead without too much unnecessary risk.

You may have to set a higher number of shots if the opponent is a steady player or they adjust their shot tolerance during the match

**16 Second Cure**

Dr Jim Loehr created the 16 second cure, a suggested plan on what to do between points and how to reset for the next point.

1. Have some physical or mental response at the end of the point

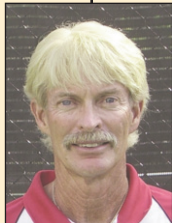
2. Let go - no thought, just some quiet time with the mind

3. Create a plan - before approaching the baseline, create a plan for your next serve or return

4. Perform your rituals - whatever you do before serving or receiving to quiet the mind and focus on the plan you created for the next point

Use any or all of the suggestions to improve your mental game to "quiet your mind." That is where you will find the most satisfying and sustainable improvement in your tennis game.

*Editor's note: DeHart is Director of Racquets - Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club, PTR Hall of Fame, PTR International Master Professional & USPTA Master Professional, USA High Performance Coach, NorCal USPTA Hall of Fame, and Yonex Racquets Tennis Speakers Team. To suggest a topic or comment on Ken's column, you may reach him at: [Kendehart@aol.com](mailto:Kendehart@aol.com); Facebook: Ken DeHart Tennis; or call (408) 892-3806.*

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## Times Feature

# The intrinsic art of crying

By Apoorva Panidapu

What's the big deal about crying anyway? You cry. I cry. Well, I guess I cry a lot. But it's all totally warranted, like when I'm stressed about meeting deadlines or laughing at TikTok cats or when returning soldiers are reunited with their dogs.

I cry when I watch sad movies (I'm convinced *Bridge to Terabithia* was some director's ploy to flood the Earth) or happy movies, documentaries where I'm outraged that not every animal lives happily ever after, every movie really. (Including *The Brave Little Toaster*, but in my defense, the alarm clock's sacrifice to bring back electricity was one of the most moving things I've ever seen)... commercials too, really anything inspirational—especially the car ones; just—tears everywhere.

Maybe my habit of crying is a bit obnoxious. I cry a lot, so WHAT? If anything, that makes me a dedicated artist who is willing to sacrifice a bit of dignity in the name of beauty—which is exactly what I told the last person who confronted me about crying at the movies...when the live-action *Clifford the Big Red Dog* trailer was playing (what? *Clifford* was my childhood). They then had the audacity to hyena-laugh and said that crying doesn't make me an artist. Since I am someone who is driven solely by spite, this article is dedicated to that person that I'll never see again (because they'll be too ashamed to ever show their face again after being proven so wrong).

Okay, enough of this, let's see what a tear actually LOOKS LIKE because, to be completely honest, they all look (and taste) the same to me.

**Can you see grief?**

Luckily, photographer Rose-Lynn Fisher contemplated this exact question over a decade ago (meaning I don't have to purchase a microscope for this article, which is what I'm thankful for this Thanksgiving). She looked at one of her own tears under a standard light microscope, commenting, "It looked like an aerial view, almost as if I was looking down at a landscape from a plane...I started wondering—would a tear of grief look any different than a tear of joy? And how would they compare to, say, an onion tear?"

These simple questions led to her extensive photography project "Topography of Tears", in which Fisher photographed over a hundred tears of grief, laughter, irritation, joy—collected from herself, a couple other volunteers (don't worry, she didn't force people to cry), including a newborn baby. Each tear is like a bird's eye view of a new world, a thoughtfully and carefully designed frozen moment in time. Fisher beautifully describes her project best, saying, "Although the empirical nature of tears is a chemistry of water, proteins, minerals,

hormones, antibodies and enzymes, the topography of tears is a momentary landscape, transient as the fingerprint of someone in a dream. This series is like an ephemeral atlas."

Every tear you shed, like your fingerprint or a snowflake, is entirely unique down to their microscopic structure. Scientifically speaking, there are three types of tears: basal, reflex, and emotional, all of which possess different compositions. Basal tears are in your eyes 24/7 to protect your cornea and keep it wet and healthy.

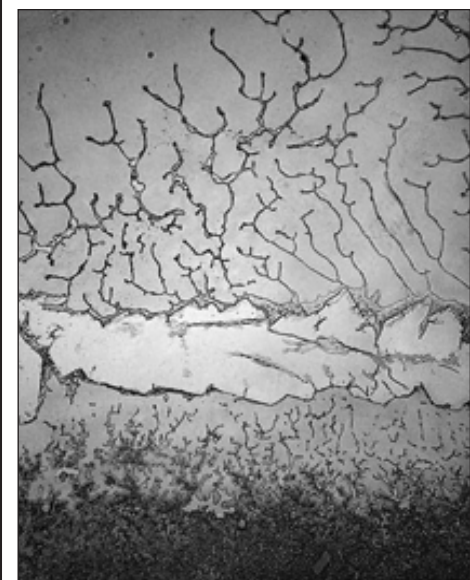
**"Basal Tears"**

Reflex tears (see below) are exactly what they sound like—a tearful response to when your eye is irritated, like when you're cutting onions or using any other shampoo than Johnson's Baby Shampoo (no more tears).



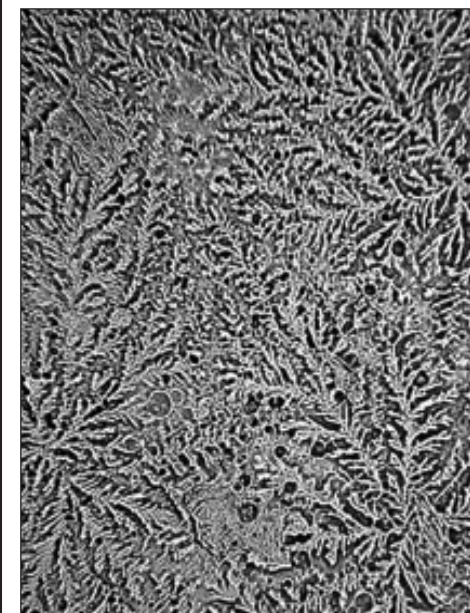
**Gems in STEM**

By Apoorva Panidapu



**"Onion Tears"**

Emotional tears, my speciality, are the tears that make us human (literally, humans are the only known mammals who cry as an emotional response). They come when we experience strong emotional stress, from weeping when Tony Stark took his last stand in *Endgame* to laugh-crying at a family



impression. Part of the variance in emotional tears may be explained by the three extra ingredients it has: the stress hormones prolactin and adrenocorticotrophic hormone, and the natural painkiller leucine enkephalin.

See *GEMS*, page 21



Times **Arts****Cliburn Gold Medal pianist Jon Nakamatsu performs Oct. 1 for Steinway Society in San Jose live and live-streamed**

Steinway Society – The Bay Area will present Jon Nakamatsu, who continues to draw unanimous praise as a true aristocrat of the keyboard, on October 1, 7:30 p.m. at the Hammer Theatre Center in San Jose.

The live concert will also be live-streamed online during the performance and will be viewable for 48 hours following the concert. Program notes and a recorded pre-concert lecture by classical music expert Dr. Gary Lemco are available at [www.steinwaysociety.com](http://www.steinwaysociety.com)

**The Program**

Alban Berg, Sonata, Op. 1

Chopin, Fantasy in F Minor, Op. 49

Chopin, Nocturne in B Major, Op. 9, No. 3

Chopin, Scherzo in E Major, Op. 54

Brahms, Sonata No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 5

Purchase Tickets: <https://steinwaysociety.com>; or call the Box Office: 408.300.5635; or Email: [office@steinwaysociety.com](mailto:office@steinwaysociety.com)

**About Jon Nakamatsu**

Jon Nakamatsu plays with elegance, clarity, and electrifying power. He came to international attention in 1997, when he was named Gold Medalist of the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, the only American since 1981 to have achieved the distinction. Extensive recital appearances include Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center, as well as premier venues in Europe, South America, and the Far East. His CD, featuring Gershwin's Rhapsody



Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Steinway Society

in Blue and the Concerto in F, hit number 3 on Billboard's classical music charts. In 1999, Nakamatsu performed at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton.

*"The pianist Jon Nakamatsu plays with the calm assurance that comes of having both a solid technique and a gentle, introspective, interpretive spirit."*

*-The New York Times*



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Times **Community News****CAREER CORNER****Prepare yourself  
for your future**By **Angela Copeland**

I love that the last few years have been a job seeker's market. In order to recruit and retain the best employees, companies have made large adjustments that seemed impossible before.



Many people began working from home. Salaries increased, and pay became more transparent. Work life balance took a front seat. Employers had everything to gain by becoming more receptive to employee needs. Employers struggled to find employees. The tables turned, and it felt great.

But, don't fool yourself. This is not a permanent state. Like everything in life, change is a constant.

If you have a retirement fund that depends on the stock market, you have probably noticed that the last few months have been up and down. You've probably heard that the housing market is changing. And, you have very likely seen that many companies are struggling overall.

To be honest, a downturn has been inevitable. It was surprising to see how well things held up in the midst of a global pandemic. The instability we're feeling now has been on its way for quite some time.

The rights of employees are important. Everyone should be treated with respect every day. There should be boundaries between the workday and personal life. Companies should pay top dollar for top talent. But, there's a personal saying that comes to mind, "Would you rather be right, or would you rather be married?" In this case, "married" should be swapped out for "employed."

We cannot assume all of the perks from a job seeker's market will continue as it becomes an employer's market again. The intension here is not to scare you. But, if there's one thing we all learned in 2020, it's that anything can happen. You cannot assume things will continue the way they are today.

So, what can you do? Realizing that no one can predict the future, all we can do is to prepare. The last thing you want is to find yourself in a difficult situation with no plan.

If you haven't updated your resume in a while, it's time to dust it off and make sure that it is current. Have it on standby, just in case. And, don't forget about LinkedIn. It should be updated and connected to your colleagues, and should have a current photo of you. Your resume and LinkedIn profile are two of your greatest job search tools.

If your work is already feeling unstable, it may be time to go to the next step. You may want to begin to apply for jobs. Although the job market looks poor right now, hiring is still happening. It may be harder to find a job, and it may take longer, but it is not impossible.

Set aside time each week to work on your future plan. Think about where you would like to be in one year, and five years. Don't wait for the future to happen to you. Lay your own foundation.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at <http://www.copeland-coaching.com>.

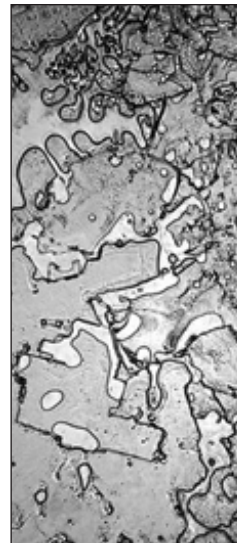
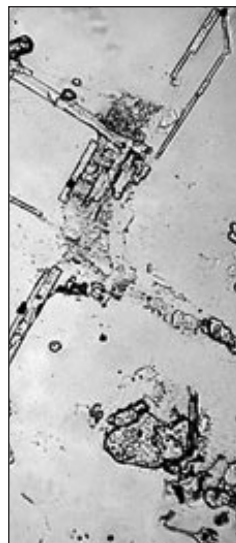
**Gems**

Continued from page

*"Tears of Grief" (at right, near)**"Tears of Laughing Till I'm Crying" (far right)*

Surprisingly, or perhaps unsurprisingly, tears of the same type or caused by the same reason don't have any obvious similarity and can look worlds apart after crystallizing. This is due to the expansive amount of variables, like the chemistry, the viscosity ("thickness"), and evaporation rate of the tears—even the microscope's settings!

So, the beauty in the structures isn't only due to mere tears, but also the randomness of external variables and distribution



of your tears' various components.

Why tears? "Tears are the medium of our most primal language in moments as unrelenting as death, as basic as hunger and as complex as a rite of passage. It's as though each one of our tears carries a microcosm of the collective human experience, like one drop of an ocean." - Rose-Lynn Fisher.

Wow, she should consider being a poet too—that just about brought me to tears.

To see more of her photographs, you can visit her website: <https://www.rose-lynn-fisher.com/tears.html>

Until next time! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [apoorvapwrites@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvapwrites@gmail.com).

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- Loving Respect
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Visit us at our web site at: [church@campbellucc.org](http://church@campbellucc.org) or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

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6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. [www.ccvucc.org](http://www.ccvucc.org). We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

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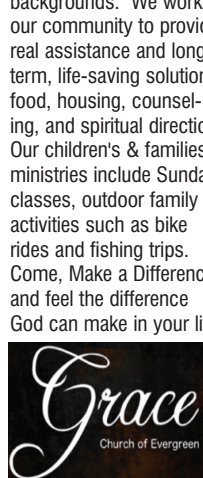


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## Employment

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Sify Technologies North America Corporation seeks Lead Database Administrator in Santa Clara, CA and Philadelphia, PA. Partner with architects of different engineering/application teams to engineer complex technical product in order to provide business solutions to various business divisions as a part of DBA Engineering project activities. Implement and administer Oracle streams for live reporting server, database consolidation, zero downtime migration. Travel to unanticipated client sites within the US. May need to relocate. Work from home is an option. **Send resume to: katta.reddy@sifycorp.com**

## Notices

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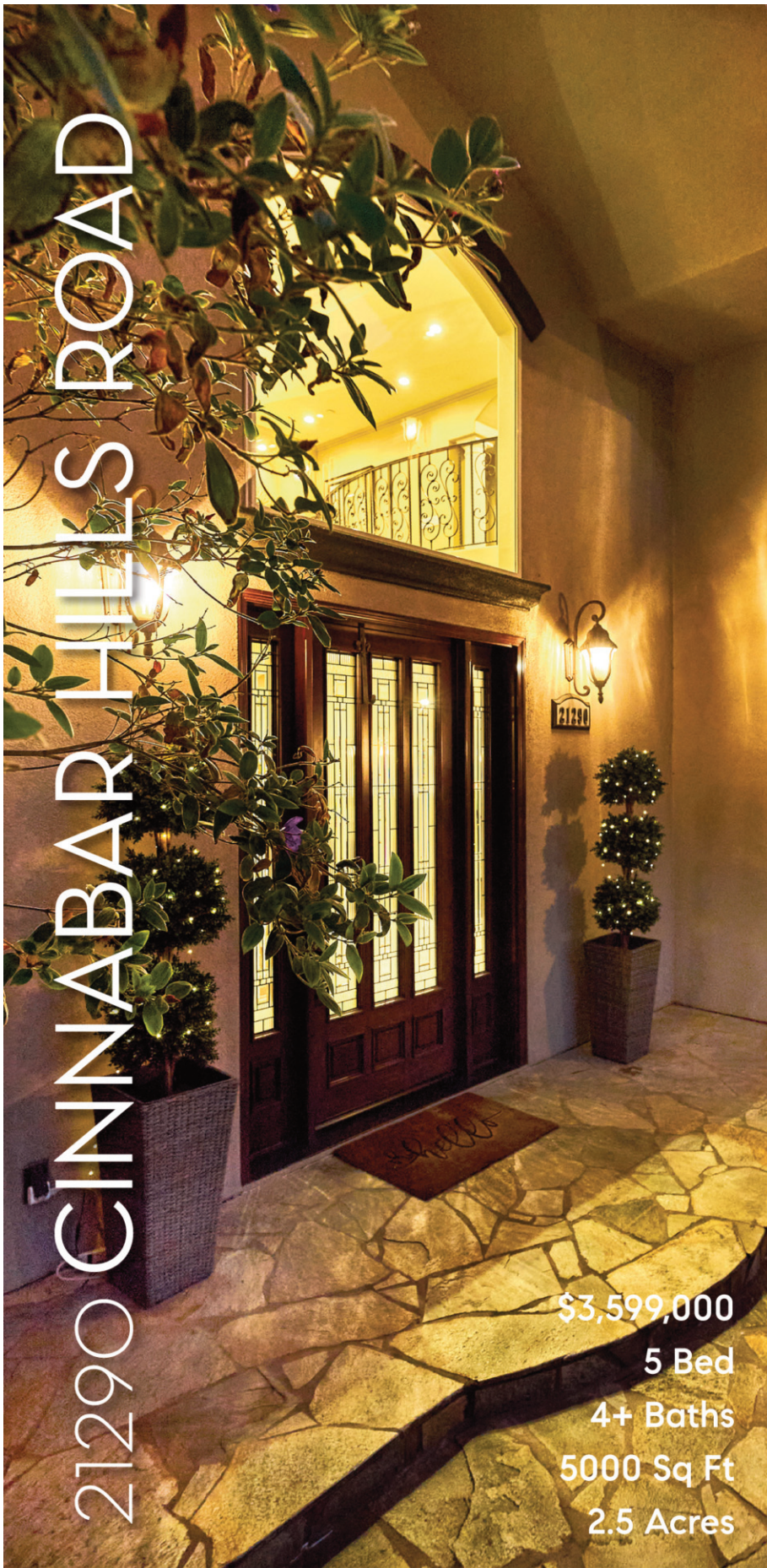
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## A One-of-a-Kind Home

Unbridled elegance in this architectural masterpiece with private driveway and wooded views. This stunning custom estate showcases an open floorplan celebrating indoor/outdoor living. Outdoor entertaining with complete built-in kitchen and patios, solar heated infinity pool & spa with waterfall feature. Two-story foyer with a grand imperial-style staircase. A formal living room with fireplace, wine bar, and Juliet balconies. Expansive family room, gourmet kitchen with multiple prep stations and island, and sliding doors to the outside. Executive office and gym area. Top Almaden Schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.

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\$3,599,000  
5 Bed  
4+ Baths  
5000 Sq Ft  
2.5 Acres



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 13 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. 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.***

**Therese Swan**  
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[AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com](http://AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com)  
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