

**Business:** ITT Tech students' debt canceled. C7



**Local:** Middle-schoolers fine-tune their dance skills at Ailey Camp. B1



**Sports:** A's call up top prospect Langeliers, release Piscotty. C1



**Nation:** Cheney ousted from House. A4



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## BAY POINT

## Contra Costa Fire chief touts station

New site gives the department a 'tremendous amount of operational flexibility,' chief says

By Judith Prieve  
jprieve@bayareanewsgroup.com

**BAY POINT** » Almost two decades in the making, the new Bay Point Fire Station 86 is now open for business, replacing a nearly 75-year-old facility.

The new station is just north of Highway 4, allowing easy access to the region.

The station, which broke ground in April of 2021 and opened last week at 10 Goble

Drive, replaces the old station a mile to the west on Willow Pass Road in Bay Point.

"What an incredible fire station this is," Contra Costa Fire Protection District Chief Lewis T. Broschard said at Friday's opening ceremony. "It's an amazing piece of architecture and an amazing facility. It's going to serve us for a really long time."

At 10,800 square feet, the new single-story structure has 5,100 square feet for living areas and

5,700 square feet for the apparatus bays, more than double the size of the old station.

"Today we really mark a new beginning for Bay Point and areas of Pittsburg communities by moving out of an almost 75-year-old station into a state-of-art facility that will serve our residents, our firefighters for literally generations to come," Broschard said. "I think we could fit two of the existing Fire Stations 86 into the new facility, that's how small Station 86 was."

Broschard called the new station a "significant upgrade," while

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Contra Costa Fire Protection District Chief Lewis Broschard addresses firefighters and members of the community at the new Fire Station 86 at 10 Goble Drive in Bay Point on Friday.

COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## MONKEYPOX

## Local man's diagnosis viewed as 'terrifying'

Symptoms were unusual in their rapid spread, according to doctors

By Jackie Fortier  
California Healthline

Two days after Kevin Kwong flew home to California from New York, his hands itched so badly, the pain jolted him from sleep. He thought the problem was eczema. "Everything started rapidly getting worse," the Emeryville resident said. "I started to get more spots, on my face, more redness and they started leaking fluid. The rash expanded to my elbows and my hands and my ankles."

It took Kwong, 33, six virtual appointments with doctors and nurses, one call to a nurse hotline, a trip to an urgent care clinic, two emergency room visits and two incorrect diagnoses before an infectious disease specialist diagnosed him with monkeypox in July.

Despite taking two tests, he never tested positive.

As the number of monkeypox cases has exploded in the U.S., the public health system is struggling to spread the word about the virus's danger and distribute a limited supply of vaccines to vulnerable people.

But the problem extends even further. People who may be infected are grappling with dead ends, delays, incorrect diagnoses and inappropriate treatments as they navigate an unprepared and ill-informed health care system.

The once-obscure virus has hospitals racing to teach emer-

MONKEYPOX » PAGE 5

## MR. ROADSHOW

## Motorists not thrilled with rollout of express lanes

Q Well, the Grand Experiment with express lanes is over, and we can deem them

## BERKELEY

## Young students make strides at dance camp



PHOTOS: BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL — BAY CITY NEWS FOUNDATION

East Bay middle school students dance in "Give Thanks for Life and Nature," choreographed by Zimbabwean dance instructor Salani Matshoba, at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus on July 28 after nearly six weeks of training at the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

## The middle schoolers also learn life skills while perfecting their moves

By Rowena Gonden  
Bay City News Foundation

**BERKELEY** » Arms rotating backward, dozens of young dancers in matching outfits warm up onstage in the final rehearsal before showtime.

"Shoulders, elbows, cha-cha-cha," they chant to a sparse audience scattered among the seats of the cavernous theater.

"Up, up, up ... down, down, down," instructor Vincent Chavez calls out, guiding his class as they stretch their arms to the ceiling and then directly in front of them, fingers interlocked.

Four dozen youngsters are returning to school with plenty



Dancers acknowledge family and friends in the audience while gathering on stage after the summer camp's final production of "Believing We Can" at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall on July 28.

to say about what they did this summer after attending a dance camp on the UC Berkeley campus.

And they won't only be talking about moves they learned, like the jete in ballet or jazz's step ball change; Berkeley/Oak-

land AileyCamp — conceived by pioneering New York City choreographer Alvin Ailey in 1989 — also teaches lessons designed to set middle-schoolers up for success in all facets of their lives.

"The mission is to use dance as a vehicle for self-expression ... but at the same time ... you're also learning about professional and personal life skills," said camp director Patricia West.

"The program gives youth the opportunity ... to figure out how to be personal best."

Held in Zellerbach Hall on the UC campus, the camp is open to 11- to 14-year-olds in the Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond and Albany unified

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# Dance

FROM PAGE 1

school districts at no cost.

For six weeks, youngsters take four classes a day, rotating through sessions in jazz and ballet as well as African and modern dance.

When they are not challenging themselves physically, they are engaged in activities aimed at developing the whole person. The curriculum includes art projects, writing assignments, role playing and group discussions, as well as the recitation of daily affirmations to help campers understand and accept themselves more fully and communicate effectively.

This personal development component covers a broad array of topics, from recognizing the difference between healthy and toxic relationships to being true to oneself in the face of peer pressure. Young people also learn how to set goals, manage stress and resolve conflict, as well as to appreciate that their decisions can have far-reaching effects.

"It's not just dance — these are life skills that they're learning," West said.

Overseeing the camp is Cal Performances, the university's performing arts presenter that hosts appearances by world-renown singers, stage actors and dancers.

Among Cal Performance's regular visitors is the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which



BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL — BAY CITY NEWS FOUNDATION

Excited dancers wait to take the stage for their final production, "Believing We Can," at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus on July 28. The middle schoolers were part of a dance camp inspired by Alvin Ailey.

has entertained Bay Area audiences with weeklong performances on the campus for all but one of the past 53 years.

And since 2002, the New York City dance company has teamed up with Cal Performances to hold Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp, one of nine such youth summer camps in the United States.

Cal Performances not only gives each camper a full scholar-

ship but also provides Oakland students with free round-trip bus transportation to the campus as well as breakfast and lunch for everyone. In addition, each student receives ballet slippers, T-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, unitards and backpacks.

With the exercises over, youngsters don their costumes and arrange themselves in a triangular formation onstage.

No one needs reminding that when the curtain rises the following night, they'll be delivering a 90-minute performance in front of hundreds of friends and family.

Loud drumming suddenly fills the theater and as the lights come up the dancers' outstretched arms jerk in unison to the staccato rhythms, their black costumes a dramatic contrast to the bright red backdrop.

Berkeley seventh-grader Isabel Thumas wasn't happy when she discovered her mother had signed her up for the camp without telling her.

"Honestly, I was really hesitant to go," said Isabel who, although no stranger to dance classes, disliked the idea of mingling with kids she didn't know.

She also was self-conscious about wearing a unitard, Isabel said.

But six weeks later, the 12-year-old had made peace with her figure after seeing the array of different shapes and sizes in class, and there was a new note of confidence in her voice.

"I would say it's better than most camps," Isabel said. "It doesn't matter what you look like — like if you're thin or big. We're all equal because we're human."

Rowen Weeramantry gives the camp high marks for teaching "life stuff."

The Oakland 13-year-old practiced expressing himself through abstract art projects and writing poetry, which he read during weekly open-mic sessions.

As for the dancing, Rowen says his body is more flexible now, and he has decided that ballet is his favorite form of expression despite its emphasis on precision.

"I feel a lot of people hate ballet because it's so strict, but Mr. Chavez teaches it in such a freeing way," he said.

*To learn more, or donate, go to <https://calperformances.org/community/aileycamp>*