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Student-athletes participated in the April 21 Special Olympics at Acalanes, with hundreds of volunteers helping make their dreams come true. Photo Jeff Heyman

# Student-athletes from 30 schools shine at Acalanes' Special Olympics event

By Jon Kingdon

One week after hosting 30 schools and hundreds of student-athletes at the Bob Warren/Charlie Eaton Invitational Track Meet, Acalanes made their facilities available to another 30 schools and an equal number of very special student-athletes by hosting the eighth annual Special Olympics on April 21. With ABC anchor Dan Ashley hosting and a bright sunny day, it set the tone for an exciting day of competitive running, jumping and throwing.

Sherry Roberti, the program coordinator at the Contra Costa County Office of Education who oversaw this event, saw an increase of participants this year. "Last year we had 28 schools and this year we have 30, plus it's a very sunny day and last year it was raining so that was an improvement," Roberti said. "We put

on 15 events a year like this all over Contra Costa County and it takes several months to get everything together."

Roberti gives credit to the people at Acalanes who make this event so special. "It's the support from Katherine Walton, their leadership teacher and the student volunteers," Roberti said. "The support from the boosters is excellent, making snack bags for the athletes and selling hot dogs and chips."

Walton, who is also on special assignment over culture and climate, spearheaded the effort, assigning students from her leadership class to oversee the 130 volunteer students from Acalanes. "What's so cool about this event is that I do not have to do much to get our students to volunteer because they want to be out here," Walton said. "I just put up the announcement and the students signed up with smiles on their faces. It says a lot about our community, which is something I really value."

... continued on Page A9

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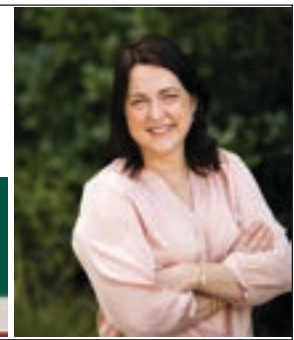
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# All-Electric Building Code ramifications for residents, businesses discussed



Gas appliances. A thing of the past? Photo A. Schek

By Vera Kochan

Aspects of the 2022 California Building Code, which was adopted by Contra Costa County, were up for discussion during the Moraga Town Council's April 12 meeting. While most of the amendments were related to life and safety, it was the All-Electric Building Code that seemed to take center stage during the evening.

In January of last year, the County Board of Supervisors amended the 2019 California Energy Code to require newly constructed buildings, such as residential (both single- and multi-family), detached Accessory Dwelling Units, hotels, offices, and retail to be all-electric. Restaurants are exempt.

According to the April 12 staff report by Moraga Associate Planner Mio Mendez and Planning Director Afshan Hamid, "An all-electric building is de-

defined as a building that has no natural gas or propane plumbing installed within the building, and that uses electricity as the sole source of energy for its space heating (including heating of all indoor and outdoor spaces of the building), water heating (including heating of indoor and outdoor pools and spas), cooking appliances, and clothes drying appliances. An all-electric building may utilize solar thermal pool heating."

Additionally, "The all-electric building code was adopted due to local climatic, geographical, topographical, and environmental conditions of Contra Costa County."

The County points out the many benefits of an all-electric new construction ordinance in that it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions that impact climate change and its hazards;

... continued on Page A4

**Civic News** A1-A10

Impacts of cattle grazing at Orinda Oaks Park discussed – Page A7

**Public Safety**

Lafayette/Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break - Page A8

**Life in Lamorinda** B1-B4

Third-graders get crash course in Moraga's rich history - Page B1



**Sports** C1-C2

Over 500 track athletes descend on Acalanes for annual Invitational – Page C1



**Our Homes** D1-D12

Simple ways to bolster garden plantings in May - Page D10

