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# Marin Independent Journal

Monday, June 27, 2022 \$2.00 FACEBOOK.COM/MARINIJFAN TWITTER.COM/MARINIJ marinij.com

## MARIN COUNTY

# Budget: Bright now, future cloudy

### Priorities covered for 2022-23, but inflation leaves uncertainty

By Richard Halstead  
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Marin County supervisors have approved a \$716 million budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year, a 5% increase over the current budget.

The supervisors' vote on the budget on Wednesday concluded three days of budget hearings. The fiscal year begins July 1.

"What is exciting about this budget is the significant amount of one-time investments in com-

munity priorities such as affordable housing, homelessness, racial equity and climate change," County Administrator Matthew Hymel said.

The budget authorizes \$56 million in one-time expenditures and \$5 million in new, ongoing spending. The money for the \$61 million in new spending is coming from two sources. Fiscal year 2021-22 expenditure sav-

ings, increased revenue from local and state taxes, and lower pension costs account for \$31.1 million. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is the source of the remaining \$25 million.

"We are in this super unique position with all this ARPA money," Board President Katie Rice said. "We have such an incredible opportunity right now to make headway on our top com-

munity priorities."

Rice also highlighted the role that the strong economic recovery from the pandemic played in putting the county in its current "fortunate position." State and local tax revenue recovered faster than expected. In addition, extraordinary investment returns by the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association in fiscal

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## LEADERSHIP RETREAT

# STUDENT SUPPORT

### Marin youth used as mentors to ease social isolation



PHOTOS BY ALAN DEP - MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

Harita Kavai, 17, of San Rafael, talks about how her experiences growing up led to an interest in community activism during the Beyond Differences leadership retreat in San Rafael on Friday.

By Giuseppe Ricapito  
gricapito@marinij.com

On Friday, Harita Kavai volunteered to read a poem before a group of youth selected to participate in a leadership retreat.

The 17-year-old at Terra Linda High School student spoke softly and read slowly from the white notebook unfolded in her hands.

"This is for the girls," she said. "This is for every girl. Because every girl deserves to be seen."

Kavai was one of about 40 students who participated in a four-day leadership retreat coordinated by the Marin-based nonprofit Beyond Differences. The four-day event aimed to prepare teens and

young adults to face their own feelings of social isolation so that they may act as mentors to other youths experiencing similar feelings of disconnection.

"Everyone has a story and everyone's identity belongs to them," said Laura Talmus, co-founder and executive director of Beyond Differences. "That deserves to be celebrated and that deserves to be respected and accepted."

Kavai's poem addressed a litany of issues: class, wealth, gender, identity and bullying. The daughter of Indian immigrants and neurodivergent, Kavai expressed how the disconnection she once felt with her peers had transformed into a determi-



Youth activists listen to a presentation by poet Gabriel Cortez during the Beyond Differences leadership retreat.

nation to inspire others.

"I learned there's a lot of people who have experienced the same things that I do," she said. "It's all starting to make sense."

The group of students raised their hands in the air and snapped their fingers enthusiastically as she finished. Each of them

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## LGBTQ MARCHES

# Pride parades in nation have new urgency

### Many fear top court could erode hard-won freedoms

By Bobby Caina Calvan  
The Associated Press

Pride parades were held around the country Sunday with glittering confetti, cheering crowds, fluttering rainbow flags and newfound fears about losing freedoms won through decades of activism.

The annual marches in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and elsewhere took place just two days after one conservative justice on the Supreme Court signaled, in a ruling on abortion, that the court should reconsider the right to same-sex marriage recognized in 2015.

"We're here to make a statement," said 31-year-old Mercedes Sharpe, who traveled to Manhattan from Massachusetts. "I think it's about making a point, rather than all the other years like

PRIDE » PAGE 2

## CALIFORNIA

# How Roe ruling could affect state elections

Marin Independent Journal Staff

While the Supreme Court's decision to eliminate the constitutional right to abortion after almost 50 years does not alter Californians' access to services, it has quickly become a rallying cry for Democratic leaders and progressive activists across the Bay Area looking to energize voters in the months ahead.

Standing in a sea of thousands of residents who gathered in front of San Jose City Hall on Saturday morning to protest the previous day's decision, Milpitas councilwoman Karina Dominguez called on disheartened residents to make their voices heard.

"I want people to turn that emotion into action," said Dominguez, clad in a shirt depicting former Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's face aglow. "I want them to run for office and take up space. But most importantly, hold their elected officials accountable."

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## G7 SUMMIT

### Biden urges Western unity on Ukraine

Biden and Western allies say they're intent on keeping economic fallout from the war in Ukraine. PAGE A7



## CRISIS IN EUROPE

### Russia strikes Kyiv as Western leaders meet

Russia has shattered weeks of relative calm in Ukraine's capital with a missile attack as Western leaders meet. PAGE A8

## SF SCHOOL BOARD

### Trustees reverse course after recall

Voters ousted three school board members in hopes of reshaping education policies and politics. PAGE A4

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