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OAKLAND BALLET VISITS SCHOOL



PHOTOS BY RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oakland Ballet dancers in colorful outfits perform an excerpt from "Luna Mexicana," a Day of the Dead-themed ballet for students in kindergarten, first grade and second grade at Yu Ming Charter School in San Leandro on Wednesday.

Dancers bring Day of the Dead to life

Young San Leandro students see moving performance of 'Luna Mexicana'

Dressed as skeletons, and moving zombielike, Oakland Ballet dancers celebrated the Day of the Dead with a "Luna Mexicana" performance at Yu Ming Charter School in San Leandro. In collaboration with Ballet Folklórico Mexico Danza of Hayward, the performance featured a piece of "Viva La Vida," which is about the life of artist Frida Kahlo. Day of the Dead is a Mexican tradition to honor deceased loved ones on Nov. 1 and 2.



Yu Ming Charter School students are mesmerized — or perhaps a bit frightened? — as Oakland Ballet dancers perform "Luna Mexicana" on Wednesday.

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Efforts to alter recall panned

Opponents of proposal say the public would lose ability to hold unelected officials accountable

By Will McCarthywmcCarthy@bayareanewsGroup.com

As the Alameda County Board of Supervisors considers changing their recall procedures, some residents question whether the move is an earnest effort to modernize the county charter or a blatant power grab.

"This repeal is much, much more extensive than the county is presenting to the public," said Jason Bezis, an attorney for the Alameda County Taxpayers Association. "It's overreaching, what they're trying to do."

Questions first arose in October after the county's lawyer, Donna Ziegler, prepared a report highlighting problems with the county's current recall rules for elected and appointed officials. According to Ziegler, the county's laws contained decades-old procedures that were "a detriment to ensuring lawful, competent and timely recalls." Her report recommended that the county adopt the state's recall language instead.

The move quickly prompted outrage from groups in the midst of pursuing a high-profile recall effort against Pamela Price, the reform-minded district attorney who has been criticized for ethical concerns and her approach to sentencing.

But some believe the procedure change could have far-reaching impacts beyond the Price recall campaign.

According to Bezis, the new rules would strip the public of its ability to recall appointed county officers — including Ziegler herself. That power, Bezis says, has existed in the charter since it was adopted in 1926.

In an open letter to the board, the tax-