Former trustee seeks state office
RYAN PARCHER  
Editor-in-chief

Former Ohlone Trustee Bob Brunton will face off Nov. 4 against San Jose City Councilmember Kansen Chu for the 25th State Assembly District seat.

Chu, a Democrat, finished first and Brunton, a Republican, was second in the June primary. Both candidates are vying for the seat left vacant by Bob Wieckowski, a Democrat, who is making his bid for the 10th State Senate District seat in November.

The 25th Assembly District includes southern Fremont, Newark, Milpitas, Santa Clara and part of San Jose.

Brunton received 23.7 percent of the vote in the primary, while Chu received 30.4 percent of the vote, competing not just against Brunton, but also against three other Democrats.

According to Chu’s campaign webpage, two of the other candidates, Ohlone Trustee Keren Cox and Chih-Wei Steckler, endorsed Chu after their defeat. If the Cox and Steckler voters give their support to Chu instead, he will be on track to receive nearly 60 percent of the vote.

Brunton, a traditionally Democratic district is not the only obstacle in Brunton’s path. According to Chu, the district’s property limits.

ELECTION

Ohlone hosts City Council debate
MITCHELL WALTHER  
Features editor

Several candidates for Fremont City Council took part in an open forum at Ohlone College last week.

Five of the nine candidates for City Council on Nov. 4 came out to speak at Ohlone.

The other incumbent, Councilmember Anu Narayanan, cannot seek re-election because of term limits.

The Ohlone College Debate Club organized the event, held in Room 7101 on the Fremont campus. About 30 students attended.

One issue was clearly important to all five candidates who spoke at Ohlone: economic development.

With minimal differences of opinion, each politician reinforced the idea that Fremont’s downtown development on Capitol Avenue was a key progression.

Rick Jones, a retired police officer, also said he wants to see more police and firefighters hired. Attorney David Bonacorsi said he has “a passion for fun” and wants to see more public art in the city.

Lily Mei, a school board member and business consultant, said the city’s budget needs to be fixed.

Councilmember Raj Salwan, a small-business owner, was appointed to the council two years ago and is seeking election to serve a full term. He said the city is doing fine now, and he will work to keep things moving in the same direction if he is elected.

Nancy Liu said she wants the city to organize free seminars to teach local residents how to keep their property clean and maintained – and fine them if they don’t.

SPEECH

Auschwitz survivor to speak at Ohlone

Smith Center to host a story of survival and hope through the holocaust

MONITOR STAFF

Holocaust survivor Magda Brown will speak twice this week in the Smith Center on the Fremont campus.

Brown, who was born in Miskolc, Hungary, was 17 in 1944 when she and her family were taken to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland.

After arriving, Brown was separated from her parents, aunts and uncles, cousins and friends. She would never see them again.

Brown will tell her story of survival and hope from noon to 1:30 p.m. today and from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Smith Center. Admission is free, and refreshments will be provided.

The event is co-sponsored by the Student Activities Department and Ohlone College history instructor Stephen Hanna.

IMAM BATTLES MISCONCEPTIONS

Imam Azhar Haneef speaks about Islam on Sunday to an audience at the Smith Center on the Fremont campus.

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Director of publications for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

When Muhammad’s wife of 28 years presented him with a slave as a gift before she died, he set the man free. Haneef said.

“What slave does not yearn for freedom?” Haneef asked the audience.

People mocked Muhammad when he claimed to be a prophet – threw things at him, slapped him and cursed his existence. Still, he remained humble, Haneef said.

“It was nice to hear about a culture from their own perspective,” Ohlone journalism major Stephane Pera Pena said after the presentation.

“I never realized the presentation illustrated the story of Muhammad and how he became an Islamic prophet. Many non-Muslims believe Muhammad was a ruthless ruler, but he always showed great compassion, Haneef said.

When Muhammad’s wife

ISLAM

ABIGAIL MONEDA  
Staff writer

Imam Azhar Haneef, the national vice president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA, took part in a multimedia presentation about Islam on Sunday at Ohlone College’s Fremont campus.

Haneef and other AMC members organized the event to combat negative stereotypes about Islam, many sparked by violence committed by ISIS and others in the name of the religion.

The purpose of this event was to give people the knowledge of the true meaning of our Islamic culture,” said Saleem Qadir, director of publications for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

“What slave does not yearn for freedom?” Haneef asked the audience.

For example, the word “jihad” today is used to promote warfare, he said, but it is derived from a word meaning “to strive.”

“The biggest jihad is found within ourselves,” Qadir said.

The presentation illustrated the story of Muhammad and how he became an Islamic prophet. Many non-Muslims believe Muhammad was a ruthless ruler, but he always showed great compassion, Haneef said.

When Muhammad’s wife

of 28 years presented him with a slave as a gift before she died, he set the man free. Haneef said.

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“It was nice to hear about a culture from their own perspective,” Ohlone journalism major Stephane Pera Pena said after the presentation.

“I never realized how many people make assumptions. I was guilty of it myself before, but not after this meeting,” Pera Pena said.

The event is co-sponsored by the Student Activities Department and Ohlone College history instructor Stephen Hanna.

Looking to expand your lunch options? Read about a local deli on Page 5.