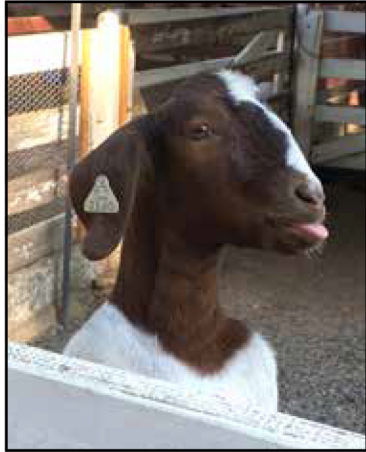




## Westmont High School Shines at Santa Clara County Fair

The Santa Clara County Fair is now in full swing, and Westmont High School FFA program is making waves, thanks to the tireless efforts of program director Dave Duarte and his wife, Selene.

Dave has long led the local FFA program, steering it to become the largest and most successful one in our area. This year, his efforts are complemented by Selene who is the newly appointed Co-Director of the San Jose County Fairgrounds. Selene's appointment comes with years of dedication as a consultant and assistant to the Fairground's Director.



Her involvement in agriculture is deeply rooted in her family's history. She grew up on family-owned land at Dry Creek Rd. and Union Avenue in Campbell. Her grandfather started Bayshire Farms in Gault, California, while her Grandmother's family ran Nelson Trucking in San Jose, hauling fruit from orchards to the Sunsweet Cannery in Campbell. Selene and her younger brother thrived in 4H programs

during their youth, achieving top awards in Showmanship and Reserve performances in all categories with their many farm animals.

The Duartes' connection to agriculture extends well into their adult lives. They met through agricultural competitions and jackpot programs, becoming high school sweethearts and eventually marrying. Their children now carry on the family tradition of raising and showing animals at the County Fair.

Under Dave and Selene's guidance, Westmont High School and the FFA program have seen remarkable growth. Starting from humble beginnings in the early 1990's with just 30 animals, the program now boasts diverse livestock and extensive sustainability in addition to a recycling initiative. This year, 110 belt buckles and several other categories will be awarded, highlighting the program's success through the dedication of its varied participants.

Selene's role has been pivotal in organizing these awards, ensuring recognition for the hard work of all students. Her journey demonstrates the ultimate commitment to agricultural



education and community involvement.

The Santa Clara County Fair provides a crucial platform for young farmers to develop their skills by competing in various categories. Westmont High School's FFA team showcases Westmont's sustainable farming practices, that includes livestock, vegetable gardening, and a composting system that serves

not only the students, but the Campbell community as well.

The Duartes' leadership has transformed Westmont's FFA program into a beacon of agricultural education, fostering new generations of farmers that includes their growing children who now excel in the industry. Together the family's efforts underscore the fair's evolving role in promoting farming as a viable career path and enhancing animal welfare awareness.

The Santa Clara County Fair continues to be of special significance this year by drawing attention to the importance of sustainable agriculture, and with the dedication of those involved, they will keep these traditions alive and moving forward.



Our 80th Anniversary Fair will be an unforgettable event with exciting activities for everyone to enjoy. On Thursday, July 25th, we will have a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the fair, followed by an honor for our military veterans. Children aged 12 and under will receive free admission on this day. And on Saturday, July 27th, the fairgrounds will host our Fair Parade.

Throughout the fair, you can enjoy various free entertainment on four stages, including music from multiple genres and eras. You can also watch children's magic acts, pig races, BMX stunt shows, a mini-circus, and even participate in the carnival. For those seeking an adrenaline rush, bungee jumps, water balls, and pony rides are available.

Of course, no fair would be complete without delicious food, and we offer plenty of options to choose from. You can indulge in traditional favorites such as Angelo's

Pepper Steak and corn dogs or try new international dishes. For those looking to relax, we also have a wine and beer garden, as well as a tequila saloon.

In addition to all the fun and excitement, you can learn something new at the fair. We have hands-on exhibits from Tech Interactive, opportunities to explore local flora and fauna, and home art displays to inspire your creativity. You can even get up close with the animals, including sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and mini donkeys.

Support the Jr Livestock Auction in the morning on August 3rd, followed by the Firefighters Chili Cook-Off, which benefits the Firefighter's burn unit. We will also be welcoming our Special Needs Community for a day of Fair fun!

Our Fair in 2024 promises to be the ultimate family fun experience, delighting every member of your family.

For more information, please visit [www.thefair.org](http://www.thefair.org).

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