

PIEDMONT Post

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CITIZENS OF PIEDMONT

Girl Scout Pinewood Derby draws a big crowd

By Carolyn Pan

The 21st Annual Girl Scout Pinewood Derby was held at Piedmont Community Church on Saturday, February 7. The derby was hosted for the third year by Senior Girl Scout Troop 33587, a



A Judge's Choice Award went to Izel Darran's car.

Piedmont High School and Head Royce troop of 9th graders, who are raising funds for a senior trip. Over 70 scouts of all ages, as well as their friends and family, raced in six different competitions. For the first time, there was an adults-only category with five entries in which there were no limits to modification besides adding propulsion. Awards were given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers, Judges Choice in each level, as well recognition for design, creativity, imagination, and workmanship among others. There were many creative cars, some of the judges' favorites included: a pencil car, a slice of cheese car with a mouse, See [Pinewood Derby](#) on page 10



Photos by Sicheng Wu, Yang Li, Amera Rizk, Stacy Readal and Carolyn Pan
Daisy Race Winners: Abby Galea 2nd (left), Josephine Wittman 1st, and Sophia Chan 3rd

Nominate a Piedmont Heritage Tree

Do you have a favorite tree in Piedmont's parks and public spaces? Nominate it to become a City of Piedmont Heritage Tree! <https://form.jotform.com/240190478826058>

To nominate a tree or group of trees, complete the online nomination form by Friday, March 20. Nominators will be asked to provide a brief description explaining what makes the tree noteworthy, the address or general location, and photos of the tree. The Park Commission will consider nominations based on aesthetic, educational or historical qualities. Any tree located in Piedmont parks or other public spaces is eligible. Trees on private property will not be considered. This year's Heritage Trees will be announced at the April 9, 2026, Park Commission meeting and recognized at the City's annual Arbor Day celebration on Thursday, April 23, at Community Hall. Nominators of selected trees will be acknowledged during the Arbor Day program and will receive a limited-edition Piedmont Heritage Tree lapel pin. An interactive map of Piedmont's Heritage Trees is available on the City's website. Trees selected this year will join 34 others designated since the program began in 2018. piedmont.ca.gov/HeritageTrees. See [Heritage Tree](#) on page 31

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Piedmont Community Pool facility

City leaders announce Piedmont Community Pool to open in April

By Jake Lannon

Mayor Betsy Smegal Andersen announced on February 5 that the community pool would be open to the public in April, barring any setbacks. An exact opening date will be released on February 13, along with dates for pool pass sales, party room bookings, and swim lesson registration. "We are at a point where there isn't the type of uncertainty that we have witnessed previously, and we anticipate the issuance of a temporary certificate of occu- See [Pool Update](#) on page 3



Piedmont Mayor Betsy Smegal Andersen and Vice Mayor Conna McCarthy at the Community Pool Q&A meeting

Wildwood Crab Feed satisfies the masses

By Jay Russell

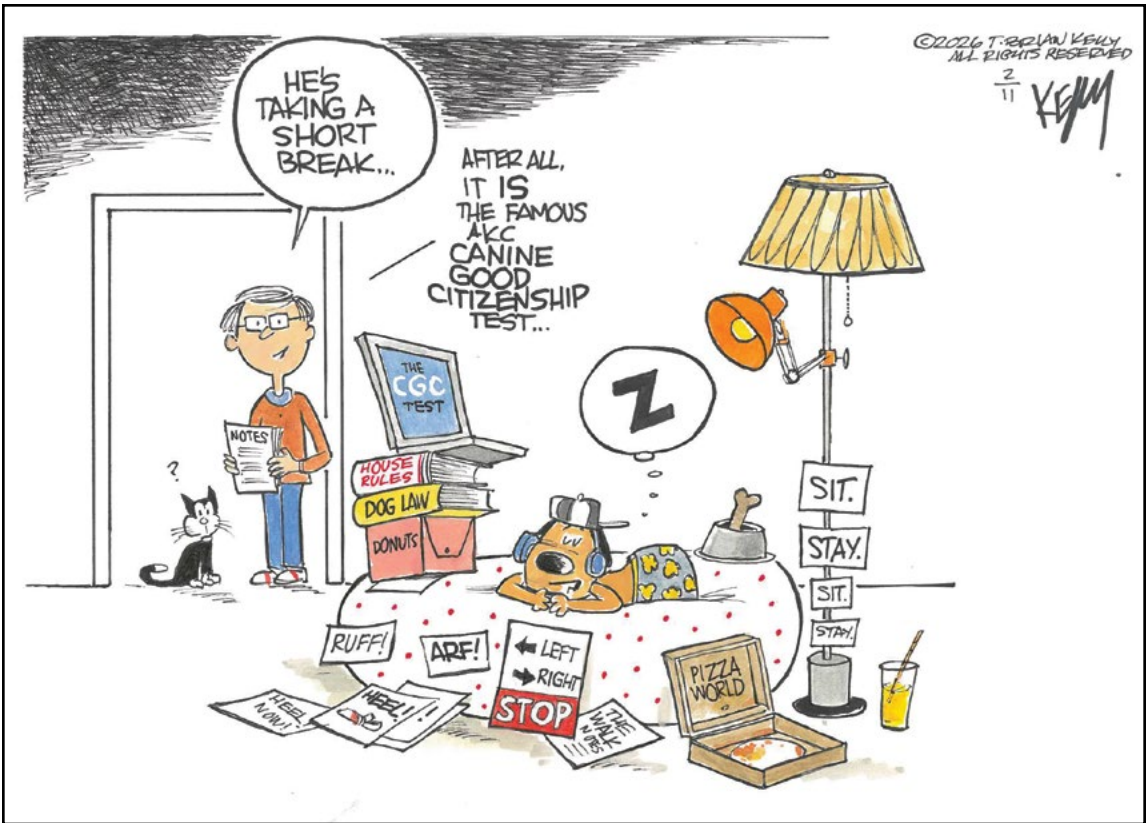
The Wildwood Dads Club hosted its 39th annual Crab Feed last weekend, proving that many things get better with age. A magical evening of all-you-can-eat crab and imbibements made the

Veterans Hall the place to be on Saturday, February 7. A bounty of 220 pounds of fresh crab provided ample amounts for the 150 guests. Leftovers were donated to Piedmont Police and Fire Departments. The dads' major fundraising efforts to support the schools come from the pumpkin patch annually, and the Crab Feed is about throwing the best party possible, to build community and strengthen bonds between fami- See [Crab Feed](#) on page 7



Wildwood Dads Club Co-President Grady Snyder (left) and Crab Feed co-lead Sergio Serna put extra horsepower into the event with a tandem costume.

OPINION



Letters to the Editor

Dear editor:

Piedmont should reconsider the placement of The Dearing Memorial, a structure designed to be located in Triangle Park. The Deering family was forced to leave their house at 67 Wildwood Ave. in 1924 by the city of Piedmont because they were black. This meaningful memorial should be placed somewhere other than Piedmont's Triangle Park. Here is the proposal.



Dearing Memorial concept design

The brutalist structure conflicts with the natural beauty of the huge stand of redwoods that shelter Triangle Park. The photo below is of a fountain at the Embarcadero in San Francisco with similar brutalist design features to the Dearing Memorial. It was considered an eye sore and recently removed.



Vaillancourt Fountain which was once in Embarcadero Plaza in San Francisco

A possible alternative solution: Triangle Park becomes Dearing Sanctuary with signage telling the story of the family. Add benches with the name of a Dearing family member on each one. Place the brutalist memorial somewhere that is not a redwood grove.

Leigh Sorensen
1042B Winsor Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94610

New Piedmont Post Publication Schedule

In order to give our carriers a well-deserved break during PUSD holidays and ensure smooth delivery year-round, the following issues will be published as online-only editions. We will not be printing or hand-delivering the paper on:

Presidents Week February 18, 2026 – Online paper only
Spring Break April 8, 2026 – Online paper only

The *Piedmont Post* can always be read online at piedmont-post.com. If you do not currently receive the weekly *Piedmont Post* e-mail, go to support@piedmont-post.com and send us your e-mail address.

Missed Piedmont Post Delivery?

If your *Piedmont Post* was not delivered this week, please contact support@piedmont-post.com by noon on Friday of the current week. We will do our best to attempt redelivery.

You are welcome to pick up your copy from the *Piedmont Post* office at 460 Boulevard Way Friday, Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

Thank you for supporting your *Piedmont Post*.

Collecting photos for Where in the World

For 25 years, Piedmont residents have made sure their travels are well documented, with photos of family members reading the *Piedmont Post* in far-off places throughout the world, and some nearby.

The *Post* invites families to send photos with the *Post* from near and far for publication in *Where in the World Are We* on the back page of the paper. With people able to travel once again, there is no better time to have your photo in the *Post*.

Send photos as jpg. files to: news@piedmont-post.com, and be sure to include a brief description of the location where the photo was taken.

PIEDMONT POST

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, and diagnosing it incorrectly”

– Groucho Marx
1890-1977
American comedian

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How to get news in the *Post*

The *Piedmont Post* welcomes its readers to express their opinions on any topic. Columns in the *Piedmont Post* are exclusive and may not be reprinted without permission.

The *Post* reserves the right to edit any pieces or letters submitted. Opinion pieces should be limited to 400 words, letters to the editor to 200 words.

Photo submissions: Please submit photos at 6 inches in width and at a resolution of 200 dpi in jpeg format.

Do you have some news? Send your photos or stories to 1139 Oakland Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611, or email them to news@piedmont-post.com. It's that easy. (Send us an attachment or cut and paste your text into the body of the email.)

The deadline for submitting news, photos and opinion items is Friday.

Pool Update

Continued from [page 1](#)

pancy,” said City Administrator Rosanna Bayon Moore on the current status of the pool.

The issuance of occupancy allows the city to bring staff into the building to set up computers and furniture. The City can now commit to training the staff, the next step in the pool’s opening process.

Piedmont’s Aquatics Operations staff has already begun 100

hours of system training to ensure staff can safely operate and maintain each critical operation of the pool. In the meantime, a multi-week training period for lifeguards and other frontline staff will focus on daily operations, including emergency response drills, lifeguard rotations, and customer service.

From a voter approved bond of \$19 million in 2020, construction

began on January 27, 2023. After three years of work, the budget for the completed project rose to \$34.9 million after extensive delays in the construction and commissioning process.

Detailed information about pass pricing, programming, and schedules will be published at [piedmont.ca.gov/pool](#). Community members wishing to be notified directly when new information is published can subscribe to email updates at [piedmont.ca.gov/PoolNews](#).



Piedmont City Administrator Rosanna Bayon Moore (left), Mayor Betsy Smegal Andersen, Vice Mayor Conna McCarthy, Public Works Director Daniel Gonzales, and Recreation Director Chelle Putzer speaking at the Community Pool Q&A.



Residents at the Community Pool Q&A

Piedmont Post news rack at Mulberry’s

Newsstand copies of the *Piedmont Post* are available at Mulberry’s Market. Copies of the paper may be purchased for \$1.81+tax during business hours. Weekly delivery to homes in Piedmont and online access is available by subscription. Call 510-652-2051 for information or go to [piedmont-post.com/subscribe](#).

Piedmont Post at your door and online

The *Piedmont Post* remains available online to all subscribers, no matter where they live. To have access to the online *Post*, type [piedmont-post.com](#) for a Google search. The entire edition is online. You must log in and use your password. Then readers may scroll from top to bottom as if reading the printed version from left to right.



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Adoptable Cat of the Week

By Quinn White

Gelato and Froyo are a bonded pair of confident, curious young cats with big personalities and plenty of playful energy! These 10-month-old brothers are friendly with new people and thrive on attention. They’re best suited for an adopter ready to embrace their silly kitten antics and guide them as they grow.

Froyo is the more energetic and adventurous of the two. He’s endlessly curious, loves paper bags and boxes, and is especially fascinated by water—showers included! Froyo play-bite by accident, but he redirects well to wand play and respects clear boundaries.

Gelato is a bit more easygoing. He enjoys racing through the house with his brother, then settling in to watch once he’s spent his energy. This little panther is a quick learner and shows signs of becoming a future cuddle bug. He also



Adopt Gelato and Froyo through Cat Town.

has a medical condition, myasthenia gravis, managed with lifelong medication that he takes easily, which costs only 50 cents per day to keep him healthy and spry.

Gelato and Froyo are neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and FeLV/FIV negative. These two best friends are looking for a home ready to laugh, play, and grow with them. Learn more at [www.cattownoakland.org](#) or email [adopt@cattownoakland.org](#).

Adoptable Dog of the Week

By Jessica McDevitt

Meet little Scott, a 4-month-old, 19-pound German Shepherd mix whose favorite activity is snuggling on laps. He’s a friendly and playful puppy living in a foster home with other dogs and cats. Scott has been respectful of his foster siblings.

His fosters say he is loving, eager to learn and ready for puppyhood adventures with you. Like any smart Shepherd pup, he’ll thrive with early training, positive reinforcement, and continued socialization to help him grow into his best self.

To meet Scott, submit your adoption questionnaire online at Oakland Animal Services



Scott is a smart German Shepherd pup

website and you will be contacted by his foster to arrange a meet-and-greet.

For more information on fostering or adoption, contact Piedmont resident Jessica McDevitt at [jessicamcdev@gmail.com](#).

ADVERTISE IN THE POST

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Harvard Rd. Join our team at 5:30 pm on Harvard Rd. between Ranleigh and Portsmouth.	FEB. 12
King Ave. Join our team at 11:00 am on King Ave. between Hampton and Farragut.	FEB. 17
Mountain Ave. Join our team at 9:00 am on Mountain Ave. between Hagar and Dudley.	FEB. 28

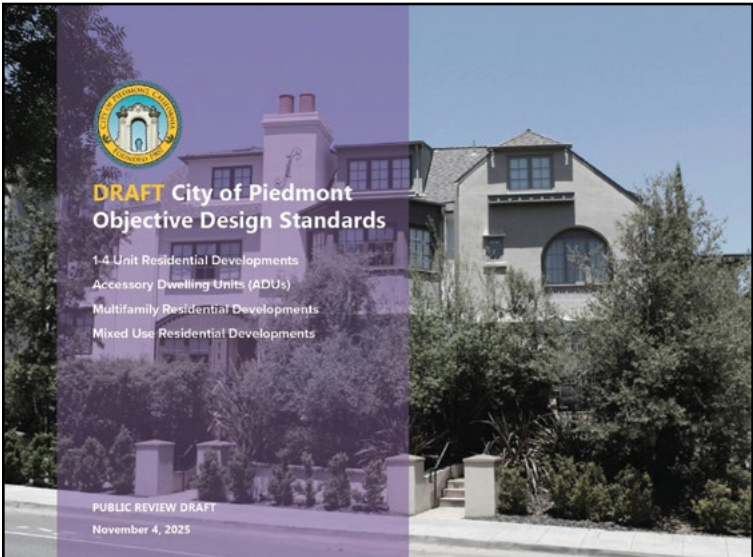
LOCAL ITEMS

City Council adopts revised Objective Design Standards

By Jake Lannon

At its February 2 meeting, the City Council unanimously adopted revised Objective Design Standards that will govern new housing construction in Piedmont. The standards update existing rules for ADUs, mixed-use projects and multifamily development. City staff said the revisions clarify language and remove ambiguity, based on staff review and community feedback. “We’ve reviewed it several times, from staff internally to the city attorney’s office, the subcommittee and planning commissioners, to make sure the standards are measurable and that we’ve removed subjectivity,” said Planning and Building Director Kevin Jackson at the meeting. The City received 241 responses to public surveys seek-

ing input on which standards mattered most to residents. The most common concerns centered on neighborhood character, including tree canopy and landscaping (65%), building height and massing (61%), and spacing between homes (54%). Jackson said staff and the city attorney spent about two and a half hours reviewing public comments to determine whether changes were needed. “The comments provided additional clarity and word-smithing to standards that were already in place,” he said. After about 18 months of development, the Objective Design Standards establish clear, measurable and enforceable rules for design elements such as articulation and massing, aiming to give residents, property owners and developers consistent expectations for new housing in Piedmont.



Objective Design Standards cover

Park Commission discusses Sustainable Park Management Plan findings

By Jake Lannon

Piedmont’s Park Commission met on Wednesday, February 4, to review the findings of the Sustainable Park Management Plan. Parks & Project Manager Nancy Kent and WRT consultants delivered a presentation to the Commission summarizing their work so far, what they heard from the community at various

pop-up events, and insights from an online survey. The project’s engagement efforts received 580 responses, with 82% of respondents being Piedmont residents. They found that most respondents use the parks for exercise (65%), walk their dogs in off-leash areas (61%), and to socialize (50%). The community was asked about their values for the parks,

and the top two results were off-leash dog areas (51%) and natural beauty (50%). Sixty-five percent of respondents strongly support the management of dog areas. During the public forum period after the presentation, multiple residents shared their thoughts on off-leash dog areas, emphasizing their importance to the community.

When asked what they hope will still be true in 20 years, respondents emphasized:

- Preservation of natural beauty, trees, and the parks’ essential character
- Continued high standards of maintenance and care
- Parks remain fundamentally as they are today
- Continued access to off-leash dog areas
- Spaces that serve children and future generations

The project team will continue their work, considering the Commissioner’s comments as they refine the recommendations. They’ll return to the Commission to share the changes made to the Sustainable Park Management Plan this spring.



Crocker Park pop-up event



Piedmont Park pop-up event

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Community Pool to open in April 2026

Recruitment continues for lifeguards, swim instructors

Piedmont’s new community pool is set to open in April 2026. The city will announce the official opening date and a schedule of key milestones on Friday, Feb. 13, including timelines for pool pass sales, swim lesson registration and party room bookings.

Once released, detailed information on passes, programming and operating schedules will be available at piedmont.ca.gov/pool, which will serve as the city’s central hub for pool updates.

Residents who want to receive updates as new information becomes available can sign up for email notifications at piedmont.ca.gov/PoolNews.

As opening preparations continue, the Recreation Department is actively recruiting staff for the new facility, with the greatest need for lifeguards and swim instructors. Both positions offer flexible schedules, typically ranging from five to 20 hours per week.

Lifeguard positions start at \$19.50 per hour and require certification. Strong swimmers who are not yet certified as lifeguards but are interested in working at the pool are encouraged to apply for swim instructor roles, which start at \$18 per hour.



Aquatics staff leading a training presentation for incoming lifeguards, swim instructors, and other front-line pool staff



Aquatics staff leading outside training for incoming lifeguards, swim instructors, and other front-line staff

Scout open houses in February-March

Every spring Piedmont Scout Council’s five troops open their doors to families interested in the scouting program. Open house meetings are an opportunity for kids and their parents to visit a specific scout troop, meet youth and adult leadership, and learn about that troop’s unique brand of scouting. Troops also share recent and upcoming activities.

In advance of the open houses the Council is hosting informational sessions this week. These sessions will explain the basics of the scouting program, talk about what scouting looks like in Piedmont, assist in deciding which troop to visit, and provide a safe space to have your questions about scouting answered.

Scouting is a time-honored tradition in the community of Piedmont where 20 percent of Piedmont youth are involved. Scouting provides youth with hands-on leadership experiences and allows them to practice life skills while serving their community. It instills citizenship and character, fosters communication, and builds a self-reliance in youth as they organize events and take on challenges together.

For more information contact Piedmont Council’s Program Coordinator Eris Turner: eturner@piedmontbsa.org – (510) 844-4752

INFO SESSION SCHEDULE

- Havens Info Session**
Wednesday, February 11th at 7:00pm
For: Parents of Haven 5th Graders
Contact Eris Turner (eturner@piedmontbsa.org) for location and RSVP information.
- Wildwood Info Session**
Wednesday, February 11th at 7:00pm
For: Parents of Wildwood 5th Graders
Contact Eris Turner (eturner@piedmontbsa.org) for location and RSVP information.
- Beach Info Session**
Thursday, February 12th at 7:00pm
For: Parents of Beach 5th Graders
Contact Eris Turner (eturner@piedmontbsa.org) for location and RSVP information.
- General Info Session via Google Meets**
Monday, February 23rd at 8:00pm
For: 5th & 6th Grade parents from Piedmont and Beyond
Contact Eris Turner (eturner@piedmontbsa.org) for location and RSVP information.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

- Troop 11**
Monday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m.
Kettlewell Room
Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland Ave
Contact – Scoutmaster Mike: piedmonttroop11scoutmaster@gmail.com
Website: www.troopwebhost.org/Troop11Piedmont/Index.htm
- Troop 1**
Tuesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m.
Kettlewell Room
Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland Ave
Contact – New Member Lead Tim: mtogles@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.troop1piedmont.org/>
- Troop 6**
Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m.
Corpus Christi Gym
Corpus Christi School, 1 Estates Drive
Contact – Scoutmaster Jason: thronejs@gmail.com
Website: <https://piedmonttroop6.org/>
- Troop 4**
Monday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m.
Ellen Driscoll Auditorium
Havens School, 323 Highland Ave
Contact – Scoutmaster Paul: kennedypaul970@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop4Piedmont/>
- Troop 15**
Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m.
Ellen Driscoll Auditorium
Havens School, 323 Highland Ave
Contact – Scoutmasters Maria & Robert: troop15piedmont@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.troopwebhost.org/troop15piedmont/>

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 - influences public policy through education and advocacy



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KNOW THE ISSUES. BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION.

READ IT IN *THE POST*

SCHOOLS

School Board meets tonight February 11

By Jay Russell

A regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., tonight, Wednesday, February 11, in City Hall Chambers 120 Vista Avenue. A main attraction of the meeting will be a public hearing opening negotiations between the district, teachers and school employees.

Negotiations will reopen to develop agreements related to the following articles:

- Article VI: Hours and Professional Responsibility: professional day, common collaboration time, staff meeting times, union release time, and grade submission, grading days, and

- adjunct duties.
- Article X: Salary.
- Article XX: Class Size: Class size language.
- Article XXI: Committees: Structure of committees, the calendar committee, and the textbook adoption/program evaluation committee.
- Appendix C: Stipends.
- Appendix H: Professional learning plans.
- Academy MOU: Academy MOU.

A presentation and subsequent approval of a Wellness Center Donor Wall is scheduled, with a proposed budget of \$3500. Details of a supplementary retirement plan (SRP) will seek approval to

encourage district employees to retire early.

“The SRP was offered to all eligible certificated non-management employees who are at least age 55 with 15 years District service or age 50 with 30 years of District service and classified non-management employees who are 50 with 15 years of District service as of June 30, 2026,” the board background document reads.

To view the meeting’s agenda visit [Simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=36030373&MID=54440](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=36030373&MID=54440)

The meeting will be held in hybrid format via [Zoom.us/j/83472492499](https://zoom.us/j/83472492499) and streamed live on KCOM-TV, channel 27.

FUN4KIDS Event Calendar

By Jay Russell

Bay Area Discovery Museum

[Bayareadiscoverymuseum.org](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org)

557 McReynolds Rd., Sausalito (415) 339-3900

Located in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge at Fort Baker, the Bay Area Discovery Museum is worth the trip west to Sausalito. Both indoor and outdoor spaces are open everyday except Tuesday. The outdoor portion of the museum boasts 7.5 acres of exhibits, landscapes, activities and installations. There’s a gravel pit, crow’s nest, fishing boat and a shipwreck for kids to play on. Designed for infants, toddlers and younger kids.

Pacific Pipe Climbing Gym

[Touchstoneclimbing.com/pacific-pipe](https://touchstoneclimbing.com/pacific-pipe)

2140 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 903-6722

Pacific Pipe Climbing Gym is the perfect space for rock climbing excitement and instruction kids love. Are your kids stuck inside and bouncing off the walls at home? Take them somewhere where they can literally climb the walls. The expansive space has 46,000 square feet of climbing, with enormous climbing walls up to 55 feet and many programs for climbers of all ages and skills. It is also a great place to host a birthday party. Pacific Pipe has extensive hours of operation seven days a week.

Camping at Chabot

[Reserveamerica.com/explore/anthony-chabot/EB/110004/overview](https://reserveamerica.com/explore/anthony-chabot/EB/110004/overview)

9999 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, (888) 327-2757 x4502

Camping and a wealth of other outdoor activities are available only 15 minutes from Piedmont at the 5,067-acre Anthony Chabot Park, part of the East Bay Regional Park District. The year-round public campground has miles of hiking and riding trails. Anthony Chabot Campground sits 1 ½ miles above Lake Chabot in Castro Valley, California. The campground’s 75 campsites include drive-up sites for tent camping, 12 RV sites, and 10 hike-in campsites.

Oakland Zoo

[Oaklandzoo.org](https://oaklandzoo.org)

9777 Golf Links Rd, Oakland 632-9525

The Oakland Zoo sets the standard for world-class animal care in captivity. Guests will marvel at the many species taking residence at the zoo, while learning about conservation in the wild. The Zoo is open every day from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Take the gondola to the amazing boardwalk of the California Trail, for viewings of wolves, buffalo and bears. The skyride, amusement rides and a brand new electric train are open as well. Make sure to buy tickets in advance for timed-entry.

Supt. Hawn’s February 9 Piedmont Pulse

Dear PUSD Families & Staff:

Our high school athletic programs are a point of deep pride for our community and for me personally. We are fortunate to have extraordinary student athletes who compete with heart, coaches who model leadership and integrity, and administrators who work hard to ensure that every event is safe and well-run. At the same time, sportsmanship extends beyond the players on the court; it includes the conduct of our fans. The energy of our student sections can be one of the most joyful parts of high school athletics, but we also recognize that we have important work to do in developing consistently positive approaches to student fan behavior. School spirit should encourage our team while showing respect for opponents, officials, and visiting families. I will be hosting a community meeting on February 26 at 4:30 p.m. at the District Office Board Room to discuss sportsmanship and spectator conduct, and I welcome your partnership in this important conversation.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to our staff during what has, at times, felt like a chaotic stretch. Thank you to Ben Spencer, Shamaree Worley, all of our Basketball coaches, David Yoshihara, and especially Tyler Small for their remarkable leadership and steady presence in keeping our players and students safe during Friday night’s basketball game. Their professionalism and care reflect the very best of our district. If you have a moment, I encourage you to view the Instagram post of our players “taking a stand” against poor spectator behavior. It is a strong reminder that our students are capable of leading the way in creating a climate of respect. Together, we can ensure that our athletic events reflect not just competitive excellence, but the fine character that defines our community.

In Community,

Jennifer Hawn, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Art Hecht Volunteer Award Submissions - Due 3/13

The Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD) is excited to announce nominations for the 2026 Arthur Hecht Volunteer of the Year Award are now being

accepted. The award is presented annually to individuals who have volunteered their efforts over a period of time and made a difference because of their involvement and commitment to Piedmont’s youth.

Previous recipients include: Hunter McCreary (1998); Ann Chandler (1999); Ruth Cuming (2000); Lisa Lomenzo (2001); jointly by Cathie Geddeis and Marion Souyoultzis (2002); jointly by Fritz and Mary Wooster (2003); Elizabeth (Betsy) Gentry (2004); Cynthia Gorman (2005); Grier Graff (2006); Julia Burke (2007); Maude Pervere (2008); jointly to Anne-Marie Lamarche and Mark Menke (2009); Janiele Maffei Tovani (2010); Andrea Swenson (2011); June Monach (2012), Bill Drum (posthumously) and Mary Ireland (2013), Ray Perman (2014), Jennifer Fox (2015), Katie Korotzer (2016), Hilary Cooper (2017) Holly Hanke (2018), Cathy Glazier (2019), Sue Smegal (2020), Ken Li (2021), Eileen Ruby (2022), David Ragones (2023), Sarah Pearson (2024) and most recently, Cory Smegal in 2025.

Art Hecht was a tireless community volunteer, and was dedicated to students in both Piedmont and Oakland. He served on Piedmont’s Board of Education from 1970 to 1982. Art also was very active with the Piedmont Continuation High School (now called Millennium High School). In 1998, the Art Hecht Volunteer of the Year Award was established in his memory.

Nominations for this award are now being sought and will be kept strictly confidential. The deadline for nominations is March 13, 2026. A selection committee will vote on the award recipient, who will be recognized at the May 6, 2026, Board of Education meeting, where the honoree’s good works will be acknowledged.

Nomination Forms are available on the District website, in the District Office or by calling Rosalina Barrios, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at (510) 594-2614.

Spring & Summer Adventures - Register Now

Piedmont Unified School District is excited to offer a variety of Adventures programs for students Kindergarten through 9th grade.

Summer Adventures 2026 is a PUSD teacher-led summer enrichment program offering multiple options.

- Session Dates: June 8–18 and June 22–July 2
- Fees: Half Day \$590 per session | Full Day \$1,180 per session
- **Summer Adventures (1st–5th Grade):** Morning academic enrichment paired with afternoon creative projects, games, and hands-on group activities.
- **Welcome to Kindergarten:** A gentle introduction to the school day with age-appropriate activities that build confidence, routines, and friendships.
- **Welcome to 6th Grade:** A transition program focused on team-building, confidence, and familiarity with middle school schedules and expectations.
- **Junior Counselor in Training (CIT) Program (7th–9th Grade):** A leadership opportunity for older students to build responsibility and teamwork while supporting younger campers. Fee: \$340 per session

Summer Adventures registration opens January 29 and is available through PUSD Home-room. Adventures 2026

In addition, PUSD is offering February Adventures (February 17–20) and April Adventures (April 6–10)—school-based break programs filled with hands-on projects, games, and enrichment activities. Registration for February and April Adventures is open now. [Homerom.com/sites/piedmont-unified-school-district-oakland/camp](https://homerom.com/sites/piedmont-unified-school-district-oakland/camp)

The Pool is Coming...

We are excited to learn that the pool is opening in April. The City has alerted us that they still need lifeguards, and so if you qualify and are interested, see below. It sounds like a great part time job!

To learn more about Aquatics Assistant (14 yrs & older) and Lifeguard opportunities, please visit [Piedmont.casellehire.com/jobs/](https://piedmont.casellehire.com/jobs/)



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Crab Feed

Continued from [page 1](#)

lies over cracked crab. The Wild West theme was a bit of a head scratcher, considering that cowpokes are known for cattle not crab. But the fun dress code was widely adhered to and provided an outlet for parents to get creative. There were banditos, farmhands, cowgirls, and even a horse. The event's generous sponsors included Oakland United Beerworks, with Co-Owner John Karnay serving drinks, The *See [Crab Feed](#) on page 8*



Bartender Calvin Reed mixed cocktails for guests looking for something other than unlimited beer and wine.



Greg Wheeler



Colin VanLang (left) and Ian Lee



Wildwood Dads Club volunteers of the 2026 Crab Feed



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Crab Feed

Continued from [page 7](#)

Grubb Co., Homeroom Mac and Cheese, and Winchester Western Wear.

The menu also included sides of mac and cheese, creamed spinach, and baked salmon. For the purist focused on consuming as much crab as possible, the only accouterments needed were

splashes of lemon and melted butter and French bread.

The sell-out crowd consisted of a couple of different archetypes – the competitive eater, the socializer, and the dancer.

Entertainment was not limited to the bar and conversation. A free photo booth garnered long lines



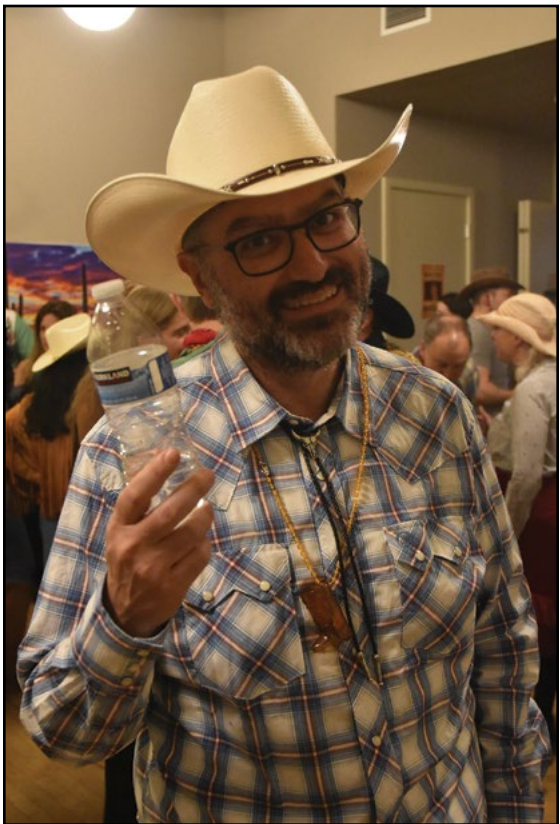
The bounty of crab and sides was replenished throughout the evening.



David Isaacs (left), Jesse Friedman, and Barry Fischer



Lisa and Scott Zengel



Wildwood dad Max Roman responsibly enjoys a bottle of water.

to memorialize the evening with props and even a nerf gun shooting range with moving targets.

DJ Ben Anderson provided classy cuts from the DJ turntables to open up the evening, as western-themed guests jockeyed for prime seats next to the buffet to get seconds.

WWDC Co-President Grady Snyder and Crab Feed co-lead Sergio Serna impressed the masses of hungry feeders with short but hilarious speeches thanking attendees. Their inflatable tandem horse costume characterized the jovial unity of the club's leadership, getting all the king's horses and men into unison.



Scott Zengel (left), Adam Fishman and Shor Bowman



Dancers burn off some calories on the dance floor to the tunes of DJ Kev.



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Troop 1 Scouts learn the fine points of curling

By Theo Cost

In anticipation of the upcoming winter Olympics, Troop 1 Scouts and adults ventured to the Bay Area Curling Club to try their hand at curling, one of the more unusual and ancient winter sports.

In curling, two teams attempt to “throw” (or slide) a 40-pound polished stone across the ice to get it as close as possible to a target, known as the house. Curling ice is bumpy, mimicking ice that forms naturally in the outdoors, which increases friction as the stone slides across it. Team members use “brooms” to frantically sweep (polish) the ice to speed up or curl (alter the trajectory of) the stone towards the house.



Scouts on the ice after the end of the lesson.



Scouts look on as their instructor teaches them technique for launching the rock.



Scout Ben Calloway prepares to launch the stone with advice from the instructor and help from a stabilizing device.

The team leader, the skip, directs the team members in aiming the stone and sweeping the ice. After a short lesson the Scouts assembled into teams to face each other on the ice. Despite their inexperience, they had a great time trying a new sport, one where they can compare their skills to the Olympic athletes competing in Italy in the upcoming weeks.



Scouts Cade Ogles and Ciaran Gallagher sweep the ice in front of the stone as Theodore Cost, the skip (leader) gives them instructions.

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WHICH TROOP WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Parent Info Sessions

Session	Date	Time	Location
Havens	Feb 11	7:00pm	RSVP via QR code/ link on back!
Wildwood	Feb 11	7:00pm	RSVP via QR code/ link on back!
Beach	Feb 12	7:00pm	RSVP via QR code/ link on back!
General via Google	Feb 23	8:00pm	RSVP via QR code/ link on back!

Open House Meetings

Troop	Date	Time	Location
Troop 11	Mar 2	7:30pm	PCC Kettlewell Room 400 Highland Ave
Troop 1	Mar 3	7:30pm	PCC Kettlewell Room 400 Highland Ave
Troop 6	Mar 4	7:30pm	Corpus Christi Gym 1 Estates Dr
Troop 4	Mar 9	7:30pm	Ellen Driscoll Auditorium 325 Highland Ave
Troop 15	Mar 10	7:00pm	Ellen Driscoll Auditorium 325 Highland Ave



Piedmont Council
Scouting America

Pinewood Derby

Continued from [page 1](#)

a black cat car, a white cat car, a rainbow popsicle car, a sundae car and many more.

Two father-daughter duos were winning twins, Tom Ganem and Arabella Tucker-Ganem both finished in 3rd place while Patrick and Norah Holder, both earned 2nd place in their race categories.

The Piedmont Girl Scout Pinewood Derby is one of just a few in the country. This year's racers came from Piedmont, Oakland,

Albany, El Cerrito and Lafayette. Girl Scout Troop 33587 thanks Piedmont Scouts BSA council for sharing their track after the Scouts BSA derby, and the Piedmont Community Church for use of their gymnasium.

The Girl Scout hosts are thankful for their parents' support of putting on this event every year. Troop 33587 would also like to thank all the Girl Scout racers and their friends and family for racing with them.



Brownie Race Winners: 1st Ellie Whipple (left), 2nd Camille Langwinski, and 3rd Arabella Tucker-Ganem



Awards included Shiniest Car, Most Out of This World, and Most Animal-like Car



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To support more community events, join PIE's benefit concert at Piedmont Community Hall after the lunar new year celebration.

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Photos by Sicheng Wu, Yang Li, Amara Rizk, Stacy Readal and Carolyn Pan
The 21st Annual Girl Scout Pinewood Derby was organized by Troop 33587 on February 7.



Event hosts and members of Senior Girl Scout Troop 33587: Juliette Edesses (left), Junie Worthen, Maya Evans, Sicheng Wu, Charlotte Phung, Zayda Weber, Victoria Mbise, and Emma Syhabout



Proud parents take photos of winning racers.



A crowd watches two cars race neck and neck toward the finish line in the Piedmont Community Church gym.

Thinking Outside the Classroom

Connection experiment:
going deeper instead of wider

By Nina Meehan

We live in a world that rewards constant expansion. Add more contacts, engage in more conversations, expand your reach! So, when connection feels thin, it's easy to assume the answer is that you aren't doing enough. You need to add more people and make more of an effort to "enhance your network."

But I've been noticing something else, most of us already have people in our lives we like and trust. There are plenty of people we see or talk to regularly. And still, the connection can feel flat, not because anything is specifically wrong, but because it stays on the surface. We check in, exchange updates, smile and move on.

I've been wondering what might happen if, instead of reaching wider, we went just a little deeper. Not in a big, huge dramatic way. Just a small shift in how we

show up to every opportunity to engage. Asking a follow-up question and actually waiting for the answer. Sharing one honest detail instead of a polished summary. Letting a conversation linger thirty seconds longer than usual instead of rushing to wrap it up. Taking the time to really notice what's behind someone's eyes.

Here's a simple way to try it: the next time someone asks, "How are you?" pause before giving your default answer. Say one thing that's actually true, even if it's small. Or, if you're the one asking the question, pick one person you already know and ask a second question, like "What's been taking up a lot of your energy lately?" and then listen. Don't interrupt, don't fix, and don't hurry them along.

When you do this, something subtle often changes because the pace has to slow. The interaction can feel less transactional. There's a moment where you can

feel the connection deepen. And it's not because you said something deep and profound, but because you stayed present a beat longer than usual.

What I like about this experiment is that depth doesn't require intensity. It doesn't ask for oversharing or emotional excavation. It just asks for you to choose to pay attention.

You might try this once or twice this week with someone who's already in your life. It doesn't have to be someone impressive, just someone familiar who you genuinely want to connect with. We don't always need to widen our circles to feel more connected. Sometimes we just need to meet the people we already have a little more fully.

Nina Meehan is a keynote speaker, workshop facilitator and coach with a specialization in creativity and communication. <https://ninameehan.com/>

PPD Blue

Excerpts from the Piedmont Police Department Log
Jan. 30 - Feb. 6

This Week by the Numbers

- 1 Auto Theft
- 1 Assault
- 1 Fraud Report
- 1 Vandalism Report
- 2 Residential Burglaries
- 3 Auto Burglaries
- 3 Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) hits

Friday, January 30

12:49 p.m. Highland Ave. Report of est. 100 students on sidewalk protesting ICE. Officer checks in with them.

3:05 p.m. Wildwood Ave. **Vandalism.** Person from Paramount Sales soliciting. While leaving, subject damages a window at foot of home. Subject initially runs, but turns back & admits to damaging window on accident.

8:26 p.m. Magnolia Ave. **Assault.** Report of brawl following PHS boys' basketball game in PHS Gym. Male with a broken nose, multiple altercations inside the gym. (See Article in 2/4/26 Post)

8:30 p.m. Winsor Ave. Report of 8-10 kids knocking on doors.

11:47 p.m. Winsor Ave. **ALPR** triggered by unidentified vehicle.

glary. Report of parked vehicle broken into and toolbox stolen. Surveillance tape submitted.

11:50 a.m. Estrella Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of parked vehicle broken into overnight.

2:54 p.m. Crest Rd. **Fraud.** Report of fraudulent charge on credit card.

Tuesday, February 3

2:13 a.m. Stanley Pl., Oakland. Officer locates unoccupied stolen vehicle without plates. Vehicle towed.

8:29 a.m. Estates Dr. **ALPR** triggered by white Honda CRV.

3:13 p.m. Sunnyside Rd., Oakland. **ALPR** triggered by white Honda SUV stolen from Oakland.

5:11 p.m. Red Rock Rd. Report of subject on Coaches Field, field should be locked. Officer makes contact, person advised.

Wednesday, February 4

8:41 a.m. Grand Ave. Report of gas-powered leaf blower. Officer finds it is an electric blower.

11:48 a.m. Grand Ave. Report of man in wheelchair yelling at people. Officer makes contact; verbal warning issued.

4:00 p.m. Grand Ave. Report of verbal argument in front of Ace Hardware. Officer mediates & situation dissolves.

Thursday, February 5

5:14 p.m. Magnolia Ave. Report of parking violation of vehicle with dog left in car for 30 minutes. Vehicle cited and then moved.

Brother win Judge's Choice awards



Second grader Kyle Zengel (left) and fourth grader Braden Zengel were awarded "Judge's Choice" awards for their cars entered in the February 7 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. Kyle's "Candy Car" says "Help yourself to the candy!!" and was emptied out by day's end. Braden's "Sushi Car" had real, raw salmon sushi rolls attached and Braden was seen snacking on his car throughout the derby.






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Dude by Herb Stansbury



"The way I look at it, we have accidentally become a non-profit organization."

SPORTS

PHS boys beat O'Dowd for first time in 10 years

Big week includes win vs. Berkeley

By Jonathan Comeaux

In a monumental week for Piedmont High's boys' basketball team, The Highlanders, avenged two losses against Western Alameda County Conference foes. Piedmont first defeated Bishop O'Dowd 64-62 on Wednesday, February 4 inside a closed-door game with no spectators at Binks Rawlings Gym. They also defeated Berkeley 61-52 at the Yellowjackets' home on Friday, February 6.

Walking into Wednesday's game against O'Dowd, Piedmont's season was at a crossroads after the incident against San Leandro, where a brawl spilled out onto the court that made the KTVU news. As a response, PHS and Bishop O'Dowd condemned poor fan behavior and elected to play the game with no spectators.

"It's been a helluva week, I couldn't be more proud of this team," said PHS coach Ben Spencer. "The reliance and urgency they've shown over the last seven days has been phenomenal. After the San Leandro incident, I told the boys this could be a breaking point in the season, where we can come together and play our best basketball. You find out who you are when things are going bad," coach Ben Spencer said.

The incident is serving as a rallying point for Piedmont, building a sense of camaraderie amongst the group after what could've been a destructive moment. It culminated in the school's first victory over the Dragons since 2016 and avenges a mid-January 63-56 loss to Berke-

ley.

"To beat O'Dowd for the first time in 10 years and get a bounce-back win over Berkeley is a testament to our team. One thing we talked about is how you respond to adversity. You have to put your head down and go to work," senior guard Dillon Casey said.

Piedmont had to play critical defense in the fourth quarter of both games, limiting both the Dragons and Yellowjackets to nine points. Their win over Bishop O'Dowd featured a critical block by P.J. Brayer in the final seconds.

"We all went into Bishop O'Dowd very open minded; we embraced the pressure. That San Leandro game was definitely a turning point. I wasn't playing well offensively [against O'Dowd], so I played my heart out on defense. I just tried to back up my teammates and do my job on defense," Brayer said.

Casey was a big part of the win over Berkeley, hitting a dagger 3-pointer four feet past the arch with 1:47 left.

"They went on a little run and made it a one-possession game. I was a little deep out, but I had a clear look at the rim. I was shooting well, so thought I may as well send it," Casey said.

64-62 over Bishop O'Dowd

Bishop O'Dowd came out hot in the first quarter to lead 27-18, but Piedmont clawed away at the lead to make it a 40-34 deficit by halftime. O'Dowd increased its advantage to 53-46 through the third quarter, but Piedmont's

See Boys' Basketball on page 32

Highlanders win a thriller against Antelope

2nd victory of season vs. Roseville-based team

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's girls' basketball team continued its stellar play, beating Antelope in Roseville 61-56 on Saturday, February 7. They also bashed San Leandro 64-15 on Monday, February 9 at the Pirates' gym, improving their record to 17-3 overall with just two games left in the regular season.

The Highlanders' win over Antelope marked their second victory over the school this season after beating the Titans 57-37 on January 24. Antelope is currently the No. 3 team in the San Joaquin Section and No. 33 team in California. PHS, meanwhile, is No. 17 in the state and No. 3 in North Coast Section.

"Antelope made 11 threes. We held on and got the win, but it was a tough game. It was gut-checking," coach Bryan Gardere said.

Their win over the Titans came in overtime. Piedmont trailed by eight points in the fourth quarter and were down 52-47 with 1:22 left in the game. That's when sophomore Jaden Jones hit a critical 3-pointer with one minute left to make it a 52-50 deficit. After a defensive stop, Alexa Ba hit a floater with 25 seconds remaining to tie it up at 52-52.

In overtime, PHS' defense stood stout by allowing just four points.

"We started chipping away with four minutes left and forced overtime. We locked in defensively and stopped turning the ball over. Second-half, we tightened up," Gardere said.

Saniyah Johnson returned from her injury, leaving Piedmont patiently waiting for point guard Jenelle Solis to get back as well.

PHS will face O'Dowd in the season-finale on February 12, and the two sides could meet once again in the North Coast Section Open Division if Piedmont and BOD keep the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds respectively. The Open Division first round is set for Thursday, February 19.

"We're still a bit shorthanded, Jenelle coming back changes a lot of things for us. Everyone is getting experience and live reps, but we need someone who is arguably a top three point guard in the state," Gardere said.

61-56 win over Antelope

Piedmont led 16-9 through the first quarter and 26-21 by halftime. Antelope battled back to take a 41-37 lead in the third quarter and led by eight, 49-41, with 4:34 left in the fourth quarter.

From there, Piedmont went on a 6-0 run to make it a 49-47 deficit after a free throw by Andrea Martin, a 3-pointer by Ba, and a layup by Martin. Antelope hit a 3-pointer with 1:22 left, 52-47. That's when Savannah Dennig found Jones left unmarked beyond the arch, hitting an important 3-pointer to make it 52-50 with one minute remaining.

After a defensive stop with 39 seconds left, Ba hit a running floater off the backboard to knot it up at 52-52 with 25 seconds remaining. A final heave by Antelope clanged off the rim.

In overtime, Dennig found



Staff Photos

Piedmont is one step closer toward an NCS Open Division berth. They close the regular season at Bishop O'Dowd on February 12.



Alexa Ba hit the tying basket to force overtime against Antelope, and scored the eventual go-ahead points in overtime.



Jaden Jones, a sophomore, hit an important 3-pointer in the fourth quarter against Antelope to help force overtime.

Martin driving to the rim on a nifty behind the back bounce pass, leading to the go-ahead layup 12 seconds in with 3:48 left. Antelope tied it 54-54 on its next possession.

Ba grabbed an offensive rebound after Jones missed a 3-pointer, leading to a put-back basket, 56-54 with 2:44 left. A defensive stop led to Taylor White grabbing an offensive board and drawing a foul to hit both free throws, 58-54 with 1:57 to go.

Antelope made its last basket with 1:43 remaining, leading to a long Piedmont possession that finished with Martin hitting a running shot in the paint with 55 seconds left. After White grabbed a rebound on a failed 3-pointer, Antelope fouled to send her to the line—hitting Piedmont's last free throw, 61-56.

Final stats: Martin had 23 points, 12 rebounds, two assists, and four steals. Ba had 15 points, eight rebounds. Dennig had nine points, nine rebounds, and four assists. White had seven points,

12 rebounds, four assists, and two steals. Johnson had four points, 10 rebounds, and a steal. Jones had three points, one rebound.

64-15 blowout over San Leandro

Piedmont led 13-0 through the first quarter and didn't allow a point until the 7:40 mark in the second quarter. PHS extended the lead to 25-7 in the second quarter, 48-11 in the third, and added 16 more points in the fourth.

Final stats: Martin had 21 points, Dennig and Ba had 15 points, Johnson had six points, Jones had three points, and Nia Jackson scored one.

Tuesday vs. Alameda

Piedmont visited Alameda on Tuesday, February 10. See next week's Post for game details.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (17-3 overall, 4-0 league) visits Bishop O'Dowd tomorrow, February 12, at 6:30 p.m.



Staff Photos

Dillon Casey hit a critical 3-pointer to lift Piedmont over Berkeley, while he had 12 points against Bishop O'Dowd.



P.J. Brayer had an important block down the stretch in Piedmont's win over Bishop O'Dowd.

Athletes of the Week:
Alexa Ba, Beach Lorin

Honorable Mention:
Andrea Martin, Dillon Casey

By Jonathan Comeaux

We’re awarding Alexa Ba of the girls’ basketball team and Beach Lorin of boys’ basketball team our Athletes of the Week. This week’s honorable mentions go to Andrea Martin of girls’ basketball and Dillon Casey of boys’ basketball.

ALEXA BA

Alexa Ba, a freshman, earns Athlete of the Week honors after being a huge part of Piedmont’s 61-56 win over Antelope in overtime. She converted a running floater with 39 seconds left in the fourth quarter to tie the game at 52-52. In overtime, she grabbed an offensive rebound to score the go-ahead bucket with 2:44 remaining. It was an important

win for the Highlanders’ playoff seeding with the Titans ranked No. 33 in California, while PHS is No. 17.

BEACH LORIN

Beach Lorin earns Athlete of the Week after being a major part of Piedmont’s 64-62 win over Bishop O’Dowd and their 61-52 win over Berkeley. Lorin led scoring against O’Dowd with 18 points, helping Piedmont toward its first win over the Dragons since 2016. Lorin also put up 19 points in their victory over the Yellowjackets.

Honorable Mentions

Andrea Martin gets an honorable mention after leading Piedmont in scoring and rebounds in *See Athletes of the Week on page 27*



Alexa Ba earns Athlete of the Week for scoring critical baskets late in Piedmont’s win over Antelope.



Beach Lorin is named Athlete of the Week after leading Piedmont with 18 points in Piedmont’s historic win over Bishop O’Dowd.



Andrea Martin earns an honorable mention for scoring 23 points and 12 rebounds in Piedmont’s narrow win over Antelope.



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Winter Olympics

Top moments from the Winter Olympics



The U.S. women’s hockey team has three straight 5-0 wins, including an historic shutout of Canada.

By Jonathan Comeaux

The 2026 Winter Olympics are underway in Italy through February 22. As of Tuesday, February 10, the United States holds fourth place in the medal count with two gold, three silver and two bronze medals. Norway leads both medal and gold categories with 12 and six respectively, Italy has 11 medals and two gold, Japan has eight medals with two gold, while three other nations have three gold medals including Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Here’s a rundown of some key moments as we churn through the opening week this year’s Winter Games.

USA women’s hockey team dominates Canada

The United States women’s hockey team had an unprecedented 5-0 win over Canada on Tuesday, February 10 in the preliminary round. It marked the first time the Canadians have been shut out in the Olympics.

It was the largest margin of victory for any USA-Canada hockey match, men or women’s. It also marked USA’s third straight 5-0 win after beating Switzerland and Finland by the same score on February 9 and February 7.

The quarterfinals are set for February 13-14, the semifinals are on February 16, and finals on February 19.

Bay Area’s Alysa Liu takes Gold

Alysa Liu, a 20-year-old who graduated from Oakland School of the Arts, recently won the gold medal Gold as a member of the USA team ice skating event. She



Alysa Liu of Oakland won the gold medal in women’s figure skating.

took second in the short program behind Kaori Sakamoto of Japan.

Liu began her Olympic journey as a child at the Oakland Ice Center. She’s drawn attention for her dyed hair and “smiley” piercing on her lip, bringing a quintessential Oakland and Bay Area flair to the Olympic games.

Ilia Malinin back in lead of men’s figure skating

The “Quad God” is back on top for Team USA. Ilia Malinin was behind Japan’s Yuma Kagiyama following the Team event, but jumped ahead after winning Tuesday’s short program.

As things stand, Malinin leads with a score of 108.16 going into Friday’s free skate. He leads Kagiyama’s 103.07, while France’s Adam Siao Him Fa is third in 102.55, Italy’s Daniel Grassl is fourth with 93.46, and Kazakhstan’s Mikhail Shaidorov

rounds out the top five with 92.94.

Lindsey Vonn suffers broken leg

We may have seen the last of Team USA’s great alpine skier, Lindsey Vonn. On Sunday, February 8, Vonn suffered a complex tibia fracture just 13 seconds into her run after clipping a gate. It required her to be airlifted from the course.

Vonn’s injury has caused some backlash after entering the Winter Olympics with a torn ACL in the same leg. Vonn contends that the injuries are separate and unrelated.

Her father, Alan Kildow, told the Associated Press that he wants to prevent Vonn from racing ever again.

“She’s 41 years old and this is the end of her career. There will be no more ski races for Lindsey Vonn, as long as I have anything to say about it,” Kildow said.



Downhill skier Lindsey Vonn had to be airlifted off the course after suffering a broken leg.

Sights from winter sports season

Piedmont High’s winter sports teams are entering the final week of their regular season, and North Coast Section playoffs are right around the corner. Here is a collection of never-before-seen photos from Sports Editor Jonathan Comeaux.



Savannah Dennig goes up for a layup in Piedmont’s recent win over San Leandro on February 9.



Taylor White sends a pass against Alameda on January 22.



Dillon Casey goes up for a layup against University on January 24.



Akash Bornstein looks to make a play against Berkeley on January 15.



Boys’ soccer sophomore Russell Pan is shown in a game with Arroyo on December 10.



Arden Sorensen-Wald fires a shot in Piedmont’s match against Castro Valley on February 4.

Staff Photos



Piedmont goalkeeper Rachel Young sends a pass against Gateway on January 10.



Henry Devan takes a shot against Chico on January 7.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Treasure Island Museum opens new public art gallery March 7

By Allyson Aleksey

Treasure Island Museum is adding a second public art gallery including works by artists featured at the 1939 and 1940 Golden Gate International Exposition. The new gallery opens Saturday, March 7, in the museum's historic Building One and includes paintings, drawings, sculptures, lithographs and more by California artists, displayed publicly for the first time in decades since the groundbreaking exposition.

The gallery will feature rotating exhibitions showcasing artwork preserved by the Spencer Jon Helfen Collection, offering visitors a glimpse into the island's unique past and significance in the San Francisco Bay Area's history and future.

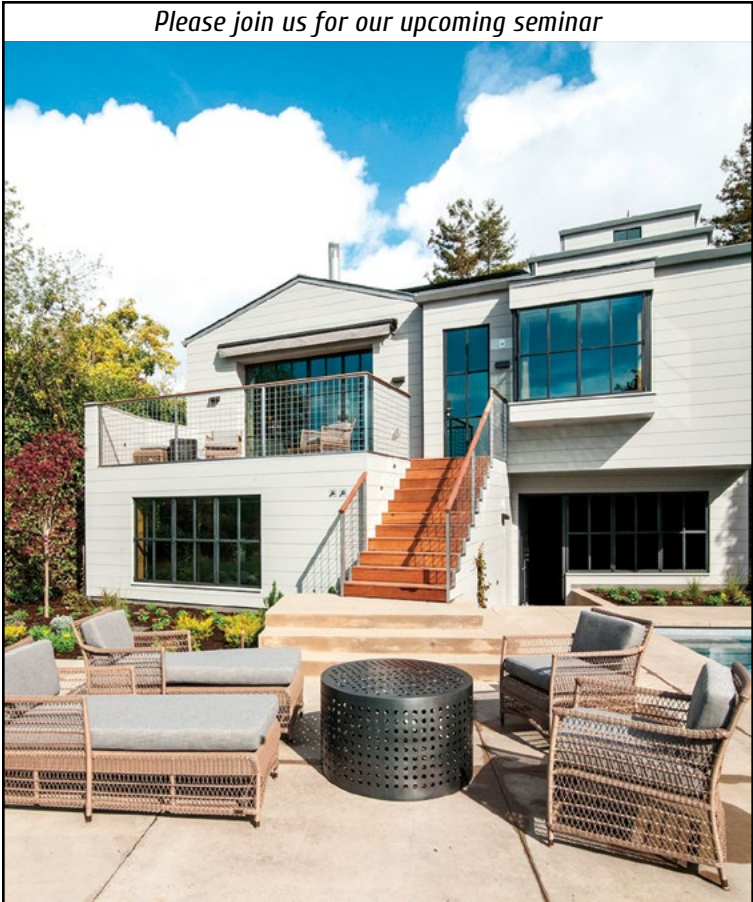
The museum was established

in 1975 and opened to the public in 1976. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has served as a Pan American Airways terminal and naval headquarters in addition to an exposition hub. Treasure Island Museum's mission is to preserve and interpret the island's Pacific-themed heritage, educate residents and visitors on its historical relevance to contemporary issues, support community partnerships and inspire future generations through programs, exhibitions and events.

The gallery opening is held on March 7, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 39 Treasure Island Rd #111 in San Francisco. The event is free but registration is required. Visit <https://www.treasureisland-museum.org/event-details/gallery-opening> to learn more and to register online.



Treasure Island Museum



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Martha Graham Dance Company performs at Zellerbach Hall this weekend

By Allyson Aleksey

The Martha Graham Dance Company brings its centennial tour to UC Berkeley this weekend, with two performances presented by Cal Performances at Zellerbach Hall.

The company will perform Saturday, February 14, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 15, at 3 p.m., as part of GRAHAM100, marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Martha Graham Dance Company. The ensemble is directed by Janet Eilber and returns to Berkeley for the first time in more than a decade.

The programs will feature works spanning the company's history alongside recent and newly commissioned choreography. Both performances will include Graham's *Appalachian Spring* (1944), *Night Journey* (1947) and *Chronicle* (1936), presented with original sets by sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

The Saturday program also includes *Cortege* (2023) by choreographers Baye & Asa, created in response to Graham's 1967 work *Cortege of Eagles*, with music by Jack Grabow. The Sunday performance will feature the Bay Area premiere of *En Masse* (2025), a newly commissioned work by choreographer Hope Boykin, incorporating music connected to Leonard Bernstein's unfinished collaboration with Graham. The



GRAHAM100 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Martha Graham Dance Company.

score includes newly arranged material by composer and conductor Christopher Rountree.

Additional works on the Sunday program include *We the People* (2024), a collaboration between choreographer Jamar Roberts and musician Rhiannon Giddens, and *Immediate Tragedy* (1937), a solo by Graham that has been reimaged by Eilber with a newly arranged score inspired by music found in the company's archives.

The centennial season marks 100 years since Graham founded her company in 1926. Graham

has longstanding ties to UC Berkeley, including an early Bay Area appearance on campus in 1916 and her company's Cal Performances debut in 1970. Former Graham dancers David Wood and Marni Thomas Wood later founded UC Berkeley's Dance Department.

Tickets are available through Cal Performances online at <https://calperformances.org/>. UC Berkeley students may purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the Saturday evening performance through the Golden Bear Circle program.

Opera Parallèle presents *La Belle et la Bête* Revival and West Coast Debut of *Doubt*

By Allyson Aleksey

Opera Parallèle will present two major productions in March and May, bringing a revived "multimedia fairy tale" to Berkeley and a contemporary American opera to San Francisco.

The company opens with a revival of its critically-acclaimed production of *La Belle et la Bête*, with performances Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 14, both at 8 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. Sung in French with projected English supertitles, the approximately 90-minute opera runs without intermission.

Based on Jean Cocteau's 1946 film and set to Philip Glass's 1994 score, the production fuses live performance with film imagery in a surrealist retelling of the classic fairy tale. Nicole Paiement conducts, with direction and production concept by Brian Staufenberg. The creative team also includes projection designer and director of photography David Murakami, lighting designer Jessica Ann Drayton, costume designer Natalie Barshow, hair and makeup designer Y. Sharon Peng, and sound designer Jay Cruz.

The cast features Hadleigh Adams as La Bête, Le Prince, Avenant and l'Officier; Chea Kang as La Belle; Aurélien Mangwa as Le Père, Ludovic and

L'Usurier; and Sophie Delphis as Félicie and Adélaïde. Tickets start at \$55.

Later in the season, Opera Parallèle presents the West Coast opera debut of *Doubt*, with music by Douglas Cuomo and a libretto by John Patrick Shanley. The opera will be staged in partnership with Presidio Theatre, with performances Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 31, at 3 p.m., at Presidio Theatre in San Francisco.

Based on Shanley's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning

play, *Doubt* is sung in English with projected English supertitles and runs approximately 100 minutes without intermission. These performances introduce a new chamber orchestra version created by the composer and an abridged libretto by Kevin Newbury.

Paiement conducts with Staufenberg directing. The cast includes Matthew Worth as Father Flynn, Rhoslyn Jones as Sister Aloysius, Naomi Steele as Sister James, and Deborah Nansteel as Mrs. Miller. Tickets start at \$66.



Conductor Nicole Paiement

Monty Python's SPAMALOT premieres at Golden Gate Theatre March 3



Monty Python's SPAMALOT performed in Washington, D.C.

By Allyson Aleksey

Monty Python's Tony Award-winning musical comedy SPAMALOT will play a limited engagement at San Francisco's Golden Gate Theatre from March 3 through March 22. The production is part of the show's North American tour following a critically acclaimed Broadway revival in 2023.

First premiering on Broadway in 2005, SPAMALOT features a book and lyrics by Eric Idle, with

music by John Du Prez and Idle. The original production received 14 Tony Award nominations and won three, including Best Musical. The current touring production is directed and choreographed by Josh Rhodes and has been praised for its inventive staging, design, and performances.

The cast includes Major Attaway as King Arthur, Sean Bell as Sir Robin, Chris Collins-Pisano as Sir Lancelot, Ellis C. Dawson III as Sir Bedevere, Leo Roberts as Sir Galahad, and Amanda Robles

as the Lady of the Lake. Steven Telsey appears as the Historian and Prince Herbert.

Adapted from the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail, the musical features well-known songs such as "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," "The Song That Goes Like This," and "Find Your Grail."

Single tickets are on sale now through BroadwaySF. Group sales are also available. Visit www.broadwaysf.com to purchase tickets.

SF Symphony performs Lunar New Year concert on Feb. 28



Mei-Ann Chen conducts this year's annual Lunar New Year concert.

By Allyson Aleksey

The San Francisco Symphony ushers in the Year of the Horse with a special Lunar New Year concert held Saturday, February 28.

The symphony's annual Lunar New Year event occurs each February at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, drawing upon Asian customs and musical heritage to mark one of the most important holidays across East, South and Southeast Asian cultures. This year's concert is conducted by Mei-Ann Chen, a Taiwanese-American orchestra conductor who has been Music Director of the MacArthur Award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta since 2011. She also serves as Chief Conductor of Austria's Recreation Grosses Orchester Graz at the Styriarte festival, making her the first female Asian conductor in that role.

The program features both traditional and modern music,

including Huan-Zhi Li's *Spring Festival Overture*, Liu Chia-Chang's *Alone Ascending the West Chamber*, Che-Yi Lee's music from *Dancing Strings*, Tyzen Hsiao's *The Angel from Formosa*, Huang Ruo's *Flower Drum Song from Feng Yang* from Folk Songs for Orchestra and more.

The symphony is joined by clarinetist Yuhsin Galaxy Su and Erhu player George Gao. An erhu is a traditional Chinese two-stringed bowed instrument, often described as a type of spike fiddle, and is one of the most prominent instruments in Chinese classical, folk, opera, and contemporary music.

The concert begins at 5 p.m. Attendees may purchase a VIP ticket for admission to the event's preconcert reception at 4 p.m. as well as a celebratory postconcert banquet dinner. For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.sfsymphony.org/>.

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Last chance to see Marin Theatre’s The Cherry Orchard

By Allyson Aleksey

Marin Theatre Company is showing Anton Chekhov’s classic play *The Cherry Orchard* onstage now through Sunday, February 22. Directed by Carey Perloff, artistic director emerita of American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), Chekhov’s final work centers on an aristocratic family facing the loss of its estate at the turn of the 20th century as debt threatens both their home and its famed cherry orchard. Despite looming foreclosure, the family resists practical solutions, clinging to tradition as social and economic change advances around them. Perloff returns to Marin Theatre after directing last season’s critically-acclaimed play *Waste*. In a press release, she said *The Cherry Orchard* remains one of Chekhov’s most radical plays,

blending comedy and melancholy while examining why people resist necessary change. “*The Cherry Orchard* is one of the most radical and remarkable plays ever written about change,” Perloff said. “It’s about why change is crucial and why we always resist it. It’s incredibly funny and incredibly sad, full of narcissistic characters who are sure they’re the star of their own story, but fail to realize the damage they’re causing to the people around them. And it’s about how love is always irrational and surprising. I’m deeply grateful to Marin Theatre for giving all of us the chance to re-explore this big, juicy classic in light of our own times.” The production features a cast of Bay Area theater veterans and visiting New York actors. Lance Gardner, Marin Theatre’s exec-

utive artistic director, plays Yermolai Lopakhin, a former peasant turned businessman. Liz Sklar stars as Lyubov Ranevskaya, the indebted estate owner, with Anthony Fusco as her brother, Leonid Gayev. The cast also includes Danny Scheie, Leontyne Mbele-Mbong, Jomar Tagatac, Howard Swain, Joseph O’Malley, Rosie Hallett, Anna Takayo, Molly Ranson and Joel Morel. Gardner said Chekhov’s characters are “profound and amusing,” describing them as nostalgic, hopeful and deeply flawed. The production uses Paul Schmidt’s translation. *The Cherry Orchard* runs through February 22 at Marin Theatre, 397 Miller Ave. in Mill Valley. Tickets range from \$38 to \$89, plus handling fees, and are available at MarinTheatre.org or by calling 415-388-5208.



The Cherry Orchard leaves MTC on February 22.

Photo by Chris Hardy

The Musical Gourmet

His name was Joseph

By Joseph Gold

February 2 has come and gone. Most Americans know it as Groundhog Day. Just in case you have forgotten, this is the day the immortal weather-predicting groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, comes out of his burrow and makes a very important weather prediction. If he sees his shadow, it means we will have six more weeks of winter. It was reported that he saw his shadow this year, so let’s see if Punxsutawney Phil was correct. Let’s move to another topic of which the Musical Gourmet is

familiar. February 2 is the birthday of two immortal musicians. Not long ago this column covered Fritz Kreisler. Now we take a look at the second immortal musician who was born on February 2. His name was Joseph. The funny thing is that no one knows him as Joseph. Let’s take a look at him and see if you can guess his stage name. It is interesting to know that no matter what name he chose as an alias he always used the initials “JH”. He wrote a pop song, but used the alias Jim Hoyle. There are a number of recordings by a violinist whose name

was Joseph Hague. Again, we have the initials JH. This guy was probably the worst violinist of all time. In the entire history of recordings, nobody was worse than Joseph Hague. He was perfectly bad. Remember that word “perfection” because the real violinist named Joseph was as close to perfection as any human being has ever been. In addition, he combined his perfection with a tremendous amount of musical intelligence and passion. Joseph was born into a musical family in Vilna, Lithuania (Russian empire) on February 2, 1901. He began violin lessons from his father Ruven when he was about three. He made remarkably rapid advancement, and was already famous when he was seven years old. World War I and the Russian revolution brought Joseph’s family to the United States where his success continued. Joseph was an extremely patriotic American. During World War II he gave hundreds of concerts for the troops not far from the front lines. The unfortunate thing is that Joseph does not get credit for the good things he did. Let’s return to his early years in the Russian empire. He was enrolled in the famous violin class of Leopold Auer in Saint Petersburg. Professor Auer was very impressed with young Joseph’s audition. But... He said to Ruven that he already had a number of Josephs in his class. He advised him to change Joseph’s first name. Taking professor Auer’s advice they changed his name from Joseph to Jascha...Jascha Heifetz.



Famous American violinist Jascha Heifetz.

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Welcome to the Piedmont Center for the Arts

January 17 – February 28

Society of Printmakers' Art Exhibition

The California Society of Printmakers returns to Piedmont with its 111th Annual Members' Exhibition, with close to 100 works of printmaking art, demonstrating the incredible variety of style and process that falls within this field. The exhibit will be open on Saturdays and Sundays February 15, 21, 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A closing reception is scheduled for February 28 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The exhibit is free and the art will be available to enjoy during your attendance at any of PCA's public event.

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.

Sacha Grippando Jewelry Arts Lecture

An illuminating lecture will explore how the visual arts utilize jewelry and watches to define characters and convey specific traits. Gemologist **Sacha Grippando** will analyze significant works of art, ranging from paintings by masters like Da Vinci and Vermeer to modern and contemporary artists like Dali and Wiley. Her discussion will also cover examples from popular culture, including films and TV shows. Admission is by \$20 suggested donation at the door and includes light refreshments afterwards.

Saturday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.

Richard Dowling Classical Ragtime Piano Recital

Hailed by the *New York Times* as "an especially impressive fine pianist," **Richard Dowling** appears regularly throughout America in solo recitals, music festivals, and as guest soloist with orchestras. Works of Chopin, Debussy, Joplin, Gershwin, Gottschalk, Ravel, ragtime, and early jazz figures prominently in his repertoire. His *Complete Piano Works of Scott Joplin* was nominated for a Grammy award. Dowling brings to PCA a unique celebration of Valentine's Day, consisting of romantic piano favorites. Advance tickets at <https://events.com/r/tickets/1023765>, or \$40 at the door.

Sunday, February 15, 4:30 p.m.

In the Tradition Jazz & Pop Piano Trio

Join **Bill Jackman**, **Albert Brooks**, and **Michael Jones** in celebrating Valentine's Day by relaxing in the intimate PCA Classic Jazz Club to hear favorite love songs from the 20s and 30s up to the 60s. You'll hear some ballads, some swing, a little Latin flavor, and even some blues, along with complimentary refreshments. Get advance \$25 tickets at <https://events.com/r/tickets/1021752> or pay \$30 at the door, cash/check only.

Saturday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.

Insight Chamber Players Concert

Insight Chamber Players' musical program, called Tenth Muse, features **Meghan Crosby-Jolliffe** and **Dana Marie Chan** exploring biographical music written for women and by women, including works by Robert & Clara Schumann, Dominick Argento, and a new composition by Cooper Grosscup. Advance tickets are available at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/tenth-muse-february-21st>.

Sunday, February 22, 4:00 p.m.

Berkeley Symphony & Friends Concert

Samuel Adams a Berkeley-based composer and son of composer John Adams, Presents concert titled *Roots & Resonances*, which includes music of Salina Fisher, Osvaldo Golijov, and Haruka Fujii. Tickets, both for this concert and for the complete series of four, are available at <https://purchase.berkeleysymphony.org/Events> or at the door. Berkeley Symphony and its season wine sponsor will host a reception following the concert.

Friday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.

Kombos Collective Hellenic Trio Concert

The **Kombos Collective** presents *Out of Time, Out of Place*, a look at displacement and self-discovery. Hellenic-American artists **Michael Malis** (piano), **Constantine Novotny** (baritone) and **Ellie Falaris Ganelin** (flute) explore these concepts through music and poetry. The cornerstone of the program is Malis's original song cycle *Another Shore, Another Country* set to the poetry of C.P. Cavafy. Cavafy, who lived most of his life in Alexandria, Egypt, is the quintessential voice of the Greek diaspora and a prominent figure among 20th-century poets. Also on the program is flute-piano music by Athens-based composer Evangelos Kokkoris. Tickets at https://www.viewcy.com/event/out_of_time_out_of_p_1.

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MOVIES FOR KIDS

Encanto a lovely, magical Oscar winner



A scene from Disney's *Encanto*

By Chris Honoré

Encanto, was the winner of the Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film category. It has surged in popularity, a musical fantasy with eight songs written by Lin-Manuel Miranda (*Hamilton*), and has been compared to the remarkable *Frozen*. Since it appeared it has become a cultural phenom.

It tells the tale of an extraordinary, extended, magical Latino family, headed by a 75-year-old matriarch, abuela Alma (Maria Cecilia Botero), who was forced to flee her home with triplets, due to violence that killed her husband Pedro. Because of the suffering she endured, Alma was granted magical powers that are bestowed on her family, to include a sentient house – a casita, located on the side of a hill in the town of Encanto, where the floorboards, staircase, and shutters pulse and throb.

In the first song, "The Madrigal Family," we are introduced to the clan. Each member has passed through a coming of age ritual wherein they discover their own magical power, also called a

"gift." Emotional Pepa (Carolina Gaitan) can control the weather; beautiful Isabella (Diane Guerrero) can make flowers bloom; sensible Julieta (Angie Cepedal) can heal with her cooking; and Luisa (Jessica Darrow) can lift things.

Everyone lives happily in the casita, except for Mirabel (Stephanie Beatriz), 15-years-old, who is the only member of the family not to receive a special gift. Mirabel is crest-fallen, for she realizes that it is the magical powers of the Madrigals that is the source of the community's continuity.

But improbably, it is Mirabel who begins to notice that the foundation of the casita is cracking, and Alma sees that their magic candle is growing dimmer. However, the Madrigals disregard their concerns. As it turns out, it will be up to Mirabel to restore her family's magic. This effort will involve her uncle Bruno (John Leguizano), the family's black sheep (conveyed through the song "We Don't Talk About Bruno") who can see the future and always tells the truth,

no matter how scary.

Family, however dysfunctional, is the essence of *Encanto*, and represents the essential life force, despite that each member of the Madrigals is secretly feeling the weight of their gift. Luisa, for example, sings the song "Surface Pressure" that expresses the burdensome demands that are made of her.

The narrative point made, in so many ways, is that people are worthy because of who they are and not what they do, and the challenge is to see your family members for who they really are.

The visuals of *Encanto* are extraordinary, lush and compelling. And there are countless, intimate close-ups of Mirabel, whose emotions consist of bespectacled expressions that convey this smiling tale of family reconciliation.

Encanto. Directed by Jared Bush and Byron Howard. With voices of Stephanie Beatriz, Maria Cecilia Botero, and Diane Guerrero. 1 hr., 39 min. Rated PG. Released in 2021. Streaming on Fandango/Prime/Disney+/Apple tv

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Train Dreams –
a quiet meditation on life



By Chris Honoré

The performances, by Joel Edgerton as logger Robert Grainer and Felicity Jones portraying his young wife Gladys

To say more is unnecessary, other than to urge you, the reader, to not miss this beautifully rendered portrait of two people who form a heartfelt and resilient bond and an intractable commitment framed, ultimately, as a search for meaning. Or, in the final scenes, perhaps an oblique elegy.

Train Dreams. Directed by Clint Bently. Starring Joel Edgerton and Felicity Jones. Rated Pg-13. 1 hr 42 min. Released in 2025. Streaming on Netflix.

By Chris Honoré

But suddenly he realizes that point of view is the angle, and wanting to make the article infor-

These encounters create strained, even confrontational

Gentleman's Agreement is a fine film, well-acted, and sadly still remains timely after so many decades.

Gentleman's Agreement. Directed by Elia Kazan. Starring Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire, John Garfield. Not rated. 1 hr 58 min. Released in 1947. Streaming on Fandango/Prime/apple/You Tube.



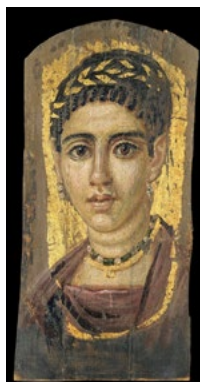
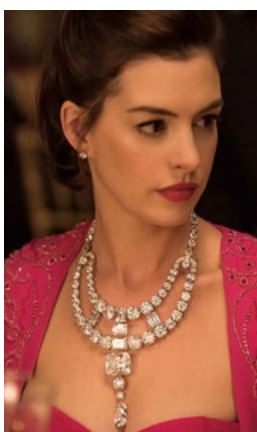
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Marcel Gemperli, viola
Isaac Pastor-Chermak, cello

PROGRAM
Works by:

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- Osvaldo Golijov
- Haruka Fujii
- Samuel Adams





The *Berkeley Symphony & Friends* Chamber Series was launched in March, 2013, through the collaboration of Gray Cathrall, founding editor of the *Piedmont Post* and a founding Board member of Piedmont Center for the Arts, and René Mandel, then the Artistic Director of Berkeley Symphony.

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra is unique among Bay Area and American orchestras for its commitment to innovation, community, and excellence. Berkeley Symphony combines the beauty of classical music with the spirit of community to bring you live music events you won't soon forget! This Orchestra is deeply committed to supporting the next generation of musicians and audiences; fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement; and encouraging diversity and inclusion in programming, education, and administration.

PIEDMONT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

801 MAGNOLIA AVE., PIEDMONT, CA 94611

AND
THE

PRESENT:

Out of Time, Out of Place

... a look at displacement and self-discovery through the eyes of artists in the diaspora. Hellenic-American artists explore these concepts through the convergence of music and poetry. The cornerstone of the program is Malis' original song cycle *Another Shore, Another Country* set to the poetry of C.P. Cavafy, commissioned by ProMusica Detroit and premiered in February, 2024. Cavafy, who lived most of his life in Alexandria, Egypt, is the quintessential voice of the Greek diaspora and a prominent figure among 20th-century poets.

Michael Malis
(piano)

Constantine Novotny
(baritone)

Ellie Falaris Ganelin
(flute)

The Kombos Collective is a champion of Greek composers, shedding light on the rich musical repertoire coming out of Greece and the Greek diaspora by presenting captivating programming in intimate concert settings inspired by the Hellenic World. Kombos has released several full-length albums and performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Library of Congress, and cultural centers and universities across the U.S. and Canada.

Through Ganelin's and Malis' own arrangements, the trio performs songs of love and longing by Greek idols Mikis Theodorakis and Manos Hadjidakis. These masterful colleagues born the same year (1925) each brought a new vision and prominence to Hellenic music through the radio in their homeland and in film worldwide. Also on the program is flute-piano music by Athens-based composer Evangelos Kokkoris.

Presented under the auspices of the Consulate of Greece in San Francisco.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026, AT 7:00

Advance tickets now available at:

<https://www.viewcy.com/event/out-of-time-out-of-p-1>

A Powerful Afternoon of Chamber Music
PRESENTED BY
Ensemble Humanité and Cecilia String Quartet
PIEDMONT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
801 MAGNOLIA AVENUE, PIEDMONT, CA 94611



This emotionally rich program highlights two masterful works: Béla Bartók's *Contrasts*, a vibrant and rhythmically daring trio for clarinet, violin, and piano, featuring highly-acclaimed clarinetist Bruce Foster, and Robert Schumann's *Plano Quintet in E-flat Major*, one of the great Romantic masterpieces of the chamber repertoire. Together, these works create a compelling musical journey – from folk-inspired modernism to the warmth, lyricism, and passion of Romanticism.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026,
4:00 P. M.

(Concert followed by light refreshments)

ADVANCE TICKETS AT:
<https://events.com/r/tickets/1028903>



FEATURES

Walking on Wednesday

Walking on Wednesdays marks Black History Month with visit to Dearing sites and memorial update

By Dick Carter

It was a sunny, spring-like morning last Wednesday when the Piedmont Recreation Department’s Walking on Wednesdays group gathered at the Exedra for their weekly walk. About 50 walkers and six dogs attended.

February is Black History Month. On the first Wednesday of the month, the group reflected on the contributions of African Americans and the discrimination they have faced, including a local episode involving Sidney and Irene Dearing.

In 1924, the Dearings attempted to live in Piedmont after purchasing a home on Wildwood Avenue through Irene Dearing’s mother, who later transferred ownership to the couple. After their move became known, the family faced harassment, threats, and violence. A

citizens committee offered to buy the home if the family would leave. When Dearing refused, the City said it would pursue condemnation and eminent domain. During this period, a brick was thrown through the home’s window and an explosive device was found nearby. The family ultimately sold the home in 1925 and returned to Oakland.

The walkers visited the Wildwood Avenue site and then crossed to the redwood park at Magnolia and Wildwood Avenues, where the City of Piedmont plans to install a Sidney and Irene Dearing Memorial. City Communications Officer Echa Schneider joined the group to share details of the project.

The City Council committed in 2020 to examining Piedmont’s racial history. Work on the Dearing memorial began in 2022, and the area was named



Sidney and Irene Dearing

Dearing Family Memorial Park. Oakland-based landscape architect Walter Hood was engaged in 2023 to develop designs. A preliminary concept, presented in June 2025, features a sculptural portal incorporating interpretive elements about the Dearings’ story. The project is budgeted at \$417,250, with completion anticipated in 2026.

Walkers also noted that a lawsuit was filed earlier this week in Alameda County Superior Court by a Dearing descendant, alleging fraudulent use of eminent domain by the City and seeking damages related to the loss of the property.

The Walking on Wednesdays group meets every Wednesday at the Exedra (Highland & Magnolia Avenues) at 10:30 AM. Everyone is invited to join the group. There is no charge. New walkers and their friendly K-9 best friends are especially welcome. Registration is required. Those interested should go to <https://tinyurl.com/3ethkehu> to register or call at (510) 420-3070 for more information.



Dearing memorial rendering



Participating were Mary Ann Barnes, Judy Sokoloff, Jack Fischrup with K-9 best friend Kojak, Albert Chen, Abha Kothari, Eric Behrens, Brenda Ferrero, Priscilla Wanerus, Debbie Powell, Vicki Trimbach, Michelle Yang, Regina O’Conner, Deborah Curtin with K-9 best friend Brie, Stacey Morgan, Brian Hamlin, Mark Davis, Joyce Hicks with K-9 best friend Mocha, Chuck Oraftik, Audrey Sung, Peggy Shultz, Denny McGee, Marion Lim Yankowitz, Echa Schneider, Charlene Louie, Liz Dalyrmple, Alissa Quan, Lori Austin, Nancy DeRoche with K-9 best friend Pepper, Ken Moy, Edith Lee, Sherry Jacobs, June Yee, Melba Yee, Jasmine Cai, Cathy Laymon, Phil Witte, Adrienne Hamlin, Jim Kellogg, Leigh Sorensen with K-9 friend McDuff, Tom Sears with K-9 best friend June, Bonnie Sherwood with K-9 best friend Zippy, Irene Thompson, Caskey Watson, Claudine Bach, Mike Gallant, Mary Carter, Rich Eigenbrode, Dan Sedonis, and Dick Carter. The group was pleased to have Max Becker walking with them for the first time.



Piedmont Branch Library News



Toddler Storytime

Tuesday, February 17 — 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.
Songs, active rhymes and stories especially for ages 18 months to 3 years. Every Tuesday morning at 10:15 a.m.
Stay and play after Storytime with fun age-appropriate toys through 11:15 a.m. If conditions allow, Storytime will be held outside the library building.
We ask that patrons refrain from wearing scented products.

Game Night

Wednesday, February 18 — 6:00 –7:30 p.m.
Come down to the Piedmont Ave. Branch to play some board games!
We’ll have snacks and drinks! Have fun and meet new folks!
We have SET (a matching game), Uno, Janga, and Teleconnections (a drawing guessing game)

PIEDMONT AVENUE BRANCH
80 Echo Avenue, Oakland, California 94611
Phone: (510) 597-5011

The Art of Oral Storytelling at Piedmont Adult School

Before there were books and screens, there were stories – told aloud, shared in community, and remembered by heart. Piedmont Adult School’s new class, *The Art of Oral Storytelling*, invites students to step into this timeless tradition.

Through listening, laughter, and shared storytelling, students will experience how spoken stories continue to move us in powerful and deeply human ways. Taught by professional storyteller Cynthia Cudaback, this class introduces students to the fundamentals of story structure and presentation in a supportive, creative environment.

Participants will listen to and share stories with classmates, gaining hands-on experience telling well-known tales and devel-

oping personal stories of their own. The course emphasizes presence, connection, and the joy of storytelling—inviting students to listen deeply, laugh freely, and learn together.

Whether curious about storytelling as an art form, interested in public speaking, or simply love a good story, this class offers a welcoming space to explore narrative, voice, and expression. No prior experience is required—just a willingness to listen and share.

To enroll in this or other classes, visit piedmontadultschool.org or call 594-2655.

The Art of Oral Storytelling

- Tuesdays, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
- February 24 – March 24 (5 meetings)
- \$225

Join PIEDMONT SENIORS!

Piedmont Seniors sponsored by the Piedmont Rec Department invites new members

Enjoy monthly speakers, local field trips, camaraderie and making new friends

All Piedmont area seniors welcome!



Where: Piedmont Community Hall
711 Highland Ave

When: 4th Wednesday of each month
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Contact Janet Epstein, Coordinator:
jepstein@piedmont.ca.gov or
Piedmont Recreation Department: 510.420.3070



The Wine Corner

New Clairvaux Vineyard

The Cistercian winemaking tradition lives

By Pierre DuMont

In the small northern California community of Vina near Red Bluff, a remarkable fusion of medieval monastic tradition and modern winemaking is taking shape at New Clairvaux Vineyard, where Trappist-Cistercian monks and fifth-generation winemaker Aimée Sunseri are reinventing the region’s viticultural legacy.

During the 12th and 13th centuries, Cistercian monks established abbeys across Burgundy, Champagne, Chablis, and beyond. Unlike secular landowners, they worked the vineyards themselves, observing how slight changes in slope, soil, drainage, and exposure affected the vines. Over generations, they meticulously recorded these differences, effectively inventing the concept of terroir centuries before the word existed. Their most enduring legacy lies in Burgundy, particularly in what are now legendary sites such as Clos de Vougeot, Corton, and La Romanée.

The New Clairvaux vineyard sits on land once part of the Great Vina Ranch, an expansive 19th-century estate that was at one point the world’s largest winemaking operation under railroad magnate Leland Stanford. After decades of agricultural change, the Abbey of New Clairvaux — home to Trappist-Cistercian monks — acquired the core acreage in 1955, embracing both spiritual devotion and the land’s rich soil.

In 2000, the monks, who now number about 20, partnered with the Sunseri family, longtime California vintners, to revive vineyard plantings and renew the winery’s presence. Central to that partnership is Aimée Sunseri, a UC Davis-trained viticulturist and enologist with deep roots in California wine. She also serves as winemaker for the historic Nichelini Family Winery in Napa Valley.

Sunseri’s leadership has elevated New Clairvaux from a modest experimental venture to an award-winning producer with a distinctive portfolio. Under her direction, the winery has embraced both traditional varietals and rare plantings once unknown in California, including Greek grapes such as Assyriko and Moschofilero — among the first of their kind in the state — alongside Viognier, Petite Sirah, Tempranillo, and Syrah.

Recent years have cemented New Clairvaux’s reputation. In 2023, the winery’s Petite Sirah was named *Best of the Best* at the Women’s International Wine & Spirits Competition, and the team including Sunseri was honored with *International Woman Winemaker of the Year*. At the 2024 California State Fair Wine Competition, the estate earned multiple awards for standout wines such as its Moschofilero and Barbera Rosé. And most notably, just this month, the New Clairvaux Viognier was named 2026 Sweepstakes winner — the most outstanding white wine at the SF



Aimee Sunseri and the monks of New Clairvaux Abbey

Chronicle Wine Competition.

Visitors to New Clairvaux can explore the monastery grounds, attend tours and tastings, and experience wines that marry tradition with innovation. As Sunseri continues to push creative boundaries — even producing rare varietals in the challenging Tehama County environment — New Clairvaux has become a must-visit destination for wine lovers seeking stories as rich as the wines themselves. The best way to acquire these wines is through the winery website — newclairvauxvineyard.com.

White Wines

- **2025 New Clairvaux Assyriko \$25**
I love it when wineries gamble on making lesser-known wines and New Clairvaux does it in spades. Assyriko is one of the great grapes of Greece and the world. It offers a complex bouquet of lemon, tangerine and limestone. It is dry and salty with aromas of white flowers. The wine shows structure, firmness and pretty acidity. The perfect partner for shellfish or any seafood.
- **2025 New Clairvaux Moschofilero \$25**
Wow I’ve been in this business a long time and I have not even HEARD of this grape. It is

an aromatic white grape of Greek origins with a pink/purple skin and quite spicy flavor and good acidity. Perhaps the only one made in California, it reminded me of a cross between Muscat and Gewurztraminer. This one has a lovely honeysuckle bouquet followed by lush melon and peach fruit flavors. Perfect as an aperitif or by itself on a warm afternoon.

- **2025 New Clairvaux Viognier \$24**
This wine won the “Best White Wine” sweepstakes award at the SF Chronicle Wine Competition beating out thousands of other wines. Viognier is a notoriously hard wine to make but Aimée Sunseri hit this one out of the park. Offering up aromas of honeysuckle, white fruits and apricot. Medium bodied, round and sappy, it is enveloping with a seamless core of pure fruit and a long delicate finish.
- **2024 Aimee Moscato \$26**
I love the Italian versions of this grape Moscato d’ Asti from Piedmonte. If there ever was a perfect breakfast wine, this light alcohol, overwhelmingly fruity, apricot, peach, pineapple floral-scented slightly sweet tasting Muscat would be my unanimous choice. This should be consumed immediately before the lovely fruit fades.

Red Wines

- **2023 New Clairvaux Petite Sirah “Poor Souls Block” \$38**
It was a 2012 Petite Sirah from New Clairvaux that knocked my socks off and set me on a search for this winery. This current release shows their brilliant touch with this varietal continues. The wine has luscious aromas of cassis, blue fruits, earth and anise. The palate is full, concentrated and firm but offers great freshness and fruit detail, and it finishes very long and layered. It’s *See Wine Corner on page 27*



The New Clairvaux Petite Sirah is built for the long haul

New Clairvaux Vineyard
26249 7th Street
Vina, CA 96092
(530) 839 2200
Open for tasting daily 11-5



The monk’s mode of transportation



Indie Next List's 25 Best Reads of February

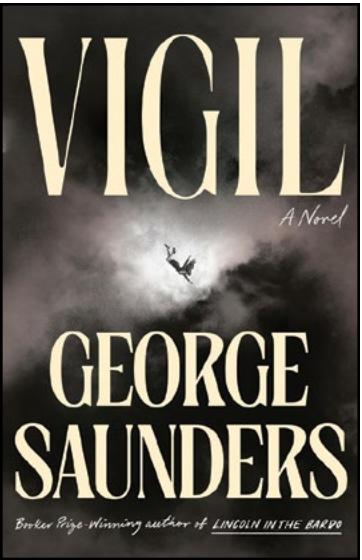
The Indie Next List has fresh reading recommendations every month. This newest list of hot off the press books will give your insights and literary pursuits direction in the new year.

The Indie Next List is curated by independent bookstore owners and staff of only new releases. This February bounty has an extra helping of fantastic fiction and thrillers.

The American Booksellers Association fights to keep independently owned bookstores alive and thriving. At the start of each month ABA publishes a list of 25 inspired recommendations from independent booksellers called the “Indie Next List.”

Go to [Indiebound.org/indie-next-list](https://indiebound.org/indie-next-list) for archives of recommendations, more information and ways to order that will support the small book store culture.

February's #1 Pick



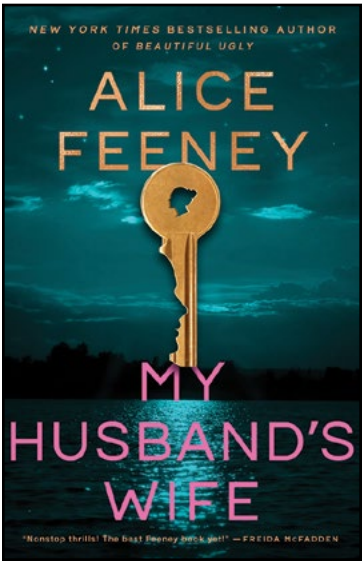
Vigil is February's #1 Pick on the Indie Next List by George Saunders, Booker Prize-winning author of Lincoln in the Bardo.

Vigil
By George Saunders, Random House, Fiction
“A thoughtful reflection on whether we are due absolution for our misdeeds in life, delivered in Saunders’ classic voice, with humor, twists, and a deeper look at the impact of corporate greed on our world.”
—Christine Bell, Roundabout Books, Bend, OR

Eradication: A Fable
By Jonathan Miles, Doubleday, Fiction
“A schoolteacher trying to escape a personal tragedy takes a job on a tiny, remote Pacific Island. The brief? Save the world. A haunting fable about grief, guilt, and the elusive nature of ‘the greater good’.”
—Bridget Piekarz, The Book Cellar, Chicago, IL

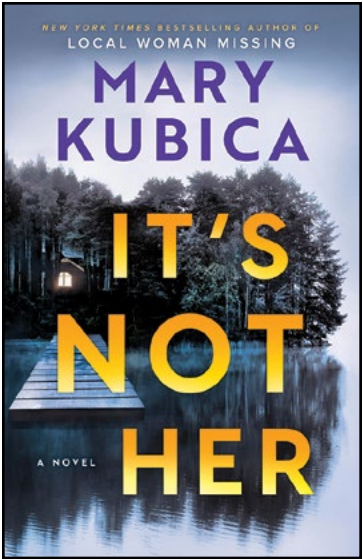
Crux
By Gabriel Tallent, Riverhead Books, Fiction
“I loved this coming-of age novel set in the California desert. As Tamma and Dan’s last year of high school draws near, they try to navigate what will happen to their lifelong friendship after graduation.”
—Kathy Clemmons, Sundog Books, Santa Rosa Beach, FL

My Husband's Wife
By Alice Feeney, Flatiron Books: Pine & Cedar, Thriller
“Alice Feeney has a pen made of gold. *My Husband's Wife* is a total rollercoaster of deep, human



experiences and what someone is willing to do to secure the perfect family. One of the most twisted stories I’ve ever read!”
—Cait Tschida, The Flying Pig Bookstore, Shelburne, VT

Operation Bounce House
By Matt Dinniman, Ace, Science Fiction
“One of the most interesting takes on colonized planets. What really makes it work are the characters. They’re the kind of people you could actually meet, even if humanity did start over on another world.”
—Kimberly Marcy, Flirting With Fiction, Vancouver, WA



It's Not Her
By Mary Kubica, Park Row, Thriller
“Wow! The twists had my jaw on the floor at least three times! I would try to guess what the twist would be and Kubica proved me wrong multiple times. This might be her best one yet!”
—Brooke Reno, Spellbound Bookstore, Sanford, FL

How to Commit a Postcolonial Murder
By Nina McConigley, Pantheon, Fiction
“A poignant, compelling, and original paean against the long reach of capitalism, colonialism, whiteness, and the patriarchy — and a moving coming of age story about a murdered uncle, a pair of guilty sisters, and Cosmo quizzes.”
—Rafe Posey, Third Place Books, Ravenna, WA

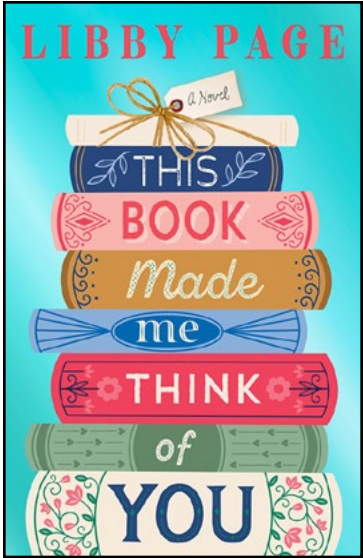
Nine Goblins: A Tale of Low Fantasy and High Mischief
By T. Kingfisher, Tordotcom, Fantasy
“Here’s what you need to know: Goblins are messy and cranky, but they stick together! Wizards are wild! There’s an elven veterinarian in the woods! And if you encounter a one-eyed teddy bear, show him respect.”
—AJ Paul-Bonham, Forever Books, St. Joseph, MI

Murder Bimbo
By Rebecca Novack, Avid Reader Press / Simon & Schuster, Fiction
“*Murder Bimbo* will fascinate and horrify you. A sex worker is embroiled in a plot to kill Meat Neck, an alt-right ex-football player turned politician. She pens a series of emails to a podcaster and her ex-girlfriend. Which story is the truth?”
—Jennifer Jones, Bookmiser, Marietta, GA

Keeper of Lost Children
By Sadeqa Johnson, 37 Ink, Historical Fiction
“Sadeqa Johnson weaves a story around the abandoned mixed-race children of German women and African-American GIs and the woman who made it her mission to find homes for them. Highly recommend!”
—Rachel Stafeil, Sidetrack Bookshop, Royal Oak, MI

When the Museum Is Closed
By Emi Yagi, Yuki Tejima (Transl.), Soft Skull, Fantasy
“After loving *Diary of a Void* and now *When the Museum Is Closed*, I can confidently say that I love the way author Emi Yagi’s brain works! Thank you Emi for writing these delightfully unhinged and charmingly unconventional stories.”
—Christine Bollow, Loyalty Bookstores, Washington, DC

This Is Not About Us: Fiction
By Allegra Goodman, The Dial Press, Fiction
“A great family saga featuring three generations in a Jewish-American family. Each family member brings a fresh perspective and shows you just how important even imperfect family connections are.”
—Kelly Gates, Bike Trail Books, Loveland, OH



This Book Made Me Think of You
By Libby Page, Berkley, Fiction
“A wonderful, bookish read perfect for any reader who loves books about books. Throw in some grief, a bit of love, an old British bookshop, and you have a warm and hopeful story. So much to love.”
—Christina Tabereaux, The Snail on the Wall, Huntsville, AL

Good People
By Patmeena Sabit, Crown, Fiction
“A masterfully crafted family drama with the pulse and pace of a thriller at the intersection of immigrant dreams and deep-seated cultural values. A complex look at the fragile balance of assimilation, identity, and independence.”
—Julie Slavinsky, Warwick’s, La Jolla, CA

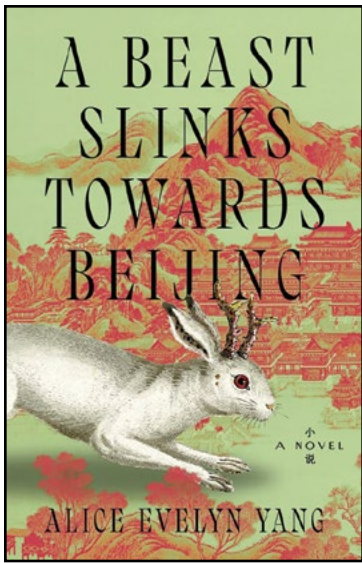
Every Happiness
By Reena Shah, Bloomsbury Publishing, Fiction
“Stunning and unflinching! In its luminescent prose, you will find complex characters you can’t help but root for and themes that come alive. The longing in Reena Shah’s every word blurs the line between reader and character.”
—Cassie Goodwin, Loudmouth Books, Indianapolis, IN

George Falls Through Time
By Ryan Collett, William Morrow, Fiction
“At first, you’ll expect this book to be a fun time-travel adventure, and it is, but it is also brutally human. George’s modern anxiety transposed into the Middle Ages makes a stunning portrait of the human heart.”
—H Rooker, Still North Books & Bar, Hanover, NH

The Seven Daughters of Dupree
By Nikesha Elise Williams, Gallery/Scout Press, Fiction
“*The Seven Daughters of Dupree* swept me into the lives of seven generations of women who carry both a mysterious curse and an unshakeable bond. A story about what we inherit — trauma and triumph, pain and power, loss and love.”
—Tracey Duncan, Common-place Reader, Yardley, PA

The Future Saints
By Ashley Winstead, Atria Books, Fiction
“Ashley Winstead enters new territory in this beautiful look at grief and friendship — and how to move on after tragedy. Theo and the Saints are all such gorgeously flawed people. I wanted to hug them all while I yelled at them (except Kenny, an angel).”
—Andi Richardson, Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA

How to Kill a Guy in Ten Dates
By Shailee Thompson, Gallery Books, Thriller
“This one reads like if your favorite romcom and your most unhinged true crime binge had a chaotic little baby. Thompson threads flirty banter through a razor-sharp revenge plot that turns dating culture inside out.”
—Julia Young, Four Seasons Books, Shepherdstown, WV



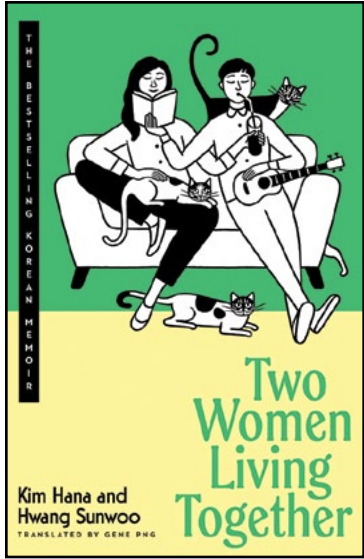
A Beast Slinks Towards Beijing
By Alice Evelyn Yang, William Morrow, Fiction
“I love a story that delves into the rich complexities that family dynamics can bring, and this book does just that. *A Beast Slinks Towards Beijing* is masterful in making you feel deeply for the characters across generations.”
—Annastasia Williams, Bookshop at the Bottom, Knoxville, TN

Heap Earth Upon It
By Chloe Michelle Howarth, Melville House, Fiction
“This is such a quietly suspenseful novel about four siblings and the woman who enters their lives in their new town — something feels off from the start. It unfolds with a steady, compelling tension.”
—Lea Kocurek, Cellar Bird Books, Grand Rapids, MI

The Company of Owls
By Polly Atkin, Milkweed Editions, Memoir
“Like a cup of herbal tea, this memoir — written by a poet with chronic illness — will leave you with a soothed heart and mind full of owls. Atkin observes tawny owlets near her cottage in Grasmere, and offers a beautiful nature cure.”
—Aggie Zivaljevic, Kepler’s Books, Menlo Park, CA

A Clean Hell
By Eric King, Raymond Luc Levasseur, Josh Davidson, PM Press, Political Science
“An excruciatingly honest look at one of the most brutal federal prisons in the country. This important work lays bare the broken prison system and provides the foundation for resistance against injustice and bias within our federal prison system.”
—Kristin Pidgeon, Riverstone Books, Pittsburgh, PA

Women of a Promiscuous Nature
By Donna Everhart, Kensington, Historical Fiction
“Based on the true story of The American Plan of the early twentieth century, aiming to prevent the spread of venereal diseases to WWI service members. A very real testament to the plight of women who endured terrible treatment in the name of righteousness.”
—Mamie Potter, Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC



Two Women Living Together: The Bestselling Korean Memoir
By Kim Hana, Hwang Sunwoo, Gene Png (Transl.), Ecco, Memoir
“It’s a treat to have a translation of this Korean bestseller. Two forty-something South Korean women choose to defy convention and form a found family. Though they both enjoyed being single, buying an apartment together launched a lively journey.”
—Jan Blodgett, Main Street Books, Davidson, NC





FIRST MONDAYS READING GROUP

Reading Group February discussion: *The Wide Wide Sea*

By Dick Carter

On Monday, February 2, the Piedmont Recreation Department's First Mondays Reading Group drew a record turnout of 29 participants for its monthly discussion at Piedmont Community Hall. With clear skies and mild weather, the group moved chairs outside onto the hall's front patio, creating an informal setting that matched the energy of the gathering.

The group met to discuss its February selection, *The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook* by Hampton Sides. Given the unusually large attendance, the group expanded its usual setup. In addition to the handheld microphone typically used during discussions, a second microphone was provided by Recreation Department staff member Ivy Sandoval, making it easier for everyone to follow and participate. Adding a visual element, Bill Ahern brought a yard-long wooden model of Cook's ship, HMS *Resolution*, along with a collection of historical images of Cook, which sparked additional conversation.

Sides' book centers on Captain James Cook's third and final voyage. On July 12, 1776, Cook departed England aboard HMS *Resolution*, accompanied by a smaller consort ship, on a mission that was both public and covert. Officially, the voyage aimed to return Mai, a Tahitian man who had become a celebrity in London, to his home islands. Less openly discussed was Britain's continued interest in locating the Northwest Passage, a hoped-for ice-free sea route linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Cook's journey took him from England to Cape Town, South Africa, and onward to Tasmania, New Zealand, Tahiti and numerous other Pacific islands. Along the way, he meticulously charted islands and coastlines, including the Northwest American coast. En route to Alaska, Cook encountered the Hawaiian Islands, previously unknown to Europeans, and initiated the first recorded contact between Europeans and Hawaiians. He then sailed north along what is now the Oregon and Alaska coastline, pushing as far as solid ice fields would allow before turning back. Cook returned to Hawaii, where he

was ultimately killed on a beach during a violent confrontation with native Hawaiians.

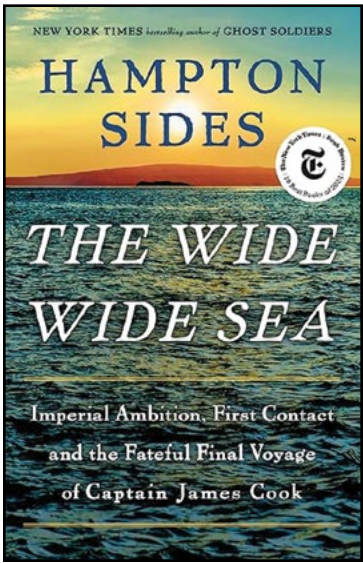
Readers noted that *The Wide Wide Sea* traces Cook's evolution from a widely admired explorer to a far more controversial figure. Earlier in his career, Cook was renowned for his seamanship, his humane leadership style and his commitment to scientific inquiry. He showed genuine curiosity about the cultures he encountered and often attempted restraint in his interactions. Yet participants agreed that something appeared to change during his final voyage.

The book was almost universally well received by the group. Several readers said they "loved" Sides' work, praising it as riveting, accessible and meticulously researched. Some admitted initial hesitation, uncertain whether the subject would hold their interest, but found themselves fully engaged once they began reading. Many felt the book appealed well beyond history enthusiasts.

Participants described the book as more than an adventure narrative. It weaves together history, anthropology, social analysis and moral inquiry, while also serving as a compelling character study of a gifted but deeply flawed man. Cook's navigational abilities were a frequent topic of admiration. Readers marveled at his ability to sail through treacherous waters and extreme weather, aided by a then-revolutionary, coffee-cup-sized chronometer that allowed him to calculate longitude with unprecedented accuracy.

Cook's leadership also drew discussion. He commanded a crew of roughly 110 men on a three-year voyage under brutal conditions. One reader likened parts of the book to a "horror flick." Rats infested the ships. Crew members were rarely dry. Hammocks were stacked in tight quarters, and sailors slept in shifts. Food and water supplies fluctuated, livestock shared the cramped space, and the stench was constant.

This led to questions about why men would volunteer for such perilous work, knowing that many would not return. Readers suggested several answers: Cook's reputation and relative humanity made him a captain sailors trusted to bring them home, successful voyages brought financial reward, and, more broadly, life in the 18th cen-



tury was harsh, leaving few stable alternatives.

Another recurring question was why Cook himself undertook a third voyage after achieving fame and security. Some speculated about secret instructions from King George to claim territory ahead of imperial rivals. Others felt Cook was driven by an inability to leave the sea, or by a sense of destiny tied to exploration. Most agreed it was likely a combination.

What troubled readers most was Cook's behavior on this final voyage. He appeared increasingly volatile, imposed harsher punishments and repeatedly led his ships into danger. While he still attempted to avoid interfering in local conflicts and took steps to limit the spread of disease, his responses to perceived theft by native people were often severe. Some readers wondered whether illness, including tuberculosis or other neurological effects, influenced his judgment. Many felt his escalating risk-taking made a tragic outcome inevitable, and several cited Mark Twain's description of Cook's death as "justifiable homicide."

In the end, the group largely agreed that *The Wide Wide Sea* is a tragedy, chronicling how an extraordinary navigator and leader pushed beyond the limits of his judgment and humanity, with fatal consequences.

The group confirmed its upcoming reading schedule, with *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead selected for March and *Secondhand Time: The Last of the Soviets* by Svetlana Alexievich chosen for April. After reviewing three fiction options, readers selected *God of the Woods* by Liz Moore for May. The meeting concluded with a group photo, centered around Ahern's model of HMS *Resolution*.

The group will meet at the Community Hall for their next discussion on March 2 at 1:30 p.m. New readers are welcome. There is no fee to participate, but registration is required. Go to <https://bit.ly/3R86PP4>, or call 510 420-3070, to register.

OBITUARY

Christine Small Parker

April 9, 1945 - December 20, 2025

Christine Parker (Chris) departed her earthly body on December 20, 2025, at the age of 80. A beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, she was one of a kind who will be remembered for her charm, fearlessness, laughter, and kindness.

Christine was born in Philadelphia to Hilda Gaertner and Neil Heary and was raised there, in Texas, and in Charlotte, North Carolina. She fell in love with San Francisco in the 1960s, and - with the wheel of a convertible in her hand and the California spirit in her heart, eventually made the Bay Area her home, where she raised her two daughters. Later in life, she moved to Southern California before returning to North Carolina, settling by the coast in Wilmington.

A lifelong learner, Christine attended the College of William & Mary, earned a BA in Sociology and Education from the University of Maryland, an MS in Business from the University of Northern Colorado, and a Certificate in Fundraising from UC Irvine. She even earned credentials as a Certified Humorist. Over the years, she worked as both a realtor and educator, teaching students from pre-school through college.

Christine had a magnetic personality and empathy for others that guided her journey centered on connection, love, and wellness. With a creative, pioneering spirit, and a knack for connecting people, she found genuine joy as a writer, speaker, community leader and founder of non-profits. While living in Piedmont — a community she cherished — she served as Recreation Commissioner and Chairperson of the 4th of July Parade. She also served as a board member for adult education and enrichment programs and as President of Piedmont Parents Together. Later, she created programs in holistic living, wellness, self-esteem, etiquette, and Southern culture. Her work led to appearances on National Public Radio, University of California radio programs and in the Los Angeles Times.

Christine's pastimes included running in the Oakland Hills, meditating on the beach, playing tennis, traveling, and getting together with beloved friends. She fell in love with pickleball in the 1990s, long before it was pop-



Christine Small Parker

ular, and started book clubs and writing groups. She loved writing about her many experiences, infusing her stories and poetry with her humor and original flair for words. She once described her need to write as her "soul's urge to sing."

Christine was a supportive mother who showered her girls with praise and enrolled them in a multitude of activities so they could find their passions. She even started a running team at her daughters' elementary school. A fervent animal lover, she was also a tenderly devoted mother to many Pekingese and adopted pets who were undoubtedly waiting for her as she crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

Christine retained her youthful and playful spirit throughout her life, and saw the world with unwavering optimism, referred to by others as her "rose-colored glasses." Her courageousness, spirituality, and zest for life carried her through many challenges, including successful treatment of Stage 3 cancer in her 50s.

Christine possessed a beautiful blend of bold independence and caring generosity. We greatly miss her smile, her spark, and her warmth.

She is survived by her daughters, Allison Coburn (Brad) and Britt Earey (Patrick); grandchildren, Parker, Quinn, Michael and Nicholas; former husband, Charles W. Parker, Jr.; sisters Merri Small and Michelle Todd; and a niece and two nephews.

A celebration of Christine's life is being planned in Wilmington for late March. For further information, please contact allisonpcoburn@gmail.com. Donations can be made in her honor to the East Bay SPCA, the Humane Society, or an animal rescue of one's choice.



February 2026 discussion group photo. Participating were Gerry Gragg, Marion Lim Yankowitz, Hilary Honore, Laura Goldman, Orrel Lanter, Adrienne Hamlin, Sue Backer, Heidi Schmidt, Peggy Shultz, Bill Ahern, Judy Love, Nancy Henn, Bella Almanzan, Mike Huff, Phyllis Van Kranenburgh, and visiting sister Christin, Lois Price, and visiting friend Laurie, Darby Gragg, Mary Carter, Rob White, Phil Witte, Odette Pollar, Dick Carter, Sandy Threlfall, Tim Weishahn, and discussion leader Priscilla Wanerus.

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Piedmont Community Meditation Group

Offering both in-person and online options

Wednesday morning - Piedmont Center for the Arts
9:00 am - 10:00 am
\$5.00/class through Piedmont Recreation Department

Wednesday evenings - online
7:30 pm - 8:15 pm
Free

No experience needed ~ Drop ins always welcome ~ Ages 18+

For more info and zoom link:
Mark Herrick - herrickmark@icloud.com ~ (415)706-2000

Sudoku Puzzle

Sudoku by Myles Mellor

7			6				9	
		9		1				7
			5					
		7					6	
			9			8	4	1
	9	8	3					
5					2			
	6				4		3	2
	2	3					5	

Crossword Puzzle

Seasonal songs and singers? by Myles Mellor

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20				21							22			
			23					24						
25	26	27	28					29				30	31	32
33					34	35				36				
37					38					39				
40					41					42				
43				44						45				
		46					47	48						
49	50			51		52					53	54	55	56
57			58							59				
60					61					62				
63					64					65				

- ACROSS
1. Vacation transport at Breckenridge

5. Primitive calculators

10. Strip near the Mediterranean

14. Ticket

15. Turned off

16. Once-worshipped white wader

17. Former queen of Jordan

18. Excessive

20. Disco artist

22. Australian pop singer

23. Hardy character

24. Rot

25. Not originals

29. Chippendales dancer, e.g.

30. Pearl Bailey's middle name

33. Short poem

34. Asian desert

36. Portside

37. "____ and out of love" Alicia Keys

40. Beatty and Buntline

41. Distillery items

42. Skin care brand

43. ____ roll

44. Put one's two cents in?
45. Personal prejudices

46. Rank

47. Party for the guys?

49. ____ of Base

51. 70s rocker

57. Museum selection related

59. Greasy

60. Sins

61. Sportscaster, Jim

62. Swing about

63. Imagines

64. Sign on a door

65. Wrigglers
- DOWN
1. Gob

2. Fruit weight in EU

3. "Don't rub ____"

4. Playwright O'Casey

5. Liqueur flavorers

6. Incentive, of a kind

7. Itsy-bitsy bits

8. Base of a crocus stem

9. Nittygritty

10. Spirit in a sling

11. Feelings of modesty

12. Pasta choice

13. Away from port

19. Multivitamin supplement

21. Enjoyed immensely

25. Material for uniforms
26. Made of wood

27. Part-time apartment

28. General store on "The Waltons"

29. Budding entrepreneurs, for short

31. Intensely interested

32. Cone-shaped heaters

34. Pest

35. "How ____ Has the Banshee Cried" (Thomas Moore poem)

36. "Zorba the Greek" Oscar winner

38. Burnt, or practically so

39. One of Nintendo's Mario Brothers

44. Borscht ingredient

45. Cry baby

47. Canonized mortal

48. Draw, for kids

49. They're not returned

50. Remedy

52. Mama's mama

53. Schnozzola

54. Floor covering

55. Jewish mo.

56. Bread types

58. Dummy

Wine Corner

Continued from [page 23](#)

approachable now if you love a big red but it will also age well for decades.

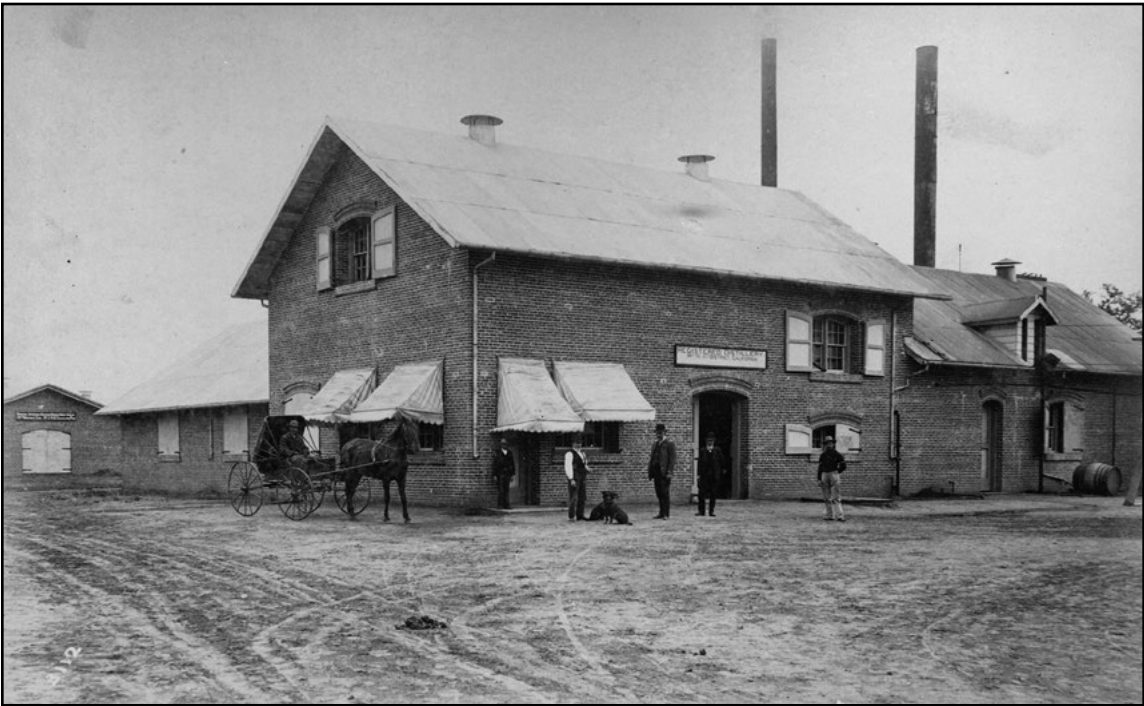
- 2023 New Clairvaux Tempranillo \$34**
This Spanish varietal thrives in hot climates. Aromatically, the wine is floral and dusty with dried rose petals, sandalwood and redberries. On the palate, the fruit is fleshy and structured with firm tannins on the finish. This medium bodied wine would be a great partner for grilled

burgers or ribs.

- 2022 New Clairvaux Red Wine "Abbot's Reserve"**
This is a blend of 50% Syrah and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon two grapes that you seldom see mixed. The wine opens with a dark, herbal bouquet driven by olive tapenade and dried flower aromas. The palate is supple and concentrated, transitioning into a firm, focused and saturated finish famed by chalky tannins. This lovely wine will improve

with time in the cellar and has the stuffing to last a decade.

- 2022 New Clairvaux Red Wine "Abbot's Reserve"**
A blend of two grapes that often pair well together Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. This 50/50 blend boasts beautiful blueberry, blackberry and currant fruit notes intertwined with notions of flowers, spice and oak. Full-bodied, opulent, fleshy and super-concentrated, with a long, luxurious finish. This sensational red can be drunk now because of its approachability and over the next 20-25 years.



The Vina Winery was once the world's largest

Athletes of the Week

Continued from [page 14](#)

its win over Antelope with 23 points and 12 boards. Martin scored the Highlanders first basket in overtime against the Titans to put them up 54-52, and then made her team's last field goal of the game on a running shot in the paint to make it 60-56.

Dillon Casey gets an honorable mention for also being a major factor in the Highlanders' wins over O'Dowd and Berkeley. He had 12 points in the win over BOD, including eight of his points in the fourth quarter. He led with 26 points in the win over Berkeley, including a dagger 3-pointer late in the game.



Dillon Casey earns an honorable mention for helping get Piedmont past Bishop O'Dowd and Berkeley.

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Piedmont Post

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Heritage Tree

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With questions about the Heritage Tree program, contact Parks & Project Manager Nancy Kent at nkent@piedmont.ca.gov.

Last year’s winners were:

- A California buckeye in Dracena Park, nominated by Jack and Sharona Fischrup
- Flowering chestnuts along Highland Avenue, nominated

anonymously in honor of the *Piedmont Beautification Foundation’s 60th anniversary*

- Crape myrtle in front of 1053 Harvard Road, nominated by Lisa Stockwell Gardner and David Hitchcock
- Redwood trees behind the bleachers at Coaches Field, nominated by Mary Louise Morrison



Flowering dogwoods at City Hall



Ceanothus trees at the Linda Kingston triangle

Post your ad in the

PIEDMONT POST

Call (510) 626-2468
nancy@cmc-ads.com

FLIP by Phil Witte

Phil Witte

“Pretend you’re a zombie and the cauliflower is a brain.”



Highland Avenue’s chestnut trees were last year’s Heritage Tree winner.



Autumn Blaze maple trees on Wildwood



Coast live oak in Piedmont Park

SUDOKU SOLUTION

7	1	5	6	2	8	4	9	3
6	8	9	4	1	3	5	2	7
3	4	2	5	9	7	6	1	8
4	5	7	2	8	1	3	6	9
2	3	6	9	7	5	8	4	1
1	9	8	3	4	6	2	7	5
5	7	4	1	3	2	9	8	6
9	6	1	8	5	4	7	3	2
8	2	3	7	6	9	1	5	4

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

1	S	2	K	3	I	4	S	5	A	6	B	7	A	8	C	9	10	G	11	A	12	Z	13	A																																																																																																																																			
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Girls' Soccer

Continued from [page 13](#)

Sorensen-Wald had a long-shot on target in the 25th. Liu had PHS' next shot on target in the 44th minute of the second half. Sorensen-Wald had another attempt from a free kick grabbed by the keeper.

Tuesday vs. Bishop O'Dowd

Piedmont hosted Bishop O'Dowd on Tuesday, February 10. See next week's *Post* for match details.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (8-2-6 overall, 3-1-4 league) visits Encinal in Alameda on Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.



Senior center-back Darcy McKee looks to make a play against Castro Valley.

Boys' Basketball

Continued from [page 12](#)

comeback was on from there. The Highlanders limited the Dragons to just nine points in the fourth quarter with stout defense while scoring 18 points to take a lead late in the game.

Final stats: Beach Lorin led with 18 points, Lucian Fang-Ring scored 14, Brayer and Casey scored 12, Akash Bornstein had five, and Ollie Dougan scored three.

61-52 over Berkeley

Piedmont led 17-16 through the first quarter, then followed with six lead changes in the second quarter. In the second, BHS took a 21-20 lead with 5:43 on the clock, while Casey converted two free throws over a minute later. Berkeley hit two free throws of its own 13 seconds later, while Casey made a 3-point play with a layup and free throw at 3:53. Berkeley retook the lead just 20 seconds later with a 3-pointer and eventually went up 30-25. From there, Piedmont scored six straight points to lead 31-30 with Lorin assisting Cash Panico, Panico assisted Casey for a three, and Casey made a

steal and converted one free throw with 40 seconds left.

In the third quarter, Berkeley took a 37-36 lead with 5:03 left. One minute later, Casey hit a layup to go up 38-37, giving PHS the lead for good. Berkeley tied things up at 39-39 with 2:32 left, but Piedmont led 45-43 to end the quarter with two straight 3-pointers by Fang-Ring and Casey.

Both teams traded points in the fourth quarter until the Yellowjackets scored four straight to put itself down one possession at 52-49. That's when Casey lined up a 3-pointer around four feet past the arch with 1:47 left to put a dagger in the game. They added six points after that by Bornstein, Lorin, and Casey.

Final stats: Casey led with 26 points, Lorin had 19, Fang-Ring had eight, Brayer had four, and Bornstein and Panico had two.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (16-8 overall, 4-4 league) hosts Alameda on Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. and visits Castro Valley on Friday, February 13 at the same time.



Beach Lorin led with 18 points on O'Dowd, to go along with 19 points on Berkeley.

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH

400 HIGHLAND AVE, 94611 (510) 547-5700 PIEDMONTCHURCH.ORG

An Invitation to Membership

Pastors to host two gatherings, February 22 and March 1

Come and See will meet on two consecutive Sundays, February 22 and March 1, from 11:30am - 1:30pm in the Guild Parlor. Lunch will be provided.

Childcare is available for younger children by contacting Don Ashburn at Don@PiedmontChurch.org before February 20. Sign up in the church Courtyard Sunday after 10am worship, or scan the QR code at left.

ONLINE CHURCH RESOURCES

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Read our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, and view our calendar at PiedmontChurch.org

BIBLE STUDY

Mondays, 10am, contact Don Ashburn at Don@Piedmontchurch.org

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

Wednesdays, 3pm, contact Don Ashburn at Don@Piedmontchurch.org

NEXTGEN SCHEDULE & HIGHLIGHTS

Our youth program is vibrant! Scan the QR code for updates.

Do you want to know more about Piedmont Community Church, what goes on here, our history, the wide range of people and beliefs that make up our congregation? Have you attended worship or one of our many community events? Might you be interested in becoming more engaged in our fellowship?

You're invited to attend our next *Come and See* gatherings hosted by Senior Pastor Steve Schibsted and Associate Pastor Don Ashburn. You will learn about our vision for the future, our commitment to supporting each other and the wider community in difficult times, what brings us to Piedmont Church and how we can grow in faith and service in our own unique ways.

WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE SUNDAYS, 10AM

Where in the World Are We?

Axel Kreiger (left), John Malick, Dieter Von Helmstatt our Graff, Sue Malick, and Harald Binkele at the conclusion of the annual Jazz Brunch for 300 at Sue and John's Farm in Hochhausen/Hassmersheim Germany. Some of the happy workers take a break and peruse the Arts and Entertainment section for news of performances at Piedmont Center for the Arts. The Brau und Kulture Verein which put on the Live Jazz extravaganza in Hochhausen is PCA's analog in Germany.

Previously printed in the Piedmont Post on June 17, 2024.

Send your photos of the Post in the far corners of the world, or of other communities named Piedmont, to: WITWAW, 1139 Oakland Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

2026 Calendar of Events

February 11 – February 18

Wednesday, February 11

9:00 a.m. Civil Service Commission meeting..... City Hall

February 16 - 20

Ski Week..... No School all week

Monday, February 16

All Day Presidents Day.....City Hall closed

Tuesday, February 17

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. City Council meeting..... City Hall

Meetings may be viewed on KCOM (Channel 27) and on the City's website: piedmont.ca.gov.