

PIEDMONT POST

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CITIZENS OF PIEDMONT

More than 1000 Oakland Museum artifacts stolen in heist

OPD, Museum leadership ask for public's help

By Allyson Aleksey

The Oakland Police Department (OPD) announced last week that it is working with the FBI's Art Crime Team and the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) to investigate a burglary at the museum's storage facility two weeks ago.

According to a statement from the Oakland Police Department, on October 15, a suspect or group of suspects broke into the museum's off-site collection storage facility and stole more than 1000 items, including jewelry, laptops, Native American baskets, daguerreotypes, and other irreplaceable artifacts and historic memorabilia. Under OPD's direction, the museum did not publi-

cize the theft initially but is now able to share additional information about the incident.

"Based on current findings, investigators believe this was a crime of opportunity, not a targeted theft," museum leadership wrote in a statement. "There is no indication that the perpetrators specifically identified the facility as museum storage or sought particular artworks or artifacts. Instead, it appears they gained access and took items that were most easily available."

OMCA has received "an outpouring of concern and support following news of [the heist]" and "are deeply grateful for our community's solidarity as we work to address this serious loss," the

See OMCA Heist on page 31

Road repair progress



Photo by City of Piedmont

Dracena Avenue's repaving received the "chip seal" fix.

By Jay Russell

The City of Piedmont has been working on two separate street improvement projects, the Grand Avenue Project which began in

May and finished Friday, October 31, as well as a City-wide re-paving and restriping project.

The \$1,500,000 Grand Avenue Project is primarily funded through Measure BB (Alameda County transportation sales tax) and California SB-1 (state transportation funding) dollars and includes a full repaving of Grand Avenue. The project also includes bulb-outs, crosswalk improvements, flashing pedestrian crossings beacons and a bioswale at the bottom of Fairview.

The new flashing beacons for pedestrians to cross Grand Avenue have been installed and are both now functional.

The construction on Grand includes additional bicycle lane safety elements such as a bicycle turn box. This project is finished, a portion of Grand Avenue is still being worked on, but that falls under a concurrent project, the City-Wide Re-paving Project.

City-Wide Re-Paving Project

The City is also currently re-paving 10 streets, installing 17 new curb ramps across the city, and re-striping 32 streets. This

See Road Repairs on page 5

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Beach Elementary School kids in Halloween costumes parade around Beach Field before an island of smiling parents with coffee.

Beach School celebrates Halloween with parade

By Jay Russell

Beach Elementary School students paraded with joy around Beach Field on Halloween morning, Friday, October 31. All students and teachers were costumed up to the nines and a good number of the onlooking parents were also dressed up bright and early in the 8:00 a.m. hour.

Warm costumes with hoods, fluff and fur kept the Halloween parade insulated for the brisk morning walk around the center island of parents.

See Beach Parade on page 10



Beach School Administrative Assistant Sarah Schaaf's French Bulldog, Ollie, was a fan favorite as a merdog.

J. Miller Flowers' Petal It Forward shares 325 bouquets this year

By Shari Santos

For the 11th year in a row, J. Miller Flowers and Gifts' "Flower Power Posse" spread flowers and smiles by participating in Petal It Forward on Oct. 15. More than 20 volunteers arranged 325 bouquets to hand out to unsuspecting mem-

bers of the public—each recipient receiving two floral bouquets, one to keep and one to share with someone else.

The Posse delivered bouquets to people at Chevron Gas Station and Carwash, Mountain View Cemetery, Chapel of the Chimes, Golden Gate Atelier, Calibri

Spanish Immersion Preschool, Piedmont Avenue Elementary School, Piedmont City Hall, Nomura Preschool in El Cerrito, Oakland Ballet, and Las Lomas High School.

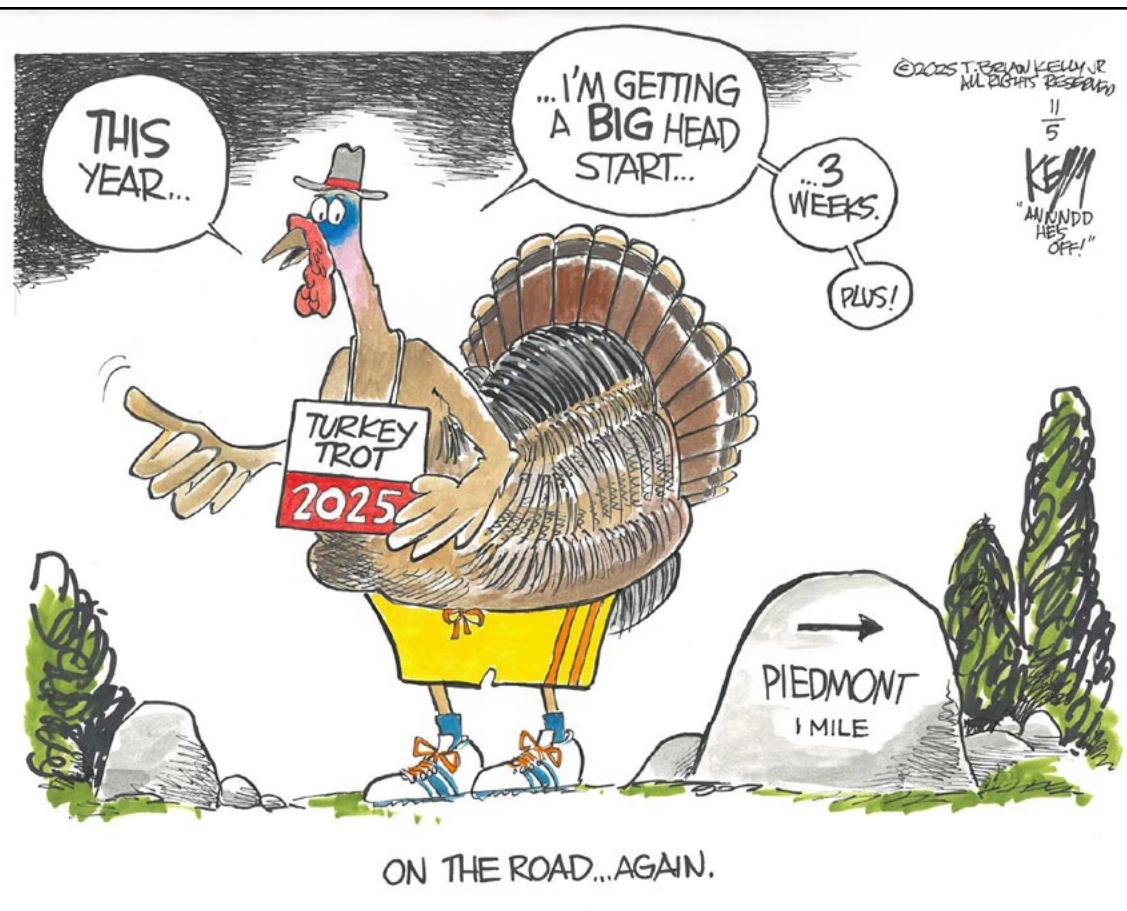
Volunteers said they felt as gifted as those they surprised,

See Petal It Forward on page 31



An enthusiastic group of friends designed 325 bouquets this year to spread random acts of kindness in the form of flowers to neighbors and strangers.

OPINION



By Jay Russell

QUESTION: What is the scariest movie you have seen and what makes it so scary?

Asked Friday, October 31 at Piedmont Middle School



KIAN GHASSEMI, 8th grade

I haven't seen too many scary movies so I will say *Die Hard* just because it is pretty intense.



ZUBIN SEN, 7th grade

My sister and dad sometimes talk about the movie *Scream*. It sounds really scary.



FRANCES RIPSTEEN, 8th grade

Annabelle. The fact that a doll is alive is really scary.



JAMES FOPPIONO, 7th grade

I just saw *The Conjuring: Last Rites*. At the end, this possessed devil mirror shows all the characters how they will die.



JACKSON COFFEY-MIDILI, 6th grade

The movie It. It is scary when the clown rips off an arm.



KIRA ARULANANTHAM, 6th grade

Goosebumps, there are a lot of magical aspects which are creepy.

Religion Corner

Shepherd us from death to life

By Pastor Jim Hopkins

It is the season of All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day, All Souls Day and Dia De Los Muertos, all celebrations focused on remembering the dead and honoring their ongoing significance to the living, even their ongoing presence in our lives. The observances of different faiths, cultures and traditions are certainly not all the same but they are united in their emphasis on the value of remembering.

In the Christian tradition, the focus in this season of remembering often falls on gratitude

for God's presence with us both in life and in death. We will highlight verses like Psalm 23:4 - *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me*, and Romans 14:8b - *Whether we live or whether we, we are the Lord's*.

Of the psalm Rabbi Allan Berkowitz writes, "The way the writer of the poem refers to God changes mid-poem, from the third person (He leads me) to the second person (You are with me) ...At the very moment, when fear is at its worst - when the sheep

and we are feeling the most vulnerable - You God are with me."

When my mother-in-law was dying of cancer and chose to end her life under California's End of Life Options Act, it was Paul's assurance to the followers of Christ in Rome that my wife and I read at her bedside. For us, and we hope for her, it was a promise that Eternal One is always and forever shepherding us from death to life.

There is much going on in, as a friend describes, our "upside down" world. There is much to worry about. There is much to fear. The 2025 Chapman University Survey of American Fears reveals that this year the ten most pervasive fears among the American public are, in order: Corrupt government officials, People I love becoming seriously ill, Economic/financial collapse, Cyber-terrorism, People I love dying, United States involved in another world war, Pollution of drinking water, Russia using nuclear weapons, Pollution of oceans, lakes and rivers and Government tracking of personal data.

No one, in good conscience, See *Religion Corner* on page 3

PIEDMONT POST

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A newspaper is a device for making the ignorant more ignorant and the crazy crazier."

— H. L. Mencken
1880-1956
American journalist and essayist

The Question Man asks a prescient question each week at an unannounced location.

The Question Man

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.

Winner of 1474 pound Giant Jack announced

By Jay Russell

Wildwood mom Katie DeWitt's guess of 1,476 pounds was within two pounds of the actual weight of the enormous pumpkin, known as Giant Jack, from the Wildwood Dads Club's pumpkin patch. DeWitt's guess earned her family delivery and custody of the pumpkin, community bragging rights and the heaviest Halloween decoration seen in Piedmont in a decade.

DeWitt made the final guess of the family after her son reasoned the huge thing must be 100 pounds and her husband, Barry Fischer, guessed in the 1,200 pound-range. DeWitt said she figured the pumpkin looked a little bigger than her husband's guess and guessed just two pounds above Giant Jack's actual

tonnage.

"It was a very proud moment as a Piedmont resident," said DeWitt. "Because we've gone to the pumpkin patch every year and always see Giant Jack. I think I scored a lot of points with my kids, they were very impressed."

The nearly three-quarter ton gourd was delivered to the home on Magnolia at 6:30 a.m. on Halloween morning. Picking a spot for a 1474-pound decoration is no afterthought, once Jack takes a seat, he doesn't get back up.

The family has enjoyed the company of an enormous pumpkin guarding their residence. Pedestrians are quite fond of it too and have been stopping to ask about it and for photo opportunities with the enormity.

"The social benefits of owning Giant Jack have been significant,"

confirmed Fischer. "Our kids want to keep it forever, which is not viable," he added.

Retrieval of the giant pumpkin is also included for the winner of the Giant Jack guessing competition. Fuji Melons, the supplier, will pick up the prize when the Fischers are ready to say goodbye to their new friend out front.

"Before we have it picked up, we might try to make a hole in it and see if we can reach in and grab some of the seeds which are supposed to be proportionally gigantic," said Fischer.

The Wildwood Dads Club received 378 guesses of Giant Jack's weight. DeWitt's guess of 1,476 beat out the next two closest prognostications of 1,480 and 1,467 pounds. She submitted the winning guess on October 26.



Felix and Hana Fischer with Giant Jack



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Thank you for supporting your *Piedmont Post*.

Letters to the Editor

Running to Fight Childhood Hunger

By Steve Sidney, M.D.

I am a lifelong runner and a former assistant coach of the Piedmont High School cross-country team. On November 28, the day after Thanksgiving, I will run 76 laps – about 19 miles – on the Witter Field track. Each lap represents a year of my life, and each step is dedicated to a cause that weighs heavily on my heart: childhood hunger.

This run is a fundraiser for Feed the Children, a highly rated nonprofit charity that provides nutritional assistance to children both in the U.S. and around the world. I was moved to act after our country's leadership made drastic cuts to federal food assistance programs, including the closure of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assis-

tance Program (SNAP). These decisions have left millions of children in the United States and around the world more vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition.

In the U.S., 20% of all children do not know where their next meal will come from. Globally, more than 3 million children die from hunger each year. These are not just numbers – they are lives made miserable or lost to a preventable tragedy.

I invite our community to join me in raising awareness and supporting this cause. Donations may be made through my fund-raising page: <https://tiltify.com/@winter-pine-397/steves-76-laps-19-miles-run-for-feed-the-children>, or contact me directly at ssidney3203@gmail.com for information.

Thank you for your consideration. Every step helps a child in need.

Latin isn't an "Easy Win" for elementary schools

By Jessica Rees

In the Piedmont Pulse, PUSD Superintendent Jennifer Hawn explained why she selected Latin as the new "World Language" for Piedmont's elementary schools. But this decision feels like a bait-and-switch: nearly 80% of parents who responded to the district's survey chose Spanish. In the context of the survey, most parents believed we were deciding between spoken languages, not a dead language.

Latin may have value for understanding the roots of English words, but that requires an advanced command of English – something far beyond the typical elementary level. Latin study is better suited for high school students, not 10-year-olds just beginning to master grammar and composition. It's hard to understand why district leadership would pass up the easy win of aligning with 80% of parent input and choosing Spanish.

Equally important is what might be lost. Adding Latin

instruction in fifth grade means taking time away from social-emotional learning (SEL), which research consistently shows is critical to student success. A major meta-analysis by CASEL in 2008 <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED505369.pdf> found that students in SEL programs saw significant gains in social skills, behavior, and academics—an average **11-percentile-point increase** in achievement. That's a far greater impact on lifelong learning than an introductory Latin course could provide.

If the choice is between Latin or no language, I'd choose no language. Latin simply doesn't offer what spoken languages like Spanish, French, or Mandarin can: communication, cultural connection, and relevance. More importantly, I'd choose SEL and student well-being over Latin vocabulary drills any day.

Let's make sure our voices are heard. Email the School Board and ask them to reconsider this rushed decision.

Religion Corner

Continued from [page 2](#)

could say that there is no need to worry about these things. The threats they represent are real. Yet, the promise of this season is also real. No matter what is going on we can pray in good faith, "God, shepherd us from death to life even as you have as you have done for those we honor in this

season of remembering. You are the God of both the living and dead. In you abide faith, hope and love. Lead us in this world of many shadows. Amen."

Jim Hopkins is Pastor Emeritus of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland.

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Piedmont Post news rack at Mulberry's

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LOCAL ITEMS

Piedmont Council's 41st Scouting for Food Drive on November 15

Piedmont Council Scouting America is preparing for its 41st annual Scouting for Food (SFF) drive benefitting Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB). In 2025, the Council collected over 8,000 lbs of food from the city of Piedmont and saw over \$13,000 in donations, a record for the Council. Every dollar donated goes directly to ACCFB, allowing them to purchase food for our neighbors in need.

Stepping up to lead the event this year is John Langowski. In 2024, John and Atlantis Langowski helped save SFF by giving use of their driveway to the Council in order to store donations until pickup the following week. Every resident of Piedmont Ct assisted too, moving their cars off the street to allow for easy access by the Council's drivers as they dropped off donations.

"Scouting for Food brings out every level of Scout, from Cub to Eagle, and the level of generosity that's on display throughout Piedmont is remarkable," said SFF

Chair John Langowski. "ACCFB is always an important charity, but with the government shutdown, the need is even higher for those who are about to lose benefits, or employees that are furloughed or working without pay."

With cuts to SNAP funding earlier in 2025, and SNAP to receive no more funding as of Nov 1st, SFF is a vital contribution to ACCFB's efforts. In Alameda County, 1 in 4 people experience food insecurity, and 175,000 people rely on SNAP benefits to ensure they have enough food. In 2024, ACCFB helped households secure 6 million meals through SNAP benefits.

Please contribute however you are able, with physical or monetary donations. Every \$1 donated is enough to distribute food for 2 meals. Every gift, every meal, and every step toward food justice matters, now more than ever. Throughout November, you can donate to the virtual food drive at: <https://donate.accfb.org/vfd/PiedmontSFF2025>



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.



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Plaque placed to commemorate Mountain/Bellevue island oak

By Cameron Wolfe

On a gorgeous fall afternoon, a group of Piedmont Beautification Foundation representatives and neighbors gathered at the Mountain/Bellevue Circle to place a plaque to commemorate the planting of an Island Oak (*Quercus tomentella*). The tree itself was planted in June of 2024.

The Island Oak has big shoes to fill as its predecessor was a Sequoia gigantea that had served as Piedmont's first Holiday Tree. Sequoias are generally found in the Sierra Nevada mountains at an elevation of at least 5,000 ft. Yosemite's Mariposa Grove is probably the best-known place to view the giant trees. Somehow, the Mountain/Bellevue specimen enjoyed a remarkably long life in Piedmont, the highlight of which was its service during the holiday season beginning in the early 1930s and continuing until the outbreak of WWII.

Climate change and the shrinkage of water and land around its base ultimately doomed the tree to removal before it could fall. The Piedmont Beautification Foundation, under the leadership of then President Karen Sullivan, adopted the project of finding a suitable replacement. It was decided to involve the neighbors, and Sullivan, joined by Cameron Wolfe, walked door to door raising funds for a suitable replacement



Photos courtesy Fran Wolfe

Neighbors and PBF representatives viewing new plaque: Barbara Thompson (left), Rich Thompson, Cameron Wolfe, Anian Tunney, Karen Sullivan, Patty Dunlap, Nancy Kent, Mark McComb and Connie McComb

and the creation of a maintenance arrangement to assure the tree survives its first two years.

Extensive research was under-



Plaque commemorating the planting of an Island Oak at the Mountain/Bellevue Circle

taken to determine the most appropriate species of tree. This project was overseen by Nancy Kent, Piedmont's Parks and Projects Manager, with significant input from PBF. Ultimately, the decision to plant an Island Oak was made by the Park Commission. Early indications are that the choice was good. The tree has already doubled its height in its first 18 months, and it appears to be thriving.

It was a happy group of neighbors and representatives of PBF who gathered at the Mountain/Bellevue Circle to place a beautiful bronze plaque which commemorates the history of the magnificent predecessor tree and the successful teamwork of PBF and the Piedmont neighbors who have the most to gain from the planting of this very special tree.

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Road Repairs

Continued from page 1

resurfacing project focuses on the area around Dracena, Moraga, and Grand. All new curb ramps, providing ADA access between sidewalks and crosswalks, are completed.

Streets were selected for the project based on annual grades given in a pavement condition index. This work includes "grind and pave" work on severely damaged streets like Moraga and San Carlos Avenues. This repaving method is akin to a root canal, it first chips away the existing pavement and then repaves.

"The city aims to maintain streets efficiently by addressing repairs before they become more expensive, rotating through different city areas approximately every seven years," said

Schneider.

The work concentrates on one area of town allowing the city to complete more projects in one locale rather than battle with relocating heavy equipment. Hence the streets chosen were the most in need of repair or the most fixable around one segment of town, roughly near Dracena Park.

The city completed phase one of the city-wide re-paving project in mid-October. When identifying streets there are two types of repairs possible, the easier "chip seal" fix for moderately worn streets and the more severe and expensive "grind and pave" fix for streets in worse disrepair. The chip seal streets, like Dracena Avenue must sit and cure and then go through the "slurry seal"

process.

The grind and pave work removes the pavement down all the way down to its core requiring more invasive and comprehensive work, resulting in smoke and fumes. The city performed this type of work recently on Grand Avenue, work done during the evenings of October 8 and 9.

The city uses these two categories to decide which streets can get the easier fix now to avoid the laborious grind and pave later. This selection method, along with consideration of road usages explains why seemingly some street in poorer condition were not selected.

"The goal is to keep [the condition] above a certain level. We get state funding for road repair every year. What we're doing is trying to look at how can those funds have the biggest impact to keeping our overall street condition above that pavement condition index baseline that we've set," explained Schneider.

Thirty-two streets around town are only receiving new stripping. The City-Wide Re-paving project will continue through November and December.

Streets Being Re-paved

- Dracena Avenue (from Blair to Park Way)
- Kingston Avenue (from Linda to Greenbank)
- Blair Avenue (from Highland to Bonita)
- Hillside Avenue (from Oakland to Blair)
- El Cerrito Avenue (from Oakland to Blair)
- York Drive (from Arroyo to Cambridge)
- San Carlos Avenue (from Blair to Oakland)
- Lower San Carlos Avenue (from Oakland to Magnolia)
- Moraga Avenue (from Monticello to Estrella)
- Hampton Road (from La Salle to Lexford)
- Corner of Grand and Rose

ADA ramps installed at intersections of:

- Kingston at Linda (2)
- Kingston at Greenbank (2)
- York Drive at Arroyo (2)
- Dracena at Park (1)
- Dracena at Blair (1)
- San Carlos at Oakland (2)
- El Cerrito at Blair (1)
- Blair at Waldo (2)
- Blair at Highland (2)
- Moraga at Monticello (1)
- Grand at Rose (1)



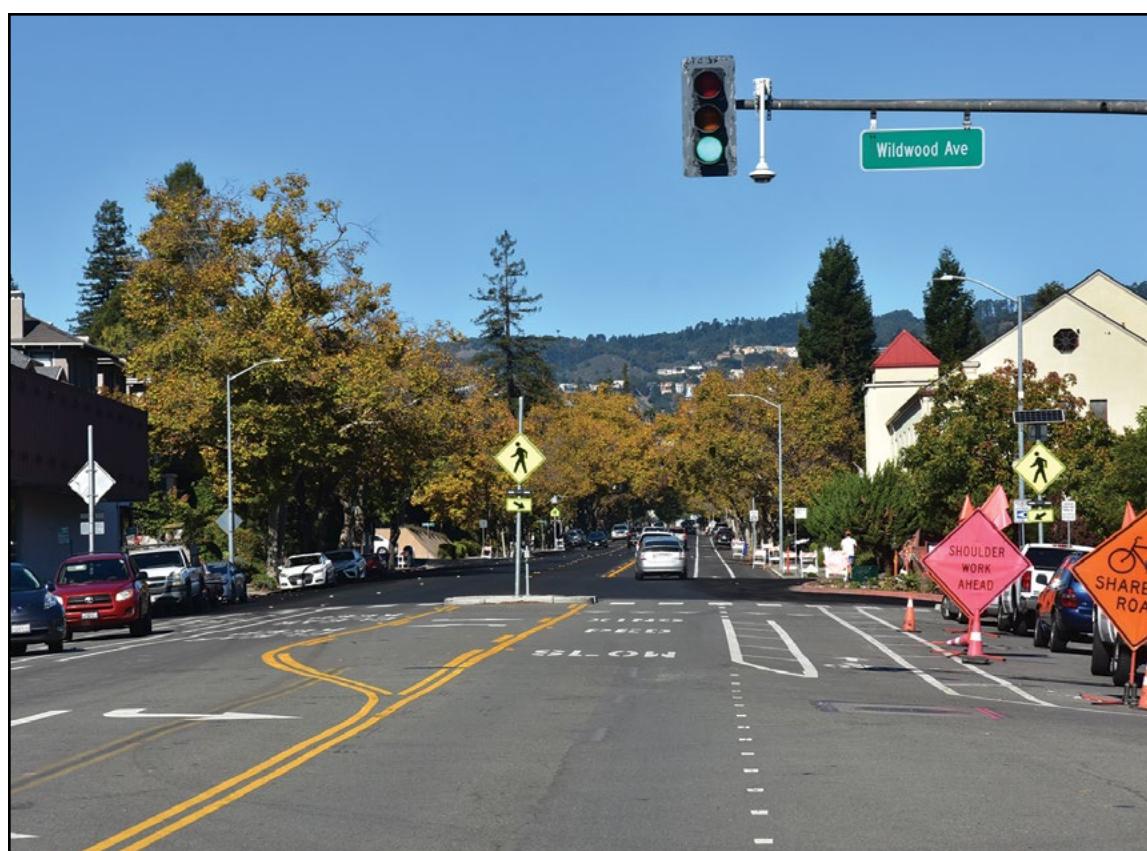
Staff Photo

The portion of Moraga Avenue uphill from Monticello will receive the "grind and pave" treatment this year; a start date has not been set.



Staff Photo

A flareless ramp, with a ramp bordered by steps, like this one at Moraga and Monticello, must be used, when the intersection cannot safely accommodate the gently sloped "flares" according to state design standards set by Caltrans.



Improvements to Grand Avenue are in the finishing stages.

Staff Photo

Adoptable Cats of the Week

By Quinn White



Come meet the dynamic pair Raja and Cooper at Cat Town in Oakland.

and adores gentle attention from the people in his life.

Together, they're seeking a calm, indoor-only home with teens or adults who understand active, expressive cats. With consistency, enrichment, and care, Raja and Cooper will blossom into engaging, affectionate companions. Both are neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped, and negative for FeLV and FIV. Learn more at www.cattownoakland.org or email adopt@cattownoakland.org.

Adoptable Dog of the Week

By Jessica McDevitt



Come meet Little Pluto at Oakland Animal Services.

younger than 12 or a dog that weighs 25 pounds more or less than Pluto must bring them to the shelter for the meeting.

Come meet him at Oakland Animal Services this Thursday from 12 - 7 p.m., or this Friday, Saturday, or Sunday between 12 and 3 p.m. Potential adopters with a child

For more information about adoption or fostering, contact Piedmont resident Jessica McDevitt at jessicamcdev@gmail.com.

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SCHOOLS

November 3 Piedmont Pulse

By Jennifer Hawn

Dear PUSD Families and Staff:

Okay, I confess, I love Halloween, and... I am always a bit wary of the costumes that our middle and high school students may wear, largely due to some mishaps with my own kids when they were teenagers (you don't want to know). However, our students again impressed me with their imagination and enthusiasm. There were many creative costumes this year, including the "6-7" meme taking on life with students and staff. And, of course, check out the young man toward the right of the photo who is close to my heart as a fellow Dodgers fan. I recognize that I am in Giants territory here (Go Giants!)...but this year's World Series win...let's hear it for the Dodgers!

*In Partnership,
Jennifer Hawn, Ed.D.
Superintendent*

District Updates

Supporting Families During the Federal Shutdown

Last week, our Principals and I shared a short-term opportunity to help families in need due to the government shutdown. With the government shutdown continuing indefinitely, we are thoughtful about families in our community who are impacted by the loss of government benefits, including SNAP or TANF assistance for food and essential support.

In order to assist families who may have immediate need, we invite parents who would like to donate a grocery store gift card of any amount to the main office of their child's school. Please place the gift card in an envelope labeled "government shutdown donation." Our Principals will distribute the gift cards to families in need. We invite dona-

tions through November 21st, the Friday before the Thanksgiving week holiday.

We are grateful to the parents and our Board for this creative and real-time support idea. Let us come together during these difficult days to care for each other.

Introducing Latin as Fifth Grade World Language

We are delighted to share an exciting update with our elementary families following our October 23, 2025 Community Meeting where we discussed the progress toward introducing a world language program in 5th grade for the 2026-27 school year.

After deep reflection and extensive research, we are excited to announce that we will be introducing Latin as our 5th grade world language. Latin is uniquely positioned to support core literacy development.

See Piedmont Pulse on page 28

Thinking Outside the Classroom

Pumpkins: More than just Jack-O-Lanterns

Now that Halloween has passed, you might think pumpkin season is over. Think again. While pumpkins make excellent decorative jack-o-lanterns, they're also nutritious, delicious, and steeped in history.

The Story of Pumpkins

Pumpkins are native to North America and have been cultivated for more than 7,000 years. Long before European settlers arrived, Native Americans grew and ate pumpkins as a dietary staple. They roasted pumpkin strips over fires, dried them for winter storage, and even wove the strips into mats.

Native Americans shared their agricultural knowledge with the Pilgrims, teaching them to grow pumpkins—a skill that proved essential to the colonists' sur-

vival during harsh New England winters.

The word "pumpkin" has an interesting lineage. It comes from the Greek word *pepon*, meaning "large melon." The French turned it into *pompon*, the English called it "pumpion," and American colonists eventually shortened it to the "pumpkin" we use today.

Fascinating Pumpkin Facts

Botanically speaking, pumpkins are a fruit, not a vegetable. As members of the squash family that contain seeds, they meet the scientific definition of a fruit.

The world record for the largest pumpkin ever grown tops 2,700 pounds—heavier than most cars. Pumpkins are made up of about 90 percent water and are an excellent source of vitamin A, which supports healthy vision.

This November, celebrate pumpkins for more than their Halloween glow. They're a delicious autumn treasure that has nourished people for thousands of years.

About Kitchen on Fire

Kitchen on Fire is a hands-on cooking school in Berkeley and Oakland offering fun and educational classes for cooks of all ages. Their popular teen cooking camps and classes teach practical culinary skills in a relaxed, engaging environment led by professional chefs.

Adults can also explore new techniques, take part in date-night classes, or learn alongside their families. Visit kitchenonfire.com or call (510) 548-2665 to see upcoming programs—there's something for everyone.

Spiced Pumpkin Bread

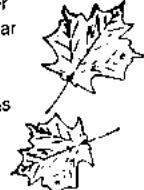
with Maple-Brown Butter Glaze

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups All-Purpose Flour
1 tsp Baking Powder
1/2 tsp Baking Soda
3/4 tsp Salt
1 tsp Ground Cinnamon
1 tsp Ground Cardamom
1/2 tsp Ground Allspice
1/4 tsp Ground Black Pepper
1 cup Light Brown Sugar, packed
1/4 cup Unsalted Butter, softened
1/4 cup Olive Oil
1 Large Egg
1 cup Pumpkin Puree, half a 15-oz can
1/4 cup Sour Cream

For the Glaze

2 Tbsp Unsalted Butter
1 cup Powdered Sugar
2 Tbsp Maple Syrup
1 pinch of Salt
1 Tbsp Toasted Pepitas



Directions

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter and flour a 9" x 5" loaf pan.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cardamom, allspice, and pepper.
- In a large bowl, beat together brown sugar, butter, and olive oil until light and fluffy. Add the egg and mix well. Add pumpkin puree and sour cream, and mix until well combined.
- Use a rubber spatula to fold the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until just combined.
- Pour batter into the prepared loaf pan and smooth the top. Tap the pan on the counter a few times to release air bubbles.
- Bake for 50-60 minutes, until golden and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
- Cool in the pan for 20 minutes, then remove and cool completely on a wire rack.

Make the Glaze

- Melt the butter in a small pan over medium heat. Cook until it turns golden brown and smells nutty (watch carefully!). Let cool slightly, then whisk in confectioners' sugar, maple syrup, and salt until smooth.
- Pour glaze over the cooled bread and sprinkle with pepitas. Let glaze set before slicing.



FUN4KIDS Event Calendar

By Jay Russell

Children's Fairyland

Fairyland.org

699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland 452-2259

Fairyland has just the right stuff to spark a child's imagination. From the rides to the petting zoo and Alice in Wonderland maze, a day of fun is a few blocks away from Piedmont. All shows on the stage of Fairyland's Storybook Puppet Theater are original productions, featuring scripts, costumes, music, and sets designed by their talented puppeteers.

Cesar Chavez Park – Berkeley Marina

Cityofberkeley.info/Marina_Home

11 Spinnaker Way, Berkeley 981-6740

Head towards the water and visit the Cesar Chavez Park in the Berkeley Marina. It has over 100 acres of park space and 7 miles of trails. Grab the pooch and adventure to the 17-acre off-leash dog area. The area lends itself to bird-watching, and has consistent wind for kite flying. Come for the fresh air, and feel the bay's majesty up close.

Pacific Pipe Climbing Gym

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. 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.

Oakland Zoo

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. Glowfari returns November 7. Buy tickets in advance.

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READ IT IN THE POST

PHS to produce *Noises Off* comedy November 13-16

By Kimberly Taylor

Piedmont High School's Advanced Acting class will present four performances of the comedy *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn. Four-time nominee of best play, *Noises Off* is considered one of the best farces ever written. Performances will be in Alan Harvey Theater on the high school campus from Thursday, November 13 through Sunday, November 16.

Noises Off is a hilarious backstage comedy about a small theater company struggling to put on a play. The chaotic play-within-a-play gives the audience a glimpse of what putting on a show is like, from a shaky tech rehearsal to performances on a tour that completely fall apart. Forgotten lines, misplaced props, slamming doors and messy relationships ultimately lead to total chaos.

Prior to leaving for college, recent PHS graduate Noah Brugeman built the set with longtime construction coach and director, Bob Moorhead. The pair, along with PHS stagecraft students, spent hours making an elaborate two-story set for *Noises Off*, which features numerous stairways, doors and passageways that cast members run, walk, and fall through during the show. The set is practically a character in the play, as it features seven doors, three staircases, and it turns 180 degrees to allow the audience to see the play onstage as well as backstage.

"*Noises Off* is ridiculously funny and complicated. The tangled relationships between charac-

ters combined with slapstick comedy shows the audience the true value of resilience," said Sparrow Lieu, who plays Poppy Norton-Taylor, the anxious assistant.

Sacha Andrews, who plays Brooke Ashton, the ditzy and clueless cast member, says that everyone should come see the show because "It has super cool sets, costumes, and character choices. It's a really fun show, especially for people who have some interest in theatre."

The Sardines cast includes Ali Atanasio, Collin Cameron, Trenton Downing, Kirstin Fedor, Theo Ferguson, Dinar Kidane, Sparrow Lieu, Matias Seelenberger and Sadie Shoop.

The Doors cast includes Amelia Addington, Chaz Amit-Guite, Sacha Andrews, Elisha Bell, Caleb Canada, Yiyou Fang, Declan Murphy, Lila Schwab, and Benjamin Wakefield.

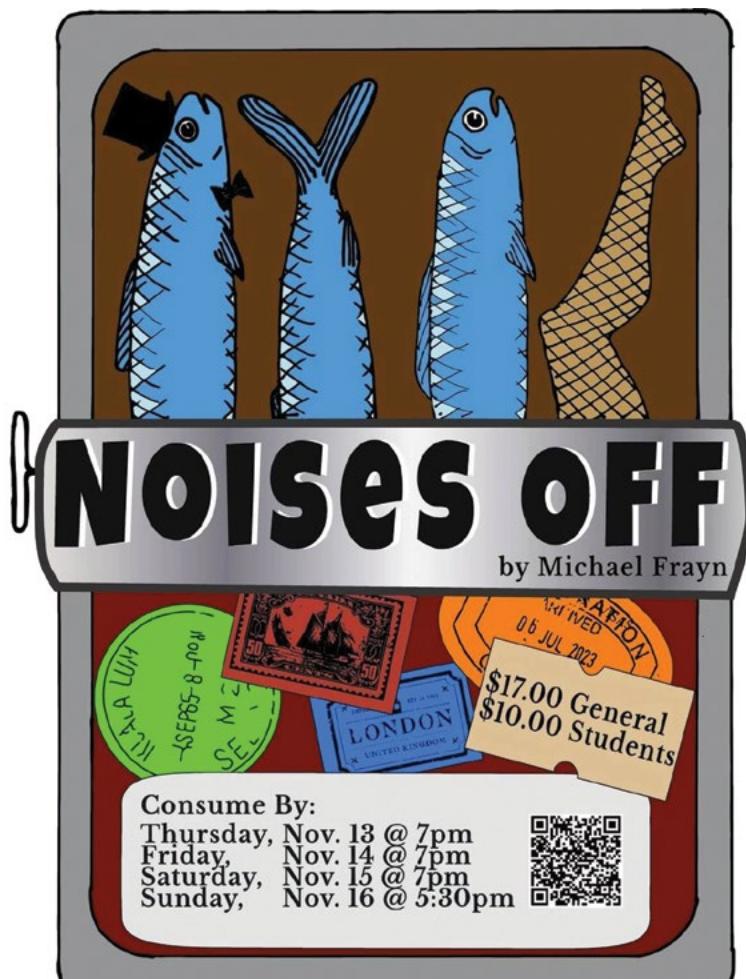
The show will be directed by PHS Drama Teacher Kimberly Taylor.

Showtimes

- Sardines Cast – Thursday, November 13 @ 7 p.m.
- Doors Cast – Friday, November 14 @ 7 p.m.
- Sardines Cast – Saturday, November 15 @ 7 p.m.
- Doors Cast – Sunday, November 16 @ 5:30 p.m.

All shows are at Alan Harvey Theatre at Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Avenue.

Tickets (\$10 for Students & \$18 for General Admission online) may be purchased at phs-acting.ludus.com



Grade-Level Challenge heats up in the Giving Campaign

By Heather Meil and Kim Hunter

The Piedmont Education Foundation's annual Grade-Level Participation Challenge is officially underway, and the race is on! The grade with the highest percentage of parent participation by December 31 will win a celebratory party.

Last year's winners, the 2nd graders (now 3rd grade), earned an unforgettable Vivarium demonstration for their 78% participation. They're leading again this year with 43%, but the cur-

rent 2nd grade is close behind at 40%, reminding us that every family's gift can make a big difference.

At the school level, Havens is out in front with 46% participation, followed by Beach (37%), PMS (32%), Wildwood (29%), and PHS/MHS (26%). Overall, 33% of parents have donated so far this year.

Parent participation has always been a source of pride in Piedmont. In 2019, participation peaked when an impressive 68% of families took part in the

Giving Campaign. 61% participated last year. This year's goal is, as always, 100% participation. Every contribution, large or small, strengthens our schools.

A high participation rate doesn't just raise funds; it sends a powerful message to our teachers, students, and staff that the entire community is behind them.

You can help your child's grade climb the leaderboard, and support excellence in every classroom, by making your gift today at PiedmontEdFoundation.org/Donate.



Photo by Meghan Bennett

Last year's 2nd-grade families from Beach, Havens and Wildwood enjoyed an adventurous afternoon with educators from East Bay Vivarium.



Call today to order your Thanksgiving Turkey!

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Día de Los Muertos celebrated at Piedmont High

By Shannon Fierro

On Saturday, November 1, at the beautifully redesigned lunch area outside the Piedmont High School student center, families gathered to do crafts, enjoy tamales and pay their respects to ancestors at a collective altar in celebration of Día de Los Muertos.

This second annual event hosted by the Grupo Latino de Piedmont welcomed about 100 guests this year who relaxed together at sunset, listening to music, laughing and sharing an evening in community. Grupo Latino invites the community to join in future cultural offerings and to celebrate Día de Los Muertos next November 1.



Ariadne Tatsis Moulatsiotis (left), Nikias Moulatsiotis and MaryAnn Acamo served horchata, agua Fresca and three kinds of tamales.



Carmen Misra (left) and Lori Misra with Shannon Fierro in front of the collective altar



Kids work on craft projects with PUSD educators and parents Genesis Berrios and Jean Chen Takazawa.



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9-12 CAMPUS, LAFAYETTE
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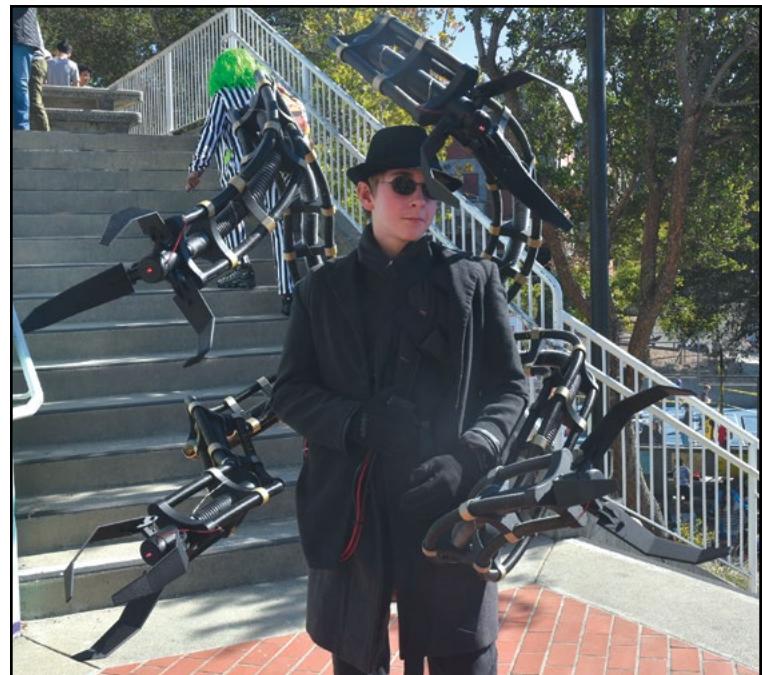
Middle School kids live it up on Halloween

By Jay Russell

On Friday, October 31, Piedmont Middle School students gathered at lunch time for Halloween games, treats and festivities. Student representatives from the Associated Student Body (ASB) hosted carnival games on the Bern Court while students socialized in extravagant costumes.

Group costumes were popular this year; leading the way were ASB students in their orange correctional facility jumpsuits. The fun of dressing up in costume was augmented with the festive atmosphere on campus and performances by middle school string musicians.

Games and chances for students to win candy included a cake hop, bowling, and pin the spider on the web. For many, middle school is the pinnacle of Halloween costumes and trick or treating. It is a time before kids are too old to dress up yet have acquired some engineering ability and know-how.



Eighth grader Connor Khouri's Dr. Octopus costume was a head turner.



Seventh graders Alex Lacker (left) and Max Schultz embody best friends Bert and Ernie from Sesame Street.



Students in Halloween costumes volunteer to help the ASB students running the carnival games.



A super scary homemade costume



Piedmont Middle School students honor Sesame Street.



Middle school string musicians entertain their peers during the school's Halloween festivities.



Men in Black: Adrian Schwartz (left), Elijah Simon and Sami Vuori



A scientist, a banana and some sushi



Halloween games took place on the Bern Court at lunch.

Beach Parade

Continued from page 1

The Chucky doll costume made a comeback in 2025, and dressing up as a taco was another popular choice for kids, adults and even dogs. Beach Principal Anne Valva showed her charisma and creativity with a Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus costume, setting an example for school spirit.



Principal Anne Valva brought joy to her students as a pigeon driving a bus.



Beach students circumnavigate Beach Field to the joy of parents and friends.



A break dancer with a boombox turned the parade route into a dance floor.



Beach parents encourage their children to pose for their family albums while on parade with their classmates.



Confident Transitional Kindergarten students led the parade this year.

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STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE – 2025-26

Street sweeping is critical for keeping our storm drains clear during leaf drop season. Residents should move cars and any other obstacles blocking access to the curb off the street on street sweeping days.

November 3 - November 14

November 3	4	5	6	7
1-O	2-O	3-O	4-O	5-O
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
10	11	12	13	14
1-E	HOLIDAY	3-E	4-E	5-E

E = Even Street Numbers

O = Odd Street Numbers

Streets, by Zones — *Indicates streets where both even and odd addresses are swept on “even” days

ZONE 1	ZONE 2
Ashmount Ave	Arroyo Ave
Cambrian Ave	Bonita Ave
Cavanagh Ct *	(North of Park Way)
Crest Rd	Cambridge Way
Crocker Ave	(West of Grand Ave)
(South of La Salle Ave)	Estrella Ave
Croydon Circle *	Grand Ave – ODD
Estates Dr	(Bet Wildwood & Cambridge)
Florada Ave	Grand Ave
Glen Alpine Rd	(Between Cambridge & Rose including Lower Grand)
Hampton Rd	Grand Ave – EVEN
(East of Sea View Ave)	(Between Wildwood & Cambridge)
Huntleigh Rd	Grand Ave – EVEN
Indian Rd	(West of Grand Ave)
Indian Gulch Rd	Holly Place
Inverleith Terr	Howard Ave
La Salle Ave	Kingston Ave
La Salle Ct *	Lake Ave
Lafayette Ave	Linda Ave
Lexford Rd	Lorita Ave
Marlborough Ct *	Lower Grand Av
Muir Ave	Manor Dr
Sandringham Pl	Monticello Ave
Sandringham Rd	Nace Ave
Sea View Ave	Oakland Ave
(Between La Salle & Crocker)	(West of Grand Ave)
Selborne Dr	Olive Ave
Somerset Rd	Park Way
Sotelo Ave	MacKinnon Pl *
St James Circle	(Between Monticello & Bonita)
St James Dr	Parkside Dr *
St James Place	Ramona Ave
Trestle Glen Rd	Ronada Ave
Tyson Circle	Rose Ave
Valant Place	Sunnyside Ave
Wildwood Gdns	York Dr

ZONE 3	ZONE 4	ZONE 5
Arbor Dr	Abbott Way *	Annerley Rd
Artuna Ave *	Alta Ave	Boulevard Way
Blair Ave	Bell Ave	Caperton Ave
(Below Highland)	Bellevue Ave	Crocker Ave
Bonita Ave	Blair Ave	(North of La Salle Ave)
(South of Park Way)	(Above Highland)	Crofton Ave
Cambridge Way	Blair Place *	Farragut Ave
(East of Grand Ave)	Calvert Ct	Guilford Rd
Carmel Ave	Craig Ave	Hampton Rd
Dale Ave	Dormidera Ave	(West of Sea View Ave)
Dracena Ave	Dudley Ave	Harvard Rd
El Cerrito Ave	Dudley Ct *	Hazel Lane
Fairview Ave	Echo Lane *	Highland Ave
Grand Ave – EVEN	Hagar Ave	(South of Mountain Ave)
(Between Wildwood & Cambridge)	Hardwick Ave	King Ave
Greenbank Ave	Langdon Ct *	Lakeview Ave
(East of Grand Ave)	Littlewood Dr	Lincoln Ave
Highland Ave	Maxwelton Rd	Mountain Ave
(North of Mountain Ave)	Mesa Ave	(East of Sharon)
Hill Lane *	Monte Ave	Oak Rd
Hillside Ave	Moraga Ave	Oakmont Ave
Hillside Ct *(Hand Blow)	(East of Highland)	Palm Dr
Jerome Ave	Mountain Ave	Park Lane
Keeler Ct *	(Between Highland & Pala)	Park View Ave
Larmer Ct *	Pacific Ave	Piedmont Ct *
Latham St	Pala Ave	(Hand Blow)
MacKinnon Pl *	Park Way	Poplar Way
Magnolia Ave	(Between Highland & Pala)	Portsmouth Rd
Moraga Ave	Scenic Ave	Prospect Rd
(West of Highland)	Sharon Ave	Ranleigh Way
Nova Dr	Sharon Ct	Requa Pl
Oakland Ave	(Between Mountain & La Salle)	Requa Rd
(Between Grand & Highland)	Scenic Ave	Richardson Way
Park View Ave	Sharon Ct	Sea View Ave
(Between Magnolia & 241 Park View)	(Between Highland & Pala)	(Between Mountain & La Salle)
Park Way	Park Way	Sheridan Ave
(Between Bonita & Highland)	Pala Ave	Sierra Ave
Ricardo Ave	Park Way	Wallace Rd
San Carlos Ave	Pala Ave	Warfield Ave
Sylvan Way	Pala Ave	Wildwood Ave
Vista Ave	Pala Ave	Winsor Ave
Waldo Ave	Pala Ave	

Subscribe to *Street Sweeping Email Updates* (<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/2tJcrMR/streetsweepalerts>) to get reminders about upcoming street sweeping dates. The Piedmont Public Works Department sends out the weekly schedule to this list every Sunday during street sweeping season.

Street sweeping tips for residents

To help Piedmont's Department of Public Works keep the streets free of leaves during the fall and winter months, residents are asked to observe four rules:

1. Do not put branches in the street, even small branches! They damage the street sweeping equipment.
2. Do not sweep debris from your yard into the gutter – sweep only leaves that fall naturally into the street.
3. Sweep leaves into narrow rows outside the flow line of the gutter. Do not put them in piles. The street sweepers cannot pick up piles of leaves effectively.
4. If you want to rake your leaves, you can now add them to your weekly unlimited green waste cart. If you don't have enough room in your cart, free compostable bags are available at City Hall to place with your green cart on garbage day. Do not bag them and then empty the bags on the street on sweeping day. Compostable bags are also available from Republic Services (1-800- 320-8077) for a fee.



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Excerpts from the Piedmont Police Department Log

October 24 - 31

This Week by the Numbers

- 1 Act of Vandalism
- 1 Fraud Report
- 1 Residential Burglary
- 1 Auto License Plate Reader (ALPR) hit
- 4 Auto Burglaries

Friday, October 24

4:30 p.m. La Salle Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of front license plate stolen off Dodge Ram 200.

5:49 p.m. Lower Grand Ave. Report of wet tar left by construction work, resident concerned it will damage cars. Officer finds adequate signage on site.

8:19 p.m. Wyngaard Ave. Report of 2 men in black hoodies seen on security footage coming from neighbor's yard. Officer checks side of property and backyard, no loss.

Saturday, October 25

9:49 a.m. Indian Rd. **Residential Burglary.** Contractor reports doors and windows left open at jobsite. Surveillance shows a suspect entered the home under construction, took a bath, and may have slept on a futon. The suspect then left in a tan early 2000s Honda Civic/Accord. Blankets stolen from home.

10:51 a.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by van. Officer locates vehicle pulling into Ace Hardware parking lot. Officer attempts to pull it over but vehicle fails to yield.

2:52 p.m. La Salle Ct. Report of single vehicle rollover, no injury to solo occupant. Tow truck puts 1976 International Scout back on wheels, and tows away. Roadway cleaned up.

10:44 p.m. Magnolia Ave. Report of open door at theater on school campus; no forced entry, oversight.

Sunday, October 26

3:40 a.m. Harvard Rd. **Auto Burglary.** Window smashed on parked car; unknown loss.

11:08 p.m. Highland Ave. Report of person rapping loudly at bus stop. Officer makes contact, gives person courtesy ride out of city.

Monday, October 27

3:37 p.m. Winsor Ave. Black Toyota Camry crashes into tree. Officer on scene; driver taken to hospital.

3:44 p.m. Grand Ave. **Vandalism.** Report of someone ripping doorbell off door. Surveillance shows shirtless man who appears “unhinged.”

4:15 p.m. Moraga Ave. **Fraud.** Report of identity theft.

Tuesday, October 28

4:24 p.m. Wildwood Ave. Report of downed power line. Large tree branch fell on lines. Fire and police departments respond.

Wednesday, October 29

8:49 a.m. Dudley Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Report of Honda Odyssey ran-sacked.

12:58 p.m. Littlewood Rd. **Auto Burglary.** Report of unlocked vehicle rifled. Surveillance shows suspect entered backyard as well. No known loss.

Thursday, October 30

12:35 p.m. Highland Ave. Report of person in Piedmont Park smoking drugs. Officer makes contact; man was on probation out of San Mateo for narcotics. Search finds glass pipe paraphernalia. Person cited for possession of paraphernalia and given courtesy ride to bus stop.

Halloween- Friday, October 31

10:08 a.m. Park Blvd. Report of dead deer on side of road. Officer advises it is in Oakland.

PICK OF THE WEEK

• Is this a hippie costume?

Friday, October 31, Halloween

7:49 a.m. Park Blvd. Report of person sleeping in blue older model VW van with white top. Person possibly naked. Officer makes contact, person spent the night & will be leaving.

READ IT IN THE POST



SPORTS

PHS water polo team beats O'Dowd in overtime

Highlanders receive No. 1 seed in North Coast playoffs

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's boys' water polo team defeated Bishop O'Dowd 14-11 in a thrilling overtime match on Saturday, November 1 at Encinal in Alameda. The Highlanders, who won 3rd place in the Western Alameda County Conference Tournament, opened the tournament with a 10-4 win over Encinal on Tuesday, October 28, but fell 14-13 to Castro Valley in the semifinals on Thursday, October 30.

Against Bishop O'Dowd, Piedmont went into the fourth quarter holding an 8-4 lead, but the Dragons stormed back to force overtime and briefly took an 11-10 lead in overtime. It was a match that gave coach Rik Krumins memories of Piedmont's 17-16 loss to O'Dowd in the championship match in 2018.

"Flashbacks to eight years ago when we were up four goals to O'Dowd in the league championship. Credit to Bishop O'Dowd, it's a rivalry game and it's always a challenging game. It was a slugfest and they came with a good game plan. We adjusted well and were really resilient in a tight time," Krumins said.

Elles Kreickhaus scored nine of the team's 11 goals and had 20 goals in the 3-match tournament.

"We tried to work on the matchups and I was able to exploit that," said Kreickhaus. "We have guys who can score all around. As the game went on, they [O'Dowd] started pressing, and that opened up the rest of the pool. It was closer than we would've liked, but I'm proud of the boys."

Henry Stein is an important part of the team primarily as a distributor. He had three goals and four assists on O'Dowd, to go along with five assists on Castro Valley.

"Rik always calls me the quarterback in the pool. I'm a lefty, so I'm always dishing out the ball. That's been our game plan. I stayed pretty calm during the game, but I was confident that we were going to win this game,"



Staff Photos

Freshman Ben Kappes celebrates a go-ahead goal in overtime against Bishop O'Dowd.

Stein said.

Piedmont is now set to compete in the Division 2 North Coast Section post-season playoffs, receiving the No. 1 seed in the bracket. They are set to face St. Patrick today, November 5, at the Dublin Wave.

14-11 thriller over O'Dowd

Piedmont opened with the first three goals when Stein fed Kreickhaus twice, and then Rylan Patty assisted Kreickhaus for a first-quarter hat trick. O'Dowd got one back before the end of the quarter, making it 3-1.

PHS scored three straight in the second to pull ahead 6-1 with 2:48 left with another assist from Patty to Kreickhaus. Patty then drew a 5-meter penalty to enable Kreickhaus to score, while Patty assisted Stein for a goal. O'Dowd scored two more, but Wilson

Walker assisted Kreickhaus with 16 seconds left, making it 7-3 by halftime.

Both teams scored individual goals in the third. Stein assisted Kreickhaus to make it 8-4 with 1:46 left.

In the fourth quarter, O'Dowd scored twice to cut the lead to 8-6 with 5:18 left. After Stein assisted Kreickhaus with 4:30 left, and then Zach Dupree put away a rebound off the goalie with 3:35 left—now 10-6. But after that, the Dragons scored four straight, including the equalizer with 56 seconds left. Kreickhaus had a late shot on target with 12 seconds left.

O'Dowd struck first in the first of two three-minute overtime periods to take its first lead of the game at 11-10 with 1:46 remaining. But after that, Stein scored with 43 seconds left, and then

See [Water Polo](#) on page 32

North Coast Section Div. II BOYS' WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST ROUND

Wednesday, Nov. 5

- 1 (1) Piedmont (15-8) vs. (16) St. Patrick (11-6) 3:00 p.m. at Dublin
- 2 (8) Mission San Jose (18-8) vs. (9) Marin Academy (11-11)
- 3 (4) Cardinal Newman (16-7) vs. (13) Dublin (10-10)
- 4 (5) James Logan (14-12) vs. (12) Vintage (13-11)
- 5 (2) Granada (17-7) vs. (15) Alhambra (10-12)
- 6 (7) Bishop O'Dowd (13-11) vs. (10) Newark Memorial (13-9)
- 7 (3) San Marin (15-9) vs. (14) Heritage (11-15)
- 8 (6) Marin Catholic (10-10) vs. (11) Berkeley (8-15)

QUARTERFINALS

Saturday, Nov. 8

SEMIFINALS

Wednesday, Nov. 12

CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, Nov. 15

Athletes of the Month: Leighton Mand, Amalia Gray, Elles Kreickhaus

Honorable Mention: Rehan Mumtaz

By Jonathan Comeaux

We're awarding Leighton Mand and Amalia Gray co-Athletes of the Month for October after both proved to be key parts of the girls' cross country team's success. The recipient on the boys' side goes to Elles Kreickhaus of the water polo team. Our honorable mention for Athlete of the Month in October goes to Rehan Mumtaz of the football team.

LEIGHTON MAND

Leighton Mand earns the Post's second consecutive Athlete of the Month award. In the month of October, Mand led the way for the Highlanders in three different meets. She was 16th of 158 runners at the Artichoke Invitational

on October 4 in 15:11, was eighth of 71 at the Haystack Tune-Up on October 25 in 19:06.87, and was recently fourth in a field of 72 runners at a league meet on October 29 in 19:45.45.

AMALIA GRAY

Amalia Gray also receives Athlete of the Month honors for her contributions to the girls' cross country team. Most notably, she led Piedmont to their first-place victory at the Clovis Invitational on October 10, where she finished 15th of 153 with a time of 20:24.20 on the 5,000-meter course. She was also 40th of 127 at the Mid-Season Mania 3,200 Invitational on October 22, clocking a time of 12:22.48. See [Athletes of the Month](#) on page 29



Photos by Jenni Tsoi Best

Leighton Mand earns Co-Athlete of the Month for October after leading the girls' cross country team in three meets.



Photos by Jenni Tsoi Best

Amalia Gray earns Co-Athlete of the Month for October after helping PHS to a first-place finish at the Clovis Invitational.



Staff Photos

Elles Kreickhaus earns Athlete of the Month for October after leading Piedmont's water polo team to third place in the WACC Tournament.



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Piedmont beats Kennedy 27-8 on Halloween

By Jonathan Comeaux

It was all treats for Piedmont's football team on Halloween night, October 31. The Highlanders beat Kennedy 27-8 at Witter Field to improve their record to 5-4 entering the final game of the season. With the victory, the Highlanders automatically clinched a berth in the North Coast Section postseason playoffs, and will conclude its regular season in Newark against the winless Cougars on November 7.

Piedmont was without star player Xavier Henderson, but making up for it quarterback Jimmy Lagios completing 80 percent of his passes for 185 yards and three touchdowns. Meanwhile running back Rehan Mumtaz logged 98 yards and a touchdown.

"That's Piedmont football, it's the next man up. That mentality goes back to our first year; we're a resilient group of kids. It really speaks to who are kids are," coach Jordan Seiden said.

It was a strong defensive game for the Highlanders, recording three interceptions and three quarterback sacks and four tackles for loss.

"We made the plays we needed



Staff Photos

Jason Shum made a 42-yard interception return, one of two in the game with Kennedy.

to make. We shot ourselves in the foot a few times, giving up penalties on 3rd-and-long, but that's part of having a young team," Seiden explained. "We've spent a lot of time over the past week just focusing on the fundamentals of tackling."

Senior safety Jason Shum made two interceptions, one of which was returned 42 yards to the five-yard line, breaking a tackle in the process.

"I wasn't sure I was going to get the first one. I must have run into the receiver's arm and caught the ball. I saw him run a post, so I jumped on it when I saw the quarterback throw it. I played the ball and it wound up in my hands," Shum said.

Game Recap

Kennedy started with the ball. When attempting to convert a 4th-and-8 at Piedmont's 32, George Saunders grabbed an interception after Colby Hong laid a shot on the Titans' quarterback, returning it to the Kennedy 39.

Piedmont scored on their third place of the ensuing possession, when a reverse from Max Fujimoto to Rehan Mumtaz turned into a flea-flicker to quarterback Jimmy Lagios, who uncorked a 49-yard bomb to Jack Meyjes for the touchdown. A converted extra point gave PHS a 7-0 lead with 6:05 left in the first quarter.

After a few trades of possession, Kennedy scored with 3:58 left in the second quarter, taking an 8-7 lead after a successful two-point conversion. But that was the last time for the Titans to score.

PHS answered with a nine-play, 59-yard touchdown series to take a 14-8 lead with 19 seconds left in the half. Capping off the drive was Fujimoto with an 11-yard touchdown, turning a five-yard hitch route into a score.

Piedmont scored next with 3:49 left in the third quarter to make it 21-8. This time, it was a five-play drive, finishing with a nine-yard touchdown pass from Lagios to Dash Waters-Worthen.

The Highlanders last touchdown came with 2:56 left in the game. Enabling the score was Shum's long interception return to the Titans' five. After Piedmont was penalized for holding, Mumtaz scored on a 15-yard scamper on a jet sweep after motioning from the slot receiver spot.

Final stats: Lagios completed 12 of 15 passes for 185 yards, three touchdowns, and an interception. Mumtaz had 98 yards on 12 carries and a touchdown. Fujimoto had four receptions for 45 yards and a touchdown. Cash Panico had four receptions for 59 yards. Waters-Worthen had two receptions for 17 yards and a touchdown. Meyjes had one reception for 49 yards and a touchdown. Shum had two interceptions. Saunders had one interception and one tackle for loss. Hong and John Bunje had one sack and tackle for loss.

NEXT UP

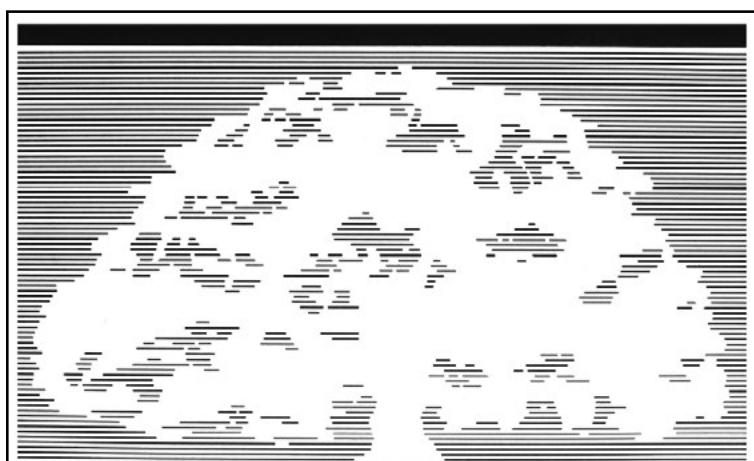
Piedmont (5-4 overall, 3-1 league) visits Newark Memorial for the season-finale on Friday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m.



Rehan Mumtaz scored the game's final touchdown.



George Saunders had one interception and a tackle for loss against Kennedy.



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Piedmont falls to Urban in heated 5-set NCS loss

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont's volleyball team's season came to an end on Wednesday, October 29. As the No. 8 seed in the Division 4 North Coast Section postseason, the Highlanders fell in a five-set battle to No. 9 Urban at Binks Rawlings Gym, where four of the five sets were separated by just two points 25-23, 15-25, 26-24, 24-26, 16-14. Piedmont held set-point in the third set, and match point in the fifth.

Despite the loss, reaching the playoff tournament marked the team's first post-season NCS berth since 2018.

"We really beat ourselves. The stats showed we had so many unforced errors. I'm not sure if that's because of nerves from being our first match in NCS and single eliminator. But we made NCS and it's great. It's been a long time coming. That's always been a goal since I came here," coach Mariah Cardenas said.

For seniors Stella Wilk and Mira Sachs, they've seen the rise of Piedmont volleyball first-hand. They were freshmen when the team went 9-15, finished 7-13 as sophomores, and 3-19 last year as juniors—each without NCS berths.

"We left it all on the court. I'm so proud of this team because we have so many underclassmen, and we played so many schools with players who are going to play in college. Seeing us persevere was really inspiring," Wilk said.

"It's been so great playing with this team. Making NCS for the first time in seven years is such a big win. The collaboration and how we cared about each other was really special," Sachs mentioned.

2025 could represent the start of some prime years for Piedmont High. This year's team had

one freshman, eight sophomores, six juniors, while just Wilk and Sachs were the lone seniors.

"The youngness of this team is really going to show out for the next couple of years. A lot of other teams are losing big-time players, while our big-time players are freshmen and sophomores. I'm super optimistic," Cardenas said.

"We proved so much this year. Coming back from a rebuilding year, it shows how much this program has grown. It's really taking off with the youth. There's even some great middle schoolers coming up next year," added sophomore setter Allyson Huynh

Match Recap

The two sides went back and forth all the way to the end of the first set. Trailing 17-14, PHS scored five of the next six points to take a 19-18 lead with kills by Lucia Dorsey and Izara Dando, along with aces by Carina Vora and Huynh. Urban then went up 22-20, but Piedmont eventually tied 23-23 after a kill by Sachs and an offensive error. However, Urban won the set with a kill and an error.

Piedmont dominated the second set 25-15. They started with three straight points with two kills by Wilk and a block by Dando. Urban clawed their way back to tie the set at 13-13, but the Highlanders went on a roll with eight straight points and four of the final six points. During that stretch, PHS logged two kills by Maika Ting, one by Dorsey, two aces by Wilk, and a block by Dando.

The third set was intense with six total lead changes. PHS opened with three straight points, but Urban eventually went up 9-6. Piedmont then went up 13-11 with kills by Sachs, Ting, Dorsey,

See **Volleyball** on page 29



Staff Photos

Stella Wilk logged 11 kills in her final game in a Piedmont uniform.



Mira Sachs, one of two seniors, had eight kills against Urban.

Tennis team captures WACC title in 5-2 win over Bishop O'Dowd

By Jonathan Comeaux

Piedmont High's girls' tennis team concluded its regular season on Tuesday, October 28 with a 5-2 win against Bishop O'Dowd at home in the Corey Reich Tennis Center. The victory clinched the championship of the Western Alameda County Conference's Foothill Division title with a 7-1 record against league opponents. After many years of dominating league opponents, It was the school's first league banner since 2022.

"We defeated Bishop O'Dowd in our final regular season match, which gave us a first place finish in the Foothill League. The last time we did this was 2022," coach Jim Landes said.

The Highlanders also beat the Dragons 5-2 earlier on October 9. Despite the lopsided score, the recent match was knotted at with the final three matches on the courts.

After Arianna Kortum at No. 4 singles and the doubles team of Emma Chan and Samantha Huynh at the No. 1 spot lost their first set, both stormed back. Ella



Staff Photos

Samantha Huynh helped Piedmont clinch the match day victory over Bishop O'Dowd at No. 1 doubles.

Ruthven, meanwhile, added a win at No. 1 singles to give PHS its third of five wins.

"It was tighter this time. The match was tied at 2-2 with Ella Ruthven, Arianna Kortum, and Emma Chan and Samantha Huynh in the middle of their matches. At one point Arianna and our doubles team both lost the first set. We coaches were

worried. But, things turned in our favor quickly. Arianna started to warm up and hit winner after winner with her forehand. Emma and Sam rebounded just as strong, while Ella closed out her match in the second set," Landes described.

Piedmont now looks ahead to the WACC Individual Tournament at Chabot College on Friday and Saturday, November 7-8. After that, the first round of the North Coast Section Team Championship will begin on Tuesday, November 11.

Match Recap

Piedmont won three of four singles matches. Ruthven defeated Bishop O'Dowd's top starter at the No. 1 spot in straight sets, 7-5, 6-2. Faith Chin reeled in a 6-1, 7-5 win at No. 3, while Kortum pulled off a three-set win at No. 4 by scores of 2-6, 6-2, 12-10. Kate Jumper lost 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) at No. 2.

"Arianna was the last to finish. She saved some match points in the third-set tiebreaker, winning a thriller 12-10," Landes said.

PHS also won two of three doubles matches. At No. 1, Chan and Huynh won in three sets, 5-7, 6-1, 10-5. They were the clinching fourth win of the night.

"Our top doubles team of Emma and Sam continued their strong play and closed out the match, guaranteeing our No. 1 finish. It helped out coaches breathe easier," Landes said.

At No. 2, Inara Mehta and Maddie Tran won in straight sets 6-2, 6-3. Chiara Silvio and Lila Rosen lost 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) at No. 3.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (13-8 overall) travels to Chabot College in Hayward for the 2025 WACC Individual Tournament on Friday and Saturday, November 7-8. Matches start at 10:00 a.m. on both dates.



Ella Ruthven captured Piedmont's third of five wins on the night at No. 1 singles.



Faith Chin won in straight sets at No. 3 singles against O'Dowd.

Piedmont places 4th, 6th at league meet

By Jonathan Comeaux

placing 23rd in 21:12.99.

Rounding out Piedmont's best five times was freshman Kelsey Coleman in 25th and sophomore Viviane Oesterer right behind her in 26th with respective times of 21:21.55 and 21:28.37.

Boys' team results

Sophomore Aaron Bennett led the day for Piedmont, finishing 11th of 95 runners with a time of 16:53.03. PHS' next best time was Noah Sohn in 20th, coming across the line in 17:19.89.

Freshman Dylan Wallway was next in for Piedmont, placing 27th in 17:36.18. Sophomore Ian Chung placed 38th in 17:50.78, while junior Alex Schleuning rounded out the Highlanders' best five times in 47th, 18:01.40.

NEXT UP

Piedmont travels to Hayward High for the 2025 WACC Cross Country Championship on Saturday, November 8. Varsity girls are set to run at 3:00 p.m., and the boys' race starts at 3:30 p.m.



Photos by Jenni Tsui Best

Leighton Mand led Piedmont High's girls' team in fourth of 72 runners at the league meet.



Skylar Best was second-best for Piedmont, finishing 19th at Oyster Bay.



Aaron Bennett led Piedmont's boys' team, finishing 11th of 95 athletes.

PIEDMONT SPORTS SCHEDULE

Some events subject to change. (Revised - 11/5/25)

Date	Day	Sport	Opponent	Loc.	Var.	JV.
Nov. 5	Wed.	WP-B	NCS First-Round vs. St. Patrick at Dublin Wave Pool	A	3:00	-----
Nov. 7	Fri.	TEN	WACC Individual Tournament at Chabot College, Hayward	A	10:00	-----
		FB	Newark Memorial	A	7:00	4:00
Nov. 8	Sat.	TEN	WACC Individual Tournament	A	10:00	-----
		WP-B	NCS Quarterfinals	A	TBD	-----
Nov. 11	Tues.	TEN	NCS Team Championship	TBD	TBD	-----
Nov. 12	Wed.	WP-B	NCS Semifinals	A	TBD	-----

KEY: H = Home

WP-B = Boys' Water Polo

TEN = Girls' Tennis

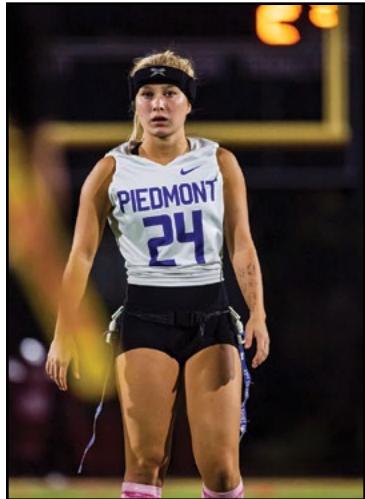
A = Away

FB = Football

XC = Cross Country

Fall sports photos you haven't seen before

Piedmont High is nearing the end of its fall sports season. Here is a collection of our sports editor, Jonathan Comeaux, unseen photos from the season thus far.



Defender Dahlia Osman eyes the quarterback in a game against Berkeley.



Elles Kreickhaus unleashes a 5-meter penalty shot in the WACC Tournament against Bishop O'Dowd, spraying water as he sends off his shot.



Olivia Stevens ranges for a dig in Piedmont's NCS match against Urban.



Boys' water polo goalie Luke McAuliffe makes himself big as he faces an oncoming shot against Bishop O'Dowd in the WACC Tournament.



Freshman Jared Lavaka points to the sky to celebrate sacking the Washington quarterback.



Esme Krumins sends a shot against Castro Valley.



Kate Jumper fires a backhand in a match against Alameda.



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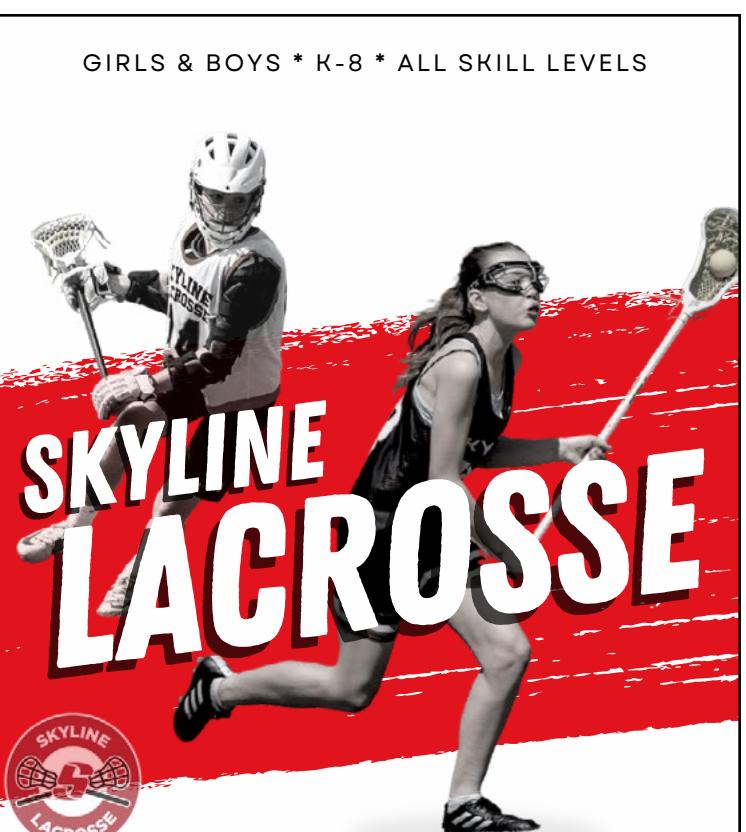


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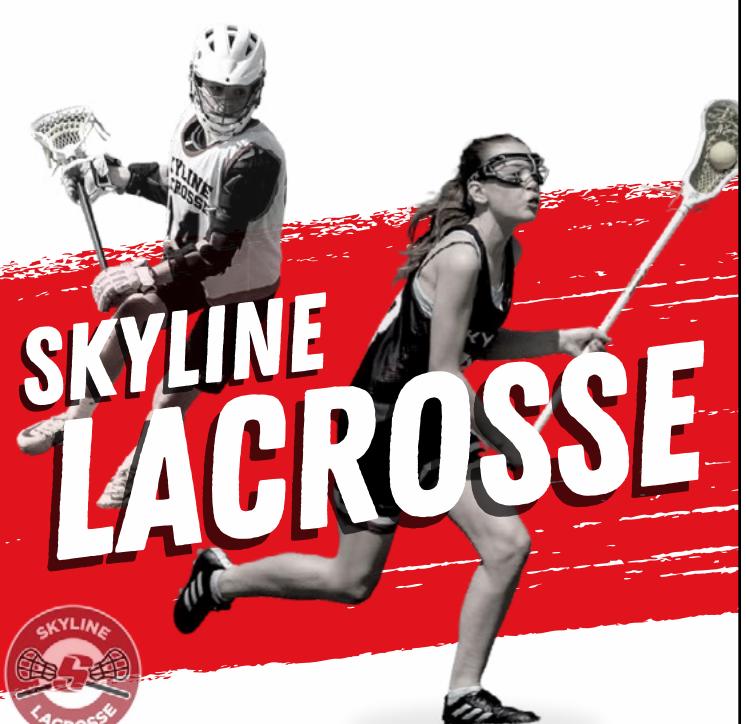
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SFMOMA debuts Alejandro Cartagena exhibit Nov. 22

Photo exhibition highlights U.S.-Mexico relations

By Allyson Aleksey

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) debuts *Alejandro Cartagena: Ground Rules* on November 22, marking the first retrospective of the acclaimed photographer's career.

The exhibition features two decades of Cartagena's work and more than 20 major projects exploring themes of urban development, migration, and environmental change in Mexico. Known for his inventive use of landscape photography and portraiture, Cartagena employs the camera as a tool for examining social and ecological shifts in contemporary life.

Born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in 1977, Cartagena has lived and worked in Monterrey, Mexico, since his youth. His photographs have been featured in more than 50 solo and group exhibitions worldwide, including the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona in Spain and the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain in Paris. His work is held in the permanent collections of institutions such as the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago.

Cartagena's early projects, including *Identidad Nuevo León* (2005) and *Espacios Habitables* (2004–05), reflect on belonging and identity, while later series such as *Between Borders* (2009–

10), *Americanos* (2012–14), and *Without Walls* (2017) explored U.S.-Mexico relations and gained him international recognition. Works like *Suburbia Mexicana* (2005–10) and *Carpoolers* (2011–12) examine the effects of rapid suburban growth, highlighting economic disparities and environmental transformation.

In recent years, Cartagena has expanded his practice to include collage, video, and AI-generated imagery, as seen in *Photo Structures* (2018–19) and his latest video series, *We Are Things* (2025).

"Photography changed our world two centuries ago; the way we see it, and the way we think about it has never been the same since we started using it," Cartagena said in a press release. "I want to be part of that history of how the medium transformed our understanding of social, political and environmental issues through images."

SFMOMA Director Christopher Bedford said Cartagena's photographs "open up broad conversations that transcend geography."

"Cartagena's work invites reflection and probing questions that serve to complicate our understanding of important social and environmental topics. I believe this exhibition will resonate deeply with our audiences," he added.

The exhibition will be on view through April 19, 2026. Visit sfmoma.org or call (415) 357-4000 for more information.

Art of Manga on view now at de Young



Photo courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

Museum patron views the *Art of Manga* exhibition at de Young.

By Allyson Aleksey

Art of Manga is on view now at de Young, featuring over 600 drawings by more than a dozen iconic Japanese artists, comics and novelists who specialize in the genre.

Manga, a type of image-driven narrative storytelling in Japan, has become widely popular in Western culture over the last two decades. The de Young is the first North American museum to highlight Manga and its prominent, modern-day artists in a major exhibition.

Featured artists include Chiba Tetsuya, Akatsuka Fujio, Takahashi Rumiko, Taniguchi Jiro, Yamazaki Mari, Araki Hirohiko,

Yamashita Kazumi, Tagame Gengoroh, Yoshinaga Fumi, Oda Eiichiro, and Tanaami Keiichi.

"Captivating millions around the world with dynamic graphic narratives, manga is one of the most significant visual mediums of our time," said Thomas Campbell, Director and CEO of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. "San Francisco has long been a gateway for Japanese cultural exchange in the United States, and we are delighted to honor this legacy by showcasing the artistry and power of contemporary Japanese narrative art in *Art of Manga*."

Art of Manga organizing curator Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere said the genre cultivates "an ease

of visceral understanding that enables readership from around the world."

"We are living in a time when the narrative shift from text to images is increasingly becoming a reality," she added. "Readers become invested in characters and their stories, and manga publishers and artists take their letters and social media comments into account and adapt the ongoing story or create new manga, which often then becomes a forerunner to greater cultural shifts."

Art of Manga is on view at de Young museum now through January 25, 2026.

For more information, visit [https://www.famsf.org/](http://www.famsf.org/).



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Courtesy of Alejandro Cartagena

Alejandro Cartagena, *Carpoolers* #21, from the series *Carpoolers*, 2011–12

SF Symphony performs Elfman music from Tim Burton films Nov. 14 & 15

By Allyson Aleksey

The San Francisco Symphony will perform scores from popular Tim Burton films including *Beetlejuice*, *Edward Scissorhands* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas* in a special concert series November 14 and 15.

The program showcases composer Danny Elfman's collaborative relationship with Burton and the importance of music in filmmaking. Elfman and Burton have created a unique concert experience, blending music and film to celebrate the 25-year partnership of two of Hollywood's top creatives. The concerts feature Elfman's famous Tim Burton film scores brought to life on stage by San Francisco Symphony musicians, accompanied by a screen of original sketches, drawings, and storyboards. The Thursday, November 14 and Friday, November 15 concerts at Davies Symphony



Tim Burton and Danny Elfman

Hall also include a special live performance by Danny Elfman. Both events begin at 7:30 p.m.

The program features music from *Beetlejuice*, *Batman*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Frankenweenie*, *Charlie and the*

Chocolate Factory, *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, and more. Sarah Hicks conducts the symphony for both concerts and Jenny Wong leads the chorus.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit www.sfsymphony.org.

by Josef Hofmann.

Paganini's composition "The Witches Dance" is just about as funny as can be. Mozart also had fun with his opera *Don Giovanni*. As you probably know, *Don Giovanni* was a playful but evil ner-do-well. He gets his just desserts in the end when he goes to hell.

Two memorable concerts featured music from Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*, starting with the Kensington Symphony concert on November 1. Conductor Geoffrey Gallegos explained the story.

Don Giovanni was an amorous philanderer, both charming and a villainous murderer. The man he murders returns as a Spectre from another world and demands that *Don Giovanni* repent. When he refuses, he is dragged to hell.

The Kensington Symphony performance was a clear vision of this complex story.

Meanwhile a concert in Piedmont

The very next day the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra opened its concert with selections from *Don Giovanni*. Both orchestras are staffed by amateurs. While their playing lacks perfect technique, they make up for it with enthusiasm. That is one of the beauties of concerts like these.

Sunday's concert by the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra was one of their most memorable performances. The piano version by Liszt as played



Halloween and musical excitement

By Joseph Gold

Halloween snuck up on us on velvet paws. It is a festive holiday to be sure. It does not need to be scary and terrifying. Music is proof positive.

Some people like to be scared. Maybe that's why we have Halloween. Is it my imagination or is the popularity of Halloween growing? In any event, Halloween music is worth knowing. Walt Disney knew this, and the result was the immense success of the movie *Fantasia*.

If you're a fan of the movies, *Ghostbusters* also comes to mind. If you like scary things you can think of banshees, trolls, devils, werewolves, and Dracula. When I was a little kid, I went trick-or-treating dressed as a ghost, and I brought my violin. At every house, I played St. Saens' "Dance Macabre." the dance of death). This earned me compliments. The memories remain vivid.

You can remain in the spirit, musically speaking. Some memorable compositions include the aforementioned Dance Macabre of St. Saens. In the same vein are Totentanz of Franz Liszt and Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*.

The French composer Paul Dukas wrote a somewhat impish Sorcerer's Apprentice. Gluck's composition Dance of the Furies is somewhat generic as is Symphony Fantastic by Berlioz. If you are a violinist, you should perform the Devil's Trill Sonata by Tartini. Everyone should compare this to the country music version known as The Devil Went Down to Georgia."

A chilling representative is Schubert's stupendous song, The Erl King. Two of the best vocal interpretations are by Marion Anderson and Lawrence Tibbett. Even though this composition was written as a song, in my opinion the very best performance is the piano version by Liszt as played

by Josef Hofmann.

Paganini's composition "The Witches Dance" is just about as funny as can be. Mozart also had fun with his opera *Don Giovanni*. As you probably know, *Don Giovanni* was a playful but evil ner-do-well. He gets his just desserts in the end when he goes to hell.

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Sunday's concert by the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra was one of their most memorable performances. The piano version by Liszt as played



The Piedmont chamber Orchestra played a memorable concert on Sunday. Every seat was occupied, and the audience was enthusiastic. It is obvious that you do not need to go to Las Vegas to have a full house.

Sunday in the Park with George premieres on Ashby Stage Nov. 15

By Allyson Aleksey

Shotgun Players closes out its 2025 season with a new production of *Sunday in the Park with George*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, showing November 15 through December 30 at the Ashby Stage in Berkeley.

Directed by Susannah Martin with music direction by David Möschler, the show is inspired by Georges Seurat's pointillist painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. The musical explores the artist's obsessive creative process and its impact on his relationships. The production features immersive on-stage seating and an expanded bar menu.

"This musical captures the questioning, fear, joy, and obsession that go into making art and the toll it takes on the people we love," Director Susannah Martin said in a press release. "I've never experienced a musical which gets so deeply into the experience of being an artist and the process of making art."

"The sound-world of the show is just as daring, provocative, interesting, and non-traditional as the type of art that the character of George Seurat was striving to create," added Möschler. "It's not book scenes followed by



Susannah Martin directs Shotgun Players' production *Sunday in the Park with George*.

songs belted out ad nauseum; it's a score that is interwoven through dialogue and comes together more like a film score that helps create a strong sense of narrative and dramatic continuity from beginning to end."

Kevin Singer stars as George, with Marah Sotelo as Dot. The cast includes Alex Rodriguez, Laura Domingo, Jill Slyter and a 16-member ensemble.

Artistic Director Patrick Dooley called the work a "legitimate masterpiece," adding, "Sondheim captures the tension between artist and muse, beautifully and tragically."

Tickets and performance details are available at shotgun-players.org.

A.C.T. presents Judy Garland: We Need a Little Christmas Dec. 6 & 7

By Allyson Aleksey

American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) presents the acclaimed holiday tribute musical *Judy Garland: We Need a Little Christmas*, showing at Strand Theatre in San Francisco December 6 and 7.

London native Debbie Wileman marks her San Francisco debut with A.C.T.'s production of *We Need a Little Christmas* fresh off the release of her new holiday album *A Christmas Garland*.

Wileman impersonates a range of classic female singers of Hollywood's Golden Age, including Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe, Julie Andrews and Billie Holiday, but her uncanny recreation of Judy Garland's famous vocals garnered her a massive online following and worldwide recognition.

She teams up with producer Scott Stander to perform a touring concert of Garland's famous holiday hits including "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," which Garland introduced in the 1944 movie *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and "The Christmas Song," which she performed with Mel Tormé on *The Judy Garland Show*.

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater is located at 1127 Market Street in San Francisco. *Judy Garland: We Need a Little Christmas* is show-

ing on Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on-sale now at www.act-sf.org.



Photo courtesy of American Conservatory Theater
Debbie Wileman in *Judy Garland: We Need a Little Christmas*.

ADVERTISE IN THE POST

Kollektiv Clay Studio celebrates two-year anniversary

By Allyson Aleksey

Famous Italian painter Pablo Picasso once said that art “washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life” and Leo Tolstoy said that creating art is the “activity by which a person, having experienced an emotion, intentionally transmits it to others.”

For Gina Johnson-Geiger, owner of Kollektiv Clay Studio on Piedmont Avenue, creating art has long been a form of therapy. The tactile nature of clay and the creative process involved with pottery making provide a scientifically-proven outlet for managing stress, trauma and anxiety.

“That’s what draws people in so much, is that groundedness. You’re literally working with earth and dirt and mud, and there’s something very therapeutic there,” she said. “You have to be centered, super anchored and locked-in.”

Johnson-Geiger, an Oakland native and Millennium High School graduate, opened her studio two years ago following years of working and teaching in Bay Area studios. Her hope was to provide a quiet, welcoming space for East Bay residents to learn about pottery making and create their own works of art under the direction of trained ceramists.

The inclusive space offers one-time pottery classes, six-week courses for artists of all skill sets, memberships and educational workshops. The store also uses locally-sourced clay bodies and other materials to work with and operates with a focus on sustainability and minimizing waste.

Two years in, the novelty of owning her own studio hasn’t worn off.

“I never dreamed that this would be something I would be doing,” she said. “I saw a very different skill set and vibe in [those] community spaces I worked in rather than at [art]



All photos by Henriette Kriese

Gina Johnson-Geiger, owner of Kollektiv Clay Studio on Piedmont Avenue

school. I saw how special it can be, and I wanted to recreate that here.”

Starting a small business from the ground up on the heels of a global pandemic isn’t for the faint of heart, and the studio owner admitted the first two years have been “full of joy and gratitude, but there are definitely those hard days.” She added that she’s witnessed shops open and close up and down Piedmont Avenue, and that the everyday logistics of running a store can be challenging for a first-timer, especially in the first five years.

But Johnson-Geiger revels in coming full-circle: owning a studio in her hometown and giving back to the community she grew up in. The store offers scholarships for those who can’t afford class fees, giving priority to people of color and those who are historically underrepresented in the arts community.

“My mom didn’t have the money to bring me to something like this,” she admitted, but added that her mother immersed her in

the craft despite being unable to pay for a spot at a dedicated art studio. She fondly remembers summer camp years, where she “made arts and crafts with sticks and mud and rocks.”

“I guess I’m doing the same thing now,” she said with a smile, “playing with mud and rocks.”

The scholarship fund is named after Julie Johnson, Gina’s mother, who Gina credits with fostering her love of art. Julie passed away unexpectedly a month after Kollektiv Clay Studio opened.

Running a new business leaves little time to process such an incredible loss, but Johnson-Geiger poured her grief into the kiln and soon after, opened the brand new studio’s doors to interested potters and ceramicists from all ages and all walks of life. When she initiated a grief support class for those who have lost someone, she said she found the community she was looking for when searching for a place to set up shop.

“I heard so much feedback from [those classes] and people specifically going through grief, which so many of us do, but can’t always openly talk about,” she said.

Some classes are more energetic and brimming with conversation, she added, while others can be quiet as students are locked-in the process. Johnson-Geiger, who has put grief-support art therapy to practice, said the therapeutic benefits of pottery are nothing to glaze over: as textile artist and illustrator Pam Holland once said, making art “speaks where words are unable to explain.”

Visit <https://www.kollektivclaystudio.com/> to learn more about classes and membership opportunities, or visit the shop at 3911 Piedmont Avenue during studio hours listed on Kollektiv Clay Studio’s website.



The studio serves as a welcoming space for East Bay residents to learn about pottery making.

Musical Gourmet

Continued from page 17

ble performances. I spoke with many of the members of the audience, and their response was enthusiastic. It is a pleasure to report that the community is very supportive of the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra. Every seat in the Center for the Arts was filled, and additional seats had to be added. I noticed many young people in attendance, including a three month old girl. There were

also many students who enjoyed the concert.

Selections from Don Giovanni opened the concert with Kate Julian as the featured soprano soloist. She played her role as a wronged and vindictive woman to perfection. Principal flute player Susanne Rublein played the Mozart Andante in C major. Her performance was very idiomatic and she approached lofty

heights in the cadenza. Conductor Andrew O’Donnell took the podium and led the Orchestra’s wind section in two compositions, Beethoven’s *Sextette* was memorable for the brilliant playing by the Orchestra clarinets. The concert concluded with conductor Martha Stoddard back on the podium and elegant pianist Hadley McCarroll playing a movement of Mozart’s “D minor Piano Concerto.” It was obvious from the enthusiasm that everyone enjoyed both concerts.



Welcome to the Piedmont Center for the Arts

Weekends, November 8-16, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Paintings for your Home Art Exhibit

Piedmont native **Michael Stehr** has opened his annual exhibition of new work at PCA. This year’s exhibit is entitled *Love at First Sight: Considering the Nature of Inspiration*. The title particularly appropriate for this artist and art historian, who spends all his time being inspired and inspiring others with the excitement that can only be found through exploring and sharing the artistic expressions of creative masters around the world! The exhibition will include forty new works from this year alone, all framed in gilt moldings mad by the artist. Please visit the *Fine Art* section of his website at www.mstehr.com for an online preview of the exhibit, which will be open for viewing in person on Saturdays and Sundays November 8 – 16, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 8, 3:00 p.m.

Ravel’s Complete Solo Piano Works

To celebrate the 150th birthday of French composer Maurice Ravel, renowned pianist **Dr. Gwendolyn Mok** has gathered a group of pianists to perform the complete repertoire of Ravel’s solo piano works at Piedmont Center for the Arts. The 13 pianists come mostly from the Bay Area, with guests from Toronto and Tokyo. They include Silicon Valley engineers, public relations professionals, lawyers, etc. Many have competed in prestigious international piano competitions for amateur pianists and are top prize winners. Note that the organizer will donate proceeds from the event to a major international charity. Get tickets at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/e/6716987>.

Saturday, November 15, 3:00 p.m.

Friends of Ethnic Art Lecture

San Francisco Friends of Ethnic Art will present an illustrated talk on African Beads by **Herbert M. (Skip) Cole**, professor emeritus, UCSB. African beads are *Sacred and Secular, Symbolic and Sexy*: also used as money, medicine, clothing and to show power. They are about Identity, Status, Health, and Beauty. Illustrated by photos of people and their beadwork, Bead collectors are encouraged to bring examples to share/discuss. Admission is free and the talk will be followed by a brief wine and snacks reception.

Sunday, November 16, 4:00 p.m.

Rami Bar-Niv Solo Piano Recital

Internationally renowned Israeli concert pianist, **Mr. Bar-Niv** will offer a unique program entitled *Rhapsody in Blue and White*, to include works by J. S. Bach, W. A. Mozart, JJ Hollingsworth, Frédéric Chopin, George Gershwin, and one composition of his own, based on three Hebrew songs, which gives the solo concert its name. The concert will conclude with Bar-Niv’s arrangement of Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, and light refreshments will be available. Advance tickets are at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/e/6725302>.

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.

Miss Maybell & her Ragtime Romeoos Concert

Get your vintage groove on for this light-hearted, entertaining evening of vintage Jazz, Blues, and Ragtime music! **Miss Maybell** and her husband **Charlie Judkins** give new life to songs created over 100 years ago and rescued from dusty old 78 rpm records and antique sheet music! The concert will also feature **Marty Eggers** on bass and **Don Neely**, founder of SF’s *Royal Society Jazz Orchestra*, on clarinet & saxophone. Buy advance tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/e/6728377> in case this concert sells out! Performers will follow this show with appearances at Sacramento’s *West Coast Ragtime Festival*, November 21-23, 2025.

Sunday, November 23, 4:00 p.m.

Carnival, Trout, & Blue Concert

This local quintet of expert string players led by renowned pianist **Amy Zanrosso** will take us on a whimsical exploration beginning in Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Carnaval des Animaux*, after which we will float downstream to visit Franz Schubert’s *Trout Quintet*, finally moving to George Gershwin’s mid-1920s cityscape to enjoy his *Rhapsody in Blue*, arranged for piano and string quintet. Musicians are two violinists, **Beni Shinohara** and **Karen Shinozaki Sor**, violist **Paul Ehrlich** and cellist **Victoria Ehrlich**, and bassist **Ken Miller**, all of whom have extensive experience with San Francisco’s Ballet, Symphony, and Opera Orchestras, among others. Please visit <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/e/6726700> for advance tickets, half-price for patrons under 18!

801 Magnolia Avenue • Piedmont, Calif.

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www.piedmontcenterforthearts.org

MOVIES FOR ADULTS

Everest – achieving the impossible

Jason Clarke in *Everest*

By Chris Honore

At 29,032 feet, Mt. Everest is not only the tallest mountain on earth, it is an iconic spire of snow and ice and rock that has beckoned climbers for more than a century. But it wasn't until May 29, 1953, that it was summited by British mountaineer Edmund Hillary and his Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, a stunning accomplishment that would define both of them for the rest of their lives.

Since that initial climb, the summit of Everest has been reached many times. However, it was the 1996 expedition that captured worldwide attention, a journey chronicled for *Outside Magazine* by Jon Krakauer and later in his 1997 book *Into Thin Air* and is the basis for the film, *Everest*.

By 1996, climbing Everest had become commercial with

organizations like Adventure Consultants, owned and operated by New Zealander Rob Hall. As well, in competition for clients was American Scott Fischer's Mountain Madness. For exorbitant prices, a mix of multi-national climbers can be guided up Everest to its summit.

Call it extreme tourism. Or call it high risk/high gain adventure.

In the film *Everest*, which slowly creates a sense of foreboding, Rob Hall, portrayed by Jason Clarke, gathers his group of eight clients in a Base Camp tent and explains that the height of Everest – 29,028 feet – is the cruising altitude of a Boeing 747. As well, he says grimly, anything above 26,247 feet is referred to as the "death zone. Beyond that altitude, even using canisters of supplemental oxygen, "the body begins to die," therefore time is of the essence. The expedition's

physician then explains that any delay at these altitudes will risk the possible onset of hypoxia – oxygen deprivation that can result in confusion, impaired judgment, or life-threatening high altitude pulmonary/cerebral edema which can lower the amount of oxygen entering the blood stream resulting in cognitive decline and physical performance.

And there is the more commonly known threat of hypothermia where the core body temperature drops perilously low.

Both Hall and the doctor's words describe a reality that will frame their attempt to summit this forbidding peak. In preparation, the climbers will spend several weeks acclimating and making daily sorties to various points on the mountain. It is a physical and mental stress test all in preparation for what awaits them at the higher altitudes.

See *Everest* on page 28

By Chris Honore

Free Solo is a National Geographic documentary film, directed by award-winning filmmaker Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and shot by world-renowned photographer and mountaineer Jimmy Chin. It is a stunning and unflinching portrait of professional mountain climber Alex Honnold and focuses in the main on his obsessive preparation to fulfill a lifelong dream to climb the face of the world famous 3,200-foot El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, but without safety gear of any kind. A singular line is attached from either above or below to someone on belay and to the climber.

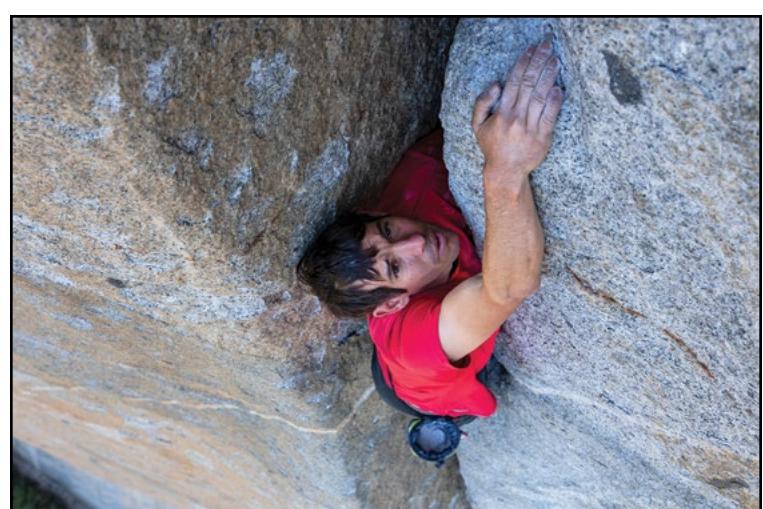
What "free" means is that such a climb surpasses all definitions of extreme sports, existing in a

realm that defies all explication or mundane exposition and enters into what can only be framed as the mystical, a silent meditation on life and of course death.

To climb El Capitan solo and survive is one of the greatest athletic feats of any kind. There is nothing else in sports that compares. The actual filming of such an attempt is also breathtaking in its beauty and sustained sense of risk and of course vertigo. It's beautiful. There is also a sense of controlled and disciplined panic on the part not only of Honnold but of Chin and crew that is quietly, grippingly conveyed with each harrowing pitch.

The ultimate barrier to be reached and sustained is perfection, in its purest form, absent even the shadow of a mistake. To

See *Free Solo* on page 32



Free Solo is a documentary on Alex Honnold's climb of El Capitan.

MAURICE RAVEL

150TH ANNIVERSARY

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SATURDAY 3pm

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San Francisco Friends of Ethnic Art Present:
An ILLUSTRATED TALK on African Beads



by Herbert M. (Skip) Cole,
professor emeritus, UCSB

PIEDMONT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025, 3 - 5 PM

African Beads are
Sacred and Secular,
Symbolic and Sexy,
Money, Medicine,
Clothing and Power.
They are Animal,
Mineral, and Vegetable,
locally made and Imported.
They are about Identity, Status,
Health, and certainly: Beauty.



Illustrated by terrific slides of people and their beadwork, the talk will explore varied types of beads, their contexts, uses, meanings and aesthetic quality among many African people in different parts of the continent.



Bead collectors are encouraged to bring examples to share & discuss.
The talk will be followed by a wine reception, and donations are welcome.

MOVIES FOR KIDS

The Peanuts Movie – fun for everyoneA scene from *The Peanuts Movie*

By Chris Honore

This family-friendly G-rated film opens with a red-haired girl (Francesca Capaldi) moving in across the street from Charlie Brown (Noah Schnapp). Of course, when Charlie gets his first glimpse of her, he is smitten and begins to plan how he can meet her.

Naturally, the old gang is still around to offer their opinions to Charlie, and they haven't changed. Lucy (Hadley Belle Miller) still thinks Chuck is a dufus, and Peppermint Patty (Venus Schulthels) hasn't given up on hockey – though when asked, tells Charlie to keep his excitement about the red-haired girl to himself. Linus (Alexander Garfin) tells Chuck to simply walk across the street and introduce himself, while little sister Sally (Mariel Sheets) insists that Charlie's new crush is not all that

interesting. Snoopy (Bill Mendez), as always, is ready to support Charlie and he stands solidly at his side.

The story is filled with flights of fantasy, especially when it comes to Snoopy and his nemesis The Red Baron who do battle in the skies above France while the Snoop is ensconced on top of his doghouse. For good measure, there's the French poodle Fifi (Kristen Chenoweth), Snoopy's imagined heartthrob. And not to forget Charlie's trusty best bud Woodstock (Mendez).

There's even a talent show for good measure, which offers Charlie the opportunity to demonstrate his essential kindness to his friends, despite his unresolved obsession with the red-haired girl.

The animation is extraordinary with exceptional colors and background and the simple story is whimsical, warm, and there's that familiar Chuck Brown self-

doubt, plus his haplessness and the fact that he can be his own worst enemy while always hoping for the best. This is demonstrated at a school pep rally where he wishes only that the red-haired girl will sit next to him. Later, on the school bus, she does sit next to Chuck, sending him into a panic, and causing him to crawl under his seat.

The metaphor for all that occurs in a Peanuts' story is Lucy holding the football for Charlie and pulling it away at the last moment, thus preventing Chuck from ever reaching his goal. He's always trying, always sincere, and always vulnerable.

The Peanuts Movie. Animated. Directed by Steve Martino. Voiced by Noah Schnapp, Haley Belle Miller, Mariel Sheets. 1 hr., 29 min. Rated G. Released in 2016. Streaming on Apple/Fandango/Prime.

By Chris Honore

Antz was the first animated feature created by Dreamworks studio, and by design is a hybrid of sorts, intended to appeal to kids and family.

The story opens with Ant Z4195 (Woody Allen), a six-legged neurotic, stretched out on his shrink's couch, kvetching about the injustice of his life on the anthill. To begin with, he hates dirt, is dissatisfied with being the member of a huge colony, was abandoned by his father when he was just a larva, can't lift 10 times his weight, and is the middle child in a family of five million.

Can you hear Woody bringing his signature shtick from the streets of Manhattan to *Antz*?

So here we go: Z is at an ant bar when princess Bala (Sharon Stone), aristocratic daughter of the Queen (Ann Bancroft),

decides to go slumming and spend an evening with the worker ants. Z is smitten with the princess, asks her to dance, and the two shock the bar denizens with their own outrageous, freewheeling version of a line dance to the song *Guantanamera*.

Z can't get Bala out of his mind, and hearing that there will be a military parade passing in front of the royal stands, and hoping to get a glimpse of the princess, he convinces his good friend soldier ant Weaver (Sylvester Stallone) to loan him his helmet so he can join the parade and march with the other soldiers.

Meanwhile, the deranged General Mandible (Gene Hackman) is devising a plan to preemptively attack the termites (five times the size of the ants), and he convinces the queen to support his declaration of war. His objective is to take over the entire anthill.

See *Antz* on page 29A scene from *Antz*

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RAMI BAR-NIV is one of Israel's most acclaimed and sought after pianists. He travels extensively and has become an international citizen, concertizing all over the world. Born in Tel-Aviv, he graduated with honors from the Ron Conservatory and the Rubin Academy of Music, and was the recipient of many prizes and scholarships. He won the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Competition and was awarded a scholarship to further his studies in the United States. After graduating from Mannes College of Music in New York, where he studied with the renowned Mme. Nadia Reisenberg, he won numerous competitions and embarked on a highly successful concert career. He performs regularly in North, Central, and South America; Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and of course Israel, where he received the "Best Performer Award" from the Israeli government.

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO, SEE
[HTTPS://WWW.BROWNPAERTICKETS.COM/E/6725302](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/e/6725302)



Miss Maybell & Her Ragtime Romeos

Playing Vintage Jazz, Ragtime and Blues.

Miss Maybell and her partner Charlie Judkins source their tunes from dusty old 78 records and antique sheet music, giving new life to songs created over 100 years ago! Also featuring Marty Eggers on bass and Don Neely on clarinet/saxophone!



Thursday, November 20, 2025

7:00 – 8:30 PM

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FEATURES

Walking on Wednesday



Walking on Wednesdays explores Mountain View Cemetery's "Famous Families"



Jane Leroe, retired San Francisco trial attorney, shares her extensive knowledge of the Mountain View Cemetery.

By Dick Carter

Last Wednesday, Oct. 29, two days before Halloween, the Piedmont Recreation Department's Walking on Wednesdays group held its annual pre-Halloween tour of Mountain View Cemetery. Instead of gathering at the Exedra, walkers met in front of the cemetery's main mausoleum. The turnout was strong, with 54 walkers and three K-9 best friends on hand.

Longtime docent Jane Leroe led the tour for the fifth time. A retired and ground-breaking San Francisco trial attorney who describes herself as a feminist before there were feminists, Leroe brings deep knowledge of Mountain View Cemetery and a clear love of sharing it. Her theme this year was "Famous Families" of the historic cemetery.

Leroe began with the cemetery's origins. In the early 1860s a group of 12 local businessmen, led by Samuel Merritt, a San Francisco physician who served as Oakland's 13th mayor from 1867 to 1869, concluded the area needed a better private cemetery. Two public cemeteries existed, but maintenance was poor. The group purchased 200 acres of fields for \$13,000. Mountain View Cemetery was established in 1863 and officially dedicated on May 25, 1865, which was Memorial Day that year. Organizers believed it would remain far from Oakland's center. Twenty-six acres were later added, bringing the total to 226 acres. About 170,000 people are buried there today, with room for another 170,000.

The founders contracted with Frederick Law Olmsted, the land-

scape architect who also designed Central Park and Stanford University, for a \$1,000 fee, although it is unclear whether he was paid. No women took part in the cemetery's development. Leroe noted,

however, that some of the wealthy men interred there had wives who would later put family fortunes to public use.

After the background, the group stepped inside the three-

story mausoleum, built in 1929. With its marble and quiet light, the interior has a serene feel. Leroe noted that crypts remain available for those who want, and can afford, one. She began with the crypts of husband and wife Dr. Ying Wing Chan, a diplomat and professor in China, and Dr. Betsy Jeong, who left China to avoid a likely forced marriage and went on to graduate from Stanford University and become a physician.

From there, walkers moved through the back of the mausoleum and up the hill to the Colton tomb. Ellen Colton shares it with her husband David, the business manager for the so-called Big Four who built the transcontinental railroad. Leroe suggested the group could be considered the Big Four and a half. After David's death, Ellen became involved in a lawsuit that revealed correspondence detailing bribes to lawmakers.

Nearby stands the Lux tomb. Charles Lux, a butcher, made his fortune selling meat during the Gold Rush and used it to buy 1.4 million acres across California, plus holdings in Oregon and Nevada. Known as the Cattle King of California, he left a legacy that his wife, Miranda Lux, advanced through philanthropy, including \$500,000 for California schools.

Leroe continued through family histories that echoed both progress and exclusion. Washington Bartlett became the first Jewish governor in the United States. His cousin, Chloe Buckel, was barred from serving as a physician in the Civil War because she was a woman, so she organized a nursing group that treated the wounded. William Keith became a noted Scottish-American landscape painter. His wife, Mary

McHenry Keith, was the first woman to graduate from Hastings Law School and later helped lead the suffrage movement in California and nationally.

The Edson Adam tomb prompted a discussion of Oakland's founding. Edson Adam, one of the city's three founders, questionably sold parcels from the Peralta family's Spanish land grant to new residents. Adams Point is named for him. Hannah Jayne Adams more honorably started Oakland's first public school.

John Gill Lemmon survived the infamous Andersonville Prison during the Civil War and later became known as the Botanist of the West. His wife, Sara Lemmon, championed the California poppy as the state flower. It took her 13 years of persistence to secure approval from the Legislature.

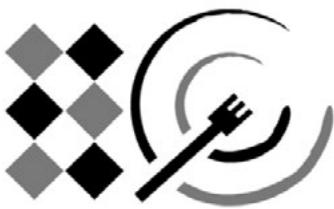
There were more families along the way, including the Swifts, the Chases and the Fishes. Leroe's stories were tightly researched and clearly told. The morning offered a brisk walk, a sweep of regional history and a reminder that familiar Bay Area names carry complicated legacies.

At the tour's end, the group thanked Leroe for another engaging pre-Halloween visit and many said they look forward to returning next year.

Walking on Wednesdays meets every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Exedra at Highland and Magnolia avenues. Everyone is welcome to join. There is no charge. New walkers and their friendly K-9 best friends are especially welcome. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3ethkehu> or call at (510) 420-3070 for more information.



Among those participating were Maricella Contreras, Ken Moy, Irene Thompson, Ed Horwitz, Alena Rudzinskaya, Karin Fetherston with K-9 best friend Gwen, Sherry Jacobs, Liz Dalrymple, Claudine Bach, Sanghi Wagner, Lori Austin, Caskey Weston, Priscilla Wanerus, Melba Yee, Tina Shum, Stella Houston, Kay Kewley, Peggy Shultz, Angela Tom, Lisa Euphrat, Mary Carter, Jack Fischrup with K-9 best friend Kojak, Albert Chen, Swee Lin Chen, June Yee, Jane Leroe, Mark Davis, Noemi Alvarado, Joanne Larson, Gill Day, Melissa Clark, Edith Lee, Debbie Powell, Adrienne Hamlin, Maulshree Solanki, Cathy Laymon, Gary Laymon, Mary Ann Barnes, Vicki Trimbach, Judy Love, Joyce Ahern, Alicia Rivera, Bill Ahern, Mike Gallant, Jasmine Cai, Dan Sedoris, Ron Day, Phil Chin, Julia Chin with K-9 best friend Rocky, Brian Hamlin, Kat Lang, and Dick Carter. The walkers were pleased to have Susan Goodier, Mila Beam, and Danielle Rehr-Davis walking with them for the first time.



Piedmont
Pantry

Pumpkin Chocolate Snack Bars



Photo by Deborah Quok

Anytime Pumpkin Chocolate Snack Bars are easy to make and delicious to eat.

By Deborah Quok

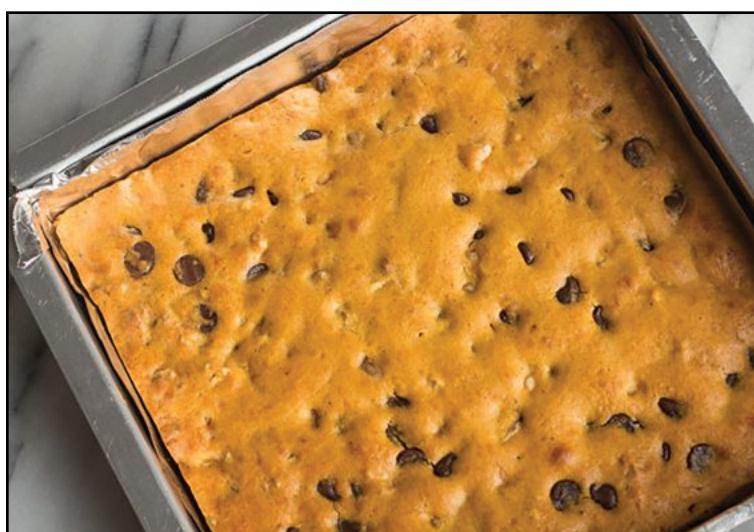
Stay with me here, as we jump into the already crowded field of pumpkin-mania... This entry is a keeper. I knew I was onto a winner when the batter tasted like pumpkin pie filling, before it's baked. With an intentional light hand with the spices, there's plenty of pumpkin flavor. And when highlighted by chocolate chips, you have one of my favorite pairings.

The sugar content is dialed down to a mere half cup. The addition of walnuts steer it toward a slightly healthy-ish direction. Hence I've dubbed these "snack bars" rather than a cookie or cake. Clever me! The bars are

plenty sweet enough to qualify for "treat" status, but enjoy them anytime.

I envision a future batch with a streusel topping to land it into breakfast territory; or a drizzle of melty chocolate frosting to fancy it up a bit. The batter is sturdy enough to hold a handful of dried cranberries for a festive, seasonal version. By all means, do with it what you will.

P.S. I see a very easy, direct substitution of mashed, ripe bananas in place of the pumpkin puree. This idea comes to me as I stare upon about six very speckled bananas on the counter. Of course then we call them Banana Chocolate Snack Bars – another favorite pairing.



Pan of Anytime Pumpkin Chocolate Snack Bars

Anytime Pumpkin Chocolate Snack Bars

Makes one 9 x 9-inch pan

Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup pumpkin puree; canned is fine
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground ginger
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped (optional)

Instructions

1. Line a 9 x 9-inch pan with aluminum foil and butter lightly. The easiest way I've found to do this neatly is to invert the pan and cover it with a 12 x 12-inch sheet of foil. Carefully fold the corners as if wrapping a gift box. Gently lift the foil off of the pan, turn the pan right-side-up, and then tuck the perfectly molded foil neatly into the pan.
2. Place an oven rack in the center of the oven. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
3. Measure the flour, baking powder and salt in a small bowl; stir or whisk to combine. Set aside.
4. Combine the pumpkin and sugar into a large bowl and mix to blend. Either a sturdy hand whisk or electric mixer does the job. Add the eggs, one at a time, and mix well to incorporate into the batter. Add the spices, mixing until they are evenly distributed. Add the melted butter and mix until smooth.
5. Slowly add the flour mixture and mix until fully incorporated. When the batter is smooth, taking care to not overmix it, add in the chocolate chips and nuts. Stir to combine well. Spread the batter evenly into the prepared pan.
6. Bake for about 30 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center of the pan comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for at least 20 minutes before cutting. I cut into 16 bars, each about $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch square, but I'll leave the particulars to you!

For more information and to suggest a food to be reviewed, see the blog of Piedmont resident and cook Deborah Quok: PiedmontPantry.com.



PIEDMONT
FLIX FEST

FlixFest at PCA on Nov. 11

James Stewart rides into Piedmont

By Bob Hall

James Stewart (Jimmy to his friends and many fans) was one of the most enduring of American movie stars, but he earned that longevity by being willing to change his screen persona. Not that he didn't project, like Clark Gable, a predictable presence, but over his 30-year career Stewart gave it new dimensions. With his slow drawl and easygoing manner, he was always likable and we trusted him. But he went new and surprising places as the years passed.

He began his career playing pleasant young urban guys, with no threat to them (his role in *You Can't Take It With You* is a good example), but in the 1950s he turned, surprisingly, into a Western star, hopping on a horse, strapping on six-guns and planting a battered cowboy hat on his angular head in technicolor films like *Winchester 73* and *Broken Arrow*.

One of the rewarding pleasures of movies is seeing one with friends and then chatting about it when the lights come up. That's just what the Piedmont Flix Fest offers – a great movie in a comfortable setting, and then a lively discussion of it afterward.

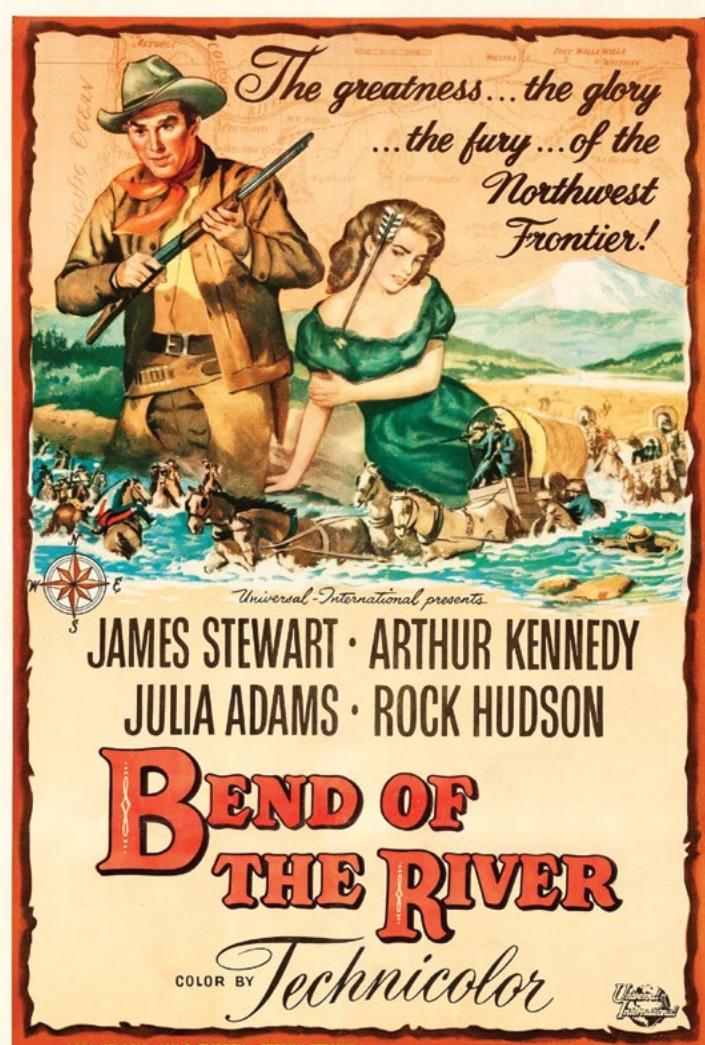
The Flix Fest meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Piedmont Center for the Arts.

November's Flix Fest selection is one of Jimmy Stewart's most enjoyable Westerns: *Bend of the River*. In it a reformed outlaw Glyn McLyntock, played by Stewart, has become a guide for farmers headed to Oregon. When he rescues a thief, Emerson Cole (Arthur Kennedy) from execution, Cole joins him on the journey. Once the settlers arrive, they discover that a trader who was supposed to send them provisions is now trying to scam them. After McLyntock and Cole travel to Portland to forcibly retrieve the supplies, Cole betrays McLyntock and steals the goods himself. McLyntock pursues him, ready for battle.

Julia Adams provides the love interest, and keep an eye out for a young actor named Rock Hudson, who had big things ahead of him.

Bend of the River will be screened on November 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the Center for the Arts at 801 Magnolia Avenue. Doors will open at 12:45. The movie is free and available to anyone over 18 years of age. Participants are invited on a drop-in basis, and everyone is welcome to bring snacks or lunch.

The next movie in the Piedmont series is the classic romantic comedy, a winner of multiple Academy Awards, *It Happened One Night*, starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, to be shown on December 11th.



Bend of the River staring James Stewart will be screened on November 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the Piedmont Center for the Arts

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READ IT IN THE POST

Find your new passion at Piedmont Adult Recreation Expo

Whether you're looking to get more active, find a creative outlet, learn new skills, or just make friends, there's way to do it here in Piedmont! Explore the wealth of recreational, cultural, educational, and civic activity opportunities our small city has to offer at the Piedmont Adult Recreation Expo on Sunday, November 16.

Now in its second year, the Expo offers a chance to browse options and speak directly with organizers from over two dozen programs and classes offered through the Piedmont Recreation Department, Piedmont Adult School, the Piedmont Center for the Arts, and other local programming providers, all under a single roof.

Representatives of civic, educational, and cultural organizations like the League of Women Voters, Piedmont Anti-Racism



Piedmont residents browse the Comics for Adults table at last year's Adult Recreation Expo.

and Diversity Committee, and Piedmont Beautification Foundation will be on hand as well, sharing information about their work

and how you can get involved.

A full list of participating organizations and featured activities is available at piedmont.ca.gov/AdultRecExpo.

The Adult Recreation Expo grew from the work of a Recreation Commission subcommittee on older adult programming. After reviewing existing activities throughout Piedmont, as well as nearly 500 responses to a community survey, the subcommittee identified lack of knowledge about existing opportunities as a primary barrier to connecting adults with the activities they were interested in. The Expo hopes to bridge this gap.

The Adult Recreation Expo is made possible through the initiative of Dick Carter and Lisa Gardner.



A resident receives information at the photography table during the 2024 Adult Expo.

PUP TALKS

Hormone driven behaviors: why timely spaying/neutering is essential

As a trainer, I frequently discuss the optimal time to spay and neuter dogs as well as why. Although not required by law, altering your dog is recommended to prevent challenging behaviors that develop during canine puberty. These behaviors can be time-consuming to address in training and are easily avoided by spaying or neutering dogs sooner rather than later. Declining to alter your dog also limits opportunities, such as the ability to pursue service dog training. Remember, shelters neuter puppies as young as eight weeks old, and these mixed breed mutts are some of the healthiest pups out there. Here are some hormone-driven behaviors that can be prevented with timely spay/neutering:

- **Territorial Marking:** Both male and female dogs mark their territory with urine, but this is more common in males. Intact dogs have strong pheromones in their urine, which can lead to inappropriate marking (like in the home or even in people!).
- **Reactivity and Aggression:** Hormones influence your dog's response to stress, contributing to reactive or aggressive behaviors. Intact dogs have a distinct scent that can communicate a threat, triggering territorial responses in other dogs.
- **Poor Social Skills:** During puberty, dogs may develop poor social skills, such as staring down other dogs or mount-

ing them. These behaviors can trigger fights and should be discouraged.

- **Heightened Anxiety:** Intact dogs experience more anxiety due to fluctuating hormones which may lead to pacing, wandering, resource guarding, and poor responses to social pressures.

Spaying or neutering before these behaviors develop can be a game-changer. It's essential to note that it takes three months for hormones to filter out of a dog's system after surgery, so initiating the spay or neuter after behaviors have developed won't make them disappear immediately. Most breeds can be spayed or neutered between eight and ten months old, but some breeds with health conditions may require waiting. Simply put, for the majority of dogs, waiting or failing to alter your dog is not worth the trouble hormone-driven behaviors can cause. Luckily, the high cost of training to manage these behaviors can easily be avoided with timely action.

Sierra Berrick is a professional dog trainer and AKC Evaluator located in Oakland, California. She helped to launch the service dog and facility dog training organization Alpha Dog Assist in Mill Valley in 2021 and currently offers private training in service dog work, obedience, and behavioral consultation. To contact her, please call 510-507-2017, email Sierra109@gmail.com, or visit her website at www.oakhillsdogtraining.weebly.com.

ADVERTISE IN THE POST

WE WANT YOU FOR THE PIEDMONT SENIORS!

PIEDMONT SENIORS, sponsored by the Piedmont Recreation Department, are actively seeking new members. Come socialize with us and make new friendships!

WHERE: PIEDMONT COMMUNITY HALL
711 Highland Avenue (in Piedmont Park)

WHEN: Usually the 4th Wednesday of each month
10:00 a.m. to Noon

JOIN US FOR EXCURSIONS TO MUSEUMS, HISTORICAL SITES, AND LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA. Lunch is included! Non-residents are welcome.

For more information, contact Janet Epstein, Coordinator, at jepstein@piedmont.ca.gov or call the Piedmont Recreation Department at 510/420-3070.

Fun for Seniors

Bill Baringer - A Piedmonter atop South America

PART 2: MT ACONCAGUA, February 2017

By Jay Russell

After climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, the tallest peak in Africa, Piedmont resident Bill Baringer was ready for more. He set his sights on the South American apex, Peru's treacherous Mt. Aconcagua at 22,840 feet.

The mountain is big and unruly; local guides estimate only 30 percent of the hikers reach the top. Only 80 miles from the Pacific Ocean, high winds and storms pummel Aconcagua. The wind chill can drop to -80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Baringer was well aware it would be no Sunday stroll.

His climbing group consisted of an experienced guide and three other climbers, all 15-20 years younger than him and extremely fit. Two were physical trainers and the third a kickboxer.

"I felt that I had not prepared nearly well enough for trekking and climbing compared to my three teammates," he recalled, but he was fully committed to the challenge.

The trek spans 18 days, beginning in the warm, beautiful Peru-

vian plateaus. They crossed rivers on mules or on foot and enjoyed the views of wild guanacos and condors. Soon he would trade his river sandals for bulky double boots with crampons.

The first high base camp was at 16,200 feet. His 160/90 blood pressure put his journey into jeopardy, but the camp doctor eliminated salts and caffeine from his diet and cleared him to continue two days later.

Unlike other high-altitude climbs, the ascent of Aconcagua doesn't rely on porters. Hikers must carry their own gear up to higher camps in multiple trips, then return to lower altitudes to sleep. After two "carry" trips to Camp 1 they settled in. From there they made more day trips hauling gear to Camp 2, but before moving to Camp 2 a storm derailed their plans.

The wind, snow and cold forced them in tents for three days. When sitting out a storm Baringer said he asked himself, "What are the things I can do something about?"

During the three-day period members of the group played card



At the trailhead to Mt. Aconcagua: lead guide Ariel German from Argentina (left), Bill Baringer, Ray Low from Singapore, and Iveta Valentova and Kat Petrikova from the Czech Republic



The majesty of Peru's landscape in the early days of Bill Baringer's 18-day trek to the top of Mt. Aconcagua.



A storm trapped Bill and his group at Camp 1 for three days.

games, did sudoku puzzles and listened to music.

Finally, they were able to continue, but now they had a tight schedule with time lost due to the storm. Once at Camp 2 they had to hire porters and head to

Camp 3 the next day with little time to acclimate to the new elevation.

After setting up their final camp at 19,300 feet, they got a brief rest before beginning the summit attempt at 4 a.m.

Final climb to the top

On the summit day it was freezing but clear. Everyone was moving slowly, and his group was the last to leave Camp 3. An unexpected stop frazzled everyone.

See Bill Baringer on page 29



The view north for hundreds of miles from the trail between Camps 2 and 3.



Bill Baringer plows through the penitentes, tall spires of ice and snow, created when the sun's rays turn snow directly into water vapor without melting it first.



Camp 3, the highest of the shelters, with steep snow and scree ahead.

REAL ESTATE

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6256 ROCKROSE DRIVE, NEWARK



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1140 WINSOR AVENUE, PIEDMONT



► PENDING ◀

Charming, ideally located Piedmont Craftsman close to Wildwood Elem. & the shops & restaurants of Lakeshore Ave. Formal LR with fireplace + large windows, formal DR & breakfast room. HWF throughout. En suite BR on main level, 2+ BRs up. Spacious rear gardens & patio. Storage space & garage.

4BR • 2.5BA • Originally Offered for \$1,780,000

Anian Pettit Tunney

DRE #00812754

C: 510.928.7447

Tunney@grubbco.com

Adrienne Tunney Krumins

DRE #01296734

C: 510.928.4521

Atk@grubbco.com

1140Winsor.com

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64 SHARON AVENUE, PIEDMONT



► OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4:30PM ◀

New Listing! This elegant home combines classic architecture with modern updates for today's living. Gracious living room & dining room, stylish kitchen/family room opening to pool and gardens. Spacious primary suite, fantastic ADU/guest quarters. Exceptional location!

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**REDFIN
PREMIER**

Landmark Piedmont Estate Sold

Buyers Represented by Katy Polvorosa & Sarah Marcus
Purchased for \$13,250,000

Tucked discreetly behind mature hedges on one of Piedmont's most prestigious avenues, this 10,000 square-foot Tudor estate was never meant to be easily found. With soaring ceilings, leaded glass windows, and master craftsmanship, it embodies the kind of architectural legacy rarely available—and almost never offered publicly. Our buyers envisioned a grand, historic residence with privacy, provenance, and timeless elegance. In a market with virtually no inventory to match, the search demanded more than patience. It required precision, deep market knowledge, and a network built on trust. Through tireless research, we unearthed a long-expired rental listing. What began as a faint lead became a private dialogue, followed by months of quiet negotiations and measured persistence. Ultimately, that trail led to a discreet showing and an off-market purchase that perfectly aligned with both buyer and seller objectives. The result: a \$13.25 million closing, completed without the home ever appearing on the open market. This was not a story of serendipity, but of strategy. In an age where information is everywhere, true luxury is still about access—and access is everything.



**Katy Polvorosa
Sarah Marcus**

Redfin Premier Agents
415.310.6166 | 510.915.6705
katy.polvorosa@redfin.com
sarah.marcus@redfin.com
License #02021145
License #01967832

READ IT IN *THE POST*

The STARR★SCHAEFER Report...

Your monthly go-to for real estate market trends, market stats & mortgage money matters

The Piedmont recent home sale scenario has been fairly typical for a Fall Market; although inventory was slightly up from last year, the most desirable homes still sold with multiple offers for prices well over the asking price (demand continues to outpace inventory)

Market Overview: 10/1/25 - 10/31/25

Solds: 15

84 Portsmouth Road: lowest at \$1,005,000
38 Bonita: highest at \$4,025,000

Average Days On Market: 14

Average List Price: \$2,088,000

Average Sold Price: \$2,559,000

Current Pending: 9

Current Active Listings: 18

5630 Moraga Ave., lowest at \$810,000
26 Sea View Ave., highest at \$15,000,000

Mortgage Money...

Since June, the average 30-year fixed rates have dropped from the low 7% range to the low 6% range. The job market will be a key factor influencing future rate movement. Rates may fall further if unemployment continues to rise.

Brady Thomas, LaSalle Financial

With over 40+ years of experience and a deep understanding of local markets, we are a trusted resource for any of your real estate needs.

See you next month!

STARR★SCHAEFER

Trusted Real Estate Advisors

Karen Starr | 510-414-6000 | DRE# 01111458

Brenda Schaefer | 510-453-2401 | DRE# 01896001

The Grubb Company

(Please note that not all listings mentioned were listed by the Grubb Co.)



* RECYCLED STYLE *

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Oakland, CA 94611**

Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday: 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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*Donations accepted at
2501 Harrison Street*
Tuesday & Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

dressbestforless.org

How to reach City officials

Elected and appointed officials in Piedmont are directly available to residents by phone and by e-mail.

Piedmont City Council

Betsy Andersen, <i>Mayor</i>	604-9864
Conna McCarthy, <i>Vice Mayor</i>	658-9148
Jennifer Long	804-539-4250
Tom Ramsey	593-6612
Lorrel Plimier	420-3048

Piedmont School Board

Lindsay Thomasson, <i>President</i>	415-666-0268
Ruchi Medhekar, <i>Vice President</i>	393-7540

Michael Malone
Max Roman
Susy Struble

CITY COMMISSIONS

Park Commission

Tom Smegal, <i>Chair</i>	350-0800
Jack Fischrup	601-0369
David Johnson	658-4673
Barbara Giuffre	601-0887
Kimberley Moses	547-4321
Arden Hall	653-1383
Shanna Wagnor	
<i>City Council liaison:</i> Tom Ramsey	420-3048
<i>Staff liaison:</i> Nancy Kent	420-3064

Planning Commission

Aradhana Jajodia	804-364-1588
Wayne Rowland	339-7152
Julie Ortiz	650-438-7879
Raffi Zaroukian	
Thomas Yee	
Michael Beuselinck	
<i>City Council liaison:</i> Lorrel Plimier	420-3048
<i>Staff liaison:</i> Kevin Jackson	420-3050

Recreation Commission

Jenny Feinberg	301-4009
Lisa Gardner	857-9221
Sara Ironside	415-441-7290
Rebecca Posamentier	386-2973
Christopher Hart	
Aamir Virani	512-653-9146
Sean Byrnes	
<i>City Council liaison:</i> Jennifer Long	420-3048
<i>Staff liaison:</i> Chelle Putzer	420-3070

CITY COMMITTEES

Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee

Paul Raskin, <i>Chair</i>	653-7947
Robert McBain	914-8866
Andrew Flynn	630-306-6431
Murat Bozkurt	415-683-6311
David Kimball	734-254-9028
Frank Ryan	
Teddy King	
Alice Cho (<i>Alternate</i>)	202-234-3970

Mosquito Abatement District

Hope Salzer	415-816-4673
-------------	--------------

Parking Hearing Officer

Matthew Goldstein	655-4823
Jeffrey Nguyen	685-2905

Police and Fire Pension Board

Sean M. Lewis, <i>Public Member</i>	
Lt. Brian Gidney, <i>Fire Rep.</i>	420-3030
Officer Tyler Petit, <i>Police Rep.</i>	420-3005 x3241

<i>City Council liaisons:</i> Tom Ramsey & Lorrel Plimier	
Public Safety Committee	
Marilyn Weber, <i>Chair</i>	220-0743
Frederick Shavies, <i>Police Chief</i>	420-3010
Dave Brannigan, <i>Fire Chief</i>	420-3030
Lindsay Thomasson, <i>PUSD Rep.</i>	415-666-0268
Georgina Russell	310-666-8545
Liz O'Neil	415-637-7595
Marie Rethford	510-597-0993
Erich Detert	
Christine VanSlyke	

(Rev. 08-27-25)

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bids shall be uploaded electronically to the BPX Printing & Graphics City of Piedmont planroom via the "Submit Bid Docs" tab on the Project page until the hour of **2:00 p.m., on the 20th day of November 2025** (no bids will be accepted after 2:00 p.m.) for the construction of the following project:

FY 2025-2026 STREET TREE PRUNING PROJECT

Complete bid packages, including project plans, technical specifications, bid forms and contract documents may be secured from BPX Printing & Graphics by logging on to: www.piedmontplanroom.com or by calling 510-559-8299 or by email: Richmond@blueprinting.com There is a non-refundable fee of \$50 per set for a printed or electronic package, plus shipping and handling. As the project is being bid through BPX Printing & Graphics, any changes via addenda will be available on the BPX website for this project.

Bids shall be **uploaded electronically** to the BPX City of Piedmont planroom via the "Submit Bid Docs" tab on the Project page before **2:00 p.m., November 20, 2025**. Guidelines for BPX Online Bidding Instructions are provided in Appendix A. Proposals will be timestamped by the website upon receipt and placed in a secure location by BPX to be accessed only by a representative from the City of Piedmont.

Please note that bidders must be logged-in as a registered user in order to see the "Submit Bid Docs" tab. The "Submit Bid Docs" tab will only be available until the bid deadline, and all submitted bids are "sealed" and inaccessible until that time. After the bid deadline, the "Submit Bid Docs" tab will be unavailable on the Planroom platform to prospective bidders.

In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 3400, bidders may propose equals of products listed in the technical specifications or project plans by manufacturer name, brand or model number, unless the technical specifications or plans specify that the product is necessary to match others in use. Complete information for products proposed as equals must be submitted to the Coastland Civil Engineering for review at least 10 working days before the time specified for bid opening in accordance with the bidders instructions contained in the bid package.

In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20170, all bids must be presented under sealed cover and include one of the following forms of bidder's security: cash, cashier's check made payable to the City, certified check made payable to the City, or a bidder's bond. The amount of bidder's security provided must equal at least ten (10) percent of the total of the bid price for the base bid and the additive or deductive items listed in this notice. The successful bidder must submit to the City complete, executed copies of all required documents within ten (10) working days of receiving written notice of award of the project. Bidder's security of any successful bidder that fails to do so will be forfeited to the City. Such required documents include, but are not limited to, a payment or labor and materials bond in an amount of at least 100 percent of the amount payable by the terms of the project contract and that satisfies the requirements of California Civil Code Section 9554, and a performance bond in an amount of at least 100 percent of the amount payable by the terms of the contract. All project bonds must be executed by an admitted surety insurer in accordance with applicable law and acceptable to the City.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code the Director of Industrial Relations for the State of California has ascertained the current general prevailing rate of wages for employer purposes, in Alameda County, State of California. Not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for work of a similar character in Alameda County and not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for holiday work fixed as provided in the California Labor Code shall be paid to all workers engaged in performing the project.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1771.1 of the California Labor Code, A contractor or subcontractor shall not be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Section 4104 of the Public Contract Code, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, as defined in Chapter 1 of Part 7 of Division 2 of the California Labor Code, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Civil Code Section 1725.5. **Please note: It is not a violation of Section 1771.1 for an unregistered contractor to submit a bid that is authorized by Section 7029.1 of the Business and Professions Code or by Section 10164 or 20103.5 of the Public Contract Code, provided the contractor is registered to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5 at the time the contract is awarded.** Any bids submitted without proof that Bidder and any listed subcontractor(s) are currently registered and qualified to perform public work, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall not be accepted by the City.

In accordance with the California Government Code Section 1773.2, copies of the applicable determinations of the Director are on file in the City of Piedmont, office of the City Engineer, and may be reviewed upon request. A pre-bid meeting is not scheduled for this project.

In accordance with California Civil Code Section 1771.4, the project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 3300, a valid class C-61 / D-49 California contractor's license is required to bid on the project.

In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 22300, except where prohibited by federal regulations or policies, the successful bidder may, on request and at its expense, substitute securities in lieu of amounts withheld by the City from progress payments to ensure performance under the contract in accordance with the contract documents.

The City of Piedmont reserves the right to postpone the date and time for the opening of proposals at any time prior to the date and time announced in the advertisement in accordance with applicable law.

The City of Piedmont reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any defects or irregularity in bidding in accordance with applicable law. In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20103.8, if the City elects to award a contract for performance of the project, the contract will be awarded in accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20162 and other applicable law to the responsible bidder submitting a responsive bid with the lowest total bid price for the base bid without consideration of the bid price for any additive or deductive items. All bids will remain valid for 90 days after the bid opening. Except as permitted by law and subject to all applicable remedies, including forfeiture of bidder's security, bidders may not withdraw their bid during the 90-day period after the bid opening.

By order of the City Council of the City of Piedmont, Alameda County, California.

Daniel Gonzales
Public Works Director
City of Piedmont
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

October 23, 2025

READ IT IN THE POST

Piedmont Community Meditation Group

Now offering in-person sessions!

Wednesday morning - Piedmont Center for the Arts
9:00am - 10:00am

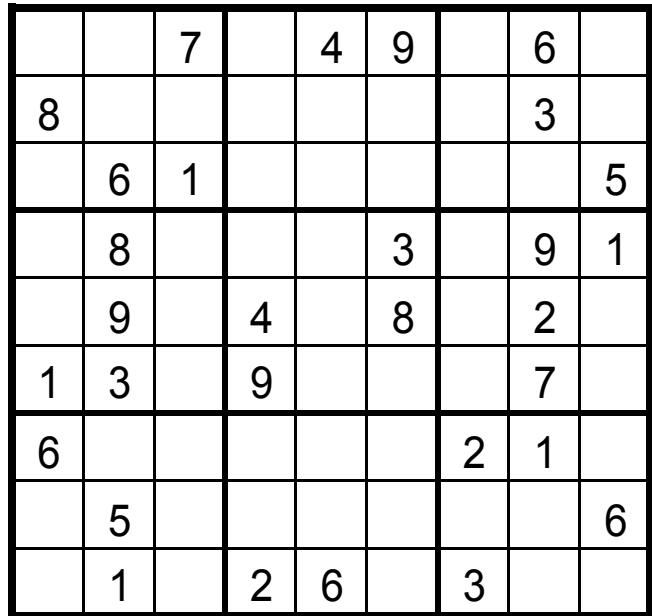
Wednesday evening - online
7:30pm - 8:15pm

Free ~ No experience needed ~ Drop ins always welcome

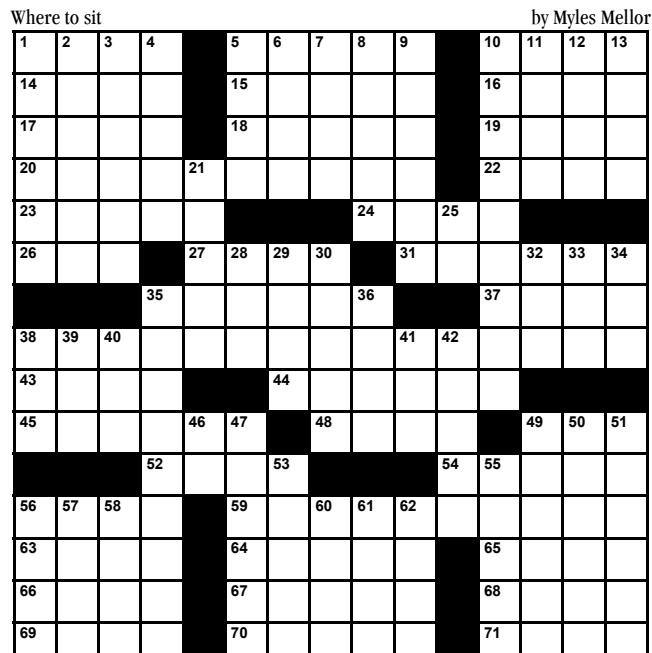
For more info and Zoom link:
Mark Herrick ~ herrickmark@icloud.com ~ 415-706-2000
Ages 12 and older welcome

Sudoku Puzzle

Sudoku by Myles Mellor



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Degree subject
- 5. Borneo ape
- 10. Small case
- 14. Pat on the back, as a baby
- 15. Network, e.g.
- 16. James Patterson story, e.g.
- 17. Double-reed woodwind
- 18. Old
- 19. Film feline
- 20. Knights' gathering place
- 22. Stock Exchange chair
- 23. Barbie's sister
- 24. Outstanding player
- 26. Cadillac model
- 27. Drinks
- 31. Slides through a reader
- 35. Many-armed organisms
- 37. Gloss
- 38. Lake cabin sight
- 43. Var.
- 44. Bite the hand that feeds you
- 45. Emotion of pity
- 48. Eyelid pigment
- 49. Friend in Paris
- 52. Really big show
- 54. Subject of the book "Power Failure"
- 56. Sunday seats
- 59. Waiting to play
- 63. Immediately
- 64. Milo of "The Verdict"
- 65. Big fish
- 66. Hullabaloo
- 67. Actress Patricia et al.
- 68. Super server
- 69. Goodbye from a Brit.
- 70. Fence feature
- 71. Take on cargo
- 74. Subject of the book "Power Failure"
- 75. Pea holders
- 76. Punish, in a way
- 77. Airline to Karachi
- 78. The NY Manning
- 79. Bering, e.g.: abbr.
- 80. Musical ensemble
- 81. International Civil Aviation org.
- 82. Electric guitar need
- 83. Day in Madrid
- 84. Follower, suffix
- 85. Canadian rd. sign letters
- 86. Spy in the land of Canaan
- 87. Animal used on farms
- 88. Silverware drawer compartment
- 89. Balm for aches and pains
- 90. Ridiculed
- 91. Be essential (to)
- 92. First sign
- 93. Sherpa's home
- 94. "Hey, over here!"
- 95. Bluesy James
- 96. Time lag
- 97. Asian tongue
- 98. Hot spot
- 99. What a prodigy plays with
- 100. Shucks

See Crossword and Sudoku Puzzle Solutions on page 31.

Piedmont Pulse

Continued from page 6

offering unparalleled benefits in vocabulary growth, word study, reading comprehension, and logical thinking. The structure and clarity of Latin not only help students grasp the mechanics of language but also directly reinforce the foundational reading and writing skills embedded in grade level standards, including our adopted ELA curricula, *Fish tank Learning* and *Spellography*. This addition highlights our continued commitment to giving students the tools to become strong, confident communicators while also cultivating curiosity about language, history, and the world around them.

We're equally excited to share that, beginning in the 2026–27 school year, Piedmont Middle School will expand its world language offerings to include introductory French, Spanish, and Mandarin starting in 6th grade as part of our elective program. This thoughtful sequencing ensures that all students build a strong foundation in language learning before exploring a wider range of global languages.

Both the elementary and middle school world language proposals will be presented for Board approval at the November 12th Board of Education meeting. We look forward to your continued partnership as we take this exciting leap forward in preparing our students for a world rich in the academic study of language.

Immigration Response in PUSD

Just a refresh on my October communication about immigration response:

Although we do not believe Piedmont will be targeted for any federal presence, I would like to provide a refresher on a communication I provided earlier this year.

We recognize the challenges and uncertainties immigrant families may be facing. At the heart of our work is a commitment to "cultivate a culture of caring, belonging, and trust." Together, we will continue to work together to create schools that are safe, welcoming spaces where every student is valued, feels secure, and can thrive. To support our community, important information and resource reminders are included below.

We have protocols for responding to ICE agents/federal law enforcement if they come to one of our campuses, and we have trained our school leaders in those protocols.

We will also continue to follow all state and federal laws that require us to:

Protect the right of all children — regardless of citizenship, immigration status, or the immigration status of their parents — to a free and appropriate public education (*Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 [1982]). Protect the right of all students to be free from discrimination, harassment,

violence, and intimidation while at school (California Education Code [EC] 220, 234, et seq.).

Federal and state laws safeguard student education records and personal information. It is important to note that our district does not collect immigration or citizenship information. Moreover, AB 49 prohibits entry of officers conducting immigration enforcement to a school site without a judicial warrant, judicial subpoena or court order. It also prohibits providing any information on students or their households to officers of an agency conducting immigration enforcement. There are many helpful state and county resources available to support our community, but a helpful starting point is the California Department of Justice website

November Highlights and Community Events

- **Native American Heritage Month:** November is National Native American Heritage Month. To our Native American students, staff, and families, we honor you now and always.
- **Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day:** Thursday, Nov. 14 at 7:45 a.m. Join the community at Piedmont Park to honor Ruby Bridges' legacy. (Beach Elementary will hold its own celebration.)
- **Piedmont Turkey Trot:** Thursday, Nov. 27. Proceeds benefit the PHS Cross Country and Track and Field teams, along with Boosters.

Everest

Continued from page 19

As is graphically shown in the film, to plant one boot in front of the other above 26,000 feet, which has only one-third of the oxygen at sea level, requires an effort of extraordinary will — it can take up to 12 hours to walk one mile, depending on the condition of the climber. The time anyone should remain at that altitude is 16–20 hours, hence there is a sustained sense of urgency not only to summit but to then descend.

All things considered, this begs the unavoidable question: why? In one early scene in the film, Hall's group of climbers, gathered in the Base Camp tent, ask one another, in the context of what awaits them, that one existential question: "Why?" Their responses are slow in coming, elusive, simple yet complex.

"Because it is there," was the seemingly flippant response by legendary climber George Mallory, the iconic British mountaineer when asked just prior to his third attempt to summit Everest in 1924. His answer has never completely sufficed. And it is a question that this remarkable, compelling film can only begin to answer.

As an aside, Mallory was last seen nearing the summit with his expedition partner Sandy Irvine on the northeastern ridge. They did not return. In 1999, some 74 years later, Mallory's pale, frozen body was found, along with his personal effects, at an altitude of 26,760 feet.

There are today more than 200 bodies on Everest, each in the exact place where their jour-

ney ended. Their frozen remains comprise an area referred to as "Rainbow Valley," their colorful clothes and gear marking the spot where they will forever remain.

While the approach up Everest is stunningly beautiful, it is also profoundly dangerous, its history a cautionary tale. As Hall says, the mountain is "another beast altogether." Not only does it resist every attempt by men and women to reach its peak, using aluminum ladders to span deep crevasses, supplemental oxygen and fixed ropes, Everest lies in wait, seemingly benign. Yet, that rush of attainment to be suddenly and arbitrarily replaced by a lethal scenario of gale force winds and plummeting temperatures, can turn the promise of victory into tragic defeat, all of which is painfully revealed in the film *Everest*.

While the climbers made their way toward the final assault (20 different groups formed a long, slow-moving queue on the mountain), there were unexpected delays. As the groups moved ever upward, some experienced potentially lethal high altitude edema or hypoxia, and were reluctantly forced to turn back.

Time was a critical factor. To spend a night on the mountain at such altitudes could spell death. The goal was to reach the summit by 2:00 PM at the latest and then quickly turn around and begin the long arduous trip down to base camp.

As a result of an unexpected and relentless storm, one that swept down on the mountain

with little warning, eight climbers perished, three on the north face and five on the south face. It was a tragedy that began to be revealed, even during those first days after the climbers arrived in Base Camp merely struggling to become acclimated.

The film *Everest* is an involving depiction of this fateful climb, shot beautifully in Northern Italy and the foothills of Nepal. It is, in many ways, almost a mountain climbing procedural: the gear, the preparation, the painfully slow challenging trek. If the film lacks, it is that the mountain and the events overshadow the characters, and it becomes increasingly hard to identify them, each covered in layers of bright-colored hooded parkas, down pants, and the rarely removed oxygen masks. But that isn't to say that the cast is not strong and their individual characters not well established, to include cameo appearances of two wives — Jan Arnold, Hall's wife, portrayed by Keira Knightley, and Peach Weathers (Robin Wright), wife of climber Beck Weathers (Josh Brolin). Both women wait at home, one in New Zealand and the latter in Texas, for word of the climbers via satellite phone. The outcome reveals the extraordinary risk and sacrifice that confronts even those who consider themselves prepared to reach the summit of Everest.

Everest. Directed by Baltasar Kormakur. Starring Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, John Hawkes. 2 hrs., 1 min. Rated PG-13. Released in 2015. Streaming on Prime/Fandango/YouTube.

ADVERTISE IN THE POST

Volleyball

Continued from [page 13](#)

Wilk, and Sofia Meyer, but Urban scored four straight to lead 15-13. PHS answered with four points to lead 17-15, but Urban scored three to go up 18-17, followed by two more points by Piedmont to lead 19-18. The Highlanders held set-point with a 24-21 lead after a kill by Dorsey, but the Blues

stormed to the win with five straight points, 26-24.

Piedmont fell behind to start the fourth set in a 7-1 deficit, but worked their way to a 14-12 lead. Urban eventually took a 22-21 lead, but PHS got back to the front 23-22 after a kill by Ting and an offensive error. With the

set deadlocked at 24-24, PHS won the set with a kill by Wilk and an Urban error.

The fifth set was similar to the third set, where Piedmont held match point but couldn't finish. Urban led 7-1 to start, but PHS clawed back to take a lead at 13-12, while an ace by Charli Panico gave Piedmont match-point at 14-12. However, the Blues scored the final four points of the match, where two straight offensive errors ended the night.

Final stats: Wilk recorded 11 kills, two aces, 13 digs and two assists. Ting tallied 10 kills, one ace, eight digs and one assist. Dando contributed 10 kills, two blocks and one dig. Dorsey posted eight kills and two digs. Sachs added eight kills, one block and seven digs. Meyer finished with four kills and two digs. Huynh had three kills, one ace, eight digs and 29 assists. Skye Prata-Baack recorded three digs and one assist. Panico served two aces and added nine digs. Vora notched one ace, nine digs and 18 assists. Olivia Stevens led the defense with 25 digs and added two assists.



Allyson Huynh is among eight sophomores returning in 2026.

Bill Baringer

Continued from [page 24](#)

one's nerves. One of their members, Kat, an experienced mountaineer, became too cold during the stop and was turned around to return to a lower elevation.

The remaining three hikers and two guides continued.

At a sheltered rest the guides pointed out a frozen hiker who died three days earlier from high altitude Cerebral Edema. Mountain rangers would later make a special trip to retrieve the body.

Rather than be discouraged, Baringer gave himself a pep talk.

"I attempted to use this event to heighten my awareness and get my head in the game for all that lay above us," he said.

At 22,000 feet the lack of oxygen reduced the pace to four steps then eight deep breathes. A fellow climber was lagging behind, requiring the aid of the assistant guide, Gustavo Caselli, from Argentina.

Baringer's group was the last up the mountain and they had to wait at a narrow ice crossing for downward groups to pass.

With clouds mounting and daylight waning, he led the way

up the last 840 feet of elevation. And finally, at 22,840 feet, Baringer and his band of climbers stood at the summit of the highest peak in the world outside of the Himalayas.

The journey was not over, however. One of the hikers in the group, Ray, barely made it to the summit before collapsing, so the descent turned into a rescue mission to get their hiking colleague down the mountain. He was given an emergency oxygen tank and the lead guide, Ariel, led him down.

Baringer followed Gustavo, the assistant guide, avoiding sharp rocks with no margin for error.

"You know you can't make any mistakes on the way down, but that's when all the accidents happen. You can't drift off to thinking 'wow, it was a great summit!'"

He arrived back at Camp 3 at 7 p.m. after a grueling 15-hour day of climbing. Three hours later Ariel and Iveta returned with Ray, who had severely frostbitten fingers, which resulted in his evacuation by a

helicopter and ultimately a partial finger amputation.

The next morning the weather turned nasty, with winds that swept away the tents and gear of another climbing group. A sleeping mat whirled upward in a tornado vortex. Everyone knew it was time to leave.

On that day only two of the 32 hikers waiting to climb to the top succeeded in summiting.

After returning to base camp, Baringer took an extra day of rest, had a sip of champagne to celebrate the achievement, and took a few hot showers.

"The physical and mental challenges during the ascent led us to wonder why we were actually subjecting ourselves to this," he wrote in his journal. "But soon afterwards the view in retrospect was that it wasn't really that bad at all. We might even consider revisiting the beast," he added with a touch of wry.

NEXT WEEK: Part 3 of Bill Baringer's quest to climb the world's highest peaks. In May 2017 he attempted to summit the highest point on the European continent, Mt. Elbrus in Russia, at 18,510 feet.



Bill Baringer's hiking party celebrates reaching the summit of 22,840 ft. Mt. Aconcagua on February 7, 2017. Pictured are: Ray Low (left), Bill Baringer, assistant guide Gustavo Caselli, lead guide Ariel German, and Iveta Valentova.

Athletes of the Month

Continued from [page 12](#)

ELLES KREICKHAUS

Elles Kreickhaus receives our boys' Athlete of the Month award for leading Piedmont to third-place in the Western Alameda County Conference tournament. He scored 20 goals in the three-match tournament, including six in their 10-4 win over Encinal on October 28, five goals in their 14-13 loss to Castro Valley on October 30, and nine of the team's goals in an overtime 14-11 win over Bishop O'Dowd on November 1. He also scored six times in an 18-13 win over O'Dowd on October 21, and 10 total goals in three matches

at the Monterey Invitational on October 10-11.

Honorable Mention

Rehan Mumtaz has emerged as a marquee contributor with Piedmont's football team with the absence of starting running back Xavier Henderson. His biggest performance was 162 yards and two touchdowns in their 39-35 win over Washington on October 24. He also put up 79 yards on four carries in PHS' 40-15 win over Irvington on October 17, and recently had 98 yards and a touchdown in the Highlanders' 27-8 win over Kennedy on October 31.



Rehan Mumtaz earns honorable mention for Athlete of the Month after stepping in at running back.

Antz

Continued from [page 20](#)

So, unexpectedly, to his consternation, Z is swept away into battle with the other soldier ants. The question is, will Z survive, and ultimately win the heart of the fair maiden Bala, who has shared with Z that she is not happy with her life either. They have even dreamed of escaping to Insectopia (a nearby New York trashcan) where they can live happily ever after. Well, almost. There is a funny scene where the two are stuck to a wad of bubblegum, which is stuck to the bottom of an enormous tennis shoe.

Antz is an amusing, witty

adventure with some wicked dialogue that touches on the tension that exists between being an individual or a conformist, all while encouraging the audience to root for the underdog, which would be Z. Actually, it's hard not to care about these speck-sized creatures, especially Woody, aka as Z.

Antz. Animation. Directed by Eric Darnell. With voices of Woody Allen, Sharon Stone, Gene Hackman. 1 hr., 27 min. Rated PG. Released in 1998. Streaming on Prime/Fandango/Apple/YouTube.



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Petal It Forward

Continued from page 1

leaving with memories that will bring them back year after year. Volunteer Cynthia was thrilled to see the crossing guard at Piedmont Elementary beaming as she guided children across the street, bouquet in hand. Anne said she loved "spreading sunshine on a gloomy day," while Alanna

described the joy of handing a bouquet to a young student who planned to give the second one to her mother.

Participant Anita noted that many people have never received flowers before, making the experience especially meaningful. Recipients were delighted to

learn they had a second bouquet to give away. Volunteer Hallie enjoyed visiting different parts of the city and connecting with people "in such a bright, fulfilling way." Shari, who has participated for 10 years, said she keeps coming back for the smiles—"knowing they'll bring more smiles by giving the second bouquet away."

Valerie Lee, who co-owns J. Miller Flowers with her sister Robbin, called the day "heartwarming and wonderful." She said the joy on the faces of those surprised by the Flower Power Posse "makes all the work worthwhile."

Petal It Forward wouldn't be possible without the support of wholesalers and growers who donated flowers, including Tornio Nursery Co., Mayesh, Pacific Coast Evergreen, Mt. Eden Floral Co., Neve Bros., Palomino, J&N Wholesale, Rafa's Wholesale, Rafa's Tropical, and Green Point Nursery of Hilo, Hawaii.

Founded by the Society of American Florists, Petal It Forward encourages communities nationwide to share the positive effects of giving and receiving flowers.



Happiness ambassadors designing bouquets for the community.



Classical art students at Golden Gate Atelier were thrilled with the beautiful bouquets and couldn't wait to share with friends.



Calibre, the Spanish immersion preschool on Piedmont Avenue, had smiles for their school community.

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Where in the World Are We?



While soaking in the beauty of the medieval campus and the Scottish rain, Anastasia and Larissa Edel, a freshman at St Andrews, enjoyed a moment of connection to Piedmont with the *Post* in the university courtyard.

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.

Water Polo

Continued from page 12

Dupree scored again with three seconds left to go up 12-11.

PHS added two more goals in the second overtime period, where Stein assisted Kreickhaus, while Stein scored the final goal with 1:04 left.

Final stats: Kreickhaus had nine goals and two steals. Stein had three goals, four assists, and one steal. Dupree scored twice and had three steals. Patty had two assists. Kappes had two steals. Goalie Luke McAuliffe was critical with 15 saves and three steals.

14-13 loss to Castro Valley

PHS led 4-3 through the first period but trailed 8-6 by half-time. Piedmont knotted things up at 11-11 in the third quarter, but CV outscored the Highlanders 3-2 in the fourth quarter to win in a narrow battle.

Final stats: Kreickhaus had five goals and two steals. Patty had four goals. Kappes had one

goal, three assists, and a steal. Dupree had two goals and two steals. Stein had five assists and two steals. Nick Riordan had a goal and two steals. McAuliffe had seven saves and a steal.

10-4 over Encinal

PHS led 6-0 through the first and 7-1 by halftime. Encinal scored twice in the third, 7-3, while Piedmont added three more goals in the final going.

Final stats: Kreickhaus had six goals. Walker had a goal and a steal. Kappes had a goal, assist, and steal. Patty scored once. Stein had a goal and an assist. McAuliffe had nine saves, seven steals, and three assists.

NEXT UP

Piedmont (15-8 overall) faces St. Patrick today, November 5 in Dublin at 3:00 p.m. With a win, PHS will play the winner of No. 8 Mission San Jose vs. No. 9 Marin Academy.



Elles Kreickhaus scored nine goals against O'Dowd.



Henry Stein had three goals and four assists against Bishop O'Dowd.

Free Solo

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climb solo at such heights is to exist in the zone of the unblemished, beyond anything that can be imagined yet must be found.

The outcome is grimly bifurcated: a successful attempt or what can only be chillingly imagined as a seconds-long drop to certain death.

To attempt such a climb is to celebrate life intensely, while acknowledging that to do so is to stand on a precipice and risk all you so profoundly love and hold dear.

How could *Free Solo* be anything less than exhausting not only for Honnold, but equally for the photographers and director, who, as the film shows, are deeply conflicted by recording and enabling what could so easily be a wrenching tragedy.

The film attempts to explore

the “why?” and pushes Honnold, not the most emotive of persons, for explanations that he is either unable or unwilling to share. He says simply that he is doing what he loves to do and is fortunate to be able to support what he acknowledges is his passion.

Inherent in his choice, he admits, is the impact it has on those who care about him, especially his partner Sanni McCandless. It is her tears at the end of the film that are parenthetical to a reality she can't bear to contemplate. It is an emotion that haunts this compelling, most amazing film.

Free Solo. Documentary. Directed by Elizabeth Chi Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin. 1 hr., 37 min. Rated PG-13. Released in 2018. Streaming on VUDU/Prime/hulu/Disney+/Apple tv.

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Upcoming Special Music Events

Les Trompes de Piedmont - Return of the Horns

NOV 16
10AM

During worship on Sunday, November 16, we'll enjoy a rare treat as four professional French horn players accompany Stephen Main and our Chancel Choir. They'll play ancient horns without valves and modern horns with valves.



Christmas Concert Tickets On Sale Now

Our 15th annual Christmas Concert and Reception returns Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7, 7:30pm. The theme is *Christmas, Through the Eyes of a Child*. General admission tickets, which include a gala reception with wonderful holiday food and drink, are \$50 each. Scan QR code or visit PiedmontChurch.org/concert

WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE SUNDAYS, 10AM



2025 Calendar of Events

November 5 - November 12

Wednesday, November 5:

5:30 p.m. Park Commission Meeting..... City Hall

Monday, November 10:

5:30 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting..... City Hall

Tuesday, November 11:

Veterans Day — City Offices & School Closed

Wednesday, November 12:

7:00 p.m. School Board Meeting..... City Hall

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