San Jose Mercury News
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Editorials
S.J. needs experts as trustees on pension boards

Public employee pension funds nationwide have taken it on the chin this year, and soon taxpayers will, too. Because sales of the funds have plummeted, the public will have to cough up more to meet pension obligations to state and local retirees.

San Jose's two self-funded pension funds are no exception — in fact, they're doing worse than average. The precise impact on the city's budget won't be known until next year, but as of June 30, the police and fire plan was off 28.8 percent, while the plan for other workers lost 19 percent. The reduced funds have leached more in the past year than under normal public pension funds. As of June 30, the police and fire plan was off 28.8 percent, while the plan for other workers lost 19 percent.

Children must be first and foremost

In response to the Dec. 22 shootings in Parker, Colo., the School Board took action. After hearing a proposal for a new middle school in the city's southeastern corner, the board agreed to move forward with construction of the new facility.

From developmental disabilities services to school readiness, to mental health and wellness programs, First Step has expanded its state's capacity to serve more children and families in Santa Clara County.

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Prevention and early, effective intervention services for vulnerable children offer the greatest likelihood for positive life outcomes. To repeal Proposition 3 would reduce or eliminate critical resources that we know make a significant and lasting impact in the lives of children and families. Cutting First Step's dollars in short order will result in increased long-term costs.

We cannot afford to repeal Proposition 3

Eleanor Castillo Sunu
Pediatric Speciality Center
May Institute
San Jose

Obama criticism is misplaced anger

David B. Lang (Letters, Dec. 27) misses the point. We all get it: The楼市, gun, immigration, and transatlantic issues are all symptoms of a deeper problem. The real issue is not the policies themselves, but the way they are being implemented.

San Jose's police department, like most others across the country, faces significant challenges. The department has been struggling to maintain its budget, while also addressing issues of police misconduct and community relations.

The city's and employees' annual contributions are set on those assumptions, but the city must make up most of the money when earnings come up short. The city's police department has also had to cut back on training and equipment.

Of course, the job for 36 months, has initiated reforms. Now council members and - perhaps other trustees - should let the pros take their

Cartoonist's view

Hello, I'm a cartoonist and I enjoy using my art to bring attention to important issues. My recent work has focused on the need for experts as trustees on pension boards. The current economic downturn has put a strain on public pension funds, and it's crucial that we have knowledgeable individuals to oversee their management.

Readers' letters

How to have your say

Letters of up to 125 words will be considered for publication. All letters must include a full name, address and phone number, plus any affiliations that would place your opinion in context. The full-letter policy, and additional letters, are available at mercurynews.com/opinion.

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Right to resist

Kirk Waiakulakau
San Jose

No condemnations when Israelis perish

Where were the Arab and Muslim world protests when Hamas lobbed rockets into Israel and killed innocent civilians? As usual, every country has the right to protect its own people. Only the United States has the courage to tell it as it is.

Edward Kiss
San Jose

Panetta silent on need for revenue

I have a great deal of respect for Leon Panetta and his effort to reform the reforms he called for in his commentary ("A call to get

THANKS FOR GREAT CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

I am a 79-year-old Fremont resident and am a pedestrian, and since I have been afforded the pleasure of a drive through downtown San Jose and other streets in Willow Glen. I was thoroughly impressed with the outstanding Christmas displays. Much time, labor and expense went into every one.

In an age when anti-Christmas forces are trying to erode the spirit of Christmas, it gives one hope that good people are doing such much to keep up the national traditions that have brought so much