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THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2012 • VOL. 1, NO. 43

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HEALTH CARE

Axis to open new clinic for the Tri-Valley area

Medical system's patient load expected to double by 2014

By Denis Cuff

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The Axis health care system plans to open an \$11 million clinic in Pleasanton to keep up with rising demand for low-cost medical care in Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton and surrounding communities.

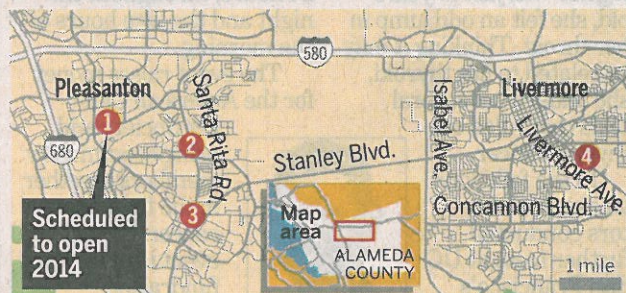
Scheduled to open in 2014 in a vacant warehouse in the Hacienda Business Park, the clinic will let the health

system treat more patients, cut appointment waiting times and expand medical staff, say managers of Axis Community Health Care.

Axis, a 40-year-old nonprofit group, provides medical care and counseling for low-income residents in and near the Tri-Valley area.

See **AXIS**, Page 6

Axis health clinics



- 1 Planned health clinic in Hacienda Business Park at 5925 West Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton
- 2 Women, infant and children clinic, 1991 Suite H, Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton
- 3 Health clinic, 4361 Railroad Ave, Pleasanton
- 4 Health clinic, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore

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Axis

Continued from Page 1

Axis' two medical clinics on Railroad Avenue in Pleasanton and Pacific Avenue in Livermore already are at capacity and expect twice as many patients to need their services by 2014.

"We are bursting at the seams," said Sue Compton, chief executive officer of Axis Community Health Care. "For patients, the new clinic means almost a doubling of our capacity. We can hire more physicians and not have as long a waiting time for some appointments."

The new clinic will have 24 exam rooms, three treatment rooms, several counseling rooms and a pharmacy. It will also will help Axis integrate medical and mental health services for patients and their families. The new clinic also will have more parking than the older Pleasanton location. It

will be located in a 24,000-square foot building at 5925 W. Los Positas Blvd. Axis has purchased the building but not yet remodeled it.

Compton said the influx of patients is fueled by local population growth, the economic downturn and changes in a federal health care law that expands coverage to more people without private health insurance.

Axis' patient load is expected to increase from 10,000 people annually to 20,000 annually by 2014 — the same year many parts of a new federal health law take effect, said Valerie Jonas, Axis' development director.

Most of Axis' patients come from Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, but some also live in Tracy, Castro Valley, Danville, San Ramon and other communities.

"People talk about the wealth in this community, but there also is a lot of need," Compton said. "And

the Tri-Valley is the fastest growing area in Alameda County."

Managers of Axis originally had planned to close the crowded downtown Pleasanton clinic — a collection of converted apartments near the Firehouse Arts Center — and relocate its functions to the new clinic.

Upon further review though, Axis decided it needed to keep the old Pleasanton clinic and open the new one, Jonas said. Axis managers plan later this year to begin a drive to help raise money for the new clinic.

City governments in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin have agreed to pitch in some funds for the project design and other work to get the site ready for remodeling.

Pleasanton has pledged to contribute \$115,000, Livermore \$125,000 and Dublin \$15,000, Axis officials said.