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Volume 20 Issue 8 2024

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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## CHAIN-REACTION ON HWY 41 six-car pile up at Ave. 12



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**CHAIN-REACTION ON HWY 41**  
six-car pile up at Ave. 12

By Randy Bailey

The latest accident to hit Southeast Madera County happened at the main entrance into the Madera Ranchos and Riverstone communities. Thankfully there were no major injuries, but the pile up did involve six vehicles in a chain reaction that tied up the busy intersection for hours.

At approximately 7:30 on the morning of Aug. 27, a trac-

tor pulling two trailers was traveling northbound on Highway 41 approaching the Avenue 12 intersection. According to the California Highway Patrol, the 57-year-old semi driver was attempting to stop but all indications were that he misjudged the situation and was unable to stop in time.

The first car that was struck was a white Honda Accord from the rear. The force of that impact sent the Honda and its 21-year-old male driver flying into a Volkswagen that was being driven by a 39-year-old woman from Fresno. But they weren't done yet.

The Volkswagen then became a projectile and was hurled into a Nissan being driven by a 30-year-old woman visiting from Italy that then caromed into the rear end of a Chevy pickup complete with its male 72-year-old Fresno driver. There was still enough force left over to hurtle the Chevy into a Lexus and its 20-year-old driver.

In all, this missed stop resulted in six vehicles crashing into one another. And yet amazingly, the injuries were considered "minor to moderate." Four of the people involved went to local hospitals and police said there was a possibility the Honda driver may have suffered a concussion. Possibly the most fortuitous outcome was that the Honda, which took the brunt of the initial impact from behind, destroying the back half of the car, had no passenger in the back seat of his car on that day.

The investigation is ongoing but at this time, the police made no mention of any controlled substances being involved.

## Last Minute Cal Bill Fights

As they culled about one-third of 830 bills, legislative committees killed one that aimed to prohibit broadband providers from charging more or offering slower Internet service in low-income areas, and another to bar law enforcement agencies from relying solely on facial recognition to arrest or search suspects.

The committees also held several Republican crime bills, including one aimed at adding stricter reviews before the state releases sexually violent predators. That prompted the author, Senate GOP leader Brian Jones of San Diego, to state that Assembly Democratic leaders are "now complicit in helping the Newsom Administration protect these predators over families."

Also held were two crime bills from the newest Senate Republican, Marie Alvarado-Gil of Modesto: one to increase the severity of the crime for making threats at schools or places of worship, and one that makes it a felony to have fentanyl while armed.

But other high-profile bills survived today's hearings — much to the relief of some advocates who have spent years fighting for their causes.

The suspense file hurdle happens twice a year, as the two appropriations committees go through hundreds of bills with a price tag (\$50,000 or more from the general fund, \$150,000 or more from a special fund), with no discussion and few recorded votes. Besides weeding out costly bills, it's also a notorious way for legislators to kill politically dicey bills.

Today, each committee decided the fate of bills passed by the other chamber. The Senate committee held 174 of 515 Assembly bills, and the Assembly panel held about 100 of 313 Senate bills — a total of 33 percent held.

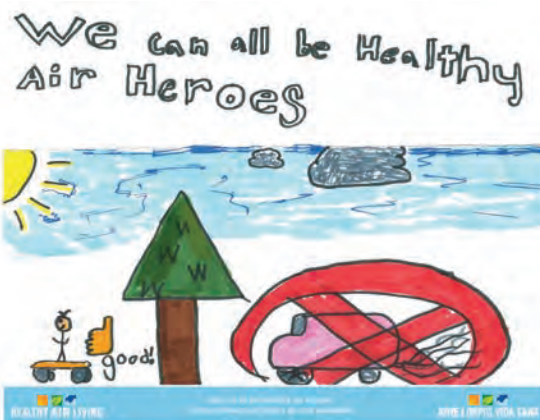
That's similar to the 32 percent held of the 1,009 bills in the May suspense file hearings. But it's higher than the 25 percent average over the last decade, according to lobbyist Chris Micheli.

## Young Artists — Create this Year's Kid's Calendar

The Valley Air District is excited to announce the 2025 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar Contest, calling on young artists (Kinder – 12th grade) across the Valley to showcase their creativity. Students are encouraged to submit their artistic interpretations of healthy air living for a chance to be featured in the 2025 calendar. This contest is an opportunity for students to contribute to a healthier future while expressing their artistic talents. Winners will receive a \$100 scholarship check, and the student whose artwork is chosen for the calendar cover will receive a \$500 scholarship check.

The deadline for calendar entries is Friday, Sept. 27, 2024. Selected entries will be featured in our bilingual calendar, highlighting ways individuals can improve air quality and quality of life for all Valley residents. As in previous years, the District will distribute the calendars to schools, community organizations, healthcare facilities, and other clean-air partners.

Guidelines for creating a winning Healthy Air Living kids calendar entry: • Paper should be placed in landscape orientation, so it is 8 1/2 inches high and 11 inches wide • Artwork should be in



color and produced by paint, pen, crayon, marker, colored pencil or even computer-generation. Vivid colors are recommended. • Artwork should contain a message about how to live a Healthy Air Life. Examples of past messages include: "Switch to an electric lawn mower," "Be cool and carpool when going to school," "Check air quality before playing outside," "Please don't idle while waiting for the kids at school." • Bilingual and Spanish-language messages are encouraged.

Artists need to include their name, grade, school as well as their parent/guardian's address, phone number and e-mail on the back of the entry. Please mail art flat, not folded or stapled, to: 2025 Kids' Calendar Contest, Valley Air District, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726, or drop off your entry at the nearest District office in Modesto, Fresno, or Bakersfield.

For an example of this year's calendar and additional information, visit [valleyair.org/kidscalender](http://valleyair.org/kidscalender). For questions about the contest, email [public.education@valleyair.org](mailto:public.education@valleyair.org) or call a regional office: in Fresno 559-230-6000, in Modesto 209-557-6400 and in Bakersfield 661-392-5500.

## Here Come the California Grapes!

With school back in session and fall weather approaching, the California table-grape industry is preparing to move the majority of its volume; every year roughly 65 percent of the crop ships after Sept. 1.

"September through December is an exciting and productive time of year, as nearly 80 different varieties are harvested, promotions expand, and the majority of the

crop ships to California grape-loving consumers around the world," said Kathleen Nave, president of the California Table Grape Commission. "A robust global marketing campaign to promote California grapes throughout the fall and early winter tied to an amazing selection of varieties, great quality and promotable volume creates strong demand." In terms of crop size,

Nave says the industry comes together three times a year to estimate the crop, and has been doing so with a high degree of accuracy for decades. "Individual viewpoints often circulate in the fall with a frequent favorite being talk of a short California grape crop. Whether coming from inside or outside the California industry, these individual narratives often masquerade as news." Nave suggests being careful about putting too much weight on them. With a

harvest that will continue well into December, Nave said that fall and early winter bring great opportunities for retailers to stock California grapes, offering customers a great-tasting, healthy option for back-to-school lunches or fall and winter celebrations. "With promising weather ahead, great demand, and promotional activities scheduled in the U.S. and 21 export markets through December, the California table grape industry is on the move!"

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Production of the poster series was made possible by a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts.  
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To order additional posters, write: NACoA, 31706 Coast Highway #201, South Laguna, California 92677, 1-714-459-3889



SPIDER-MAN

Letters

Dear Editor:

Did you catch the two hearings wherein Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle and Acting Director Ronald Rowe did not answer questions from those whom Americans have elected to represent them in the DC Swamp?

One needs only to watch House and Senate Republicans (and sometimes Democrats) questioning Biden's various cabinet members, political appointees, nominees, etc. to realize what American Mandarins are: With their noses in the air, with their confident arrogance on display, they are broadcasting to elected House and Senate members that they, DC Swamp creatures, have all the power. They commit obvious perjury, over and over again, but know they will not be punished. The smug looks on their faces matched those who testified at Trump's first impeachment hoax. It is obvious that these DC Swamp creatures don't view themselves as "public servants." Congressmen come and congressmen go. Senators come and Senators go. But DC's Mandarins remain, some for decades.

Prior to the 1911 revolution, the Chinese Empire was run by bureaucrats much like our Deep State. In theory, these "public servants" were appointed by the Emperor or Empress. In reality, over time, positions within the Mandarin hierarchy developed into a power structure. Entry into the Mandarin Class was granted by higher ranked Mandarins, in return for favors. The emperor had little control over Mandarins.

Mandarins enjoyed very high status in

Chinese society. They were able to read and write at a time when most of the masses were uneducated. They controlled the country for their own benefit, in complete disregard for the needs and wants of the masses. No one was allowed to question their work, nor their loyalty to the Emperor.

American Mandarins (AKA the Deep State) pretend to be serving "We the People." In reality, most federal bureaucrats are serving themselves and/or their selfish political goals far more than they are serving Americans. Most of their activities are hidden from view and they cover for each other's ill deeds and incompetency, even to the point of committing perjury.

Unlike the Chinese Mandarins, who wore buttons on their caps so the masses could recognize them and grovel at their feet, most American Mandarins work in anonymity or near anonymity. Americans know their names only if they reach the heights of Mandarin power (for example, Susan Rice, who was making many of the decisions in the White House until her departure in May 2023) and/or their corruption comes to light (for example, FBI Director James Comey). Before the Era of Trump, the average American understood little about the inner workings of Mandarins in the DC Swamp.

New American presidents typically get to replace more than 4,000 "political" appointees to oversee the running of their administrations. Below this rotating layer of political appointees, sits a mass of gov-

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 9



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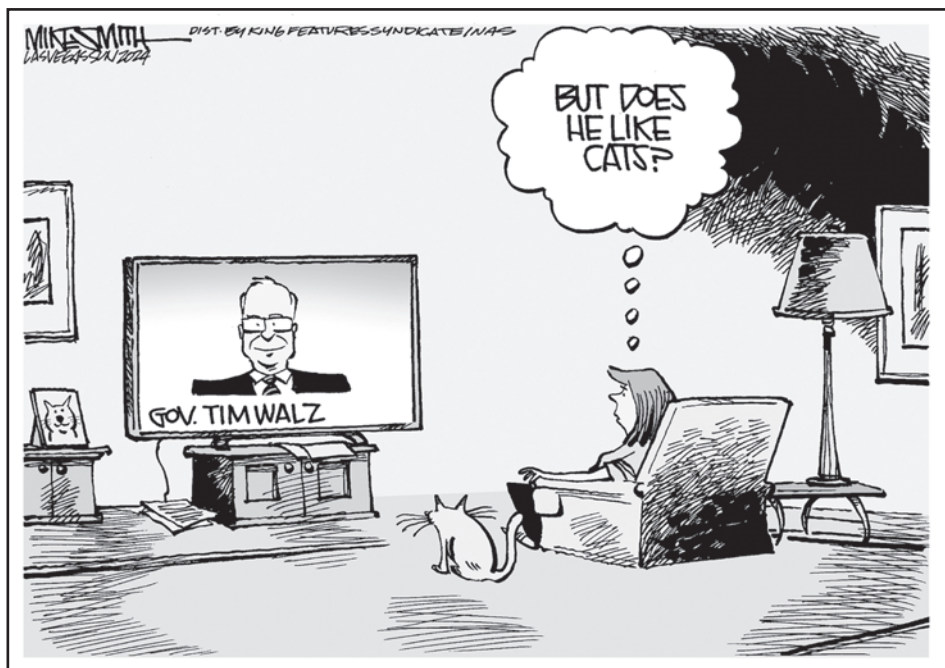
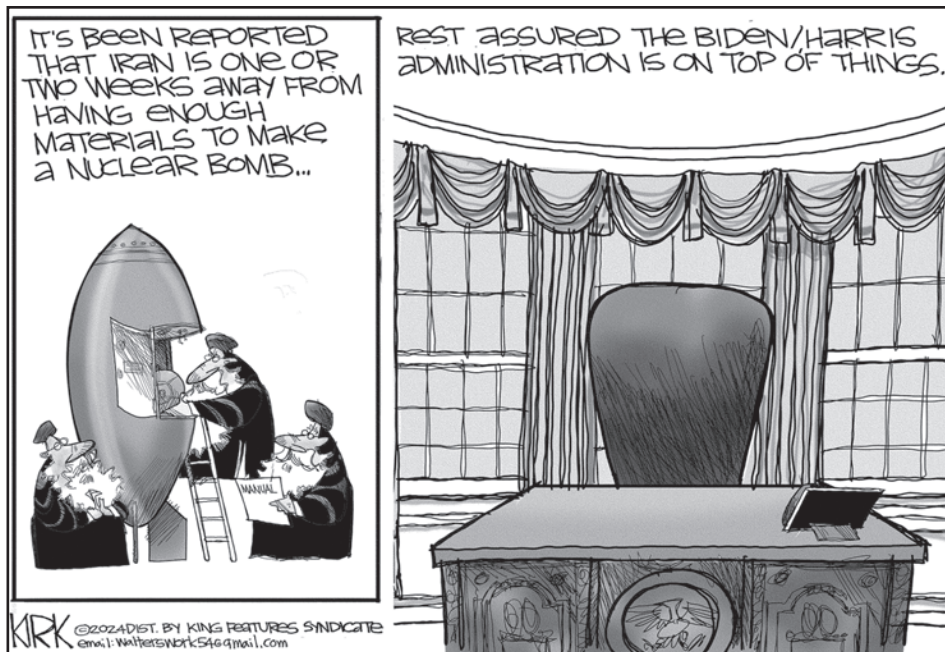
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Guest Editorial

# Losing Everything; Winning Nothing

By Rick Hayes

The economy crashing under Biden/Harris, with massive inflation and the American dream entirely out of reach of the youth, isn't mentioned by Kamala Harris supporters.

The Biden/Harris open border policy, allowing millions of illegal immigrants coming straight out of insane asylums and prisons to flood into all states, is also absent from the conversations by future Kamala Harris voters.

Not even killers being quickly released back onto American streets, women being raped in broad daylight, or children being sold into sex trafficking has found a place in the discussions of Harris advocates.

But what does take center stage in Democrat conversations around the country, and especially at the DNC, is the issue of abortion. No other topic seems to have the power to bring about a strong emotional liberal response, not to mention the ability to turn The United States into a third-world communist hell hole.

Millions of American woman voters have looked the other way at the cataclysmic disastrous policies of Kamala Harris simply because she and they are against states' rights regarding

abortion.

Abortion was not made illegal or banned as Kamala and the propaganda media like to misinform, but instead transferred from a constitutional issue to a decision to be made by the people of every state.

Regardless of this fact, and regardless that abortion will remain legal in many large cities across America, millions of women voters will cast their vote for an inexperienced, oblivious candidate who was selected as the nominee not by the American people but by special interest groups.

Abortion rights that were never taken away will still not be taken away. They will have won nothing and lost everything.

*They will have won nothing and lost everything.*

will have won nothing and lost everything.

Just like Roe v Wade, Kamala bypassed the democratic process, and instead of receiving votes, she received a blessing from the powerful Washington elites.

What will bringing back Roe v Wade accomplish if no America is left after eight years of Harris?

Just like Harris' policies, the re-establishment of Roe v Wade will not pay the rent, provide safer streets, close the border, or bring down the high cost of living.

A Harris Presidency will see further destruction of the economy and introduce freedom-stealing communism into American society. Voters blinded by Roe v Wade will find themselves struggling to make ends meet, on unsafe streets, and laboring like so many in third-world countries.

By focusing on Roe v Wade and voting for Harris, these voters will have destroyed their own economic futures for at least the next eight years, be witness to one million young American deaths due to Fentanyl overdoses, and see thousands of young American servicemen die in the inevitable wars in Eastern Europe, China and the Middle East, but abortion rights that were never taken away will still not be taken away.

They will have won nothing and lost everything.

*This editorial originally appeared on canadafreepress.com*

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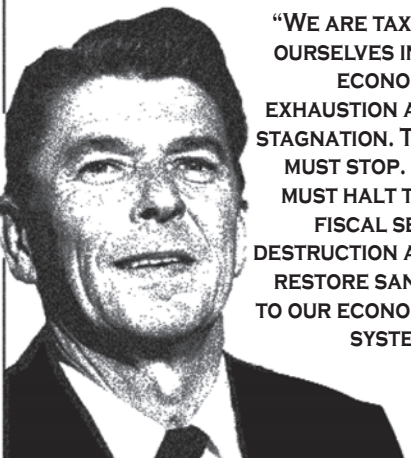
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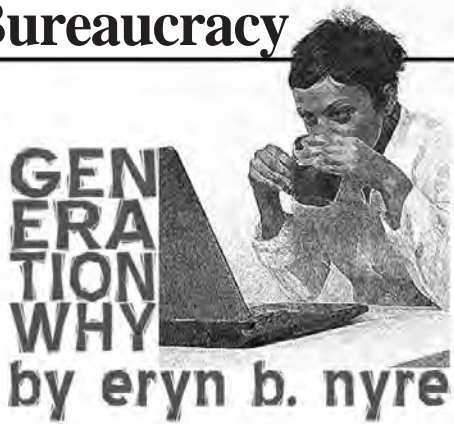
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**RONALD REAGAN**  
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

# Three Cheers for Bureaucracy



by **eryn b. nyre**

When I first started working for the state, I most certainly didn't think it would be the model of efficiency. I have worked in healthcare for years, so I'm used to doing things the difficult and even wasteful way because the bureaucracy supersedes all. Well, since government is the birthplace of the bureaucracy, it only makes sense that it does it better than everyone else. Allow me to illustrate my point with an example.

I run a unit within a division of a division of a department. It is adjacent to healthcare in that my department oversees an aspect of Medicaid dedicated to helping those with intellectual or developmental disabilities get the proper support they need. Part of my job is hiring. It has quickly become my least favorite duty. I've been trying to get one of my positions filled for about three months now. One might think perhaps the holdup was because I'm not getting enough applicants, or that I am dragging my feet interviewing people. One would be incorrect; it's the red tape. The blasted red tape.

When the position first became vacant, I had to complete a form in order to fill it. This form had to go to my supervisor and the deputy director of my division's division. Ok, not unreasonable. Then it goes to the finance director to ensure the position is in the budget. It is, because someone just vacated it, but budgets change so you have to check, I can live with that. Finally, the form is reviewed by the department's director. Once she signs it, it comes back to me to send to HR. At this point I would have thought that was it. That was the process. What a naïve little lamb I was. No, they turn that form into three forms, where one goes back to the finance director and one goes back to the department director both for a final super extra vigilant review. The third one stays in HR and is used to create the job posting, once the other two redundant forms are returned. For funsies, I asked if they

have to take the information on that third form and manually enter the data into the software program that handles the actual job postings. I don't actually have to tell you their answer, do I? They call it checks and balances, I call it someone was never taught the shortest distance between two points is a straight-line theory.

The next steps are pretty basic:

*Now if you'll excuse me, I must get back to it. The forms aren't going to fill themselves out, you know.*

review the resumes, select some for interview, conduct interviews, then choose someone to hire. HR sends an excel spreadsheet with the resumes so you can fill out who you didn't choose to interview and why, who you chose to interview and why you didn't select him or her, and finally who you interviewed and selected for hire. I love a spreadsheet as much as the next data junkie, so this doesn't bother me. I just fill it out, send it back to HR, then the offer letter goes out and if the applicant accepts, then my position is filled. Right? Wrong. The state says nay to that suggestion of moderate efficiency. When there is bureaucracy to be "bureaucraced," then more shenanigans must be afoot.

Once the spreadsheet is filled out and sent, there are – oh yes folks – more forms. This next form has nearly matching information to the original form I filled out to post the position a whole century ago. The main difference being the candidates name and actual salary (as opposed to the generic salary range) is listed. At least I just have to sign this form and send it back to be included in what I assume is a file

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 7

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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

bulging with various unnecessary shreds of dismantled trees. Incorrect again, you silly non-government worker. We take our red tape seriously here at the government and there will be nothing left un-red-taped in the entire state once we are done with our red taping.

The form, as it happens, has to go back through the entire roster of people as the original form. I'm wondering, do the people at the top not have enough work to do, so they create forms and processes in order to justify their very existence? I feel like we should pull at that thread and see what unravels, but I digress. Allow me to point out that despite the fact that it takes seconds to review something you've already reviewed and attach your signature, it takes weeks to get all the pieces to complete their part and move it down the muddy, sludgy, slow-moving river that is this

process.

Once this new form goes all the way through, it is only then that I get the offer letter and can call the candidate. A candidate I interviewed over a month ago. A candidate who already accepted, and started, another position. I asked if I could just get an offer letter for the next person on the list. Ludicrous! The bureaucracy is at stake. We must go back to the spreadsheet and start the process over. Round and round the carousel of nightmares we go. As a side note, I am currently hiring for two positions, same everything but two separate roles vacated by two different people. So not only am I doing all of this in duplicate, for one of the roles I am on my third go-round because the first two candidates didn't accept.

Your tax dollars at work, ladies and gentlemen! I'm all for accountability, but this is absurd. Now if you'll excuse me, I must get back to it. The forms aren't going to fill themselves out, you know.



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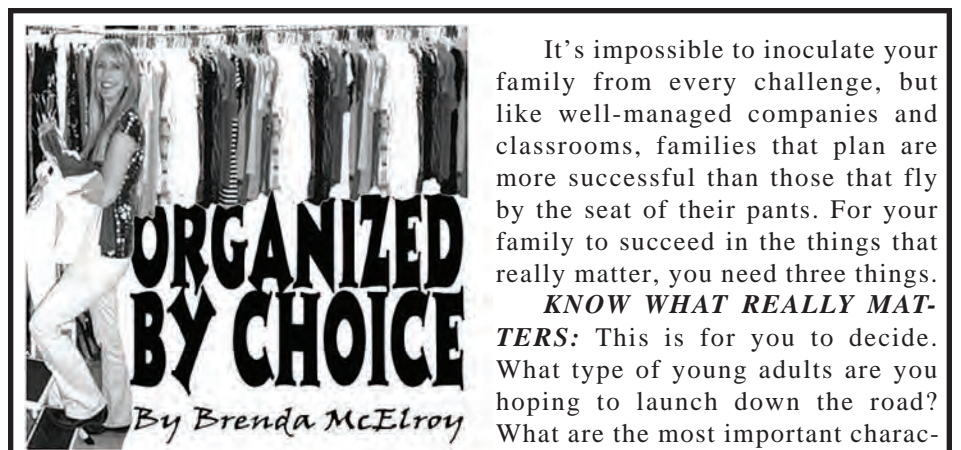
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**ORGANIZED BY CHOICE**  
 By Brenda McElroy

**What REALLY Matters?**

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.” Francis Chan

As the new school year begins, schedules pick up pace. It's easy for families to succumb to the urgent and forfeit the important. What keeps families on track?

Businesses have mission statements, staff meetings and standard operating procedures. Classrooms have Grade Level Objectives, designated teaching times and routines that provide order and structure. Families have ... well?

In his book *The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family*, Patrick Lencioni says, “... most of us go about leading and managing our families with almost no formal context. We don't take time to explicitly decide who we are, what we stand for, what we want and how we're going to go about succeeding and thriving as a family.”

He says families don't often think about the need for planning and strategy and don't consider the cost of chaos.

It's impossible to inoculate your family from every challenge, but like well-managed companies and classrooms, families that plan are more successful than those that fly by the seat of their pants. For your family to succeed in the things that really matter, you need three things.

**KNOW WHAT REALLY MATTERS:** This is for you to decide. What type of young adults are you hoping to launch down the road? What are the most important character traits and abilities you want them to have? What values does your family hold in high regard? What do you want them to take with them — good memories, skills, faith, etc.?

**COMMUNICATE WHAT REALLY MATTERS:** We are intentional about teaching our children many things — walking and talking, riding a bike, chewing with their mouths closed. Don't rely on the im-

*“Consistency doesn't mean perfection; it simply means not giving up.”*

portant things being caught and not taught. Have a designated family time on a regular basis. Make it fun and meaningful with activities, snacks and time to talk about what really matters.

**BUILD ROUTINES AROUND WHAT REALLY MATTERS:** Create morning, after school and evening routines that include time for chores, rest, homework, prep for the next day, etc. Be as specific as necessary with start/stop times and family mealtimes. Download some family conversation starters to use at dinner. Family dinners are a huge challenge to schedule these days, but also reap some of the greatest rewards.

None of us do it perfectly 100 percent of the time. Joanna Weaver says, “Consistency doesn't mean perfection; it simply means not giving up.”

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8/24

## Back to School

(August 2014)

**Editor's Note:** With the passing of Aunt Jean, I have decided to bring you a "Best Of" of her recipes over the past 10 years. Good recipes are timeless and I hope you enjoy them all over again.



would be easier to peel.

Have you had trouble in the past with someone stealing your child's sandwich out of his lunch bag? I have the solution! There is a site on the internet for Anti-theft Sandwich bags. After looking at them, I can understand why no one would want to eat the sandwich they just stole. This sandwich bag is made to look like the sandwich in it is all moldy. I know some kids that would think it a blast for someone to try to steal their sandwich.

### Sandwich Ideas

There are so many combinations available today for sandwiches. There isn't just white or

Well, school has started – where did the time go? Vacation is over, but summer won't be over until Sept. 23. It is still hot – I think it was 101 today. As I've said so many times, the best thing about summer is I know winter is on its way. Yes, I like the fog and rain.

For you families with school children that are up in the morning trying to get them fed and lunches fixed, I have seen the menu for the local cafeterias and some of them look quite tasty. For those days your child doesn't want to eat in the cafeteria,

there is always the box lunch from home. When we were in school, most everyone ate in the cafeteria. The food was excellent. It was cooked on the premises and almost like home cooking. The only time I remember taking my lunch was the three years we

*I can still remember my mom's bologna sandwiches. I don't know what was so special about them, but I loved them. Thinking back it just may have been the bologna that we bought at a meat market. It was a stick that you sliced at home and it had a wrapping on it that you had to peel off before eating it.*

lived in San Francisco during WWII. I can still remember my mom's bologna sandwiches. I don't know what was so special about them, but I loved them. Thinking back it just may have been the bologna that we bought at a meat market. It was a stick that you sliced at home and it had a wrapping on it that you had to peel off before eating it. We didn't have the plastic wrap or the sandwich bags we have today. Everything was wrapped in wax paper, even potato chips and cookies. And did you get an orange in your lunch? Mama always "scored" it (run the tip of a paring knife in a circle around the top and strips down the sides) so it

brown bread; there is pita bread, mini croissants, sandwich rolls (cut to the size your child can handle), and tortillas for wraps. Or how about peanut butter on raisin bread? And so many different kinds of fillings. Not just bologna, ham or cheese, or combinations thereof. My mom would take the leftover Sunday roast and put it through the food grinder (they didn't have food processors in those days), added Miracle Whip – of course you could add mayo – and use it as a spread for sandwiches.

I love a good tuna fish sandwich, but I want to eat it as soon as it is made, because I don't like to let it sit and make the bread soggy. When I worked, I would fix the sandwich as usual, only not put the tuna on. I would put the tuna in a separate container then put it on the bread when I was ready to eat lunch.

I was on the internet looking for ideas for this article and I

found some excellent sites. I Googled "school kids lunches" and "school kids sandwiches."

Having trouble getting your child to eat a good whole wheat bread because he or she only wants white bread? How about using one slice of white and one slice of whole wheat with a design on each. Put the two slices of bread together before putting in the filling, and using a cookie cutter, cut a design from the center of each slice. Then take the design from the brown

slice and put it in the spot that was cut from the white bread and do the same with the white slice. At least you'll get them to eat half brown bread.

Or how about a wrap? Put a flour tortilla in the microwave for about 20 seconds so it will be easier to roll. Using your choice of fillings: lettuce that has been sliced very thin, grape tomatoes, sliced olives, red bell pepper that has been

Please see RECIPES on P. 9

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**RECIPES** cont. from P. 8

chopped, grated cheese, and sliced turkey or ham lunch meat. Spread the tortilla with ranch dressing and layer each ingredient on half of the tortillas. Fold in each side of the tortilla and roll the wrap from the end with the filling, making sure to tuck in the filling as you roll. You can cut the roll in half if you wish to make it easier to handle.

Or how about a sandwich on a stick for fun? Using the ingredients your child would like in a sandwich, put it on a stick. Cube a slice of bread, cheese of choice and lunch meat. Slide onto a

*... how about a sandwich on a stick for fun? Using the ingredients your child would like in a sandwich, put it on a stick. Cube a slice of bread, cheese of choice and lunch meat. Slide onto a skewer with other foods your child will eat.*

skewer with other foods your child will eat. Olives, pickles, grape tomatoes or a piece of lettuce. You might want to add a little container of ranch dressing for dipping. Also, I would suggest not using the skewers that look like big toothpicks – don't think the school would appreciate a child playing with them after they eat their lunch. I've seen packages of the sticks used for candy ap-

ples in the grocery store that might work better than the skewer.

Who says lunch has to be a sandwich? There are all kinds of things you can use for box lunches. How about a thermos of warm left-over stew or soup from the night before dinner? Or a piece of left over pizza – yes, I know kids (and adults) that will eat cold pizza. Or

a spaghetti sandwich – yes, spaghetti! Butter two slices of bread, put the spaghetti on one and top with the other and Viola! A spaghetti sandwich. I know adults that will eat that!

I hope I have been able to give you some ideas for lunch boxes

or bags. And I didn't even get into the desserts available. There are all kinds of prepackaged cookies and some just 100 calories, and there are all of the prepackaged gelatins, puddings and fruit that are available. If you are afraid to send one of your good spoons (I know they can be tossed with the wrappers), why not purchase a package of disposable spoons so you don't need to worry?

**LETTERS** cont. from P. 4

ernment workers who enjoy strong employment protections and typically continue their service from one administration to the next, regardless of the president's party affiliation. Too many of them are more interested in maintaining their relatively luxurious lifestyles and/or promoting a Leftist ideology than they are performing their duties. Indeed, they do not identify as "public servants," but rather see themselves as superior to most of their fellow Americans. Therefore, too many of them spent Trump's entire term trying to sabotage his America-First agenda.

Most Americans already have a good idea why American Mandarins' venomous fangs came out on Nov. 8, 2016 and have not yet been retracted. But allow me to add my take: American Mandarins have been grifting off the American people for decades, as taxes got ever higher, and the average American got ever poorer. That's why nine out of the 10 wealthiest counties are in the

Washington DC Metro Area. They expected their grift and their power to strengthen and expand under Hillary Clinton's presidency, but along came Donald J. Trump, an outsider who wasn't a member of the Mandarin Class, who knew Americans were being cheated. Actually, it wasn't Trump who exposed them. Many American Mandarins exposed themselves in their irrational zeal to get rid of the first America-First and Americans-First president since Reagan. NOTE: American Mandarins hated President Reagan, too.

Americans think we are electing presidents, senators and congresspeople to run the government, but American Mandarins control 99 percent of what happens in the DC Swamp. Trump has vowed that he will decrease the Mandarins' power during his second term.

Presidents come and presidents go. Senators come and senators go. Congressmen come and congressmen go ... but American Mandarins stay forever.

Diane L. Gruber

*Senior Report*

# The Fruitful Months of Summer

By *Melanie Williams*

These summer months were full of indoor activities to beat the heat. We enjoyed evening potlucks, fun group games, Indian basket weaving, book club conversations and senior lunches with fresh, cool salads in the comfort of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The members of the Senior Center would like to express their sincere appreciation for all the donations of fresh fruit and eggs during the summer months. Joe Rodriguez provided an opportunity to pick beautiful blackberries from his local farm. George and Judy Hagler brought in apricots, peaches and tomatoes fresh from the vine. Jan and Ellen Williams donated fresh picked ap-



*Summer fruits and vegetables were brought into the Senior Center by community members and then were enjoyed by all. Donators included Joe Rodriguez, George and Judy Hagler, Jan and Ellen Williams and Nathan Hutchison.*

ples and figs. Nate's Chicks, owned and operated by Nathan Hutchison, donates eggs for each Saturday Sale. Thank you for all the wonderful community support for our local Senior Center.

Our Seniors had the wonderful opportunity to watch a dress rehearsal for a Juneteenth Celebration by the Mitchell sisters. The performance included an oral presentation and historic musical numbers by African American artists from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s. Gerrie, Celetta and Alice Mitchell shared their story of growing up with music and singing in the Bay Area and Oakland, Calif.

The audience recognized songs from the past, even laughed and "be-bopped" to the music. These ladies still "got talent," even in their 80s.

The summer months are a great time to just hang out at the Senior Center because you never know when opportunities will just walk through the door. The Madera County Department of Social Services had a presentation introducing their program to the Madera Ranchos community at the Senior Center in June. Seniors living in the community filled out surveys, they provided a beautiful cake and had a participation raffle for gift cards.

Madera Social Services want input to create a Local Aging and Disability Action Plan for Madera County residents. We have invited them back to the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. The invitation to participate in this

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 17

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*Kiwanis Korner*

**Baskets of Fun for Kiwanis**

*By Sally Rowden*

The 2024-2025 school year is starting. Children, families and communities are in full swing to meet the many beginning school needs. Kiwanis, too, is focusing their many events and projects to support the children and schools in our communities.

Our first fundraising project is our Fall/Halloween Basket Raffle. Our designer is our own Ollia Ridge. Her creativity is amazing. I had the pleasure of winning the Spring/Easter Basket Raffle a couple of years ago, and I was amazed. I got to take home many surprise marvels along with special yummy treats. So be on the lookout for our members selling tickets in our communities. The cost is six tickets for \$5. We will be selling tickets from the end of August through the week before Halloween. You can also purchase tickets by contacting me at rowdensally2@gmail.com. All proceeds go toward the children and schools of our communities.

Every second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of the month we meet at Second Son Brews. The gathering starts at 6 p.m. and is located at 37167 Avenue 12, Suite 4C in the Ranchos. We invite a guest speaker once a month to present. The presentation plans for our first three months center on an Eagle Scout Project, the Friends of Madera Animal Shelter and the Madera Fire Captain. Send an email if you have something of community interest that you would like to present. Or if you would like to attend to hear one of our presenters let us know. Send inquiries to the same email listed above.

Plans are in the works to have our Winter/Christmas Tea again this year. That event takes place in the earlier part of November. It sincerely is a festive event. So festive that Santa can't stay away. The silent auction offers fantastic opportunities to obtain holiday gifts and/or gifts for yourself. Lunch is served by the Liberty High School – Key Club members at elegantly set tables. The place, time, date and cost are to be finalized within the next few weeks. Be on the lookout for flyers in our communities with the complete details.

We do hope to branch out in the next few months, having our meetings at different locations within our communities. We will keep you informed through the Ranchos Independent and the website of "What's Up in The Ranchos?". Hopefully we can send out the information far enough in advance that would allow folks to attend who would like to know more about Kiwanis.

My quote in closing is in tune with the new school year beginning: "The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." – B.B. King.



[www.RanchosKiwanis.com](http://www.RanchosKiwanis.com)



*Be a lost pet ally*

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** My brother and I saw a dog that matched the photo of a

lost dog on flyers around the neighborhood. We tried calling him, but he ran off. So we told our mom what happened and she called the number on the flyer. I don't know if the owners found the dog. We're wondering if we did the right thing. Why did the dog run away? — Brian and Sarah in Cincinnati

**DEAR BRIAN AND SARAH:** You did the right thing by telling your mom so that she could call the owners and tell them where you spotted the lost dog. Don't feel bad about the dog run-ning away: Lost dogs

are often shy of strangers. Some will not even come when their owners call. But, by telling them the location, the owners have a much better chance of recovering their dog. Here's how you can support owners who are searching for a lost pet: — Take a photo of a lost pet flyer with your smartphone. You can instantly refer back to it if you see a pet matching the description. — Don't call or chase a dog or cat if you spot it. Contact the owner as soon as possible and give them the location where you spotted the pet. —

If the pet approaches you calmly, try to keep them in place by petting or giving them treats, until you can put a leash on them and bring them to a safe containment area. Contact the owner or local shelter. If the pet appears to be ill or injured, carefully approach and wrap them in an old blanket before attempting to pick them up. — If the pet is being aggressive, contact animal control. Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of Southeast Madera County.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of Southeast Madera County, directing it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel an obligation to improve the quality of life in Southeast Madera County .

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*Calendar of Upcoming Events*

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*When is the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?*

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, September 11 at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and see what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

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# SEE YOU SUNDAY!

# SEMUCU *speaks*

By Igal Treibatch

## *SEMUCU funding and grants for our community*

All of us are busy trying to improve our lives and sometimes we are too busy to step out of our comfort zone and add to our load. Granted, it is the human way, and we must accept it. We all have our daily routine and the responsibilities we must keep up with while expanding beyond them can be a real burden. It is rare to find people who have the time, the energy or the will

of SEMCU successes in funding projects and it is not without effort. One hundred forty-six recharge wells at a cost of over \$500,000 free to property owners; two grants totaling over \$400,000 for water and energy savings and much more. You must understand, all the board members of SEMCU are ordinary Madera neighbors of yours with the mission of helping our community to become more vibrant and successful.

Grants: SEMCU recently entered into a relationship with a grant writer expanding our potential to look for, apply and receive funds from grants supporting an array of projects for which we in Madera may qualify. Success is never guaranteed, but with the help of Paul Negrete, we are given a better chance. Paul lives in Fresno and has 28 years of grant writing experience, writing for non-profit entities, among others. He taught grant writing courses at



to go above and beyond their needs and sacrifice their personal time to help to improve areas of lives that do not directly impact all of us. Does one look beyond their home fence and see what they can do to improve what is inside their fence, their home and yard? As I describe above, sometime yes and sometime no. The point I'm attempting to make is quite simple: Improving your surroundings will improve you and your family's overall living conditions and happiness. SEMCU (the nonprofit in southeast Madera County) exists to help achieve exactly that. It exists with one purpose in mind and charter: "Help our community improve and provide better living conditions without judgement."

You may ask, "Where are the funds to run all the activities and projects SEMCU embarks on?" It all comes from local farmers and businesses operating in Southeast Madera County as well as grants when we are able to obtain them. There is a long list

Fresno State adult School for 10 years. We welcome Paul and wish him and all of us success in this endeavor.

Please join SEMCU in making a difference and improving our community. We invite our community members to participate in our initiative. We always welcome new board members from our community. Together we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

SEMUCU meets only once a month for about an hour at 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr., or you may attend virtually by going on your computer or phone online to [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) for the link and simple instructions. You may also phone in by calling 669-900-6833 then enter ID# 83632424343 following by code 854221.

Our next meeting is Sept. 17 at 6 p.m.

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**Golden Oak 4-H**

Welcome back to another incredible 4-H year, Golden Oak families. Our club will be holding its first general club meeting of the 2024-25 program year on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at the Madera Ranchos public library, 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Madera Ranchos. Our business meeting begins at 7 p.m. and after that we will have a meet and greet with all club leaders and project leaders. We will also be serving light refreshments. If you are interested in joining or are just curious what Golden Oak and 4-H has to offer, come on down. We would love to see community members there as well.

This will be Golden Oak 4-H's second year serving the Madera Ranchos community. We offer a wide range of projects including: Candy Making, Poultry, Cavies, Dog, Rabbits, Pygmy Goats, Shooting Sports, Beef Cattle, Meat Goats, Aviation, Swine and Public Speaking to our regular members 9 years of age and older. We also have a Cloverbud group open to members 5 years old to 9 years old. Don't see the project you are interested in? We are always recruiting dedicated community members to serve as project leaders interested in offering more opportunities to our youth in the area. Follow your knowledge and your passion and help us build a stronger 4-H program.

*Getting ready for a whole new year of 4-H fun while learning about Ag Science are members of the Golden Oak 4-H group.*

If you are interested in learning more about 4-H and our club, please feel free to drop in at our club meeting. You can also reach out to our Community Club Leaders Monique Morgan and Jennifer Williams-Garzon at 4hgoldennoak@gmail.com with any questions or for additional information. Looking forward to seeing you all in September.

**Sierra Shadows 4-H**

By Jake Poore

Dear Community, before I introduce you to our new officer team for 2024-2025, I wanted to thank you for the support you have shown our youth. Maybe you have a child in our club, or have been a guest speaker, an adult volunteer, gone to the fair to see our projects or have supported an important fundraiser cause. Thank you! We appreciate new opportunities to learn new skills and be contributing citizens in our Ranchos community. I have been in Sierra Shadows for nine years and as a Senior at Liberty High School, and my last year in 4-H, these past years have been full of fun with friends under our motto: Learn by Doing. Come check out our club.



*Not to be out done, the 2024-2025 Sierra Shadows 4-H club gathers its member together at Sierra View Elementary in anticipation of a new year.*

You are invited to meet the new Sierra Shadows 2024-2025 Officer Team and join our fun group with diverse projects offered. please join us on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at Sierra View Elementary School. Meet other parents, leaders and families and enroll in your favorite projects this year.

This year we have about 21 diverse projects available: Archery, Arts and Crafts, Beef, Cloverbuds, Community Pride, Culinary, Dog, Floral, Goats, Horse and Pony, Beginning Horsemanship, Outdoor Adventure, Photography, Poultry, Public Speaking, Pygmy Goats, Rabbits, Robotics, Sewing, Sheep and Swine.

For now, find us on Facebook: Sierra Shadows 4-H Club and look for future updates.

4-H Happenings  
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SENIORS cont, from P. 10

event is extended to older adults, individuals with disabilities, caregivers and anyone who is interested in enhancing our community's welfare. They are providing lunch and raffles prizes during the program. This is a community event, so if you are interested, please come and find out more about our local county services.

September is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to some cooler days and the softer, gentle breezes of Autumn.

Our September Potluck is on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. It's Game Night after the potluck, so bring your favorite card or table game to share with the group. Please call for more information and to sign up at the Senior Center at 559-645-4864.

Membership Appreciation Day Ice Cream Social is on Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. Homemade ice cream and toppings are always a fun treat for the night. We are looking for volunteers to help us with making a tub of homemade ice cream for the event. Please call the Senior Center if you and any guests are able to come or if you can help with homemade ice cream and toppings.

Our Monthly Saturday Sale is on Sept. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Everyone is back and we are accepting donations again from the community. The Senior Center is planning to upgrade the Treasure House with a better cooling system this fall, so come to the Monthly Saturday Sale and help support our local nonprofit community Senior Center.

The Odd Fellows Breakfast is on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. They are located at 28860 Ave. 15 in Madera. The Sunday Breakfast is wonderful and a great way to start the week.

Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Senior Center is a local food distribution site for the Madera County Food Bank's Brown Bag Program. You can still get an application and sign up for the Brown Bag with the Madera Food Bank.

The Senior Center has weekly and monthly activities for seniors to enjoy. Come in any weekday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and pick up our monthly newsletter and calendar.

The Senior Center will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 to observe Labor Day. Enjoy the holiday from the members of the Rancho/Hills Senior Center.

Quote for September: "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." — Arthur Ashe

## SENIOR NEWS

By Matilda Charles

### Finding the Information You Need

We don't always need to have the answers to questions on the tip of our tongue. Whether it's things we knew long ago and have forgotten, or if it's information about our current world, sometimes it's enough to know where to find that information.

Check the *Senior Blue Book* (seniors-bluebook.com) for a whole library of information. Whether it's articles or video, use the dropdown menus to look for information on healthy aging, elder law and so much more. All of us have words we've never been certain how to pronounce. Again, pull up a search engine and type in the word you want and "pronounce."

And if you need translations from a foreign language? Type into the search box "translate [name of foreign language]

to English." Then copy and paste the foreign words into the box. English will appear in the box next to it.

Look at *ThirdAge* (thirdage.com) for a collection of information on fitness, family, food, health and more.

If you want to beef up your internet skills, start with *Seniors Guide to Computers* (seniorsguidetocomputers.com) for good information on the basics, doing email, online security and saving your data. The site includes links to 300 YouTube how-to videos and is run by a guy with 40 years of computer experience.

Bookmark several different search engines on your computer: Google, DuckDuckGo and Bing are well known ones that you can trust. Once you get used to looking up information, you'll be all set for any question that comes up.

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## Kamala, what is so darn funny?

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Certainly not the state of our nation. Certainly not your economic proposals. Certainly not your non-presidential demeanor. And certainly not your apparent disdain for ordinary Americans' intelligence.

Every economic proposal you make seems to question the common sense and self-sufficiency of ordinary American citizens – and digs deep into our pockets. Apparently, in your opinion, we cannot possibly succeed without government's intervention, handouts and a managed economy – all with government strings and rules attached; and of course, with the money taken through taxes from our own pockets.

Your every proposal has a high price tag, and while being presented as largesse from the federal government and therefore from you, every penny the government spends or gives away comes first from the pockets of taxpayers. The more the government "gives," the more deeply our pockets must be picked.

Your proposals are certainly not funny.

Your proposal for addressing grocery prices is to ban "price gouging" – or as you say with a cackle, price "gaging"

– for food and groceries. And to give the Federal Trade Commission the authority to go after companies that it determines to be price "gaging/gouging." Wow! There is no explanation of what gouging/gaging is, but the government will let citizens know whenever they commit the heinous act and how much they will pay for it! How funny is that?

Your proposal to address housing costs is to provide \$25,000 in down payment assistance (money taken from all taxpayers' pockets) for first-time home buyers, and to "invest in" (spend more tax dollars) as a tax credit for developers to build starter homes, and invest \$40 million in an innovation fund, whatever that is. So, let's see: first the government takes from us in taxes what money we have and then spends it as it sees fit – as usual. Here's a funny question: Why not tax everyone less, get out of our lives, and let us provide for ourselves and decide where to spend our money?

Your proposal to address rental costs is to expand a tax credit for developers to build "affordable" housing rental units. What's affordable? Why rental units? And why give a tax credit? There is no explanation for any of it, but I guess you will know the result when you see it, and developers will get a break from the taxes of all Americans.

Your proposed child tax credit is to give families a \$6,000 tax credit for each newborn. Wow, Kamala, how nice of you. And what a clever way to use the tax code to "buy" votes and perhaps to "produce" more Democrat voters.

How about this radical proposal? Slash government spending altogether and then tax everyone less – much less. Leave more money in our pockets and let us choose how to spend our money. Just a thought.

• In 1939, George Bernard Dantzig, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, arrived late for a statistics class and copied the two problems on the blackboard, assuming they were the homework, then handed them in a few days later. Several weeks afterward, he was awakened by his professor's excited knock at the door: The "homework" was actually unsolved problems in statistics that Dantzig had managed to prove.

- Since avocados never ripen on trees, farmers can use the trees as a way to store and keep the fruit fresh for up to seven months.
- As comedian Bob Hope lay on his deathbed in 2003, his wife Dolores asked where he'd like to be buried. His reply? "Surprise me."
- Female bats give birth while hanging upside down, catching the baby in their wings.
- At the end of 1914, when Russia was fighting in World War I, the country's army had 6,553,000 men, but just 4,652,000 rifles.

## Strange BUT TRUE

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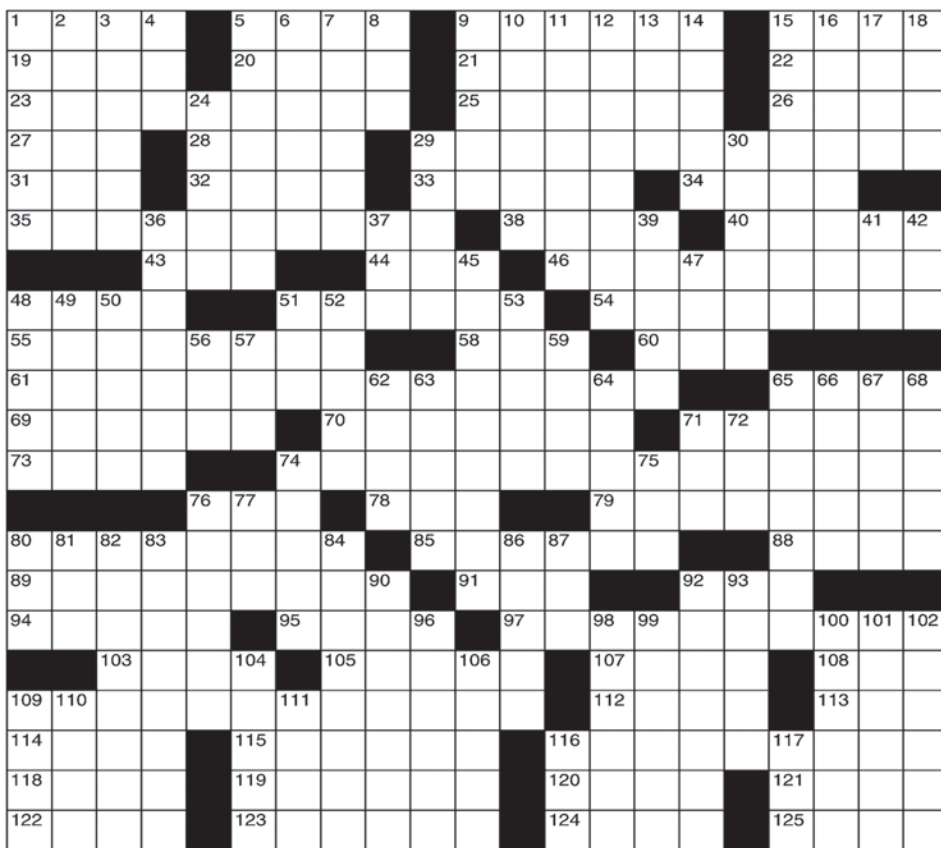


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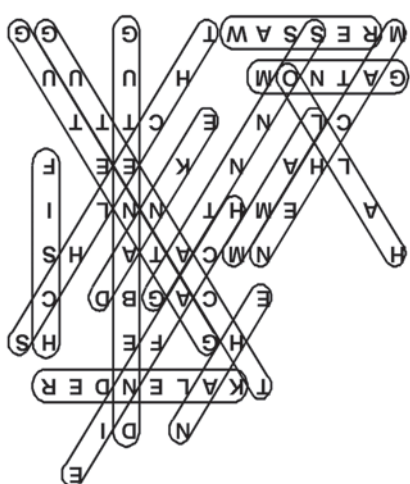
# Super Crossword



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## AZORES

3	6	18				
=	=	=				
5	+	2	x	8	=	56
-	÷			+		
7	+	3	-	6	=	4
+	+					
1	+	9	+	4	=	14



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

A	C	L	U	R	I	C	A	E	A	G	L	E	D	G	A	R	B		
F	L	A	G	A	D	O	S	C	R	E	O	L	E	A	M	I	E		
F	I	S	H	S	H	O	P	S	R	I	T	U	A	L	Z	B	A	R	
I	O	S	E	R	I	C	R	U	S	H	S	H	I	P	I	N	G		
R	U	E	N	A	D	A	E	S	T	E	E	S	L	A	T				
M	E	S	H	S	H	O	R	T	S	A	L	D	A	E	C	I	G	S	
D	A	V	A	R	A	C	I	O	N	I	C	P	O	I	S	O	N	E	R
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S	L	E	D																
P	R	I	C	E	T	A	G	N	E	W	E	S	T						
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A	R	I	A	S	L	A	R	A	D	I	S	H	A	P	E	D			
S	P	A	R	I	D	M	A	I	T	A	I	O	U	E	I	T	O	R	N
G	I	V	E	A	N	N	O	Y	S	U	N	E	S	E	D	I	T		
A	X	E	S	D	E	G	R	E	E										

Say you saw it in the **Independent**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Human rights org.
  - 5 Costa —
  - 9 Scored two under par
  - 15 Apparel
  - 19 Stars and Stripes, e.g.
  - 20 Big whoops
  - 21 Louisiana cuisine style
  - 22 French girlfriend
  - 23 Places to buy salmon fillets and such
  - 25 Everyday routine
  - 26 Metal beam with two flanges
  - 27 Brainpower stats
  - 28 Actor Bana
  - 29 Overnight delivery, say
  - 31 Regret deeply
  - 32 Nothin' at all
  - 33 Lauder of perfumery
  - 34 Shutter strip
  - 35 Breathable gym bottoms
  - 38 Actor Alan
  - 40 Vaping devices
  - 43 Some tech. inst. grads
  - 44 Trio after G
  - 46 They're like lay-ups, but farther from the basket
  - 48 Father, to a tiny tot
  - 51 Like some artificial body parts
  - 54 A snake injecting venom, e.g.
  - 55 Become too warm
  - 58 Like a bass voice
  - 60 Napoleonic marshal
  - 61 Coin that was worth 12 pence
  - 65 Purvey
  - 69 Often-flexed arm muscles
  - 70 Paint coat applied to rough plaster
  - 71 Brand of snowmobiles
  - 73 Snow glider
  - 74 Informal name for a herding breed
  - 76 Congregated
  - 78 Concealed
  - 79 City development area
  - 80 Dangler on a garment in a store
  - 85 Most modern
  - 88 Harper of "Far North"
  - 89 Top worn on a safari
  - 91 Snooze
  - 92 Epoch
  - 94 Opera solos
  - 95 Tomb-raiding Croft
  - 97 Resembling a plate
  - 103 Turner of the Washington Nationals
  - 105 Check recipient
  - 107 Tubular snack cake
  - 108 Flat-fixing org.
  - 109 Guard to keep something dry
  - 112 Novelist Kingsley or Martin
  - 113 "Despicable Me" villain
  - 114 Very dry
  - 115 Tiki bar drink
  - 116 What nine answers in this puzzle suggest that you do twice?
  - 118 Donate
  - 119 Peeves
  - 120 Les — (French for "some")
  - 121 Emend
  - 122 Tomahawks
  - 123 Level
  - 124 Indiana-to-Ohio direction
  - 125 Witty types
- DOWN**
- 1 Validate
  - 2 In-group
  - 3 Maidens
  - 4 "Yuck!"
  - 5 Pep rally cheers
  - 6 Excited response to "Who wants dessert?"
  - 7 Police ride
  - 8 Horse cousin
  - 9 Beige shades
  - 10 Sony record label
  - 11 Be assisted
  - 12 Bungled
  - 13 "In the Valley of —" (2007 drama film)
  - 14 Slaw sources
  - 15 Cold Spanish soup
  - 16 Eager desire
  - 17 "Knives Out" director Johnson
  - 18 Arctic hazard
  - 24 Gut feeling
  - 29 Pine product
  - 30 — v. Ferguson (landmark court case)
  - 36 Word after big, cold or soft
  - 37 Albeit, in brief
  - 39 For — (very cheaply)
  - 41 Former rival of AT&T
  - 42 Former Russ. state
  - 45 First lady after Melania Trump
  - 47 Move hastily
  - 48 Lou formerly of CNN
  - 49 Pop rocker Lavigne
  - 50 Rid of frost
  - 51 Crank's cry
  - 52 "Challenge accepted!"
  - 53 Rum mixers
  - 56 Clued in
  - 57 Lion chaser?
  - 59 Hope (for)
  - 62 Opposite of 58-Across
  - 63 "You Be —" (1986 Run-D.M.C. hit)
  - 64 Avian abodes
  - 65 Savors Earl Grey, say
  - 66 Funny Murphy
  - 67 Sacks in war
  - 68 Balcony sections
  - 71 Use stitches
  - 72 Mattel man
  - 74 Online biz
  - 75 Torrid
  - 76 Untidy states
  - 77 Afr. country
  - 80 Keglers' org.
  - 81 Karel Capek sci-fi play
  - 82 Question starter in old Memorex ads
  - 83 Total shams
  - 84 Plotting in math class
  - 86 Walked in water
  - 87 Dermis or Pen lead-in
  - 90 Turncoat
  - 92 Most pasty
  - 93 Phantom
  - 96 "Yes, cap'n!"
  - 98 Reporter on "Parks and Recreation"
  - 99 Buds from the hood
  - 100 Multi-roof temple
  - 101 Winged bug with pincers
  - 102 Intimidates
  - 104 Sportscaster Rashad
  - 106 "Für —" (piano piece)
  - 109 Chronicle
  - 110 Grand — (annual race)
  - 111 Clearheaded
  - 116 "— pasa?"
  - 117 Dawn drops

# Classified

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- Help nylons and tights retain elasticity by giving them a final rinse in diluted vinegar before hanging dry. Never add nylons to a heat dryer.
- "I purchase extra school supplies when back-to-school time brings the sales. Inevitably, we need extras as the school year wears on, and these items can be pricier later." -- Y.C. in Alabama
- "A tip for setting your table: Always put pretty plastic placemats on the table first. Then your pretty cloth napkins and placemats over these. When you're ready to eat, just remove cloth placemats and napkins and you'll still have a pretty table to serve your guests." -- J.R. in Virginia
- Ease the weekday morning time crunch by planning your wardrobe on the weekends. Use a single hanger to gather everything you need for a smart, pulled-together look. Attach a plastic sandwich bag with accessories to the hanger with a clothespin, and you'll be dressed in minutes.
- If your bananas start to brown on the outside, put them in the fridge. They will still get brown, but the inside stays firm instead of getting mushy.

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		+		= 14
+		+		+	
	+		-		= 4
-		÷		+	
	+		×		= 56
=		=		=	
3		6		18	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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**GRIN and BEAR IT** by Wagner



"You'd like this slugger, Adele ... he's batting clean-up."



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Impatience with those who don't keep up with you can cause resistance, which, in turn, can lead to more delays. It's best to be helpful and supportive if you want good results.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A surprise announcement from a colleague could put you on the defense. Gather your facts and respond. You'll soon find the situation shifting in your favor.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) The time spent away from a project pays off with a new awareness of options that you hadn't considered before. Weigh them carefully before deciding which to choose.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Consider confronting a personal conflict while there's still time to work things out. A delay can cause more problems. A longtime colleague might offer to mediate.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Some emerging matters could impede the Lion's progress in completing an important project. Best advice: Deal with them now before they can create costly delays.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Your aspect continues to favor an expanding vista. This could be a good time to make a career move, and taking an out-of-town job could be a good way to do it.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Disruptive family disputes need to be settled so that everyone can move on. Avoid assuming this burden alone, though. Ask -- no, demand help with this problem.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Patience is called for as you await word on an important workplace situation. A personal circumstance, however, could benefit by your taking immediate action.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Don't lose confidence in yourself. Those doubters are likely to back off if you demand that they show solid proof as to why they think your ideas won't work.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A temporary setback might cause some unsettling moments for the usually sure-footed Goat. But keep going! The path ahead gets easier as you move forward.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) There's welcome news from the workplace. There could also be good news involving a relationship that has long held a special meaning for you.

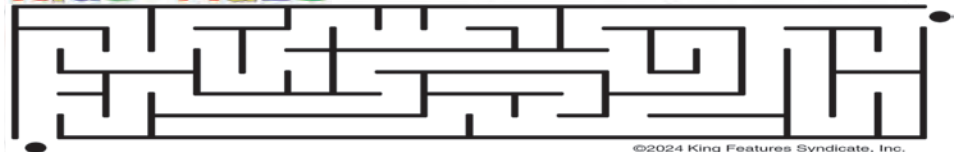
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You still might need to cut some lingering ties to a situation that no longer has the appeal it once held. In the meantime, you can start to explore other opportunities.

**Born this Week**

*Your sense of what's right can inspire others if you remember not to push too hard to make your case. Moderation works best for you.*

# FUN PAGES

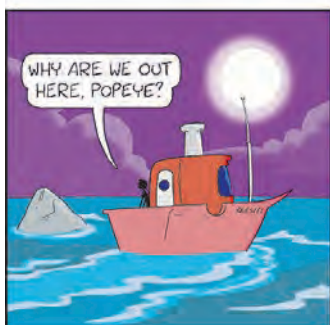
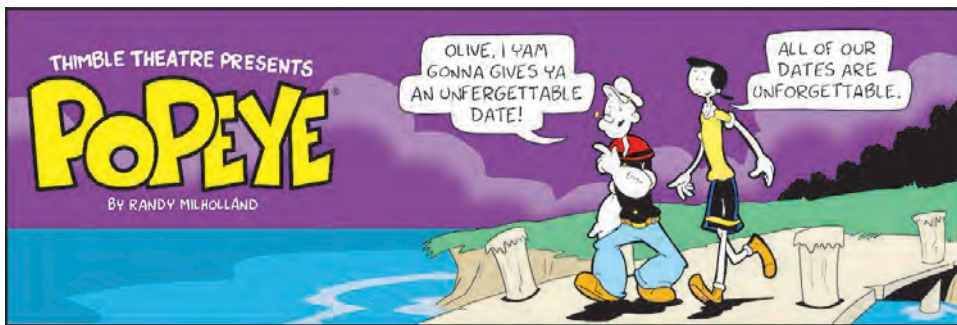
Kids' Maze



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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Where is the Parthenon located?
- TELEVISION:** What game are the younger characters in "Stranger Things" playing at the start of the series?
- MOVIES:** Who was the first African American actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor?
- LITERATURE:** What is floo powder used for in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- U.S. CITIES:** Which U.S. city's nickname is Beantown?
- AD SLOGANS:** Which ride-share company's slogan is "Move the way you want"?
- ART:** Which artist painted a work titled "The Potato Eaters"?
- MUSIC:** Who wrote the song "God Bless America"?
- HISTORY:** Who became U.S. president after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** Which animal can hold its breath for up to five minutes underwater?

1. Athens, Greece.
2. Dungeons & Dragons, "Lilies of the Field."
3. Sidney Porter, "Lilies of the Field."
4. Rapid transportation.
5. Boston.
6. Uber.
7. Vincent van Gogh.
8. Irving Berlin.
9. Andrew Johnson.
10. Hippopotamus.

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# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



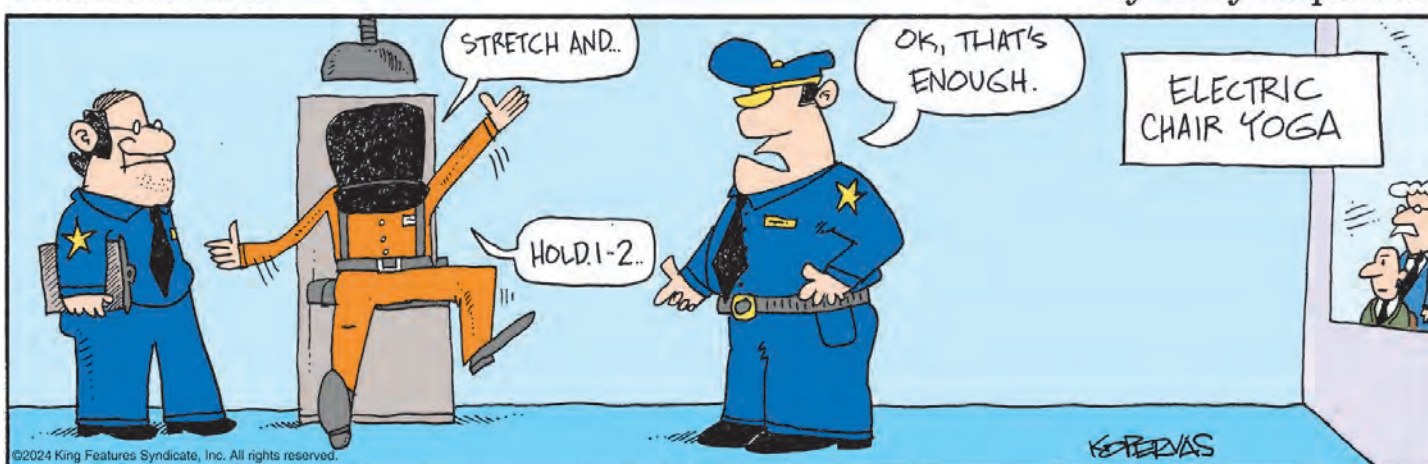
# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTAHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.  
 Differences: 1. Apron bow is missing. 2. Faucet is different. 3. Water drop from dish is longer. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Doormat is moved. 6. Glove is longer.

# SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 F D L H A B N Z K Y E E W F V  
 T R C L Q N I E N C T T T O N  
 G A T N O M L K H I U H U U F  
 M R E S S A W T D C G A Z G G

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
 Unlisted clue hint: NO IN GERMAN

- Danke
- Einfach
- Fisch
- Gute nacht
- Guten abend
- Guten tag
- Hallo
- Kalender
- Lamm
- Machen
- Montag
- Nahe
- Schlecht
- Sonntag
- Wasser

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# FUN PAGES

# **SEM CU**

**south east madera county united**

**SEM CU has engaged a grant writer and is working on grants for our community at large to include water, traffic, schools, seniors and safety.**

## **FIRE SEASON IS HERE! Are you prepared?**

**If you are experiencing domestic well or water quality problems, contact "Self-Help Enterprises." Qualified people may have a water tank installed or have bottled water delivered, or have work done on a new or existing well. Call or email:**

<b>Water Wells:</b>	<b>559-802-1289</b>	<b>waterwells@selfhelpenterprises.org</b>
<b>Water Quality:</b>	<b>559-802-1285</b>	<b>waterquality@selfhelpenterprises.org</b>
<b>Tank Water:</b>	<b>559-802-1685</b>	<b>tankandhauledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org</b>
<b>Bottled Water:</b>	<b>559-802-1284</b>	<b>bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org</b>

**SEM CU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos Library Teleconference room at 37398 Berkshire Drive in the Madera Ranchos Library.**

**ONLINE: get the link at [www.SEMCU.org](http://www.SEMCU.org),**

**BY PHONE: 669-900-6833 enter meeting**

**ID# 836-3242-4343 then access code 854-221**

**559-363-9095 • [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) • [info@SEM CU.org](mailto:info@SEM CU.org)**

**SEM CU • FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY!**