

# The Independent

*Serving the Madera Ranchos  
Bonadelle Ranchos • Rolling Hills  
Riverstone • Tesoro Viejo*



PRSRT STD  
ECR  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MADERA, CA.  
PERMIT NO. 61

NOW IN OUR  
20TH YEAR  
IN MADERA  
COUNTY

Volume 21 Issue 7 2025

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## PUTTING THE BRAKES ON CALIFORNIA'S RUNAWAY HIGH SPEED RAIL

**Trump directs Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy to terminate a \$4 billion federal grant to the state. "It was simply sending good money after bad," Duffy said.**

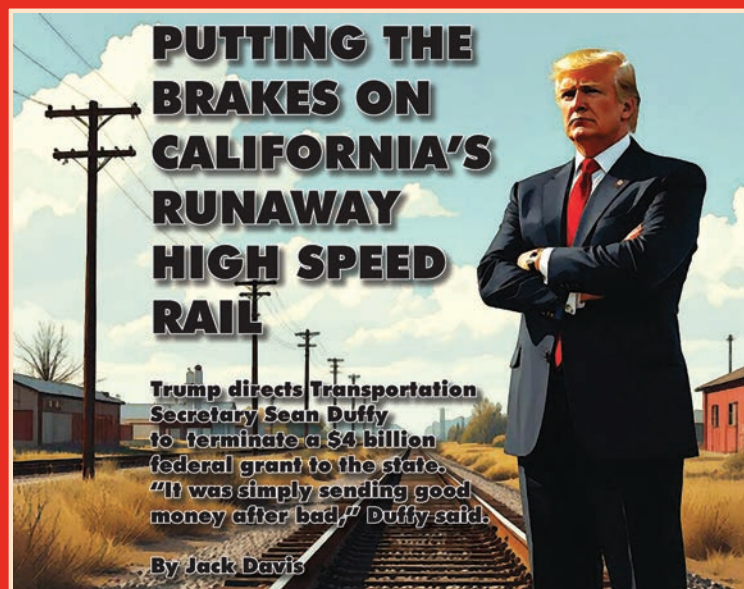
**By Jack Davis**



### *In This Issue*

*Editorial • Page 5 / Aunt Jean's Recipes • Page 8  
Classifieds • Page 16 / Fun Pages • Pages 18 & 19*





broke ground in 2012, as The New York Times reported in 2022. But as Trump noted, not much of substance took place.

“The railroad we were promised still does not exist and never will. This project was severely overpriced, overregulated and never delivered,” Trump

wrote. “Thanks to Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, not a single penny in federal dollars will go toward this scam ever again. This was an ill-conceived and unnecessary project, and a total waste of taxpayer money — but no more!”

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a news release that taking his money away was illegal and that Trump was acting just as something was actually happening, asserting the project was “entering the track laying phase.”

“Trump wants to hand China the future and abandon the Central Valley. We won’t let him,” Newsom said, without explaining how China benefits. “With projects like the Texas high-speed rail failing to take off, we are miles ahead of others. We’re now in the track-laying

phase and building America’s only high-speed rail. California is putting all options on the table to fight this illegal action.”

Newsom noted that at the rate the project is going, passengers could board the trains sometime between 2030 and 2033. In a news release, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said a \$4 billion grant to the state was terminated on the grounds that after the project had gobbled up \$15 billion, it was simply sending good money after bad.

“The \$135 billion projected total cost of the project could buy every San Francisco and L.A. resident nearly 200 roundtrip flights between the cities,” the release said. “This is California’s fault. Governor Newsom and the complicit Democrats have enabled this waste for years. Federal dollars are not a blank check — they come with a promise to deliver results,” Duffy said. “After over a decade of failures, California High Speed Rail’s mismanagement and incompetence has proven it cannot build its train to nowhere on time or on budget,” he said. “It’s time for this boondoggle to die. President Trump and I will always fight to ensure your tax dollars only go to projects that accomplish great, big, beautiful things.”

The release said further that the state authority overseeing the project “simply cannot meet its obligations under the grant agreement” and said a federal review determined that there was no hope of carrying passengers by 2033.

## Court Blocks Ammo Laws

By Nigel Duara

California voters in 2016 passed a ballot initiative championed by Gov. Gavin Newsom that in part required background checks for ammunition purchases. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals found that provision violates the 2nd Amendment.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down California’s first-in-the-nation law requiring background checks for ammunition purchases, another blow to the state’s gun control framework that has been pared down, case by case, since the U.S. Supreme Court dramatically expanded gun rights in a monumental 2022 decision.

The California law that forced ammunition purchasers to pass a background check was passed by voters in 2016. Gov. Gavin Newsom, at the time the state’s lieutenant governor, championed the initiative and was its primary advocate.

In 2018, before the law went into effect, a group of gun rights advocates and ammunition vendors sued to block the law. They were successful – in 2020, a federal district court judge handed down an injunction against the background checks of ammunition purchasers. But at the time, the 9th Circuit paused that order and allowed the law to take effect.

Two years later, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* that a New York concealed-carry law unfairly constrained people’s right to carry a gun, and California’s gun control regime was thrown into chaos.

The 9th Circuit then sent the case on background checks for ammunition purchases back down to the federal district court. That court again ruled against the background checks.

Today’s ruling helped clarify what a post-Bruen future could look like.

“Given the fees and delays associated with California’s ammunition background check regime, and the wide range of transactions to which it applies, we conclude that, in all applications, the regime meaningfully constrains California residents’ right to keep and bear arms,” Justice Sandra Segal Ikuta wrote in the 2-1 majority opinion.

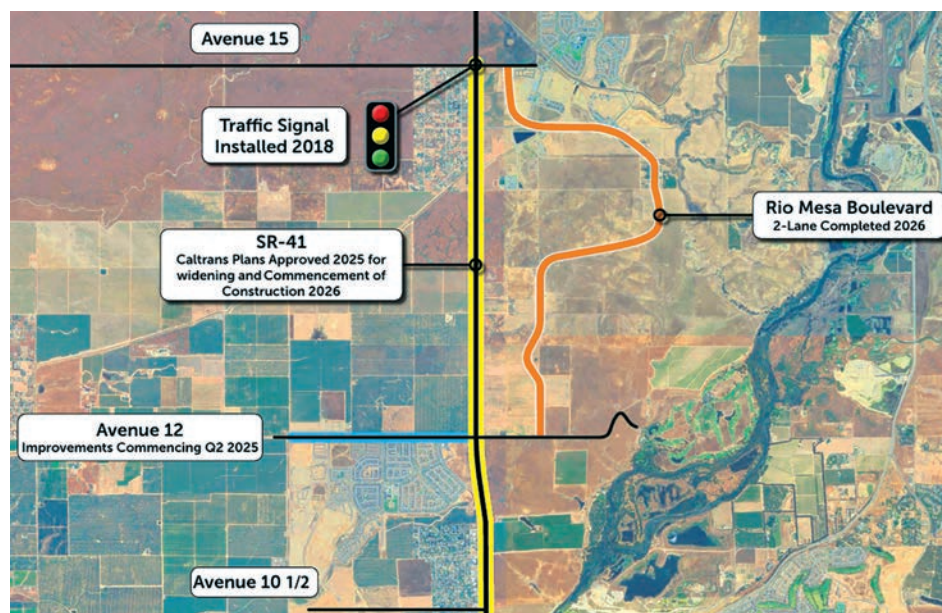
Newsom in a written statement criticized the decision. “Strong gun laws save lives – and today’s decision is a slap in the face to the progress California has made in recent years to keep its communities safer from gun violence. Californians voted to re-

## HWY 41 Bypass Project Begins

A Highway 41 bypass project has been started in Southeast Madera County. The projected bypass will stretch from Avenue 12 up to Avenue 15 and is anticipated to have a completed first phase by the summer of 2026.

Rio Mesa Boulevard is a multi-million-dollar project that will connect the Madera Ranchos to Tesoro Viejo via approximately a three-mile, two-lane road located approximately 2,000 feet to the east of Highway 41. Madera County broke ground for the project at a ceremony at the location on Thursday, July 24.

The project was first envisioned in 1995 but with the growth of the area and populations from both Tesoro Viejo and Riverstone developments, county officials say that this bypass will “pave the path forward for a safer commute and infrastructure



that will serve residents, homeowners, businesses and drivers for generations to come.”

In addition to modern infrastructure, designers are also stressing “multimodal design and utilities.” According to the

North American Cities and Transit Agencies, or NACTO, it “identifies and elevates street design practices that prioritize walking, rolling, biking and riding transit.”

Please see **AMMO** on P. 13  
Click on “Local News” at



# Got Water?

Got a holding tank to fill? What about a swimming pool?  
Don't want to waste your precious well water or pay PG&E to pump it?

## CALL US!

**Bubba's Water Truck Service**  
call Gina at 559-289-3401 • BubbasWTS@yahoo.com

7/25

# Valley Well Drilling

Lic. #1099927

**Domestic Well, Agriculture Well  
Airlifting, Well Brushing, Swabbing  
Well Rehabilitation, Test Hole**

**559-307-9720 or 559-351-9624**

7/25

# Crossroads Christian School

Join the Crusader Family TODAY!

**NOW ENROLLING**

FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Serving TK - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

[ccsmadera.org](http://ccsmadera.org)  
559.662.1624

ACSI ACCREDITED

7/25

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN the Independent**

## Kiwanis Korner

# Kiwanis Get Upcoming Business in Order

By Sally Rowden

I want to start out by congratulating Sophia Allen from the Ranchos Middle School. She was awarded the Kiwanis Hope of America Award at graduation last month and due to publishing logistics, we couldn't get her photo in the paper. So, here's the photo this month. Congrats, Sophia.

Our guest speaker last month was Mike Fursman, president of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. He gave us an overview of events the Chamber of Commerce will be providing this next year. Several of those events that the Kiwanis will be supporting are the Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 5 and the Crab Feed on March 6, 2026. Also, the Flatlander's Day Parade on May 16, 2026. Get your calendars out now and mark the dates. You don't want to miss these enjoyable local community events.

Besides planning to support the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce with their events, the rest of July has us finalizing all our club business to be ready to start the 2025-2026 year. Our first community event will be at Liberty High School. We will be serving lunch to the Golden Valley Unified School District Teachers and Staff. This event takes place at the beginning of August as a "welcome back" to a new school year.

Besides getting our business in order, many of our members are enjoying the lazy days of summer. I'm sure many of you are doing the same. Makes me think of the lyric "summertime and the livin' is easy" from the song, "Summertime," released in 1935 by composer George Gershwin for the play, "Porgy and Bess."

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

## Let Us Elevate Your Next Event!



360° Photo Booth  
Champagne, Charcuterie & Candy Carts  
Balloon Garlands, Arches & Decor  
Popcorn & Snow Cone Machines

Call, Text or Message Today!

[www.TheRiverRentals.com](http://www.TheRiverRentals.com)  
@theriverrentals



**559-660-2127**



**Sago Key  
Palm Plantation!**  
 More than 20,000  
 Palms & Sagos in stock.  
 We also have a wide selection of  
 Shade & Fruit trees.  
 call Juan and Maria at  
**559-268-6650**  
 6700 E. Central Ave. • Fresno • [www.sagorey.com](http://www.sagorey.com)

**NEED WALKWAYS, PATIOS  
OR DRIVEWAYS?  
GET IT DONE!**

CALL  
**AGUILAR'S CONCRETE**  
 innovative hardscapes services

WALKWAYS • PATIOS • DRIVEWAYS • DECORATIVE  
 CURBS • GRADING • FOUNDATIONS  
 DEMO/REMOVAL • ROCK HARDSCAPES  
 CURB APPEAL LOOK • COLOR STAINS  
 CONCRETE REPAIRS • YARD CLEAN UPS

**559-718-3554**  
 call or text

Not everyone  
needs us ...  
But you might.

If you've been involved in a wreck, you know there's nothing worse. Will your car be like it was? Will it cost an arm and a leg to fix? Will it take forever? Call Caesar Dents. Estimates are always free, the work is impeccable and the price just might surprise you.

**Caesar Dents  
& Auto Body Repair**  
 1146 Barstow #G • Clovis  
**559-797-2528**  
 Auto • Aircraft • Boats

**How do you get free tank rent  
for the first year, prompt  
friendly service, a free  
initial leak test and  
competitive prices?  
You call ...**

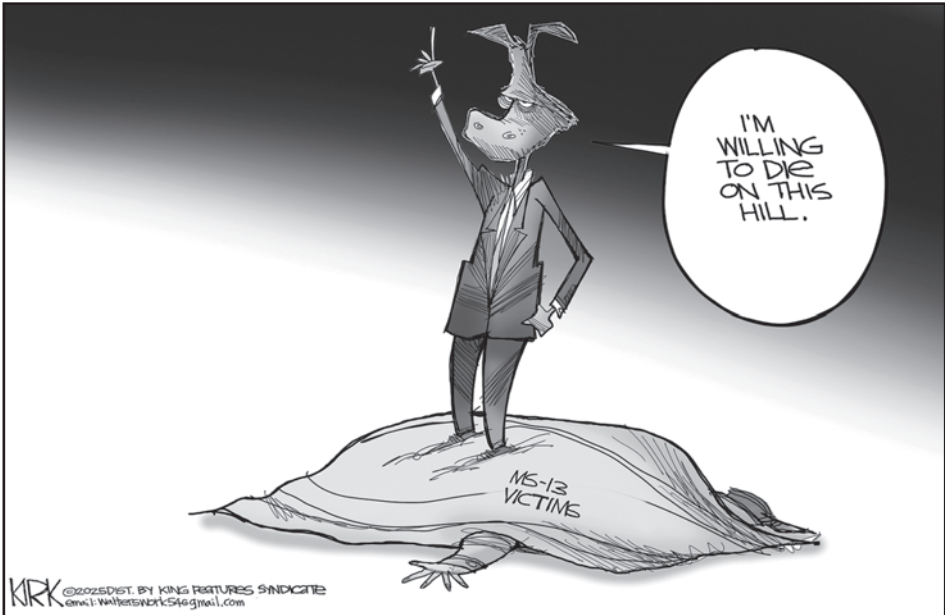
**VALLEY PROPANE**  
**559-645-5324**  
 the **ONLY** locally owned  
 propane company in the  
 Madera Ranchos

**GO  
HAWKS!**

Join us in supporting our  
**LIBERTY HIGH HAWKS**  
 this season and all year long

**VALLEY PROPANE**  
*"Service you can trust at prices you can afford"*  
**645-5324 • 37221 Ave. 12 #1D**  
**Madera Ranchos • Maywood Center**





# The Independent

The Independent is published by Five and Two Publishing.

All contents of this publication are copyright 2025, all rights reserved. Reprinting without the permission of the copyright holder is forbidden by law.

All articles are submitted as the opinion of the author, who remains solely responsible for the content. The information gathered for this publication is from sources that are considered to be reliable, but are not guaranteed. Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles remain the opinion of the writer.

**Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor**

Jean Briner -- Columnist, Advertising Sales Emeritus

**559-645-0634** 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93636  
**ranchosnews@yahoo.com**

www.TheRanchos.com

## Guest Editorial

### Return of Insane Asylums?

By Michael Austin

#### Could This Crush the Homelessness Epidemic?

Many once-great world-class American cities now require residents and visitors alike to keep their heads on a swivel at all times. Rather than enjoying time exploring, shopping, dining, or otherwise recreating, there looms the constant fear that an aggravated homeless person will start a confrontation or even mount an attack.

A noticeable trend of unpredictable vagrants being allowed to harass residents of major cities has caused quality of life in our nation's urban areas to decline drastically.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order in mid-July directly addressing these issues and opening the possibility of returning to institutionalization for people who are dangers to themselves and others.

"Endemic vagrancy, disorderly behavior, sudden confrontations, and violent attacks have made our cities unsafe," the order said. "Shifting homeless individuals into long-term institutional set-

tings for humane treatment through the appropriate use of civil commitment will restore public order. Surrendering our cities and citizens to disorder and fear is neither compassionate to the homeless nor other citizens. My Administration will take a new approach focused on protecting public safety."

The new directive will allow federal agencies to increase drug enforcement and help states restart their institutionalization processes.

Trump was far from the first official to notice that the shift in how we treat homelessness and vagrancy has been a

disaster. Vern Pier-son, the district attorney of El Dorado County in California, penned a commentary piece for Cal Mat-ters a few years ago describing how a movement toward

*"Surrendering our cities and citizens to disorder and fear is neither compassionate to the homeless nor other citizens."*

deinstitutionalization in Europe spread across the pond in the 1960s. That was followed decades later by racial justice movements leading to fewer prisoners.

"The result: fewer inmates, and significant increases in homelessness and untreated mental illness," he said. "As someone with more than 27 years in the pursuit of justice, I worry for the people on the streets, and for the future victims of crime."

Pier-son admitted that the institutions which once housed mentally unwell people were by no means perfect. But just because they were not perfect does not mean they were unnecessary.

"Somehow, we must find a middle ground between incarceration and un-treated, unsupervised and at-risk mentally ill people," Pier-son said.

As with many other cultural prac-tices in modern history, such as having institutions to treat mentally unwell homeless people, our willingness to tear down fences before asking why those fences were built has proven to be disas-trous for our society. Trump seems to ac-knowledge that we made a multi-generational mistake by closing down the institutions. Perhaps reopening them will finally help to restore the American cities that were once the envy of the world.

*This article originally appeared at WesternJournal.com.*

**THE RAY GUN**  
SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

**"FREEDOM IS NOT THE SOLE REROGATIVE OF A CHOSEN FEW, BUT THE UNIVERSAL RIGHT OF ALL GOD'S CHILDREN."**

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



# Love for Summer ... Changes

There's nothing like a triple-digit heatwave to remind you just how blessed we are to be living in the era of central air conditioning. The heat and sweat create conditions that make your deodorant want to rethink its career. Opening the door and sticking your head outside gives you the same experience as opening the oven to see if the cookies are done – only there are no cookies outside, just more oven.

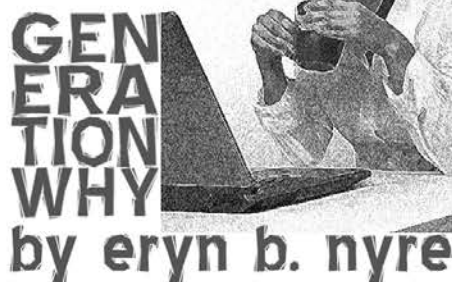
I used to love summer, right? Like every other kid, summer was everything.

Of course, as a kid you aren't spending the days in back-to-back Zoom meetings watching the world slip by through an office window you can't open. I doubt I liked the heat then any more than I do now, but back then the heat took a back seat to the daily adventures waiting just beyond the school year. Now my daily adventure is climbing into a car heated to "surface of the sun" levels, waiting for the air conditioning to finally stave off some of the sweating while I enjoy an hour-long commute home.

I remember when I couldn't wait to be a grown-up; make my own money, my own decisions, do what I want, go where I want ... I don't think adults do a good enough job explaining how much adulthood sucks. Focus on the loss of summer. Really hit home the fact that one day

you wake up and trade in three-month breaks for Outlook calendars and ergonomic desk chairs and call that freedom.

I spent a lot of summers in Southern California with my grandparents when I was young. Sometimes there were Disneyland visits, lake trips and oceanside vacations. I was a lucky girl. Mostly, there was staying up late, sleeping in, reading, and seeing your friends without the teacher threatening to call your father if you didn't stop talking in class. You spent your days outside playing games, soaking up the sun and whenever the heat got too much, you just ran through the sprinklers. If I were to do that now — run through the sprinklers on my lunch break — my boss would think I'd lost my mind, and I'd spend the rest of the day soggy



and miserable.

Nowadays you won't catch me at a theme park in the summer. No, ma'am. There isn't enough water in California to keep my hydration on the inside instead of sliding down my face if I have to be outside. Then there's the waiting in lines, packed in with strangers who have no sense of spacial awareness. Theme parks are amazing, and let's be honest, you'll always have to deal with people who dis-

miss your need for a little personal space. I can deal with all of that a lot better when I'm not sweating from every pore on my body.

Camping is another thing. I still go camping occasionally. It's beautiful and peaceful to sleep under the stars. It's fun to sit around a campfire and roast s'mores and tell stories. Hot dogs seem to taste better in the woods

or at a ballpark. But some of that magic is lost when you grow up and suddenly you're the one who has to pack the car, set up the tent, build and maintain the fire, cook the food, clean the cookware and grill (without running water), dig the hole to use the bathroom, then pack it all up and lug it home. It hits a little different when you can't just let the adults do all the work ... because you are the adult.

I remember my mom taking me to the public pool often throughout the summer. That's always an option, but sadly as an adult I'm much more aware of all the bodily fluids lurking in the chlorinated water along with me. And don't think I'm blaming that strictly on the kids, there are plenty of gross adults as well.

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

## DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

**Same Day Service**

*Family Owned Since 1976*

**674-1663**  
**36691 Ave. 12**  
**Madera Ranchos**

7/25

### Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

## Look Good and Feel Great

- Nutritional Counseling & Menu Included
- AM PM Medications
- Diet Injection

**LOSE WEIGHT AND INCHES TOO**

**WE KNOW LOW CARBS! \$20 OFF 1st visit only**

**DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP**

"We Are Very Affordable" **224-6744**

OPEN: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM until 5:30 PM

4844 N. First, #101 • Fresno, CA 93726 • Between Shaw & Santa Ana

7/25

## BEDROCK ENGINEERING

A solid foundation for your next project

**Civil Engineering**

**Land Surveying**

**Underground Locating**

Developing Land Surveying and Civil Engineering Design Solutions with our clients and the local community since 2008

**559-645-4849**

BedRock Engineering  
 10878 Highway 41  
 Madera

www.BedRockEng.com

7/25

www.chadstrucking.com

## TRUCKING

CA #441782

**LANDSCAPE DIRT & DRIVEWAY**

**559-479-4113**

**ARENA SAND • SAND & GRAVEL • HORSE FOOTING • CRUSHED ROCK • LANDSCAPE MATERIAL • FILL DIRT • TOP SOIL • HUMUS • BARK • CHIPS • RIVER ROCK • BASE ROCK • ROCK DUST • COBBLE STONES • DRIVEWAY BASE • CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP •**

7/25



GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

Summer used to feel like freedom, now it feels like just another season I have to squeeze in between deadlines, errands and figuring out what's expired in the fridge, which is a weird part of adulthood no one ever warned me about. It's not that I don't appreciate the season, I do. I'd appreciate it more if I had a pool I could float around in, but I do appreciate the sun and the longer daylight hours. However, for now, I'll appreciate it from inside with the curtains drawn and the ceiling fan set to "tornado" just like my Mama taught me.

I miss the days when the magic of summer far outweighed dealing with this heat. I could ignore the sweat because there was lazy time, and popsicles, and water balloon fights, and a neighborhood ice cream truck that didn't bring to mind certain episodes of Criminal Minds. Summer was more than

weather; it was possibility and adventure. Summer still exists, and there are infinite possibilities, only now it's my job to plan it, fund it, pack for it, clean up after it, and take time off from work to make it happen, knowing that the whole time there's an inbox full of emails piling up in my absence. Sort of takes the wind out of the fun sails.

So really, I don't hate summer. I just miss what it used to be. Life in summer is less carefree and more commitment. Less sprinklers and more spreadsheets. But deep down, under the SPF 50 and the adult responsibilities, I'm still that lucky girl who got to spend her summers having some amazing adventures. And some days, when the A/C hits just right and the smell of cut grass floats through the vent, I swear I can almost feel it again. And that's enough for now.

And hey ... fall is right around the corner.



**Tesoro Viejo**

**FARMERS MARKET**

**EVERY THURSDAY**

**FROM 5 P.M. TO 8 P.M.**

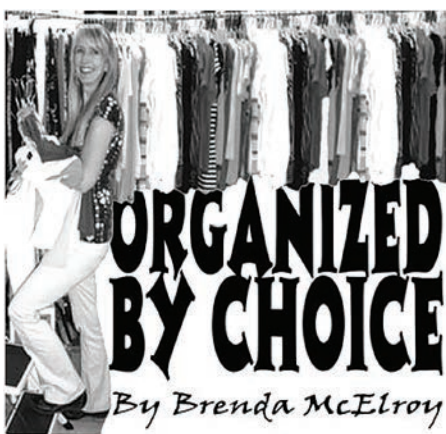
**TESORO VIEJO TOWN CENTER**



<b>FRESH PRODUCE</b>	<b>ARTISANAL GOODS</b>	<b>FOOD TRUCKS</b>	<b>FAMILY ACTIVITIES</b>
--------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------

@TESOROVIEJOFARMERSMARKET

7/25



### Dial in For Productive Phone Use

When I was a teenager, my boyfriend lived across the street. When we talked on the phone his dad complained, "Why don't you just go over there instead of tying up the phone?" I stood by the window in our dining area and he in his garage with the garage door open. That way we could see each other while we talked. I suppose it's somewhat like today's teens texting each other while sitting at the same table.

Some of you remember phones tethered to the wall and cords connecting the receiver, limiting mobility and privacy. Whether you were a family of three or six, you shared one phone line. A far cry from the accessibility and capabilities of our phones today.

One of my mantras is "keep close what you use most." For that reason, many of us keep our phones close. In fact, I encourage clients to use their phones more for things like grocery lists, reminders, contacts and saving information. There are countless ways our phones help us be more productive.

But what about when our phones become counterproductive? Do you find yourself losing minutes or hours

scrolling mindlessly — forgetting why you picked up your phone in the first place? Do you experience dry eyes or headaches? Are you suffering from "Tech Neck" or back problems? What about anxiety or depression? Do you spend time on your phone in bed and have a hard time falling asleep?

In a study called "*The Relationship between Cellphone Usage on the Physical and Mental Wellbeing of University Students: A Cross-Sectional Study*" ([www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com)), cell phone usage was a common contributor to these symptoms. Just as mismanaging our finances or possessions has consequences, so does misusing our phones.

For some, phone use has crossed the line to addiction. The shot of dopamine received

*For some, phone use has crossed the line to addiction. The shot of dopamine received from social media, games and notifications cause frequent phone checking. Games and apps are designed to keep you engaged non-stop. The phone provides an escape or distraction from real life troubles. Like other addictions it puts a strain on relationships, productivity and causes anxiety and irritability when trying to stop.*

from social media, games and notifications cause frequent phone checking. Games and apps are designed to keep you engaged non-stop. The phone provides an escape or distraction from real life troubles. Like other addictions it puts a strain on relationships, productivity and causes anxiety and irritability when trying to stop.

Unlike the phone tethered to the wall, there are few to no boundaries for cell phone use. Apparently not even in the movie theater, according to the woman sitting next to me who received three phone calls during the show. She finally stopped answering when she fell asleep, but then the snoring began. I digress ...

Whether you're 14 or 94 years old, it's never too soon or too late to take control of your phone.

**Screen time doesn't lie.** Before you decide you don't have a problem, check "Screen



## Who Wants Grunt?

(July 2015)

**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.



Mama always told us to "keep your mind going – try to learn something new every day. Don't let your mind dry up." Well, I learned something just the other day; in fact I learned two things that I never knew before.

I received an e-mail from Debra suggesting I do a column on cobblers, crisps and grunts. She must have been reading my mind because I had intended doing this one on cobblers – but she stopped me with a "grunt." So I went to the internet (I don't know where I'd be if it weren't for the internet). First I went to the dictionary and looked up grunt. The familiar definitions were there – A sound made when lifting; an infantry man; an unskilled worker, and then there it was: New England cooking - a dessert, made with fruit and topped with biscuit dough. Then my curiosity was really going, so I went to Google and typed in Peach Grunt and wow, there were all kinds of recipes. Not only that, I found another word I'd never heard of and that was a "slump." So, back to the internet to find the difference between a grunt and a slump. They both come from New England and one site said the grunt was cooked on top of the stove and got its name from the sound the fruit was making while cooking and a slump was baked in the oven. Both with bubbly fruit with biscuits or dumplings dropped in on top of the fruit. Well, there you have it – if you are like me, you learned two new words today to add to your vocabulary.

### Peach Grunt

5 C Sliced Peaches  
¾ C Sugar

1 T Cornstarch

1 C Flour

2 T Sugar

1 t. Baking Powder

2 T Butter, softened

½ C Milk

Combine first three ingredients in saucepan. Cover and cook over

low heat until mixture comes to a boil. In a mixing bowl, combine dry ingredients and cut in butter with a pastry blender. When crumbly, add milk, making a dough that is soft but not sticky (you may not need all the milk). Uncover the pot and drop the spoonfuls of dough into bubbling fruit, spacing evenly. Simmer uncovered for 10 minutes, cover and cook an additional 10 minutes without lifting the lid. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.

I don't have a recipe for my mom's boysenberry cobbler, but I can remember how she made it – saw her make enough of them. She would make her pie crust for a two crust pie.

### Pie Crust

2 C Flour

1 ½ t. Salt

2/3 C Shortening

½ C Ice Water

Mix flour and salt. Cut in shortening until like meal. Add water and mix into a ball. This may be a little moist but when you put it on a floured board and sprinkle a little flour on the dough ball, it should be alright. Cut ball in half and roll each piece into desired shape. Should be enough for a two-crust 9-inch pie or a 9x13 pan for cobbler.

She would line the bottom and sides of a 9x13 pan with half the rolled out pie dough. In a bowl, she would mix whatever amount of berries it took to fill the baking dish (probably about 5 cups of berries) a couple of tablespoons of flour and enough sugar to sweeten the berries. Sugar would depend on the tartness of the berries, but close to a cup of sugar. Pour the berry mixture into the prepared pan and top with the other half of dough and seal the edges. Score the top with holes to let steam escape. Bake in 350 oven until fruit is bubbly and top is golden.

If you don't want to fool with making and rolling out pie dough:

### Batter Topping

1 C Flour

1 C Sugar

2 t. Baking Powder

¼ t. Salt

2 T Butter, softened

1 Egg, slightly beaten

3 T Milk

In large bowl mix all ingredients and beat with a spoon until batter is smooth. Drop batter over fruit mix. Bake 25-30 minutes in 350 oven.

I found a recipe in her cards that sounds real easy and good – I'll pass it on:

### Easy Fruit Cobbler

1 Stick Butter

1 C Flour

1 C Sugar

2 T Baking Powder

¾ C Milk

4 C Canned Fruit (peaches)

Melt butter in 9x13 pan. In mixing bowl mix sugar and flour together, add baking powder, then add milk and beat well. Pour over the melted butter DO NOT MIX TOGETHER WITH BUTTER. Pour canned fruit with juice over batter. DO NOT MIX FRUIT WITH BATTER. Bake at 375 for 45 minutes.

Debra included a couple of recipes for homemade ice cream that I will save for another time, but she did tell me about a

quick "freeze" that sounds real good:

Take a two liter bottle of root beer and mix in the ice cream freezer can with two cans of sweetened condensed milk (Not evaporated milk). Whisk to blend thoroughly, and then freeze according to the manufacturer's directions. If you like root beer freeze, you will really love this concoction. Use orange soda in place of the root beer and it will bring back memories of a 50/50 bar (or an Orange Freeze at Foster Freeze).

I really want to thank those of you that sent emails, or called. I really appreciate the feedback. One suggestion was that I include our e-mail address in the column. I took it for granted that since it was in the paper a couple of times, that wouldn't be necessary but perhaps I'm wrong – sorry about that! You can contact me by phone at 645-0634 (If I'm not there, leave a message on the answering machine) E-mail me at ranchosnews@yahoo.com, or better yet, come into the office and talk to me. We're in the Chamber of Commerce office between the liquor store and Wight Water Pool Supply. I'd love to talk to you.

Until next time ...

Create a gift from the heart

**Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts**

**559-824-6336**

37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

Appointment Only -- Give us a call!

Visit us at [www.RanchosCraftersStudio.com](http://www.RanchosCraftersStudio.com)  
and Facebook "What's Up in the Ranchos"  
Contact us for SPECIAL GROUP PARTIES  
**NEVER** a sitting fee • Walk-ins **ALWAYS** welcome

Arts & Crafts Studio • Bisque • Wood Items

## TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?

Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely). You can't afford to wait any longer, so contact the professionals today at

### Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.

645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815

Lic. #PLS 5815    36691 Avenue 12 • Madera Ranchos



# Golden Valley Baptist Church

Sunday School 9am • Sunday Worship Service 10:30am  
Wednesday Life Apps 6:30pm • All Ages  
Women's Bible Study Thursdays 6:30pm  
12414 Road 37 • Madera Ranchos  
Email: GoldenValleyBaptistChurch@live.com  
559-645-1700

7/25

LICENSE #932435

FREE ESTIMATES

**TIM DE MERA**  
Owner/CEO  
Madera Ranchos Resident

**ALL STAGE CONSTRUCTION**  
AND DEVELOPMENT INC.

Room Additions & General Contracting • Commercial & Residential  
Discount Steel Buildings: Sales & Erecting  
Concrete Foundations & Flatwork

TIMDEMERA@AOL.COM (559) 681-8947  
WWW.ALLSTAGECONSTRUCTION.COM

7/25

**TIME FOR SUMMER BBQ IS ENDING!**

**THE BUTCHER BOSS**  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD DELICATESSEN

**... COME SEE THE BUTCHER BOSS**

**11156 HWY 41  
MADERA  
421-3046**

7/25

## Senior Report

# Summer Ends as August Starts

By Melanie Williams

Summertime fun starts to wrap up with the last few weeks of school vacation as we head toward the fall season in the Madera Ranchos. Soon, it will be time again for Golden Valley Unified students to begin their back-to-school activities as summer starts to wind down. Our seniors are also looking forward to watching grandchildren involved with school and sport activities in the coming months.

The Monthly Saturday Sale is back on Aug. 2 from 8 a.m. to noon. After being closed during the July 4th holiday weekend, we have everything open for the August Monthly Saturday Sale.

The Treasure House is continuing to receive many new donations. Our volunteers have worked diligently to label and tag new items for the Boutique and Treasure House. We appreciate your willingness to give all the wonderful items to support our work with seniors in the community. The donations from the Madera Ranchos community help so much to keep the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center operational.

There are still summer plants available in the Scout Garden for some last-minute summer planting. We have volunteers in the Scout Garden to answer questions on late summer or early fall planting.

The main building is also open for the Boutique. Many unique goods are available to peruse in a nicely air-conditioned environment. Come and join us at the Monthly Saturday Sale on August 2.

The members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center would like to honor Juanita Williams in a Senior Spotlight for her volunteer work at the center. Juanita came to help us with her baking talent and organization of baked goods for the Senior Center. Her baking support team included: Tammy Tremble-Lemon Cakes; Gerri Mitchell,

Celetta Mitchell and Alice Mitchell-Brownies and Persimmon Cookies; Diane Campbell-Banana Nut Bread, White Chocolate Sweet Bread; Lucille Brown-Amish Bread, Biscotti; Diane Maxfield- Sweet Breads.

Juanita's specialty was baking Peanut Butter Cookies. She always saved the banana nut bread for Dennis Funkner. Juanita remembers Frank Simpson's grandson, Braxley Simpson, coming to the Treasure House each month to look for his newest unique



Juanita Williams is this month's Senior Spotlight recipient. Her volunteer service as Coordinator of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Baking Committee is greatly appreciated.

treasure and picking up some sweet treats before heading home. They all are very generous people who volunteer and donate to the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

The Senior Center has many events

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 13



shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local

# It's Time to Join the Chamber of Commerce

## Why should I join the Chamber of Commerce?

- 1. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce has the reputation of being a leader of business integrity in Southeast Madera County and lends my business credibility.
- 2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other's businesses.
- 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 .



BECOME A MEMBER OF  
SOUTHEAST MADERA COUNTY'S  
GOLDEN VALLEY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
REPRESENTING THE MADERA RANCHOS,  
ROLLING HILLS, BONADELLE RANCHOS,  
TESORO VIEJO AND RIVERSTONE.  
SIGN UP IN JULY/AUGUST, 2025 AND YOU WILL QUALIFY  
FOR OUR NEW INTRODUCTORY  
\$50 MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW MEMBERS.  
CONTACT THE CHAMBER OFFICE AT 559-645-4001  
TO GET SIGNED UP NOW. HELP SUPPORT THE CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE AND LET'S BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

## When is the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, August 13 at 6 p.m., 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C in the Maywood Center. Come join us and be a part of what's going on in your community. Call us at 645-4001.

7/25

shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local · shop local · buy local



# FLIPSIDE *join us*

SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM

**WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH**

FIND US ONLINE AND IN YOUR APP STORE FOR UPDATES ON EVENTS AND ALL OF OUR MINISTRIES

TRUTH. COURAGE. LEGACY.

## GUARD & GUIDE

1 & 2 TIMOTHY



IN THE MAYWOOD CENTER | 37193 AVE 12 #3H MADERA, CA 93636 | INFO@ACTS176.COM



**SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9 & 10:30 AM**  
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FROM BIRTH-6TH GRADE  
JR HIGH 2ND SERVICE

### YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE

JR HIGH | WEDNESDAY MORNINGS  
HIGH SCHOOL | SUNDAY AFTERNOONS  
FOLLOW ONLINE TO SEE ALL EVENTS AND TIMES

# SEE YOU SUNDAY!



7/25



# SEMCU speaks

By Igal Treibatch

## Water Shortage & Agricultural Future Impact on Madera County

I have written several articles about Madera's scarcity of water and the impact on our community, and I would like to apologize if I'm repeating some of it. It is not realistic to think that things will get better soon without implementing helpful measures and I think it is important for all of us to be more familiar and aware of what is coming so we can all try to help our community deal with what may be transpiring due to the water shortage impact in the next 10 years. However, there are opportunities

which our skilled Madera County supervisors and staff are looking at and working on since they are very aware of the circumstances. Groundwater

Recharge Projects, stormwater capture, on-farm recharge and retiring farmland will help mitigate the lack of water to some degree.

For the last few decades, Madera County relied mainly on agricultural business as a major source of an operating tax base. Groundwater overdraft and reduced surface water deliveries are straining small and large farms alike. Rising costs of materials and declining water accessibility are pushing some growers, especially family and smaller operations, toward bankruptcy. More land is being fallowed, yields are down and this is lowering farm revenue and jobs. Family farms and undercapitalized operations are most vulnerable due to decreased agricultural output and higher operational costs in addition to the short water problems. Madera County is facing a reduced property and sales tax revenue af-



fecting local services. Infrastructure upkeep and social services have always been a government's major concern. When major events change the reliance on the historical tax base, some replacement must be considered. Today, large housing developments such as Tesoro Viejo and Riverstone are the new blood and tax transfusion replacing agribusiness tax losses.

Sustainable and even improved county services can potentially be accomplished as the county progresses with plans that will replace the lost agricultural losses which will be felt for the next few years.

Madera County must adapt to water scarcity with smart development and water management. Housing growth and recharge projects may soften the financial blow, but success depends on coordinated policy and sustainable land use.

Along with others, SEMCU is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in Southeastern Madera County. Its concerns, among other issues, are our community, safety, water, traffic, schools,

future parks and energy. We invite community members to join SEMCU as board members to help shape the Southeast Madera County area and help make a difference for our families and youngsters. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

SEMCU meets once per month for about an hour at the Madera Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Ranchos, or you may join us online to virtually participate. To join online, go to [www.semcu.org](http://www.semcu.org) for a link and simple instructions. Or, if you prefer, you can call in on your cellphone at 669-900-6833 then enter the ID# 83632424343 followed with the access code 85422. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 6 p.m. at the Ranchos Library. Make your voice heard.

**SEMCU is "By the community, for the community."**

# Real Estate



"Real estate is my life! I make your real estate dreams a reality."

**MARIA FOTOPOULOS**  
REALTOR

**559-250-6740 • [mfotorealtor@gmail.com](mailto:mfotorealtor@gmail.com)**  
*Integrity, Dedication, Results*  
**[www.homesmartpva.com/mfoto](http://www.homesmartpva.com/mfoto) • DRE #01454566**  
*"Put my experience, knowledge, service and professionalism to work for you."*



7/25

**The Luxury Home Realtor**  
an expert in your area!

**559-790-4729**  
[Folland@comcast.net](mailto:Folland@comcast.net)

[TheLuxuryHomeRealtor.com](http://TheLuxuryHomeRealtor.com)

*Truly Local, Truly Expert*  
Available for all your Real Estate and investment needs

**Lourie Folland**  
**559-790-4729**  
[Folland@comcast.net](mailto:Folland@comcast.net)  
BRE #01316346



7/25



**RC REALTY CONCEPTS**

**TIME FOR A HOME CHANGE?**  
**LET ME HELP YOU!**

**ANA MARIE SHERWOOD, REALTOR®**  
**559-903-0855**  
[ASHERWOOD@REALTYCONCEPTS.COM](mailto:ASHERWOOD@REALTYCONCEPTS.COM)  
DRE LIC. #01894032

7/25



**BUYING or SELLING a home?**

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER!**

My dream is your dream. A loving place to call home for you and your family. As your trusted real estate agent, I'm here to guide you in your home buying and selling journey. Call me today and let's get started.

**MARY CHOMPHOSY AVIGLIANO**  
559.367.7264

  
[@marytheagentofjoy](https://www.instagram.com/marytheagentofjoy)  
[marytheagentofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:marytheagentofjoy@gmail.com)  
DRE 02093132 • Real Broker



7/25



**SENIORS** cont. from P. 9

on the calendar in August. The August Potluck is on Thursday, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. If you would like to participate in the August Senior Center Potluck, please call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 to sign up.

Remember Brown Bag Day is on Wednesday, Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Madera Ranchos Basket Cases will meet together again to work on their pine needle basket weaving projects on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 9 a.m.

Exercise Class is every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Card Table games are happening weekly at the Senior Center. They meet on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m.,

right after our Senior Lunch.

The Senior Lunch Program is every weekday at 11:30 a.m. and any senior can still sign up for the free Senior Lunch Program. They are featuring a variety of summer salads for July and August.

We have a monthly newsletter with a calendar of activities and events for seniors. Members can check their email, or any senior is welcome to come by and pick up a monthly calendar at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. We are open every weekday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., except for holidays.

Quote for Back to School: *"They (students) may forget what you said, but they will not forget how you made them feel."* — Carl Buechner

**ORGANIZED** cont. from P. 7

Time" in "Settings," for iOS 13 users and "Digital Wellbeing" for Android users. This will tell you how long and where you're spending time on your phone (messaging, Instagram, podcasts, Amazon, YouTube, etc.).

**Set limits.** From there you can set time limits for apps, and schedule "Downtime." Only apps and phone calls you choose to allow will be available. This may be during work hours and/or an hour before bedtime and through the night.

**Scale down distractions.** Ever notice how hard it is to not look at your phone when you feel it vibrate or see a notification pop up? Do you really need to immediately see Domino's Daily Pizza Deals? Turn off notifications that aren't essential.

**Schedule time.** Reducing

notifications can produce FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out). To ensure you don't miss something important, schedule time for checking email, messages, podcasts, etc. This will alleviate FOMO and allow your brain to focus on what you're doing in the moment.

**Set it down.** The other day I noticed an item on a client's kitchen counter called "The Phone Box" (available on Amazon). She explained she is working on being more present with her family. Her goal is to keep her phone in the phone box except for an hour in the morning and an hour at night. If she picks it up in between time, it's an intentional act. Try starting by putting away your phone at dinnertime. Small steps can lead to big results.

That boyfriend is now number one in my phone "Favorites." I married him.



7/25

**JOIN SUPERVISOR WAMHOFF FOR**

# COFFEE & CONVERSATION

**GET AN UPDATE FROM COUNTY OFFICIALS REGARDING ROADS, PUBLIC SAFETY & MORE. STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MADERA COUNTY.**

**Jordan WAMHOFF**  
MADERA COUNTY SUPERVISOR

**RANCHOS LIBRARY**

**AUGUST 13, 2025**

**9:00-10:30AM**

**QUESTIONS? 559-662-6010**

## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Independent's own Website and get fully downloadable back issues of the Independent (beginning with April 2006)

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

**AMMO** cont. from P. 2

quire background checks on ammunition and their voices should matter," he said.

The law required face-to-face transactions from a licensed dealer. That effectively banned internet sales of ammunition, and any ammunition purchased out of state required that it be delivered from that state to a licensed dealer in California.

Purchasers would swipe a government ID and their information would be run through four databases, which searched for their criminal histories, any firearm prohibitions for mental health, restraining orders and whether they were on a wanted persons list. They would also have to pay a fee to have their information run through the state Justice Department's firearms data repository.

The question posed by the Supreme Court in the Bruen decision is whether a law "meaningfully constrains the right to keep and bear arms," as specified in the Second Amendment, and whether it is consistent with the country's "historical tradition of firearm regulation."

Using that test, the 9th Circuit previously agreed with California that an Alameda County zoning law prohibiting gun stores within 500 feet of a residential area, or a law that bans firearm sales on state property, are both constitutional. The reasoning behind those decisions was that people could still buy guns in Alameda

County, or somewhere besides state property.

The background check law is different, the appellate court ruled, because it meaningfully constrains people's ability to purchase ammunition, which previous 9th Circuit decisions have found is foundational to a person's ability to own guns.

In court, the state's attorneys also proposed that California's ammunition sales law conformed to the United States' historical tradition of regulating guns, citing colonial-era laws or laws written after the Civil War. The court dismissed those arguments.

"Because none of the historical analogues proffered by California is within the relevant time frame, or is relevantly similar to California's ammunition background check regime, California's ammunition background check regime does not survive scrutiny under the two-step Bruen analysis," Ikuta wrote.

In a fiery dissent, Judge Jay Bybee said the decision failed to correctly apply the Bruen test, and that using the logic of the decision, any firearms regulation could be interpreted as a violation of the Second Amendment.

"It is difficult to imagine a regulation on the acquisition of ammunition or firearms that would not 'meaningfully constrain' the right to keep and bear arms under the majority's new general applicability standard," Bybee wrote in the dissent.



# SPREAD THE NEWS!

Have friends or family  
who love the  
Independent but live  
outside the area? Are  
you moving but you  
still want to keep in touch  
with what's happening in  
Southeast Madera County?

## SUBSCRIBE!

to the Independent  
local news • local events • local happenings  
editorial • games • real estate • columns

### The Independent

645-0634 • fax 645-4002 • ranchosnews@yahoo.com

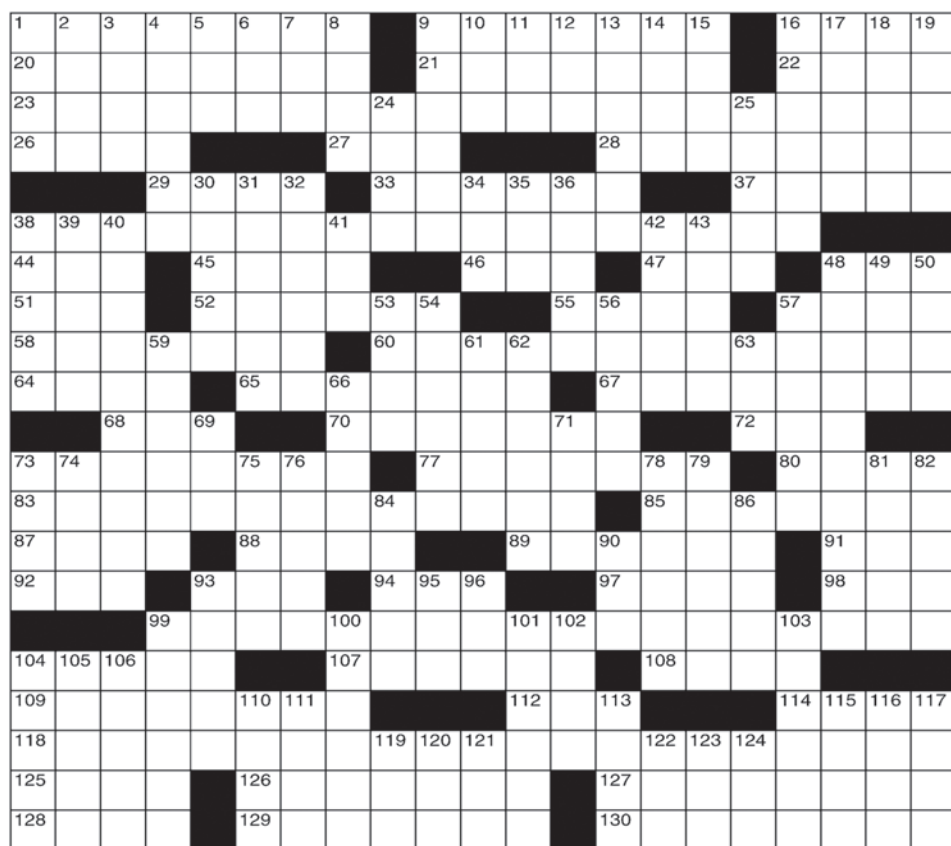


37167 Ave. 12, #5C  
Madera, CA 93636

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Bill Me  
The Independent, 37167 Ave. 12, #5C • Madera, CA 93636 Fax 559-645-4002

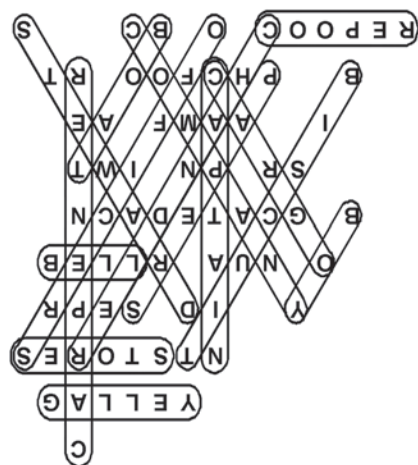
# Super Crossword



©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

**ACROSS**

6	=	12	=	16	=	6
2	+	6	x	9	=	72
x	+		+			
5	+	7	÷	1	=	12
-	+		-			
8	+	3	x	4	=	44



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

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

- ACROSS**

1 Predicaments

9 Metallic car trims

16 Sporty German cars

20 Cosmos

21 What a flushed person has

22 Uncommon

23 Start of a riddle

26 Advance, as money

27 Japanese pond fish

28 Bad with musical pitches

29 Letter-shaped girder

33 Feared fly

37 Wine barrels

38 Riddle, part 2

44 Before now

45 Indent keys

46 Poodle, e.g.

47 Org. fighting trafficking

48 Particular mag. edition

51 Letter following 36-Down

52 Supports for broken arms

55 Supersonic speed unit

57 Scissor cut

58 Fetuses-to-be

60 Riddle, part 3

64 BLT offerer

65 Listen (to)

67 Post-workout discomfort

68 Swelled head

70 Queued up

72 Comedic sort

73 Like the pope

77 Trattoria

80 Wee bits

83 Riddle, part 4

85 Ottawa's province

87 Seoul

88 "A little dab'll —"

89 Noisy napper

91 Marina —

92 Corrosive cleanser

93 Place to input a PIN

94 Frat party dispenser

97 Language of Pakistan

98 — Fridays (restaurant)

99 End of the riddle

104 Father of Hector and Paris

107 Ready to go, as a car

108 Actor Dick Van —

109 Reaps

112 Spunk

114 Use a keypad

118 Riddle's answer

125 Beef cut

126 Attacked with a jump

127 Refrigeration slows it down

128 Paquin of "The Piano"

129 Intertwists

130 Tinkered (with)

**DOWN**

1 Two-in-one

2 Facts or stats

3 — fire under (roused)

4 No matter whether

5 Sea, to Jules

6 "Rocky III" actor

7 Bat wood

8 Try to find

9 Sailing outing

10 "You! Look over here!"

11 Nutrition fig.

12 Frequently, poetically

13 Lusterless photo surfaces

14 Cave sound

15 Not hidden

16 Like many white gowns

17 Features of zebras' necks

18 Inflict, as havoc

19 Medieval menials

24 Cousin of emo

25 Joe causing no jolt

30 Itsy- —

31 Like a clock with hands

32 Giovanni of "Avatar"

34 Roush of baseball

35 Albeit, for short

36 18th Greek letter

38 Abhorred

39 Best competitive effort, slangily

40 Surprised second look

41 IRS datum

42 Like Popeye and Rambo

43 Former anesthetic

48 Apropos of

49 Knights, e.g.

50 1974 CIA spoof flick

53 Pop's Stefani

54 Big scissors

56 "Plus" point

57 Hyundai model

59 The "R" of ERA

61 College "Eli"

62 Bracelet sites

63 Hem, e.g.

66 French spa city

69 "Nice one!"

71 Twelve p.m.

73 Key near Alt

74 Cry on a ship

75 Samsung or LG product

76 "Where — from ..."

78 Really hot

79 In the future

81 San — Padres

82 Not at all iffy

84 Made of a certain sturdy wood

86 Place for a car jack

90 "— Lips Are Sealed"

93 "Bibleman" star Willie

95 Nest nugget

96 "Aw, shucks"

99 Cuban capital

100 Sight-related

101 Simple putts

102 Greek Mars

103 In fine — (doing well)

104 Big city in Penna.

105 Betray by blabbing

106 Novelist Shaw

110 Store lure

111 Subsequently

113 "You! Look over here!"

115 Calendar unit

116 Calendar unit

117 — out a living (barely scraped by)

119 H.S. transcript stat

120 & so forth

121 "The Simpsons" tavern keeper

122 Fed. cleanup group

123 DeLuise of "Silent Movie"

124 Drink a little

# Say you saw it in the Independent

Click on "Local News" at



# Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory • Business Directory

**Valley Well Drilling**  
Lic. #1099927

Domestic Well, Agriculture Well  
Airlifting, Well Brushing, Swabbing  
Well Rehabilitation, Test Hole

**559-307-9720 or 559-351-9624**

**CLARK'S**  
559-645-1578

General & Custom Auto  
Service & Repairs  
**559-645-1578**  
PERFORMANCE

**Unlimited Concrete**  
Lic. #1042108

DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL  
call **Jose Lopez**  
**559-779-0401**

**Mike's Country Clippers Barber Shop**

**HAIRCUTS \$16**  
Seniors Thursdays ONLY \$13!

**439-2004**  
37184 AVE. 12 #104  
(behind Pizza Factory)

**NEW & USED CARS & TRUCKS**  
All Makes & Models

**J.H. Sanders Sales & Leasing**

**822-4500**  
41453 Ave. 14 1/2  
Madera Ranchos  
[www.jhsanders.com](http://www.jhsanders.com)

**Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds!**

**DIET WORLD MEDICAL GROUP**  
Quick, Fast Results  
CALL NOW!

**224-6744**  
Lose Weight NOW!

**Bradley & Son DRILLING PUMP SYSTEMS**  
Lic. 414178

**674-1663**  
same day service

**TIRED OF PAYING FOR FLOOD INSURANCE?**  
Lenders' requirements vary, but an Elevation Certificate could reduce the cost of flood insurance (or eliminate it completely).  
Lic. #PLS 5815

**Michael Sutherland & Associates, Inc.**  
645-4730 • Fresno 447-5815

**BEDROCK ENGINEERING**  
A solid foundation for your next project  
Land Surveying • Civil Engineering • Consulting

**INVEST IN YOUR EXISTING PROPERTY!**  
For a free consultation, visit our Madera Ranchos office!  
10878 HWY 41 • 559-645-4849  
[www.bedrockeng.com](http://www.bedrockeng.com)

**ALL STATE HOMES**  
Real Estate & Mortgage Professionals

call **Adrian Gutierrez**

**559-363-4968**  
[www.sellingfresnorealestate.com](http://www.sellingfresnorealestate.com)

**NEED CONCRETE?**

**AGUILAR'S CONCRETE**  
Architectural Hardscapes  
Residential • Commercial  
Place & Finish Services  
Site-Work • Curbs  
Sidewalks • Foundations  
Retaining Walls • Patios  
Driveways • Demo • Grading

call **559-718-3554**  
**209-276-1579**  
**Free Estimates!**  
Lic. # 1119919

**ANK**

**QUALITY EXTERIORS, INC.**  
Contractor Lic. #996620  
Bonded & Insured

**559-645-1392**  
[www.ankqualityexteriors.com](http://www.ankqualityexteriors.com)

**PERSONAL TOUCH**  
Lic. # B0008113

Landscaping & Gardening Services  
Yard cleanups & hauling • Weed control  
Lawn & garden service • Maintenance  
Weekly & monthly service  
(not a licensed contractor)

call **Mag Anaya Jr.**  
**559-718-0558**  
Ranchos Resident

**BUBBA'S WATER TRUCK SERVICE**

We Fill Holding Tanks Swimming Pools  
Potable Water Dust Control

Covering Mountain Areas & the Central Valley  
Call Gina at 559-289-3401  
email [BubbawsWTS@yahoo.com](mailto:BubbawsWTS@yahoo.com)

**MARION POOL SERVICE & REPAIR**

- Weekly Service
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Residential
- Drains - Upstarts • Commercial
- Locally Owned

**251-2514 351-1605 645-4799**  
office cell after 5 p.m.

**SEMCU**

**"For the community, by the community."**

**559-363-9095**  
3rd Tuesday of the month • 6 p.m.  
37398 Berkshire Dr. • Ranchos Library

**VALLEY PROPANE**

"Service you can trust, prices you can afford."

**645-5324**  
The ONLY locally owned propane company in the Ranchos

**LANDSCAPE MATERIAL**  
SAND & GRAVEL • CRUSHED ROCK  
FILL DIRT • TOP SOIL • HUMUS • BARK  
CHIPS • RIVER ROCK • BASE ROCK  
ROCK DUST • COBBLESTONES  
DRIVEWAY BASE  
CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

**CHAD TRUCKING**

**559-479-4113**  
CA #441782 • [www.chadstrucking.com](http://www.chadstrucking.com)

**Aleman's Painting**

Interior & Exterior  
Specializing in Repaints  
Rental, Residential & Commercial  
Drywall, Stucco, Redashing & Acoustical Removal  
Color Matching

BONDED & INSURED  
LIC. #589140

**559-974-2268**

**Get Involved!**

**Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**

**645-4001**  
2nd Wed. of the month • 6:30 p.m.  
37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera Ranchos

**FLIPSIDE join us**  
SUNDAYS 9 & 10:30 AM

**559-481-6875**  
37193 Ave. 12 #3H  
Madera Ranchos

LIVE ONLINE AT 10:30 AM  
[WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH](http://WWW.FLIPSIDE.CHURCH)

info@acts176.com  
SEE YOU SUNDAY!

**"We've got your back"**  
D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing  
Sports Physicals only \$35!

**HANEY CHIOPRACTIC & rehabilitation center**

**660-5262**  
36754 AVE. 12 • Madera Ranchos

Create a gift from the heart

**Ranchos Crafters Studio**  
Arts & Crafts Studio • Bique • Wood Items  
Ranchos Crafters' Studio & Gifts  
**559-824-6336**  
37164 Ave. 12 #102 (behind Subway)

for MORE sales tomorrow, call

**RANDY BAILEY**

**Today!**  
**(559) 645-0634**  
The Independent



# Classified

### Carpet/Aggregate Cleaning

**Pinnacle Carpet Care and Upholstery** - "Dries in hours, not days." BBB A+ rating. Epoxy/aggregate specialist too. **Call Bruce today for a free estimate. 559-676-0760.**

### Chimney Sweep

**Paul the Chimney Sweep Guy**- 29 years of experience. Wood stove inserts, pellet stoves and fireplaces. Also clean clothes dryer vents.

**REMEMBER: THINK SAFETY, BURN SAFELY!** Call 559-908-9332. **For Sale**

### For Sale

**Table saw for Sale** - Ten inch (10"). \$125. **Call Lydia at 559-312-0891.**

**1950s O'Keefe & Merritt gas stove** - Worked perfectly when it came out of mother-in-law's kitchen remodel a few years ago. White enamel and chrome. Very "retro" looking. You pick up and take home. **Best Offer. Call 559-905-8311.**

### Gutter Services

The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor. Repair Maintenance. 26 years working in the area. Call 559-908-0759.

### Housecleaning

**One month FREE! with 6-month arrangement. 40 years of experience in the Ranchos.** - References available - Lupe's

House Cleaning, residential, one-time service, move-ins/move-outs, windows, construction clean up. **LupePrado25@yahoo.com. Call either of our LOCAL numbers: 559-710-0692 or 650-771-2915.**

### Property Clean Up

Property clean up, landscape maintenance and tree trimming - **FREE ESTIMATES.** Professional and reliable. Call Eric at 559-903-375

### Recyclables Pick Up

**KEEP IT LOCAL - FREE RECYCLING PICKUP** - AmericanMade Direct/Kids4recycling offers free pickup of newspaper, shredded paper, all household plastic, glass, aluminum and tin cans (containers **DON'T** need to be CRV). Metal haul away and cleanups available also! 80% return back to community! Call Dianna at 559-999-6832.

### Tractor/Trenching Services

**BOBCAT WORK - DRILLING POST-HOLES** - Trees - Trenching - Clean Up. **TRACTOR WORK** Discing - Rototilling - Mowing - Scraping - Stump Grinding. **Call John at 908-1066.**

### Window Cleaning Services

**Most windows start at \$5 and up -- inside/out** - Screen, track, sills. Remove hard water stains on home windows, shower doors and car windows. Cobweb removal too. Fully insured. **Call Nick at 285-1723.**

Free estimates.

• Mix a quarter cup of salt in with two tablespoons of bath wash for a sudsy, refreshing, skin-soothing salt scrub.

• "Here is a fun game to play with a group of kids (and adults). Everyone gets a piece of paper and begins to draw something. The group leader (mom or dad, usually)

says "Pass it left (or right)" and you pass your paper to the next person, who continues your drawing, and so on. We play this at the restaurant until the food gets there. The drawings are fun to look at later." -- T.T. in Ohio

• Here's a cheap trick to keep cut flowers fresh longer: Stir a tiny bit of sugar into the water in your vase. Then drop a penny in the vase.

• Long-sleeve shirts make great beach or lake coverups. They can be tied around your waist if you aren't using it, and they cover your whole arm.

• Need to put on a bracelet but have no one to help with the clasp? Head to your home office supplies. Grab a large paperclip and twist it open so it is in the shape of an "S." Thread one loop of the "S" into the jump ring (where the clasp attaches) and use your hand to hold the rest of the paper clip. Bring the bracelet around your wrist and it'll be easy to attach!

• "Do you have trouble keeping ants out of your hummingbird feeders? How about giving them their own cup of sugar water? Put 1/2 cup of sugar water on the ground near where you hang feeders. Then check it when you change the feeder." -- G.B. in Pavilion, NY



*Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip,  
628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803*

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

**TO ADVERTISE call 559-645-0634**

**STOP THE PAIN!**  
**"We've got your back"**

*D.O.T. Physicals • Drug Testing  
Sports Physicals only \$35!*



7/25

**36754 AVE. 12 • 660-5262**

### GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

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.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

	+		×		= 44
-		+		-	
	+		÷		= 12
×		+		+	
	+		×	9	= 72
=		=		=	
6		16		12	



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

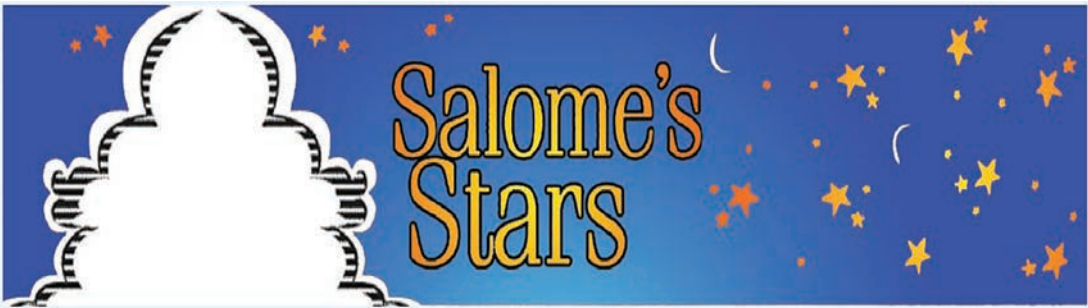




ADS  
LOGOS  
PR  
MARKETING  
645-0634



"It's not so bad. ... I've invaded worse homes than this!"



- ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Technology snafus tax your patience. But before you throw your computer or other bulky hardware into the trash, take a deep breath and call someone knowledgeable for help.
- TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't be too upset if your generosity goes unappreciated. These things happen, and rather than brood over it, you should move on. Meanwhile, a new friend could open up some exciting possibilities.
- GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A loved one helps you get through an especially difficult emotional situation. Afterward, spend the weekend immersed in the restorative powers of music and the other arts.
- CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You are pretty much in charge of what you want to do this week. However, it might be a good idea to keep an open mind regarding suggestions from people you know you can trust.
- LEO (July 23 to August 22) Another chance to shine (something always dear to the Lion's heart) might be resented by others. But you earned it, so enjoy it! The weekend brings news about a family member.
- VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A suggestion that never took off could become viable again. Dust it off, update it if necessary, and resubmit it. In your personal life, a new relationship takes an "interesting" turn.
- LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Confronting a new challenge to your stated position could work to your advantage. You can settle all doubts once you're able to present a solid defense that is backed up by equally solid facts.
- SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You enjoy doing nice things for others, but this is a good time to do something nice for yourself as well. You might want to start by planning a super-special getaway weekend.
- SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Some changes you feel like you need to make might be reasonable and appropriate. But others might lead to new problems. Think things through carefully before you act.
- CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Good instincts usually keep the sure-footed Goat on the right path. What others might see as stubbornness on your part reflects your good sense of what is worth supporting.
- AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A period of introspection could lead to some surprising conclusions and equally surprising changes involving a number of your long-held positions on several issues.
- PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The financially practical PISCES might want to take a sensible approach to spending as well as investing. Being prudent now pays off later. In other news, a romantic situation moves into another phase.

### Born this Week

*Your sense of curiosity keeps you continually alert for what's new about people, places and things. You know how to stay on top of trends or even start them yourself.*



FUN PAGES

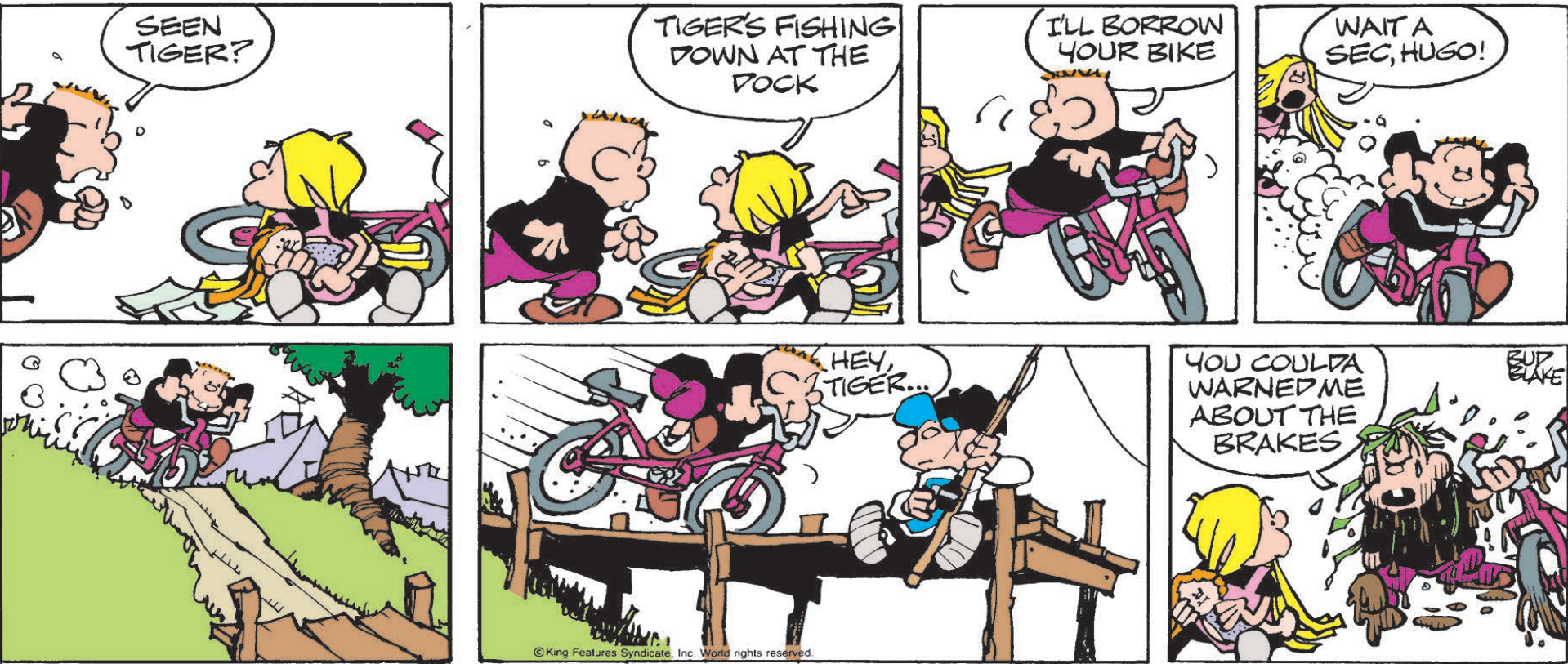
Kids' Maze



©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **MOVIES:** How many dream levels does the crew enter in the film "Inception"? 2. **U.S. STATES:** Which state's nickname is "Treasure State"? 3. **LITERATURE:** Which 1969 novel begins with the line, "All this happened, more or less"? 4. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a baby horse called? 5. **ACRONYMS:** What does the acronym GIF stand for? 6. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president served the shortest term? 7. **TELEVISION:** In which fictional town is "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" set? 8. **GEOGRAPHY:** What international city's nickname is "The Eternal City"? 9. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** How many time zones exist on Earth? 10. **SCIENCE:** Who is known as the father of medicine?

- 10. Greek physician Hippocrates.
- 9. 24.
- 8. Rome, Italy.
- 7. Sunnydale.
- 6. after taking office.
- 5. William Henry Harrison, who died 32 days after taking office.
- 4. Graphics Interchange Format.
- 3. A foal.
- 2. "Slaughterhouse-Five" by Kurt Vonnegut.
- 1. Montana.

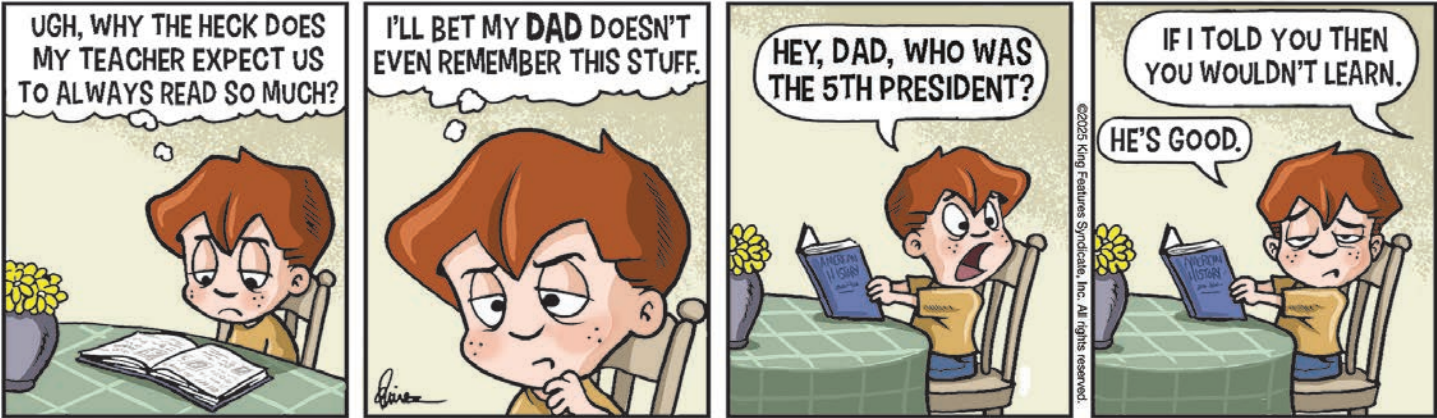
© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Click on "Local News" at



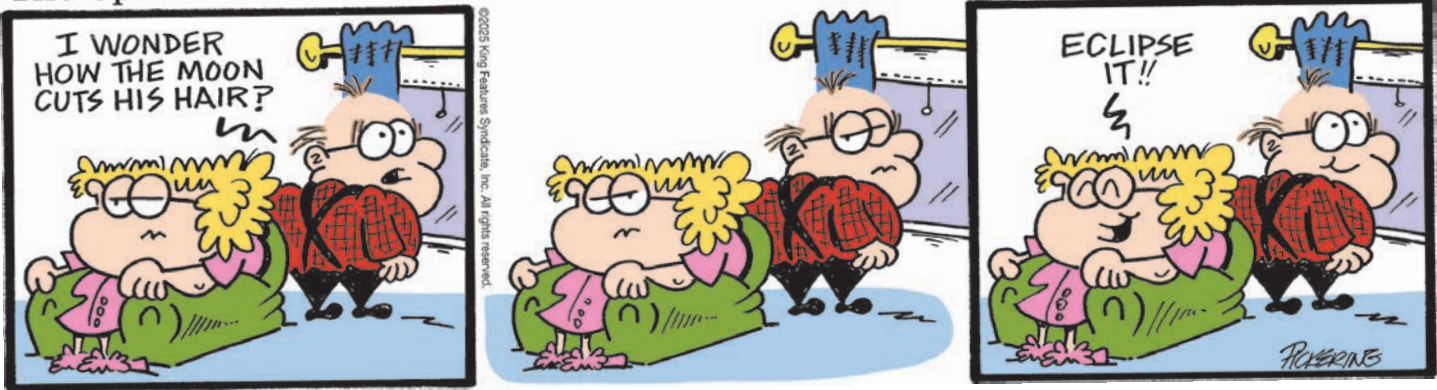
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



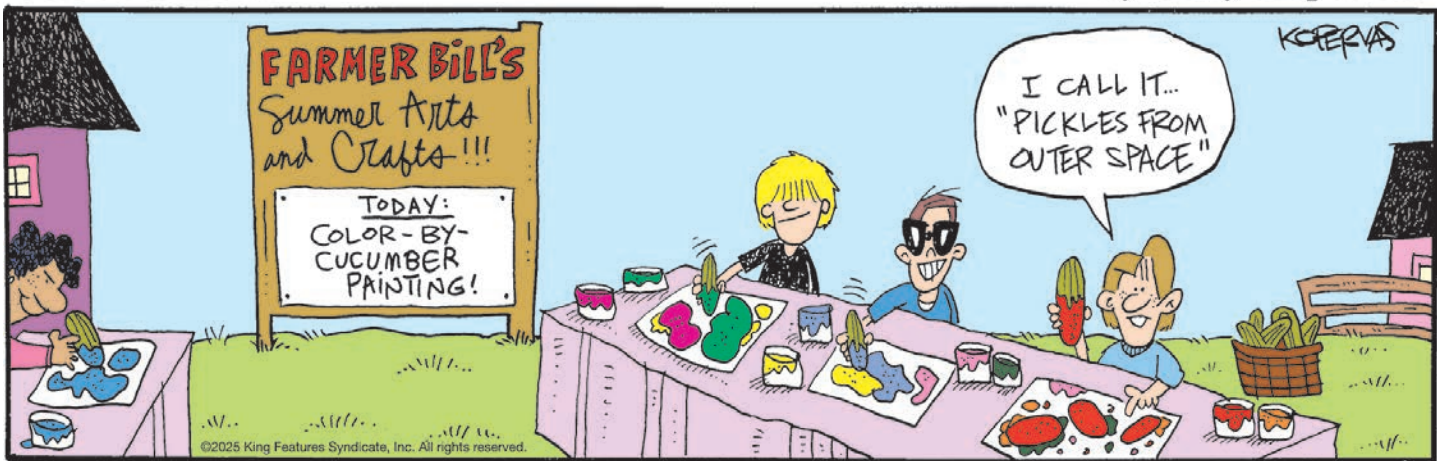
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

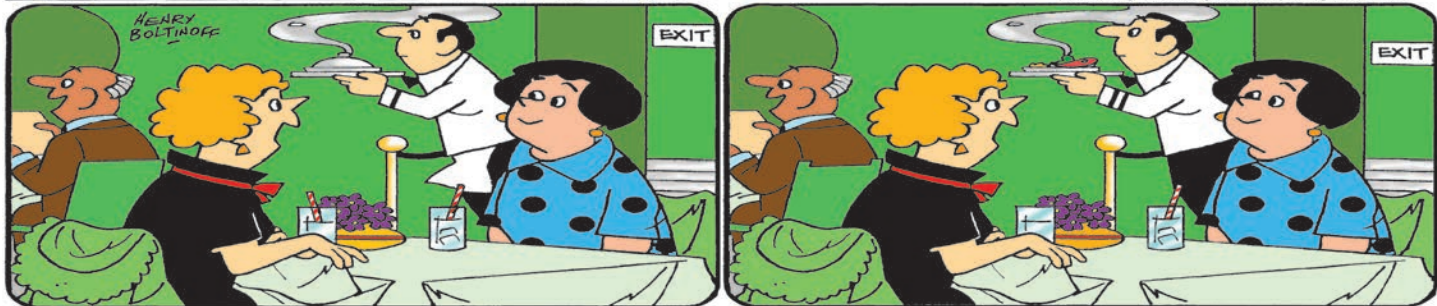


Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Cover is missing from waiter's tray. 2. Straw is added to sleeve. 3. Exit sign is missing. 4. Apron is missing. 5. Apron is missing. 6. Apron is missing. 7. Apron is missing. 8. Apron is missing. 9. Apron is missing. 10. Apron is missing. 11. Apron is missing. 12. Apron is missing. 13. Apron is missing. 14. Apron is missing. 15. Apron is missing. 16. Apron is missing. 17. Apron is missing. 18. Apron is missing. 19. Apron is missing. 20. Apron is missing. 21. Apron is missing. 22. Apron is missing. 23. Apron is missing. 24. Apron is missing. 25. Apron is missing. 26. Apron is missing. 27. Apron is missing. 28. Apron is missing. 29. Apron is missing. 30. Apron is missing. 31. Apron is missing. 32. Apron is missing. 33. Apron is missing. 34. Apron is missing. 35. Apron is missing. 36. Apron is missing. 37. Apron is missing. 38. Apron is missing. 39. Apron is missing. 40. Apron is missing. 41. Apron is missing. 42. Apron is missing. 43. Apron is missing. 44. Apron is missing. 45. Apron is missing. 46. Apron is missing. 47. Apron is missing. 48. Apron is missing. 49. Apron is missing. 50. Apron is missing. 51. Apron is missing. 52. Apron is missing. 53. Apron is missing. 54. Apron is missing. 55. Apron is missing. 56. Apron is missing. 57. Apron is missing. 58. Apron is missing. 59. Apron is missing. 60. Apron is missing. 61. Apron is missing. 62. Apron is missing. 63. Apron is missing. 64. Apron is missing. 65. Apron is missing. 66. Apron is missing. 67. Apron is missing. 68. Apron is missing. 69. Apron is missing. 70. Apron is missing. 71. Apron is missing. 72. Apron is missing. 73. Apron is missing. 74. Apron is missing. 75. Apron is missing. 76. Apron is missing. 77. Apron is missing. 78. Apron is missing. 79. Apron is missing. 80. Apron is missing. 81. Apron is missing. 82. Apron is missing. 83. Apron is missing. 84. Apron is missing. 85. Apron is missing. 86. Apron is missing. 87. Apron is missing. 88. Apron is missing. 89. Apron is missing. 90. Apron is missing. 91. Apron is missing. 92. Apron is missing. 93. Apron is missing. 94. Apron is missing. 95. Apron is missing. 96. Apron is missing. 97. Apron is missing. 98. Apron is missing. 99. Apron is missing. 100. Apron is missing.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

©2025 King Features Syndicates, Inc.

The Independent  
CALL 645-0634

MAGIC MAZE • SHIP'S —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: NAVIGATION INSTRUMENT

Bell Captain Company Papers  
Biscuit Cargo Cooper Steward  
Boat Carpenter Galley Stores  
Boy Chandler Officers

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

FUN PAGES



# SEMCU

**south east madera county united**

A non-profit organization dedicated to improving life in South East Madera County

## COUNTY TAX COLLECTION ?

**Will there be enough money to run  
the county as we lose agriculture  
to bankruptcies?**

## 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. For your needs, call or email:

Water Wells: 559-802-1289

[waterwells@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:waterwells@selfhelpenterprises.org)

Water Quality: 559-802-1285

[waterquality@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:waterquality@selfhelpenterprises.org)

Tank Water: 559-802-1685

[tankandhailedwater@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:tankandhailedwater@selfhelpenterprises.org)

Bottled Water: 559-802-1284

[bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org)

SEMCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

**at the Ranchos Library Teleconference Room**

37398 Berkshire Drive, Madera Ranchos Library

**or online:** go to: [WWW.SEMCU.ORG](http://WWW.SEMCU.ORG) for the link

**by phone:** 669-900-6833

& enter meeting ID#: 836 3242 4343 with access code 854 221

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

**FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY**