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Volume 20 Issue 9 2024

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

## Changes are Coming

With increased cars on the road – and an increase in accidents, some deadly – Madera County is ready to take action on Avenue 12 and Highway 41.

By Daniel Gligich



*In This Issue*

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**C**hanges are coming to Avenue 12 near the Highway 41 intersection after many deaths in the area over the years. Road improvements will start next year and will take 12 to 18 months to complete. Long-term traffic improvements include constructing two right-turn lanes southbound onto Highway 41 from eastbound Avenue. 12.

The county also plans to put traffic signals at the intersections at Riverstone Blvd. Southeast and Riverstone Blvd. Southwest. Other improvements include constructing a six-lane road from Highway 41 through Riverwalk Blvd., constructing a six-lane to four-lane transition road through Road 40 and constructing a concrete raised-median for the entire corridor from Highway 41 to Road 40.

Along with the road improvements, Madera County plans to have interim improvements in place by the end of the month that includes partnering with the California Highway Patrol for increased enforcement presence along the Avenue 12 and Highway 41 corridor with a focus on speed, cell phone use, DUI and commercial vehicle compliance. Additionally, the county will place “slow down” signs at key locations on Avenue 12.

Home builder signage in right-of-



ways along Avenue 12 between Highway 41 and Road 40 will be removed and the County is also adding a left-turn pocket and a temporary signal at Riverstone Blvd. Southwest.

Madera County Supervisor Jordan Wamhoff said the change is a long time coming, aimed at quickly rectifying growing safety concerns. “The people of the Ranchos and southeastern Madera

County are being heard loud and clear,” Wamhoff said. “Along with pressing Sacramento for greater enforcement on big rigs through the CHP, I’m working hard to ensure the County takes the steps necessary as quickly as possible to make Avenue 12 safe for all travelers.”

*This article appears courtesy of the San Joaquin Valley Sun. www.sjvsun.com.*

## City Sues State For Hiding Kids’ Sex Transitioning

The City of Huntington Beach has sued the State of California over a new law requiring schools to hide a child’s gender transition from parents

A new law signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in July that prohibits schools from notifying parents if their child is “gender confused” or “transitioning” to the opposite sex, was legally challenged with a lawsuit by the City of Huntington Beach on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

America First Legal filed the lawsuit on behalf of a group of California parents and the City of Huntington Beach against California Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Robert Bonta and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond.

Assembly Bill 1955, by Assemblyman Chris Ward (D-San Diego), labeled the Support Academic Futures and Educators for Today’s Youth Act (SAFETY Act), also prohibits employees or contractors of schools from being required to make such a disclosure unless otherwise required by law.

Throughout the year, opponents charged that the bill would keep information away from parents and erase transparency with parents. However, proponents said that it would hurt students who wanted to be identified differently and, without the law, would let school districts “out” students to their parents. The bill proved to be very controversial, barely passing in the Senate and Assembly in June, with the latter vote coming within a few votes of failing. Nonetheless, the bill was passed and Gov. Newsom signed the bill into law in July.

Since then, hints of legal challenges have been constant. But none were as persistent as the Orange County city of Huntington Beach. Last month, the Huntington Beach City Council drafted a law giving parents the right to know about changes in their child’s gender identity. Earlier this month, the city passed the new law, essentially laying down a challenge against the state. City officials hinted heavily at an upcoming lawsuit, even saying that parental rights over their children’s education are protected under the 14th Amendment.

“It was unconstitutional in the first place,” said City Attorney Michael Gates. “It sends a signal ... that we are a ‘Parents’ Right to Know’ city, and that educators should not interfere in the parent-child relationship.”

## Madera County Unveils World Trade Center Beam



Madera County unveiled a center beam from the World Trade Center on Patriot Day, September 11, 2024, honoring the lives lost in the 9/11 attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001, and commemorating Madera County firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty here.

The unveiling of this historic beam stands as a powerful symbol of resilience, unity and remembrance. It serves as a tribute not only to the victims of the attacks but to local firefighters who lost their lives in service to our community.

“As we gather to remember the events of September 11 and our local firefighters whose lives have been lost, we honor their courage and dedication and pay our deepest respects,” said Justin Macomb, Madera Division Fire Chief. “This beam is a poignant reminder of the strength we find in unity, and our commitment to never forget.”

After the terror attack and cleanup of the area began, several communities expressed an interest in obtaining some of the salvaged metal from the attacked towers. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey gave away 9/11 artifacts from the World Trade Center to deserving applicants until 2016 when they ran out. To date, they have given out 2,600 pieces of steel to communities in all 50 states and 10 foreign countries. It’s a unique way to honor and preserve our painful past, but also, to never forget.

This particular piece now resting in the City of Madera, briefly graced the Ranchos. It even made the front page of the June 2022 issue of the Ranchos Independent. The accompanying story said, “On Saturday, May 28, a 14-foot steel beam salvaged from the World Trade Center that was attacked by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001 solemnly rolled through the Madera Ranchos. It was on its way to Madera where it is ultimately going to be incorporated into a 9/11 Memorial planned for construction at Madera County’s Courtyard Park.” On that day, the beam travelled throughout Madera County for everyone to see. Appropriately, it was escorted by area firefighters, law enforcement and the American Legion Motorcycle Riders on the way to its final resting place.

The memorial can be seen at Courthouse Park at 210 West Yosemite in Madera.



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*Thank You!*

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**New Law Bans Shopping Bags**

A new law banning the use of plastic shopping bags was approved by California legislators in August, effectively outlawing all plastic shopping bags starting in 2026. If you don't bring your own bag, a paper bag will be offered. The new law was signed into effect by Gov. Newsom on Sept. 22.

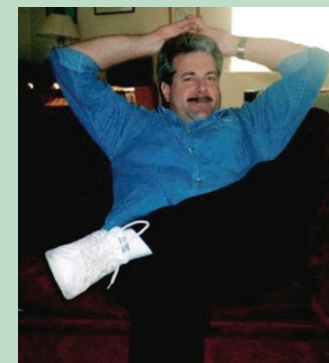
The California Legislature passed a ban on plastic bags in 2014 which was approved by voters in 2016. That action banned thin plastic shopping bags, but shoppers could buy thicker plastic bags designed to be reusable. Unfortunately, a state study found that people were not reusing or recycling any plastic bags. The study found that the annual amount of plastic shopping

bags being thrown away increased from 8 pounds per person in 2004 to 11 pounds per person in 2021. The law didn't reduce the use of plastic, it increased it.

In addition to California, 12 other states have some type of plastic bag ban in place, and hundreds of cities across 28 states also have their own plastic bag bans.

"Californians voted to ban plastic grocery bags in our state almost a decade ago, but the law clearly needed a redo," said Jenn Engstrom, director of the California Public Interest Research Group. "With the Governor's signature, California has finally banned plastic bags in grocery checkout lanes once and for all."

*In Memoriam*



**Wesley "Wes" Wayne Walter**

*November 18, 1959 — August 22, 2024*

Wesley "Wes" Wayne Walter, a beloved husband, father, "Meep," brother and uncle, passed away on August 22, 2024, at the age of 64. Born on November 8, 1959, in Fresno, California, Wes was the son of the late Robert Walter Sr. and Charlotte Walter. He was preceded in death by his sister, Gail Walter, and his parents. Wes is survived by his loving wife, Karen, his four cherished daughters — Stacy, Allison, Selena and Mimi (Sarah) — and two granddaughters, Katelyn and Savannah, along with his brother, Rob, and several cousins, nephews and nieces.

Wes was a proud graduate of Hoover High School and Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. His career spanned over 35 years at JBT where he played an integral role in the company's success as a member of the Valley Industry Partnership (VIP Home), helping to mentor and hire aspiring engineers.

Wes had an early start in life, working as a mechanic and attendant at Ben Honda's Exxon station while putting himself through college. His hard work and dedication continued throughout his career, first at Guardian and later at JBT, where he became known for his expertise, loyalty and mentoring spirit.

Beyond his professional life, Wes was a man of many passions. He had a love for cars and enjoyed vacations camping at Pismo Beach. His shop was his sanctuary, where he spent hours working on projects and pursuing his love of collecting and shooting guns. Above all, Wes loved his family deeply and his greatest joy came from the time spent with those closest to him.

Wes will be remembered for his warmth, dedication and the love he showed to those around him. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work, kindness and a life lived fully. His presence will be missed, but his memory will live on in the hearts of his loved ones.

A man who lived his life with passion, purpose and love — Wes will forever be in our hearts.



**Once Upon a Time ...**

By Betty Van Valkenburg

Once upon a time in a land seemingly far, far away ...

Obvious airheads like Cacklin' Kamala were not expected to run for President of the United States of America, or even for dog catcher. And mentally impaired and seriously compromised life-long politicians like Joe Biden were expected to fade into the sunset rather than to lead the country down the path of failure and, apparently, to line his family's pockets. (Fortunately, there is still a presumption of freedom of speech, so one can give an honest opinion of politicians without promoting violence or mayhem, just speaking plainly.)

The United States Secret Service was a revered and effective organization composed of well-trained, educated and patriotic Americans who willingly put their lives on the line for their protectees. And my cousin was one of them. Fortunately, there are still good agents around, like those who rushed to shield Donald Trump with their own bodies at the event in

Pennsylvania. But the leaders of the Secret Service appear to be, at worst, politically motivated; and the organization is in serious decline. May heaven help our elected officials, whether we agree with them politically or not, who rely on Secret Service protection under the current inadequate leadership.

All voters were expected to be citizens of the United States of America and to vote in their own districts according to the rules ... and to vote once only. Votes were cast on "election day" and ballots were safeguarded and counted quickly, thus avoiding the time for serious shenanigans behind the scenes and avoiding accusations of fraud. "Harvesting" referred to picking field crops, not "harvesting/taking" ballots from others, possibly marking any blank ballots, or tossing in the trash can those not marked to the "harvester's" liking. This suggestion has been made: Since everyone receives a ballot by mail these days, if old Aunt Martha or Papa Joe is mentally impaired, either at home or in a care facility, you might appoint yourself to "harvest" their ballots and make sure they are marked according to your loved ones' desires and are delivered to the proper location.

And once upon a time, not too long ago under the last administration, the economy was in good shape, and there was relative peace in the world. Folks could afford to fill their gas tanks and buy a sack of groceries without draining their bank accounts ... once upon a time ...

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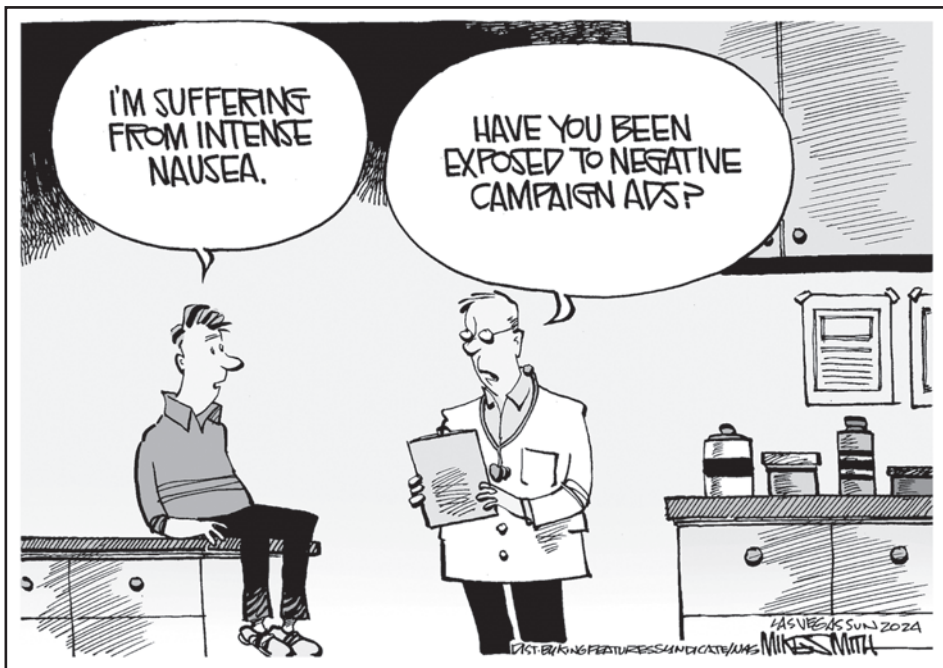
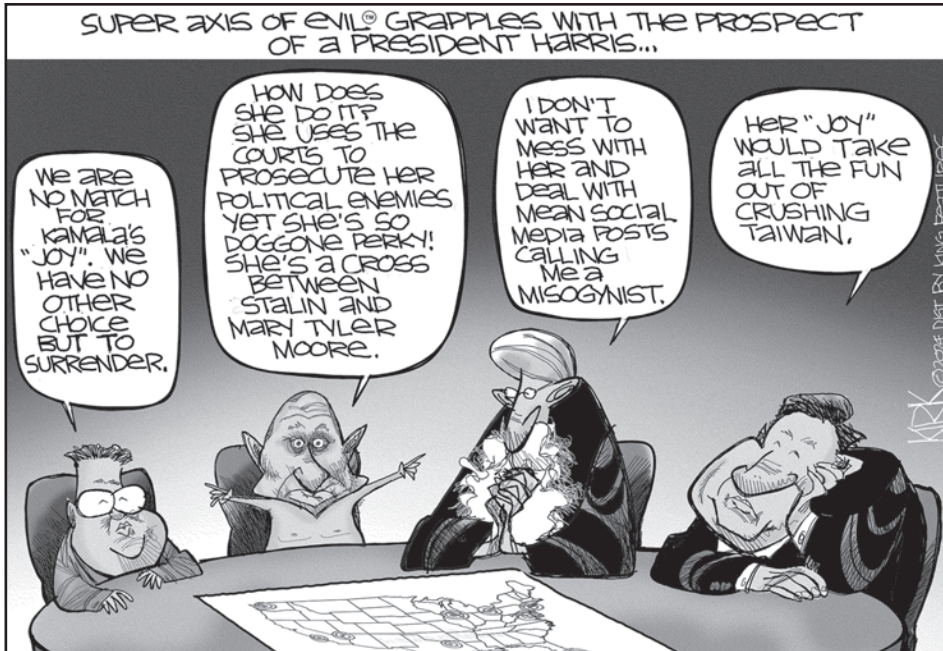
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**Say you saw it in the Independent**



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## Guest Editorial

# Who Doesn't Get Free Speech? Why, You

By Joe Schaeffer

Hillary Clinton and California Gov. Gavin Newsom have stirred up another hornet's nest on the fundamental issue of free speech. In doing so, the two superstar Democrats have once again exposed the Achilles' heel of the progressive ruling establishment: its inability to abide being mocked.

On Sept. 16, with remarkable nonchalance, Clinton told MSNBC host Rachel Maddow that American citizens should face civil and criminal penalties for "parrot-ing Russian talking points."

The first question that instantly comes to mind is, who gets to decide what opinions expressed by American citizens amount to foreign agitprop? Supporting Donald Trump is the first big clue.

"I think it's important to indict the Russians, just like [special counsel Robert] Mueller indicted a lot of Russians who were engaged in direct election interference and boosting Trump back in 2016," Clinton told Maddow, harking back to the feverish days of a thoroughly discredited federal Russiagate campaign against her Republican

opponent.

"But I also think there are Americans who are engaged in this kind of propaganda and whether they should be civilly or, even in some cases, criminally charged is something that would be a better deterrence because the Russians are unlikely, except in a very few cases, to ever stand trial in the United States."

With breathtaking honesty, Clinton acknowledged that she can't stop Americans from voting as they

*Democrat heavyweights openly seek to criminalize citizens' freedom of expression.*

see fit, but she does want to prevent them from exercising their right to free speech if that crosses a line drawn in her

mind.

"I think we need to uncover all the connections and make it very clear that you can vote however you want, but we are not going to let adversaries, Russia, China, Iran or anybody else, basically try to influence Americans as to how we should vote in picking our leaders," Clinton stated.

Meanwhile, on the West Coast, Newsom signed three bills into law on Sept. 17, each ostensibly meant to crack down on AI "deepfake" videos.

"The California ban on campaign deepfakes will allow courts to issue injunctions blocking people from distributing intentionally deceptive political content during election season, and it exposes people who share deepfakes to civil penalties," Politico reported.

But while Newsom stressed he seeks to eliminate deception, he was spurred to immediate action on the issue by a video shared by X owner Elon Musk that is clearly a parody.

In July, Musk posted a video featuring the AI-generated voice of current Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris, calling herself a deep state puppet and diversity hire. No sensible person could possibly be confused into thinking the audio is genuine.

Newsom then called out Musk,

Please see **SPEECH** on P. 9

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"... THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER NEGOTIATION WHILE THIS SITUATION CONTINUES. YOU CAN'T SIT AND NEGOTIATE WITH A UNION THAT'S IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW."

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

# Missing My Biggest Fan

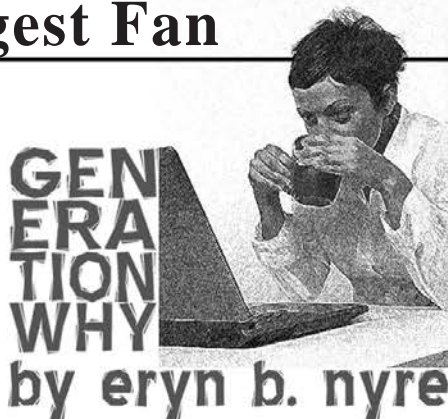
My grandfather has been one of my fans since I started writing monthly articles in the Ranchos Independent. Perhaps even my biggest fan. He read each month's column religiously and would then put his own pen to paper and send me his thoughts on whatever I wrote. Sometimes his musings were sweet notes of praise. Sometimes they were words of encouragement and support. Then other times it was a journey through his strange yet amusing mind in a vehicle I like to call his twisted sense of humor. People have often said to me that I have my father's sense of humor. Well, let me tell you something: I know from where my dad got it and if those letters are any indication, then I'm a little grateful it appears to get a tad more diluted with each new generation.

I never knew what mood Grandpa would be in when he penned one of his notes to me. You would think it would simply reflect the senti-

*That's what's so great about grandparents. They can share parts of your own past with you through a different lens.*

ment of the article. Many times it did, but other times he would metaphorically take a left turn down a dirt road in his brain, find a field and do mind donuts for a while and you just had to go along for the ride. Here's the thing, though, despite his random oddness, or maybe because of it, I looked forward to those letters every month.

One of the best parts of our correspondence was the vocabulary exchange. Whenever I used a word that he thought was particularly clever or uncommon he would be sure to comment on it in his letter. He always prided himself on having a robust and extensive vocabulary. He often tried to teach me new words. Despite fancying myself a writer most of my life, and being an English major in college, he was always surprised when I already knew a word he wanted to teach me. I think that was mostly because he couldn't fathom that someone several decades younger could not only share in his love of words but manage to have amassed a similarly vast and varied vocabulary as he had, at

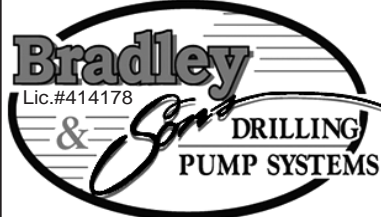


such a young age. It never bothered me, I found it amusing. Sometimes I would take one of the words he would write to me about and work it into the next article. I thought it was a subtle way to keep connecting with him. He definitely noticed and it seemed to have made him proud. I think it was mostly because he thought he had taught his granddaughter something, but it was a connection, nonetheless.

Another favorite aspect of these letters he would send me was when he would include little anecdotes. Sometimes it was a tale about his childhood, occasionally it was a story from his time as a police officer, and sometimes he would give me a fabulous gift and tell me about something my father did in his youth that Dad neglected to share with me. I got to experience little moments in history through Grandpa's eyes, that's something you can never replace.

We built a relationship through our letters. He and I didn't establish one when I was a child. I'm not sure he knew what to do with children. I'm not sure he was a child when he was a child, but I suppose that's something I'll never know. But as a grandfather to the precocious little only child that I was, he seemed sort of at a loss. My mother's father was the "build her a life-sized dollhouse" type, which made it easy for him to bond with little me. My dad's dad was more of a "find a coffee shop and have me sit quietly while he flirted with the waitress," type. So, we didn't have much of a connection when I was a kid. As an

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



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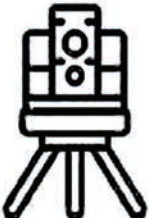
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GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

adult we managed to forge one when I started writing articles and got home one day to find my first letter from him.

We lost him a couple of months ago. He won't have a chance to read this. I won't get a letter commenting on my use of the word precocious. He probably would have remembered some story from when I was that little girl that I would have long since forgotten. That's what's so great about grandparents. They can share parts of your own past with you through a different lens.

I'm definitely going to miss the old man. I'm going to miss seeing his letter come in the mail. I'm

going to miss reading his words in his unique handwriting where he would capitalize words for emphasis, only the emphasis would change the entire sentiment of the sentence from what I know he intended. I will miss his complete and utter misuse of quotations marks. Despite his immense vocabulary, that man had absolutely no idea how to properly use quotation marks. I'm going to miss his feedback on what he thought I should have done in any of the given situations I outlined. Mostly I'm just going to miss knowing he was out there, in my corner, excited that his granddaughter who has always had a passion for the written word was doing something interesting with it.

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**Golden Oak 4-H**

By Monique Morgan

Saturday, Aug. 31 was the first day of exhibition for Golden Oak 4-H members at the Madera County Fair. Seven of our members competed in various shows throughout the week: Iris Garzon, Elizabeth Morgan, CJ Morales, Sarah Morgan, Griffin Williams-Smith, Wyatt Morgan and Hunter Williams-Smith. For such a small group, these members definitely showed up and took home many incredible awards.

Iris Garzon competed with her Pygmy Goat, Old English Game Bantam, Cavy and quite a few still exhibits. Elizabeth Morgan competed with her Pygmy Goat, Cavy and many still exhibits as well. Even though these two girls are not old enough to exhibit large livestock like market goats or market hogs, they still love participating in the action and honing their skills for when they are old enough to compete at age nine. In addition to their animals, both girls enjoy entering still exhibits including photographs they took, food items they made, drawings, arts and crafts creations, and Lego creations, among others.

CJ Morales, one of our newest members, had the opportunity to exhibit his breeding doe. He competed as an Independent in Novice Showmanship against FFA placing third and advanced to Intermediate FFA showmanship where he placed fourth. He did a fantastic job, and we look forward to having him participate in 4-H this year. Wyatt Morgan exhibited his market steer this year. Wyatt has owned and raised this steer for 11 months and they had success at the fair. His steer came in first in his weight class and Wyatt placed third in Advanced 4-H showmanship.

Griffin Williams-Smith is our first ever Dog Exhibitor in the club. Griffin practiced hard all summer with his dog Bo and placed second in Advanced 4-H Showmanship, earning him a place in Small Animal Master Showmanship held Friday Sept. 6. Griffin also exhibited in the poultry show at the fair, coming away with many great awards.

Sarah Morgan participated with her market turkey, Old English Game Bantam, American Satin Cavy, Dutch Rabbit and her Duroc breeding Gilt. Sarah placed first in Intermediate 4-H Turkey Showmanship as well as first in Cavy Showmanship, earning her place in Small Animal Master Showmanship as well. In addition, she placed second in Intermediate 4-H Rabbit Showmanship and fourth in Intermediate 4-H Poultry Showmanship. She also placed first in her breeding hog class and third in Intermediate 4-H Swine Showmanship. Sarah also entered still exhibits at the fair, gaining a Best of Division award for her pencil drawing and her salt-water taffy.

Hunter Williams-Smith, the president of our 4-H club, also had an outstanding showing at the fair. Hunter raises breeding Boer Goats and entered many of his newest does from breeding season in the breeding show, coming away with numerous awards. In addition, he raises some very impressive Old English Game Bantams that he exhibits throughout the state. One of his birds that he raised from a chick won Reserve In Show poultry, a very difficult feat to achieve. Hunter also exhibited a market turkey, breeding rabbits, his American Cavies and his Pygmy Goat Wether. He also participated in showmanship including placing second in Pygmy Goat Showmanship, earning his spot in Small Animal Master Showmanship.

Small Animal Master Showmanship is only open to showmen who place first in their species' showmanship competition, or second place in certain situa-



4-H Happenings  
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4-H Happenings



Competing at Master Showmanship are, from left, Sarah Morgan, Hunter Williams-Smith and Griffin Williams-Smith.

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4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.

5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life in the Ranchos.

9/24

## "When's the NEXT Chamber of Commerce Meeting?"

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, October 13 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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• "To clean the TV remote in my home, I dip a cotton swab into rubbing alcohol, shake off any excess and use it to gently clean the surface. I do this weekly during cold and flu season." -- M. in Minnesota

• To keep track of rolls of tape or other rolled items in your shop, hang a length of chain from two "S" hooks on your pegboard. They will be readily accessible, and you can tear off what you need.

• "If you use those little plastic key-ring cards for store rewards accounts and discount programs, you can keep them easily organized in a small photo brag book. These books can be found at drugstores and big box retailers, and are meant for a small collection of wallet-size pictures. However, if you put your cards in one, it's easy to flip through to find the correct card to scan." -- R.I. in Arkansas

• Fill an easy-to-use hand soap dispenser with body wash or shampoo for kids to use in the bath or shower.

• "Here's a fun idea for place cards at Thanksgiving (coming up in Canada): Scan in and print out a photo of each guest as a child. Laminate it and attach it to a pretty piece of ribbon with a glue gun. Use the ribbon to tie up a napkin and/or utensils. Guests will have a good time trying to guess who's who and reminiscing about days gone by." -- P.D. in Ontario, Canada

• When working with juicy items (lemons, watermelon, etc.) on a cutting board, try placing the board on a kitchen towel. When the juices run over the edge, they will be caught by the towel. Cleanup will be easy!



Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*,  
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4-H cont. from P. 7

tions. This competition was held on Friday, Sept. 6. Golden Oak 4-H had three individuals qualify for this prestigious competition. Griffin and Hunter both participated in Advanced 4-H Master Showmanship and Sarah participated in Intermediate 4-H Master Showmanship. Hunter has qualified for this not once but twice, as he competed last year in Master Showmanship as well. Hunter placed Fifth overall in the final for Advanced 4-H Small Animal Master Showmanship at Madera Fair. Griffin is not new to Master Showmanship either, he had the distinct honor of competing at California State Fair in Advanced 4-H Master Showmanship. Griffin placed sixth overall in Advanced 4-H Small Animal Master Showmanship at Madera Fair. This was Sarah's first year participating in Master Showmanship and came away with a third overall in

Intermediate 4-H Small Animal Master Showmanship at Madera Fair.

**Sierra Shadows 4-H**

By Jake Poore

National 4-H Week is Oct. 7-12 and we celebrate by sharing the opportunities and successes all of our members have accomplished so far.

Madera County just had the Madera District Fair, and our club had so many amazing experiences. Market Goats: Starla Sisil 4-H Champion light weight market goat, 4-H Champion market goat, Reserve Grand Champion market goat, Champion 4-H Junior goat showman, Champion 4-H Intermediate goat showman; Lucy Lee 4-H Champion Feeder Goat; Annelise Crandall 4-H Reserve Champion Heavy Weight market goat.

Market Swine: Landon Davis 4-H Reserve Champion AOB, 2nd Place In-

termediate showmanship; Micah Lee, 5th in Advanced 4-H Showmanship.

In Master Showmanship: Emily Wallace 2nd Overall for small animal, Champion Intermediate showman in Rabbits; Starla Sisil 2nd overall for large animal; Taylor Ward 5th overall large animal and 4-H Champion Intermediate showman for Horse.

We had our primary members shown in PeeWee Showmanship: Lane Bower in Swine, Paisley Bower, Braxton Davis in Goats and Paisley Fahey in Dog. In Poultry, Artemis Arsenaault with a very successful Turkey project.

Sierra Shadows 4-H meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Sierra View Elementary multipurpose room at 7p.m. This monthly meeting is where we all get together and get updates on the different projects and listen to guest speakers and do recreation activities. Come check us out. Contact Jesse Bower, Club Leader for enrollment information

and find us on Facebook at SierraShadows4-Hclub.

If you have a child looking to make more friends and learn new skills while having fun, then come join our club. We also provide important leadership opportunities, public speaking lessons and community service involvement. Our Motto is "Learn by Doing" and the theme for National 4-H week this year is "Beyond Ready!"

Our 2024-2025 Officers are: President Jamey Crandall; Vice President Jake Poore; Secretary Lucy Lee; Treasurer Landon Davis; Sergeant at Arms Samara Mohler; Recreation Officer Micah Lee; Healthy Living Officer Sienna Garcia, Emily Wallace and Taylor Ward; Attendance Secretary Annelise Crandall; Hostesses Abigail Rosier, Emily Rosier and our Cloverbud reps: Paisley Bower Recreation, Hostess Brooke Davis and Brook Tavares, and Healthy Living Jade Mellott.

SPEECH cont. from P. 5

vowing to sign a bill "in a matter of weeks" prohibiting such material.

Now, he has done so. The law will go into effect before the November election, meaning Californians who violate it face prosecution this autumn.

That may turn out to be an awful

lot of court cases. On Sept. 18, Musk fired back at Newsom.

"The governor of California just made this parody video illegal in violation of the Constitution of the United States," Musk wrote in an X post, again sharing the Harris video Newsom explicitly sought to criminalize. "Would be a shame if it went viral."

Soon after, the video was trending on X. Musk's post had 24 million views and more than 120,000 reposts and climbing as of the afternoon of Sept. 18.

Beyond infantilizing Americans as morons wholly unable to detect satire without the watchful eye of big government to guide their way, Clinton's words and Newsom's actions prankster reveals the hollowness of this claim.

During the 2016 presidential election, Douglass Mackey, who ran the popular Twitter account "Ricky Vaughn," posted a series of memes mocking Clinton and progressives.

"The memes he generated included #draftourdaughters, a satirical campaign identifying Hillary as a warmonger who would put the country's young women in fatigues to fight her foreign military adventures. Another suggested people could simply text in their vote for Clinton instead of visiting the polls," Liberty Nation News' Scott Cosenza related.

Again, no reasonable person would find either meme to be authentic. Nevertheless, as soon as Joe Biden's Attorney General Merrick Garland took over the Justice Department in 2021, he went after Mackey, who was eventually convicted "for spreading falsehoods via Twitter," as the Associated Press reported it, and was sentenced to seven months in prison for the text-your-vote meme.

bring another disturbing factor into the free speech debate: selective enforcement of the law.

"I could [not] care less if it was Harris or Trump," Newsom told Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff about the new laws, Politico noted. "It was just wrong on every level."

A notorious Biden administration lawfare assault on an online Democrats were obviously nursing a grudge against Mackey throughout the four years of Trump's presidency. They sure don't like being laughed at.

Being convicted for parody is bad enough, but Mackey was not the only Twitter user to make the joke. "Hey Trump Supporters! Skip poll lines at #Election2016 and text in your vote! Text votes are legit. Or vote tomorrow on Super Wednesday," Kristina Wong posted on Election Day 2016. Garland has still not gotten around to Wong, who has more than 26,000 followers today.

This is just one aspect of the slippery slope invoked when the government is deployed to police the free speech of American citizens. Murky interpretations of what is and is not a violation of an ill-defined, politically motivated law inevitably lead to selective enforcement based on bias.

And partisan enforcement of the law is the epitome of tyranny.

*This editorial originally appeared on LibertyNation.com.*

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Senior Report

# Craft Fair at the Senior Center

By Melanie Williams

The colorful fall season is just around the corner. We celebrate the changing of the summer foliage to the vibrant fall colors. The promise of delicious morsels with everything pumpkin and spice, greets us after a summer full of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Fall is also the time for the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center Craft Fair. On Saturday, Oct. 5, the Senior Center is hosting their Annual Fall Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Treasure House will be open at the Craft Fair this year.

We completed a few renovations to the interior of the Treasure House and upgraded the cooling system. Plants will be available in the Scout Garden, with some good advice about the best times for fall planting.

We have new vendors, with some of our favorite vendors returning to participate this year. The Jacinto Taco truck will occupy a space, selling the "Best Tacos in the Valley, Since 1995." They are also selling a variety of Mexican style breakfast and lunch plates at the Craft Fair.

Vendors include many specialty items like Crystal Sun-catchers, leather handbags, horseshoe art and unique wood art for the house and yard. We have locally made olive oil for tasting, beautiful, handcrafted jewelry, crocheted baby items and quilts.

There will be NO parking available at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive. Parking is available along Berkshire Drive and Fernwood Drive in the Madera Ranchos. When parking in the neighborhood, please respect the neighbors and their property. Please do not block driveways while parking vehicles.

If you need additional infor-

mation about the Craft Fair, please call 559-645-4864.

Our monthly potluck is on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 5 p.m. The "Trick or Treat, Give Me Something to Eat" Potluck is our theme for October. We have a fun group activity and game night planned.

Any senior is welcome and all seniors need to bring a main or side dish for eight people and their own place settings for the potluck. Homemade desserts are always welcome. If you plan to come, please call the Senior Center so we can have enough tables set up for everyone.

The Senior Center has weekly activities including the



Senior Exercise Classes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. Card and Tables Games every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. The Senior Hot Lunch Program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. The Conversation Book Club meets on the third Thursday each month at 10 a.m. to discuss their favorite books and hear about new authors.

The Indian Basket Weaving Class is growing as members sit and visit as they learn how to weave beautiful baskets with pine needles. The Ranchos "Basket Cases" meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. They have added some more Tuesday mornings during the month to meet when members are available.

Quote for October: "My beloved October has returned - with its brilliant colors, cool temperatures and sunny, cloudless, azure skies, and I must enjoy it before it escapes for another year." — Peggy Toney Horton. *Somewhere in Heaven, My Mother is Smiling*

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# SEE YOU SUNDAY!

# SEMCU speaks

By Anthony Forestiere, CPA

Mr. Forestiere is a practicing Accountant (aforestiere@gmail.com) and a board member of SEMCU. We asked him for his brief view of some of the tax changes.

## Updates to 2024 IRS and California Franchise Tax Board Tax Law Changes:

As we progress into 2024, both the IRS and the FTB have implemented several significant tax law changes. These updates reflect ongoing efforts to adapt to economic conditions, policy goals and taxpayer needs. Below is a summary of the key changes for 2024 at both the federal and state levels:

### IRS (Federal) Tax Law Changes for 2024

**1. Inflation Adjustments:** The IRS has adjusted tax brackets and standard deductions for inflation. This means taxpayers might see changes in their tax liability, even if their income remains the same as in previous years. For example, the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly has increased to \$28,000, and for single filers, it is now \$14,400.

**2. Retirement Contributions:** Contribution limits for retirement accounts like 401(k)s and IRAs have increased. For 401(k) plans, the contribution limit is now \$23,000, with an additional \$7,500 catch-up contribution for those aged 50 and above. IRA contribution limits have also been raised to \$7,000, with a \$1,000 catch-up limit.

**3. Child Tax Credit:** The Child Tax Credit remains at \$2,000 per qualifying child, but the refundable portion has increased to \$1,600. Eligibility criteria remain largely unchanged, though income phaseouts begin at \$400,000 for married couples and \$200,000 for other filers.

**4. Energy-Efficient Home Improvements:** Homeowners can now take advantage of expanded tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements, including windows, insulation, and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. The maximum credit available has increased to \$2,600.

**5. Health Savings Accounts (HSAs):** Contribution limits for HSAs have increased. Individuals can now contribute up to \$4,150, and families can contribute up to \$8,300. Catch-up contributions for those aged 55 and older remain at \$1,000.

California Franchise Tax Board Tax

Law Changes for 2024

**State Tax Brackets Adjusted for Inflation:** California has also adjusted its tax brackets to account for inflation. This helps ensure that taxpayers do not move into a higher tax bracket solely due to inflationary increases in their income.

**1. Expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC):** The CalEITC has been expanded to include more low-income earners. The maximum credit amount has been increased and the income eligibility thresholds have been adjusted to reflect inflation and the cost of living in California.

**2. Homeowner Assistance Programs:** California has introduced new credits and deductions for homeowners making energy-efficient upgrades to their properties. This includes credits for solar panel installations, energy-efficient windows, and other qualifying improvements.

**3. Increased Scrutiny on Cryptocurrency Transactions:** The FTB is increasing its focus on cryptocurrency transactions. Taxpayers engaging in crypto trading or investing are required to report their activities more thoroughly. Failure to do so could result in penalties.

**4. Health Care Mandate Penalty:** California continues to enforce its individual health care mandate, requiring residents to maintain health insurance coverage. The penalty for not having coverage has increased slightly, in line with inflation.

**Conclusion:** The 2024 tax year brings important updates for both federal and California state taxpayers. Staying informed about these changes is crucial for accurate tax planning and filing. Taxpayers are encouraged to consult with tax professionals or use reliable tax software to ensure compliance and to optimize their tax situations under the new laws.

### Tax Planning for the 2024 year-end

As we approach the end of 2024, taxpayers should focus on several important IRS and California Franchise Tax Board tax laws to ensure they are adequately prepared for tax season. Here are some key areas to consider:

#### IRS (Federal) Tax Laws

**1. Maximizing Retirement Contributions:**

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024, for 401(k) and similar employer-sponsored plans; April 15, 2025, for IRAs.

**Action:** Ensure you maximize your contributions to retirement accounts such as 401(k)s, IRAs, and Roth IRAs. The 2024 limits are \$23,000 for 401(k) plans (with an additional \$7,500 catch-up contribution if you're 50 or older) and \$7,000 for IRAs (with a \$1,000 catch-up for those 50 and older). Contributing the maximum allowable

amount can reduce taxable income and help with long-term retirement savings.

**2. Tax-Loss Harvesting:**

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024.

**Action:** Review your investment portfolio for opportunities to sell underperforming assets to offset capital gains. This strategy, known as tax-loss harvesting, can help reduce your taxable income for the year.

**3. Charitable Contributions:**

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024.

**Action:** Consider making charitable donations before the year ends to take advantage of tax deductions. Remember, to claim deductions for cash contributions, you need to itemize your deductions. Contributions to qualified charitable organizations are deductible up to 60 percent of your adjusted gross income.

**4. Required Minimum Distributions:**

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024.

**Action:** If you're 73 or older, ensure you take your required minimum distributions from retirement accounts like IRAs and 401(k)s to avoid penalties. The penalty for failing to take an RMD is 50 percent of the amount that should have been withdrawn.

**5. Energy-Efficient Home Improvements:**

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024.

**Action:** Take advantage of the expanded federal tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements, such as installing solar panels, upgrading windows, or replacing HVAC systems. These credits can reduce your tax liability and improve your home's energy efficiency.

#### California Franchise Tax Board Tax Laws

**1. California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC):**

**Action:** Ensure you are eligible for and claim the CalEITC if you qualify. This credit is designed for low-income earners and can provide a significant tax refund, even if you owe no taxes. The credit amount and income eligibility thresholds have been adjusted for inflation in 2024.

**2. Homeowner Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency:**

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024.

**Action:** If you own a home in California, consider making energy-efficient upgrades. The state offers tax credits for certain home improvements, such as installing solar panels or upgrading to energy-efficient appliances. These credits can help reduce your state tax liability.

**3. Health Care Mandate Compliance:**

**Action:** Ensure that you and your dependents have health insurance coverage

that meets the state's minimum essential coverage requirements. The penalty for not having coverage in 2024 has increased, so it's important to maintain compliant health insurance or face a penalty when filing your state tax return.

**4. Estimated Tax Payments:**

**Deadline:** January 15, 2025, for the fourth quarter estimated payment.

**Action:** If you're self-employed or receive income not subject to withholding (such as rental income, interest, or dividends), make sure you've paid sufficient estimated taxes throughout the year to avoid penalties. The fourth-quarter estimated tax payment is due on January 15, 2025.

**5. Review and Update Withholding:**

**Action:** Review your withholding amounts, especially if you've had significant changes in income, dependents, or deductions in 2024. Adjusting your withholding can help prevent underpayment penalties or an unexpectedly large tax bill when you file your return.

**In Conclusion:** As the end of 2024 approaches, proactive tax planning is essential to minimize tax liabilities and maximize potential refunds. By focusing on these key areas and taking appropriate actions before the year ends, taxpayers can ensure they are well-prepared for the upcoming tax season. Consulting with a tax professional can also help tailor strategies to your specific financial situation, ensuring compliance and optimizing your tax outcomes.

SEMCU is a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in Southeast Madera County. Its concerns, among other issues, are our community, safety, water, traffic, schools, future parks and energy. We invite our community to join in and help make a difference for our families and youngsters. We invite community members to join SEMCU as board members to help shape the Southeast Madera County area. Together we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

SEMCU meets for one hour only once per month on the third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. We know everyone's time is valuable, so we try to keep it all simple. We meet 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 to 669-900-6833 then enter the ID# 83632424343 followed with the access code 85422. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, September 17, at 6 p.m.

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*Kiwanis Korner*

# Eagle Scout Impresses Kiwanis

By Sally Rowden

Chase Duarte was our guest speaker at our last meeting in August. An accomplished Eagle Scout, he shared his many life-learned successes along with his completed Eagle Scout Project. In listening and watching Chase present, you can see he is a poised, knowledgeable and determined individual, ready to move forward in his career choices. The Wood Duck Boxes he built and installed in the San Joaquin River area for his Eagle Scout Project was very interesting to hear about. With assistance from his dad, brother and other scouts, they installed nine boxes. They had to design – and then do some redesigning – but found almost immediately the ducks began nesting and laying their eggs. A rewarding Eagle Scout Project for Chase, the Wood Ducks and our San Joaquin River environment.



*Ranchos Kiwanis was honored to host Eagle Scout Chase Duarte as their guest speaker in August. His Eagle Scout Project was building wooden duck boxes that he then installed in the San Joaquin River area. The nine boxes he built already have tenants!*

Our Fall/Halloween Raffle Basket is available for ticket purchasing. During the week, you can find the basket at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. You can purchase tickets from Ollia Ridge at the Chamber, located at 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, or you can give Ollia a call at 645-4001. Tickets are six for \$5. Several folks purchased tickets from us at the Craft Fair on Saturday, Sept. 14. A fun event. Saw old friends and made some new ones. The winning ticket will be drawn on Oct. 24. All proceeds go to the children and communities of Golden Valley Unified School District.

The Winter/Christmas Tea will once again take place. Save the date for Saturday, Nov. 16. The location is the same site as last year at Verlaine's Event Room, 37101 Ave. 12. The cost is \$30 per ticket. Reserved tables will also be available. You can contact Ollia Ridge at [ollia.ridge@gmail.com](mailto:ollia.ridge@gmail.com) or Mona Diaz at [monaldiaz@gmail.com](mailto:monaldiaz@gmail.com) for further information. Flyers announcing the event will be out in our communities very soon.

Other Kiwanis Club happenings include a visit from our current Liberty High School Key Club President, Nathan Nguyen, at our first meeting in September. Kayla Griggs and Jay Martinez graduated Liberty High School and past Key Club Members also visited. A past Kiwanis member Charlie Leffingwell was in attendance, too. Sally Rowden presented on the topic of "Intentionality of Language." Looking at how jest, negativism and violence creep into our expressed language without knowing the full ramifications for children. Last, but certainly not least, Vince Guthrie of Valley Propane was presented the Kiwanis Appreciation and Dedication Community Award. Vince is consistently and willingly donating whatever needs our Kiwanis Club may have. A huge THANK YOU to Vince for his dedication to the Kiwanis Club of Madera Ranchos and, in turn, to our children and communities.

The weather is cooling, with the fields around us turning a golden brown. Many fall activities and celebrations will be happening, just as our plans have been expressed above. In closing I'll leave you with a little autumn humor: "Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field." (SplashLearn.com)

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

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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.

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	-		÷		= 2
×		÷		×	
	-		×		= 40
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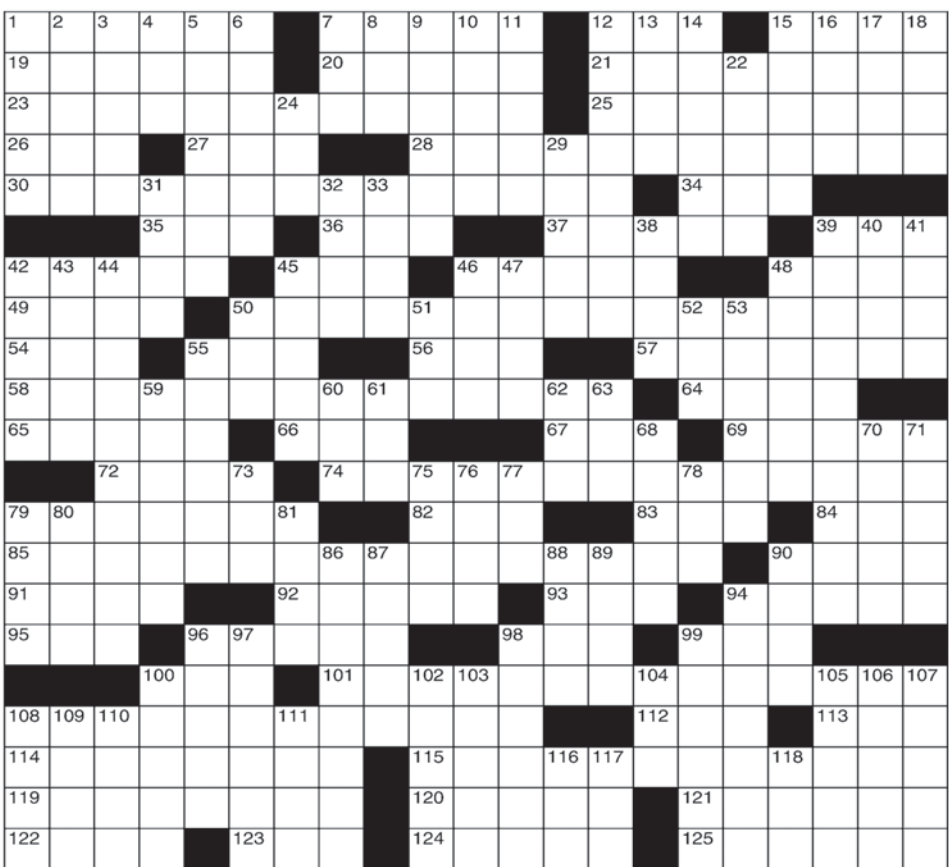
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9/24

# Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Old-time crooner
  - 7 James — Garfield
  - 12 Taxing org.
  - 15 Old news-paper section
  - 19 On cloud nine
  - 20 Having fine granules
  - 21 Refilled to the brim
  - 23 Nocturnal burrower wearing clothes?
  - 25 "Rocky" star
  - 26 French "a"
  - 27 Taking after
  - 28 Semiaquatic reptile that's really zealous?
  - 30 Big spotted cat released from jail early?
  - 34 Doc treating laryngitis
  - 35 Orig. texts
  - 36 Sports official
  - 37 Interprets
  - 39 Antifraud org.
  - 42 1990s Toyota coupe
  - 45 "McQ" actor
  - 46 Ready- (precooked)
  - 48 Region
  - 49 Tesla's Musk
  - 50 Lobe-finned swimmer
  - 54 Pioneering email co.
  - 55 One-eighty
  - 56 Mini-guitar
  - 57 Elizabeth — Browning
  - 58 Spiny anteater on a leash?
  - 64 Put in very hot water
  - 65 Solid ground
  - 66 Actor Wallach
  - 67 Seat winners
  - 69 Florida city
  - 72 Quark's place
  - 74 Very small monkey from the red planet?
  - 79 Rhine siren
  - 82 "Sliver" writer Levin
  - 83 "Emma" has two of these
  - 84 Slalom, e.g.
  - 85 Whip-tailed marine menace going off course?
  - 90 Bard
  - 91 Composer
  - 92 Fix up, as an old house
  - 93 Hard wood
  - 94 Actress Blair
  - 95 Kid's amuser
  - 96 Eighth Greek letter
  - 98 Mil. bigwig
  - 99 Irish dance
  - 100 Waterloo marshal
  - 101 Wheel-spinning rodent that's a Bay State college mascot?
  - 108 Large lizard from northern South America?
  - 112 Dialect suffix
  - 113 Penny prez
  - 114 Electric circuit component
  - 115 Mimicking bird that's predatory?
  - 119 Classic typewriter brand
  - 120 TV show blocking device
  - 121 Text alterer
  - 122 Trait carrier
  - 123 Enervate
  - 124 Latin abbr. meaning "and the following"
  - 125 Sailor's morning warning
- DOWN**
- 1 Starting boost
  - 2 Actress — De La Garza
  - 3 More scarce
  - 4 Gambling parlor, in brief
  - 5 "Look here, too," in a reference
  - 6 Befuddles
  - 7 Doc's gp.
  - 8 Shut-eye site
  - 9 Dust picker-upper
  - 10 Take — of faith
  - 11 Actress Loy
  - 12 "Agreed!"
  - 13 Campus mil. gp.
  - 14 Zoned (out)
  - 15 Ignited again
  - 16 2004-11 Laker Lamar
  - 17 Bluefin, e.g.
  - 18 Unbox, e.g.
  - 22 Schemes
  - 24 With 31-Down, it doesn't bode well
  - 29 Like the verb "go": Abbr.
  - 31 See 24-Down
  - 32 Humdinger
  - 33 Aussie birds
  - 38 "... three men in —"
  - 39 She starred in "Room"
  - 40 — Actress (award for 39-Down)
  - 41 Thai currency
  - 42 Serenity
  - 43 "Hi," in Hilo
  - 44 Nonpolluting power source
  - 45 Bonnie's pal
  - 46 — torch
  - 47 Linear, briefly
  - 48 Sahara's land
  - 50 Agent's cut
  - 51 "Say what?"
  - 52 Seize
  - 53 Spruces up
  - 55 Sinful
  - 59 Group of PC gurus
  - 60 Hard wood
  - 61 Covert org.
  - 62 Actress Long
  - 63 Actress Jillian
  - 68 Fajita meat
  - 70 Was keen on
  - 71 Singer O'Day
  - 73 "Don't tell — can't!"
  - 75 Singer Coolidge
  - 76 Chi-Town daily paper
  - 77 Singer Janis
  - 78 Novelist Tan
  - 79 Future atty.'s exam
  - 80 Other, in Oaxaca
  - 81 Pertaining to
  - 86 "Return to reality!"
  - 87 SeaWorld whale, once
  - 88 Leaves
  - 89 Vent vocally
  - 90 Sty animals
  - 94 Greenish citrus drink
  - 96 All wound up
  - 97 "Regency" hotels
  - 98 Pie charts, e.g.
  - 99 Quartz type
  - 100 Easily duped
  - 102 Presnell of " Fargo"
  - 103 Legislate
  - 104 That girl
  - 105 Petite pies
  - 106 Kindle buy
  - 107 New attempt
  - 108 Sailor's quaff
  - 109 700-mile-long Congolese river
  - 110 "The check — the mail"
  - 111 Ninth Greek letter
  - 116 Game draw
  - 117 Trio before R
  - 118 Free (of)

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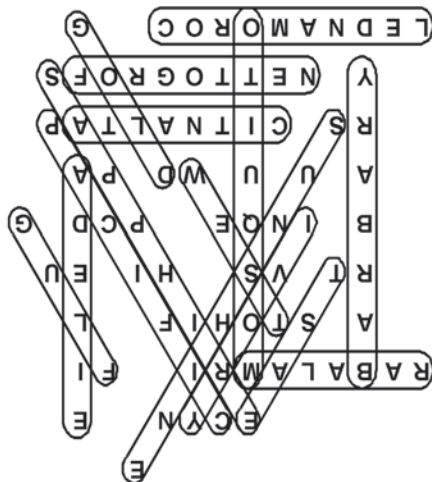
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## ANSWERS

66	=	2	=	56
6	-	1	x	8 = 40
7	-	3	÷	2 = 2
4	+	5	÷	9 = 1



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



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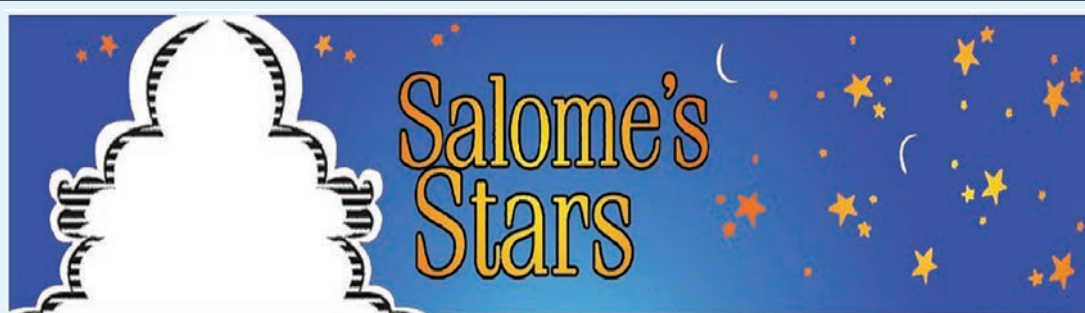
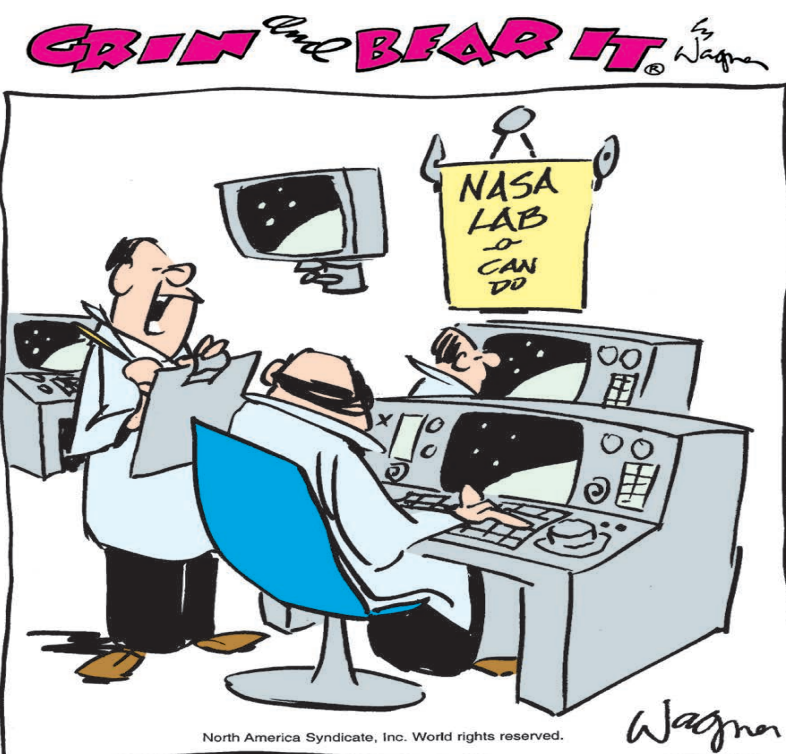



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



ADS  
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) After much traveling this year, you're due for some relaxed time with family and friends. Use this period to check out situations that will soon require a lot of serious decision-making.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Keep that keen Bovine mind focused on your financial situation as it begins to undergo some changes. Consider your money moves carefully. Avoid impulsive investments.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You'll need to adjust some of your financial plans now that things are changing more quickly than you expected. All the facts you need haven't yet emerged, so move cautiously.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Personal and professional relationships dominate this period. Try to keep things uncomplicated in order to avoid misunderstandings that can cause problems down the line.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) That elusive goal you'd been hoping to claim is still just out of reach. But something else has come along that could prove to be just as desirable, if only you would take the time to check it out.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time to get away for some much-needed rest and relaxation. You'll return refreshed and ready to take on a workplace challenge that awaits you.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Confidence grows as you work your way through some knotty situations. Watch out for distractions from well-meaning supporters who could slow things down.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Consider spending more time contemplating the possibilities of an offer before opting to accept or reject it. But once you make a decision, act on it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You're in a very strong position this week to tie up loose ends in as many areas as possible. Someone close to you has advice you might want to heed.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Congratulations! This is the week you've been waiting for. After a period of sudden stops and fitful starts, your plans can now move ahead without significant disruptions.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You're in an exceptionally strong position this week to make decisions on many still-unresolved matters, especially those involving close personal relationships.

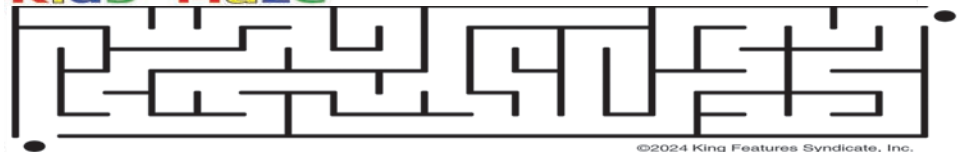
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) The week starts off with some positive movement in several areas. A special person becomes a partner in at least one of the major plans you'll be working on.

Born this Week

You work hard and get things done. You also inspire others to do their best. You would do well heading up a major corporation.

# FUN PAGES

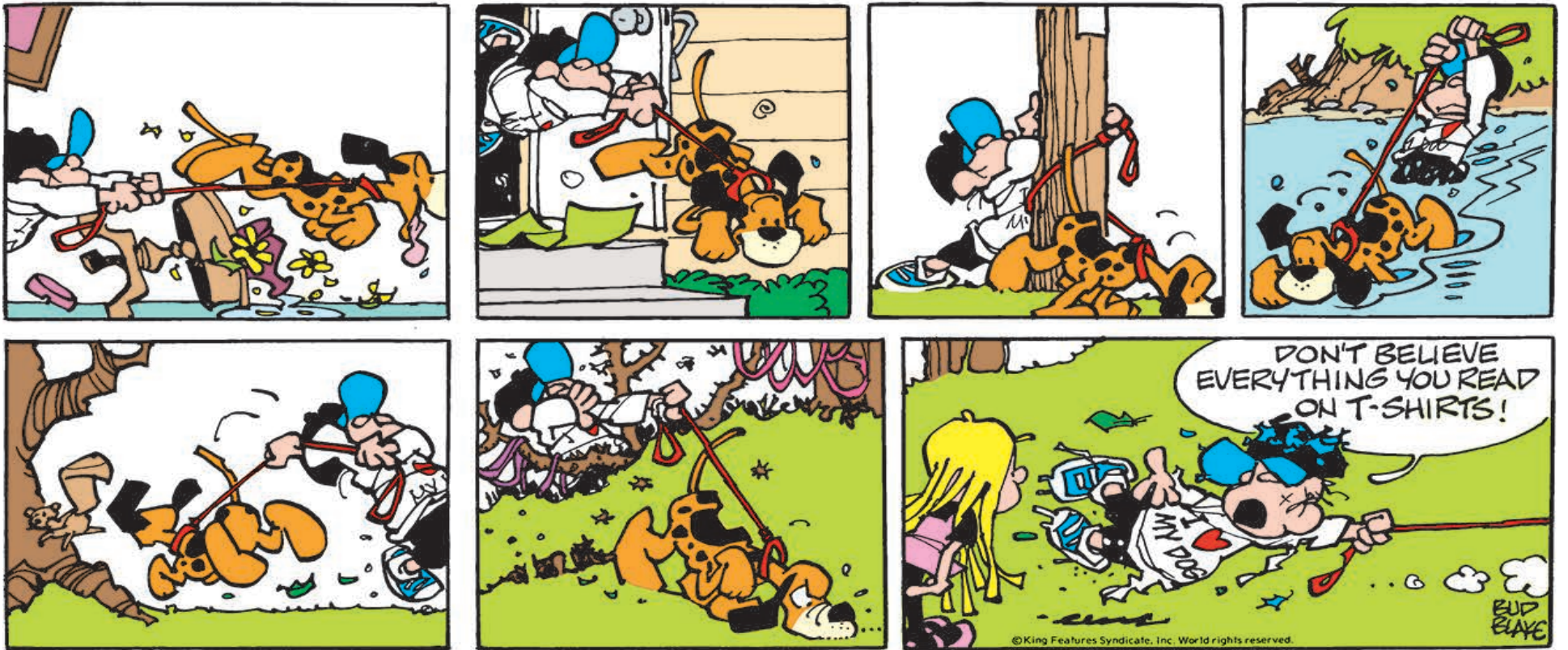
Kids' Maze



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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Mount Vesuvius overlooks which modern Italian city?
- MYTHOLOGY:** What kind of creature is half bird and half woman with an alluring song?
- SCIENCE:** What is a common name for iron oxide?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What kind of pastry is used to make baklava?
- MOVIES:** What is the name of Elle's chihuahua in "Legally Blonde"?
- MEDICAL:** What is a common name for bruxism?
- LITERATURE:** Prospero is a character in which of Shakespeare's plays?
- ASTRONOMY:** How many stars make up the Big Dipper?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state's nickname is The Sunflower State?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** Which is the only continent without bees?



- Naples.
- Siren.
- Rust.
- Phyllo or filo.
- Bruiser.
- Teeth grinding.
- "The Tempest."
- Seven.
- Kansas.
- Antarctica.

Click on "Local News" at

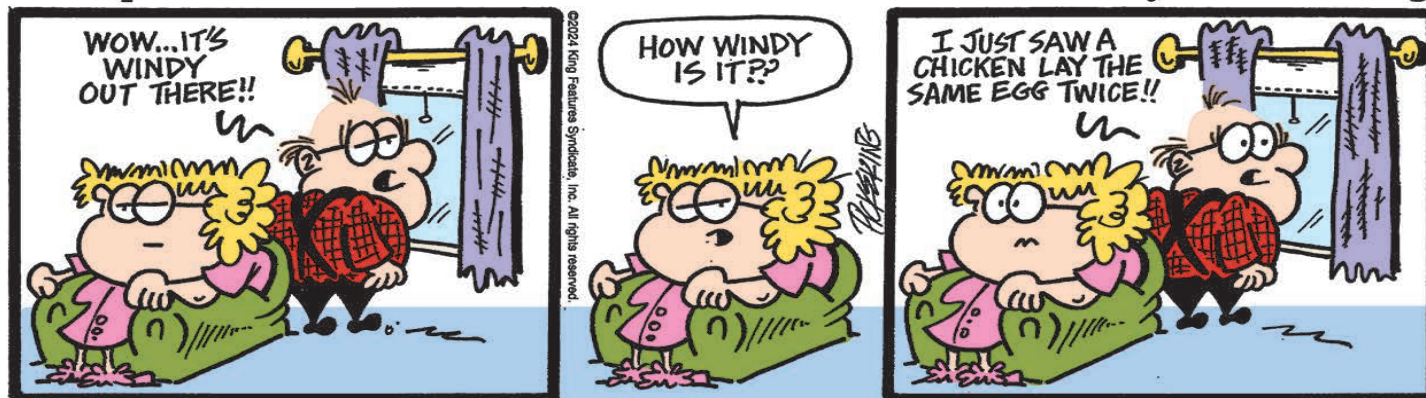
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tree trunk is different. 2. Spout on watering can is longer. 3. Cap is larger. 4. Hair is shorter. 5. Mountain is different. 6. Flower is different.

# SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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# MAGIC MAZE ● — COAST

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: RED-BROWN METAL

- Adelle
- Atlantic
- Barbary
- Coromandel
- East
- Forgotten
- Gold
- Gulf
- Ivory
- Malabar
- Mosquito
- Pacific
- Sapphire
- Sunshine
- West

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# FUN PAGES

## FIRE SEASON IS STILL HERE!

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:

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Tank Water:	559-802-1685	<a href="mailto:tankandhauledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org">tankandhauledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org</a>
Bottled Water:	559-802-1284	<a href="mailto:bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org">bottledwater@selfhelpenterprises.org</a>

## GRANT WRITER for SEMUCU

We have engaged a grant writer and are working on grants for our community at large including schools, seniors, traffic safety and water.

SEMUCU's next meeting is in person on Tuesday, October 15<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

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