

Discover San Mateo County



Celebrating Our Story

Credits

Happy San Mateo County Day

On May 12, 1856, the election to organize the new San Mateo County took place. Held in May, Happy San Mateo County Day serves as a birthday celebration for the county.

Discover San Mateo County: Celebrating Our Story is intended to encourage children of all ages to explore life in the County, and especially, the activities of county government.

Sponsored By



**ARTS
COMMISSION**



Discover San Mateo County: Celebrating Our Story

Created by Carmen J. Blair

Illustrations by Lois Paul White

Front cover: 500 County Center

Back cover: San Mateo County, California

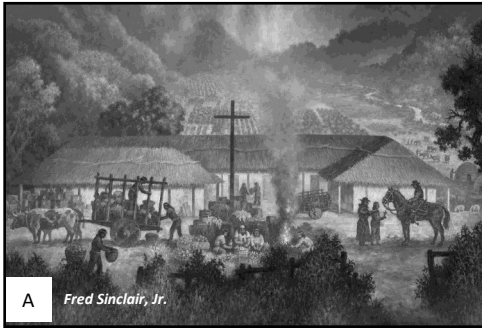
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San Mateo County Historical Association
2200 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 299-0104 www.historysmc.org

Before 1856

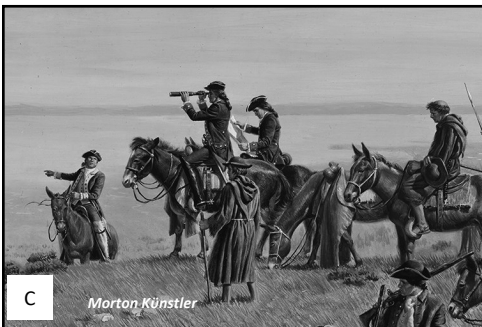
People have lived on the Peninsula for thousands of years. Put the letter for each event in order on the timeline.



A Local mission farm provided food for Mission San Francisco de Asis.

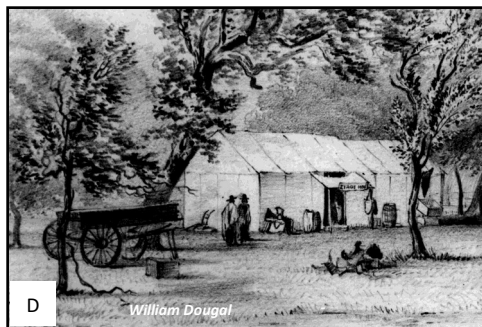


B Cattle were raised for the hide and tallow trade on Mexican ranches.



C Spanish explorers first see San Francisco Bay.

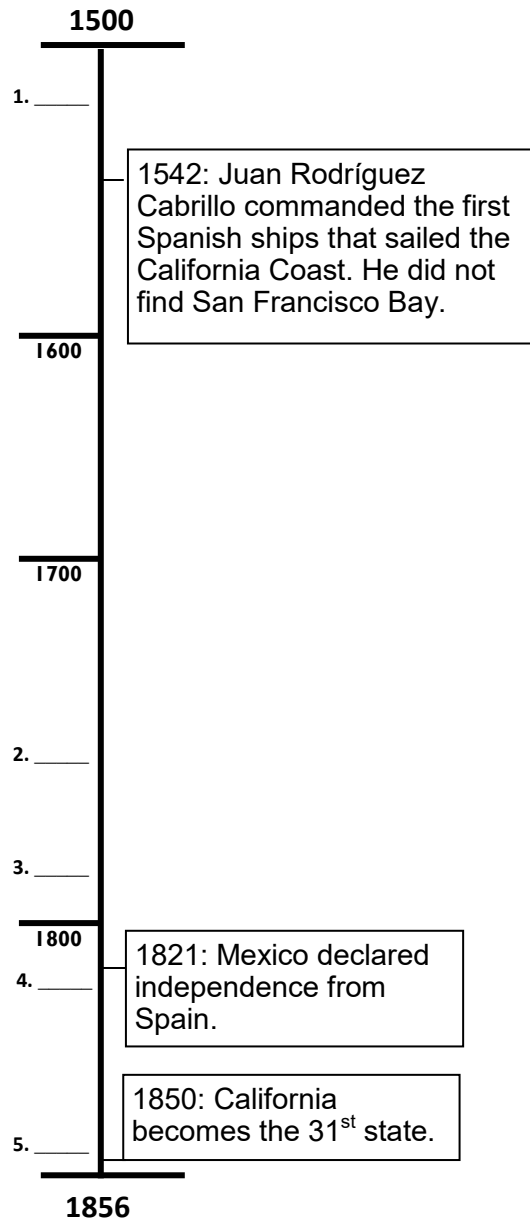
Images
SMCHA
Collection



D Stage stops were established between San Francisco and San Jose.

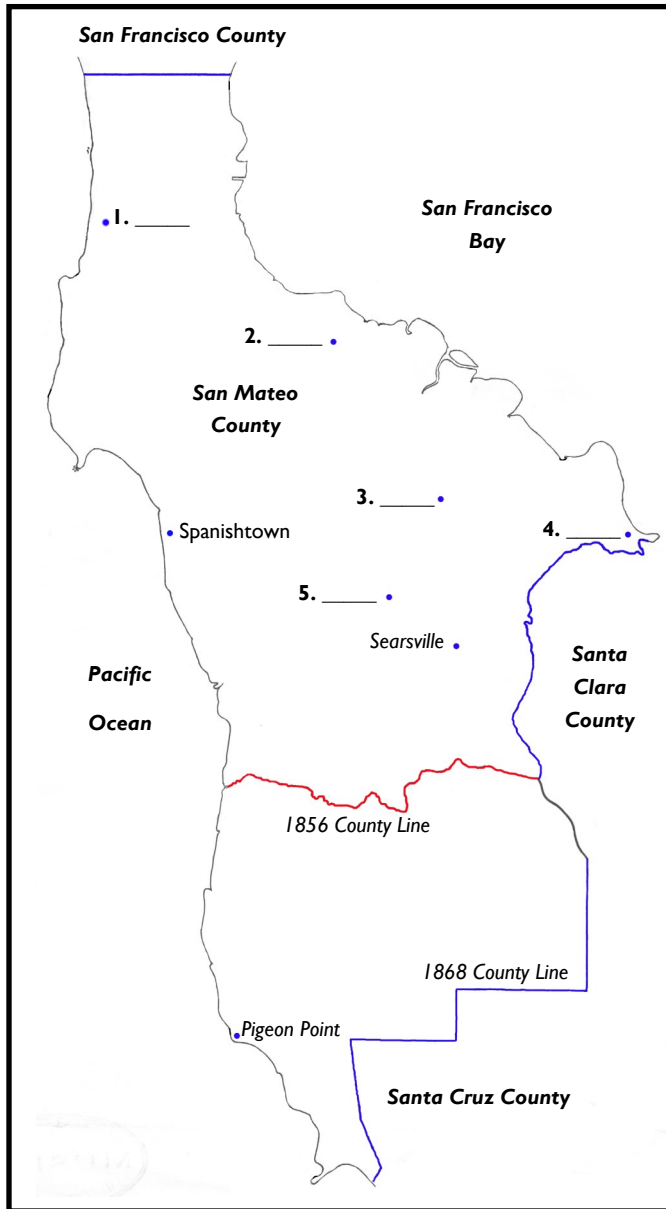


E The Ohlone hunted and gathered as they had for thousands of years.



The County

Unscramble the place names. Match them to the description and place the right letter on the map.



Look at the descriptions below for hints to unscramble some of the 1850s place names. "Ville" is used at the end of some place names to mean town.

NSA MTOEA

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ASODROEWVN

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DWSDOIEO

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SNA PREOD

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MVELSEZLEI

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Write the name of the place in the blank.

- Known as the city with the redwood, it was originally named for Simon Mezes. _____
- The Mexican rancho in the area was named after St. Peter. _____
- Spanish explorers named a creek for a Saint Matthew. The name later was used for a town. _____
- An early store and stage stop, it was named after all the trees in the area. _____
- Isaiah Woods named this bayside port after himself and the local birds. Today, it is part of another town. _____

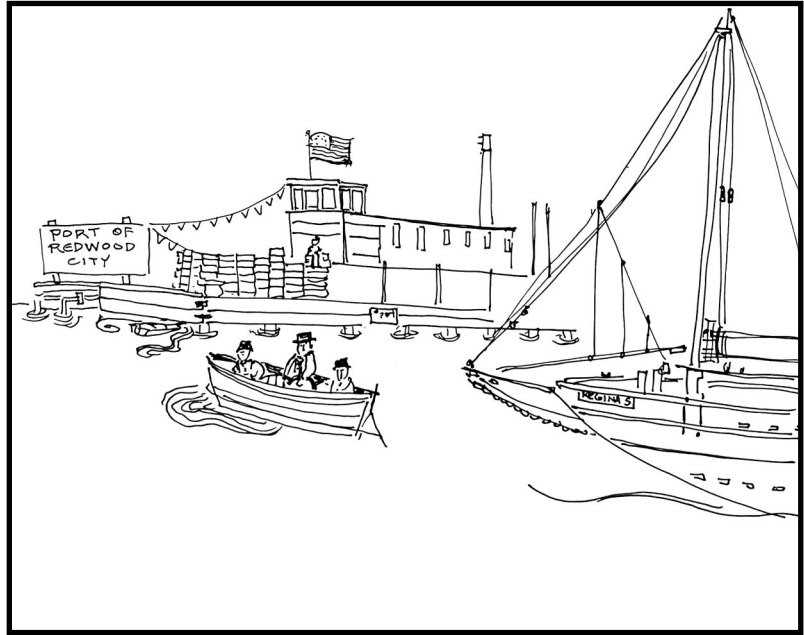
County Seat

Read the story. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.

During the Gold Rush, gold was not discovered on the Peninsula. However, the 49ers needed the local redwood trees for San Francisco, the fastest growing city in the world in the early 1850s. Lumber was needed to build wharves, warehouses, hotels, business offices, stores and homes.

Loggers cut down the redwood trees in the Woodside area. Oxen pulled the logs to San Francisco Bay. At first, the logs were tied together into rafts and floated up to San Francisco. Later, an embarcadero or wharf was built. Cut lumber from the fourteen sawmills into the area were loaded on to scow schooners. These flat-bottomed ships carried the lumber to San Francisco. Around the embarcadero, merchants started other businesses. The town of Redwood City was born. The port was the center of downtown activity.

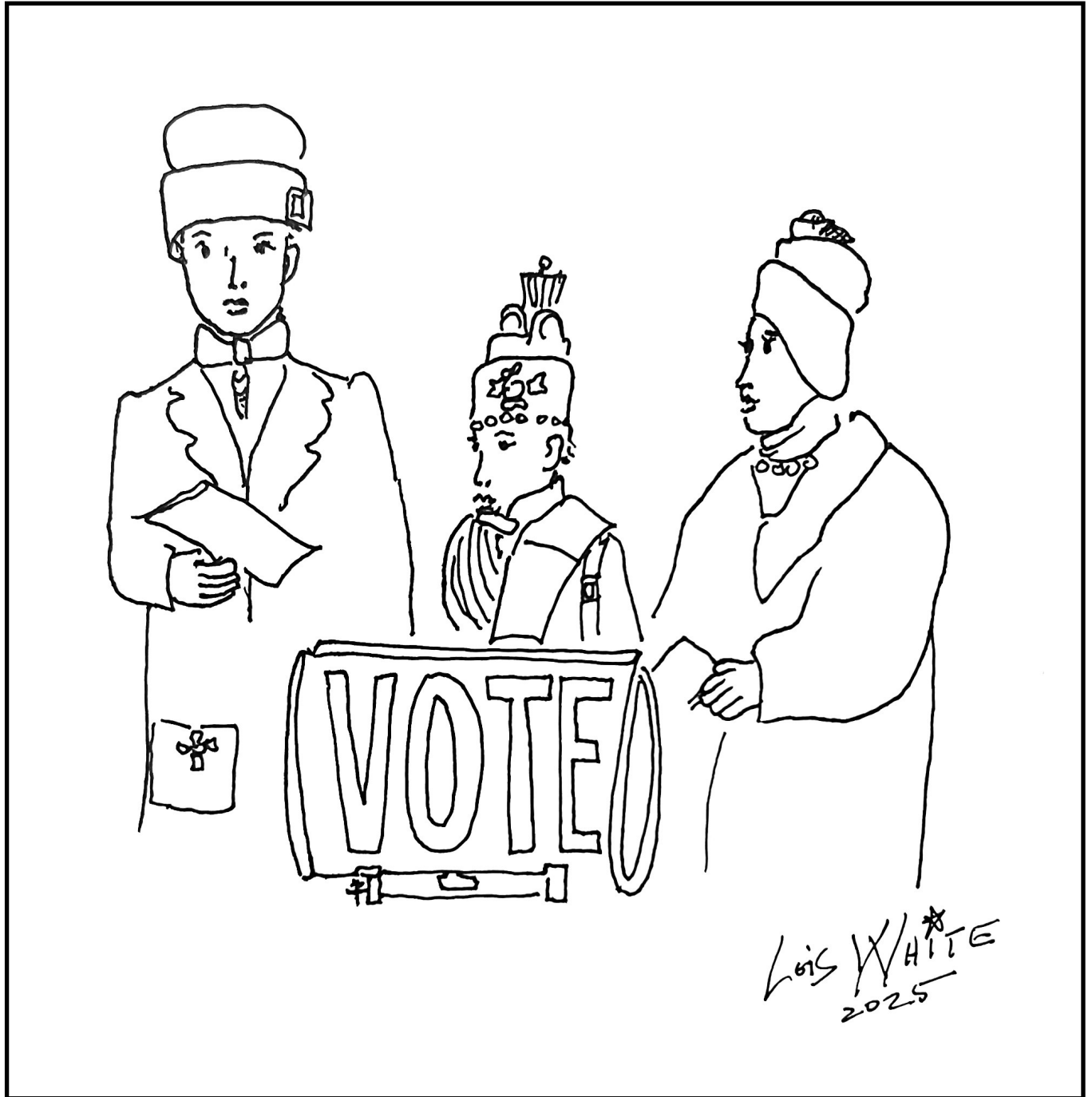
In 1856, residents of the new county voted on which town would be the county seat or headquarters of local government. While some voted to make Belmont the county seat, Redwood City was selected. It was the largest town in the area. By 1858, the first courthouse was built near the lumber yards.



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

Elections

Color the picture.



In the county's first election in 1856, eligible voters were United States citizens who had been living in California for 6 months and in this area for 30 days. They had to be white or *Californio* (someone born in California of Hispanic descent). They had to be at least 21 years old. Only men were able to vote. Women in California did not receive the right to vote until Equal Suffrage (Proposition 4) passed in October 1911. Many women voted for the first time in the 1912 presidential election. In some parts of the United States, women could not vote until the 19th Amendment to the Constitution became law in 1920.

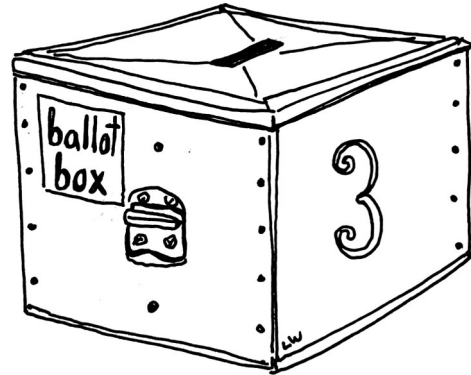
Elections

Use the word list and clues to finish the crossword puzzle. Not all the words in the word list will be used.

Who do the voters elect?

Word List

Assessor	Deputy	Recorder
Chief	District Attorney	Sheriff
Controller	Elections	Superintendent
Coroner	Judges	Supervisors
County Clerk	Lawyers	Treasurer

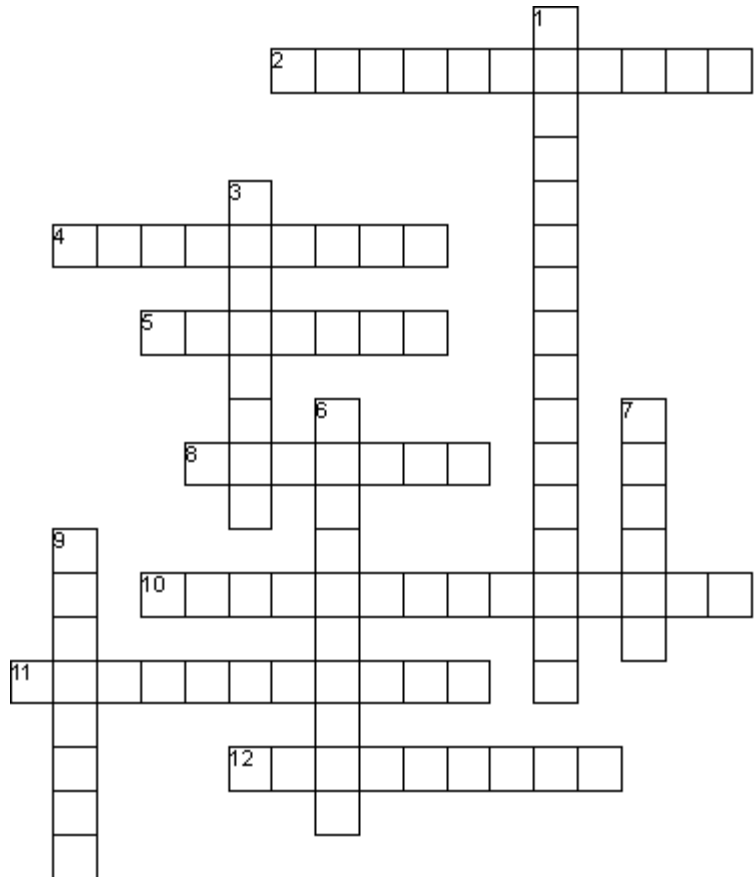


Across

2. The five members of the Board of _____ are the governing body of the county.
4. The County _____-Tax Collector acts as the banker of the county.
5. Mission is to protect lives and property.
8. Investigates and determines cause of death.
10. The County _____ of Schools reviews the budgets of all school districts.
11. Able to issue marriage licenses.
12. The Chief _____ Officer makes sure that voting is fair.

Down

1. Mission to prosecute offenders and provide support for victims of crimes.
3. Responsible for determining the value of all taxable property.
6. Responsible for the county's accounting system and financial reports.
7. Superior Court _____ are responsible for presiding over court cases and interpreting the law.
9. Makes sure that all official documents are recorded and made available to the public.



Did you know? The same person is elected for four positions: 3 Down, 9 Down, 11 Across and 12 Across.

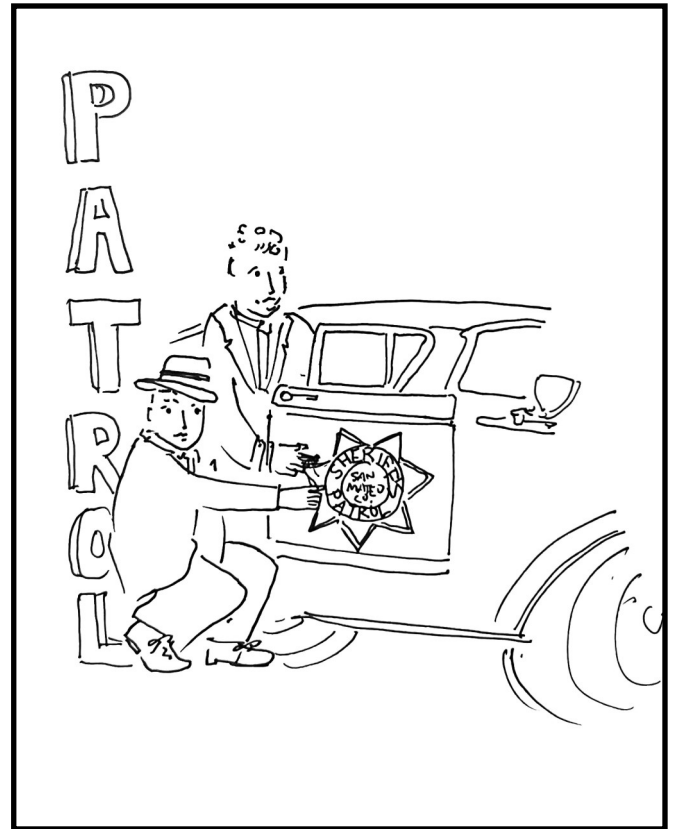
Sheriff's Office

Read the story about the Sheriff's Office. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.

Lumberman John W. Ackerson was elected as the first Sheriff of San Mateo County in 1857. Silas Hovius was a Coastside farmer before serving for two years as the second sheriff.

Starting in 1951, Sheriff Earl B. Whitmore is credited with bringing modern policing standards to the Sheriff's Office. He opened sub-stations at Mills Field, Half Moon Bay, Sharp Park and Brisbane. He standardized police radios in all patrol cars. Crash wagons were created by outfitting ambulances with police protection, investigation and rescue equipment. A Crime Lab was created for the detection and examination of evidence.

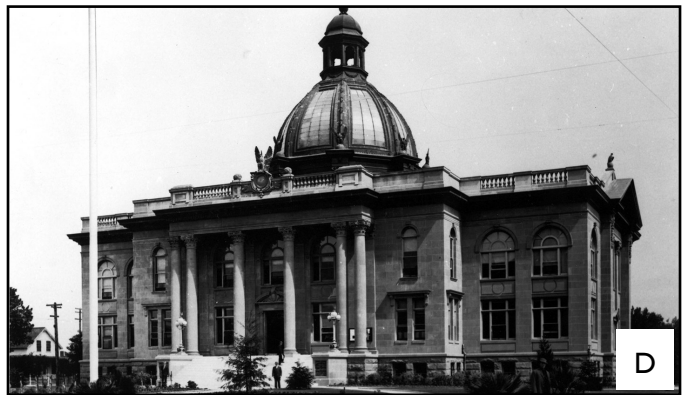
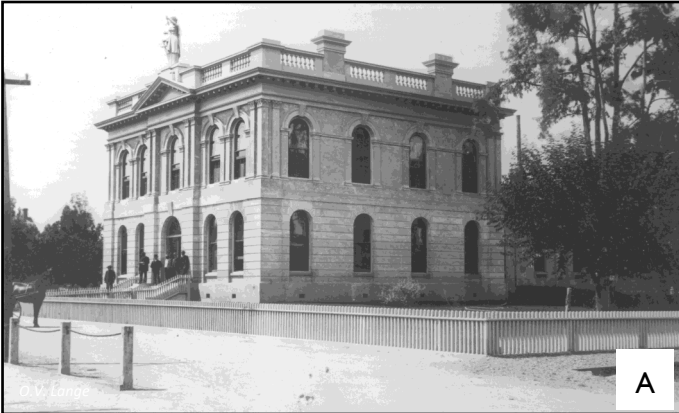
Currently, there are over 800 sworn and civilian personnel in the Sheriff's Office. They provide law enforcement throughout the County, including police services for Caltrain, SamTrans, San Carlos, Woodside and Potola Valley. The Sheriff's Office mission includes protecting life and property, enforcing laws, preventing crime, supporting positive youth development, catching criminals and coordinating emergency services.



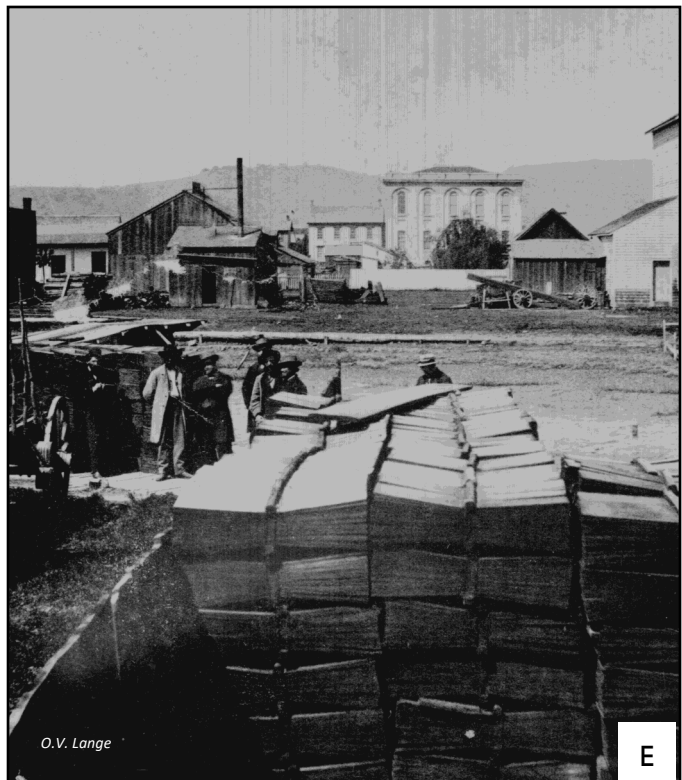
NEVIDENCEQGS EYU
UOENFORCEMENTCF
NMIXSMTNBXPONA
RMBTOWOVRPNIRER
STCDASOECOSTOGM
XHEARGVRIMEATRE
VREEMEITNCGTEER
NNKRNBATI IKSCMO
UCFTINULSKTBTEE
AXIJIFOLLEYUIUM
QNOMJPFEAOVSNCP
GPASOIDARNRNGSR
QXSLANIMIRCTIEQ
ECRIMERHHBFEARK
XRLQPRKFTWDKSP

Courts

Match the description to the photograph.



Images SMCHA Collection & Library of Congress



_____ 1. First Courthouse, 1858

The first courthouse was a simple two-story building near the lumber yards.

_____ 2. Justice Courthouse, 1882

Named for the statue of Lady Justice on top, the second courthouse had a fence to keep the cows off the courthouse square.

_____ 3. Third Courthouse, 1906

The third courthouse was nearing completion when it was destroyed by an earthquake.

_____ 4. Temple of Justice, 1910

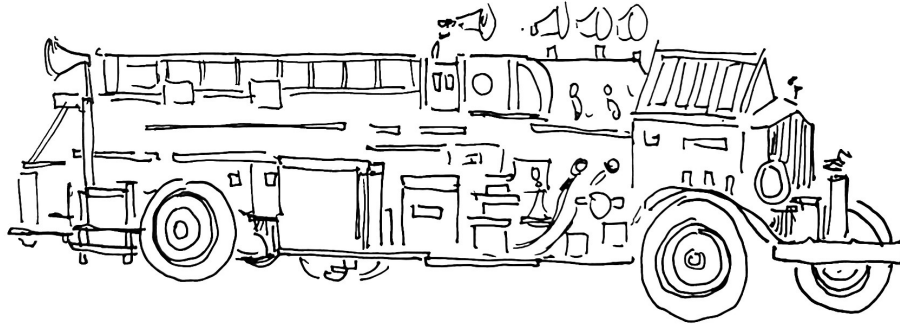
Featuring a dome, this courthouse was home to all county government.

_____ 5. Hall of Justice and Records, 1955

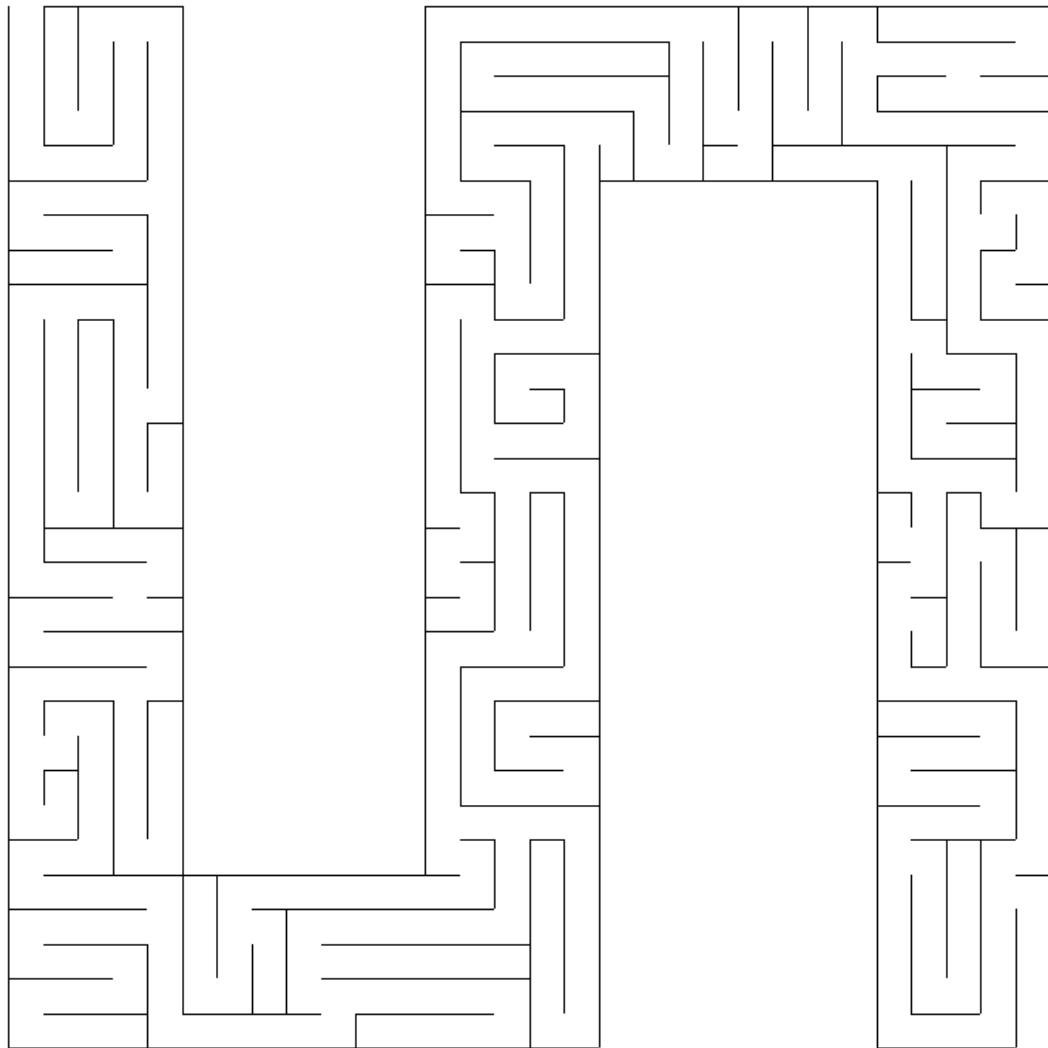
A new building better fit modern court needs.

Fire Department

Help firefighters get to the fire.



START



FIRE!

In 1887, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors appointed a Fire Commission to protect the natural resources found throughout the County. Today, the San Mateo County Fire Department (SMCFD) provides fire protection, medical response, hazardous materials response, fire safety inspections, fire marshal duties, community education, emergency preparedness and planning for most unincorporated areas of San Mateo County.

Communications

Decode the 9-1-1 call received by Public Safety Communications by finding each substitute letter.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		20							17	16						2				3	25		6		13

1 7 15 8 9 10 7 10 15 4 9 5 24 9 11 22 5 12 7 1 22 21 7 24 11 !
 4 11 10 22 5 4 14 5 10 23 21 7 24 11 21 7 15 8 9 11 24 4
 5 4 19 26 4 4 7 18 1 11 !

Public Safety Communications (PSC) answers and dispatches 9-1-1 and other emergency calls for unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. An unincorporated area is not part of a specific city or town. PSC dispatches for law enforcement in unincorporated areas and some cities. It also dispatches fire services and ambulance services for the entire county.



Libraries

Unscramble the words.

What can you check out of the libraries?

BKOSO

14

MUSMEU SPAS

7

EGSNIW AMEICHN

13

DBOAR MGSEA

17 1

ZPLSEUZ

24

LPTPAO MCTURPEOS

9 5

BISKE

2

BDLOO PEESRSRU SITK

3

PRKA SPAS

15

HIKGNI LPEOS

10 22

GOOPR CMAAER

4 16

ESESD

11

KKAERAO HMAIENC

8

SEUKLLUE

12

IDVEO SGAME

6

23

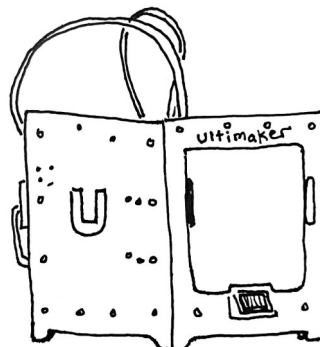
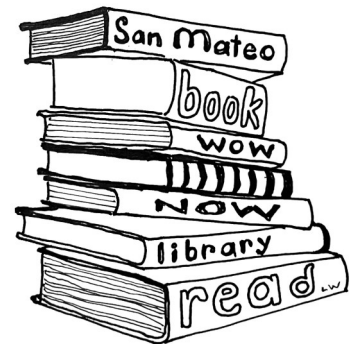
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 y

18 f

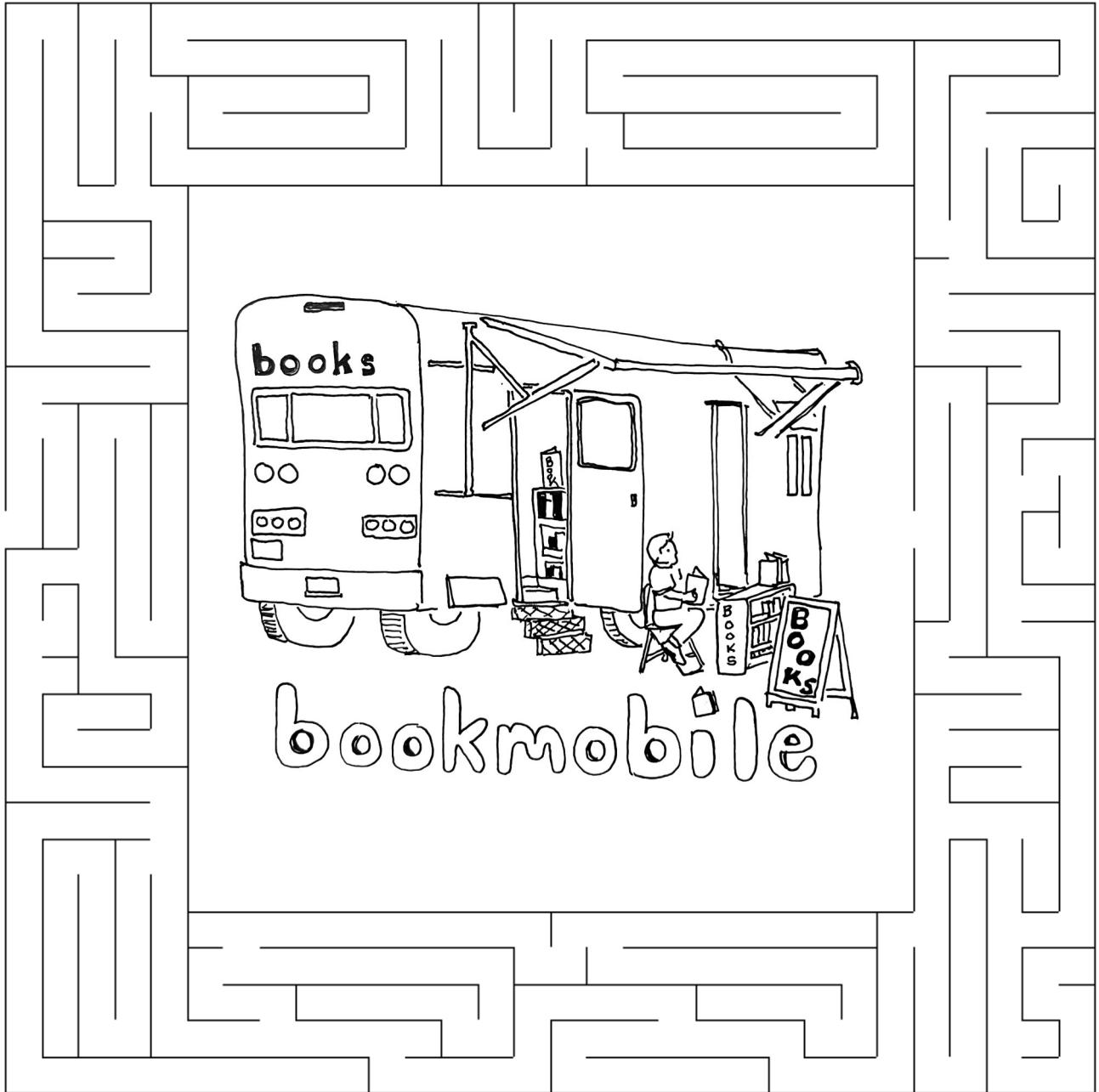
19 20 21 22 23 24 i



Technology like 3-D printers are available for use at some county libraries.

Libraries

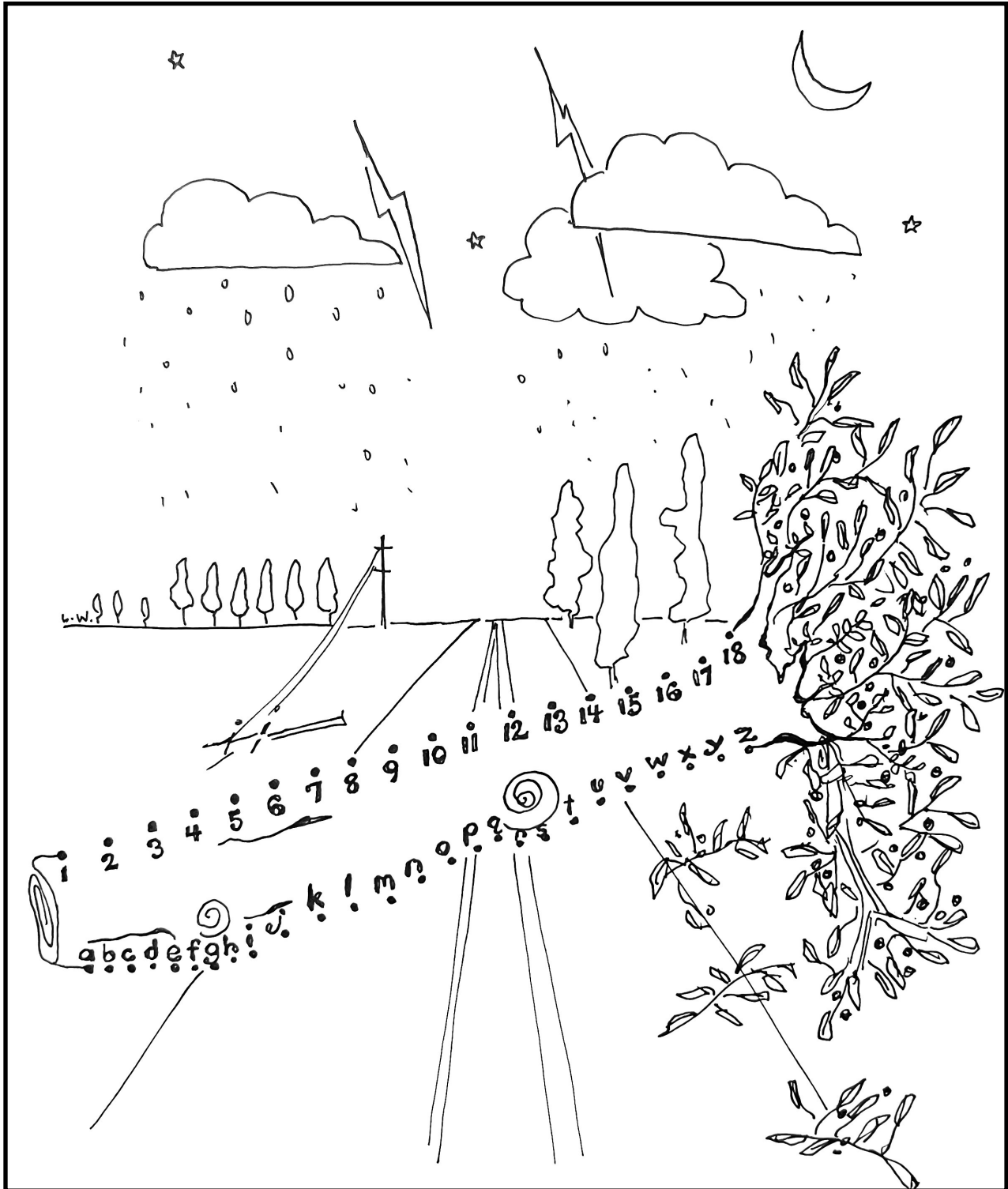
Find your way to the bookmobile!



San Mateo County Libraries Bookmobile brings essential programs and services to residents in unincorporated and Coastside communities and inland stops such as La Honda and Pescadero.

Public Works

Complete the dot-to-dot and color the picture.



Public Works' Road Maintenance Division is responsible for routine and emergency repairs to over 316 miles of roads within San Mateo County's unincorporated areas.

Public Works

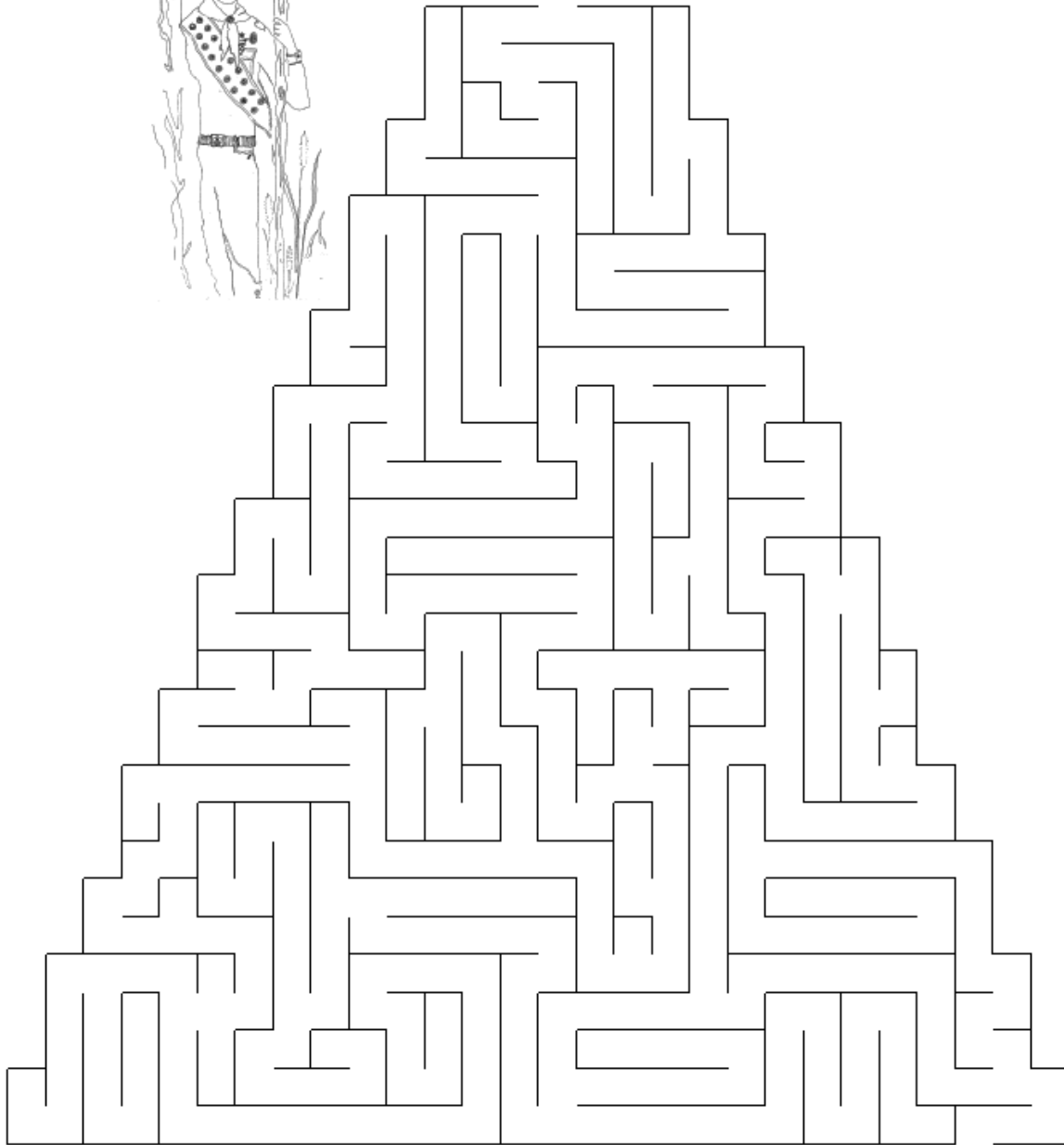
Color the picture.



San Mateo County acquired the Half Moon Bay Airport from the Navy in 1947.

Parks

Help the hiker find his way to the campground!



Opened on July 4, 1924, Memorial Park was the county's first park. It was named Memorial Park in honor of the men of San Mateo County who died during World War I. The Boy Scouts were one of the first groups that used the park.

Parks

Unscramble the name of the park.

COTYEO POTNI EROCREINAT AAER

5

DLEVI'S SELID TRIAL

16

EEWDGOOD RPKA DNA NTULRAA EPSEVRER

1 21

TAFREGDZLI MEINRA ERVEESR

9

OFOLD KAPR

14

HPFIRDNEIS KRPA

2 17

HRDDTAU PAKR

13

NOUERPI SAERR PRKA

3

20

MLMRIAEO KPRA

4

OSMS BCEAH KPRA

7

IAPLRL PONIT BFFLU

6

15

SMA MDDNCLAO RPAK

10

HSNZCAE OADEB

11

IWODDOES ROSET

19

8

18

NEWUHLCDRI PRKA

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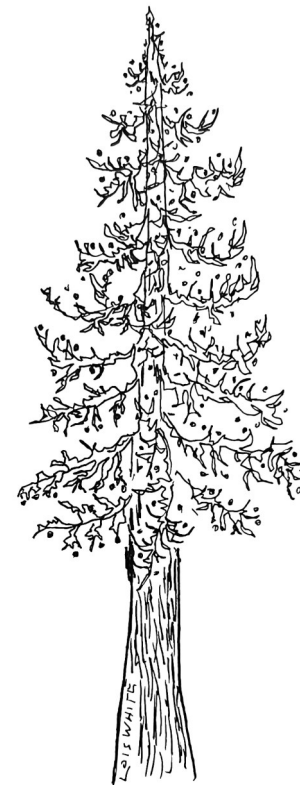
17

18

19

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21



San Mateo County Parks range from historic sites to neighborhood spaces to hiking trails.

Medical

Color the picture. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.



San Mateo County Community Hospital

Founded in 1876, the San Mateo Poor Farm served as San Mateo County's first hospital. People unable to care for themselves for medical reasons ended up at the hospital. Poor people housed on the property were required to provide food and care for the sick.

In 1923, a modern hospital was built. San Mateo County Community Hospital's original purpose was to serve people with communicable diseases — ones that easily move from person to person.

The hospital has been known by many names including Harold D. Chope Community Hospital. Chope was the county's director of health and welfare for many years.

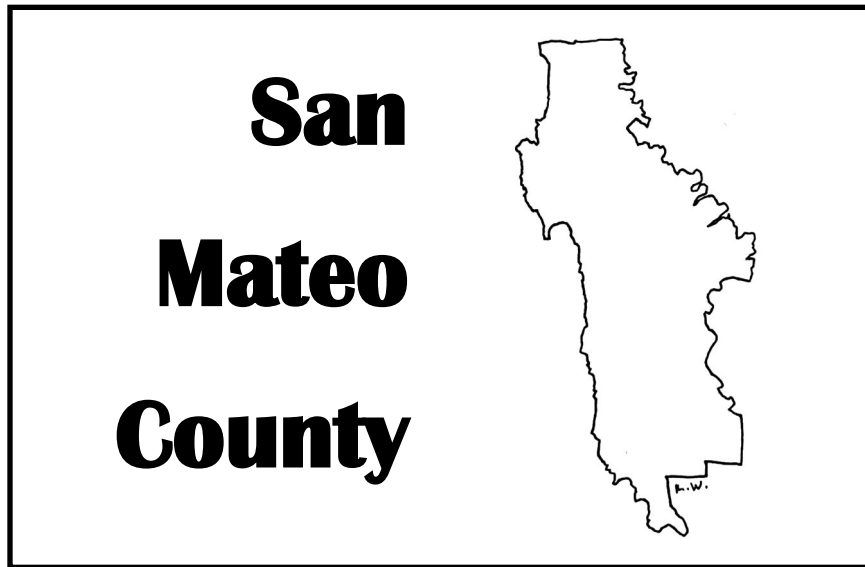
Known today as the San Mateo Medical Center, it is a hospital and clinic system serving healthcare needs with an emphasis on education and prevention.

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



Unincorporated

Unscramble the names of some of San Mateo County's unincorporated communities.



BMORDOAR

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EL AAGR NAD

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18 3

ELERMAD LEAK LHISL

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FIRA OKSA

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LA NOAHD

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21 16

MRNAATO

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23 24 19

9

MSOS CHBEA

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17 14

20 4

POAERESCD

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22 15 13

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14 15 16

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17 18 19 20 21

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22 23 24 11

About 68% of San Mateo County's total area is unincorporated. That means the area is not part of any of the county's 20 incorporated cities and towns. An incorporated town or city has received a charter from the state. It is allowed to have its own local government and elected officials. The unincorporated communities and areas are governed by the county directly.

Motto

Decode the motto of San Mateo County.



County Seal

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	2		12			23	15		17	21		18			25	11		14			3	7	20		4

22 24 24 13 8 19 22 24 9 8 13 16 6 9 22 9 6 13 6 10 19 13 5 6 26 1


mountains


ocean


sand dunes


Redwood
forests


beaches


pastures

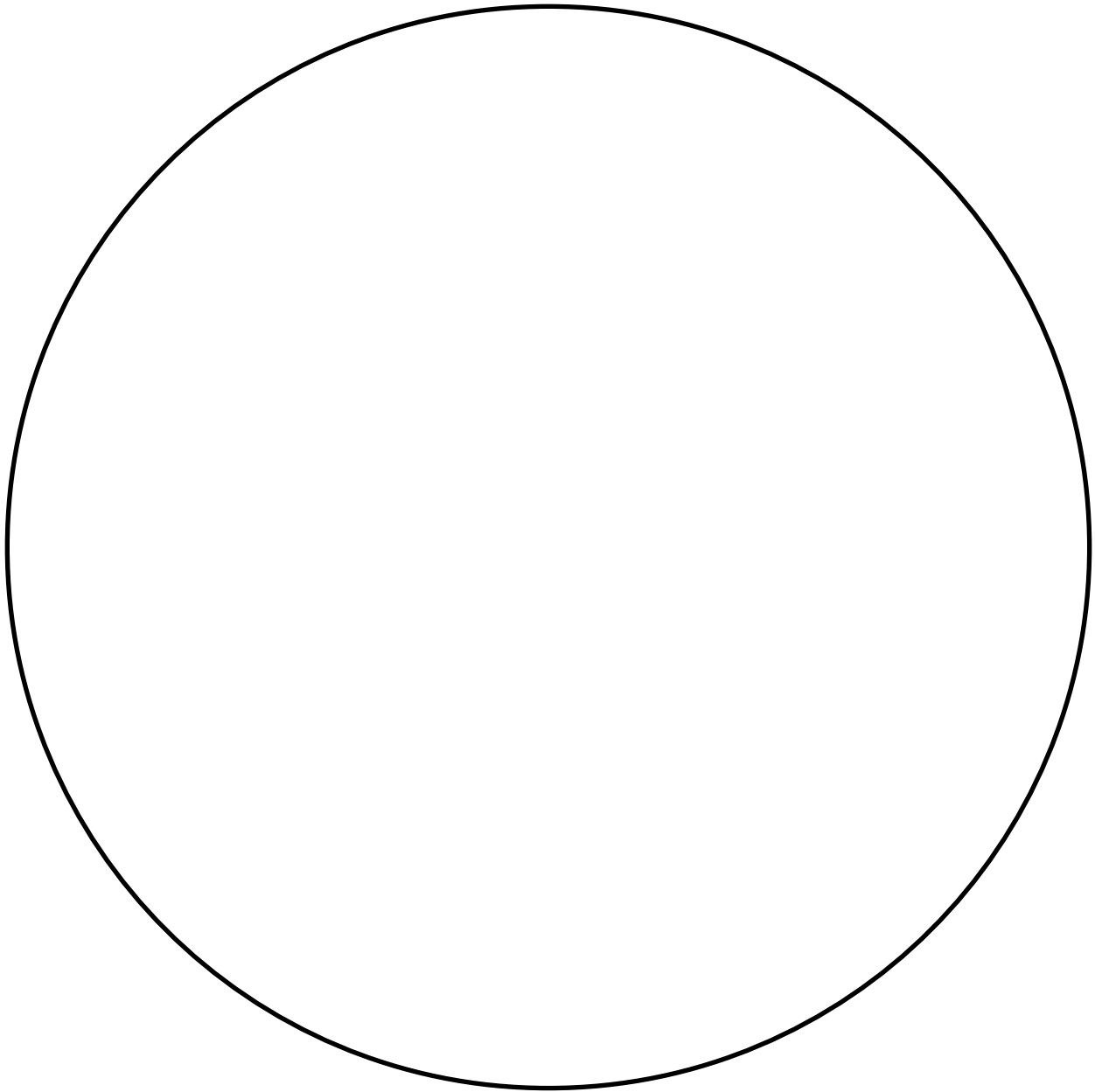

farmland


marsh &
wetlands

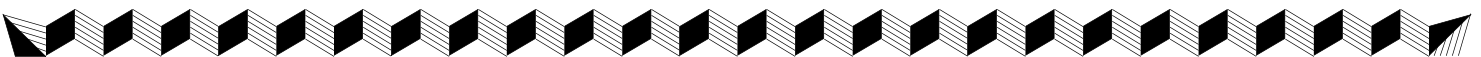

towns


cities

Contest



A county seal is an official design used to represent a county. It is typically used on official documents and appears on buildings and vehicles. The official seal of San Mateo County reflects the county's motto. Design your own version of the County Seal. Submit it to the San Mateo County Historical Association by June 15, 2025, for a chance to win prizes. See reverse for details.



Contest

Name:

Age:

Email:

I understand that my version of the county seal will not be returned. It might be displayed or reproduced in print or online.

1. Design your version of the county seal.
2. Cut the page out of the activity book along the dotted line.
3. Submit with a short description (up to 100 words) of your seal. All art must be delivered to the San Mateo County Historical Association, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City, by June 14, 2025. Do not fold artwork.

Answers

Page 3 Page 4

1. E NSA MTOEA **SAN MATEO**
2. C ASODROEWN **RAVENSWOOD**
3. A DWSDOIEO **WOODSIDE**
4. B SNA PREOD **SAN PEDRO**
5. D INVLESEZLE **MEZESVILLE**

PLACES
1 2 3 4 5

Page 8

NEVIDENCE QGSEYU
UQENFORCEMENTCF
NMIXSMTNBXPORNA
RMBTOWOVRPN RER
STCDASOECOST OCM
XHEARGVRIMEA TRE
VREEMETNCG EER
NNKRNBATIKSCMO
UCFTIMULSITB EE
AXIJIFOLLEYU UM
QNOMJPFEEA QVSNCP
GPASOIDARNRNC SR
QXSLANIMIRCTIEQ
EGRIMERHHBF EARK
XRLQPRKF TWDKSP P

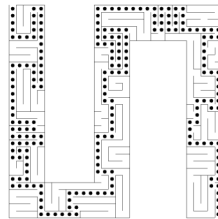
Page 9

1. E
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. C

Page 5

HRUGSMRSESVERY S
ERESIDENTSMZFKH
AFBGS MQNTEBCQBD
DWUTJEAHARUHO SP
QPIOGHVRCQWWS
USCTCACRZANPGEN
AAARXALVATNCTNM
RBEWDESUONTRUC
TMJEMQRWSMWSXOS
ELRVEINAONE XHR
RODPVTLNFBIXGCE
SBZNKALLRTANN SO
DOOWDERASPSREOC
MQFNBS LUMBERLPO
ZJUVJLWXNAIDBJL

Page 10



Page 11

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
5 18 20 22 11 21 15 8 7 17 16 1 14 10 26 19 2 24 4 9 3 25 12 6 23 13

LIGHTNING STARTED A WILDFIRE I
1 7 15 8 9 10 7 10 15 4 9 5 24 9 11 22 5 12 7 1 22 21 7 24 11
SEND AS MANY FIREFIGHTERS
4 11 10 22 5 4 14 5 10 23 21 7 24 11 21 7 15 8 9 11 24 4
AS POSSIBLE!
5 4 19 26 4 4 7 18 1 11

Page 12

BKOSO **BOOKS**
MUSMEU SPAS **MUSEUM PASS**
EGSNW AMEICHN **SEWING MACHINE**
DBOAR MGSEA **BOARD GAMES**
ZPLSEUZ **PUZZLES**
LPTPAO MCTURPEOS **LAPTOP COMPUTERS**
BISKE **BIKES**
BDLOO PEESRSRU SITK **BLOOD PRESSURE KITS**
PRKA SPAS **PARK PASS**
HIKGNLPEOS **HIKING POLES**
GOOPR CMAAER **GOPRO CAMERA**
ESES **SEEDS**
KKAERAO HMAIENC **KARAOKE MACHINE**
SEUKLLUE **UKULELES**
DVEO SGAME **VIDEO GAMES**

DISCOVER THE LIBRARY OF THINGS!
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Page 18

HJRFEUGHUNZHRE C
RNOIFDOIOVTEOLH
AOKCISUILLFXO B
BCKZPATCAXGRAP
WMYILNNEABAKFCE
MCTOEDHRMTPSA A
LAMVSESAESIDRN V
LAECENTERLSQMUD
GRGCOMMUNITYENMU
PLCHIRFVRLTRTMG
TCIJQUEYTCDAQOH
CQSNMEGGGBZFKCW
DPYHIBMKUAF LABJ
DUGGDCXVYGZEMOS
OWNBKBBKWPYWLOE

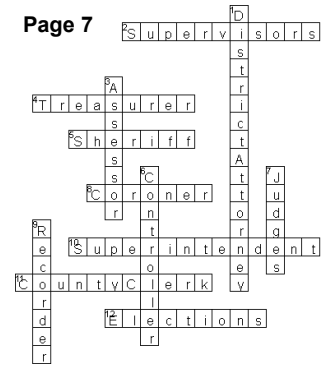
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BMORDOAR **BROADMOOR**
EL AAGRAD **EL GRANADA**
ELERMAD LEAK LHSL **EMERALD LAKE HILLS**
FIRA OKSA **FAIR OAKS**
LA NOAHD **LA HONDA**
MRNAATO **MONTARA**
MSOS CHBEA **MOSS BEACH**
POAERESCD **PESCADERO**
PCONTIERN **PRINCETON**
SNA GGREROIO **SAN GREGORIO**
UNINCORPORATED SAN MATEO COUNTY
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 11

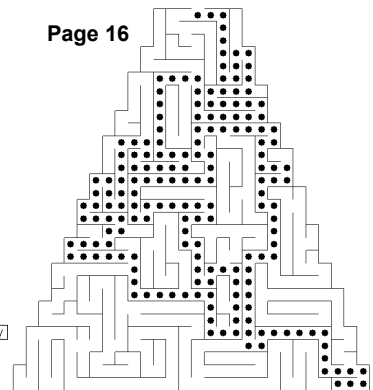
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COTYEO POTNI EROCREINAT AAE
COYOTE POINT RECREATION AREA
DLEVS LID TRIAL
DEVIL'S SLIDE TRAIL
EEWDGOD RPKA DNA NTULRAA EPSEVR
EDGEWOOD PARK AND NATURAL PRESERVE
TAFREGDZLMEINRA ERVEESR
FITZGERALD MARINE RESERVE
OFOLD KAPR
FLOOD PARK
HFFRONEIS KPRA
FRIENDSHIP PARK
HRDOTAU PAKR
HUDSON PARK
NOUERPIJ SAERR PRKA
JUNITO PIERO SERRA PARK
MLMRAEO KPRA
MEMORIAL PARK
OSMS BGEAH KPRA
MOSS BEACH PARK
IAPRLRL PONT BFLU
PILLAR POINT BLUFF
SMA MDONCLAO RPAK
SAN MCDONALD PARK
HSNZCAE OADER
SAN CHEIZ ADOBE
WODDOES ROSET
WOODSIDE STORE
NEWUHLCDRI PRKA
WUNDERLICH PARK
ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS!
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

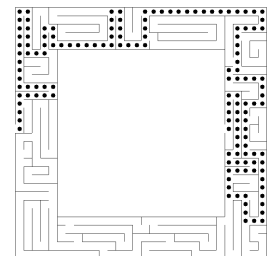
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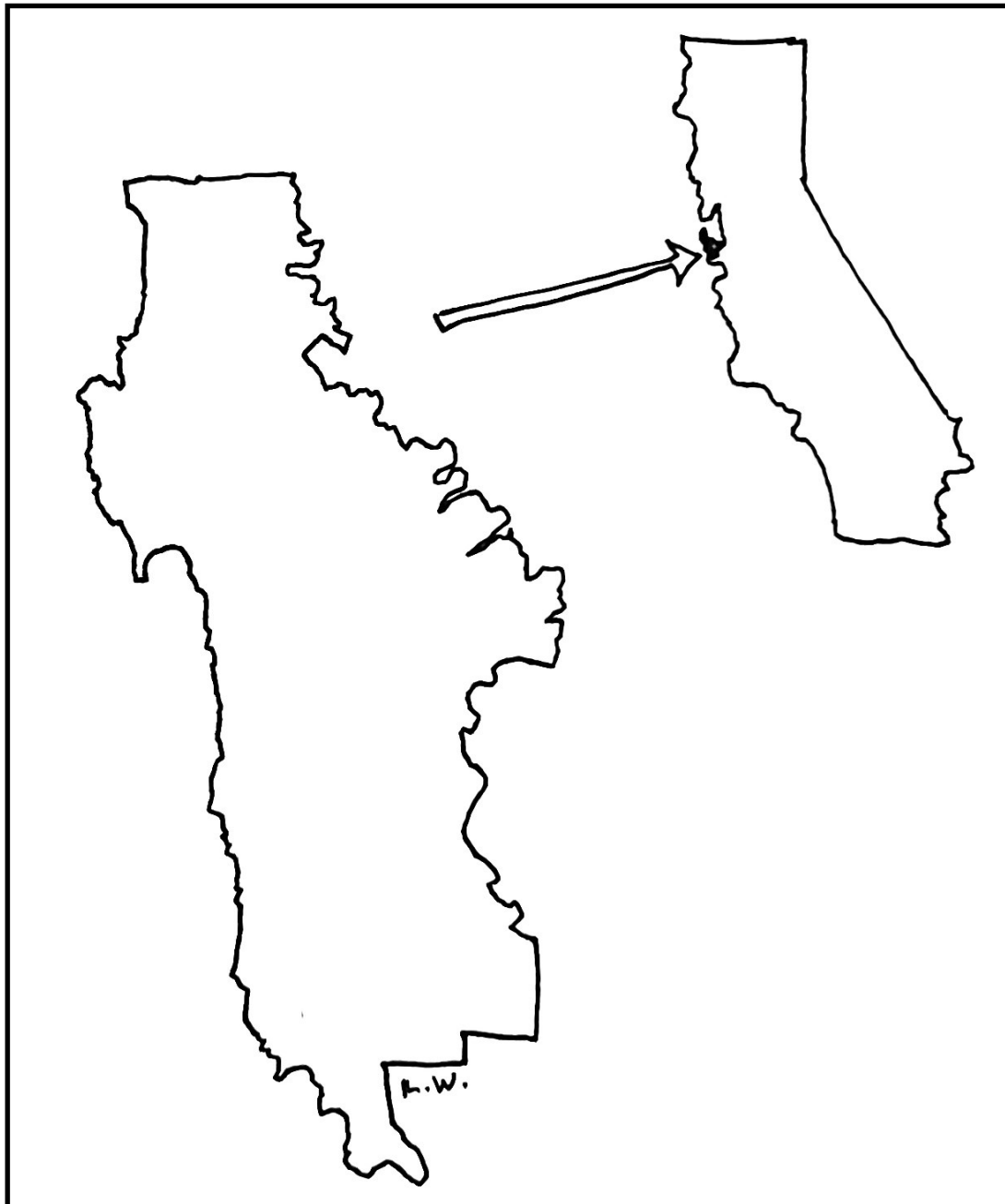


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ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
22 2 19 12 10 8 23 15 9 17 21 24 18 6 13 25 11 16 14 26 5 3 7 20 1 4

ALL OF CALIFORNIA IN ONE COUNTY
22 24 24 13 8 19 22 24 9 8 13 16 6 9 22 9 6 13 6 10 19 13 5 6 26 1

San Mateo County



California