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# Kern county Family

free

December 2023



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FUN &  
GAMES  
BOOK**

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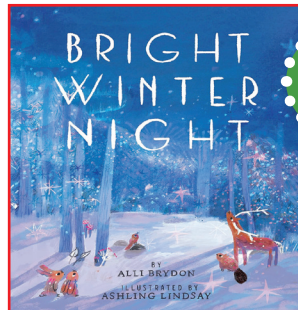


**Cover Model**

Grant Phelps, 5 of Bakersfield  
Photography by Stacey Leigh photography



**Fun and Games Book for the Holidays**



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plus

**Don't miss the FUN, the FEATURES,**



**and the FACTS!**

Follow us for exclusive social content & giveaways!



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dear reader by Vaun Thygerson .....



Vaun Thygerson,  
Contributing Writer

most beautiful, magazine-worthy tree with cheetah print bulbs and feathers.

Then, with older kids came that nostalgia of missing them as babies, so the last few years I have been using only their ornaments: the ones with pictures of them with missing teeth, tiny hand prints, and sloppily but lovingly painted trees and snowmen. These are the sentimental ones that evoke memories of preschool and kindergarten.

Now, in 2023, I have a new plan. I am doing a hybrid tree of sorts. I want the beautifully decorated tree with coordinated ribbon, but this time I'll add in my meaningful ornaments. Thanks to Leslie of Deck the Halls, she is helping me see my vision come to life. I can't wait to see it all decked out in puffy red, black, and cheetah-print ribbon with my favorite ornaments mingled throughout it. It's going to be perfect!

It's amazing how much thought, time, and effort we put into the holidays, and how many traditions we juggle. To help coordinate it

During the holidays, I love to decorate my house to match the festivities. Over the years, I have had many themes for my Christmas tree decor. My first few Christmases as a newlywed, I bought red velvet bows and gold glitter snowflakes to use for decoration. As I started having children and beanie babies were a national craze, I decorated my Christmas tree with my teddy bear beanies and Boyd's Bears. I even had a Santa Bear tree topper. As my kids got a little bit older, and I entertained more at my house during the Holidays, I had my friend Patti create the



all without breaking the bank, Callie Collins writes about this in her article, "11 Cheap, Fun Ways to Celebrate the Holidays (That Don't Feel Chintzy or Grinchy)." She gives some insight on how to manage it all on a budget. Some of her tips include hosting pot lucks, using leftovers, and volunteering as a family. To read all of her 11 tips, turn to page 29.

KCFM checked in with several of the women featured in the "Hello, Happy Mama" articles throughout the year to share some parenting advice as they look forward to 2024. Thanks to those who recommended trusting the process, making self-care a priority, and spending time being present and off the electronics. They also told KCFM their new parenting hashtag, so to read them all, turn to page 9.

In this month's Humor at Home article, "The Black Hole That is My Purse," Julie Willis writes about the panic that set in when she found something sticky while digging through her purse. As she began to pull out her purse's contents to find the sticky culprit, she realized her purse was a literal black hole. How many broken pencils did she find in her purse? To read the answer and to find out what caused the chaotic search, turn to page 32.

This Holiday, no matter what theme we choose to decorate the tree, or no matter what family traditions are kept or made anew, I know for a fact, the kids will still have a magical season to remember because they are making memories with loved ones. This year, you can have your fancy shmancy tree or string together popcorn for garland or make a tree out of balloons – it all means the same thing to your children. The energy and effort show just how much you care about making the season special for them. After all, the holidays are for families, friends, and the spirit of giving!

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# 2023 Holiday Lights at



NOV. 25 - DEC. 30 | 5:30 - 9:00 pm

This year we are bringing Josh Barnett's Lightasmic® show back inside the zoo as an amazing stroll through event! Buy Christmas trees, take photos with Santa (through Dec. 24th), ride the Candy Cane Express (the train has a wheelchair ramp), visit the Pines Marketplace and make magical memories at fun Creation Stations throughout the zoo! Teen Challenge will be selling their amazing food and goodies.

Tickets for this family favorite sell out each year, so get your tickets early!

PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE at [www.calmzoo.org](http://www.calmzoo.org), at the CALM gift shop, or call (661) 872-2256. CALM is located at 10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy.

[www.calmzoo.org](http://www.calmzoo.org) for more info



GATES CLOSE PROMPTLY AT 8:30. CLOSED CHRISTMAS.

### Schools in West Kern Consortium See Significant Growth



Lost Hills Union Elementary, Maple Elementary, and Semitropic Elementary Schools Districts have been working in partnership as the West Kern Consortium (WKC) for Full Service Community Schools, and have seen more growth than any other local district or

charter school in Kern. Per 2023 California Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment data release, most school districts in California have struggled to catch up to their pre-pandemic numbers while WKC excels.

A full-service community school model centers the school as the community hub: a one-stop shop for support and services. Community schools are an evidence-based strategy for school improvement that leverage the resources and voices of the community to support the whole child. The WKC districts focus their educational plan on five priority areas: early childhood education, math and literacy education, expanded learning programs, family and community engagement, and social and mental health services.

“It really does take a village to get to this level. But, we want the world to know that it is possible,” says Assistant Superintendent and project director for the consortium Fidelina Saso says. “Children, no matter their life circumstances, are capable of learning at higher levels. We must lead with this in mind if we are going to get our goal as the highest performing district in Kern County.” Since WKC’s inception, the consortium has grown to include Elk Hills Elementary, Wasco Union High School, and Taft Union High School Districts. WKC predicts these schools will make similar gains in due time, with some already showing seeds of success.

### Bakersfield College Hosts Inaugural College Rodeo Competition

Bakersfield College’s Rodeo Team recently hosted its first National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Collegiate Rodeo at the Kern County Fairgrounds. Student athletes from several colleges including Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Fresno State, University of Nevada Las Vegas, and others came to compete in an arena packed with fans.



Entertainment at Bakersfield College’s Inaugural NIRA Collegiate Rodeo  
Photo Credit: Vaun Thygerson

These college cowboys and cowgirls participated in events ranging from Saddle Bronc to Team Roping to Steer Wrestling and more.

Five collegiate cowboys threw their hat into the ring to try and ride a bull for eight seconds. Also, a local farm, Funny Farm, sponsored six bull riders in exhibition bull rides.

The audience was also treated to a beautiful performance by the group Escaramuza, whose riders synchronized their horse routine to traditional Mexican music.

To find out about upcoming Bakersfield College events, please visit [www.bakersfieldcollege.edu](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu).

Refrigerator Door feature continued on page 6



This Rudy doesn't count.



# FIND RUDY REINDEER

Count the number of Rudy Reindeers you find throughout this issue, then submit your answer by noon on Tuesday, December 19th at <https://kerncountyfamily.secondstreetapp.com/Find-Rudy-Rudolph-2023/> for your chance to win!

## WIN:

Nespresso Vertuo Pop+ Coffee Maker and Espresso Machine, Starbucks Caffe Verona Pods & \$50 gift certificate for Frugatti's Restaurant.



## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CONTEST SPONSOR



Kristi Barnhard



### 34th Annual Chez Noel

Your three local homes beautifully decorated for the Holidays at the 34th annual Chez Noel Holiday Home Tour on December 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the theme, "Hearts Make a Home." Benefiting the Assistance League of Bakersfield, coffee, snacks, and holiday boutique shopping will be available at the "R" Street entrance of the Bargain Box Thrift Store at 1924 Q Street. The Bargain Box will also be open for holiday shopping. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 at local retail places and help fund the Assistance League of Bakersfield's philanthropic programs, which serve children and adults in the community.



For more information, please visit [www.bakersfield.assistanceleague.org](http://www.bakersfield.assistanceleague.org).

### Fox Theater Foundation Buys Historic Nile Theater



The Fox Theater Foundation recently expanded its footprint in downtown Bakersfield by acquiring the historic Nile Theater on 19th street. Thanks to a generous gift from Cynthia Lake, this acquisition is a win-win for both organization because it expands the arts and increases opportunities for entertainment in a smaller venue. It sets the stage for creating an arts-and-theater district in downtown. "This is a big deal. The gift

Cynthia Lake gave to not just our Foundation, but to our city, is a forever game changer to our downtown," says Matt Spindler, Executive Director of the Fox Theater Foundation. "I'm proud that our Foundation is willing to take on this historic theater and help restore it as much as possible to what it used to be. And my hope is that it's not the last one."

For more information, please visit [www.thebakersfieldfox.com/fox-theater-foundation/](http://www.thebakersfieldfox.com/fox-theater-foundation/).

### BMOA Offers Art Workshops for Kids 6-16

The Bakersfield Museum of Art (BMOA) offers Saturday Studio, art workshops for kids 6 through 16, with the next one, "Plaster + Paint," scheduled on Saturday, December 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Inspired by BMOA's exhibiting artist Kacy Jung, students will sculpt their own inanimate objects and paint any image they like on them. Visit [www.bmoa.org](http://www.bmoa.org) to see their Winter break art workshop schedule while the kids are out of school.



### Kern County Family Magazine Wins National Awards

Competing with parenting publications from some of the nation's biggest cities, Kern County Family Magazine was honored with three editorial and design awards at the recent national Parenting Media Association (PMA) conference held in Chicago. Under the direction of its publisher LJ Radon, KCFM thanks its staff, freelancers, and readers who make it an award-winning publication and staple in the community.



For PMA's Profile category, KCFM's LJ Radon, Callie Collins, and Ginger Lynch won the silver award for the article, "Hello, Happy Determined Mama." The judge wrote, "The writer does a nice job of telling her story while integrating the complex issues related to foster care."

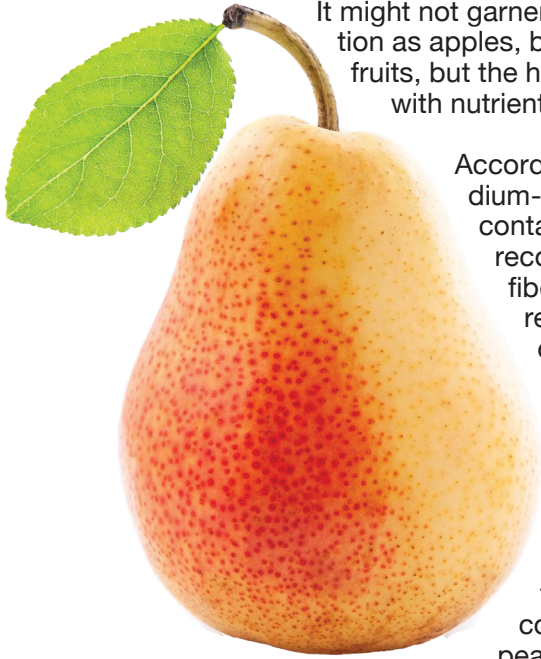


In the Table of Contents category, KCFM's LJ Radon and Ginger Lynch were awarded the bronze for their June 2023 entry. The PMA judge noted, "There is nice utility and integration of the visual material on this layout. The large colored page number circles help readers quickly navigate to stories that catch the eye. Good typographic hierarchy helps make the page attractive. The lead portrait image helps the readers connect with the material and dive in."

KCFM's LJ Radon and Ginger Lynch won another bronze award in PMA's Ancillary Cover category for the "2022 Holiday Fun & Games Book." The judge commented, "The whimsical illustration uses expressive characters and an attractive color palette to set the stage and convey an appropriate tone of merriment. The nameplate and headline are well integrated into the layout."



## The Humble Pear Packs Quite a Nutritious Punch



It might not garner the same level of attention as apples, bananas or other popular fruits, but the humble pear is packed with nutrients.

According to USA Pears, a medium-sized, 100-calorie pear contains 21 percent of the recommended daily value of fiber and 8 percent of the recommended daily value of vitamin C. The fiber in pears can be especially beneficial, as fiber promotes a healthy gastrointestinal tract and helps maintain balance and regularity. Fiber also has been linked to a reduced risk for colorectal cancer, making pears a worthy addition to anyone's diet.

December is National Pear Month, the perfect time to give this fantastic fruit a try!

## Fun Facts about a Holiday Favorite – Peppermint!

From candy canes to candles, peppermint is surely the scent of the season. Though peppermint tastes and smells delicious, did you know that it's actually beneficial to your health?

### Here are some fun facts about peppermint:

- Peppermint plants originated in the Mediterranean but is now grow in North America and Europe.
- Breathing the fumes of peppermint stimulates the senses and helps to reduce fatigue and depression. Make sure to light a peppermint candle in your living room this holiday season to help ward off the winter blues.
- Peppermint oil can soothe itchy dry skin and is used as an antiseptic to clean wounds and soothes acne.
- Each year 1.76 billion candy canes are made. That's a lot of peppermint!



Healthy News to Use continued on page 8

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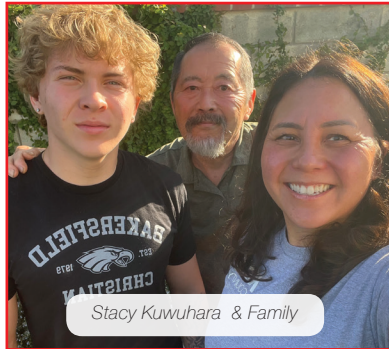






hello, happy mama by Callie Collins

# Hello, Happy Mama: Featured moms reflect on 2023



Stacy Kuwahara & Family



Jenny Frank & Family



Dr. Arleana Waller & Family



Katherine Wolf & Family

**A**s we look to 2024, December is the perfect time to reflect on a year well lived. Several of the local women featured in our Hello, Happy Mama this year shared their thoughts on three key parenting questions. Here is a selection of their answers.

**Q. Looking back on 2023, what is your best parenting advice?**

**Stacy Kuwahara:** Give yourself some grace and appreciate you are doing the best you can. Parenting isn't easy for anyone, regardless of how it looks to the outsider. Make time for yourself so that you can make time to be fully present and enjoy your family. These moments go back, enjoy them as they are occurring.

**Jenny Frank:** Looking back on 2023, I think the best advice I can give is to "respect the process." All four of my children went through significant life changes during 2023, which inherently affected me. I found that when I let a little time pass and did not try to over-control the situation, many issues resolved themselves. Life is a process. Communication is important but timing is key.

**Arleana Waller:** Rethink the way you spend time with your children. Often being a leader requires you to wear many hats. Take them all off and just be present with your kids, phone down, emails shut off. Just present creating memories and loving them fully and present. The world can wait.

**Katherine Wolf:** My best parenting advice is to give yourself grace. No parent is perfect and no parenting moment is perfect. Parenting is hard and we have to be willing to give ourselves grace, especially in some of the toughest moments.

**Q. Considering the year it has been, do you have a new parenting hashtag to share?**

**Stacy Kuwahara:** I don't really do hashtags so I'm not sure if I'm doing this right. If I did create one, it would be #perfectly imperfect.

**Jenny Frank:** #blessingsindisguise

**Arleana Waller:** #BoyMomforTheWin  
#MomisANoJudgementZone  
#JustSayNofortheKid  
#LoveKidsUnconditionally  
#SafeSpaceSafeMom  
#JustAMomWhoLoves  
#IWillBeYourMom  
#LOVEWinsWhenHateisLOUD

**Katherine Wolf:** #age3isonly365days (My daughter turned 4 in mid-November and the 3 year-old year has been one of the hardest.)

**Q. The holidays can be a stressful time for families. What's making you laugh lately?**

**Stacy Kuwahara:** Animal videos. Their silliness always makes me smile.

**Hello, Happy MAMA!**  
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<https://kerncountyfamily.secondstreetapp.com/Hello-Happy-Mama-December-2023-giveaway/>

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**Jenny Frank:** Every time I'm on the phone with my son who is away at Air Force Tech School in Texas, he has some witty comment that gets me belly laughing. He is in the Air Force and I am a Marine, so the banter is hilarious. What a wonderful thing to laugh with your children.

**Arleana Waller:** Little random babies in the nail salon being super loud. Good food makes me happy, which makes me laugh in my happy conversation at the table with the kids. Having 54 games between Kadar and Bentley's basketball schedule.

**Katherine Wolf:** My kids have some -isms that have us laughing so hard these days. They say kids say the darndest things and boy, aren't they right?!?

MERRY  
*Christmas*



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to yours!*

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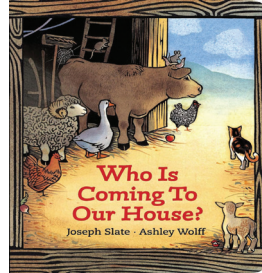
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## Embrace *Home* for the Holidays!

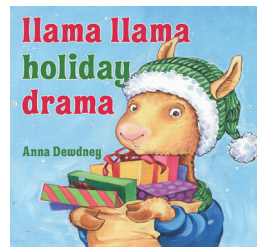
The holidays bring different experiences for different families—some may attend large gatherings, while others may choose a quiet celebration. Either way, there's probably a lot of anticipation of the season, no matter how you celebrate. Here are a few of our favorite books that bring a little coziness to our homes for the holidays.



### Who is Coming to Our House?

By Joseph Slate and Ashley Wolff  
\$7.98; Ages 0-3  
Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons  
Amazon.com

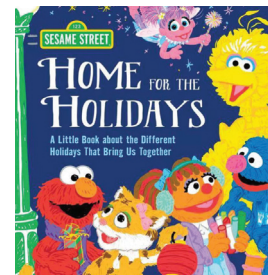
This board book tells the story of the birth of baby Jesus from the perspective of barn animals who do their best to prepare their home.



### Llama, Llama Holiday Drama

By Anna Dewdney  
\$11.26; Ages 2-4  
Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers  
Amazon.com

We love our little llama! In this story, Llama Llama and Mama Llama are in the midst of the holiday rush to shop, bake & decorate, but Llama Llama doesn't quite have the patience for waiting for THE day.



### Home for the Holidays: A Little Book About the Different Holidays That Bring Us Together

By Sesame Workshop and Craig Manning  
\$5.99; Ages 3-7  
Publisher: Sourcebooks Wonderland  
Amazon.com

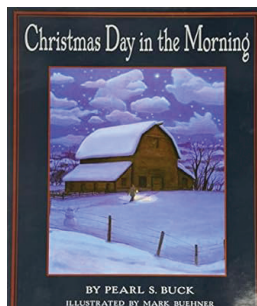
Sesame Street friends -celebrate holidays from a variety of cultures, including Eid al-Fitr, Chinese New Year, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, And Christmas.



### Bright Winter Night

By Alli Brydon and Ashling Lindsay  
\$9.99; Ages 3-7  
Publisher: Two Lions  
Amazon.com

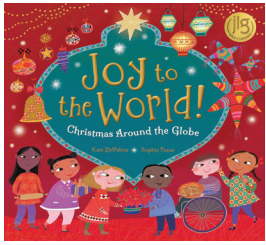
This beautiful picture book uses rhyme to tell the story of forest animals who work together in their forest home to make it through a magical winter night.



### Christmas Day in the Morning

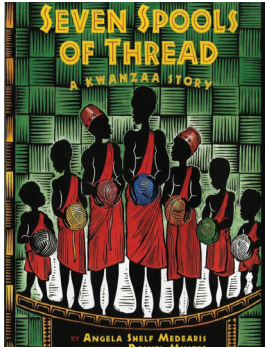
By Pearl S. Buck and Mark Buehner  
\$12.39; Ages 4-10  
Publisher: HarperCollins  
Amazon.com

Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck and acclaimed artist Mark Buehner unite for this heart-warming story. Rob wants to get his father something special, but he doesn't have much money. He discovers the best gift of all.



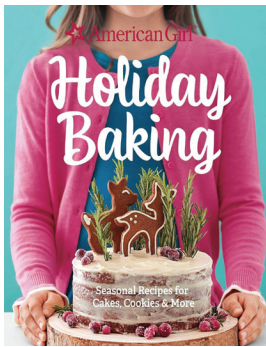
### Joy to the World! Christmas Around the World

By Kate DePalma and Sophie Fatus  
 \$12.69; Ages 4-10  
 Publisher: Barefoot Books  
 Amazon.com  
 Christmas is celebrated differently around the world and this book shows young readers what holiday traditions are like in 13 different countries including Ethiopia, Colombia, Australia, Italy, Serbia, Mexico, India, Iceland, Egypt, Argentina, Philippines, Lebanon and Canada.



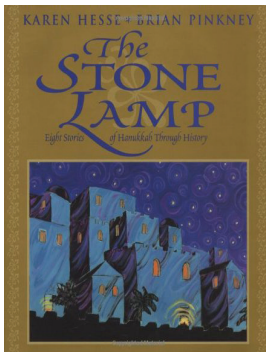
### Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story

By Angela Shelf Medearis and Daniel Minter  
 \$6.70; Ages 5-10  
 Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co.  
 Amazon.com  
 This award-winning book uses the seven principles of Kwanzaa to create a story that shows how family members can work together to benefit the entire community.



### American Girl Holiday Baking: Seasonal Recipes for Cakes, Cookies & More

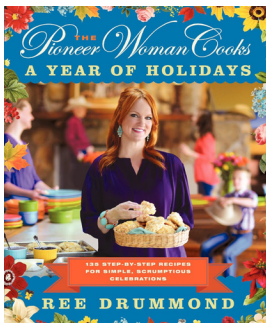
By American Girl  
 \$11.85; Ages 8-12  
 Publisher: Weldon Owen  
 Amazon.com  
 What better way to spend a holiday weekend than baking?! Young chefs can experiment with pies, cookies, candies and more to share with family and friends.



### The Stone Lamp: Eight Stories of Hanukkah Through History

By Karen Hesse and Brian Pinkney  
 \$9.24; Ages 9-11  
 Publisher: Little Brown Books  
 Amazon.com  
 Through poetry and free-verse, award-winning author Karen Hesse captures the spirit of the Jewish people through the voices of eight children at Hanukkah. The stone lamp provides each with comfort and hope, for every time its wicks are lit, the endurance of the Jewish people is re-illuminated.

For Adults:



### The Pioneer Woman Cooks: A Year of Holidays

By Ree Drummond  
 \$15.67; Ages 15-adult  
 Publisher: William Morrow Cookbooks  
 Amazon.com  
 Popular "Pioneer Woman" Ree Drummond shows you step-by-step how to ring in your favorite holiday with food for all meals—breakfast, lunch, dinner, parties and more!

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# Q. What is your favorite toy that you received as a child at Christmas?

Families gather around the tree with happy children and sparkling gifts are at the center of so many joy-filled holiday memories. We asked our readers about their favorite items received. A selection of their answers is included below.

*Grace Zuniga*

A Fisher Price Doll House!  
I would play house for HOURS!



I received a Barbie from my aunt. I remember this was my favorite because my parents could not afford to buy us toys and my Aunt gifted me my first Barbie. And I was so happy I clearly remember that to this day.

*- Mariana Chavez*

A sing-along karaoke Angelica doll. I was super excited when opening it.

*- Angie Borbon*

*Lacey Foster*

Barbie Corvette.



Home Alone Talkboy Recorder...I was so excited!  
A '90s kids dream toy for sure!

*- Janet Maness*

My size Barbie.

*- Angelina McRoberts*

Holly Hobby.

*- Angela Gray*

Bike and a Walkman.

*- Rachel Harris*

Not a toy but my first dog.

*- Ariel Gomez*



Lamb Chop hand puppet from my mom.

*- Jessica Payan-Medina*

Toy Train.

*- David Alton*

Polly Pocket.

*- Angela Arredondo*

A Cabbage Patch Doll.

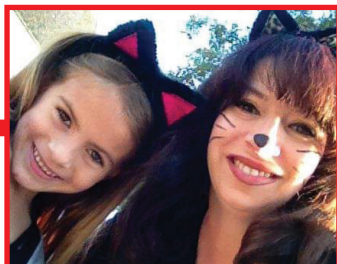
*- Araceli Hurley*

Rainbow Bright dolls.

*- Alma Nevarez*

*Kathy Gillis*

My Barbie Townhouse with the elevator.



It's got to be my own lookalike American Girl doll with all of her accessories.

*- Caitlin Haviland*

A big white teddy bear with a Santa hat.

*- Corrie White*

All the Bratz Dolls.

*- Biviana Chavez*

I loved my play makeup kit!

*- Rhonda Glenn*

*Krystal Wood*

Batteries. If I got batteries I knew I got toys that needed them.





# Kern county Family magazine

## 2023 Holiday Fun & Games

A Book of Puzzles, Songs  
& Coloring Pages for Everyone!



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# Holiday Greetings to all of Kern County!

by Andrea Rose

We hope you are looking forward to festivities, whether you plan to celebrate quietly at home or at a gathering filled with family and friends. We're making lists, shopping small and decking the halls, as we think about the importance of family and our community this season.

We are grateful for each and every member of our Kern County Family and we hope you will find peace and joy this month. But what holiday would be complete without a little merriment? We invite you to take a moment to make a jolly good time with your family through our annual holiday activity book. It's chock full of puzzles and games—and a song or two! Gather the kids and get ready to celebrate! Let's put some joy in this holiday season!

## Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year from our family to yours!



kern county  
**Family**  
magazine

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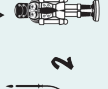



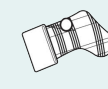
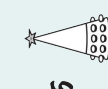



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# I SPY



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Merry Christmas

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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Answers under Joy To The World



# FIND 10 DIFFERENCES




**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR**

We're just peeking in to say,  
Hope you have a great holiday.  
May it be happy, healthy and bright,  
Making each day a sheer delight.  
We're sharing words of gratitude too,  
For we wouldn't be here  
without all of you!

Thanks and best wishes to all of our fine customers and friends!



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## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Christmas

**N M A E R G**

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Manger



# DECK THE HALLS

It's hard to hear "Deck the Halls" and not immediately be overcome by the festive nature of the holiday season. The lyrics to "Deck the Halls" were written by the Scottish musician Thomas Oliphant in 1862. However, the Welsh melody that is part of the song can be traced to the 16th century and a song called "Nos Galan." That song is not about Christmas, but rather New Year's Eve.

## "Deck the Halls"

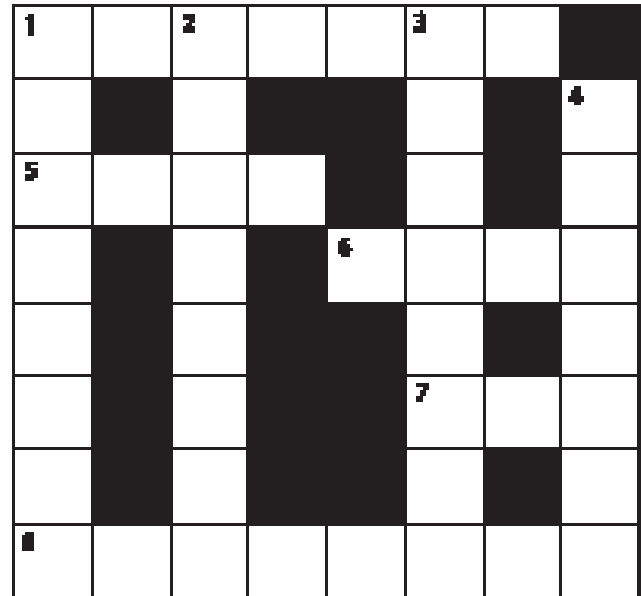
Deck the halls with boughs of holly,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 'Tis the season to be jolly,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 Fill the meadcup, drain the barrel,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 Trolol the ancient Christmas carol,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the flowing bowl before us,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 Strike the harp and join the chorus,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 Follow me in merry measure,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 While I sing of beauty's treasure,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 Hail the new, ye lads and lasses!  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 Laughing, quaffing all together,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 Heedless of the wind and weather,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.



## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. Things not known
5. Paper to fill out
6. Object of devotion
7. December 31 (abbr.)
8. Tree decoration

### DOWN

1. Popular food
2. Type of sweater
3. Style of dance
4. Gather

Answers:  
 Across  
 1. Socks 6. Room 7. Yule 8. NYE 9. Christmas  
 Down  
 1. Soft hat 2. Cardigan 3. Top dress  
 4. Collar

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HAPPY  
HANUKKAH



*Wishing You a Joyful &  
Prosperous New Year*

**Ira and Carole Cohen**



**It's a complicated world.**

**But Helping kids is easy.**

**Give them the support  
they need.**



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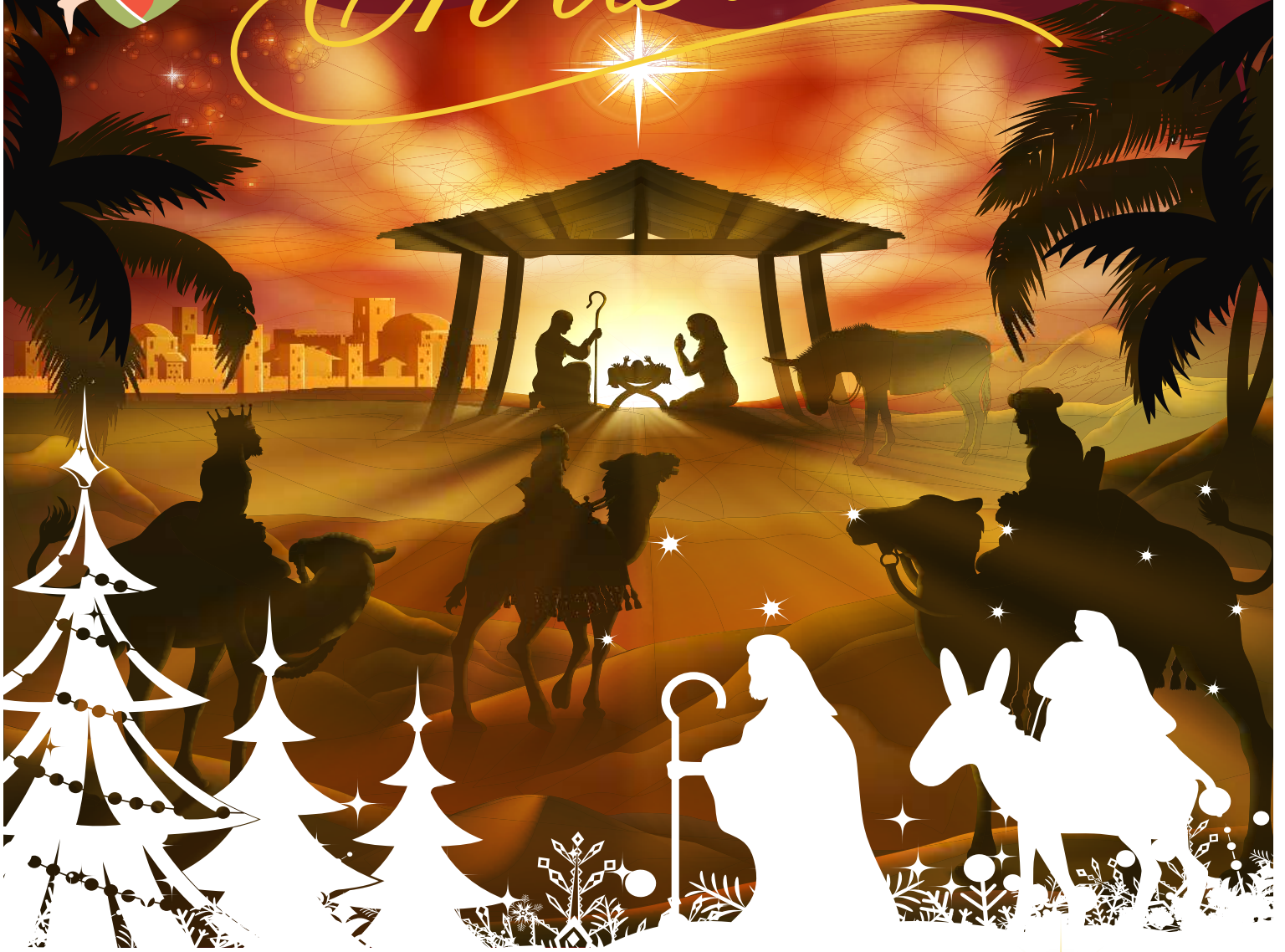
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BAKERSFIELD SWIM ACADEMY

WISHES YOU A 



Blessed  
Christmas



HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

# JOY TO THE WORLD

Lyrics written in 1719 by Isaac Watts  
 Music "Antioch" by George Frideric Handel



Joy to the world, the  
 Lord is come  
 Let Earth receive her King  
 Let every heart prepare  
 Him room

And Heaven and nature sing  
 And Heaven and nature sing  
 And Heaven, and Heaven,  
 and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns  
 Let all their songs employ  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills  
 and plains

Repeat the sounding joy  
 Repeat the sounding joy  
 Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and  
 grace  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love  
 And wonders of His love

And wonders, wonders, of His love  
 Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
 Let Earth receive her King  
 Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing  
 (And Heaven and nature sing)  
 And Heaven and nature sing  
 (And Heaven and nature sing)  
 And Heaven, and Heaven, and  
 nature sing

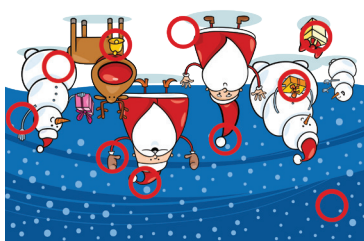
And Heaven, and Heaven,  
 and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
 Let Earth receive her King  
 Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing  
 (And Heaven and nature sing)  
 And Heaven and nature sing  
 (And Heaven and nature sing)  
 And Heaven, and Heaven, and  
 nature sing

And Heaven, and Heaven,  
 and nature sing

## ACTIVITY ANSWERS



Holiday Kid's Corner  
 Suduko

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

Holiday Kid's Corner  
 CROSSWORD

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Across      | Down        |
| 1. Fearful  | 1. Feline   |
| 4. Imitator | 2. Restrain |
| 6. Pounce   | 3. Purring  |
|             | 5. Taste    |

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# Up On The Housetop



'Up on the housetop reindeer paws, out jumps good old Santa  
Claus  
Down through the chimney with lots of toys  
All for the little ones, Christmas joys

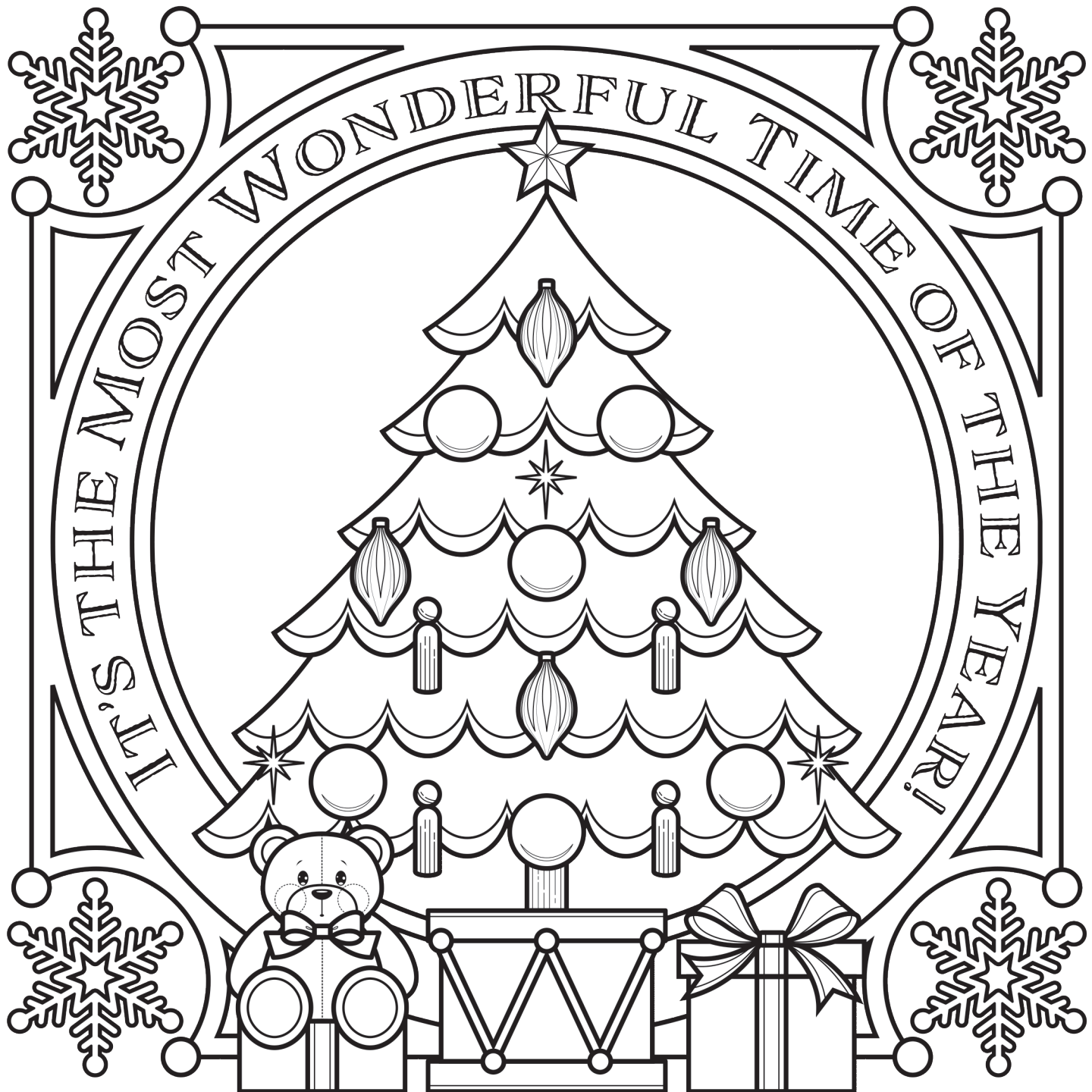
Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go? Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?  
Up on the housetop, click, click, click  
Down through the chimney with old Saint Nick

First comes the stocking of little Nell  
Oh, dear Santa fill it well  
Give her a dolly that laughs and cries  
One that can open and shut her eyes

Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go? Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go?  
Up on the housetop, click, click, click  
Down through the chimney with good Saint Nick

Look in the stocking of little Bill  
Oh, just see what a glorious fill  
Here's a hammer and lots of tacks  
Whistling ball and a whip that cracks

Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go? Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go?  
Up on the housetop, click, click, click  
Down through the chimney with good Saint Nick



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# Sweet Tidings To you

**We hope your holidays are a treat with  
these Homemade Snickerdoodle Cookies**

- 1 Cup Soft Shortening – Butter Flavored
- 1 1/2 Cups Granulated White Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 2 3/4 Cups Sifted All Purpose Flour
- 2 Tsp. Cream of Tartar 1 Tsp Baking Soda
- 1/2 Tsp Salt
- 2 Tbsp Cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp Sugar



## Directions:

- Stir together Sifted flour, Cream of tartar, Baking soda, Salt
  - Mix the wet ingredients with the dry ingredients slowly. Mix well.
  - Refrigerate the combined dough for 1 hour.
  - Roll into 1-1.5" balls.
  - Roll the balls in the cinnamon and sugar and coat well.
  - Place balls 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet (or use silicone baking mat).
  - Bake until lightly browned, but still soft.
  - 375 Degrees for about 7 minutes
  - Pull cookies out of oven – let sit 3-5 minutes before transferring them to a cookie sheet.
- Eat and enjoy!*** Makes about 3-4 dozen 2" cookies



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Complete the maze from the top of the tree to the bottom.



# JINGLE BELLS

The popular Christmas carol "Jingle Bells" has an interesting history that remains a topic of debate even now. Written by New England native James Lord Pierpont, "Jingle Bells" was never intended to be a Christmas song, and in fact does not even mention Christmas or any other holiday.

Lyrics written by James Lord Pierpont  
Lyrics courtesy of Digital Music News

## "Jingle Bells"

Dashing through the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way

Bells on bobtail ring  
Making spirits bright  
What fun it is to ride and sing  
A sleighing song tonight! Oh,

Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way,  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey!

Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way,  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh.

A day or two ago  
I thought I'd take a ride  
And soon, Miss Fanny Bright  
Was seated by my side,

The horse was lean and lank  
Misfortune seemed his lot  
He got into a drifted bank  
And then we got upsot.

Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way,  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey!

Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way,  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh.

# O Night Divine!

Wishing you a Christmas season guided by love and blessed with the precious gifts of friendship, faith, peace, joy and contentment.

*Thank you for being a part of our journey this year.  
Your support has inspired us every step of the way.*

*Merry Christmas!*



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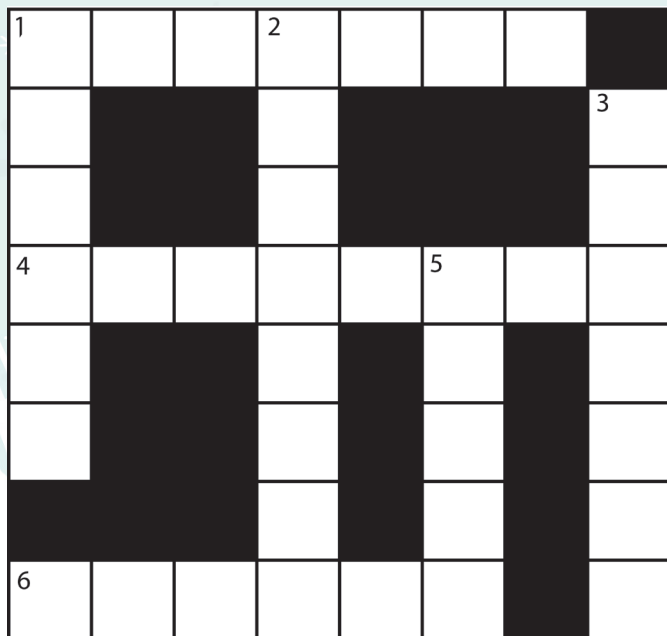
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# HOLIDAY KID'S CORNER



## Crossword



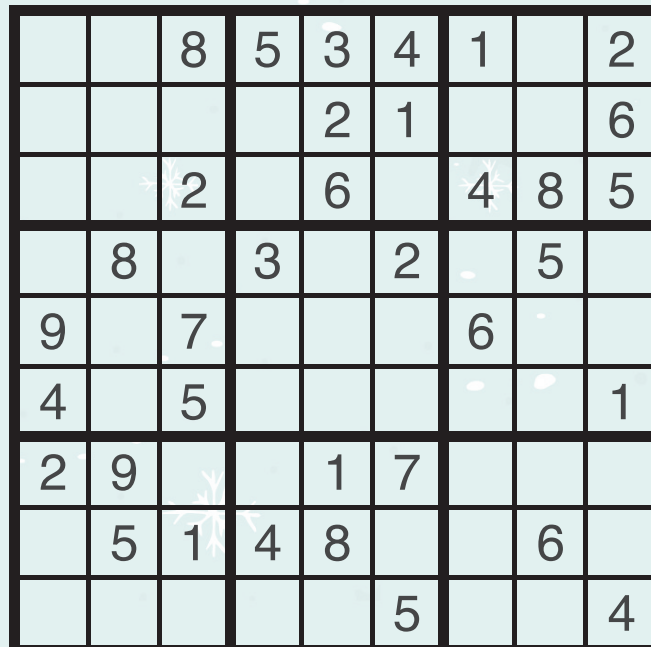
### ACROSS

- 1. Afraid
- 4. One who mimics
- 6. Jump on

### DOWN

- 1. Cat
- 2. Hold back
- 3. Vibrating sound
- 5. Test flavor

## Sudoku



Level: Beginner

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve: the number 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out the order the numbers will appear by using the clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets!



## DID YOU KNOW?

"Jingle Bells" was originally a Thanksgiving song. James Lord Pierpont wrote the song called "One Horse Open Sleigh" for his church's Thanksgiving concert in the mid-19th century. In 1857, the song was re-released under the title we all know and love and it's still among the most popular Christmas songs today.

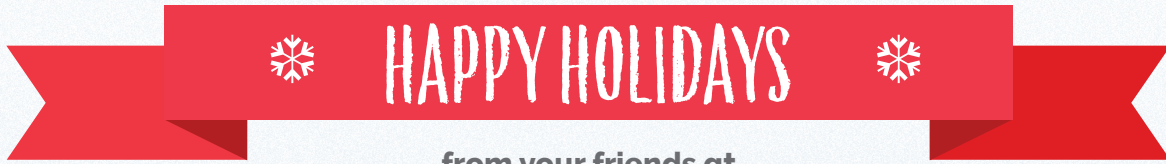
\* \* \* \* \* Help animals get home \* \* \* \* \*



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# 11 (fun & cheap) WAYS TO celebrate the holidays (that don't feel chintzy or grinchy)

2023 has had its ups and downs, including soaring grocery prices, price hikes and other economic woes. Celebrating the holidays with new budget restrictions can actually make for some of the most memorable times as families come together for new traditions. See 11 suggestions below.

## 01 Try A Potluck-Style Christmas Dinner

Hosting dinner is less expensive and more fun when everyone brings their signature dish.



## 02 Use leftovers for a second purpose

Gather again with friends and family for a second meal or send leftovers home with each guest.



## 06 Set A Price Limit For Gift Exchange

Whether it's at the office, with friends or including extending family, outline a price limit for gift-giving. Choosing a theme can help gifts feel more fun and relevant.

## 07 Attend A Seasonal Activity

See our calendar on page 34 for local events. And you can always check on local happenings at [www.kerncountyfamily.com](http://www.kerncountyfamily.com).



## 03 Decorate Together

Rather than hiring a service, spend time putting up decorations as a family, with festive music, snacks and more.



## 04 Host A Hot Chocolate Bar

In lieu of gifts, host a small gathering with a hot chocolate theme. A board game party, movie night or hobby evening could serve the same purpose.



## 05 Plan An Outing

Sledding, ice skating, snowman making: So many fun traditions are low-cost.

## 08 Volunteer At A Local Nonprofit

Bring friends and family together to host a holiday meal, join in a group effort or coordinate donations for a local charity.



## 09 Window Shop

Enjoy a holiday stroll with a warm beverage and an eye for bargains. If you don't buy anything, window shopping can add to the holiday spirit with bright displays.



## 10 Adopt A Family For The Holidays

Participate with local giving efforts through your church or a Kern County charity to help meet basic needs. Children often learn by doing and fostering a sense of community can happen at the holidays through small efforts like these.



## 11 Try Baking

Baking mix, frosting and sprinkles can yield a low-cost fun time together, especially if you already own cookie cutters and many ingredients.



# Spreading Holiday *Cheer* for 50 Years!

## North of the River Christmas Parade Marches Toward a Milestone



North of the River Christmas Parade 2022  
courtesy: North of the River Recreation & Park

It's been a hometown holiday tradition since 1973. This year the North of the River Christmas Parade is celebrating 50 years of filling the streets of Oildale with Christmas cheer.

"Our Christmas Parade embodies our unwavering dedication to the North of the River community," said Jasmin LoBasso, superintendent of recreation and community services for the North of the River Recreation and Park District, which organizes the parade. "It's incredibly important to us to celebrate and preserve the legacy of the parade."

The parade will celebrate its golden jubilee, with the theme NOR Parades of Past, Present, and Future (A Christmas Carol). But don't expect Ebenezer Scrooge and his Bah, Humbug attitude to rain on this parade. Organizers are pulling out all the stops to create a festive holiday atmosphere worthy of a 50th anniversary celebration.

Over the past few months, NOR invited members of the community to submit memories of the parade in the form of written stories, photos, audio clips, or videos. Select memories will be part of a digital storytelling exhibition celebrating the Oildale and North of the River communities.

"Oildale holds a very special place in our heart; it's where NOR was born," said LoBasso. "Some of our earliest parks and facil-

ities, including the Riverview Community Center and Standard Park, continue to provide recreation space to the community."

There is no shortage of nostalgia, when it comes to this decades old tradition. The first parade took place on December 15, 1973, making it the oldest Christmas parade in Bakersfield. Originally called "Children's Christmas Parade" it featured participants dressed up as storybook characters.

Although the themes, music and participants have changed throughout the years one thing remains the same. The NOR Christmas Parade is powered by people. During the energy crisis of the 1970s, NOR decided the parade would be non-motorized in an effort to save fuel. Since then organizers have maintained the tradition and the practice has become a point of pride.

"What makes the parade so unique is that it retains that festive quality that made parades of the past so enjoyable. As a traditional marching parade, it emphasizes engagement, community celebration, and brings you back to an era of nostalgic holiday celebrations," said LoBasso.

Ruben Musquez began attending the parade back in 1984, when he starting working for the North of the River Recreation and Park District as a custodian. He was quickly tasked with coordinating set up, crowd control and directing traffic on the day of the event. For Ruben, the holiday tradition is all about bringing the community together.

"It's great for the kids, and it's great for the community. I think there's a lot of community pride with this event especially for people living in the Oildale area. It's something the whole family can enjoy and that's why people keep coming back year after year," said Musquez.

**The 2023 North of the River Christmas Parade will be held on December 9 at 10 a.m.** It takes place on North Chester Avenue, kicking off at NOR Park and passing multiple notable historical sites, including North High School, the Rathbun Library, Standard School District and Standard Park. For more information about the Christmas parade visit [www.norfun.org](http://www.norfun.org).

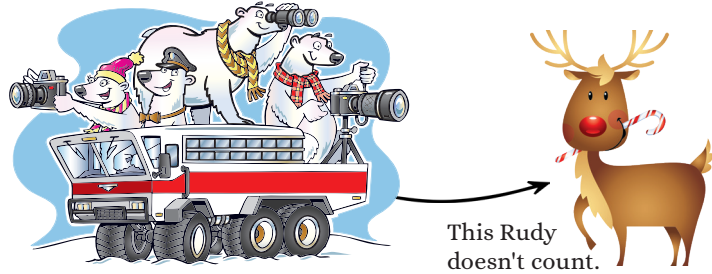
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LIC # 153810005

This Rudy doesn't count.

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR RUDY REINDEER?**

Details on Page 5!

# WIC Offers Breastfeeding Support!

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program provides healthy foods, nutrition tips, breastfeeding support, health care referrals and community information.

## Infants Grow Healthy with Breastfeeding



When you choose to breastfeed, you can get food for up to one year!

### Here are some ways WIC Supports Breastfeeding:

- Provides ideas on how your family and friends can support you
- One-on-one support from a peer counselor or lactation specialist to help meet your breastfeeding goals
- Tips for a healthy supply of breastmilk for your baby
- Provides a variety of breast pumps best suited for your needs

Pregnant, postpartum, working families including military, migrant and foster families with infants and children up to 5 years of age, are encouraged to apply.

### Did you know?

Moms who breastfeed are less likely to have postpartum depression or develop diabetes, certain types of cancer, and heart disease.

## Breastfeeding Myths vs. Facts

### MYTH

It's normal for breastfeeding to hurt.

### FACT

It is not normal for breastfeeding to hurt. If breastfeeding hurts, contact your local WIC agency and ask to speak to a Breastfeeding Expert.

### MYTH

You should separate a newborn and birthing parent to allow the birthing parent to rest.

### FACT

Studies show that skin-to-skin contact after birth helps to regulate the baby's heart rate and breathing, as well as stimulates the release of hormones to support breastfeeding.

### MYTH

You shouldn't breastfeed if you're sick.

### FACT

Most parents can usually continue to breastfeed even when they are sick. The antibodies your body makes are passed to your baby during breastfeeding. These antibodies help your baby fight off illness.

Source: [www.unicef.org/parenting/food-nutrition/14-myths-about-breastfeeding](http://www.unicef.org/parenting/food-nutrition/14-myths-about-breastfeeding)



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# The Black Hole

## That Is My Purse

I was digging through my purse in search of an extra phone charger. Because I am the kind of person who carries a phone charger in my purse. Just in case.

So I was digging past water bottles and hastily stashed receipts when I felt something sticky. This made me nervous.

Just yesterday I found a random, unwrapped peach ring in there. I am embarrassed to admit that I ate it. Unfortunately, my children noticed and wanted peach rings, too, and I actually did not have any to share. I had eaten the last one. Not even the proverbial "last one," but actually the last one.

So when I felt sticky, I thought it was a melted peach ring. Without looking to confirm, I started trying to pull the stickiness off of everything it was stuck to: a Ziploc baggie that contained a bottle of Tylenol, a crumpled receipt from Target. Even my charger had stickiness on it. I pulled my hand out. It was covered in ink. An ink pen had exploded inside my purse.

I have never owned a designer handbag, but this was a leather backpack-style bag that I started using when I had gotten tired of carrying a purse on the shoulder that already had a diaper bag attached to it.

So. Yeah. About twelve years or so. I have other bags. Or rather, I should say that I have had other bags in the past. Nice leather bags

from different periods of time in my life pre-children. A gorgeous hard-sided, leather bag with a toucan embossed and painted on the side that I picked up in Costa Rica. In 2009.

- But my children have taken these bags, not understanding that just because I only carry that scuffed backpack that I am actually attached to my other bags as well, despite the fact that I never use them. (I mean, that is logical, right?)

So I emptied my purse. One item at a time. I found a Ghiradelli square. Milk chocolate and salted caramel. Still in the wrapper. I could not have been more excited if I had found a \$20 bill. Other than that treasure, I found a glasses case, a Band-Aid, three hair ties, a handful of peppermints, my wallet, three half-empty bottles of water, and the phone charger. Also six broken pencils and a used face mask.

I played a game at a gathering once. A bridal shower, I think. You got a point for each item on a list that matched something you had in your purse. I came in last place in that game. The list had things like lipstick, credit card, scarf, mirror, eyelash curler, safety pin, nail file. (No water bottles.) After that game, I thought, "OK, this was a good learning experience. Now I know how to be an adult. I definitely need to go buy a nail file and an eyelash curler."

I never did. So now the contents of my purse are lying on my desk. I'm debating whether to try to remove the ink from the liner or dig up an old bag from my closet. If there are any left.

I could steal one back from my children. Maybe I'll just use a pocket until I can buy a new backpack-style leather purse.

If only women's clothes came with pockets that could fit a wallet, a cell phone, and keys. Also a phone charger, three water bottles, and a handful of peppermints. And three broken pencils.



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[bgckc.org/igniteopportunities](https://bgckc.org/igniteopportunities)



stuff we love



by Leslie Carroll

Now that the clocks have rolled back, the temperatures have dropped gift-giving season is officially upon us. If you're searching for the best toys for the kids in your life take a look at some of the hottest holiday toys that we love!



### Bixbee-Dinosaur Sleeping Bag / Nap Mat

This ferociously cute T-Rex inspired Dinosaur Sleeping Bag is perfect for preschool predators with a carnivorous but cozy sense of style. Complete with menacing eyes, a tail and the sharpest of

teeth. It's an adorable way to take a bite out of nap time. \$79.99 [www.bixbee.com](http://www.bixbee.com)



### Pix Brix T-Rex

Build and collect the new Pix Brix Dinosaur series! Have a blast putting together your favorite dinosaurs

with the patented pixel puzzle brick. The Pix Brix T-Rex has 397 pieces and measures 7.3 x 2 x 4.1 inches! \$14.99, <https://pix-brix.com/collections/dinosaur-series/products/t-rex>



### Little Partners-Wobble Board

The Wobble Board not only builds core muscles with the various balancing activities, but also adds stimulating fun and creative

ways for kids to use their imaginations and help build self esteem. And with endless possibilities for imaginative play, the board can be used as a seesaw, slide, seat, lounge, step stool, boat, yoga mat, doll house, and more—whatever your little one can dream up! \$79.99, <https://littlepartners.com/products/wobble-board>



### Scentco-Holiday 10" Smanimals Moose

The Holiday Smanimals Plush is ultra soft, fuzzy, cuddly, and has amazing scents. Each plush is 10

inches tall in sitting position. Made with high quality plush materials for superior softness and made to be surface washable. \$19.99, <https://scentcoinc.com/products/holiday-10-smanimals-moose>



### Canal Toys-Airbrush Plush Neon Puppy

Unleash your creativity with this Neon Puppy Airbrush Plush Kit. Includes a

little plush white puppy with fluffy hair and a glittery pink star covering its eye! Airbrush it & when you're done, throw it in the washer and do it all over again! \$32.99, <https://www.hobbylobby.com/Crafts-Hobbies/Kids-Crafts-Activities/Activity-Craft-Kits/Neon-Puppy-Airbrush-Plush-Kit/p/81146039>



### The Very Hungry Caterpillar: Sticker Suncatchers Kit

Decorate 7 sun catchers to look like your

favorite scenes from "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"! Transform your windows into a page from the classic World of Eric Carle book. \$16.99, <https://www.amazon.com/Creativity-Kids-Very-Hungry-Caterpillar>



### Elf'in With Ease - Elf Boxes

This super-cute mom crafted elf box includes all of the scenes for 24 days of elf mischief. Each day is bagged and labeled for quick

setups. \$80, <https://elfinwithease.com/products/elf-box-2023>

### For Adults!



### Love and Light by Aliza McCracken

This new coffee table book by local artist Aliza McCracken is artistic and insightful. McCracken

offers readers a unique creation filled with a sense of kindness, hope, and enlightenment. <https://aliza-mccracken.square.site/product/love-and-light-by-aliza-mccracken/97>, \$54.95

# KERN COUNTY FAMILY MAGAZINE *daily happenings*

## THE BEST LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Our printed version of the calendar has been edited for space. For more details about these events or activities not listed please visit [www.kerncountyfamily.com](http://www.kerncountyfamily.com)

### December 1 Shafter Christmas Parade

Get in the holiday spirit with this fun family event!  
6 PM - 7 PM  
236 James St. Shafter, CA  
<https://www.shafterlearning.com>



### December 1 & 2 34th Annual Chez Noel Holiday Home Tour

The 34th annual Chez Noel Home Tour is a self-guided tour of three of

Bakersfield's most beautifully decorated homes for the holidays.  
Tickets: \$40  
10 AM - 3 PM  
[www.bakersfield.assistanceleague.org](http://www.bakersfield.assistanceleague.org)

### December 1 First Friday Art Walk

Highlight the vibrant creativity of downtown Bakersfield. Walk showcases artists, poets, galleries and vendors.  
5 PM - 9 PM  
The corner of 21st & Eye Street  
<https://kernarts.org/artwalk/>

### December 1 Home for the Holidays: Bakersfield Symphony Concert

Bakersfield Symphony welcomes you to a holiday event for the whole family.  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Mechanics Bank Theater  
1001 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA  
<https://www.bsonow.org/>



### December 7-15



### December 7 Delano Christmas Parade & Fair

Holiday Magic is back!  
6 PM - 9 PM  
Main Street in Delano  
<https://delanochamberofcommerce.chambermaster.com/>

### December 7 41st Annual Bakersfield Christmas Parade

This year's theme is "Joyful, Joyful!" Bring the whole family out and watch the parade downtown.  
6 PM - 8 PM  
Downtown Bakersfield  
<https://www.bcparade.com/>

### December 2 Classic Dreams Toy Drive

Classic Dream Car Club will have cars on display. Come enjoy food & music. Donate a toy for a child staying at the



Ronald McDonald House.  
10 AM - 4 PM  
Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House  
420 34th St. Bakersfield, CA  
[www.rmhcsc.org](http://www.rmhcsc.org)

### December 2 Tehachapi Hometown Christmas Parade

Vendors selling holiday-related items, crafts for kids, live music & more. Parade starts on Green St.  
1 PM - 5 PM  
Downtown Tehachapi: Tehachapi, CA  
661-822-2200

### December 2 3rd Annual Wasco Christmas Parade

Vendor fair starting at 4 p.m. The parade starts at 6 p.m. followed by the tree lighting at 7:15 p.m. leading up to the Block Party, which is scheduled to end at 9 p.m.  
4 PM - 9 PM  
Wasco, CA

### December 4 78th Annual Taft Christmas Parade

This year's theme is Santa Paws!  
6 PM  
Downtown Taft  
[www.taftchamber.com](http://www.taftchamber.com)



### December 2 December Craft & Vendor Show

Come shop local vendors and crafters.  
10 AM - 3 PM  
The Villas at Scenic River  
4015 Scenic River Ln Bakersfield, CA  
[jeannieldcrochet@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannieldcrochet@yahoo.com)

### December 4 Cults & Classics: Home Alone

Enjoy this holiday favorite on the big screen.  
Admission \$5  
6 PM - 10 PM  
The Historic Bakersfield Fox Theater  
2001 H Street Bakersfield, CA  
661-324-1369

### December 2 Art in the Park- Winter Clothes & Toy Drive

Hosted by Outsiders Nation & Kern Dance Alliance. This free event features multiple art booths, free food & drinks, clothes & toy drive.  
10 AM - 12 PM  
N.Beardsley Park 901 Airport Dr.  
2 PM - 4 PM  
Jefferson Park 801 Bernard St.  
[stevin@outsidersnation.org](mailto:stevin@outsidersnation.org)



### December 8-10 Civic Dance Center's The Nutcracker

Mechanics Bank Theater & Convention Center  
1001 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA  
<https://www.mechanicsbankarena.com/events/detail/the-nutcracker-2>



### December 6 Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland

Get in the holiday spirit with this festive family event!  
The Historic Fox Theater  
2001 H St. Bakersfield  
661-324-1369



**December 9 & 10**

**Holiday Classic Livestock Show**

Local livestock will show off at this annual event.

Kern County Fairgrounds  
1142 South P St. Bakersfield, CA  
<https://www.kerncountyfair.com/events/2023/holiday-classic-livestock-show>



**December 9**

**50th Annual NOR Christmas Parade**

North of the River Park & Recreation District is celebrating 50 years of their annual Christmas Parade in Oildale. This year's theme is "A Christmas Carol: Past, Present & Future". **SEE OUR ARTICLE ON PAGE 30 FOR MORE DETAILS.**

10 AM  
Begins on N. Chester Ave. Bakersfield, CA  
[www.norfun.org](http://www.norfun.org)

**December 9  
The Bako Market  
Holiday Pop-Up Shop**

Shopping, Crafts, Horse Kisses, Santa and More!  
10 AM – 2 PM  
MARE Riding Center  
18200 Johnson Rd.  
Bakersfield, CA

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



**December 9**

**A Merry-Achi Christmas**

Enjoy the festive sounds of Mariachi Sol de Mexico.

7:30 PM  
The Historic Bakersfield Fox Theater  
2001 H St. Bakersfield, CA  
661-324-1369

**December 10**

**40th Annual Bakersfield Toy Run**

The 40th annual ride starts at Beach Park and winds its way to the Kern County Fairgrounds. All motorcycles, car clubs and street-legal vehicles are welcome. Bring an unwrapped toy and canned food to donate.

7 AM – 10 AM  
Starts at Beach Park & 21st street  
661-319-3666  
<https://bakersfieldtoyrun.org/>



**December 16**

**Jingle Bell Run**

The annual 5k run/walk benefits Toys for Tots. Each participant is asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child in need.

8 AM  
The Park at Riverwalk  
11200 Stockdale Hwy Bakersfield, CA  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/BakersfieldJingleBellRunforToysforTots>

**December 16  
Nutcracker! Magical  
Christmas Ballet**

Experience the extraordinary international cast and Ukrainian Principal Artists performing at the peak of classical European Ballet.

2 PM and 7 PM  
The Historic Fox Theater  
2001 H St Bakersfield, CA 9  
413-499-1733



**December 16**

**The Beach Boys Christmas Tribute**

The Surf City Allstars are the only "tribute" band where every member toured in the Beach Boys band.

Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame  
2230 Q St Bakersfield, CA  
661-864-1701

**December 22**

**Santa's Winter  
Wonderland**

Family-friendly Christmas event presented by the City of Bakersfield Recreation & Parks Department. Admission is Free!

2 PM - 4:30 PM  
MLK Community Center

1000 S. Owens St Bakersfield, CA



**December 25**



**December 26**



**December 28**

**Kwanza Celebration**

Family-friendly event presented by City of Bakersfield Recreation & Parks Department. Admission is free.

1 PM – 5 PM  
MLK Community Center  
1000 S. Owens St Bakersfield, CA  
661-322-9874

**December 28**

**Katt Williams - The Dark Matter Tour**

With a career spanning over 20 years, Katt Williams has developed a unique style of stand-up that combines articulate and sharp dialogue rooted in conversations reflecting the American political landscape.

8 PM - 10 PM  
Mechanics Bank Theater & Convention Center  
1001 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA  
[www.axs.com](http://www.axs.com)

**December 30**

**Straight No Chaser: Sleighin' It Tour**

Initially formed at Indiana University, a cappella group Straight No Chaser emerged at the forefront of the modern day a cappella movement, and has since sold more than three million albums worldwide.

The Historic Fox Theater  
2001 H St. Bakersfield, CA  
661-324-1369

**December 31**



# ONGOING HAPPENINGS

## Through December 30 Holiday Lights at CALM

This year's event is returning to its original format as a walk-thru event after three years as a drive-thru experience.

15:30 PM – 9 PM

California Living Museum  
10498 Alfred Harrell Hwy.  
Bakersfield, CA  
[www.calmzoo.org](http://www.calmzoo.org)

## Through December 31 Bakersfield Christmas Town

A holiday experience for all ages featuring a light spectacular, train ride, sledding hill and much more!

Kern County Fairgrounds  
1142 South P St. Bakersfield, CA  
661-345-1675  
<https://www.christmastown.net/>

## December 8-24 The Bakersfield Christmas Market

Say hello to the brand-new European-style Christmas Market. Every Sunday they offer a free Kinderworkshop for kids to make and take home holiday themed arts and crafts.

Shopping Center next to Hobby Lobby  
California Ave. Bakersfield, CA  
661-610-5250  
[jengland@gatherjoyproductions.com](mailto:jengland@gatherjoyproductions.com)



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# Worship Guide

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## PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

*"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."*

**Proverbs 19:17 NIV**

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, many of us will be preparing to travel, or preparing our homes to welcome loved ones. This parallels what Christmas celebrates, for Jesus' family, Mary and Joseph, were also undertaking a journey, one with unexpected complications. Recall that when Mary and Joseph found no room in the Inn on the eve of Jesus' birth, Mary was forced to give birth in a field, after which she wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, which is a feeding trough for domesticated animals. The hay that Jesus was laid upon was fodder for sheep or cattle, and although we usually picture the manger as made of wood, in Biblical times mangers were more often made from clay mixed with straw or from stones held together with mud. It is hard to imagine the modern equivalent of this, but it was probably more like giving birth in the open and then placing the newborn in a wheelbarrow rather than being born in a barn or even a shed. As we consider this, we really ought to consider opening our hearts and homes (and our wallets) to the homeless, as this is precisely what Jesus' family was at this time. "Homeless" or "unhoused" or however we choose to describe them, they had nothing but the clothes on their backs, and even the swaddling cloths which Mary wrapped him in were probably borrowed from the shepherds, who used strips of cloths to wrap the lambs. It is interesting to consider how this family would be treated today in similar circumstances. Would they be helped, or would they be arrested for trespassing, or perhaps referred to a social services agency? As we prepare for Christmas, consider reaching out to the least fortunate among us. This can be as simple as buying a sandwich for someone or giving a nice tip to a service worker, or perhaps helping someone with their luggage on public transportation.

– Christopher Simon



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"Kern Autism Network Inc. provides support, awareness, information and education to families and the public throughout Kern County"

**Merry Christmas!**

Parent Support Group - Wednesday, December 6th.  
Yoga for Moms Saturday, December 16th at 9 a.m.  
Chess Club for Teens & Adults Saturday, December 16th at 11 a.m.  
Father's Virtual Autism Support Group Saturday, December 16th at 2:30 p.m.

To attend all events register at [Eventbrite@Kernautism.org](mailto:Eventbrite@Kernautism.org)  
Office will be closed the week before and after Christmas for the Holiday Break

**EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM:**

- Delayed language development
- Repetitive language
- Little or no eye contact
- Repetitive mannerisms
- Inflexible routines or rituals
- Preoccupation with object parts
- Little interest in friendships

**SERVICES OFFERED:**

- Monthly Parent Support Groups
- Adults on the Spectrum Support Group
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661-489-3335 • [kernautism.org](http://kernautism.org) • [kernautism@gmail.com](mailto:kernautism@gmail.com)  
2200 Oak Street, Annex Building

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

ANGEL  
 BELLS  
 BOUGH  
 CHRISTMAS TREE  
 DECORATE

DISPLAY  
 FIREPLACE  
 GARLAND  
 HOLLY  
 INFLATABLE

MANTEL  
 MENORAH  
 MISTLETOE  
 NUTCRACKER  
 ORNAMENTS

POINSETTIA  
 SANTA  
 SLEIGH  
 SNOWMAN  
 STAND

STOCKINGS  
 STRINGED LIGHTS  
 WINDOW  
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you think



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- How much you'll need to retire
- Whether you are on track for your retirement goals
- Which IRA is right for your retirement needs — Roth or traditional
- How the right asset allocation can help you work toward your long-term goals

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