



kern county Family

magazine

FREE



Find Rudy

PAGE 4

INSIDE

Holiday Fun & Games Book

PAGE 13

KCFM Wins National Awards

PAGE 6

Oh, What Fun!

More new bundles of joy start here



At Adventist Health, we prioritize your little ones' care from conception to delivery. That's why we're proud to work with some of the most remarkable OBGYN providers in Kern County.

- **Noel Del Mundo, MD, FACOG:** Specializes in prenatal care, high-risk obstetrics, and a range of gynecological procedures.
- **Elva Lopez, MD:** A community-oriented, award-winning OBGYN educator.
- **Rebecca Rivera, MD, FACOG:** A pioneer in minimally invasive gynecology, recently recognized as Best OBGYN in the 2024 Best of Bakersfield Readers' Choice Poll.
- **Lynn Del Mundo, PA-C:** Specializes in providing comprehensive and empathetic care for women at all stages of life, from adolescence to menopause and beyond.

Whether you're beginning the journey of motherhood or seeking routine care, our expert team is dedicated to supporting your well-being so you can keep on doing everything you were made for.



Noel Del Mundo
MD, FACOG



Elva Lopez
MD



Rebecca Rivera
MD, FACOG



Lynn Del Mundo
PA-C

To schedule an appointment,
call 661-241-6700.
Press 2 for Specialty Care,
then press 9 for OBGYN.

Adventist Health 

OWNER/PUBLISHER

Lisajo Peterson Radon

ART DIRECTION

Creative Circle Media Solutions

CALENDAR

Lisa Keosouphanh

SOCIAL MEDIA

Callie Collins, Lisa Keosouphanh

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Leslie Carroll, Callie Collins,
Andrea Rose, Vaun Thygerson,
Julie Willis

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

661-861-4939

DISTRIBUTION INQUIRIES

661-861-4939

MAIN OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS

1400 Easton Dr., Suite 112
Bakersfield, CA 93309
661-861-4939

WEB

www.kerncountyfamily.com

E-MAIL

kcfm@kerncountyfamily.com



Kern County Family Magazine is published twelve times a year by Skyline Publishing & Event Promotions of Kern County

Kern County Family Magazine is available free at more than 200 locations including libraries, grocery stores, retail stores, childcare centers, schools, hospitals and other outlets.

KERN COUNTY FAMILY MAGAZINE
1400 EASTON DR., SUITE 112
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

Deadline for advertising and calendar information is the 10th of the month preceding.

Kern County Family Magazine welcomes story ideas and unsolicited materials. Send inquiries to the address listed above. Kern County Family Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising for any reason. The opinions expressed by contributors or writers do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this paper. Distribution of this paper does not constitute an endorsement of information, products, or services. Neither the advertisers nor the publishers will be responsible for misinformation, typographical errors, omissions, etc. herein contained. ©2024 by Kern County Family Magazine and Skyline Publishing. All rights reserved. No portion of Kern County Family Magazine may be reproduced without the written consent of the publishers.

MEMBERS OF



SPECIAL SECTION
2024 Holiday Fun & Games



CONTEST!
Find Rudy Reindeer



WE'RE ALL PARENTING AWARD WINNERS & PUBLISHERS
Ron & Elena Epstein- LA Parent, Andrea Brenay- Monterey Bay Parent, Patty Ramos- Sonoma Family-Life, Daniel Payomo- Bay Area Parent and LJ Radon - KCFM. PHOTO BY KCFM

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year Everyone!**

Plus

- 4 **Dear Reader:** Holiday Traditions are Made with Love
- 6 **Refrigerator Door:** Local Voices, News & Trends
- 8 **Health:** Healthy News to Use
- 10 **Readers Respond:** Immaterial Gifts
- 13 **Holiday Fun & Games Book**
- 29 **5 Ways:** Start the Year Sober
- 30 **Hello Happy Mama:** What Are You Reading?
- 32 **Happenings:** Local Event Calendar
- 36 **Family Shopper:** Family Resources
- 38 **You Can Do It:** Merry Sips! Vegan Bliss!
- 39 **Activity Corner:** Word Search
- 40 **KCFM Recommends:** Books to Brighten Your Holidays
- 41 **We Love It:** Fun & Festive Gift Ideas
- 42 **Humor at Home:** Dog Math: The Only Relevant Math

Follow us for exclusive social content & giveaways!



Vaun Thygerson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On a recent visit to a friend's office, a sign on her wall resonated with me. It read, "The traditions of Christmas are lasting because they're made of love." The holidays are such a nice time to embrace traditions and foster memories to last a lifetime. Growing up, my husband's family had a tradition of eating homemade clam chowder together each Christmas Eve; and when we got married this was one practice he continued in our family. Over the years, even when we are

out of town, my husband brings all the ingredients to make his mom's clam chowder. And, if we are with friends, he makes enough for the entire group to enjoy. It's fun to have something from his childhood to share with our children.

Along with the super popular Elf on the Shelf, another one of the traditions I started with our family was a basket of Christmas-themed books placed under the tree. We would read from these books each night in December culminating with the story "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement Clarke Moore on Christmas Eve. As my children have gotten older, they still like to read their books by the lights on the tree and have learned to love reading year-round.

In this month's Hello Happy Mama article, **Featured Moms 2024: "What Are You Reading?"**, on page 30, Callie Collins revisits all of this year's happy mamas to recount their favorite book recommendations. From books about Disney to self-help to the Bible, these mamas know what makes a good read. She's also asking KCFM readers to send in their favorite book titles for KCFM's 2025 list, "To Be Read." Send your literary picks and the reason why your book should be added to the list to callie@kerncountyfamily.com.

This season as we hustle and bustle from store to store, KCFM asked its readers to pause and think about the real gifts of the season. In Callie Collin's article, "Readers Respond," she asks them, "What is one immaterial gift you hope to give and/or receive this year?" Overwhelmingly, the answers' themes consisted of health, faith, family, togetherness, and gratefulness. To read all the thoughtful answers, turn to page 10.

In this month's Humor at Home article, "Dog Math: The Only Relevant Math," found EXCLUSIVELY in our digital magazine on page 42, Julie Willis writes about something I can relate to – when your kids' math skills outpace your own. She reminisces about the good 'ole days of fun and easy dog math scenarios because now her daughter's homework consists of much more complex problems. But, I also agree with her that dog math is the best kind of math!

As the Holiday season comes with all kinds of parties and extravagances, the New Year is just around the corner where we shift to being more healthy. In Callie Collins' article, "Five Ways to Start the New Year Sober," on page 29, she writes how to keep a New Year's resolution to curb alcohol use. Some of her tips include holding yourself accountable in writing and getting creative with non-alcoholic drinks.

No matter what family traditions you participate in this season, the main part is to remember that they're made of love. Whether you're reading your favorite book or eating a favorite holiday dish, these are the lifetime memories you're making with friends and family. Take time to pause and enjoy the true meaning of the season.

Wishing you all the Happiest of all Holidays!

Find Rudy Reindeer!



Count the number of Rudy Reindeers you find in this issue, then submit your answer by noon on

December 19th
for a chance to win a

Hammacher Schlemmer
Italian Countertop
Pizza Oven



Value: \$149.95



TO ENTER GO TO:
[https://kerncountyfamily.
secondstreetapp.com/
Find-Rudy-Reindeer-2024/](https://kerncountyfamily.secondstreetapp.com/Find-Rudy-Reindeer-2024/)

CONTEST SPONSORED BY



Discover your well power.

Choose a Medicare Advantage plan that gives you access to Dignity Health.

If you're comparing health plans this Open Enrollment, consider the advantages of a plan that connects you to Dignity Health Medical Group, which is part of the Dignity Health Medical Network (formerly GEMCare). You'll have access to high-quality, compassionate primary and specialty care providers, along with urgent care, radiology and lab services throughout Kern and Tulare counties. And, you'll be supported by three nationally recognized Bakersfield acute care hospitals should you need them. Learn more about the Dignity Health difference and the plans we accept at dignityhealth.org/bakersfield/enroll.

Hello humankindness®



Kern County Family Wins 5 National Parenting Media Association Awards

KERN COUNTY FAMILY RECEIVED five editorial, design, and original photography awards at the national Parenting Media Association conference and awards banquet in Chicago. Submissions from family publications around the country are judged by a panel from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. KCFM editor and staff are thrilled to see their magazine awarded with both silver and bronze awards in various categories.



Bronze Awards

Front Cover: Original Photo, "Becoming Pablo Picasso: Painting a Human Masterpiece"

Created by: Orlando Trevino

Designer: Ginger Lynch

Editor: LJ Radon

Judge's Comments: "This cover is a surprise and requires much more than a quick glance. The lead teaser and paint brush help explain what is happening. The paint color is used in the background and type, creating a harmonious color palette."

Non-Traditional Story Format: "11 Ways to Be Inclusive of Others All Year Long."

Writer: Callie Collins

Designer: Ginger Lynch

Editor: LJ Radon

Judge's Comments: "This list provides inspiration for parents to be more inviting and offers



specific ideas for opening up. The text includes good context and explanation for each idea. Subheads are direct and to-the-point.

Silver Awards

Briefs/Short Stuff: "Refrigerator Door: Local Voices, News & Trends"

Writer: Vaun Thygerson

Editor: LJ Radon

Judge's Comments: "This round-up will keep parents informed and entertained in their community.



and giving progress updates on a new distribution center. Each blurb is concise and clear while providing key reader service."

Service Feature: "Beat the Summer Slide with Reading"

Writer: Andrea Rose

Designer: Roxanne Ricker

Editor: LJ Radon

Judge's Comments: "School's out for summer, and it can be a both fun and



difficult time for families with children. This article makes summer reading seem easy and accessible. With plenty of reader service information, including local library programs and children's book recommendations, the article is neatly structured and easy to navigate. Read on!"

Recurring Column: "Hello Happy Mama"

Writer: Callie Collins

Designer: Ginger Lynch

Editor: LJ Radon

Judge's Comments: "Interesting, inspiring interviews with mothers



who are also entrepreneurs, volunteers, and community leaders. The Q&A style makes this feature easily accessible for an audience of readers who are also busy parents themselves."



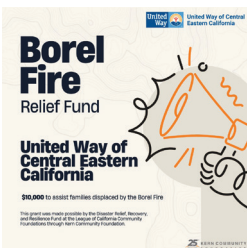
Kern CCD Announces Partnership Offering No-Cost College Credits

The Kern Community College District (Kern CCD) and the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) have announced a new partnership that allows students enrolled at MAOF's Skill Center in Bakersfield to receive credits that are transferrable to Bakersfield College.

The initiative is part of a statewide movement in higher education known as Credit for Prior Learning, which aims to quantify skills that students have learned outside of a traditional academic institution so that they have a head start on their academic career. For this partnership, Bakersfield College is leveraging its existing Credit for Prior Learning program, which allows students to submit military transcripts, industry certifications, documentation from apprenticeships, and more in exchange for college credit.

"As an organization dedicated to uplifting the socioeconomic status of residents in Kern, we're excited about the potential of this initiative to create upward mobility within the communities we serve," says Dr. Ciriaco "Cid" Pinedo, President and CEO of MAOF. "By offering college credit to students in our accounting and clerical programs, which are high demand skills among employers in our region, we're incentivizing first-generation students to continue their education further."

Kern Community Foundation Awards \$10,000 Grant to United Way of Central Eastern California



Kern Community Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 grant to United Way of Central Eastern California (UWCEC) to assist families displaced by the Borel Fire. The support will focus on providing essential relief and recovery items.

This grant was made possible by the Disaster Relief, Recovery, and

Resilience Fund at the League of California Community Foundations through Kern Community Foundation. It is part of a broader effort by Kern Community Foundation and its partners, who have contributed \$51,650 in direct relief and recovery for the Borel Fire.

To learn more about the Borel Fire Relief Fund, contact Kern Community Foundation at 661.325.5346 or info@kernfoundation.org. Donations can be made at kernfoundation.org/borel.



How to Tell If It's a Cold, the Flu, COVID-19 or RSV

It's the most wonderful time of the year, except when you get hit with a winter virus! If you are feeling under the weather, you may be wondering if your sniffles indicate a cold, the flu or something more serious, such as COVID-19 or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

COLD

- **Aches:** Sometimes
- **Difficulty breathing:** Rarely
- **Fatigue:** Sometimes
- **Fever:** Rarely
- **Loss of taste or smell:** Rarely
- **Sore throat:** Often
- **Wheezing:** Rarely

FLU

- **Aches:** Often
- **Difficulty breathing:** Rarely
- **Fatigue:** Often
- **Fever:** Often
- **Loss of taste or smell:** Rarely
- **Sore throat:** Sometimes
- **Wheezing:** Rarely

According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases the common cold, the flu, COVID-19, and RSV present some similar symptoms, but also some unique ones. Here are some clues to help you determine the culprit behind your winter illness.

COVID-19

- **Aches:** Sometimes
- **Difficulty breathing:** Often
- **Fatigue:** Often
- **Fever:** Sometimes
- **Loss of taste or smell:** Sometimes
- **Sore throat:** Often
- **Wheezing:** Rarely

RSV

- **Aches:** Rarely
- **Difficulty breathing:** Sometimes
- **Fatigue:** Rarely
- **Fever:** Sometimes
- **Loss of taste or smell:** Rarely
- **Sore throat:** Rarely
- **Wheezing:** Often

Cheers! It's National Egg Nog Month

Eggnog is the quintessential, waist-unfriendly drink of holiday celebrations, a beverage people either love or love to hate.

Here are a few fun facts about this seemingly innocuous holiday drink.

Eggnog Was Once Only a Drink for Wealthy Aristocrats- In 14th century England, only the well off could afford eggnog, as milk and eggs were both scarce and expensive. However, that changed in the American Colonies where they had easier access to dairy products.

The Word Eggnog Has Many Origins- Many etymologists believe the name stems from the word "noggin" which referred to small wooden mugs that were often used to serve eggnog.

The FDA Limits the Amount of Egg In Store-Bought Eggnog To 1%- If you pick up a carton of eggnog with your groceries, you may be getting more "nog" than yolk. Due to our fear of raw egg, U.S. FDA regulations limit egg yolk solids to no more than 1.0% of a products' final weight to bear the eggnog name, while your typical homemade version has roughly one egg per serving.





SPECIAL TREATS FOR A VERY SPECIAL SEASON



"THE ORIGINAL SINCE 1945"
Smithsbakeries.com

Smith's Bakery
 2808 Union Ave.
 661-325-3411

Smith's Bakery in
 Sully's Chevron
 11400 Ming Ave.
 661-663-8611

Smith's Bakery in
 Brookside Marketplace
 8803 Camino Media
 661-654-0858

Smith's Bakery
 at White Oaks Plaza
 6401 White Ln. #103
 661-834-1916

Smith's Bakery in
 Sully's Chevron
 9709 Olive Dr.
 661-695-9713

Smith's Bakery in
 Shell Station
 CA-178
 661-855-7000

Smith's Bakery
 Stockdale
 in Sully's Chevron
 250 Coffee
 661-885-9705

Smith's Bakery
 Buena Vista
 in Sully's Chevron
 4833 Buena
 Vista Rd.
 661-885-6024

Smith's Bakery in
 Sinclair Station
 4700 Coffee Rd.
 661-588-2070

Smith's Bakery
 Sully's Heath Rd.
 16010 Stockdale Hwy.
 661-310-1497

You + Us = a better day!



**KEEP
 YOUR
 MEDI-CAL.
 RENEW
 TODAY!**

1-800-391-2000 • kernfamilyhealthcare.com





Q. What is one immaterial gift you hope to give and/or receive this year?

DURING THIS SEASON OF GIVING, our collective focus is often on material goods. The hustle and bustle of last-minute shopping may not afford a pause to consider what really matters, which is often intangible. We asked our readers to share what related insights.



I hope to continue to pay forward to my children what my mother provided to me — love, laughter, skills and memories.

- Jane Salazar



The gift of joy is the top non-material gift I hope to receive this year, and every year. Sharing joy makes it infinitely better.

- Kim Tran

The best gift I could receive would be for my children to feel better peace and hope through our faith. And I want to work daily to be a good example to them. The best gift that I can give them is my testimony, wisdom and love.

- Trina Jernigan



I hope to give and receive the gift of God's love and encouraging word. I pray that I am able to pass on God's love to others who need it the most.

Sometimes we forget how much He loves us when we are going through tough times. I hope that I can be the reminder of His love to everyone.

- Melissa Martin

Good mental health! I hope that everyone has or will have good mental health. Sometimes, we take it for granted but it is something I value and hope for everyone! If you are struggling, remember to call 988 for help.

- Gilberto Herrera



The gift of their presence on Christmas Day.

- Bonnie Munoz



A relationship with my brother.

- Andrea Gutierrez

I hope for the gift of "togetherness" and that all my loved ones can come together and spend the holidays and enjoy each other's company.

- Dianna Coryell

The gift of close friends. I hope to make core memories with my close friends and be surrounded by goodness and happiness for Christmas.

- Shae B

Adventist Health PRESENTS



HOLIDAY LIGHTS

CALIFORNIA LIVING MUSEUM

WITH JOSH BARNETT'S LIGHTASMIC®

Nov. 30, 2024–Jan. 4, 2025
5:30 to 9:00 pm

CLOSED CHRISTMAS



Experience the magic of millions of lights.



Bring home the perfect Christmas tree.



Take a photo with Santa!



Ride the Candy Cane Express!



Make crafts at Creation Stations



PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE
CALM is located at 10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy.

Tickets: calmholidaylights.org

All proceeds directly support CALM in their mission to help wildlife.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF KERN COUNTY

All it takes is one.

One mentor, one meal, one moment.

All it takes is you!

This holiday season, your gift to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County can be the one thing that changes everything for a child in our community who needs a little extra help right now.

THANK YOU for being the one!



bgckc.org/takesone



Hello, neighbor.

Close enough to be your neighbor, caring enough to be your family.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS: *Omni Family Health wants to see your masterpiece! Color, post to your Facebook page, and tag Omni Family Health for a chance to be featured on our social media pages!*



Se Habla Español!

Omni Family Health is a growing network of state-of-the-art health centers in Kern, Kings, Tulare, and Fresno counties.

- Family practice
- Dentistry
- Behavioral health
- Pediatrics
- Women's health
- Pharmacy-Free Delivery (from any provider)
- Telehealth
- Covered California, Medi-Cal, and Medicare enrollment assistance
- And more!

Omni accepts most insurance plans including Medi-Cal, Medicare and Denti-Cal; however, insurance is not required to receive healthcare services. No individual is denied service on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, economic status, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.

To schedule an appointment call or text **(866) 707-OMNI (66 64)** or scan the QR code

Accepting New Patients

SCAN HERE!





kern county **Family** m a g a z i n e

2024 HOLIDAY FUN & GAMES

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

Joyfully sponsored by:



**Kern Family
Health Care**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS, KERN COUNTY!

By Andrea Rose &
Kern County Family Magazine

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of 2024, we look forward to the possibilities that 2025 may bring.

But first, we're making our lists and checking them twice as we prepare for the merry month of December. Hopefully, it will be full of family, friends and festivities!

We are thankful for our wonderful advertisers, readers and Kern County families and we hope you enjoy this season and find comfort and joy in all you do.

We also hope you'll take a moment to spend some quality time with your family and our annual holiday activity book. It's chock full of puzzles and games—and a song or two!

Put those screens down, gather 'round and make a moment!

*We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous
New Year - from our Kern County Family to yours!*



kern county
Family
magazine

OWNER/PUBLISHER
Lisajo Peterson Radon
EDITOR Lisajo Peterson Radon
ART DIRECTOR James Jarnot
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Andrea Rose

CONTACT INFORMATION
1400 Easton Dr., Suite 112
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 861-4939
www.kerncountyfamily.com
kcfm@kerncountyfamily.com

JOYFULLY SPONSORED BY:



**Kern Family
Health Care®**

I SPY



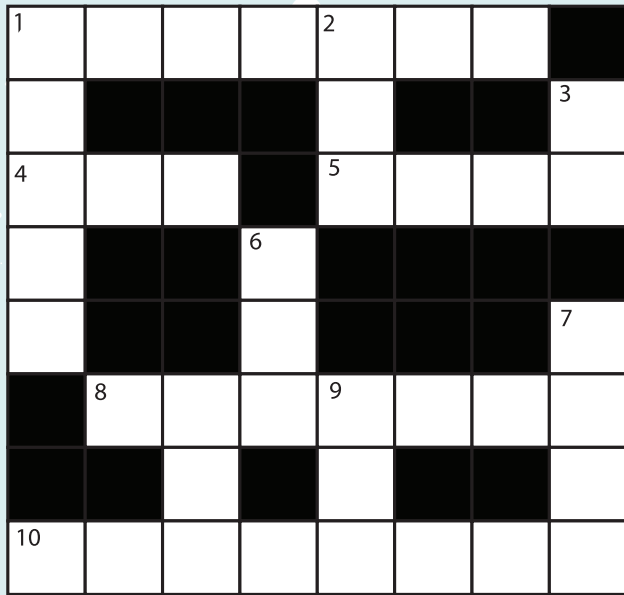
Kern Family Health Care®

800-391-2000

kernfamilyhealthcare.com



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Dried grapes
4. Residue after burning
5. A type of fish
8. Italian dessert
10. Starchy foods

DOWN

1. Holiday dinner
2. Incorporated (abbr.)
3. Not down
6. Cooking tool
7. Filled desserts
9. Negative clause

Answers under Joy to the World Lyrics

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.
Troul 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.



BHK

BARBICH HOOPER KING
DILL HOFFMAN

ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS

5001 E. Commercenter Dr. Suite 350
Bakersfield, CA 93309
Phone: 661.631.1171



KID-FRIENDLY HOT HOLIDAY PUNCH

Family gatherings bring warm memories during the holidays, but it can still be chilly outside. Snowy scenes and freezing temperatures are common in late December. As it gets colder, families can cozy up with a warm "Hot Holiday Punch" from Lines+Angles.

16 cups water, divided

5 cups cranberries, fresh or frozen, plus extra for garnish

2 1/2 cups granulated sugar

1/2 cup red hots cinnamon candies

3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

12 whole cloves

3 cinnamon sticks

1 lemon, sliced

Cheesecloth

1. In a large saucepan, set over medium-high heat, bring 1 quart of water and cranberries to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until the cranberries begin to pop. Drain, reserving liquid and cranberries. Put cranberries through a fine mesh strainer or food mill. Set aside.

2. In a Dutch oven or large pot, combine sugar, red-hots, lemon juice, cranberry liquid and cranberry pulp, and remaining 3 quarts of water.

3. Place cloves and cinnamon sticks in a double thickness of cheesecloth. Tie with string to form a bag; add to pan with the punch. Bring to a boil; stir until sugar and candies are dissolved. Discard spice bag. Strain juice through a fine mesh strainer. Serve hot with lemon slices and cranberries.

Makes 14 servings

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 15 minutes

Total time: 35 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



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!



**KEITH
STONEBRAKER**

Agent License #: CA-0E32748

 **State Farm**[®]

www.keithstonebraker.com

(661) 664-9663



LeBeau Thelen^{LLP}

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

www.lebeauthelen.com



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF KERN COUNTY

Winter Day Camp

DECEMBER

23rd, 26th, 27th, 30th

to

JANUARY

2nd & 3rd

OPEN 7AM TO 6PM

ARMSTRONG YOUTH CENTER

801 NILES STREET

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

661-325-3730

STOCKDALE CLUB

5207 YOUNG STREET #200

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311

661-663-8733

bgckc.org/daycamp

SUDOKU

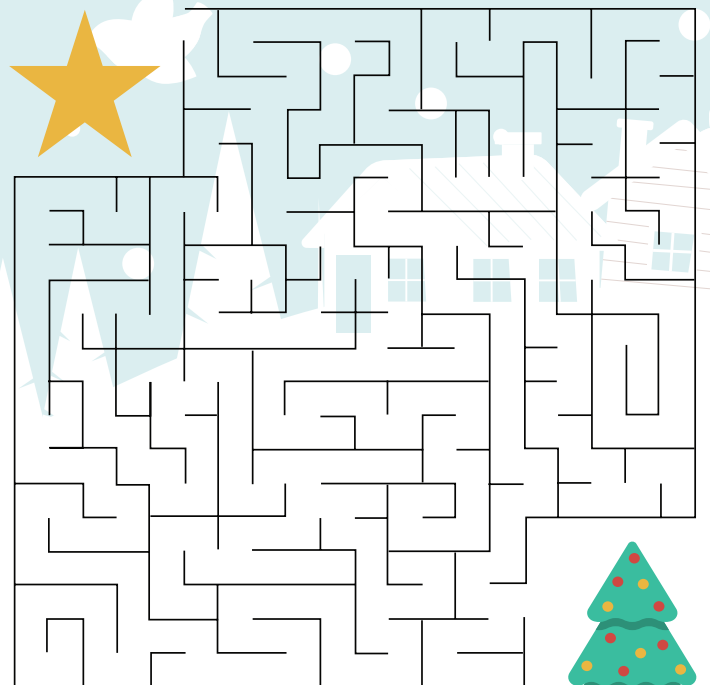
		5		9		4	1	
	7			4	1	5		3
		4	3		2	8	6	7
			2	6		3	7	8
					7	6		
7	4		9					1
9	6				8	7		
		3					2	
2			6	3				

Level: Beginner

Answers on next page

HOLIDAY MAZE

Help the star reach the Christmas tree!





HAPPY
HANUKKAH



*Wishing You a Joyful &
Prosperous New Year*
Ira and Carole Cohen

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

Word Search



Holiday Kid's Corner Sudoku

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

Holiday Kid's Corner CROSSWORD

Answers:
 Across:
 1. Raisins 4. Ash 5. Carp 8. Cannon 10. Potatoes
 Down:
 1. Roast 2. Ice 3. Lip 6. Pan 7. Pies 9. Nut

CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Personal Injury • Massage • Family Wellness

Alpha Omega
Wellness Center

Dr. David T. Mongold

7950 White Lane #2E, Bakersfield

661.397.6555

www.alphaomega4wellness.com

Corner of White Lane & Gosford, next to Albertsons

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

\$99 New Patient


(Covers Exam, X-Rays, 1st adjustment, & ROF)
 Must present coupon. Expires 1/15/2023



Bakersfield Swim Academy



BAKERSFIELD SWIM ACADEMY

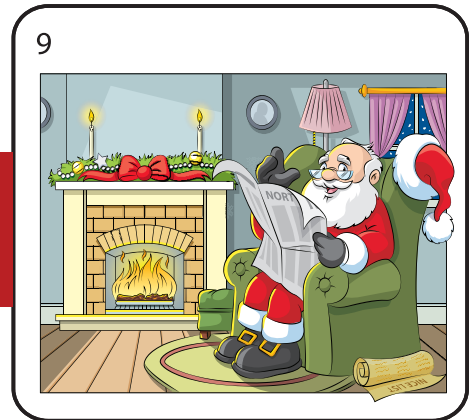
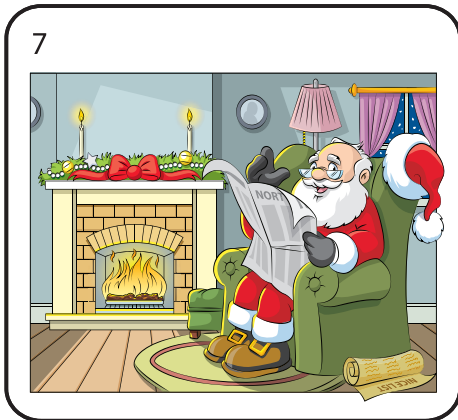
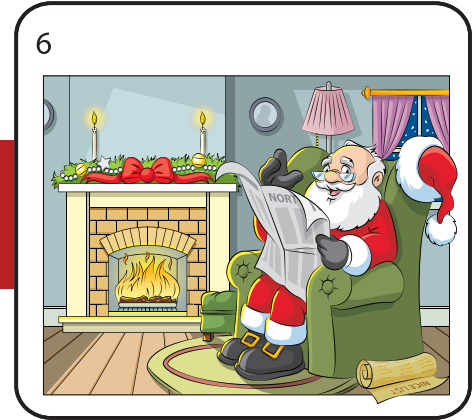
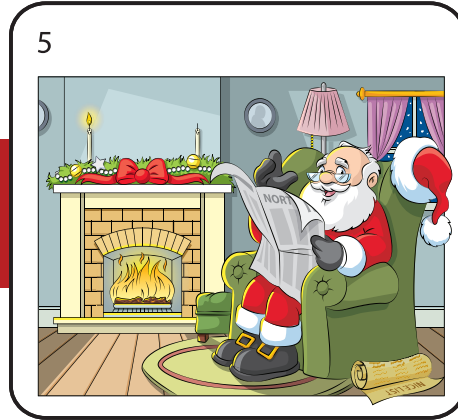
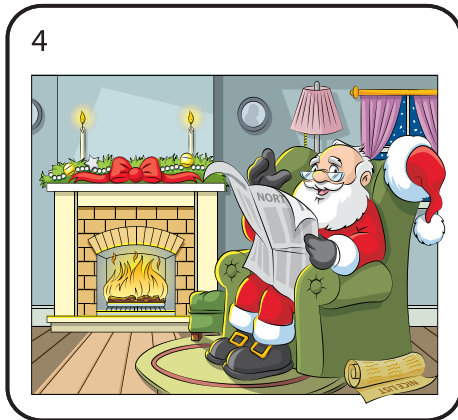
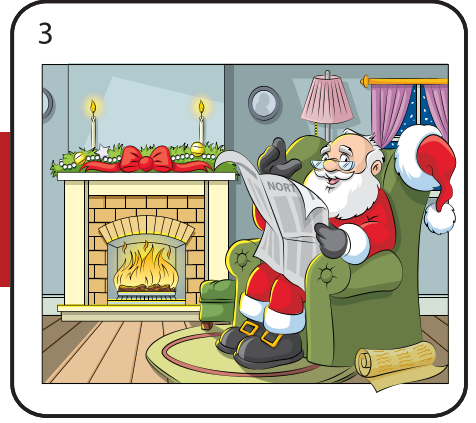
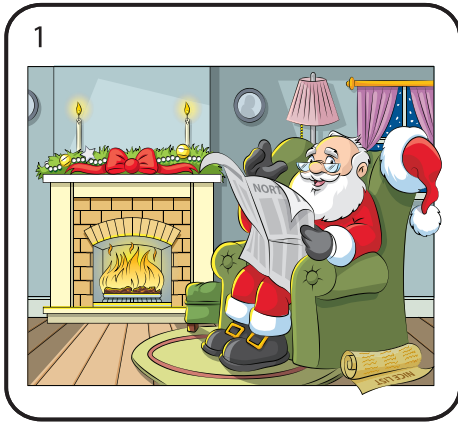


J **to** **THE WORLD**

" Matthew 1:21 ; "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Three of these nine pictures are different. Can you find the differences?



Answers:
Top row: Picture 3, Missing "Nice List"
Middle row: Picture 5, Missing candle flame
Bottom row: Picture 7, Shoes are different color



QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- ✓ Reading, Writing, and Math Readiness
- ✓ Language Development
- ✓ Physical Development
- ✓ Social Emotional Awareness

and so much more!

ABOUT US

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for low-income families and children with disabilities. We are focused on supporting all areas of development and working with families every step of the way to ensure children are ready to enter kindergarten.

Your child can qualify for Head Start as early as **6 weeks old**, and we offer healthy and nutritious food made in house, as well as plenty of family engagement activities to help you in your journey of parenthood, including services for pregnant women.

We take ages 0 to 5



**GROWING
BRIGHT
FUTURES**

**ENROLL NOW!
1 (800) 701-7060**

**VISIT CAPK.ORG
TO LEARN MORE!**





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 upst.

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.



WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Season

AOREMHN

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

Answer: Menorah

ANWNMSO

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

Answer: Snowman



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.

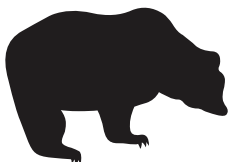
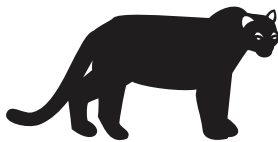
Eat and enjoy! Makes about 3-4 dozen 2" cookies



YES Environmental, Inc.
(661)-527-0820
www.yesenvironmental.us



Connect the animal to its name.



ringtail

desert tortoise

fox

black bear

mountain lion

snake

kangaroo rat

PRESENTED BY  Adventist Health



CALIFORNIA LIVING MUSEUM

**HOLIDAY
LIGHTS**

Nov. 30, 2024–Jan. 4, 2025

5:30 to 9:00 pm

CLOSED CHRISTMAS.

Tickets: calmholidaylights.org

Sledding Word Search

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BLADES
BUMPS
BUNDLE
CHILL

CLIMB

COASTING
DOWNHILL
FAST
FRIENDS

HILL

LAUGHTER
MOMENTUM
MOUNTAIN
ROPES

SLED

SNOWY
SPEED
STEER
THRILLS

TOBOGGAN

TRACKS
TRAIL
TRAVEL
ZOOM

Answers under
Joy To The World lyrics



PACIFIC AG RENTALS
RENT THE BRANDS YOU TRUST
(866) 727-7368



Lighten Up *It's Christmas*

With Bright Wishes to You and
Yours at this Merry Season

- Energy-Efficient Lighting
- Chandeliers & Wall Sconces
- Track & Rail Systems
- Repairs
- Installation
- Design



Premier Lighting and Home

4300 Ashe Road #118 • **661-835-8500**

Bakersfield • www.PremierLightingCA.com

Five Ways to Start the New Year Sober

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS take many forms but one popular standby trending for 2025 may ring familiar: curbing alcohol use. According to a 2024 report from NCSolutions, 41% self-reported as trying to drink less alcohol, of whom 61% were categorized as Gen Z and 49% identify as Millennials; both groups cited physical and mental wellness as their driving factor to consider changes. Here are five tips to start 2025 on a path to sobriety:

1

Put your commitment in writing

Consider journaling, writing your intentions daily or even drafting a letter to yourself listing your reasons for drinking less. Studies show that goals set in writing are more effective than those that remain only set in thought and theory.

2

Know where to go for a good mocktail

Mocktails are more popular than ever, with still and sparkling widely popularized. YELP's top 10 list for mocktails includes these three venues: Mango Haus, Well Comedy Club and The Botanist. At Mango Haus, you'll find mimosas and mojitos. Well Comedy Club offers a signature Redbull Refresher and a mock margarita. The Botanist features a curated list of house specialties infused with fruit and fancy options.

3

Surround yourself with support

Make a plan. Identify triggers or settings that may lead you to indulge and decide how you will handle those situations in advance. Have a friend or family member you can talk to about your choices.

4

Keep alternatives on hand

Stock your home bar with good choices. Find our vegan "oat-nog" recipe in this month's You Can Do It section of our magazine. Plan what you will prepare for yourself even as you serve alcoholic drinks to friends as you entertain this year. **See recipe on page 38.**

5

Offer choices to others

There's nothing wrong with letting your guests know about your plan to curb alcohol use. Invite them to join you for a mocktail or simply offer one during get-togethers. Given the uptick in those also pursuing sobriety, it just may surprise you who chooses to join you in a non-alcoholic toast as you ring in the new year and celebrate throughout 2025.

yelp

Top 10 List

3 Local
Mocktail Venues

Mango Haus
Well Comedy Club
The Botanist



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

DECEMBER IS THE PERFECT TIME to spend a cozy holiday curled up with a good book. We often ask the Kern County women we feature in our monthly Hello, Happy Mama column about the best book they've read lately or a favorite title to recommend. Here are some of their recommendations:



Meg Maitland
Aggressively Happy
By Joy Marie Clarkson



Stana Bright
The Women
By Kristin Hannah



Mari Pérez-Dowling
In the Meantime
By Iyanla Vanzant



Dess Perkins
The Fifth Agreement
By Don Miguel Ruiz



Maggie Cushine
The Bridgerton Series
By Julia Quinn



Jenny Wagner
The Bible



Ashleigh Rossi
The Gift of Imperfection
By Brené Brown



Fahra Daredia
There are too many books to choose from; last year, I read 163 titles.

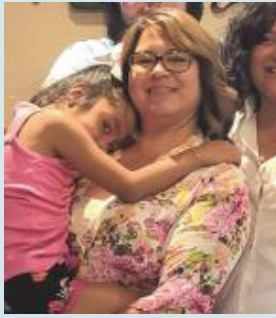


Elaine Moore
And Then There Were None
By Agatha Christie



Stephanie Sheffield
Nobody Will Tell You This But Me: A True (as Told to Me) Story
By Bess Kalb





Jenny Frank

Remember the Ramrods: An Army Brotherhood in War and Peace
By David Bellavia



Lani Cahill

The Lost English Girl and A Traitor in Whitehall
By Julia Kelly



Stacy Kuwahara

First Responder: A Memoir of Life, Death and Love on New York City's Frontlines
By Jennifer Murphy



Katy Fults

Harry Potter
By J.K. Rowling



Katherine Wolf

A Court of Thorns and Roses
By Sarah J. Maas



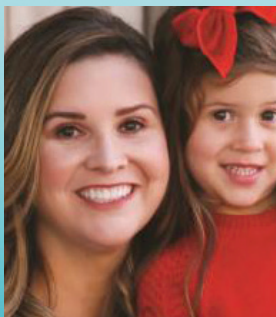
Jennifer Williams-Cordova

This is How it Always Is
By Laurie Frankel



Natalee Garrett

Outlander
By Diana Gabaldon



Katie Kreiser

Anxious for Nothing
By Max Lucado



Lauren Skidmore

A Mind of Your Own
By Dr. Kelly Brogan

Find Rudy Reindeer!

Count the number of Rudy Reindeers you find in this issue, then submit your answer by noon on

December 19th
For a chance to win a



Hammacher Schlemmer
Italian Countertop Pizza Oven

Value: \$149.95

CONTEST SPONSORED BY



TO ENTER GO TO:
<https://kerncountyfamily.secondstreetapp.com/Find-Rudy-Reindeer-2024/>

DECEMBER 3

“Light Up A Life” Tree Lighting Ceremony

Each light on the “Light Up A Life” tree represents the memory of a loved one in recognition of someone who makes this life a little brighter. Join the celebration or dedicate a light on this year’s tree.

6:30 p.m.

The Marketplace
9000 Ming Ave.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://hoffmannhospice.networkforgood.com/projects/231176-light-up-a-life-2024>

DECEMBER 5

CSUB’s “An Evening of Opera Scenes”

CSUB Opera Theatre presents an exciting night of opera and musical theatre scenes, fully staged and costumed.

6:30 – 10 p.m.

CSUB’s Dore Theatre
9001 Stockdale Hwy.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.csub.edu/eventscalendar/>

DECEMBER 6

First Friday Artwalk

Join us for our 2nd annual Winter Carnival and First Friday, “ArtWalk Under the Stars” in collaboration with Montana Sky! Enjoy artists, vendors, entertainment, games, food, and more!

5 – 9 p.m.

Corner of 21st and Eye St.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://kernarts.org/artwalk/>

Jean Watson Christmas Concert

Enjoy a holiday concert featuring the classically-trained singer, violinist, speaker, and writer, Jean Watson.

6:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church-UCC of Bakersfield
5 Real Rd.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.allsaintsbakersfield.org/jean-watson-christmas-concert>



DECEMBER 6 & 7

35th Annual Chez Noel Holiday Home Tour

The Chez Noel Home Tour is a self-guided tour of four of Bakersfield’s most beautifully decorated homes for the holidays.

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

<https://www.assistanceleague.org/bakersfield/>

DECEMBER 7

Classic Dreams Toy Drive

Classic Dreams car club will have cars on display. Come enjoy food, music, and donate a toy for a child staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House
420 34th St.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://rmhsc.org/bakersfield/events/view/577>

Breakfast with Santa

Bring the whole family to capture precious holiday memories with photos alongside Santa himself and enjoy a cozy breakfast. Space is limited, so grab your tickets and make this a holiday to remember!

12 - 3 p.m.

Applebee’s
9000 Ming Ave. Suite M
Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.ourleagueofdreams.com/events.php>

Kern DSN’s Annual Holiday Party

Join us for our Annual Holiday Party. Bring your family for an afternoon packed with holiday cheer and fun with lunch, cookie decorating, dessert contest, cake walk, and photos with Santa! Admission: \$5 per person (ages 3+), includes ALL activities and lunch!

12- 3 p.m.

New Life Church
4201 Stine Rd.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.facebook.com/kerndsn>

Holiday Lamplight Tours

Pictures with Santa, guided tours, music, carolers, sweets and eats, coffee and hot chocolate available for purchase, and more! \$10 per guest ages 3 & up.

5 – 9 p.m.

Kern County Museum
3801 Chester Ave.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.instagram.com/kern-countymuseum/>

DECEMBER 8

Christmas Craft Workshop

Whether you’re a seasoned crafter or just looking for some holiday fun, this event is perfect for all ages. Let’s get into the Christmas spirit together and create some wonderful holiday crafts!

2 – 4 p.m.

First Congregational Church-UCC of Bakersfield
5 Real Rd.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://fccbakersfield-ucc.org/>

41st Annual Bakersfield Toy Run

The 41st annual ride begins 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 – 10 a.m.

Beach Park & 21st St.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://bakersfieldtoyrun.org/>

DECEMBER 13 – 15

47th Annual Civic Dance Center’s Nutcracker

As a cherished tradition in



our community, this year's performance will feature a cast of nearly 180 local multigenerational dancers, highlighting the dedication and artistry of our talented students and community members.

Fri.: 7:30 pm
Sat.: 1 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun.: 1 p.m.
 Mechanics Bank Theater
 1001 Truxtun Ave.
 Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.civildancecenter.com/the-nutcracker/>



Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet comes to the Bakersfield Historic Fox Theater on December 14.

1830 Truxtun Ave.
 Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.floodbako.com/event-details/winter-wonderland-holiday-resource-fair>

NUTCRACKER! Magical Christmas Ballet

Embarking on its 32nd annual North American tour, the production showcases a fusion of talent from esteemed ballet capitals worldwide, converging on stages across the United States.

7 p.m.
 The Bakersfield Historic Fox Theater
 2001 H St.
 Bakersfield, CA
<http://thebakersfieldfox.com/event/nutcracker-magical-christmas-ballet-4/>

DECEMBER 14

Bakersfield's Rudolph Run

A Bakersfield family tradition! Bring a partner and enjoy a fun morning of music and reindeer games while supporting the Mission of Kern County.

8 a.m.
 Lake Ming
 6299 Lake Ming Rd.
 Bakersfield, CA
<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/BakersfieldRudolphRun>

Winter Wonderland Holiday & Resource Fair

Pictures with Santa, bounce house, crafts, games, incredible resources, and live entertainment.

9 a.m. - 1p.m.
 Flood Ministries



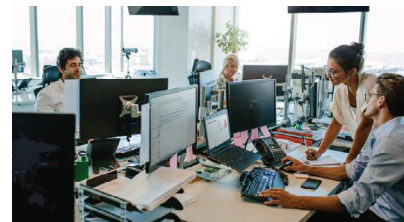
The 6th Annual Jingle Bell Run to benefit Toys for Tots is December 21.

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Job change?

Whether retiring or changing jobs, you'll want to know your retirement account options.



There are four potential options for your 401(k) when leaving an employer:

- Leave it in your former employer's 401(k) plan, if allowed by the plan.
- Move it to your new employer's 401(k) plan, if you've changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.



Crystal M Zazueta
 Financial Advisor
 7906 Downing Ave Ste A
 Bakersfield, CA 93308
 661-843-7296



Kristine S Hertin, AAMS, CRPS
 Financial Advisor
 4701 Corporate Ct Suite 112
 Bakersfield, CA 93311
 661-564-9095



Freddie Vigil
 Financial Advisor
 3100 19th St Suite 150
 Bakersfield, CA 93301-3119
 661-404-4242



Julianne Finch
 Financial Advisor
 3100 19th St Suite 150
 Bakersfield, CA 93301-3119
 661-404-4242

IRT-1948M-A AECSPAD 22987345

From our ADAKC family to yours, we wish you a season of peace and cherished memories.

ADAKC
 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE ASSOCIATION
 OF KERN COUNTY
 LICENSE #157208254 | ADAKC.ORG
 Rose Lazzarini Campus

Annual Toys for Tots @ Rock & Wings Eastside

This year's celebration is set to be unforgettable, with the stage moving outdoors for three incredible live bands and a night full of family-friendly fun!

5 - 10 p.m.

Rock & Wings Eastside
2858 Niles St.
Bakersfield, CA
https://allevents.in/bakersfield/toys-for-tots-at-rock-and-wings-east-side/200027241964746#-google_vignette

DECEMBER 16

Cults & Classics: The Polar Express

Enjoy this holiday favorite on the big screen. Admission \$5. Enjoy a BOGO (Buy One, Get One) offer with a military or student ID on the night of show.

6 p.m.

The Historic Bakersfield Fox Theater
2001 H St.
Bakersfield, CA
<http://thebakersfieldfox.com/event/cults-classics-the-polar-express/>

DECEMBER 21

6th Annual 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.

9 a.m.

The Park at River Walk
11200 Stockdale Hwy.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Bakersfield/BakersfieldJingleBellRunforToysforTots>

Bako Market Holiday Edition

Join us for the merriest time of the year. Enjoy a magical day of shopping local vendors, delicious food, and festive fun.

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Centennial Plaza @ Mechanics Bank Arena



HOLIDAY PARADE HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 5

Bakersfield's 42nd Annual Christmas Parade

This year's theme is "Musical Notes & Holiday Floats". Bring the whole family and come enjoy the holiday festivities!

6 - 8 p.m.

Downtown Bakersfield
<https://www.bcparade.com/>

Delano's Christmas Parade & Fair

Holiday magic is back!

6 - 9 p.m.

Main Street in Delano
<https://delanochamberofcommerce.org/>

DECEMBER 6

Shafter's Annual Christmas Parade

Prepare for a festive day of holiday cheer, community spirit, and exciting floats. Food, music, games, photos with Santa and much more!

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Mannel Park
364 Mannel Avenue
Shafter, CA
<https://www.instagram.com/cityofshafter>

1001 Truxtun Ave.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.instagram.com/thebakomarket/>

DECEMBER 23

Cults & Classics: It's A Wonderful Life

Enjoy this holiday favorite on the big screen. Admission \$5. Enjoy a BOGO (Buy One, Get One) offer with a military

DECEMBER 7

McFarland's 43rd Annual Christmas Parade

The McFarland Festival committee and McFarland Recreation & Park District present a fairytale Christmas! Toy Distribution at Mouser Center @ 1 p.m. & Christmas parade to follow.

6 p.m.

<https://www.mcfarlandrpd.com/>

Tehachapi's Christmas Parade

The annual Christmas Parade will take place after the wrap up of Tehachapi's Hometown Christmas event. The Christmas Tree lighting will take place at the Tehachapi Depot Museum after the parade.

5:30 p.m.

Beginning on F street
Tehachapi, CA
<https://www.liveuptehachapi.com/516/Tehachapi-Hometown-Christmas>

Wasco's 4th Annual Christmas Parade

The Wasco Christmas Festival is moving back downtown! Parade starts at Wasco High and travel towards the new Downtown Plaza where Vendor

or student ID on the night of show.

6 p.m.

The Historic Bakersfield Fox Theater
2001 H St.
Bakersfield, CA
<http://thebakersfieldfox.com/event/cults-classics-its-a-wonderful-life/>

DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas

Faire and Tree Lighting is being celebrated! This year's theme is "Kindness Shines".

6 p.m.

Downtown Wasco
Wasco, CA
<https://www.cityofwasco.org/>

DECEMBER 9

Taft's 79th Annual Christmas Parade

This year's theme is "It's an American Christmas"

6 - 8 p.m.

Downtown Taft
Taft, CA
<https://www.taftchamber.com/upcomingevents/2024/12/9/american-christmas-tafts-79th-annual-christmas-parade>

DECEMBER 14

NOR's 51st Annual Christmas Parade

This year's theme is, "Christmas Around the World!" Join in the festive spirit with dazzling floats, multicultural delights, and a joyful atmosphere for the whole family.

10 a.m.

Begins on North Chester
Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.norfun.org/2024-12-14-nor-christmas-parade>

DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 2

Happy Hanukkah

DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1

7 Days of Kwanzaa

DECEMBER 31

Happy New Year!



ONGOING EVENTS

**NOW THROUGH
JANUARY 4**

CALM Holiday Lights

Join us for the 22nd Annual Holiday Lights at CALM. Tickets include entry to Holiday Lights, unlimited train rides, photos with Santa, craftmaking at The Pines Creation Station, and so much more.

Sun. - Thurs. 5:30 – 9 p.m.

Fri. & Sat. 5:30 – 10 p.m.

California Living Museum
10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://calmholidaylights.org/>

FRIDAYS-SUNDAYS

Santa Photos @ The Marketplace

9000 Ming Ave.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://www.themarketplacebakersfield.com/events/>

**DECEMBER 5,
12 & 19**

First Presbyterian Advent Organ Concert Series

Join us this Christmas season in the Sanctuary and celebrate advent at one of our Advent Organ Concerts.

12:15 p.m.

First Presbyterian
Church of Bakersfield
1705 17th St.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://fpbchurch.com/>

**NOW THROUGH
DECEMBER 22**

Bakersfield Christmas Market

Join us for a memorable holiday experience with hot cocoa, local vendors, wooden chalets and more! Our market has something for everyone and is designed for those picture-perfect moments.

12 – 8 p.m.

Hobby Lobby Parking Lot
4350 California Ave.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://bakersfieldchristmasmarket.com/>

12th Annual Bakersfield Christmas Town

Families can delight in a light show at this magical hybrid event that combines a safe drive-thru experience with the fun of a walkthrough holiday wonderland. Meet Santa, go ice skating, hop on the Holly Jolly train, compete in our Gellyball arena, and much more!

Sun.-Thurs. 5:30 – 9 p.m.

Fri.- Sat. 5:30 – 10 p.m.

Kern County Fairgrounds
1142 S. P. St.
Bakersfield, CA
<https://christmastown.net/>

Worship Guide

SPONSORED BY:



Embracing the Gift of Peace This Christmas

At the heart of Christmas lies a profound message: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Christmas is so much more than just a season of celebration; it’s a reminder of God’s love and the gift of His Son, Jesus, who entered our world to bring peace, hope, and light.

In the midst of holiday craziness, it’s easy to be swept up in the chaos. Yet, the peace Jesus offers is unlike anything the world can give. It is peace that sustains us through life’s storms and fills us with a joy that goes beyond our circumstances. Remember, Jesus came not only to live among us but to dwell within us, bringing us close to God and filling us with His presence. Let this Christmas be a time to live that peace. Pray and reflect on the gift of Jesus. May His peace fill your heart and home, guiding you to live with love and gratitude, now and always. This is the true spirit of Christmas: God with us, God for us, and God’s peace within us.

By Jon Engen, 88.3 Morning Show Host



TRINITY
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Father Karl Dietze

Service Times: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
Sunday School and Child Care available
during 10:00 service

**11300 Campus Park Drive
Bakersfield CA 93311**

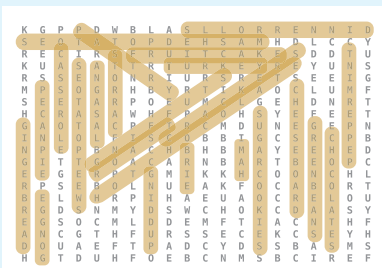
NW Corner of Buena Vista & Campus Park
661-665-7713

www.trinitybakersfield.com

Online
Services!

WORD SEARCH ANSWER

ACTIVITY CORNER: PAGE 39



WORD SEARCH SPONSORED BY:



NATIONAL CLASSIFIED ADS

Autos Wanted

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

Health & Fitness

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 www.dental50plus.com/ads #6258

Attention oxygen therapy users! Discover oxygen therapy that moves with you with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. Free information kit. 1-866-477-9045

ATTENTION MEDICARE RECIPIENTS! Open Enrollment for Medicare health plans is here! Call our licensed insurance agents for an affordable quote for your needed coverage. Make sure you aren't overpaying! Call for a no obligation free quote now! 1-866-714-6165

Home Services

Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup: A small amount of water can cause major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out wet areas & repair to protect your family & your home value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809. Have zip code!

Miscellaneous

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920.

LESSONS & CLASSES



NEW CLASSES BEGIN IN JANUARY

- Early Childhood Music (Ages 16m - 4yrs.)
- Group Piano Classes (Ages 5-10 yrs)

(661) 665-8228 • 5381 Truxtun Ave. (1 block East of Mohawk St.)
www.HARMONYROADBAKERSFIELD.com



The Junior Golf Academy ★
★ Register: jgabakersfield.com
PRE-REGISTER FOR AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

Space is limited Call Now! 548-6590

Unique JGA Curriculum

Six Levels of Achievement
Character Development
Par 3 and Course Play
Tournament Prep, Classes
Clubs provided for beginners if needed

Join Now Low Monthly Rates!
Ages 6-17
All abilities welcome
RiverLakes Ranch
jgabakersfield.com
496-3985



Swimming Lessons for ALL Ages From Beginner to Advanced

YEAR ROUND SWIM LESSONS

661-615-6530

From Infants to Olympians!
3311 Allen Road • Bakersfield, CA 93314 • www.bakersfieldswimacademy.com



Join the FUN at Trinity Preschool!

Monday-Friday 6:30am-6:00pm
Half days & Full days available
Ages 2yrs-6yrs (non-potty trained welcome)
Snacks and Lunch Provided

(661) 665-7713
11300 Campus Park Dr
Bakersfield, CA 93311
www.trinitybakersfield.com
LIC # 153810005

CHILDCARE & EDUCATION

Wonderful college prep academy..

Now Enrolling

2025-2026

FREE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL GRADES TK-12



OUR SCHOOLS

- Two Locations: Delano & Lost Hills
- Next-Level Education with STEM, Music, Art, Nutrition, and College Credit Courses
- On-site Student Wellness Centers, Learning Farms, and Healthy Meals prepared daily
- TK for the 2025-2026 school year is for children who turn four years old by September 1, 2025

We believe that a great education starts with a nurturing, community-centered environment. Our mission is to develop critical thinkers and lifelong learners who are ready to lead the Central Valley.



APPLY TODAY!

Visit Our Website: wonderfulcollegeprepacademy.org
Email us: enroll@wonderfulcollegeprep.org



KERN AUTISM NETWORK, INC.

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

Merry Christmas

Autism Seminar Series Wednesday, December 18th @ Hyatt Place: Register at kernautism.org
Chess Club for Teens Sunday, Dec. 8th, 3 p.m. @2200 Oak Street. Register: www.kernautism.org
Parent Support Group Meeting Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 6 p.m. @2200 Oak Street. Register: www.kernautism.org
Female Support Group Thursday, Dec. 19th. Contact our office for details. Register: www.kernautism.org
Father Virtual Autism Support Group Saturday, Dec. 21st, 2:30 p.m.

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
- Law Enforcement Trainings
- Autism/Asperger Workshops-Seminars
- Local Resources, Community Projects
- Camps & Activity Scholarships
- Evening & Weekend Phone support

661-489-3335 • kernautism.org • kernautism@gmail.com
2200 Oak Street, Annex Building

CHILDCARE & EDUCATION



SERVING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND OTHER INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES SINCE 1998

www.autism-vac.org

SERVICES, HEALTH & BEAUTY

CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Personal Injury • Massage • Family Wellness



Alpha Omega Wellness Center

Dr. David T. Mongold

7950 White Lane #2E, Bakersfield
661.397.6555

www.alphaomega4wellness.com
Corner of White Lane & Gosford, next to Albertsons

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

\$110 New Patient

(Covers Exam, X-Rays, 1st adjustment, & ROF)
Must present coupon. Expires 2/15/2025

NATIONAL CLASSIFIED ADS

Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit doranceinfo.com/ads

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. 1-855-417-1306

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-844-501-3208

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-833-399-3595

Home break-ins take less than 60 seconds. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets now for as little as 70¢/day! 1-844-591-7951

MobileHelp America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! Call 1-888-489-3936

We buy houses for cash as is! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer & get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-877-5833

HOME

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF** **SPECIAL OFFER**

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB

1-855-417-1306

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

MOLLY MAID. a neighborly company

STILL KEEPING IT FRESH AND CLEAN FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

- Fully Insured, No Contracts
- Call For A Free Estimate
- Professional Quality
- 24-Hour Clean Guarantee
- Affordable Price

Save \$20 off your first 5 regularly scheduled cleans

Cannot be combined with other offers.

For New Recurring Customers Only

Locally Owned and Operated Franchise

Call Us Today For Details. 661-369-7119

https://www.mollymaid.com/local-house-cleaning/ca/bakersfield.aspx

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! 1-855-595-2102

20% OFF + **10% OFF**

Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

* See Representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. †Subject to credit approval. Call for details. MO 366020213, AZ 802, CA 1037975, CT 116274232, FL 08056670, IA C12720, ID 805-51804, LA 559644, MA 175447, MD 149C 111225, MI 262300173, 262300318, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN 9731804, MP 226192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13469953600, NM 408893, NV 80399, NH 19114, HI 52226, OR 218294, PA 176643, 903383, RI GC 41354, TN 10191, UT 10218549-501, VA 270164445, WA LEAF7FMB023C, WV W056912.

innovative eye care OPTOMETRIC CORPORATION

Vision & Eye Health Evaluation for the Family

Cheree Wilhelmsen, O.D. 4903 Calloway Drive, Ste. #101

Phone: 661-213-3310

innovativeec.com

Looking for Schools?

kerncountyfamily.com

Bellissima Medical Aesthetics

Acne Treatments • Fillers • Botox

Laser Hair Removal \$45/Session for first time customers

Evening & Weekend Appointments Available

661-371-7271

www.bellissimamed.com

Merry Sips! Vegan Bliss!

WHILE MANY WOULD SAY that no holiday get-together is complete without the beloved classic eggnog, most popular during the holiday season, what about our Vegan family and friends? Well, have we got something for you, the holiday party hosting mixologist! This holiday season, you can treat guests to a delicious Vegan Oat Nog that is sure to be a hit!

Vegan Oat Nog

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

4 cups oat milk, (gluten-free if preferred)

6 tablespoons maple syrup

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

¼ teaspoon nutmeg, plus more for garnish

2 tiny pinches black salt (also called Kala Namak, optional for eggy taste)

Cinnamon sticks or whole star anise, for garnish (optional)

NOTE: Add a splash of Torani Peppermint syrup for a Christmas twist on this holiday classic!

— Recipe Courtesy Jacob Keaveny, friend and bartender at Riley's Tavern



QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- ✓ Reading, Writing, and Math Readiness
- ✓ Language Development
- ✓ Physical Development
- ✓ Social Emotional Awareness



and so much more!

ABOUT US

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for low-income families and children with disabilities. We are focused on supporting all areas of development and working with families every step of the way to ensure children are ready to enter kindergarten.

Your child can qualify for Head Start as early as **6 weeks old**, and we offer healthy and nutritious food made in house, as well as plenty of family engagement activities to help you in your journey of parenthood, including services for pregnant women.

We take ages 0 to 5



GROWING BRIGHT FUTURES

ENROLL NOW!
1 (800) 701-7060

**VISIT CAPK.ORG
TO LEARN MORE!**



DECEMBER ACTIVITY CORNER

PUZZLE ANSWERS
PAGE 35

HOLIDAY FOODS WORD SEARCH

PRESENTED BY PACIFIC AG RENTALS

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

BRIE

CRACKERS

GREEN BEANS

PASTRY

STUFFING

CARROTS

DINNER ROLLS

HAM

PECAN PIE

SUGAR COOKIES

CASSEROLE

EGGNOG

HOT CHOCOLATE

PEPPERMINT

SWEET POTATOES

CHEESE BOARD

FRUIT CAKE

LASAGNA

PUDDING

TURKEY

CHOCOLATES

GINGERBREAD

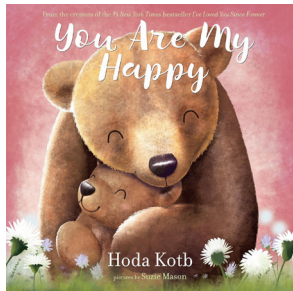
MASHED POTATOES

ROAST



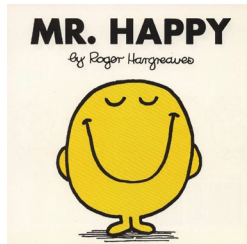
Happy holidays, one and all

PEACE, LOVE AND JOY! Those three words usher in the holiday season and this month, we want to focus on joy and happiness. The holidays can be a magical time for many or a difficult time for some. But the end of the year may be the perfect time to take a quiet moment to seek happiness. We've got a few good reads to help you and your family focus on the happy in the holidays.

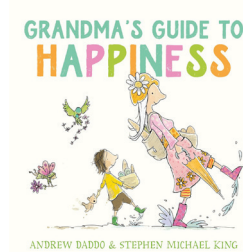


You Are My Happy
By Hoda Kotb and Suzie Mason
\$9.92; Ages 0-3
HarperCollins
Amazon.com
This No. 1 New York

Times bestseller is penned by “Today” show co-anchor Hoda Kotb. Through adorable illustrations, Kotb presents a playful lullaby of gratitude.

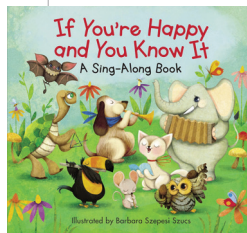


Mr. Happy
By Roger Hargreaves
\$4.49; Ages 3-7
Grosset & Dunlap
Fans of “Mr. Men and Little Miss” are back to teach young readers all about being happy.



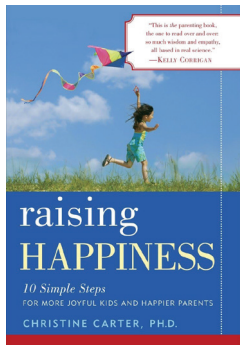
Grandma's Guide to Happiness
By Andrew Daddo & Stephen Michael King
\$18.30; Ages 3-8
ABC Books of AU
Amazon.com

Who knows all about joy? Grandmas! Sometimes, it's the simplest things that bring happiness and grandmas know where to find it.



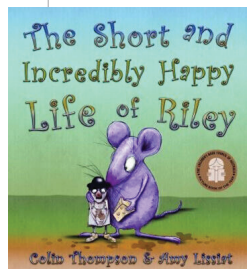
If You're Happy and You Know It
By Zondervan and Barbara Szepesi Szucs
\$6.29; Ages 0-6
Publisher: Zondervan
Amazon.com

You remember the popular kids' song, “If You're Happy and You Know it.” This book will take you back in time and guide you in a sing-along with your kids (or grandkids)!



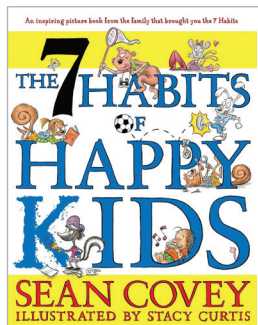
Raising Happiness
By Christine Carter, PhD
\$14.50; Ages: adult
Ballantine Books
Amazon.com
Most parents want to raise happy, healthy kids, but how do we do that? Forget

perfection! Keep praise in check. Focus on attitude and kindness!



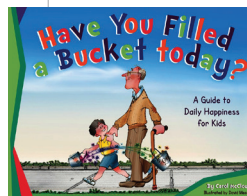
The Short and Incredibly Happy Life of Riley
By Colin Thompson and Amy Lissiat
\$29.79; Ages 2-6
Lothian Children's Books
Amazon.com

Rats! I wish I was taller, younger, richer. So often, we're unhappy with what we are or what we have. But rats aren't unhappy—at least in this book. And they've got a lesson to teach us.



The 7 Habits of Happy Kids
By Sean Covey and Stacy Curtis
\$10.79; Ages 8 and up
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Amazon.com

The author of the popular “7 Habits...” books turns to kids to offer suggestions for habits that are sure to keep kids healthy and happy.



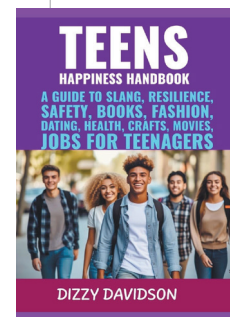
Have You Filled a Bucket Today?
By Carol McCloud and Davis Messing
\$7.89; Ages 3 and up
Bucket Fillers
Amazon.com

Are you filling someone's bucket with kindness or dipping into their bucket to take away their joy? This book uses a bucket metaphor to guide us in making the world a happier place.



Breathe Out: A Creative Guide to Happiness for Teen Minds
By Fiona Rose and Celeste Wallaert
\$12.68; Ages 12 and up
Michael O'Mara
Amazon.com

This handy guide offers exercises, techniques and tips designed to help teens chill out. It's also a journal to help keep secrets—and emotions—in check. Overall, a great place to start to get happy!



Teens Happiness Handbook
By Dizzy Davidson
\$14.99; Ages 13-18
Pure Water Books
Amazon.com
Got a moody teen? Or maybe you are a moody teen. Here's a guide to find happiness! From

your social life to health, crafts and money, you'll find out how to deal!

WE LOVE IT!

By Leslie Carroll

'TIS THE SEASON to make a list and check it twice! If you're not sure what to get the kids in your life this holiday season take a look at these fun and festive gift ideas.

Old World Christmas Onesie Ornament

Remember babies first Christmas with this keepsake ornament. Each ornament is meticulously handcrafted and painted by skilled artisans, capturing the nostalgic charm and intricate details that make these decorations truly special. \$19.99, www.oldworldchristmas.com



Let Loose Moose - Hover Soccer Ball

When rainy days leave kids stuck inside, give them the gift of outdoor play indoors. Unlike traditional soccer balls, this one is made to hover over smooth surfaces and is surrounded by soft foam bumpers to protect furniture and walls from potential scuffs or damage. What's more, the flashing LED lights allow for play after dark. \$14.99, www.amazon.com



Crazy Forts

Instead of using dining chairs and couch cushions to make a fort, kids can stretch their imagination and create unique structures with this kit. It includes 44 sticks and 25 connector balls to build with, and once the structure is complete, all it needs is a sheet or blanket draped over top to create the ultimate hideaway. \$43.99, www.amazon.com



Scentco Smillows

Smillows are super soft accent throw pillows with gourmet scented microbeads sewn deep into the stuffing. These unique scented pillows look great on beds, couches, kid play areas, and wherever else you need extra cuddly cuteness. \$24.99, www.amazon.com

What's Next? A Life-Sized Game

This takes the classic concept of board games and elevates it to a whole new level. Imagine stepping into a vibrant, oversized game board where players become the pieces! With fun challenges, this game is designed to bring families and friends together. \$44.99, www.amazon.com



Find Rudy Reindeer!

Count the number of Rudy Reindeers you find in this issue, then submit your answer by noon on

December 19th

For a chance to win a



Hammacher Schlemmer Italian Countertop Pizza Oven

Value: \$149.95



TO ENTER
SCAN HERE



CONTEST SPONSORED BY





Dog Math: The Only Relevant Math

When Samantha was four, everything was about dogs. We talked about dogs. We read about dogs. She drew pictures of dogs and walked our dogs on leashes inside the house and pretended to be a dog. On rainy days, we would go to PetSmart to watch the dogs being groomed. It was all dogs. All day. Every day.

She was interested in numbers—as long as the numbers were about dogs. So I asked her one day, “If you have a mommy dog at the animal shelter, and she has fourteen puppies and you find homes for eight of the puppies, how many puppies still need homes?”

Her immediate answer was, “None because I will take all six of

the puppies home with me — AND the mommy dog, too.”

It would be another two years before I could ask her what fourteen minus eight was and get anything close to six. Math only mattered for her if it was math about dogs.

Fast forward to the summer after sixth grade. She took a math review class on OutschooL. The teacher asked everyone what their favorite number was. Samantha’s immediate response, like this was something she felt in her SOUL and had been just WAITING to be asked, was, “Two—because two plus two is four, AND two times two is four. Also, two is the only prime number that is even.” Then she looked at me, hoping that I would change my favorite number on the

spot to two because who could love any number but two?

Throughout seventh grade, I had to bribe her to check her work before turning it in. Because, you see, she would get so distracted by the lack of dogs in the math problems that she would write things like seven times seven is fourteen. (I am quite sure that if she had seven people each bring her a van full seven dogs, she would know straight away that there is no possible way that she only had fourteen dogs.)

In eighth grade, she had a math teacher who resonated with her. He told dad jokes. He told math jokes. He bounced around the room on his tippy-toes, tossing out math trivia. Samantha was hooked. This new way of doing math was even better than bringing home six puppies and a mommy dog.

She baked this teacher a pie for Pi Day with a cut out in the top crust the shape of the pi symbol.

From then on, she was lost to me. No more box and whisker plots. No more ratios. No more solving equations. It was her and her math book.

Now she is doing geometry behind my back.

She hasn’t asked for help or so much as shown me a math problem in two years.

This is what they mean, I suppose, when they say your child will leave the nest. It’s like she has grown her own math wings and has no need for me anymore.

She is going to go through the entire rest of her math life without me.

Which is a little disappointing because I was so looking forward to revisiting those calculus problems about ladders sliding down walls (because that is the most practical use there is for math).

So much has changed.

And yet.

And yet, two is still her favorite number. And it’s still because two plus two is four, and two times two is four, and two is the only even prime number.

And if she had the chance, she would bring home six puppies and a mommy dog from the shelter.



PACIFIC AG RENTALS
RENT THE BRANDS YOU TRUST



**YOUR ONE STOP RENTAL COMPANY
FOR AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT!**

pacificagrentals.com

