



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

FREE



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PAGE 16



BBQ Bliss | Must Have Baby Gear | Hello Happy Mama Nila Hogan



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**HELLO HAPPY MAMA**

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**FIVE WAYS**

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**Vaun Thygerson**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members," says Coretta Scott King. And, based on her quote, Bakersfield is GREAT! I saw in action how local individuals came together to raise more than \$500,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). When my good friend Kim Fox asked me to be on her team, Fighting Foxes, for the LLS' Visionaries and Student Visionaries of the Year, I didn't really

understand the magnitude of this event. Over the years, I had seen people promoting their mission to help raise money to help find a cure for blood cancer and improve the quality of life for those affected. But, now this year, I had a vested interest, and I was all-in.

Fighting in honor of her late father, Kim used her resources, raffles, a super fun Bingo night, silent auction items, and social media, to raise almost \$40,000 for the campaign. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and she had her friends, family, and children cheering her on with every post or fundraising goal. It paid off too, because the night of the event, she won the mission award for Patient Education and Support and was named runner up for Visionary of the Year. During the event, with the Old Hollywood theme, I was so impressed with all the student visionaries: the teens who worked so passionately for this cause. LLS' Grand Finale Celebration was a culmination of many people spending their precious time to help others and make our community better. I left that night feeling so

inspired to see how together we can make a difference.

You can read about another mama who continues to do a lot for our community in Callie Collins' article, **"Hello, Happy Trailblazing Mama: Nila Hogan,"** on page 12. Nila wears many hats as a wife, mother, adoptive mother, grandmother, nonprofit founder, and pageant winner. With her husband, Robbie, they have five children and one grandchild. In 2011, she founded Bakersfield's first on-site supervised visitation center, Y-Em-powerment, which also provides many resources from parenting classes to mentorship.

In this month's Readers Respond, **"Comfort Food Unwrapped: What Readers Crave Most,"** by Lisa Keosouphanh, on page 10, KCFM asked, "What is your go-to comfort food that you binge on and maybe regret in the morning?" Some of the answers ranged from all types of junk food and fast food. For this one, I know my answer. My go-to, most regrettable comfort food is ice cream -any kind of ice cream!

Julie Willis's Humor at Home article, **"Shopping Cart Chaos: Toddler Trials in Aisle 1,"** on page 21, was one that I particularly resonated with this month. I have so many "Tales from the Target Aisle" from when my kids were little. She writes about how her toddler, during one eventful outing, created quite the rumpus that ended in complete pandemonium!

During May, as the school year's festivities ramp up and life gets busier than usual, it's good to remember that we do have this amazing community. And together we can accomplish miracles and lean on each other for support!

**Happy May!**

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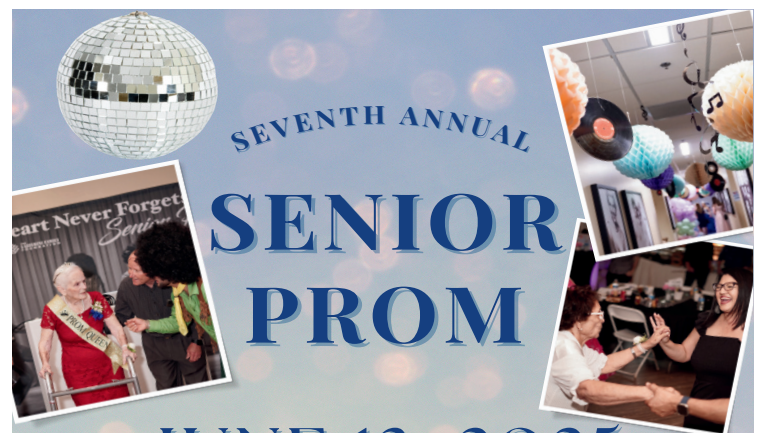
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PHOTO COURTESY KCSOS

## KCSOS Celebrates Grand Opening of The STEAM Yard

In partnership with Chevron, Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) celebrates its grand opening of The STEAM Yard at 2020 K Street in downtown Bakersfield. This innovative facility is Kern County's first dedicated STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) learning and career exploration center.

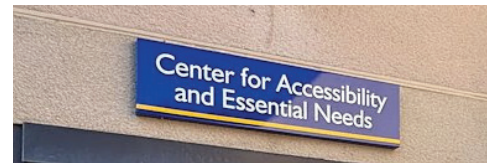
Designed as a hands-on, student-centered environment, The STEAM Yard offers standards-aligned programming that blends academic learning with real-world applications. It provides Kern County kindergarten through 8th grade students with immersive field trip opportunities, camps outside of the school day, a curriculum and materials lending library, and an integrated college and career pathways component. The STEAM Yard's innovative model

includes structured pre-visit preparation, engaging on-site lab sessions, and post-visit classroom integration – engaging students and teachers benefit from a complete and meaningful journey.

During the grand opening, Chevron announced a \$270,000 donation to support various KCSOS programs, with \$200,000 specifically earmarked for The STEAM Yard's launch and future programming. "Chevron is proud to support The STEAM Yard and the incredible opportunities it brings to students across the region," says Alan Pitts, vice president of Chevron's San Joaquin Valley. Business Unit. "Investing in STEAM education is investing in the future of our community."

**For more information about The STEAM Yard and upcoming events, visit [www.kernsteamyard.org](http://www.kernsteamyard.org).**

## CSUB Receives Grant to Provide Off-Campus Housing Support



A new housing assistance program is now being offered at CSUB where students can receive help with rent, deposits, and other costs. CSUB received funding from the Chancellor's Office in February to assist students as part of its College-Focused Rapid Re-Housing Program. The university will receive \$400,000 a year for the four-year program.

"Housing continues to be a significant challenge not only for our students but for students statewide," says Dr. Jason Watkins, Director of CSUB's Center for Accessibility and Essential Needs (CAEN). "This funding gives us the opportunity to provide a little more support to help people not only get housing but stay housed. We know that if students stay housed, they're more likely to be academically successful."

The grants are subject to availability and can be requested by filling out a Food and Housing Crisis Report. The grant will vary based on the need.

**For more information, please visit <https://news.csub.edu/csub-receives-grant-to-provide-offcampus-housing-support>.**

## Liberty High School Announces New Boys' Basketball Head Coach

Liberty High School announces Nicholas Podesta as the new head coach of its boys' basketball program for the 2025-2026 school year. Coach Podesta brings over 25 years of coaching experience at both the high school and junior college levels. He most recently served on the staff at Clovis West High School, following a successful three-year tenure as head coach at Weston Ranch High School in Stockton.

During his time at Weston Ranch, Podesta led his team to a 68-26 overall

record, capturing titles and reaching the CIF regional state semifinals during the 2022-23 season. As associate head coach at both Fresno City College and Cosumnes River College, he contributed to six conference championships and helped guide seven teams in the top four state finalists. His leadership has developed numerous athletes who have gone on to compete at the NCAA Division I level. Coach Podesta is dedicated to preparing the athletes to compete at the highest level possible.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATE TORRES



## Support Give Big Kern's Day of Giving

Last year's Give Big Kern (GBK) saw its biggest year to date, bringing in over \$1.5 million for 131 nonprofits. Join Kern Community Foundation and local nonprofits to make this year's Day of Giving, May 6, even bigger. GBK is free

for nonprofits to participate as part of Kern Community Foundation's Nonprofit Strengthening Initiative. The collaborative effort helps Kern's community-based organizations raise unrestricted



resources while growing their visibility, capacity, and sustainability through raising funds and volunteer hours.

**Donors can make donations or sign up for volunteer hours at [www.givebigkern.org](http://www.givebigkern.org), or like and share GBK social media content.**

## Bakersfield College Foundation Partners with Amazon

The Bakersfield College Foundation has committed \$1.37 million to expand workforce training through a powerful partnership with Amazon. As one of just five institutions nationwide selected to offer Amazon's Mechatronic Robotic Apprenticeship (MRA) program, Bakersfield College is set to strengthen

career education and workforce development in Kern County.

"At the Bakersfield College Foundation, our mission is to support initiatives that create real opportunities for students and strengthen our local workforce," says Cheryl Scott, Executive Director of the Bakersfield College Foundation. "This

partnership with Amazon is a perfect example of how strategic investments in education can transform lives and industries."

**For more information, please visit the Career Education page on [www.bakersfieldcollege.edu](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu).**

## Centre for Neuro Skills Named to Newsweek's Greatest Workplaces

Newsweek named Bakersfield-based Centre for Neuro Skills (CNS), a leading provider of post-acute brain injury and stroke rehabilitation services, one of America's Greatest Midsize Workplaces for 2025. CNS is the only neurorehabilitation

provider listed in the healthcare category, achieving a five-star rating.

Focused on patient-tailored care and maximizing patient outcomes, CNS offers residential inpatient, day treatment, telerehabilitation, and continued care

programs to help patients regain independence through community reintegration and life skills building.

**For more information, please visit [www.neuroskills.com](http://www.neuroskills.com).**

# Happy Mother's Day

## Flowers are Beautiful but Cookies Taste Better!



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# Sunny Days & Safe Play!

BY ANDREA ROSE

**S**ummer is nearly upon us and families will be out soaking up the rays. But nothing ruins fun faster than a nasty sunburn. Don't venture out with sun protection! Sun protection can include clothing or sunscreen and don't forget, it's cool to keep cool!

## SIMPLE SUN-SAFE STEPS

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, sun safety starts with the basics:

- **Keep babies younger than 6 months out of direct sunlight.** They are safer under the shade of a porch, tree, umbrella or stroller canopy.
- **Dress yourself and your kiddos in cool clothing** that covers as much of the body as comfortable. Think long sleeves, lightweight pants, hats and hats.
- **Select clothes with a UPF protector** or a tight weave. Some sportswear is rated and labeled by manufacturers with an Ultraviolet Protection Factor. If not, select tight-weave knits. (If you're not sure how tight a fabric's weave is, hold it up to see how much light shines through. The less light, the better!)
- **Wear a hat** with an all-around 3-inch brim to shield the face, ears and back of neck.
- **Limit your sun exposure** between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when UV rays are strongest.
- **Wear sunglasses with at least 99% UV protection.** Look for youth-sized

## Products We Love

There are many great sunscreens on the market and it really comes down to personal preference, but here are a few we really like:



### Aveeno Baby Continuous Protection Zinc Oxide Mineral Sunscreen Lotion for Sensitive Skin, Broad Spectrum SPF 50

This mineral sunscreen lotion is mild and applies to baby's skin easily to lock in moisture without stinging or irritation. It's suitable for use on both the face and body. It contains naturally-sourced 100% zinc oxide active and skin-soothing oat, and is both sweat- and water-resistant for up to 80 minutes Tear-free, non-greasy, hypoallergenic and paraben-free, phthalate-free and fragrance-free.



### Mamaearth Mineral Based SPF 20+ Baby Sunscreen

This mineral-based sunscreen provides protection for little ones when they play or do outdoor activities during the day. Zinc oxide protects against harsh UV rays and the long-lasting product helps provide ongoing protection. Non-greasy formula also nourishes baby's skin.



### Coppertone Kids Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 or SPF 70

You really can't go wrong with the classic Coppertone. It's been named the #1 pediatrician recommended brand and stays on strong during play. Water resistant for up to 80 minutes and contains a dermatologically tested formula with no dyes or PABA.



### Sun Bum Kids 50 SPF Broad-Spectrum Water-Resistant Sunscreen

If it's Sun Bum, you know it's gonna smell like summer! This sunscreen is available in lotion or spray form and the kids line is formulated without Oxybenzone, Octinoxate, Gluten, Parabens, and Synthetic Fragrance. Dermatologist Tested, Paraben Free, Vegan, Cruelty Free, Hawaii Act 104 Compliant and safe for all skin types.



### Neutrogena Sport Face Sunscreen SPF 70+, Oil-Free, 2.5 fl oz, Sweat & Water-Resistant, Broad-Spectrum UVA/UVB

Moms and dads often forget themselves, so toss this one in your beach bag. It's not only great for protecting while you have fun in the sun, are reading under an umbrella or are doing yardwork. Save your face! Sweat-resistant, water-resistant, free of octinoxate and oxybenzone. Oil-free & won't clog pores or cause breakouts.



sunglasses with UV protection for your child.

Once you've got the basics down, it's time to consider slathering down.

### SUNSHINE AND SPECTRUMS AND SUNSCREEN, OH MY!

One of the easiest things to do to protect your skin from sunburn is applying sunscreen. It's also one of the most challenging things to do right.

Sunscreen can help protect the skin from sunburn and some skin cancers, but only if used correctly.

#### Here's a few tips:

- **"Broad-spectrum"** means the product will screen out both UVB and UVA rays.

SPF is Sun Protection Factor. An SPF of 15 or 30 may be fine for adults, but children and fair-skinned adults should use an SPF of 50.

- **Read the ingredients.** You may want to avoid products using the ingredient oxybenzone because of concerns about mild hormonal properties. Remember, though, that it's important to take

steps to prevent sunburn, so using any sunscreen is better than not using sunscreen at all.

- **For babies younger than 6 months:**

Use sunscreen on small areas of the body, such as the face, if protective clothing and shade are not available.

- **For babies older than 6 months:**

Apply to all areas of the body, but be careful around the eyes. If your baby rubs sunscreen into their eyes, wipe their eyes and hands clean with a damp cloth. If the sunscreen irritates their skin, try a different brand or sunscreen with titanium dioxide or zinc oxide. If your baby develops a rash, talk with their doctor.

- **Don't forget the little parts.** It's not just arms, legs and shoulders that need covered. Remember to coat the nose, cheeks and tops of the ears as well. Choose a sunscreen with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide so they stay visible on the skin even after you rub them in, and some come in fun colors that children enjoy.

- **Don't be stingy.** Use enough sunscreen to cover all exposed areas and rub it in well! Rub it in well. Don't forget the back of knees, neck and the tops of feet. Slather that stuff on like you're frosting a cupcake!

- **Don't delay.** Sunscreen needs time to absorb into the skin. Put sunscreen on 15 to 30 minutes before going outdoors.

- **It's not just for sand, surf and poolside.** Use sunscreen any time you or your child spend time outdoors. Remember that you can sunburn even on cloudy days because up to 80% of the sun's UV rays can get through the clouds. Also, UV rays can bounce back from water, sand, snow and even concrete pool decking and sidewalks, so make sure you're protected.

- **Reapply frequently.** Sunscreen protection generally lasts about 2 hours—less if in the water. Reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling off.

- **Don't overdo it.** Keep in mind that sunscreen should be used for sun protection, not as a reason to stay in the sun longer.

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## Q. "What is your go-to comfort food that you binge on and maybe regret in the morning?"

**OUR READERS SHARED THEIR GO-TO COMFORT FOODS:** chips, donuts, tacos, salsa, Girl Scout Cookies, and more. These indulgences bring joy in the moment—sometimes with a side of morning regret. So, what's your favorite treat?



"I love donuts. I'm typically not a sweets person, but if I'm offered donuts, I'm all in."

– Johnnie Lisuk



"Tacos, tacos & more tacos."

– Linda Castro



"Girl Scout Cookies, but I convince myself that they are delicious and purchased for a good cause and then my regret goes away lol."

– Yadira Cadena



"Biscotti cookies with my coffee."

– Tanya George



"Chips or chocolate covered almonds! I love crunchy snacks while in bed."

– Courtney McMahon



"Ice cream, for sure, but if ice cream is not available it's gotta be chocolate candy."

– Regina Galvez

### Other popular answers are sweets and salty things like:

Chocolate  
Cereal  
Candy  
Pastries  
Hamburgers  
Brownies  
McDonalds  
Panda Express  
Taco Bell

"It's toss-up between pizza and Mexican food with good salsa. Probably leaning more towards the salsa. Ha ha ha ... That good spice is great when you are congested or getting a sore throat. All those spices and peppers always seem to help me feel better."

– Melissa Martin

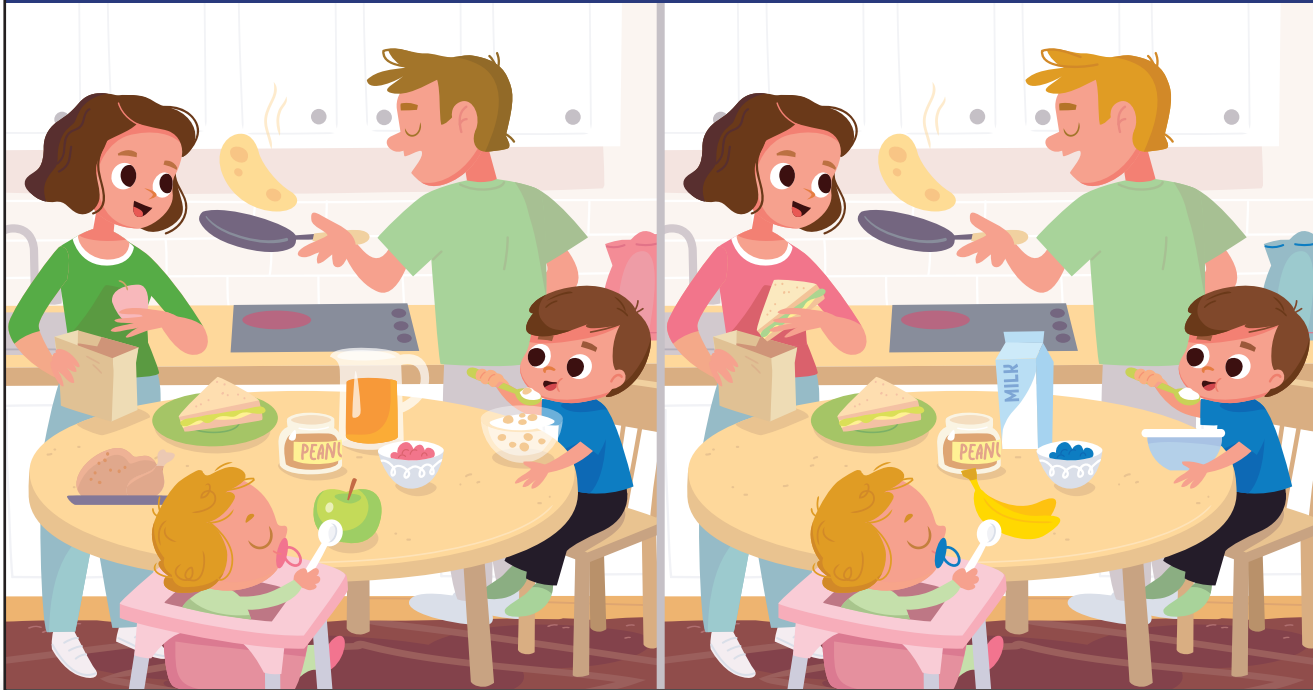




# Hello, neighbor.

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## FIND THE 10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO IMAGES



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# HELLO, HAPPY TRAILBLAZING MAMA

**N**ila Hogan has a full life at work, at home and in the community. A wife, mother, adoptive mother, grandmother, nonprofit founder and pageant winner, leadership skills characterize her many roles.

A “fun, outgoing household” is how Nila described the family she leads alongside her husband, Robbie Schrader. They are the parents of Jonah, 27, Preston, 17, Ezra, 11, Dae, 10, and Audrey, 9, and, most recently, grandparents to their first grandchild. Robbie is the owner of HS Post Production, a media company specializing in film, and he also works as a director for Deluge Consulting, a stormwater management consultancy. The family has found a second home

at Oaks Community Church, which they appreciate for its culturally diverse approach. Worship music, youth group and women’s ministry are some of the roles the family members occupy. Outreach to people has been an important part of Nila’s life in particular throughout her life and career.

“In my business life and by my choosing, I have always been a victims’ advocate, sometimes for men and women but mostly children,” said Nila, who holds degrees in philosophy and political science. “Combating domestic violence in the community has been part of my life since 2005. I started out in a community legal information center filling out restraining orders and also worked

---

**“No one has it all figured. Don’t say ‘My child would never.’ Instead, be present, be available and be a safe space when they fall because children are their own people. Never underestimate the power of a parent who keeps showing up.”**

---

NILA HOGAN

at a law firm for a short amount of time as I began understanding the dynamics of abuse. At the time, cost was a huge issue for parents to attend court-ordered visits with their children; some were even losing custody because it looked like abandonment.”

Nila founded Bakersfield’s first on-site supervised visitation center in 2011. Y-Empowerment features supervised contact with noncustodial parents and for child exchanges to take place. Wraparound services, from coordinated victims’ assistance, mentorship and parenting classes to programs aimed at anger management, also seek to prevent abuse.

“We try our hardest not to make people feel like they are being judged. In fact, we do not judge anybody by a court order but instead serve as a neutral third party,” said Nila.

Summer camps for children affected by domestic violence and leadership opportunities for youth who want to help prevent abuse in peers’ teen relationships are also available. Find out more about Y-Empowerment at <https://www.yempowerment.org>.

In a surprising twist, Nila also began participating in pageants in 2019.

“I needed to shake things up. I was actually at the gym when a TV





Nila (far left) and some of the women from the Oaks Community Church women's team celebrating one of her dear friends birthday.

commercial for the pageant came on. I said to myself 'If you meet your weight loss goal by the entry date, you're going to participate,' and I did," she explained.

Although Nila did not place in her first pageant, she benefitted from the experience.

"I did not realize how much I lacked confidence until I entered the pageant, but everyone was welcoming and encouraging," she said.

Nila chose to participate again in 2024.

"I remembered how much fun it was, that I learned a lot and met other women," she said. "I did not think I would win. I just wanted to learn more about myself and have fun, so I was extremely surprised to take the title of 'Mrs. Bakersfield 2024.'"

Pageant winners volunteer at local nonprofits throughout their tenure, which was an opportunity for Nila.

"Even though I had been in the nonprofit sector for 14 years, there were so many organizations I had not heard of," she said. "Getting to know people in the community was my favorite part overall."

Nila's reign as Mrs. Bakersfield ended this past February but she was officially titled Mrs. Southern California and will be competing May 10 in Los Angeles for the statewide Mrs. California pageant.

The pageant experience came full circle for Nila when she saw how it inspired her daughter, Audrey, who loves science, to take on pageant participation despite some initial hesitation.

#### Fill-in-the-blank questions:

**Today, the strangest thing in my purse is:** A microphone

**My favorite food is:** Chimichangas

**My favorite dessert is:**  
Peach cobbler

**In my pantry, you will always find:**  
Empty boxes and bags my kids always put back.

**So far, my best life advice is:**  
Don't take it too seriously.

"Mom, I did it! I overcame my fear," were the words Nila was proud to hear, a signifier of how leading by example is often the best way to show the next generation all they can be.

#### TWO QUESTIONS WITH NILA HOGAN

**Q. What should families in the Kern County area know more about in their community?**

Kern County is full of hidden resources. The Kern Community Foundation features a big list of nonprofits as a one-stop shop for resources, whether you are wanting to volunteer or find help.

**Q. What is your parenting PSA?**

Don't ever assume you are above another parent.

No one has it all figured. Don't say "My child would never." Instead, be present, be available and be a safe space when they fall because children are their own people. Never underestimate the power of a parent who keeps showing up.

# HELLO HAPPY MAMA CONTEST

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on May 20th!**



**TO ENTER GO TO:**

<https://kerncountyfamily.secondstreetapp.com/May-2025-Hello-Happy-Mama-contest/>



# Goose, Giggles & Mother's Day: Moms & Rhymes That Shine

**MAY IS ALL ABOUT MOTHERS!** Not only is Mother's Day on May 11th, May 1st is National Mother Goose Day and we've found a gaggle of books to rhyme the day away. Gather moms and kiddos and sit down to read a rhyme!

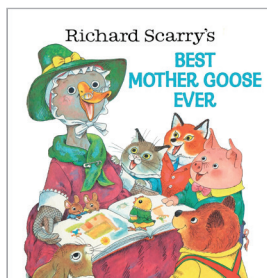


## Mother Goose Treasury

By Cottage Door Press & Priscilla Lamont

\$10.99; Ages 0-3  
Publisher: Cottage Door Press  
Amazon.com

The beautiful, soft, illustrations make this the ideal bedtime book. Mother Goose favorites include "It's Raining, it's Pouring" and "Row Row Row Your Boat." Perfect for even the littlest storygoer.

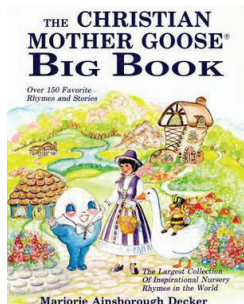


## Richard Scarry's Best Mother Goose Ever

By Richard Scarry

\$13.15; Ages 1-3  
Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers

Amazon.com  
The beloved author-illustrator Richard Scarry shares his classic artwork with 50 of our favorite Mother Goose rhymes. Now in its 50th anniversary, this is a classic that spans multiple generations!

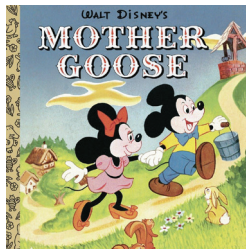


## The Christian Mother Goose Big Book

By Marjorie Ainsborough Decker, Theanna Sparr & Colleen Murphy Scott

\$34.85; Ages 2-5  
Publisher: World Pub  
Amazon.com

British master storyteller Decker combined her love of nursery rhymes with her love of the Bible to pen the Christian Mother Goose® children's book series where she weaves Christian principles into rhymes.

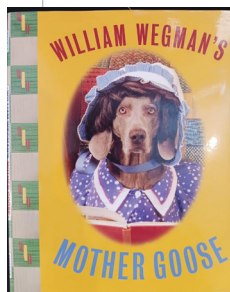


## Walt Disney's Mother Goose

By RH Disney

\$5.99; Ages 3-7  
Publisher: Little Golden Books/Disney, Random House  
Amazon.com

Disney fans will love the vintage artwork and classic characters of this Little Golden Book from the 1940s—complete with the rhymes we love!

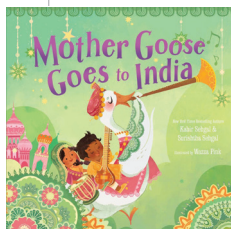


## William Wegman's Mother Goose

By William Wegman

\$28.71; All ages  
Publisher: Hyperion  
Amazon.com  
If you like dogs, you'll love this Mother Goose book! Photographer Wil-

liam Wegman uses Weimaraner dogs to portray storybook characters—and Mother Goose herself!

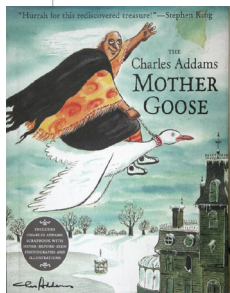


## Mother Goose Goes to India

By Kabir Sehgal, Surishtha Sehgal & Wazza Pink

\$15.85; Ages 4-8  
Publisher: Beach Lane Books  
Amazon.com

This Mother Goose medley shares rhymes that celebrate rich Indian culture and introduces Hindi vocabulary when Mother Goose takes a trip to India.

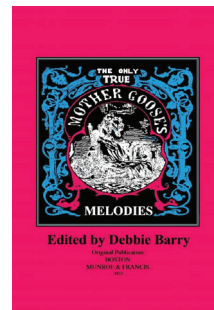


## The Charles Addams Mother Goose

By Charles Addams

\$16.50; Ages 4-10  
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
Amazon.com  
Here's a Mother Goose storybook that

is for older kids and fans of Charles Addams—the author/illustrator of The Addams Family and other classic cartoons. It provides a spooky spin to the classic rhymes.



## The Only True Mother Goose's Melodies

By Debbie Barry

\$6.95; Ages 7-9  
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing  
Amazon.com

Chances are you won't recognize many of these

nursery rhymes because they were penned in 1833, but it does offer an Old English take on children's rhymes. It's suggested for ages 7-9, however it may be more appropriate for a teen or adult.



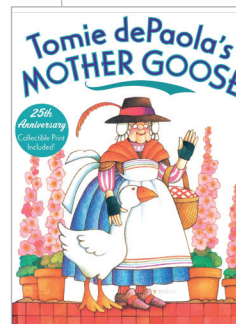
## The Star Tales of Mother Goose

By Mary Stewart Adams

\$29.95; All ages  
Publisher: Mary Stewart Adams  
Starlore.co

This book is designed to merge the night sky with the world of

literature by taking traditional nursery rhymes and blending them with basic astronomical concepts. Includes easy-to-use sky maps, glossary of astronomical terms and historical references.



## Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose

By Tomie dePaola

\$16.19; Ages 4-8  
Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers  
Amazon.com

You'll find both the traditional nursery rhymes and well as

some you may never have read in this book of more than 200 rhymes. It's a great version for young readers to read on their own or for parents to read to kids.





JOIN US!

AGES 2-18

# NOW SERVING **FREE SUPPER & SNACKS!**



In partnership with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, the Kern County Library is offering a FREE meal, snack, and space to do homework for children ages 2-18.

**SERVING SUPPER 3-5PM & SNACKS 5-6PM**

## SERVING LOCATIONS:

### **Beale Memorial Library**

701 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield  
Monday - Friday

### **Holloway-Gonzales Branch Library**

506 E Brundage Ln, Bakersfield  
Tuesday - Friday

### **Lamont Branch Library**

8304 Segre Rd, Lamont  
Tuesday - Friday

### **McFarland Branch Library**

500 West Kern Ave, McFarland  
Tuesday - Friday

### **Northeast Branch Library**

2671 Oswell St. Suite B, Bakersfield  
Tuesday - Friday

### **Rathbun Branch Library**

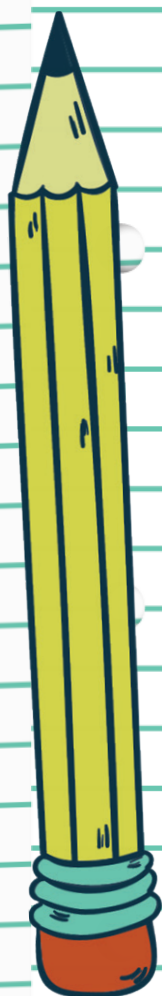
200 W. China Grade Loop, Bakersfield  
Tuesday - Friday

### **Southwest Branch Library**

8301 Ming Ave, Bakersfield  
Monday - Friday

### **Wilson Branch Library**

1901 Wilson Road, Bakersfield  
Tuesday - Friday



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For more information, visit us at [kernlibrary.org](http://kernlibrary.org)

This program is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library.





# THE GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP


BY CHERYL MAGUIRE

**W**hen Mary Beth Foster saw that a week long Minecraft coding camp was being offered she thought it would be a great fit for her daughter. “I thought she would love it, but the cost was pretty high,” says Foster who lives in Mint Hill, North Carolina. “The camp was happening the week of my daughter’s birthday, so I had the idea to ask my mom to split it with me, and it could be a birthday gift for her,” she says. Her mom agreed to split the cost so for her granddaughter’s 10th birthday she received the gift of summer camp. “She loved the camp. She immediately asked me if she could go back for another week,” says Foster.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 18**

# The SUMMER of Engineering

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**For Ages: 5yrs - 14yrs**  
Calling all young engineers!





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**June 2 - August 1st**  
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(661) 282-8721

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# GIRL SCOUTS SUMMER DAY CAMP

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**JUNE 23-27 | \$250**  
**8:30 AM-6 PM**

**OPEN TO:**  
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- Snacks
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 **gscs** For more details scan or visit:  
[www.girlscoutsgccs.org](http://www.girlscoutsgccs.org)



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# SUMMER DAY CAMP

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**MON-FRI / 7AM - 6PM**

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661-325-3730

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BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311  
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WWILLIAMS@BGCKC.ORG

**SCAN HERE TO REGISTER**



visit [WWW.BGCKC.ORG](http://WWW.BGCKC.ORG) to register today!



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Lauren Rowello of New Jersey has also given the gift of summer camp to her niece and nephew. “I’ve paid for their camps a few times, but I suppose that started when they were maybe three and six,” she says. “My youngest kid was attending the day camp that they ended up going to as well which is what gave me the idea to offer it.” She also adds, “They really enjoyed going, which made me feel really good about paying for it.” Besides gifting summer camp to family members she says, “I’ve quietly paid for others sometimes too.” When she says quietly, she means that the recipient didn’t know she was gifting them summer camp.

### WAYS TO GIVE THE GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP

**American Camp Association** suggests creating a summer camp gift certificate and either attaching it to a flashlight or putting in a gift box. They have printable gift certificates online that you can use. The website says, “No matter how it’s delivered, imagine the delight when the gift is opened, and the child discovers that camp is in his or her future.”

### YOU CAN GIVE THE GIFT OF CAMP TO SOMEONE YOU DON’T KNOW

Many camps like YMCA camps offer a program that allows you to pay for a child’s summer camp as a gift as Rowello did. “I was a single, teen parent and struggled financially in the past living in some pretty deep poverty when my oldest was really young,” she says. “So I know what it’s like to not have that kind of support for my own family and how much I would have appreciated and benefited from it personally. So now when I know of a need that I think we can comfortably address, we just do that.”

Rowello also says that if she knows of a parent who needs help but might not want a hand out she will pay for their kid’s camp without them knowing she paid for it. “I just let them know that I know a free spot is available and coordinate with the camp director so the parents don’t know where the scholarship came from,” she says.



**The Pittsburg YMCA** offers a program that funds summer camps for kids. Their website says, “Last year our YMCA provided more than \$220,000 in scholarships for children from our region who desperately need everything that the camp provides.” If you would like to gift summer camp to a child you can contact your local camps and ask about making a donation.

### WHAT CAN KIDS GAIN FROM A SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE?

American Camp Association conducted research using over 80 camps and family feedback to determine what kids learned while they are at summer camp. They found they learned many different skills and character traits such as:

**Learning new skills:** Most camps offer activities such as swimming, archery or art. Kids can learn skills like how to swim that often are not taught in school. These skills can be beneficial for developing confidence and possibly a future career. My kids went to surf camp and learned how to surf. When they were able to stand on the surfboard without falling over and ride the wave they felt an enormous sense of accomplishment. Foster agrees and says, “It gives my kids a chance to try new things. Sometimes it’s hard for them to commit to lessons or practices for a year, a season or even a 10-week session. But I feel like one week of something new is doable.”

**Independence:** If your child goes to day camp or sleep-away camp they develop a sense of independence and self-sufficiency from being away from

home. They often need to keep track of their belongings such as their bathing suit, lunch, towel and backpack as they transition to different activities

**Inclusion:** When your kid goes to camp often they are there with kids from different races, ethnicities and physical capabilities. These differences can help children to learn about different cultures and be more inclusive of people from various backgrounds.

**Friendship skills:** When kids go to camp they are often in social situations with kids that they might not know that require team work. This helps them to not only learn how to develop friendships but also how to navigate conflicts in social situations. Often camps offer team sports that teach kids about sportsmanship and working together for a common goal. Rowello says that her niece has trouble making friends but was able to at camp. “She has a hard time maintaining friendships, but at that camp, she met a friend who she still loves and spends a lot of solid time with even a few years later.” She also adds, “My nephew just loved being outside and getting messy and playing with other little ones.”

**Leadership:** Since camps offer a lot of team activities such as sports it allows kids the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. They can also provide a leadership role to younger campers.

*Cheryl Maguire is a mom and freelance writer and has been published in the Washington Post, Parents magazine and many other publications.*



# Berry Special S'mores

**CLASSIC S'MORES** are taken to a whole new level by adding roasted strawberries. This is the perfect summertime treat! To make them an anytime treat, try oven-toasting the marshmallows!



## Oven-Roasted Strawberry S'mores

(Makes 8 S'mores)

### INGREDIENTS

1 lb. strawberries, hulled and quartered  
2-3 Tbsp honey  
½ vanilla bean, seeds removed or 1 tsp vanilla extract

8 large marshmallows  
4 (1.55 ounce each) milk chocolate bars, halved  
8 honey Graham cracker sheets, broken in half into 8 squares

### DIRECTIONS

#### Make The Roasted Strawberries

Preheat oven to 450°F and line a baking sheet with a silicone mat or parchment paper. Using a silicone mat helps you slide the berries off into the jar when done. In a large bowl, combine strawberries, honey, and vanilla bean seeds (or vanilla extract). Transfer strawberry mixture to the lined baking sheet.

Bake for 20-25 minutes, remove from oven, and allow berries to

cool to room temperature. Once cooled, transfer roasted berries to a glass jar

#### Assemble S'mores

Toast marshmallows until golden and gooey. Place a piece of chocolate onto the Graham cracker, top with gooey marshmallow, drizzle with roasted berries (at room temperature not chilled), and top with another Graham cracker.

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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9**

**10:00am - 2:00pm**

For Children 7-17 who have lost a loved one to take time to reflect on the loved ones they are missing and help begin the healing process.

**ARTS & CRAFTS**  
Music, Games, Light Lunch

**CAMP IS FREE!**  
Must RSVP to hold a spot!



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# WE LOVE IT!

By Lisa Keosouphanh

## Must-Have Baby Gear for New Parents

**WELCOMING A NEW BABY** is an exciting journey, and having the right essentials can make all the difference. Here's a roundup of top products to support parents in raising happy, healthy little ones:



### BabyBuddha Breast Pump

The BabyBuddha 2.0 Breast Pump offers new soft stimulation and classic "long pull" modes with 21 comfort settings. Compact and portable, it features advanced suction technology for efficient milk expression and enhanced ergonomic comfort. \$199.99, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



### BIBS Try-It Collection

The Try-It Collection 4-pack features four different shield styles, three nipple shapes, and two materials to experiment with, all in one convenient kit. When it comes to finding the right pacifier for your baby, there's no one-size-fits-all solution, which is why this discovery set allows for babies to experiment with different materials, shapes, and styles. \$27.95, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### Peg Perego Vivace Stroller

Light and compact with a reversible seat! Vivace's Stroller & seat provide style with ease of movement. The reversible seat takes the baby from birth to toddler. Top-quality wheels ensure easy steering on all terrain. \$699.99, [www.pegperego.com/en\\_us/baby/](http://www.pegperego.com/en_us/baby/)



### GoldBug 5-in-1 Multi Use Cover and Nursing Scarf

Soft, stylish, and versatile, our 5-in-1 nursing scarf offers breathable privacy and protection, transforming into a nursing cover, car seat canopy, shopping cart cover, or face covering. \$19.99, [www.target.com](http://www.target.com)



### Peg Perego Primo Viaggio All-in-One Car Seat

The Primo Viaggio All-in-One adapts from birth to 10+ years, with an adjustable 12-position headrest and harness for a perfect fit. Transitioning to a booster is seamless with a built-in harness storage compartment. \$499.99, [www.amazon.com/](http://www.amazon.com/)



### KeaBabies Original Wrap Carrier

Designed with stretchy yet sturdy fabric, this wrap evenly distributes your baby's weight to prevent back and shoulder strain. Its perfect elasticity ensures a secure, snug fit without frequent adjustments, and its one-size-fits-all design suits parents of all sizes. \$29.96, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



# Shopping Cart Chaos: Toddler Trials in Aisle 1

I took my toddler to Target one day. She started trying to climb out of the toddler seat of the cart within five minutes, and within six (yes, six minutes), she had squirmed out of the seatbelt and was falling, face first, toward the floor when I caught her with one hand.

Because she was determined to push the cart. Apparently at 16 months old, she was too grown up to ride in the child seat. Now that she could walk, she had all sorts of ideas about independence.

I soon found myself carrying all twenty-nine pounds of her, squirming under

one arm like a football while navigating the aisles and pushing my cart with the other, a cart weighed down with cat litter and dog food and light bulbs and huge packs of paper products.

At several points during this adventure—like the moment she managed to grab the lightbulbs and throw them on the floor where they broke and then a mother carrying a newborn in her arms slipped on the broken glass before I could find a worker to help with the mess, and then when I thought I'd found a worker, it turned out that he was just a shopper in a red shirt—during moments like that, I contemplated just walking out of the

store and leaving my cart by the cash registers. Still full of unpaid items. (Take that, you Criticizers of People Who Don't Return Their Carts in the Parking Lot.)

I kept telling myself, lots of people have toddlers, and they go shopping every day. This cannot possibly be as hard as I think it is.

Somehow, we made it through the check-out lane.

And then we had to navigate the parking lot. By this point, I was sweaty and tense and exhausted and ready for an iced coffee. And a nap.

I put my toddler in the car and buckled her in her car seat and put the bags in the trunk. Then I looked at her in her seat. She was still for the first time in an hour. And I looked at my shopping cart, parked between two cars. And I said to myself, "No, I am absolutely not returning that cart because I am not leaving my child in the car by herself, and I am definitely not taking her out again."

(And for those influencers whose toddlers sit in the cart—or even HELP load the groceries into the trunk—Good. For. You. But you have NO IDEA what the rest of us are coping with. Also the coping is not real. We are not coping. Just pretending to cope. While we watch the rest of you with your little helper angels.)

I flopped into the driver's seat and let myself have a good cry.

And then I glanced in the rearview mirror and saw my child, who was barely containable just moments ago, smiling, and calm and apparently happy. And I said (with a bit of sarcasm that was, admittedly, unnecessary), "What? Do you think we're going to the park now?"

And she smiled and squealed, "Yes!"

And that was the moment I realized that I am just not a natural when it comes to parenting.

In the end, three things happened:

We did go to the park that day.

I started shopping a lot more on Amazon and Instacart.

I did not return another shopping cart to the cart return area for many years.



# Honor Veterans and Active-Duty Members

MAY, RECOGNIZED AS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH, offers the perfect opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by military personnel. Here's how you can show your gratitude and respect in simple yet impactful ways:

1

## Contribute to the Community

Veterans often hold their communities close to heart. Create initiatives like dedicating parks or murals in their honor, or volunteer for local projects that improve shared spaces.

2

## Support Veteran-Focused Policies

Advocate for legislation and organizations that enhance veterans' rights, ensuring they have access to the essential services they deserve.

3

## Engage with and Share Veterans' Stories

Invite veterans to share their experiences at schools, workplaces, or community events. Their stories not only educate but also inspire a deeper connection to their contributions.

4

## Volunteer or Donate to Veteran Organizations

Partner with nonprofits dedicated to veterans or volunteer your time at VA hospitals. Simple acts of service, like running recreational programs or visiting patients, can make a big difference.

5

## Showcase National Pride

Pay tribute by flying the national flag, attending memorial events, or participating in efforts to maintain the cleanliness of veterans' cemeteries — especially during Memorial Day.

## Military Appreciation Month Stats

### Veteran Population:

There are approximately 19 million veterans in the United States, representing about 7% of the population.

**Military Families:** Over 2.6 million military family members are directly impacted by service-related challenges.

**Employment:** Around 200,000 service members transition to civilian life each year, highlighting the importance of support programs.

### Volunteer Impact:

Organizations like the Red Cross have assisted over 15,000 military families during Military Appreciation Month in recent years.

### Community Engagement:

Many states host events such as parades, memorial services, and education programs to honor service members.





## BBQ Chicken Drumsticks with Strawberry-Chipotle Sauce

A SWEET AND SPICY barbecue sauce made with juicy California strawberries, smoky chipotle chiles, and a touch of honey is the perfect sauce for slathering on tender grilled chicken drumsticks. The best part? It only takes about 15 minutes of prep and you're ready to grill!



### BBQ Chicken Drumsticks

#### INGREDIENTS

1 pound ripe California strawberries, stemmed  
3 chipotle chile peppers in adobo  
2 cloves garlic  
1 tbsp apple cider vinegar  
1 tbsp honey

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat a gas or charcoal grill over medium heat. Clean grill grates and brush with oil right before you put the chicken on.

**Make the sauce.** Combine strawberries, chipotles, garlic, vinegar, honey, and salt in a blender. Blend until smooth. Taste and add more salt if needed. Pour 1 cup of sauce in a liquid measuring cup and reserve the rest for serving.

**Prep the chicken.** Meanwhile, generously season chicken with salt and pepper on all sides.

**Grill the chicken.** Once the grill is ready, grill the chicken with the lid on for 15-20 minutes, turning every 5 minutes or so to make sure it is not burning. If a piece of

1 tsp kosher salt plus more for seasoning

10-12 chicken drumsticks or about 4 pounds

Ground black pepper for seasoning

chicken starts to burn, move to a cooler part of the grill.

After 15 minutes (or when chicken meat starts pulling away from the bone), generously brush one side of the chicken with the measured amount of barbecue sauce. Cover and cook for another 5 minutes. Turn and generously brush the other side of the chicken with barbecue sauce. Cook, covered, for another 5 minutes. You should use almost all of the 1 cup of sauce. Discard any leftover sauce that you've been using to brush the chicken with.

Once chicken is cooked all the way through, remove from the grill and serve with reserved barbecue sauce.

— Recipe by Hola Jalapeño.

<https://www.californiastrawberries.com/bbq-chicken-drumsticks-with-strawberry-chipotle-sauce/>

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- Kern EITC**
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Annual Thousand Flags Fun Run & 1 Mile Memorial Walk steps off on May 25 at The Park at River Walk.

## MAY 2

### First Friday ArtWalk Under the Stars

Experience the ArtWalk—a free community event and vibrant celebration of creativity featuring artists, artisans, and vendors. Enjoy hands-on activities like jewelry making and storytelling at this dynamic, interactive event!

**5 – 9 p.m.**

Arts Council of Kern  
1020 18th St. Corner of 18th and N streets  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-324-9000  
<https://kernarts.org/artwalk/>

### Viva El Arte: First Friday Market

Free event for the whole family. A vibrant celebration of Mexican art, featuring stunning works by students and artists of all ages.

**6 – 9 p.m.**

Shafter Green Motel  
530 James Street  
Shafter, CA  
661-746-5000  
<https://www.instagram.com/cityofshafter/>

### Get LIT

Event includes live music with Soda crackers, tacos, margaritas, beer, and FUN! Get your tickets today!

**6:30 – 9 p.m.**

Kern County Museum  
in the Mission Bank Neon Courtyard  
3801 Chester Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-437-3330  
<https://www.instagram.com/kerncountymuseum/>

## MAY 3

### Shafter Cinco De Mayo Celebration

The Shafter Chamber of Commerce Cinco de Mayo Committee invites the community to come out and enjoy the Cinco de Mayo festivities including a parade, dancing by Ballet Folklorico Huaztecalli, music, food, kid corner, and more!

**10 a.m.**

Mannell park  
364 Mannell Avenue  
Shafter, CA  
661-746-5000  
<https://shaftercincodemayo.org/>



First Friday ArtWalk Under the Stars is May 2 at the Arts Council of Kern.

### AANHPI Culture & Arts Festival

Kern Asian Chamber of Commerce presents the first annual AANHPI Culture & Arts Festival! Enjoy live entertainment, merchants, delicious food vendors, kids

crafts and activities, and the vibrant culture of the AANHPI community.

**1 - 5 p.m.**

CSUB Student Recreation Center  
9001 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA  
661- 427-8454  
<https://kernasianchamber.com/>



# THE BEST LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

## 12th Annual CASA of Kern Derby Party

Enjoy an evening of exquisite dining, lively dancing, big hats, horses, and exclusive auction opportunities—all in support of CASA's mission to advocate for children in foster care. Mark your calendars and be part of the tradition!

**9 a.m.**

Gardiner Ranch  
5599 Eucalyptus Drive  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-631-2272  
<https://kerncasa.org/derby-party/>

## 3rd Annual Give BIG Kern Nonprofit Meet & Greet

Kick off Kern County's Giving Day (May 6) at this free, family-friendly event! Connect with over 60 local nonprofits, find a cause to support, and enter to win exciting giveaways—including a big-screen TV. Join us and Give Big at the Park!

**8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

The Park at River Walk  
11298 Stockdale Hwy.  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-325-5346  
<http://www.givebigkern.org/>

## MAY 5



## MAY 6

### Give BIG Kern Giving Day!

## MAY 10

### Second Saturday Flea Market

Second Saturday vintage flea market! Vintage goods, antiques, rare collectibles, live music, and so much more!



## MILITARY & VETERAN APPRECIATION HAPPENINGS

*"As we express our gratitude, we must not forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy*

### MAY 25

#### Annual Thousand Flags Fun Run & 1 Mile Memorial Walk

Family-friendly 5k run and walk! The awe-inspiring event showcases over 1,000 American flags on display to honor those we have lost. The 5k course winds its way through the scenic flag adorned park and down the multi-use trail adjacent to the park and is suitable for both runners and walkers.

**6:30 – 10 a.m.**

The Park at River Walk,  
West Pond  
11200 Stockdale Hwy  
Bakersfield, CA  
<https://bbrc.org/>

### MAY 26

#### Memorial Day Ceremony

A ceremony to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

**11 a.m.**

Philip Marx Central Park  
Mojave and "E" Street  
Tehachapi, CA  
(661) 822-3228  
<https://www.tvrpd.org/memorial-day-ceremony>

### MAY 26

#### Camp Hamilton Memorial Day Celebration

To honor and celebrate those who gave all. Food, raffles, vendors, ceremony, and more.

**2 p.m.**

Camp Hamilton Memorial Park  
34999 Lerdo Hwy.  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-573-8733  
<https://camphamilton.org/>



## ONGOING HAPPENINGS

### WEDNESDAYS

#### Veterans Breakfast at Zingo's Café

Veterans can enjoy breakfast, free coffee, and comradery. All branches welcome. ALL Veteran's, Active Duty, and Reservists are welcome to attend. Representatives from Honor Flight Kern County are in attendance who can get you signed up for Honor Flight Trips.

**8 a.m.**

Zingo's Cafe  
3201 Buck Owens Blvd.  
Bakersfield, CA  
<https://www.facebook.com/ZingosCafe/>

### 1ST THURSDAY

#### Bakersfield's Veteran Breakfast at Elks Lodge

Seating is available for 240 Honor Flight (HF) veterans. Veteran meals are FREE, all other plates \$10. Veterans, please wear your BLUE HF shirt and name badges. Tables are limited for Senior Living buses, please PM us your RSVP!

**9 a.m.**

Bakersfield Elks Lodge #266  
1616 30th St. (at H St.)  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-527-3838

<https://www.honorflightkerncounty.org/upcoming-events/>

### 2ND THURSDAY

#### Honor Flight Kern County Lake Isabella Breakfast

Please wear your Honor Flight shirt & name badge for all events! For more information, contact Gary Zuber (760) 379-2109.

**8 - 10 a.m.**

VFW Hall  
2811 Nugget Ave.  
Lake Isabella, CA  
[honorflightkerncounty.org](http://honorflightkerncounty.org)

### 3RD THURSDAY

#### Honor Flight Kern County Ridgecrest Breakfast

Please wear your Honor Flight shirt & name badge to all events! For more information, contact John Abbott at (619) 808-222.

**8 - 10 a.m.**

Historic USO Building  
230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, CA  
[honorflightkerncounty.org](http://honorflightkerncounty.org)

### 4TH SATURDAY

#### Honor Flight Kern County Tehachapi Breakfast

Last Saturday of the month. Veterans FREE, guest \$5. For more information call Rick Zanutto (661) 331-7560. Please wear your Honor Flight shirt & name badge to all events!

**9 a.m.**

Christian Life AOG  
920 W. Valley Blvd.  
Tehachapi, CA  
[honorflightkerncounty.org](http://honorflightkerncounty.org)



**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

In Your Wildest Dreams  
Consignment & Antiques  
2819 F Street  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-324-6484

<https://www.instagram.com/wildestdreamsconsignment/>

## Annual Pickleball Palooza

Get ready for an exciting day of competition, fun, and fund-raising—all for a great cause!

**6:30 a.m.**

Stockdale Country Club  
7011 Stockdale Hwy.  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-410-1010  
<https://pickleballtournaments.com/tournaments/pickleball-palooza-2025>

## Girls Girl Street Fair

Grab your girlies and get together for a day of food, girl vendors, spinning wheel, music and more!

**11 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Jerry's Pizza & Pub  
1817 Chester Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-633-1000  
<https://www.instagram.com/jerrypizzapub/>

## 4th Annual Mother's Day Brunch

Guests are encouraged to dress up and come ready for a day filled with good food and great company. Let's celebrate all the special moms out there with a day of food, festivities and fantastic raffle prizes. Get your tickets today!

**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Outlets at Tejon  
5701 Outlets at Tejon Pkwy.  
Tejon Ranch, CA  
661- 858-2155

<https://www.tejonoutlets.com/events-promotions/mother-s-day-brunch>

**MAY 11**

Happy  
**MOTHER'S DAY!**

## Tea with the Tortoises Fundraiser

Celebrate Mother's Day in style at CALM Zoo! Enjoy a charming High Tea experience with our beloved tortoises. Dress to impress, but keep the outdoor setting in mind. Spots are limited—secure your tickets now for a truly unforgettable day!

**10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

CALM  
10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy.  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-546-8940  
<https://calmzoo.org/>

**MAY 17**

## Armed Forces Day

### Luke Bryan Farm Tour 2025

Rain or shine the show will go on! Get your tickets today!

**Parking Begins: 2 p.m.**

**Entry Begins: 5 p.m.**

**Show Starts at: 6 p.m.**

Sillect Farms  
19239 Poplar Avenue  
Shafter, CA  
<https://www.lukebryan.com/farm-tour-2025>

## 2025 East Bakersfield Festival

The East Bakersfield Festival



**3rd Annual Give BIG Kern Nonprofit Meet & Greet is May 3 at The Park at River Walk.**

unites the community with food, music, dancing, and fun! This free, family-friendly event features live performances, a public art exhibition, and a strong focus on health and wellness. Don't miss out!

**11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Jefferson Park  
801 Bernard Street  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-808-4929  
<https://childrenfirstbakersfield.org/events/east-bakersfield-festival/>

## Taft Chamber of Commerce Car Show

Gear up for a thrilling, high-octane celebration of speed, style, and innovation! Whether you're a die-hard car enthusiast, a casual admirer, or just looking for a fun day out with family, this car show

promises an unforgettable experience for everyone.

**7 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Taft District Chamber of Commerce  
400 Kern Street  
Taft, CA  
661-765-2165  
<https://www.taftchamber.com/upcomingevents>

**MAY 24 - 26**

## KRVAA Memorial Day Arts & Crafts Festival

Kern River Valley Art Association is hosting a three day handmade arts and craft festival to celebrate Memorial Day!

**Sat.-Sun.: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Mon.: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

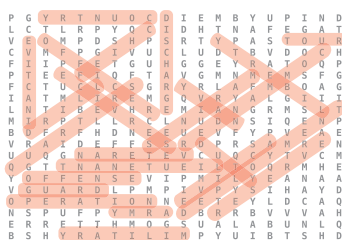
Circle Park  
Kernville, CA  
760- 478-0077  
krvaa.org

## ACTIVITY CORNER ANSWERS

ACTIVITY CORNER: PAGES 30-31

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

Across  
1. Backyard  
4. Beach  
5. Tide  
6. Camp  
8. Enjoys  
Down  
1. Barbecue  
2. Yacht  
3. Dinner  
7. NY



WORD SEARCH SPONSORED BY:



## MAY 25

### 25th Annual Latino Food Festival Menudo & Pozole Cook-Off

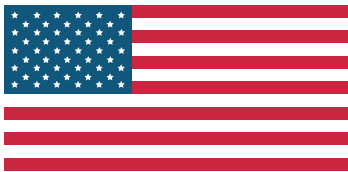
Enjoy food, music, beverages, live performances, fun activities, vendors, wellness resources, and more!

**11 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

Kern County Fairgrounds  
1142 S. P Street  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-633-5495  
<https://www.instagram.com/kchcc85/>

## MAY 26

**HAPPY**



## MEMORIAL DAY

**Remember and honor**

## MAY 31

### 2025 Walk for Kids

The Walk for Kids™ event brings the community together to support children and families who rely on the care and services of the Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House. Each step of this family-friendly 5K represents our community's commitment to keeping families close to the life-saving medical care their children need.

**Check-in Begins: 7:30 a.m.**

**Kick-Off: 9 a.m.**

Kern County Museum  
3801 Chester Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA  
661-437-4130  
<https://walkforkids.org/bakersfield/>



## ONGOING HAPPENINGS

### SATURDAYS

#### F Street

#### Farmers Market

Bakersfield's longest-running Farmers Market! Accepts cash, card & EBT Snap.

**7:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

2819 F Street  
Bakersfield, CA

### SATURDAYS

#### RiverLakes

#### Farmers Market

Farm to Table, fresh produce! Our certified farmers bring you the freshest fruits and vegetables every Saturday.

**9 a.m. - 1p.m.**

Centennial High School  
8601 Hageman Drive  
Bakersfield, CA

### SUNDAYS

#### Haggin Oaks

#### Farmers Market

Sundays are for the Farmers Market! Visit over 70 different vendors at the biggest Farmers Market in town.

**9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

8800 Ming Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA

# Worship Guide

SPONSORED BY:

**88.3 Life FM**  
KAXL

## The Ripple Effect of Kindness

**G**enerosity is a core theme throughout the Bible, reflecting God's heart and His call for us to care for others. This month, challenge yourself to live out Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over..." True generosity isn't just about money, it's about time, kindness, and attention. Jesus gave freely, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and offering hope to the broken. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, we're reminded, "God loves a cheerful giver." That simply means our giving should come from joy, not guilt or pressure.

In May, pick three intentional ways to be generous. Maybe it's covering someone's lunch, helping a neighbor, or spending quality time with someone who's lonely. Write down how it felt, what you learned, and how God might be stretching your heart.

As Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Your acts of generosity, no matter how small, can ripple out and change lives—including your own.

Are you ready for the challenge? Step out in faith, give with love, and watch how God multiplies what you offer!

By Jon Engen, 88.3 Morning Show Host



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**Bakersfield CA 93311**

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[www.autism-vac.org](http://www.autism-vac.org)

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4903 Calloway Drive, Ste. #101

Phone:  
**661-213-3310**

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

**KERN AUTISM NETWORK, INC.**

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

**Happy Mother's Day**  
to our Autism Mommy's!

**Female Support Group is Saturday, May 3rd.**  
Contact our office for further details.  
**Chess Club for Teens Sunday, May 4th, 3 p.m.**  
@2200 Oak Street. Register: [www.kernautism.org](http://www.kernautism.org)

**Adults on the Spectrum Support Group is Saturday, May 10th.**  
Contact our office for further details.

**Parent Support Group Meeting Wednesday, May 14th, 6 p.m.**  
@2200 Oak Street. Register: [www.kernautism.org](http://www.kernautism.org)

**Father's Virtual Support Group: Saturday, May 17th at 3 p.m.**  
register via [www.kernautism.org](http://www.kernautism.org).

**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](http://kernautism.org) • [kernautism@gmail.com](mailto:kernautism@gmail.com)  
2200 Oak Street, Annex Building

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MON - THURSDAY  
10 DAY BLITZ || \$215  
MON - FRIDAY

NB \*BLITZ ALSO OFFERED AT CAU  
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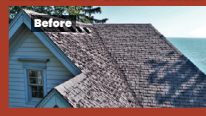
## Hats off to our Amazing 2025 Kern County Graduates!

### Kern County Graduation Guide: Class of 2025

Scan the QR code to find the full list of local graduation ceremonies and celebrate with us!



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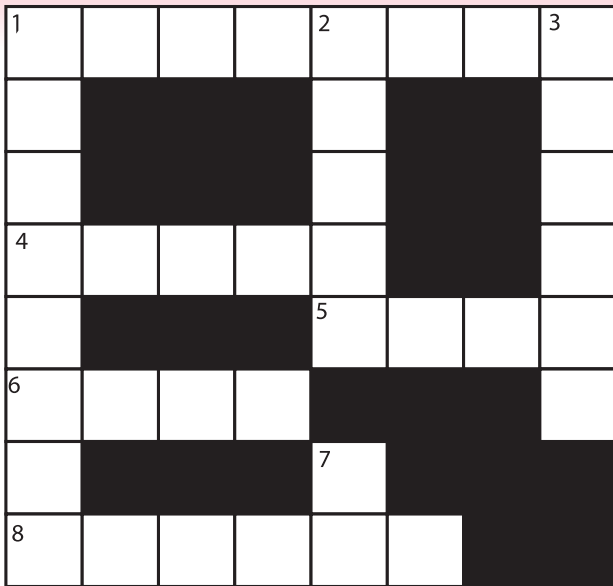
661-665-8228 • 5381 Truxtun Ave. (1 block East of Mohawk St.)

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



# MAY ACTIVITY CORNER

## Crossword



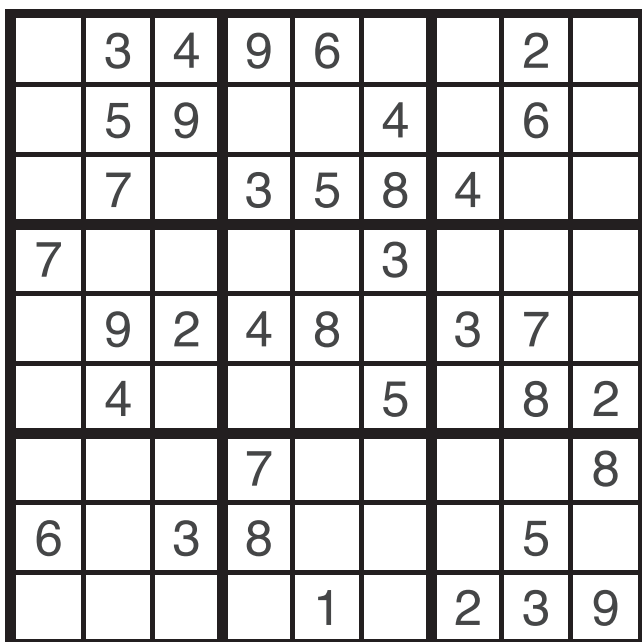
### ACROSS

1. Rear of a home
4. Sandy area
5. Rising and falling of the sea
6. Place to pitch a tent
8. Has a good time

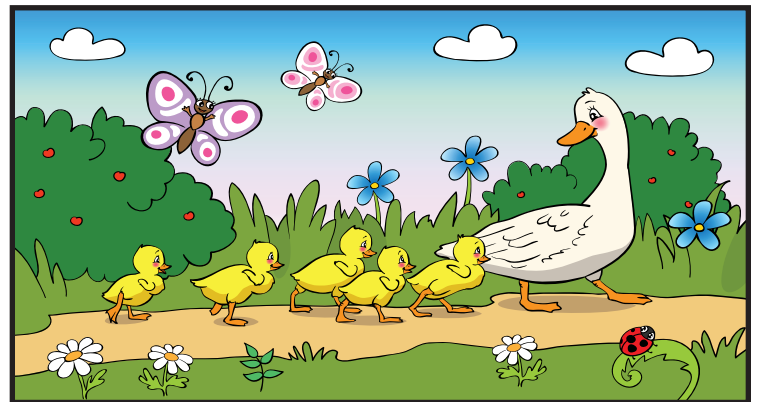
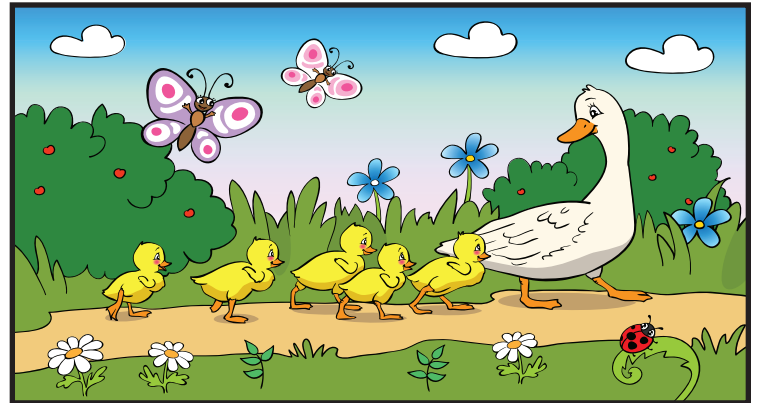
### DOWN

1. Style of slow-cooked food
2. Luxury ship
3. Evening meal
7. The Empire State (abbr.)

## Sudoku



There are 10 differences in the pictures below. Can you find them all?



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Growing Like Weeds

According to the 2022 study by Frontiers in Physiology, the growth rate of children increases in Spring and early summer. One theory is that greater time spent in sunlight and longer daylight hours may stimulate growth hormones.



# MAY ACTIVITY CORNER

PUZZLE  
ANSWERS  
PAGE 26

## MILITARY WORD SEARCH

PRESENTED BY PACIFIC AG RENTALS

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

ACTIVE

ARMY

CHIEF

COMMANDER

COUNTRY

DEPLOYMENT

DISCHARGE

DRILL

DUTY

GUARD

INACTIVE

LIBERTY

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