

Since 1993



The Bowfin Inquirer



December 2024

“Deep” Thoughts

by Jerry Lerman (344)

That unusual and scary tsunami warning we all received on December 5th was a blessing, only partly because it didn't turn out to be a devastating event. That off-shore 7.0 earthquake and the warning did cause real **alarm** but hardly any damage.

Unlike our Bay Area, significant parts of the world don't even have the potential to receive warnings. The destruction caused by the tsunami of 2004 was exacerbated by the absence of a tracking system in the Indian Ocean. There began development of a warning system for that region shortly after the tragedy, and it has saved lives since becoming operational.

We know that warnings which turn out to be 'duds' can have the effect of 'crying wolf' – gradually lulling recipients into complacency, conditioning them to ignore them. But there is a point to having a warning system, even if it is unable to be perfectly accurate.

One effect of the sudden call to 'immediately evacuate to higher ground' was to remind me how being familiar with our neighbors can be indispensable. I quickly visited a next-door neighbor whose children were in school that day, and I asked him if the schools had reached him regarding actions they were taking. Learning from him that the schools weren't emptying out provided me the sense of safety I needed to comfortably remain at home.

While I don't know whether the next warning
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Aaron's Question Column



Two pictures of ski resorts in Utah

Question: Can you compare skiing in California to Utah? What are the best/(worst?) features of each state's resorts?
-Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): This sounds like a great question, given the season! Both Utah and California have advantages to their ski resorts and other snowy outdoor activities. Let's get into it.

Skiing in California offers a great mix of sunny weather and varied terrain, with popular resorts including Mammoth Mountain, Lake Tahoe's Heavenly, and Squaw Valley. Sometimes the snow can
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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

MOST "BLUE LAVA" PLAYERS

(note: Blue Lava anagrams into VALUABLE)

Justin Verlander
Miguel Cabrera
Buster Posey
Clayton Kershaw
Bryce Harper
Mookie Betts
Freddie Freeman
Shohei Ohtani
Paul Goldschmidt
Aaron Judge

This Month's Quiz

Corral the Carols

Can you match these lyric lines/snippets to the Christmas Carols from which they come? (Some come from 2nd or 3rd verses.)

Lyrics

- 1 Afforded me the greatest glee
- 2 And every mother's child is gonna spy
- 3 And I brought some corn for popping
- 4 And to follow the star wherever it went
- 5 As they shouted out with glee
- 6 Blink a bright red and green
- 7 Down to the village, with a broomstick in his hand
- 8 Glories stream from heaven afar
- 9 He knows when you're awake
- 10 Long lay the world in sin and error pining
- 11 May your days be merry and bright
- 12 We all know that Santa's coming

Song Title

- a Frosty the Snowman
- b Let It Snow
- c O Christmas Tree
- d O Holy Night
- e Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- f Santa Claus is Coming to Town
- g Silent Night
- h Silver Bells
- i The Christmas Song
- j The First Noel
- k We Wish You a Merry Christmas
- l White Christmas

"Deep" Thoughts continued

will be real and necessary, knowing that prognostication systems will only improve over time has led me to think about what evacuation plans Eve and I should have at the ready. Should we have to 'head to the hills,' which ones exactly? What's our evacuation route? *The CHP closed westbound Highway 92 west of I 280, and eastbound 92 was heavily backed up.*

Earthquakes and tsunamis happen all around us. Just a week or so ago, December 17th, the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu suffered a 7.3 earthquake, with deaths and injuries resulting from it. No tsunami arose, but warnings were issued.

It's simply a matter of time before one of these Bay Area warnings will pan out and it'll be very important that we heed it.

BO - by Lerman



A Rebus (from the Internet)



Hint: Dream vacation

Aaron's Answers *continued*

be inconsistent, and it may be wet or slushy in some areas, but Mammoth usually has a long season and more reliable snow. These ski resorts welcome all categories of skiers, from the beginner to the expert, and the sunny days make a big factor for tourists since you can stay somewhat warm while enjoying the winter months. The other huge advantage California offers is the rest of its destinations. A lot of skiers come to California for skiing because they also get beaches, wineries, parks, and many more at the same destination, even during winter. Skiing is often just a part of a vacation plan. Utah doesn't have much in the way of beaches, a few wineries or the California-type weather. What Utah doesn't offer in coastal attractions, though, it compensates for in world-class skiing conditions. Utah is famous for the "Greatest Snow on Earth," and its constantly dry, powdery snow is just right for skiing and snowboarding. Major resorts like Park City, Deer Valley, and Snowbird boast exceptional terrain with plenty of options for every level of skill, but again, the real draw will be the snow quality—the quality that remains throughout the year. The ski resorts in Utah are also less crowded than some of the more popular spots in California, simply because there are so many more spots that offer skiing. This, in itself, allows for a much more relaxed experience. Unlike California, most places in Utah have mountains, and most of those mountains get snowed on during the winter, so pretty much everywhere is good skiing weather. In the end, California and Utah have their various appeals depending on what you are looking for. California might be better for ski vacations since you get to enjoy skiing with other attractions like beaches, wineries, and parks in a sunny climate. Utah, on the other hand, is all about skiing itself: with consistently dry powder and world-class resorts, it provides a more focused, reliable skiing experience. If you're after the perfect ski trip, Utah's got you covered with exceptional snow conditions and fewer

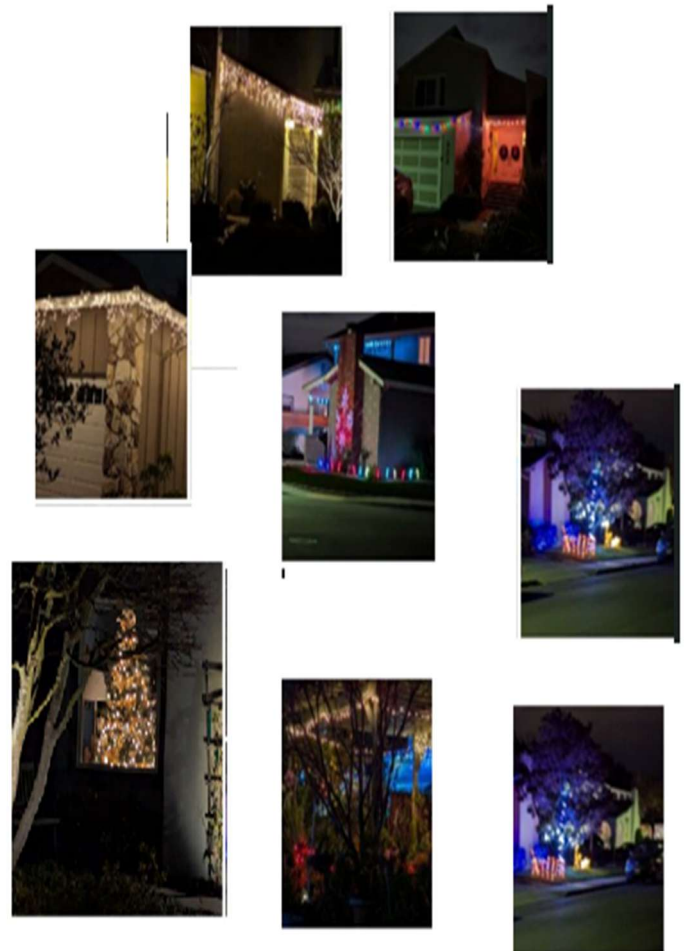
crowds. But if you're looking for a more well-rounded vacation, California might be the place to be!

Target Date for Next Month's Contributions:

January 15, 2025

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM *or by adding a NOTE on our Facebook Page or our website: BOWFININQUIRER.COM*



Some Christmas Scenes on Bowfin Street