

Since 1993



The Bowfin Inquirer



January 2025

A “Bee” Student

by Jerry Lerman (344)

In early January, Eve and I had the pleasure and privilege of joining our Bowfin neighbors to watch their son compete in their school’s spelling bee. I’d never visited the Kids Connection school in Foster City – not once in our 39 years of living here – so part of what got my attention was just how well organized and suited to education the building looked. (I think the last time I had been near the site it was a restaurant and Port O’Call was still standing!)

For several weeks, our neighbor’s son, Ronav, had been studying word lists for the Bee, as had all his schoolmates. It warmed our hearts to see such dedication to learning blooming among Foster City’s children.

The twenty who participated in the competition had to spell words of varying lengths and difficulties – and almost all of them did several correctly before running into the judge’s bell’s DING, signaling an error – and elimination.

After each correctly spelled word, it was particularly charming that the kids offered congratulatory high-fives to the contestant. That camaraderie among competitors really enjoying the moment was truly something to behold!

After more than twenty rounds, and only five students remaining standing, Ronav missed his word ANOMALY (his spelling was anomOly), and he can feel proud of his **5th place** finish in a tough competition!

Aaron’s Question Column



Two pictures from Los Angeles... no explanation is needed

Question(s): What actions do governmental agencies (such as fire departments, land management commissions, etc.) take to reduce the risk of wildfires? -- Eve

Aaron’s Answer (A’sA): While I usually enjoy lighter topics, the recent events in Los Angeles have made me think it’s important to research and address this question. Various governmental agencies have generally agreed on three primary solutions to wildfires:

1. Eliminating fire-starters
2. Removing potential fuel (and other actions before the fire)
3. Mitigating the fire after it has started

For eliminating fire-starters, agencies enforce specific measures to regulate activities that can spark fires, like campfires, fireworks, equipment etc. Those agencies educate people on how to safely handle fires, both during proper use and after they

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Corral the Carols

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1 Afforded me the greatest glee | c O Christmas Tree |
| 2 And every mother's child is gonna spy | i The Christmas Song |
| 3 And I brought some corn for popping | b Let It Snow |
| 4 And to follow the star wherever it went | j The First Noel |
| 5 As they shouted out with glee | e Rudolph the Red-No |
| 6 Blink a bright red and green | h Silver Bells |
| 7 Down to the village, with a broomstick in his hand | a Frosty the Snowman |
| 8 Glories stream from heaven afar | g Silent Night |
| 9 He knows when you're awake | f Santa Claus is Com |
| 10 Long lay the world in sin and error pining | d O Holy Night |
| 11 May your days be merry and bright | i White Christmas |
| 12 We all know that Santa's coming | k We Wish You a Meri |

This Month's Quiz

Catch (Phrases) Catch-All

Here are some phrases/lyrics/oaths frequently uttered by characters on TV shows of the past. Can you match each to the corresponding show or character? If you're quite a bit younger than I am Internet searches should come in handy!

Phrases

1. Dadgummit
2. D'oh!
3. Dy-no-mite!
4. Great Caesar's Ghost!
5. Here come da judge
6. Here I come to save the day
7. Plunk your magic twanger.
8. smarter than the average ...
9. Would you believe ...
10. Yabba-Dabba-Doo

Show/Character

- A. Agent 86 (Get Smart)
- B. Andy Devine
- C. Fred Flintstone
- D. Gabby Hayes
- E. Homer Simpson
- F. J.J.Evans (Good Times)
- G. Laugh-In
- H. Mighty Mouse
- I. Perry White (Superman)
- J. Yogi Bear

Aaron's Answers continued from pg 1

get out of control (basically, how to handle minor accidents), and host public outreach campaigns to remind people about those safe practices. Examples include extinguishing campfires fully, and disposing of cigarettes safely. Additionally, they work to mitigate risks posed by electrical infrastructure by collaborating with utility companies (such as PG&E) on maintenance and safety improvements.

Those same agencies also try to reduce the potential danger from any fire-starters they may miss. Through measures like controlled burns and mechanical thinning to get rid of dry wood and other fuels, and firebreaks to reduce the spread of fires, they attempt to limit the hazards of future fires. Agencies also work on community education programs, such as Firewise initiatives, to encourage defensible space around properties. Developing and updating emergency response plans, conducting drills, and ensuring firefighting resources and personnel are ready also fall under their duties.

To combat wildfires once all other measures fail, agencies deploy coordinated firefighting efforts using specialized teams, equipment, and technology. Firefighters work to contain fires through techniques like creating firelines to halt the fire's advance and using backburns (mini, controlled fires) to eliminate fuel in the path of the uncontrolled fire. Aerial firefighting resources, such as helicopters and planes, drop water or fire retardants to suppress flames in hard-to-reach areas. Incident command centers coordinate these efforts, ensuring the safety of personnel and prioritizing protection of lives, property, and critical infrastructure.

After the fire is contained, those agencies shift focus to recovery, including assessing the fire's impact, stabilizing burned areas to prevent erosion, and supporting community rebuilding efforts. Long-term recovery plans
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frequently involve replanting forests and improving infrastructure resilience to reduce the risk of future fires.

No one, not even well-funded government agencies, can fully prepare for and destroy fires. However, through the above measures, they do their utmost to prevent the spread of and destruction from otherwise more devastating wildfires. As a final note, my heart goes out to those affected in LA, and I hope that everybody reading this stays safe!

When Life Gives You Lemons ...Make Biscotti!

by Eve and Jerry Lerman (344)

Bowfin neighbor, Kristi Parker, dropped by to share with us some lemons from their overabundant tree. They came in handy for this delicious recipe from the September, 1996, issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*!

Lemon-Poppy Seed Biscotti

Along with coffee goes biscotti, the low-fat, twice-baked Italian cookie that is traditionally dunked into a steaming cup. It's another newcomer to our red plaid cookbook.

Prep: 30 minutes Bake: 36 minutes

Cool: 1 hour

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter or margarine
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar
4 tsp. finely shredded lemon peel
1 Tbsp. poppy seed
1 tsp. baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking soda
2 eggs
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour

In large mixing bowl beat butter or margarine with an electric mixer on medium to high speed about 30 seconds or till softened. Add sugar, shredded lemon peel, poppy seed,

baking powder, and baking soda; beat till combined. Add eggs; beat till combined. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with the electric mixer. Using a wooden spoon, stir in any remaining flour.

Divide dough in half. Shape into two 9x1½-inch rolls. Place rolls on an ungreased cookie sheet, flattening each slightly. Bake in a 375° oven about 20 minutes or till a wooden toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool on cookie sheet on a wire rack for 1 hour.

Cut each roll crosswise into ½-inch-thick slices. Arrange the slices flat about 4 inches apart on the cooled cookie sheet (see photograph, left). Bake in a 325° oven for 8 minutes; turn slices and bake about 8 minutes more or till surfaces are crisp and light brown. Remove biscotti from cookie sheet; cool on a wire rack. Makes about 36 biscotti.

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Answer to last month's Rebus:
"Trip Around the World"

Target Date for Next Month's Contributions:

February 14, 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
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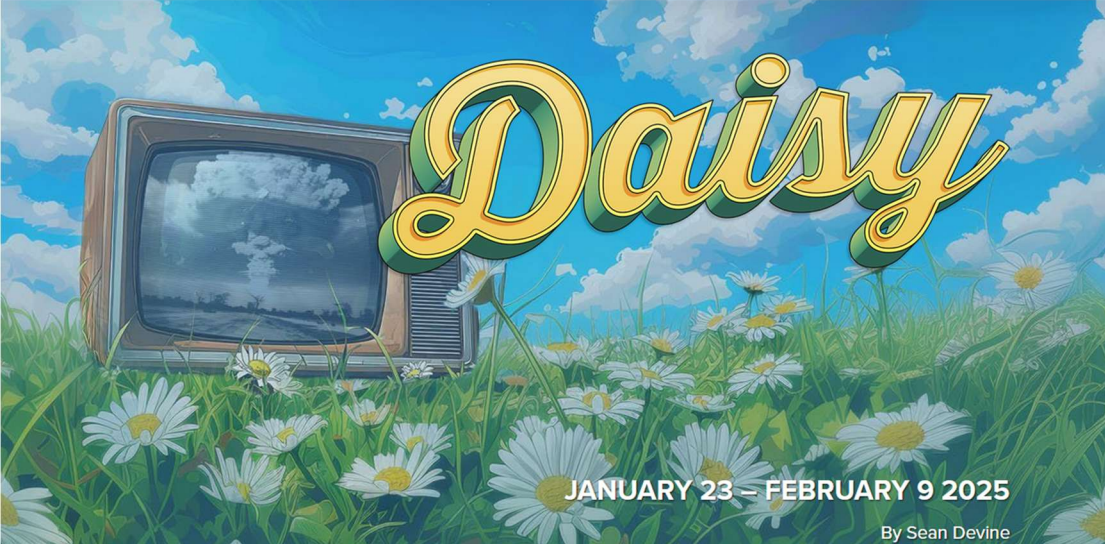
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By Sean Devine