



May-June 2025

## SPRING THINGS RESULTS

We are happy to announce that two of our block's children entered the contest we announced in the March issue. Pictured below are their very well-done, artistic entries -

a clay sculpture of a bird and her nest - by Meera K., a 1st grader,

and

a hand-drawn bird with origami roses and a long-stem origami rose - by Ronav K., a 5th grader.

Our judges awarded the 1st prize (\$50) to Meera and 2nd prize (\$30) to Ronav.

Meera and Ronav: Many thanks for participating in this Bowfin Inquirer contest!



*Meera's 1st Prize Winning Clay Sculpture*

## Aaron's Question Column



**Questions:** What is the history of the product ice cream, and how did it become an American staple? - Peyton

**Aaron's Answer (A'sA):** Ice cream's origins trace back thousands of years, long before freezers or supermarkets. Ancient Chinese and Persian civilizations enjoyed early versions made with snow, ice and sweeteners like honey or fruit pulp. These cold treats were labor-intensive and reserved for the elite. A more recognizable form of ice cream started to emerge in 17th-century Europe, especially in Italy and France, where frozen cream desserts gained popularity among aristocrats.

The story of ice cream in America began in the colonial period, when recipes arrived from Europe detailing the production of ice cream and by the 18th century, figures like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were known fans. Jefferson even wrote down an ice cream recipe while serving as ambassador to France. Still, ice cream

*continued on page 3*

### Solution to Last Month's Quiz

## A CROSSWORD FOR APRIL

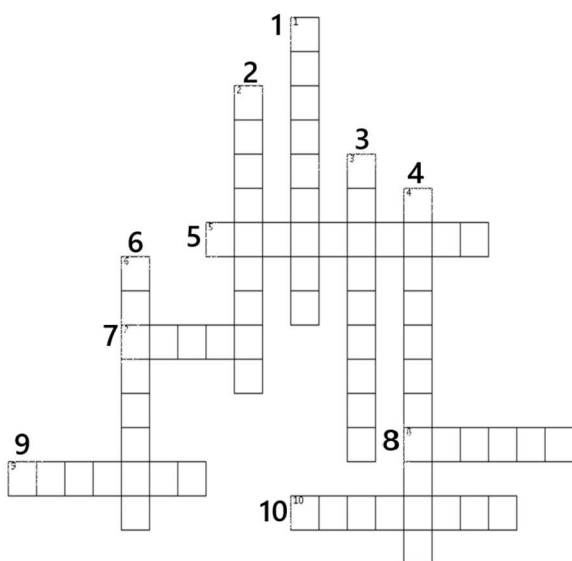
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### This Month's Quiz

## A CROSSWORD FOR MAY

*by Guest Editor, Peyton Jensen*

As summer is just around the corner, I thought it would be fun to do a crossword about the top summer destinations to travel to (according to the New York Times and National Geographic Magazine). This is one of the first crossword puzzles I have made, so I hope you enjoy it!



## Across

- Birthplace of opera in North America
- Called the city of bridges
- Aphrodite's Birthplace – According to mythology, the goddess Aphrodite was born from the sea foam near this place.
- Country with the world's oldest university, the University of Al-Qarawiyyin in Fes, founded in 859
- This is the safest city in the world!

## Down

- Home to Antoni Gaudí's masterpiece which has been under construction since 1882 and is (finally) nearing completion
- There are more bikes than people!
- Living laboratory for the theory of evolution
- Known as the "Lost City in the Clouds"
- Birthplace of the Renaissance

**\*Note some of the answers have two words in them with NO SPACES**

## ***Aaron's Answers*** continued from pg 1

remained a luxury, it was meticulously produced by hand, often using imported ice stored in insulated cellars, only available to the rich.

The turning point came in the 19th century. Industrialization and new technologies, such as mechanical refrigeration, dramatically changed the landscape. Jacob Fussell, a Baltimore milk dealer, is credited with creating the first large-scale ice cream factory in 1851. He used surplus cream and shipped ice cream by rail, making it widely accessible for the first time. That same century also brought the invention of the ice cream cone and the rise of soda fountains: social hubs where ice cream sodas and sundaes became wildly popular.

By the mid-20th century, ice cream had become embedded in American life. During World War II, the U.S. military made ice cream a symbol of comfort and patriotism, distributing it to troops to boost morale and, in some cases, to discourage alcohol consumption. The invention of the home freezer and post-war prosperity further drove mass production and consumption. Brands like Baskin-Robbins and Häagen-Dazs emerged and novelty treats from drumsticks to ice cream sandwiches flooded the market. Ice cream became tied to American identity: summer, freedom and indulgence in a delicious scoop. Today, the U.S. remains one of the largest ice cream consumers in the world. From artisanal shops to fast-food chains, ice cream is no longer a luxury, it's an everyday delight. What began as a dessert for emperors and nobles is now a symbol of joy found in nearly every American freezer.

Target Date for Next Month's Contributions:

**July 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](mailto:EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM) *or by*

*adding a NOTE on our website:*  
**[BOWFININQUIRER.COM](http://BOWFININQUIRER.COM)**

## **New Brunch Place!**

*by Peyton Jensen*

If you're seeking a brunch spot in Foster City that combines culinary creativity, a welcoming atmosphere, and a touch of local charm, look no further than Toast In Town. Toast In Town offers a brunch menu that's both inventive and comforting. Standout dishes include the Chicken Croffles, the Bacon Bliss Burger, and for those with a sweet tooth the Crème Brûlée French Toast is a must-try, delivering a rich and indulgent experience. Beverage options range from pain coffees to iced Ube Latte and Matcha Latte which can add a flavorful twist to your drink selection. The café is also family-friendly, offering high-chairs for little ones, making it an excellent choice for parents looking to enjoy a meal out. **Toast In Town is located at 1100 Foster Square Lane, Ste 145, San Mateo, CA 94404**, (behind the Starbucks near the PJCC) and is open **daily from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM.**

Whether you're in the mood for a leisurely brunch or a quick bite, this café offers a delightful dining experience that caters to all.

# Strings, Struggles, and Small Wins

by Peyton Jensen

I've never considered myself a musical person. That became painfully clear in 5th grade when we were required to learn an instrument. Having never practiced, I resorted to pressing random buttons on my trumpet, and hoping for the best. After that disaster, I didn't touch another instrument—until recently. For as long as I can remember, I've been drawn to the violin. There's something about its sound and emotional depth that has always resonated with me. On a whim—bored and craving a new challenge—I bought a beginner violin off eBay and decided to finally give it a try. At first, I was frustrated by how slow my progress felt. It wasn't until my tutor reminded me that learning a new skill as an adult can be more challenging that I started to be kinder to myself. As we age, our brains take longer to absorb new information, and that just means we need a little more patience and persistence.

Here are tips and tricks I have learned to help build new skills:

1. Break down the skill: You don't have to learn everything all at once. Focus on one small thing at a time.
2. Stick to a consistent schedule: For example, I practice for 30 minutes each day and have a one-hour lesson every Thursday.

Focus on effort, not talent: Improvement comes from consistent effort, not innate ability.

Engage in different ways: I've started listening to various composers to better understand the instrument's potential.

Be patient with yourself: Progress may be slow, but it will come. Set realistic goals and celebrate small wins.

I hope these help you not only learn a new skill but enjoy it as well!

## Foster City Fun!



Looking for a fun activity to do with your family? Foster City is hosting a screening of Moana 2; details are located on the flyer above!

Mark your calendars! Foster City has announced they are bringing back a fan favorite the Summer Days Festival. It will be held on **August 15-17, 2025**. The event takes place at **Leo J. Ryan Park** in Foster City. It features a carnival, live music, a car show, rubber ducky races, food trucks, and more!

Want a fun weeknight activity to do with your family? **Food truck Wednesdays** are still happening near the rec center. They offer a wide variety of food trucks.

# Fetch the Facts

*by Peyton Jensen*

I love taking walks—and luckily, being the owner of an overactive dog means I spend a lot of time outside with her. While I'm out, I've noticed that most people walking around my neighborhood also have dogs. That got me thinking about how common dog ownership really is, so I looked it up and was surprised to learn that 40% of households in the U.S. own a dog. Curious about dog breed preferences across the country, I dug a little deeper and discovered some interesting state-by-state trends:

**Labrador Retriever:** #1 in 35 states (IA, KS, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI, WY, KY, IN)

**French Bulldog:** 3 states (CA, FL, HI)

**Chihuahua:** 4 states (AL, AZ, IN, GA)

**Yorkshire Terrier:** 2 states (AR, CT)

**Golden Retriever:** 2 states (CO, DE)

**Shih Tzu:** 1 state (GA)

**Goldendoodle:** 1 state (ID)

**Beagle:** 1 state (KY)

**Catahoula Leopard Dog:** 1 state (LA)

I was surprised by the lack of variety, especially considering how many different breeds are out there. It's interesting to see how preferences vary from state to state. So now I'm curious—what's your favorite dog breed?

Dear Peyton,



You did a terrific job substituting for us.

Best of luck and much success to you at the Mayo Clinic this summer!

■ **Jerry and Eve Lerman**