



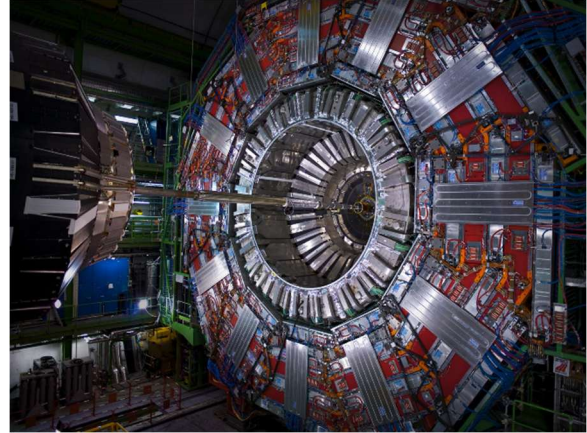
September 2026

Bowfin Street Pizza/Potluck Party



Late Saturday afternoon, September 19th, neighbors from *all* parts of Bowfin (both *districts*, even!) met to enjoy pizza, home-prepped potluck sides and desserts, and getting better acquainted. **More photos on pg. 2 and 4 and on the BI website.**

Aaron's Question Column



The CMS detector on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Photo: CERN

Questions: I just learned that the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is celebrating its birthday this month - Sept. 10, 2008 - and it was recently shut down. Can you bring us up to date on what the LHC is, where it's located, what has been accomplished with it, and what's its current status?

-Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): The Large Hadron Collider represents the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator, designed to smash subatomic particles together at nearly the speed of light. Officially inaugurated on September 10, 2008, the facility is housed inside a massive twenty-seven-kilometer circular tunnel located one hundred meters underground along the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva, Switzerland. Operated by the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, the machine utilizes thousands of superconducting electromagnets cooled to near absolute zero to steer and accelerate proton and heavy-ion beams into high-energy collisions.

continued on page 3

Solution to Last Month's Quiz

OO La La!

1. COOL WHI**P**
2. WOOL**I**TE
3. MOON**N** PIE
4. TOOTSIE ROL**L**
5. ROOMBA**A**
6. LOON**EY** TUNES
7. ZOOM**M**
8. HOOV**E**R
9. GOO**G**LE
10. **F**ACEBOOK

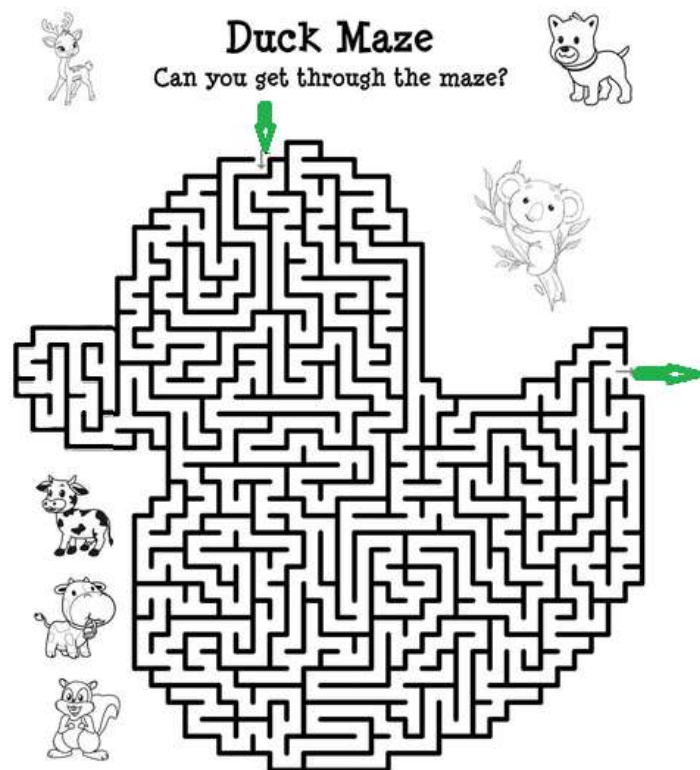
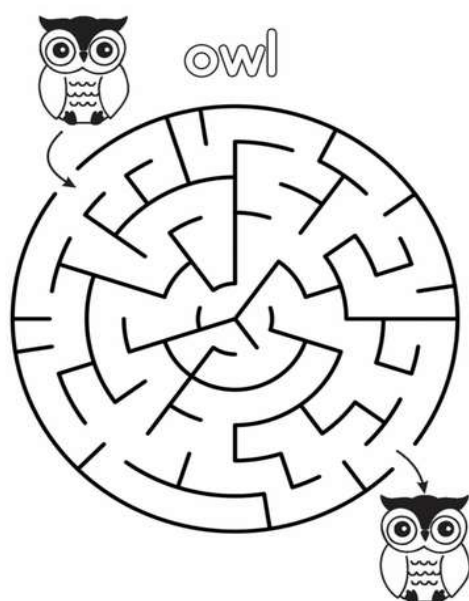
IAN FLEMING

(1 5 3) (10 4 8 7 2 6 9)

This Month's Quiz

A-MAZING PLAY

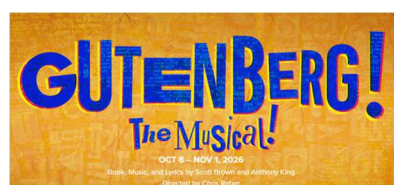
Here are a couple animal themed mazes for children (found by searching the Internet). If your child solves one or both of them, and you'd like to have the solution used in next month's issue, please email them our way or drop them by our house! Enjoy!



Gary and Dvora Colman at party

Coming Next to Hillbarn Theatre

Oct 8th – Nov 1st



Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1

Over nearly two decades of operation, the collider has enabled groundbreaking discoveries that profoundly expanded human knowledge of fundamental physics. Its most celebrated achievement occurred in 2012 with the discovery of the Higgs boson particle, the elementary particle responsible for granting mass to other fundamental particles, completing the standard model of particle physics. Beyond this monumental milestone, researchers have used data from the facility to discover over eighty-five new hadrons, investigate the profound imbalance between matter and antimatter in the universe and recreate quark-gluon plasma, a state of matter that existed moments after the Big Bang.

The facility recently concluded its final physics run of its current era and was powered down to enter Long Shutdown 3, a multi-year engineering overhaul designed to transform the machine into the High-Luminosity Large Hadron Collider. During this extensive maintenance period, engineers and technicians are dismantling over a kilometer of accelerator components and replacing ageing superconducting magnets with advanced hardware capable of generating stronger magnetic fields. This upgrade will drastically increase the collision rate of particle beams, allowing scientists to gather unprecedented volumes of data when the facility resumes operations toward the end of the decade.

Target Date for YOUR Contributions to the next BI:

October 23, 2026

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or questions for Aaron at

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

Applying Trig to SFO

by Walt Heinzer (Sailfish Isle)

I walk our little pooch Miss Misty midday every day. 🐕

I watch the airlines approaching SFO over Foster City.

They are usually deploying their landing gear at this point.

I'm wondering how high (altitude) they are flying in their designated flight path.

I'm thinking they are at 10,000 feet, a number I think I remember from watching the on-board flight map as we travel back into SFO.

I wonder if I can measure their altitude without the need of surveyor tools.

So, dragging out high school trigonometry, I need a side and an angle to determine the other side.

I go to Google Maps and measure the distance from our house (my vantage point) to Beach Park Blvd in the same direction that I see the planes flying over our street Sailfish Isle. Right click mouse, choose distance measure. When I'm on Beach Park Blvd the planes are directly overhead flying in direction of SFO.

Google Maps gives me the distance 4,434 feet.

I estimate the angle I am viewing at 10 to 20 degrees toward plane.

I had to look up the proper trig function (forgot)

Found $a/b = \text{Tangent (of } \alpha \text{)}$

Trig and SFO continued from pg. 3

So, I plug in the #s

4,434 ft / Altitude of plane = Tan (20°) = 2.237

Thus

Altitude = 4,434 / 2.237 = 1,981 feet

Much lower (closer) than I thought, but the planes do seem very close. I used to be able to read the airline info, but cataracts are making it blurry.

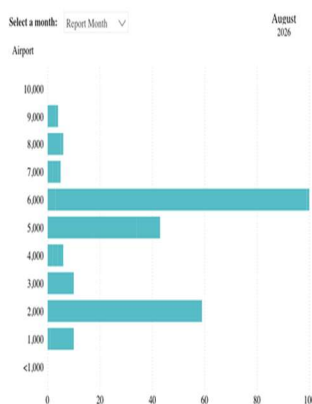
I Google “What is altitude of inbound flights flying over FC?”

Inbound SFO flights flying over Foster City, California, are mostly on final approach for runways 28L and 28R and typically pass overhead at altitudes between **1,000 feet and 2,000 feet** above ground level.

Much lower than I thought definitely below Black Mountain Peak on Skyline Blvd.

The SFO website provides even more info. <https://noise.flysfo.com/data-reports/data-operational/>

How high are aircraft over me?



Hovering over the 1,000 & 2,000 foot bars identifies 59 in bound SFO flights.

Hovering over the 5,000 & 6,000 foot bars identifies 95 Hayward Airport flights.

The amount of information available is just amazing! ☒



Rajni and Gaurav Keswani, Art Kiesel



Ram Gopalakrishnan (foreground)

*Ginny Brooks, Anita Swensen
(background)*