

The Twitter Files

By Frank Castillo

Elon Musk buys Twitter, and the left loses their collective mind with anger. He releases “The Twitter Files,” and the left media goes silent. ”The Twitter Files” are a collective release of information about the inner workings of Twitter before Musk bought the company. Their implications are wide-spread and damning for election fraud, collusion among three letter agencies of the government, censorship, social media propaganda, and misinformation during the Covid pandemic.

After buying Twitter, Musk found a large amount of internal and external correspondence on the company’s computer systems. Musk recruited The Free Press founder, Bari Weiss, and investigative journalists, Matt Taibbi and Michael Shellenberger, to release what they collectively coined as “The Twitter Files,” to the public. To avoid legal issues, Musk had this information reviewed by a Twitter lawyer before it was released. What Musk did not know is that the lawyer who reviewed the information, Jim Baker, was an ex-FBI lawyer, a Trump hater, and was involved in promoting the Russia collusion scandal. Once Musk learned this there was a fear that Baker may be deleting the information before it could get to the journalists. Baker was “Exited” by Twitter as soon as they were made aware of his involvement with the Twitter investigation.

“The Twitter Files” were held for about one week to assess any damage Baker may have done. The initial drops dealt with the Hunter Biden laptop scandal and how it was being suppressed by the media. Since then, many more drops have been let out by the three journalists. Trump being unjustly kicked off of Twitter and FBI involvement in suppressing free speech are some of the popular threads, so far. When we talk about free speech in this form, we do not mean extreme right-wing speech, which has been popularly classified as hate speech. What is meant is regular Republican voters urging people to vote. One example of this was a Tweet that said, “Hey Republicans don’t forget to get out there and vote!” that was blocked by Twitter and categorized as misinformation.

By tweeting, “My pronouns are Prosecute/Fauci” Musk hinted that there

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New Palmdale Mayor chosen by ping pong balls

By David Gray

Public commissions, boards, councils and other legislative bodies of local government agencies exist to aid in the conduct of the people’s business. The people do not yield their sovereignty to the bodies that serve them. The people insist on remaining informed to retain control over the legislative bodies they have created. – The Brown Act, California Code 54950 Chapter 1 Preamble [1953]

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

– United States Constitution, First Amendment

PALMDALE- On December 21st, 2022, the new City Council of Palmdale came to order. After swearing in three members to the council, incumbent Laura Bettencourt, and newly elected members Andrea Alarcon for District 5 and Eric Ohlsen, for District 4, the new mayor was to be selected next. The options for this selection were as follows: nominate a person from their ranks or choose through a lottery. Neither option included the public’s input, the public’s voice, or the citizen’s choice.

The council opted to exercise the option of a lottery. By drawing a ping-

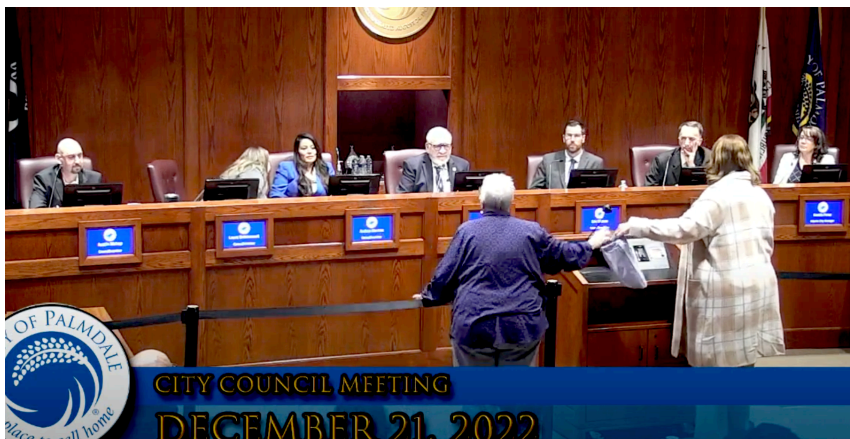


Photo Still taken from City Council meeting Stream.

pong ball out of a bag with the number of each city district, they would soon select the new mayor. The ping pong drawn belonged to District 3, making Laura Bettencourt the new and first female presiding Mayor of Palmdale.

Much in line with previous actions reported last year by The Palmdale Journal, the decision did not involve the citizens of Palmdale and much less, their vote. The first female mayor was drawn from a bag with five ping-pong balls in it.

After this, the council had to vote for a Mayor Pro Tempore. All members expressed interest. Austin Bishop said that they all would step in to do what they “had to do for our city.” Mayor Bettencourt then said, “I am going to do something historic and ask Andrea to be my Mayor Pro Tem. This will be the first time that two females will be running the city of Palmdale in 63 years”. Councilmember Alarcon and Mayor Bettencourt shook hands, as though it was a done deal.

The City Clerk reminded them it would need a motion and a majority vote by the council. The vote took place and so Councilmember Alarcon was voted in as Mayor Pro Tempore. Though many Palmdale stakeholders were present, their voice was not regarded in this decision.

Minutes after the ping-pong ball appointment of the new mayor, stakeholders were given the time to address the council as custom goes. Mario Presents, a 30-year citizen of Palmdale, spoke during the open session of the agenda. Presents read from a court case that regards an individual previously arrested for child endangerment. Mayor Bettencourt demanded that the microphone be cut off.

Presents continued. Witnesses report Mayor Bettencourt saying, “not during

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Chimbole Culture Center Damaged by Fire

Communications and Public Information Officer
Thomas Y. Lynch

PALMDALE – The Chimbole Culture Center, 38350 Sierra Highway, was damaged in an early morning fire on Monday, December 26, 2022.

Los Angeles County Fire Engine 137 responded to the building at approximately 4:00 am. The fire started on the structure’s second floor, and the fire’s source was an artificial Christmas tree. According to Captain Sorrano, the fire was ignited by an outside source and was not the result of an accidental electrical fire.

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputies responding to a second call at the exact location, detained one individual, who stated they started the fire. The person apprehended also confirmed that they were homeless. The suspect was arrested for arson and burglary and had a history of petty theft.

The incident occurred on the heels of the December 21 City Council meeting, where a majority of the public remarks centered around homelessness. The Council addressed residents’ concerns about the rumors of Los Angeles City Mayor Karen Bass’ plan to relocate a portion of LA’s homeless population to the Antelope Valley. The City Council reaffirmed its commitment to focus on Palmdale’s homeless population. “Homelessness is one of our top priorities,” stated Mayor Laura Bettencourt. “The Council is well aware of the concerns of our residents, and we plan to address them immediately.”

The fire and water damage estimate has yet to be determined. The Chimbole Culture Center will remain closed until further notice. If you have an event scheduled for the Culture Center, you will be contacted by City staff beginning on January 3.

LA Auto Show 2022

By Franklin Castillo

The Los Angeles Auto Show was in town November 17th-26th and showcased all the electric cars you never cared to see. It was one expensive, extravagant, sweet kiss to Newsom and his forced mandate of only electric vehicles being allowed for purchase in California by 2035. It was such a spectacle that some of the major manufacturers did not bother to show up.

The halls were full of cool electric car test tracks and hill climbs for trying out electric 4-wheel drive trucks. What it was not full of were cars. Generally, if a manufacturer brought a car model, they brought only the highest-end model and the electric version of it. In past years manufacturers brought one of each of their models and one of each upgrade class.

The past format would be an LT, LS, RS, Premier, and an electric which are all the types of that vehicle that will be made for the year, or Chevrolet bringing the popular Equinox. That format enabled consumers to decide what models they liked

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Help Wanted

The Palmdale Journal exists to be a voice that represents the community of Palmdale, California. We pride ourselves in standing up for truth, righteousness, and justice while revealing the beauty of our city to our readers.

Currently everyone on staff is a volunteer; mothers, fathers, students, activists, pastors, paralegals, and patriots all have come together to sow into the vision of the Journal. With eight issues under our belt, our readership is growing and we are in need of more volunteers as we expand.

If you are interested in joining, please reach out as we welcome professional local writers, print layout designers, website layout designers and novices alike! Not sure how you can contribute? Visit the ThePalmdaleJournal.com for a list of job descriptions.

Please note: All submissions to The Palmdale Journal are greatly appreciated and will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Submission of a piece grants the editors permission to edit and print. The articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or owners. Thank you.

Info@thepalmdalejournal.com

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The Palmdale Journal is a town newsletter and entertainment periodical. It is a publication that offers an additional and distinct narrative, reporting and providing information on local politics, and how national, state, and county news impacts our city. The driving force is to provide a free flow of information that may sometimes be discluded or suppressed, providing a dissenting perspective on current events, an effort to get back to our own message. We hope to influence involvement by local residents, building up and sharing a common interest, relating together socially, and promoting truth and freedom in the process.

This is a record created by the community and for the community, the people of Palmdale. We hope that you will join us in this movement to tell our story.

Concerns over new council escalate after circus show at prior meeting

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my reign” while speaking from the dias and then demanded that he be removed. Two sheriff deputies began to remove him. Scott Porter, the acting City Attorney, asked for a recess. All of the City Council members left the dais as Presents continued to speak. A city official subsequently told the deputies to depart from Presents, leaving him at the podium. Moments later the video feed from the city council meeting was abruptly cut.

Upon resuming the meeting, Mayor Bettencourt lectured Presents about how she would not tolerate “bullies” and would not allow personal attacks. The arrest account that Presents was reading from concerned the 2012 arrest of Andrea Alarcon after she had left her 11-year child alone at the Los Angeles City Hall for three hours while she went out to drink with friends. After being lectured by

Mayor Bettencourt, Presents explained that he wanted the city to know the person they were supporting. The microphone was intermittently turned on and off as he spoke.

The Palmdale Journal requested comments from City Council members regarding the incident. Mayor Bettencourt gave the only statement in which she stated the following, “[Presents] began speaking about a child abuse case involving a child. The child of Andrea Alarcon. While I don’t know the official outcome of the case, her daughter, nonetheless, listed on the report was a child victim.” She said she “Sanctioned Mario Presents to stop as this was not germane to City Council Jurisdiction.”

The child to which Mayor Bettencourt refers is the now 21-year-old adult child of Alarcon. The person who allegedly abused her was Andrea Alarcon, who Bettencourt nominated for Mayor Pro

Tem. Mario Presents told The Palmdale Journal, “I was watching them vote in someone with a past that is highly questionable. No debate or discussion was made. They just voted her in.” He stated that he wanted the council to be aware of who they were voting in as Mayor Pro Tempore and felt someone had to say something, but Mayor Bettencourt did not give the opportunity.

If you are interested in seeing the events of the meeting for yourself, visit the city’s website to see the video of the meeting. Most importantly, The Palmdale Journal strongly encourages all stakeholders to attend the meetings to encourage the council members to heed the voice of their constituents.

It appears that the Palmdale City Council has some very troubling issues to deal with. This is what a bag of ping pong balls will get you today.

Palmdale residents brace for negative electric car impacts in the near future

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and could afford. This year they only offered the RS and Premier, and of course, an electric version.

Electric vehicles will be pushed on consumers at these auto shows for the next few years. Many expected to see vehicles made by Tesla, Tesla being one of the most well-known electric vehicle manufacturers in the hard-charging electric automobile industry, but there were no Tesla cars at this year's auto show. Honda, being one of the most popular car brands, did not have a section for their vehicles. Honda is one of the driving forces of variable valve timing which has improved gas mileage and performance in most of their cars. They even offer hybrids and electric versions of most of their models.

In the past, the LA Auto Show also displayed lots of exotic cars but this year Porsche was the only brand with its own hall space. For many attendees, the LA Auto Show was a huge disappointment because, generally, this is the only chance for people who can not afford these cars to be able to see a Lamborghini, a Ferrari, or a McLaren. Were those brands not in this year’s LA Auto Show because they do not offer many electric models?

Newsom is forcing CA consumers to drive a vehicle type that is not able to operate at the same power level as a gas car can whether or not we want them. It does not seem to matter to him that there are numerous reports of Tesla’s catching fire, or that the cost of coal and electric power to operate them will not give

California commuters a reasonable return in exchange for what they will have to spend on these cars, or that the state does not have the infrastructure to support them.

2023 Electric Cars are underpowered, expensive, and do not have the range to support Antelope Valley commuters. A 2019 CNBC report said that a study released by Haven Life insurance revealed that “more than 91 percent of Palmdale residents” drive to and from work, while only two percent use public transit. Many residents make the long trek to Los Angeles and back with an average round-trip commute of 85.4 minutes. Thirty-five percent of its population commutes two-plus hours round trip per day.” Accordingly, Palmdale "has the worst round-trip

commute of any city in the nation".

Electric cars cost more in electricity to charge due to the increased cost of power in homes and the thousands it costs to install a good charger. If electric cars made amazing strides to get the range high enough to offset the cost increase for purchasing one, it might be worth it. Until that point, they are Newsom’s pipe dream and will make everything worse in this state, especially for Palmdale commuters. That same 2019 CNBC report said that other studies concluded that “adding just 20 minutes to your commute could make you as unhappy as taking a 19 percent pay cut....” and that “...23 percent of workers have quit a job because of a bad commute.” A potential future Palmdale residents can anticipate, having electric cars forced upon them.



Twitter buy-out exposes media corruption

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will be extensive files on Dr. Fauci and the use of Covid misinformation on Twitter that will be released. It is already well-known that Twitter pushed as many bans and suspensions as possible on

anyone questioning the Covid narrative during the pandemic. Many reputable doctors were removed from Twitter for expressing the actual science about Covid instead of CDC edited science. What is not known is the level of government involvement in Twitter’s Covid censoring. If Dr. Fauci was directly involved; it may be enough to put him in jail for the rest of his life.

Major news outlets have mostly ignored this story. Fox News seems to be giving it only some coverage in spite of

being one of the biggest stories evolving. They have covered been the FBI’s involvement in censorship, Senators demanding the removal of the sitting president from a media platform, government using your tax dollars to tell a tech company to ban you, suppression of information that could have changed the outcome of an election, and the possibility of the “science” being Covid misinformation. This is all the proof needed to show the news is as fake as conspiracy theorists have been claiming

it is. "The Twitter Files" have exposed a large amount of corruption at the heart of mainstream media and government. Is this enough evidence to show the news is as fake as conspiracy theorists have been claiming it is? Could corruption or media suppression influence local politics? "The Twitter Files" have proven that we are being presented information from multiple sources that may be false. When it comes to sources of information, it is necessary for all of us, as Americans, to double-check everything we read.

News and Info

2022 Election Results

The 2022 mid-term election took place on November 8th, 2022. The following information was supplied by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Office. Los Angeles County has 5,627,796 eligible voters of that number 43.65% placed votes. 3,171,095 eligible voters didn’t vote. That is on par with the last five years of election turnout. The 2020 election was a high point with 74.6% voter turnout. In 2018 and 2016 the turnouts were 57% and 67% respectively. 2014 was a low point for the County by concluding with a 31% voter turnout.

November 8, 2022 General ElectionVoter Turnout 2,456,701 (43.65% of Eligible Voters)

Palmdale City Offices CITY COUNCIL, 3rd District LAURA BETTENCOURT 47.52%; 2,182 DAVE T. GOMEZ 29.22%; 1,342 MARCOS T. ALVAREZ 23.26%; 1,068 CITY COUNCIL, 4th District ERIC OHLSEN 46.59%; 2,124 VERGION JESSE SMITH 27.35%; 1,247 GETRO F. ELIZE 26.06%; 1,188 CITY COUNCIL, 5th District ANDREA ALARCON 61.38%; 2,252 ERIKA GLORIA ALVERDI 21.80%; 800 MARIO MOISES MELARA 16.82% 617	DON V. PARAZO 22.42%; 25,456 MICHAEL P. RIVES 14.23%; 16,153 STEVE FOX 12.89%; 14,631 GETRO F. ELIZE 6.73%; 7,637 OLLIE M. MCCAULLEY 5.10%; 5,791 JOHN BRYSON 4.92%; 5,588 GORDON V. JEFFERSON 3.00%; 3,405 A.V. HEALTH CARE DISTRICT (SPECIAL ELECTION) MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS STEVEN D. HOFBAUER 34.49%; 23,314 JAWAD BERMANI 33.95%; 22,948 MATEO OLIVAREZ 31.56%; 21,330	ANGELA E. UNDERWOOD JACOBS (R) 32.35%; 751,342 SECRETARY OF STATE SHIRLEY N. WEBER (D) 68.48%; 1,591,738 ROB BERNOSKY (R) 31.52%; 732,569 CONTROLLER MALIA M. COHEN (D) 62.58%; 1,450,372 LANHEE J. CHEN (R) 37.42%; 867,338 TREASURER FIONA MA (D) 67.09%; 1,546,485 JACK M. GUERRERO (R) 32.91%; 758,555 ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA (D) 67.36%; 1,565,213 NATHAN HOCHMAN (R) 32.64%; 758,529 INSURANCE COMMISSIONER RICARDO LARA (D) 68.48%; 1,556,724 ROBERT HOWELL (R) 31.52%; 716,413 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION 3rd District TONY VAZQUEZ (D) 70.44%; 1,484,626 Y. MARIE MANVEL (N) 29.56%; 623,017 STATE SENATOR, 20th District CAROLINE MENJIVAR (D) 58.46%; 88,358 DANIEL HERTZBERG (D) 41.54%; 62,787 No. 90 MELISSA LYONS 59.62%; 1,091,579 LESLIE GUTIERREZ 40.38%; 739,192 SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, Office No. 118 MELISSA HAMMOND 61.70%; 1,149,236 CAROLYN "JIYOUNG" PARK 38.30%; 713,333 SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, Office No. 151 PATRICK HARE 59.65%; 1,103,644 KAREN A. BRAKO 40.35%; 746,554 Los Angeles County Measures COUNTY MEASURE A CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING AUTHORITY TO REMOVE AN ELECTED SHERIFF FOR CAUSE YES: 71.84%; 1,633,918 NO: 28.16%; 640,361 COUNTY MEASURE C Los Angeles County Cannabis Business Tax Measure YES: 60.18%; 1,323,160 NO: 39.82%; 875,617	SECRETARY OF STATE SHIRLEY N. WEBER (D) 68.48%; 1,591,738 ROB BERNOSKY (R) 31.52%; 732,569 CONTROLLER MALIA M. COHEN (D) 62.58%; 1,450,372 LANHEE J. CHEN (R) 37.42%; 867,338 TREASURER FIONA MA (D) 67.09%; 1,546,485 JACK M. GUERRERO (R) 32.91%; 758,555 ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA (D) 67.36%; 1,565,213 NATHAN HOCHMAN (R) 32.64%; 758,529 INSURANCE COMMISSIONER RICARDO LARA (D) 68.48%; 1,556,724 ROBERT HOWELL (R) 31.52%; 716,413 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION 3rd District TONY VAZQUEZ (D) 70.44%; 1,484,626 Y. MARIE MANVEL (N) 29.56%; 623,017 STATE SENATOR, 20th District CAROLINE MENJIVAR (D) 58.46%; 88,358 DANIEL HERTZBERG (D) 41.54%; 62,787 STATE SENATOR, 22nd District SUSAN RUBIO (D) 60.45%; 78,525 VINCENT TSAI (R) 39.55%; 51,370 STATE SENATOR, 24th District BEN ALLEN (D) 67.12%; 248,642 KRISTINA IRWIN (R) 32.88%; 121,809 STATE SENATOR, 26th District MARIA ELENA DURAZO (D) 82.94%; 155,727 CLAUDIA AGRAZ (R) 17.06%; 32,022 STATE SENATOR, 28th District LOLA SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS (D) 59.93%; 117,315 CHERYL C. TURNER (D) 40.07%; 78,453 STATE SENATOR, 30th District BOB ARCHULETA (D) 62.27%; 122,415 MITCH CLEMMONS (R) 37.73%; 74,157 STATE SENATOR, 34th District TOM UMBERG (D) 56.71%; 7,851 RHONDA SHADER (R) 43.29%; 5,992 STATE SENATOR, 36th District KIM CARR (D) 55.95%; 12,087 JANET NGUYEN (R) 44.05%; 9,517 STATE ASSEMBLY, 34th District TOM LACKEY (R) 70.18%; 25,624 THURSTON "SMITTY" SMITH (R) 29.82%; 10,888
Palmdale District Offices, Measures PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER NANCY K. SMITH 27.04%; 8,993 SIMONE ZULU 26.73%; 8,891 RALPH VELADOR 26.63%; 8,855 TONYA ALENNA SCHOFIELD 19.60%; 6,518 PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT (SPECIAL ELECTION) MEASURE PRM YES: 58.25%; 11,370 NO: 41.75%; 8,148 PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Division 2 DON F. WILSON 59.93%; 2,000 YVETTE SILVA 40.07%; 1,337	Los Angeles County Offices SHERIFF ROBERT LUNA 61.26%; 1,370,837 ALEX VILLANUEVA 38.74%; 867,029 SUPERVISOR, 3rd District LINDSEY HORVATH 52.97%; 258,315 BOB HERTZBERG 47.03% 229,358 SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, Office No. 60 ABBY BARON 55.31%; 1,026,777 ANNA SLOTKY REITANO 44.69%; 829,766 SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, Office No. 67 FERNANDA MARIA BARRETO 53.09%; 1,000,532 ELIZABETH LASHLEY-HAYNES 46.91%; 884,004 SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, Office No. 70 HOLLY L. HANCOCK 58.62%; 1,114,500 RENEE YOLANDE CHANG 41.38%; 786,868 SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, Office No. 90 MELISSA LYONS 59.62%; 1,091,579 LESLIE GUTIERREZ 40.38%; 739,192 SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, Office No. 118 MELISSA HAMMOND 61.70%; 1,149,236 CAROLYN "JIYOUNG" PARK 38.30%; 713,333 SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, Office No. 151 PATRICK HARE 59.65%; 1,103,644 KAREN A. BRAKO 40.35%; 746,554 Los Angeles County Measures COUNTY MEASURE A CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING AUTHORITY TO REMOVE AN ELECTED SHERIFF FOR CAUSE YES: 71.84%; 1,633,918 NO: 28.16%; 640,361 COUNTY MEASURE C Los Angeles County Cannabis Business Tax Measure YES: 60.18%; 1,323,160 NO: 39.82%; 875,617		
Antelope Valley District Offices A.V. COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER, Trustee Area No. 2 STEVE D. BUFFALO 53.84%; 6,351 MIGUEL S. CORONADO 27.40%; 3,232 GIOVANNI CHRISTON-POPE 18.75%; 2,212 A.V. JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER, Trustee Area No. 1 CHARLES F. HUGHES 54.43%; 11,297 SUSAN STROM 45.57%; 9,458 A.V. JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER, Trustee Area No. 4 CARLA CORONA 45.56%; 4,126 RAQUEL ALVA DERFLER 34.46%; 3,121 JUAN BLANCO 19.98%; 1,810 A.V. JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER, Trustee Area No. 5 MIGUEL SANCHEZ 62.24%; 6,925 VLADIMIR GOMEZ 37.76%; 4,202 A.V. - EAST KERN WATER AGENCY MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Division 3 FRANK S. DONATO 77.58%; 8,469 MIKE LANG 22.42%; 2,448 A.V. HEALTH CARE DISTRICT MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS DODDANNA KRISHNA 30.71%; 34,862			

STATE ASSEMBLY, 39th District JUAN CARRILLO (D) 60.52%; 23,103 PAUL ANDRE MARSH (R) 39.48%; 15,073 STATE ASSEMBLY, 40th District PILAR SCHIAVO (D) 50.16%; 79,852 SUZETTE MARTINEZ VALLADARES (R) 49.84%; 79,330 STATE ASSEMBLY, 41st District CHRIS HOLDEN (D) 67.30%; 88,497 MICHAEL MCMAHON (R) 32.70%; 42,992 STATE ASSEMBLY, 42nd District JACQUI IRWIN (D) 62.94%; 43,588 LORI MILLS (R) 37.06%; 25,665 STATE ASSEMBLY, 43rd District LUZ MARIA RIVAS (D) 74.64%; 55,282 SIACA MASSAQUOI (R) 25.36%; 18,782 STATE ASSEMBLY, 44th District LAURA FRIEDMAN (D) 71.35%; 113,380 BARRY CURTIS JACOBSEN (R) 28.65%; 45,519 STATE ASSEMBLY, 46th District JESSE GABRIEL (D) 65.52%; 78,289 DANA CARUSO (R) 34.48%; 41,202 STATE ASSEMBLY, 48th District BLANCA RUBIO (D) 60.84%; 60,770 RYAN MAYE (R) 39.16%; 39,110 STATE ASSEMBLY, 49th District MIKE FONG (D) 66.64%; 65,965 BURTON BRINK (R) 33.36%; 33,024 STATE ASSEMBLY, 51st District RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR (D) 54.85%; 76,110 LOUIS ABRAMSON (D) 45.15%; 62,647 STATE ASSEMBLY, 52nd District WENDY CARRILLO (D) 56.93%; 65,039 MIA LIVAS PORTER (D) 43.07%; 49,211 STATE ASSEMBLY, 53rd District FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ (D) 68.50%; 15,130 TONI HOLLE (R) 31.50%; 6,959 STATE ASSEMBLY, 54th District MIGUEL SANTIAGO (D) 78.60%; 53,993 ELAINE ALANIZ (R) 21.40%; 14,704 STATE ASSEMBLY, 55th District ISAAC G. BRYAN (D) 83.69%; 114,384 KEITH GIROLAMO CASCIO (R) 16.31%; 22,295 STATE ASSEMBLY, 56th District LISA CALDERON (D) 58.46%; 62,079 JESSICA MARTINEZ (R) 41.54%; 44,105 STATE ASSEMBLY, 57th District REGGIE JONES-SAWYER (D) 100.0%; 40,334 STATE ASSEMBLY, 61st District TINA SIMONE MCKINNOR (D) 63.61%; 58,888 ROBERT PULLEN-MILES (D) 36.39%; 33,691 STATE ASSEMBLY, 62nd District ANTHONY RENDON (D) 63.90%; 39,442	MARIA ESTRADA (D) 36.10%; 22,285 STATE ASSEMBLY, 64th District BLANCA PACHECO (D) 63.03%; 51,657 RAUL ORTIZ, JR. (R) 36.97%; 30,298 STATE ASSEMBLY, 65th District MIKE ANTHONY GIPSON (D) 61.74%; 43,118 FATIMA IQBAL-ZUBAIR (D) 38.26%; 26,719 STATE ASSEMBLY, 66th District AL MURATSUCHI (D) 59.95%; 99,280 GEORGE BARKS (R) 40.05%; 66,332 STATE ASSEMBLY, 67th District SHARON QUIRK-SILVA (D) 55.27%; 12,075 SOO YOO (R) 44.73%; 9,774 STATE ASSEMBLY, 69th District JOSH LOWENTHAL (D) 58.89%; 62,582 AL AUSTIN II (D) 41.11%; 43,686 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, CA. SUPREME COURT GOODWIN LIU YES: 73.78%; 1,326,855 NO: 26.22%; 471,624 JOSHUA P. GROBAN YES: 72.91%; 1,275,085 NO: 27.09%; 473,880 MARTIN J. JENKINS YES: 74.67%; 1,320,468 NO: 25.33%; 448,021 CHIEF JUSTICE OF CALIFORNIA PATRICIA GUERRERO YES: 76.11%; 1,394,641 NO: 23.89%; 437,675 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 8 ELIZABETH ANNETTE GRIMES YES: 78.04%; 1,295,987 NO: 21.96%; 364,587 JOHN SHEPARD WILEY JR. YES: 72.13%; 1,190,261 NO: 27.87%; 459,959 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 5 LAMAR W. BAKER YES: 74.60%; 1,238,319 NO: 25.40%; 421,578 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 4 AUDREY B. COLLINS YES: 75.66%; 1,263,708 NO: 24.34%; 406,438 BRIAN S. CURREY YES: 72.42%; 1,200,227 NO: 27.58%; 457,053 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 7 JOHN L. SEGAL YES: 72.81%; 1,204,292 NO: 27.19%; 449,748 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 6 HERNALDO J. BALTODANO YES: 73.76%; 1,223,496 NO: 26.24%; 435,283 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 3 LUIS A. LAVIN YES: 73.90%; 1,230,387 NO: 26.10%; 434,644 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 2 JUDITH M. ASHMANN YES 76.98%; 1,288,008 NO: 23.02%; 385,091 PRESIDING JUSTICE, COURT OF	APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 8 MARIA E. STRATTON YES: 74.97%; 1,261,912 NO: 25.03%; 421,407 PRESIDING JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 5 LAURENCE D. RUBIN YES: 74.29%; 1,249,963 NO: 25.71%; 432,689 PRESIDING JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, 2nd District, Division 1 FRANCES ROTHSCHILD YES: 72.25%; 1,238,458 NO: 27.75%; 475,553 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TONY K. THURMOND 69.59%; 1,346,639 LANCE RAY CHRISTENSEN 30.41%; 588,457 California State Measures STATE MEASURE 1 LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM YES: 72.91%; 1,710,784 NO: 27.09%; 635,668 STATE MEASURE 26 INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ALLOWS IN-PERSON ROULETTE, DICE GAMES, SPORTS WAGERING ON TRIBAL LANDS YES: 36.41%; 842,992 NO: 63.59%; 1,472,472 STATE MEASURE 27 INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ALLOWS ONLINE AND MOBILE SPORTS WAGERING OUTSIDE TRIBAL LANDS YES: 20.17%; 472,278 NO: 79.83%; 1,869,661 STATE MEASURE 28 INITIATIVE STATUTE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS YES: 69.95%; 1,644,672 NO: 30.05%; 706,529 STATE MEASURE 29 INITIATIVE STATUTE REQUIRES ON-SITE LICENSED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL AT KIDNEY DIALYSIS YES: 37.03%; 860,323 NO: 62.97%; 1,462,984 STATE MEASURE 30 INITIATIVE STATUTE FUNDS PROGRAMS TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION AND PREVENT WILDFIRES, PERSONAL INCOME TAX INCREASE YES: 41.53%; 975,937 NO: 58.47%; 1,373,773 STATE MEASURE 31 REFERENDUM 2020 LAW PROHIBITING RETAIL SALE OF CERTAIN FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS YES: 66.76%; 1,562,883 NO: 33.24%; 778,227 National Offices U.S. SENATOR (Full Term) ALEX PADILLA (D) 70.0%; 1,670,306 MARK P. MEUSER (R) 30.0%; 715,913 U.S. SENATOR (Term ending Jan 3, 2023) ALEX PADILLA (D) 69.75%; 1,647,824 MARK P. MEUSER (R) 30.25%; 714,557 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 23rd District JAY OBERNOLTE (R) 53.84%; 1,521 DEREK MARSHALL (D) 46.16%; 1,304	U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 26th District JULIA BROWNLEY (D) 58.87%; 13,140 MATT JACOBS (R) 41.13%; 9,179 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 27th District MIKE GARCIA (R) 53.24%; 104,624 CHRISTY SMITH (D) 46.76%; 91,892 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 28th District JUDY CHU (D) 70.16%; 138,106 WES HALLMAN (R) 29.84%; 58,734 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 29th District TONY CARDENAS (D) 58.54%; 69,915 ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS (D) 41.46%; 49,520 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 30th District ADAM B. SCHIFF (D) 71.11%; 150,100 G "MAEBE A. GIRL" PUDLO (D) 28.89%; 60,968 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 31st District GRACE F. NAPOLITANO (D) 59.54%; 91,472 DANIEL BOCIC MARTINEZ (R) 40.46%; 62,153 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 32nd District BRAD SHERMAN (D) 69.23%; 166,956 LUCIE LAPOINTE VOLOTZKY (R) 30.77%; 74,211 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 34th District JIMMY GOMEZ (D) 51.24%; 62,244 DAVID KIM (D) 48.76%; 59,223 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 35th District NORMA J. TORRES (D) 66.80%; 14,291 MIKE CARGILE (R) 33.20%; 7,104 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 36th District TED W. LIEU (D) 69.75%; 194,299 JOE E. COLLINS III (R) 30.25%; 84,264 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 37th District SYDNEY KAMLAGER (D) 63.95%; 84,338 JAN C. PERRY (D) 36.05%; 47,542 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 38th District LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ (D) 58.76%; 93,514 ERIC J. CHING (R) 41.24%; 65,643 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 42nd District ROBERT GARCIA (D) 68.37%; 99,217 JOHN BRISCOE (R) 31.63%; 45,903 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 43rd District MAXINE WATERS (D) 77.33%; 95,462 OMAR NAVARRO (R) 22.67%; 27,985 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 44th District NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN (D) 72.21%; 100,160 PAUL JONES (R) 27.79%; 38,554 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 45th District JAY F. CHEN (D) 57.75%; 13,121 MICHELLE STEEL (R) 42.25%; 9,598
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Features

Obedience vs. Sacrifice

A Parenting Column by Denize Verduzco

The new year births new beginnings to those seeking a fresh start. Parents often use this time to establish new goals, ideas, mindsets, and habits for their families, allowing them to step away from the old and into something new. While the new year allows for reflection and analysis, it also raises the question-- what takes priority?

Everything worth having requires sacrifice. This means that for every yes there will be some no’s. Thus parents must have difficult conversations with their children about the sacrifices required to fulfill their goals. But what happens when parents are continually sacrificing, yet nothing changes? It can be discouraging, as a sense of frustration and remorse sets in when hard work fails to produce fruit. Some might find it easier to just give up, abandoning the goals that are too problematic. If this happens, perhaps looking at the stagnant problem through a different lens will create a change.

There is a saying that “obedience is greater than sacrifice.” What if the sacrifices that are made - even if they are good - are not what God has asked of you? Every human on this earth has a purpose and a calling. Every parent plays a vital role in the development and success of their child’s life. With this in mind, parents tend to sacrifice a great deal of their time and efforts for the betterment of their children and families. They set out on a journey toward their goals, oftentimes not stopping to ask God if they are traveling in the right direction. When a parent is operating in God’s will, the burden and stress encountered on their journey is alleviated because He is there to help. Even in the mistakes, He is there to steer us back onto the right path.

To put this into perspective, it is a beautiful thing when a child continually sacrifices. However, if this child continually sacrifices, but does not obey, there will come a time when the sacrifices do not compensate for the child’s lack of obedience. The same is true for a parent’s goals and resolutions for the new year: the level of obedience to God should far outweigh the sacrifices made.

Obedience to the call of God has the power to positively change and transform the world around us. George Washington said it best: “The whole duty of man is summed up in obedience to God’s will.” If you find yourself stagnant or discontent with the goals you have set forth for the new year, stop and ask yourself, “Is this God’s will for my life?” Till next time...

Your Mommy-Friend,
Denize Verduzco

Not a Victim: 'Tis the Season

By Adriana Salcedo

As I think about the past Christmas season, I notice that I sometimes repeat phrases without realizing their meaning. A common one is "'Tis the season", meaning an appointed time, and associated with being jolly and “fa-la-la-la”, as the song goes. And there are numerous reasons to be jolly. After all, Christmastime is a season of love, giving, friends, family, gifts and surprises - but not for everyone.

Unfortunately, depression and anxiety are on the rise during the holiday season. A common reason is that it is an appointed time to see family and friends. If relationships with friends or family are strained, we can experience stress, dread, anxiety - hence, not feeling very jolly and definitely no "fa-la-la-la-la" in our song and mood.

My mother struggled with depression during this appointed time due to her childhood trauma. For her it was a time of hunger, an angry mom, and an alcoholic dad who beat her mom. At age 8 she learned that there was no Santa Claus, and that she wouldn't get a gift. Feeling devastated, she woke up the day after Christmas that year and got a job just to be able to eat.

Her adulthood followed a similar pattern, as she married a man who was an alcoholic that beat her. Depression became her memory during this appointed time. She still

struggles to recover from this trauma, often stating that if she could be alone during the holidays, she would be.

As someone who loves Christmas, I know that having a mom who struggles with such issues can be hard for a child. I know both sides: the feeling of wanting my mom to be more jolly, and the feeling of being a jolly mom myself. I know that I missed the experience of Christmas with family, friends, gifts under the tree, and a stuffed stocking over the fireplace. However, I believe my experiences have blessed me. They have led me to seek to make the season special for children and to help them to have a jolly Christmas, even if their family is struggling. I also desire to be a blessing to moms and dads who are struggling emotionally due to family, friends, or financial hardship.

Our church, Greater Works Christian Church, hosted another great Christmas event last month. Parents were able to bring their kids to meet Santa, make smores, drink hot chocolate, have story time, get toys from Santa, and eat fresh cookies. We recreated Santa's workshop for families to decorate Christmas ornaments, write letters to Santa, and even have a dance party near the Polar Express. The event was jolly in every way, and I believe it planted seeds of joy in the hearts of many families as they usher in a new year.

Matthew 10:8 states, "Freely you received, freely give." No matter your story, Greater Works Christian Church wants this to be the song in your life. ‘Tis the season to be jolly! And not only during Christmastime, but all year long. Happy New Year, Palmdale.

With love and many blessings,
Adriana Salcedo
Beauty for Ashes, International



Our Mission: Out of the Ashes, Beauty Arises

Women around the world struggle daily to find their beauty and self-worth. Beauty for Ashes, International emerged out of a pursuit to empower women so that their confidence is not washed away when the day is over; rather, their self-worth be their permanent state of being. Established in 2017, our mission is to empower women's self worth from the inside out through our community-based programs, organic beauty products, and health and wellness activism. We strive to bring God's light into the dark beauty industry to help women exchange their ashes for beauty. Want to hear more or partner with us? We are located inside Butler’s Coffee and would love to chat with you.

A Human Connection:

Book Benefits

By Sabeth Perry

If you’re reading this article, congratulations! You are contributing to your New Year’s resolution to get healthier, and you probably didn’t even know it. Research shows that routine reading positively contributes to mental, emotional and physical health. Unfortunately, in today’s social-media age, the human brain is preoccupied with videos, memes, and nonsensical posts. Gone are the days when one would take a trip to the library and spend hours searching for a good book to take home. Remember the library? It’s that building people drive by on a daily basis without a second thought.

But the older generations will never forget the thrill of the hunt - opening the library doors, taking in that unique library aroma while walking intently up to the cabinet faced with tiny drawers that held the card catalog. Understanding how alphabetizing worked, along with the Dewey Decimal system, was essential in sorting through the thousands of cards to find a specific book’s location. The final step was walking down the aisles, skimming through each book’s outside “jacket”, until at last, the prize was found. Little did one know back then that reading was such an important component to overall health.

Today, a good book is readily available within seconds, literally at one’s fingertips. There’s no excuse for not finding the time to sit down and take a few minutes to read a chapter in a book or find a good, long article online. Let’s take a look at some of the positive health benefits of reading, upon which numerous studies tend to agree:

Reading can help manage stress, ease muscle tension, and lower heart rate and blood pressure.

Reading has been shown to slow the progress of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia because it keeps the brain active and engaged, especially when reading out loud, as concluded by a study published on the Oxford Academic site entitled “Reading Aloud and Arithmetic Calculation Improve Frontal Function of People With Dementia.”

Reading improves the brain’s connectivity and helps to empower empathy towards others, as readers can understand what people are thinking and feeling. This is especially true with literary fiction books, as explained in an article on Science.org, “Reading Literacy Fiction Improves Theory of Mind.”

Reading helps the expansion of vocabulary and writing abilities, enhances knowledge, and increases imagination, creativity and motivation.

Reading can help improve sleep. Creating a bedtime routine that includes reading helps signal to the body that it’s time for some shut eye.

Reading can actually help increase longevity of life. Social Science and Medicine published an article entitled “A Chapter a Day- Association of Book Reading with Longevity”, based on 12 years of research, that explains the outcome of non-book readers vs. book readers. The book readers had a “4-month survival advantage at the point of 80% survival.”

Experts, including neuroscientists, recommend reading for 15-30 minutes a day. By making this simple lifestyle change, brain health can be supported for a lifetime. This is especially true for increasing brain connectivity and improving critical thinking skills. The bottom line is this: exercising your mind with reading is just as important as exercising your body. So try adding small doses at a time each day, and you can be on your way to improved health for the New Year.

CityDeetz

AN ART EXHIBITION celebrating COMMUNITY



Opening: January 14, 2023
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Awards presented to artists at 5:00 pm

Featured Artist this month:
Edwin Vasquez, multi-talented artist in a plethora of media



The Lakes and Valleys Art Guild
8854 Elizabeth Lake Road, Leona Valley



Look for us on Instagram and Facebook

Thank you for your support of our nonprofit art community



PALMDALE FREEDOM COALITION
FIREWALL FOR FREEDOM

We are a community-based organization
dedicated to protecting the freedoms
secured by our Constitution.
We believe that those who govern us
must follow the Constitution and protect
the freedoms of every citizen.

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY CITIZEN HAS A VOICE.

Meeting every Wednesday in January at
6:30 P.M. at Butler's Coffee
40125 10th St W I, Palmdale

PalmdaleFreedomCoalition.com



JANUARY 17 - MARCH 8

AT THE CHIMBOLE CENTER LILAC ROOM

REGISTER ONLINE ON EVENTBRITE

WINTER 2023

STORYTIME

BILINGUAL | TUESDAYS | 10:00 - 10:30 AM

TODDLER | WEDNESDAYS | 9:30 - 10:00 AM

PRESCHOOL | WEDNESDAYS | 10:30 - 11:00 AM

STORIES, SONGS, RHYMES, AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN!

PALMDALE CITY LIBRARY

Inspirado por el paladar Cubano

BARACOA

Est. 2013 | Rev 5:5

Cuban Restaurant

Live entertainment
every Friday and Saturday
evening
8pm-10:30pm

BAKERY

BOUTIQUE

BUTLER'S
Organic
COFFEE

40125 10TH ST W

PALMDALE, CA

Butler's Mission
We are a local 501c3 Non-Profit corporation that provides vocational job training. We want to see the next generation of young leaders and entrepreneurs succeed. We partner with local churches, schools, government assistance agencies and other non-profit to provide a quality hands-on job training experience. We are very proud of our hard working volunteers who are working very diligently to serve you and their community. Interested in volunteering? Come in and ask any of our servers for an application.

Quartz Hill Library

661 943 2454

5040 WEST AVENUE M-2

QUARTZ HILL CA 93536

DIY Vision Boards - In-Person Program



Tue, Jan 17, 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Meeting Room

Create your own vision board!
Plan for the upcoming year:
travelling, remodeling your home,
or whatever your goals! Your vision board will serve as a reminder throughout the year to focus on the things that you really want to achieve! For Adults.



Fairy Tale Musical Casting Call

The Palmdale Playhouse, in collaboration with Palmdale Repertory Theatre, will hold auditions on Friday, Jan. 6 from 6 to 9 pm, and Saturday, Jan. 7 from 10 am to 2 pm, for a fairy tale musical to be produced next spring. For more information, visit www.PalmdalePlayhouse.com.



4:30-6:30 in the food court

ANTELOPE VALLEY MALL

Every second Wednesday

C!tyDeetz

Holiday Recap

Take a sigh of relief. Go ahead. You survived another holiday season and we must say that you did a pretty great job at holding it together. However, with all the happenings; events, light shows, plays, and ensembles, we fear you may have missed a thing or two. So here it is, your insight and recap of a thing or two.

The City of Palmdale decorated 3 parks with Christmas decor and held a Christmas Carnival during the Christmas season. Joes Davies Heritage Air Park adorned the vintage aircraft on display with festive Christmas lighting that reminded of Christmases past and kept in mind the troops serving overseas to protect our country. Rancho Vista Park was beautiful with classic white lights and wreaths! Poncitlan Square, in downtown Palmdale, was elaborately dressed with lighted candy canes, snowflakes, and a colorful array of lighted trees!

On Dec. 17th, the City of Palmdale, through Measure AV funding put on a Christmas Carnival for the families of Palmdale. The square was filled with carnival games, photo ops, and quests served free popcorn, coffee, and hot chocolate. Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with children and food trucks offered up their cuisine.

In Lancaster, a local church, Greater Works Christian Church, hosted its first annual Festival of Lights “Christmas Extravaganza”. The event hosts advertised nights of free entertainment, complimentary beverages, free smores, and photo ops. Of course, we had to see for ourselves.

The promises were true. Each of the Fridays that the production took place was absolutely free. The first night, a monthly class was being held there called, “Tiny Kolors”. The sign-up takes place weeks before and in preparation, this reporter learned, church members “paid it forward,” paying in advance for any community members that visited the extravaganza in order to keep it accessible and free. Other nights had live goats, story time, dance parties for kids, and Christmas Caroling, and if you wanted to– you could simply just sit by the multiple fire pits and enjoy the company.

A little bit more hot cocoa for your soul, we learned that most of the decorations attendees saw around the property were handmade; from the cutting the wood to the painting, to the placing. Church members spent weeks and hours of their weekends preparing to host the community.

It wasn’t just the church pouring its resources into the event and community, however. They extended the opportunity to local businesses that jumped at the chance to sponsor the event.

The pictures below do not do this holistic atmosphere justice. An attendee said, “This is such a beautiful festival. The decorations are extraordinary! I am especially impressed with the Polar Express exhibit. With all the brilliance of the Christmas displays, the festival still has such a whimsical and warm community feel.” An event volunteer told *The Palmdale Journal* that “It was nurturing and beautiful to see the expressions on people’s faces when they truly realized everything was free. The only price paid was probably the kid’s sugar rush on their way back home... I’m sure!”

There you have it. Your recap. Consider this our way of helping you prepare for next year’s holiday season. You know where to find us next December!

Poncitlan Square Christmas Carnival



Performers getting ready for the night's activities!



The Square was filled with great games for children to enjoy!

Festival of Lights: "Christmas Extravaganza"



TinyKolor participants painting their holiday mugs.



Santa's Workshop before kids showed up to hear a story read to them!



Polar Express exhibition by the Children's Ministry



Front view of Christmas Extravaganza at GWCC



An attendee favorite!
The hand-crafted snowmen looked great in the photo-ops.



The lead Pastor of the Church dressed up as Santa Claus. Here he is joining the kid's dance party!

POEMS BY RUDY HAWKINS

About the Author and Illustrator

As their two daughters were growing up, Rudy Hawkins and his wife, Joanne, enjoyed reading with them. While spending time reading and laughing, his family experienced meaningful connections. He found himself composing whimsical, playful poems and fell in love with the genre. Rudy's vision is for families to experience and share the same connection he and his family experienced, through his poems. His first book, When Growing Up is Magic is a window into a young person's imagination inspired by his own childhood. His second book is "Where the Today-Dream Begins." Both books are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble.

WINTER HOWL

From a white arctic landscape,
Relentless cold, biting,
A haunting sound echoes,
Soul piercing,
Inviting.

The watching moon floats
O’r the gaunt pines and frost.
A frozen world feeling
Wild, wandering,
Lost.

In a comfortless wilderness
Hungering thrives,
Where a wild heart howls,
“I’m a wolf, I’m alive.”



SKEETER

We have a pet and named her “Skeeter.”
Cuddly soft, but what an eater!

We don’t know from where she came,
Or what she is, if there’s a name.

Into our yard, she strayed one day.
Said Mom, “Go shew that thing away.”

Said Dad, “I’m sure that it’s a bear,
Or elephant with moose-like hair.”

Said Sis, “Let it come play with us,
That shaggy hippopotamus.”

The neighbors feared the beast could
hurt us.
They said, “Let that thing desert us!”

Police said, “Wooly dinosaur.”
Animal Control said, “Might be more!”

But we are keeping cuddly Skeeter.
Dad says, “How we gonna feed her?”

I LIKE TO DRAW HAPPY

I like to draw steamboats
With circles for smoke
And stick people waving.
They’re happy stick folk.

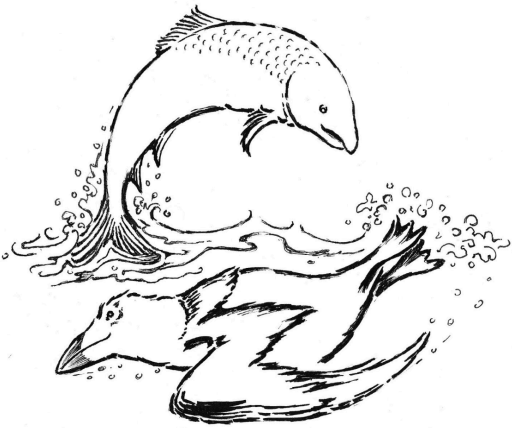
I like horses dancing
Through lollipop trees,
And upside-down half circle
Waves for the seas.

I like drawing school buses
Yellow and square,
A face on the schoolhouse,
A flag in the air.

I like airplanes purple
And dogs colored blue.
I like drawing Dad
Wearing pok-a-dot shoes.

My Sister says I should draw
Things that look real,
Thet cows are not orange
And horses aren’t teal.

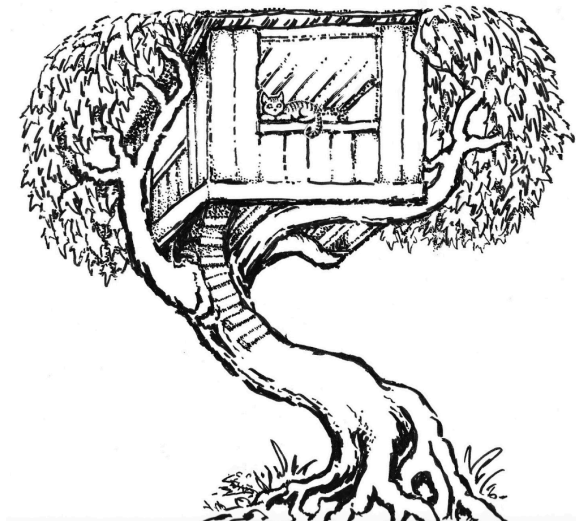
But I am not changing
The drawings I did.
I like to draw happy,
I’m that kind of kid.



FISHES FLY

Fish like to fly through the water,
While birds like to fly through the air.
Some birds like to fly through the water,
And a fish catching flies isn’t rare.

So, if fishes will fly through the air for a fly,
And birds like to fly though the water for fish;
Let fishes take care in the water or air
Because birds are the bane of their wish.



A HUT IN A TREE

The place where I go is in this tree
And from this place, Oh what I see!
It’s quiet here. It’s my own space.
Ideas aren’t dumb, they’re dreams to chase.

It’s built from boards pulled from a barn,
Which once gave shelter on a farm.
We put those boards up in this tree -
A place, a house, a hut that’s free.

I love my family -no disdain.
But when it’s time to get away,
I climb straight up like some wild cat,
Then here is where I you’ll find me at.
But don’t climb up here with no scheme.
If you come up, then bring a dream.

CLIMBING TREES

Trees are made for climbing
And climbers made for trees.
The compliment of these are like
A lock with matching keys.
If trees were not so climbable
For climbers needing fun,
Then fewer kids would be in trees -
A legacy undone!

The End (Unless you recite this rhyme to
your mom. Then you’ll probably be
hearing a lot more about not climbing
trees from her.)

WORRYING WENDEL LEE

Worrying Wendel Lee, you worry so.
Your brow is furrowed in one crooked row.
Your hair is gray and you're barely fifteen,
Fretting 'bout things you have heard
but not seen.

You are obsessed over germs from our sneezes,
Certain they'll give you exotic diseases,
And that the doctor will check you and say,
"Wendel, it's bad. This could be your last day!"

You think that zombies with chains are abiding
In your clothes closet, their skeletons hiding.
Waiting for midnight to ghoul-out in slime,
Proving your worries were right all this time!

You dwell on people and what they might think.
You fret 'bout food and 'bout what's in your drink.
Worry, instead Wendel, what will you do,
When you find none of these worries come true!

NOT EASY GROWING UP A KID

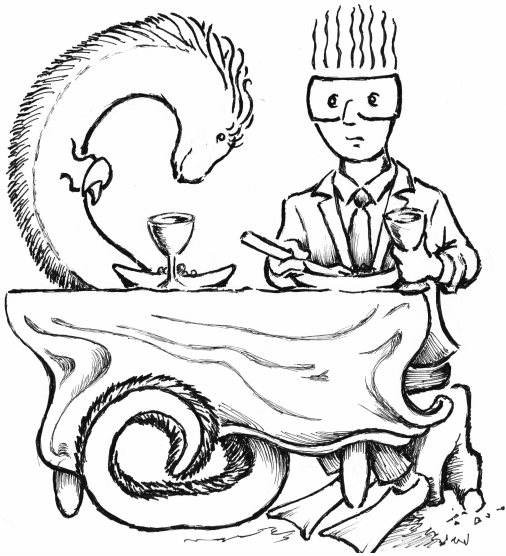
Being a kid, despite what you knew,
Isn't that easy for humans to do.
Everyone older and bigger than you
Make up the rules about what you should do.
They say don't eat all your snacks too sweet.
They say don't touch what you find in the street.
They say to constantly wash your hands.
Stop chewing things such as rubber bands.
They don't remember to ask what we think,
Things that we like, or songs that we sing.
They have a kid somewhere deep inside
Whom they should let out, and not always hide.



MY BONES

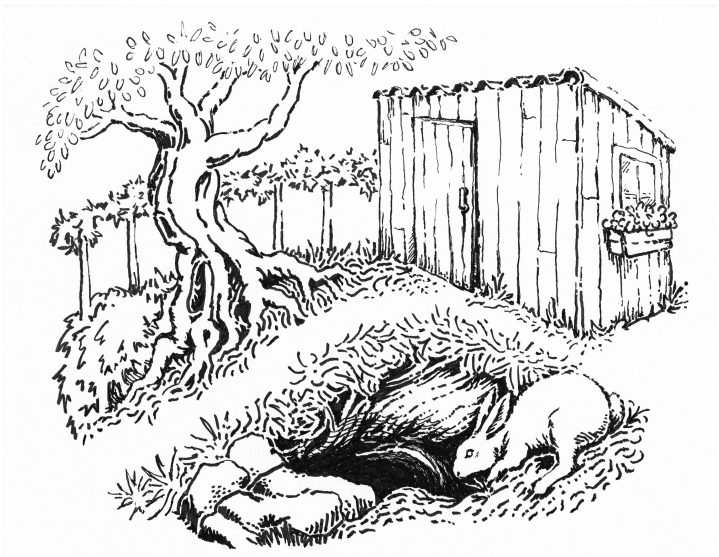
Sometimes my bones make noises
For no apparent reason.
The doctor says that joints can pop,
But Grandma blames the season.

I think bones should stay quiet.
Their function is quite simple:
They hold us up so we can play.
Those bones aren't there to jingle!



DINING WITH EELS

Here are some reasons why I feel
One should not dine out with an eel.
You'd have to dive
each place you brought her,
Then eat dinner under water.
This would chill you head to toes
And get you sick and wreck your clothes.
So, if she says she'll buy your meals
Say, "Sorry, I don't dine with eels."



LOLLIPOPS AND UNICORNS

I saw unicorns licking lollipops,
And a scientist walking triceratops.
The clouds formed into ice cream piles,
Devoured by flying crocodiles.
I felt the ground beneath me flow
In colorful streams
from a melting rainbow.
The trees above me turned to bears
Holding squirrels in rocking chairs.
I do not think it all makes sense,
But once it starts, I like the suspense!
You too can see.
Now shut your eyes
And send your thoughts
to a place of surprise.



A HOLE IN MY BACKYARD

A hole appeared in my backyard
From just the other day.
It started as a rabbit hole
But now it's like a cave.

Each day it grows a little more
In width, it's also deeper.
The echo bounces on and on.
It scared the old grounds keeper.

I'd like to go inside and look
To see where it may lead.
Mystifying passageways
Might take me to the sea.

The dangers waiting in my cave
May be too great to know,
But it's a cave in my backyard
So, oh well, here I go.

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I FLEW AWAY MY KITE

One day I flew my favorite kite,
The breeze was never better.
The clouds were brushed across a sky
Which seemed to go forever.

I flew it 'til the string ran out,
A thought seemed oh so clever:
To add more rolls of string because
This flight might not end ever!

I added roles and roles of string
And flew into the night.
By morning time my mighty kite
Had flown clear out of sight!

I've often wondered all the places
Where a kite could go.
Perhaps the mountains or a lake,
Brazil or Idaho?

No matter where it is out there,
I never will forget that day
My mighty kite flew on and on

Youth and Education

How to Avoid Some Common Homeschool Mistakes

By Carolyn Forte

Parents new to homeschooling look immediately for a curriculum. Although confused by the vast array of choices, they feel that they must have a curriculum immediately. Sadly, this is probably the worst mistake to make. Whether starting with a kindergartener or high schooler, the best way to ensure the success of your homeschool is to spend a generous amount of time learning about the journey. Lewis and Clark did not set out to explore the Louisiana Purchase in the latest model schooner. They chose boats that were best suited for the trip. If you choose the wrong vehicle (curriculum), you might run aground before you get around the first bend.

Veteran homeschooling parents will first tell you to take the time to deschool. In order for your child to reap the maximum benefit from home education, you need to learn the difference between school and learning. Take some time to explore the possibilities. Visit some homeschool groups, go to a convention, read about different homeschool styles, and talk to as many different homeschool families as you can.

A little-known and understood fact is of supreme importance: our modern schools were not designed to nurture the intellect. Quite the contrary, they were designed to feed the factories of the late 19th and 20th centuries with compliant workers trained to do boring, repetitive tasks for hours at a time. The founders of our “education” system were quite clear about their intentions and goals. Thus, our schools actively discourage creativity, inquiry, and divergent thinking (one of the hallmarks of genius)- rhetoric notwithstanding. I’m pretty sure you want better for your child.

The one-room schools attended by our ancestors had an entirely different philosophy of education. Since children of all ages and levels of learning were together in one room, children had the opportunity to move at their own pace. Instead of being assigned to a grade by age, children were placed in the reading or math book that suited their level of understanding or competence.

Many children began school between the age of 8 and 12 and graduated or left school between 14 and 16. The 8th grade graduates of 150 years ago were more competent in English, Math, History and Geography than majority of college graduates today.

How could this be? How did these backwoods schools produce such well-educated students without all the fancy trappings, colorful books, and technology we have today? The answer lies in the difference between schooling and education. The old one-room schoolhouse was mainly focused on learning the skills needed to succeed in an independent livelihood. Once you have those skills, there isn’t anything you cannot learn or teach yourself. Benjamin Franklin had less than three years of school. Abraham Lincoln had less than one year. Let that sink in. Our current schools were designed to waste time – lots of it!

The factory school model is the background and mindset of most homeschool parents. We tend to equate schools as we know them with learning, but there is a vast difference. Take some time to learn something new with your child, whatever their age. This will open your eyes and expand your horizons. I know you are worried that they will “get behind” if you don’t hit the books immediately. If you are looking at the average curriculum package, it will contain at least twice as much (busy) work as any child needs to learn the concept. Not only that, there is a good chance that it does not fit your child’s learning style and/or developmental stage and thus will be more frustrating than helpful. Try to erase the “behind” word from your vocabulary. Children are learning machines and will eagerly sop up whatever they are exposed to as long as it is not force-fed. So your curriculum, whether it is a grade-level package or library books plus games and field trips must be chosen with much care.

For parents of primary-age children, I highly recommend that you read Dr. Ruth Beechick’s little book, The Three R’s. Don’t buy anything other than a ball and a jump rope until you have read this book. If

you still think you have to buy a curriculum, go to www.gamecurriculum.com and see what your child can learn with games. Dr. Beechick explains why it is better to use games and stay away from a workbook curriculum at this age.

For parents of children aged eight and above, having your child complete a Learning Style Profile can help you make curriculum choices that fit your child’s unique learning style. You can purchase the book, Discover Your Child’s Learning Style by Mariaemma Willis and Victoria Hodson or you can do the Learning Style Assessment online.

Once you have that information, it will be much easier for you to choose a curriculum style and materials that suit your child most effectively. Even then, tread lightly. Try to get one subject or a trial period. Above all, do not panic! There is so much misinformation floating around the internet! You have plenty of time to make a reasoned decision, even if your child is in high school. Certain states have more rigid requirements and you may have to report a certain curriculum by a certain date in a few states. Check with your state homeschool association or Home School Legal Defense for accurate information. In general, however, you can flex the way you do things to accommodate time to research and explore.

As for getting into college, don’t fall for all the scaremongering about documentation, accreditation, testing, etc. Much of it is nonsense. There is a big difference between asking for and requiring them. Many colleges actively recruit homeschooled students - formal curriculum or not. Colleges are different and public colleges tend to be the most rigid. It is a little-known fact that a high school diploma is NOT a requirement for entrance to most colleges. In fact, we have known students who skipped high school altogether and went straight to college. Your main concern should be less about earning “credits” and more about your student's success when they leave home.

Lancaster High School CIF Champions

By David Nurse

The Lancaster Eagles won their very first California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) football title, under the leadership of new coach, Brandon Rivers. Coach River’s dedicated staff, including Coach Sean and Coach Mauricio Lopez, were key figures in leading the team to making Lancaster High School football history.

Head Coach Rivers is great with numbers both on and off of the field, as he also teaches Math, Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 at Lancaster High. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Education with an emphasis in Math from Grand Canyon University, and is on track to completing a Master’s Degree at Azusa Pacific University.

After graduating from Boron High School, where he played football, Coach Rivers worked as head coach for one season at Cal City High, then spent two seasons working with the running backs on Highland High’s football team. While coaching at Cal City High, Coach Rivers took note of Lancaster High’s talent during a game against them. Thus, when the coaching position for Lancaster’s varsity team opened, Coach Rivers seized the opportunity to coach at the school in which he teaches - a win-win. He was hired, and the rest is history.

Coach Rivers has big plans to continue fortifying his team both on and off of the field. He is pushing his players to run track and encouraging each of them to get stronger in the classroom. The Eagles lost their regional game for the State Tournament, but the team will begin Spring workouts in May. With Coach Rivers continuing to lead the Eagles, 2023 promises to be another exciting season.



#1 Cedric SaMarion



#73 Senior Ivan Rojas



Coach Brandon Rivers



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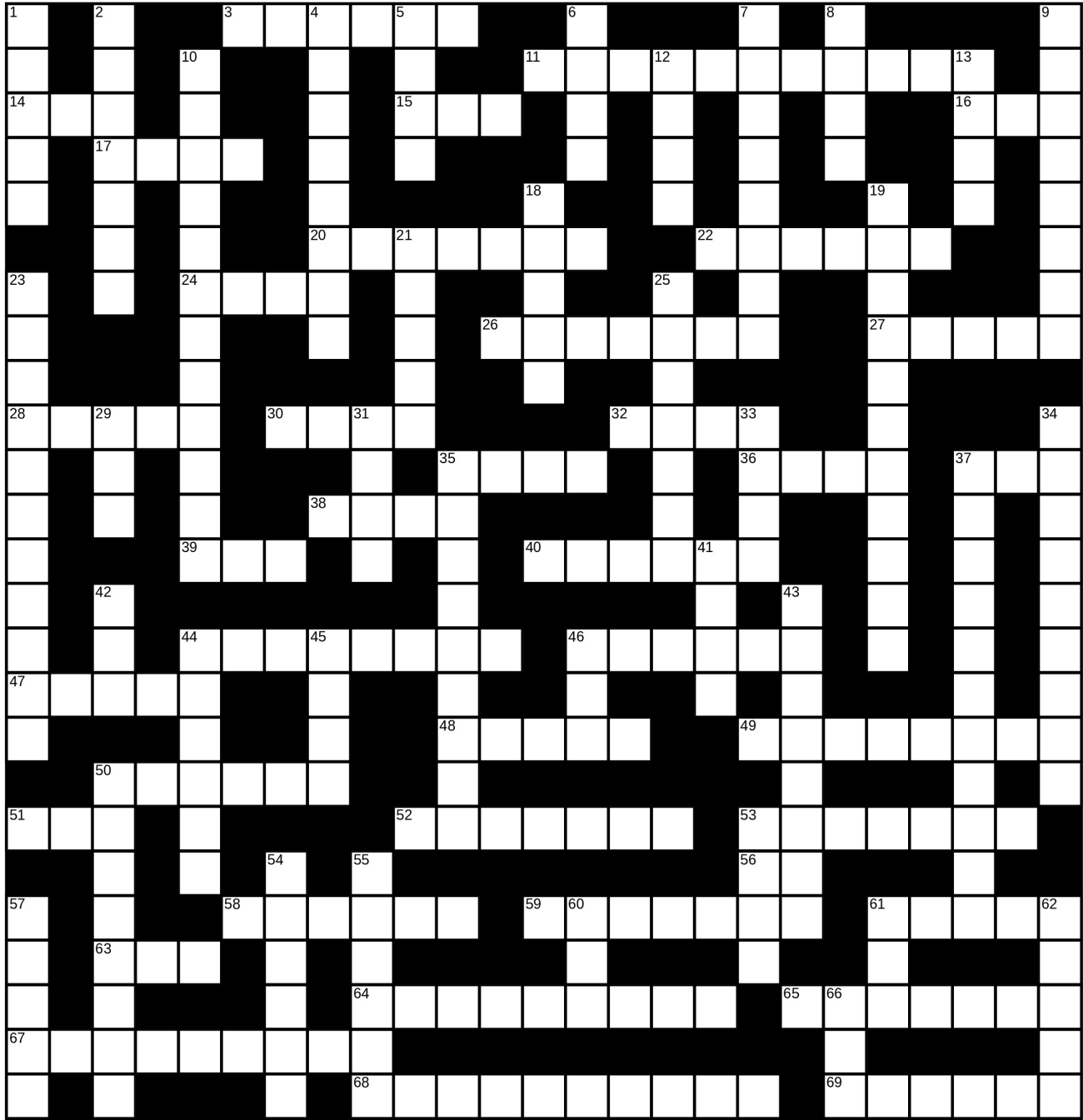
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Valley Voices

Crossword by Jennifer Maccarone



Down

- 1 “__ are red, violets are blue...”
2 Cancel a debt
4 Twelve AM
5 It is patient, kind and does not envy
6 Joint between thigh and lower leg
7 Next month
8 Second-hand, pre-owned
9 God’s favor and protection
10 Racing 2 to 6.2 miles by foot
12 War against this country began Jan. 1991 with air raid on Baghdad
13 Local business review site
18 37th POTUS, resigned during second term born Jan. 1913

- 19 December 31st, 3 words
21 Water hole in the desert
23 White broccoli
25 Invented reading system for the blind; born Jan. 1809
29 What the cow says
31 A liquid dish
33 Border, side, rim
34 Point at which something starts
35 32nd POTUS, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”
37 The same yesterday, today and forever; 2 words
41 Stars and Stripes seamstress, born Jan. 1752
42 “The Raven” poet, born Jan. 1809

- 43 Rose Parade city
44 Wolfgang Amadeus, musical genius, born Jan. 1756
45 Sharpens iron
46 “Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee,” born Jan. 1942
50 1st black pro baseball player, born Jan. 1919
53 Half of a quart
54 Day of the week that we observe MLK Jr. Day
55 Current season
57 The itsy __ spider
60 Upper limb
61 Dried leaves infused in hot water
62 Japanese noodle soup dish
66 Tic __ toe

- 63 Opposite of old
64 Running machine
65 Sports arena with tiers of seats
67 Feathery ice crystal
68 Firm decision to do or not do something
69 Voucher providing a discount

Visit our website for the previous crossword answers!

Laughter as Medicine

Composed by Dawn Hardesty

“He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting.” Job 8:21

It is so hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

I was reading a book on anti-gravity. I just couldn’t put it down!

Raining cats and dogs is not as bad as hailing taxis!

Yesterday I ate a clock, and it was very time consuming, and then I also went back for seconds.

My friend started a business to teach short people math. He called it “Making Little Things Count.”

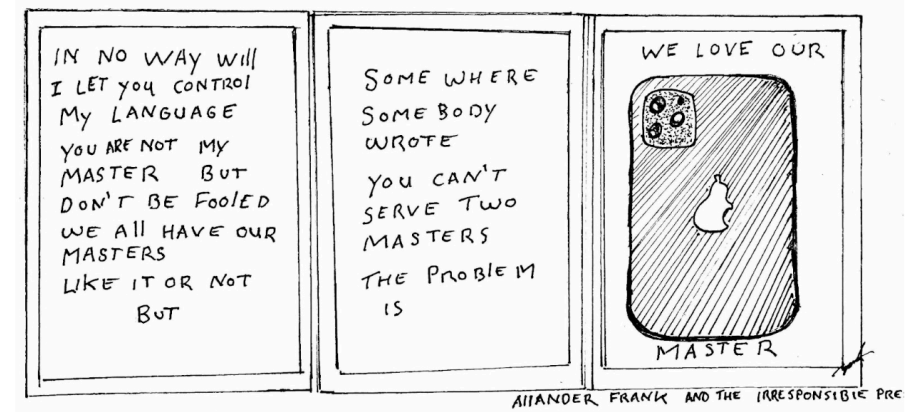
Here is a little known fact - Captain Hook bought his hook from a secondhand store.

The news reported that a stack of toilet paper fell on a customer in the supermarket. The report also states the customer only suffered soft tissue damage.

My mood ring was stolen, and I don't know how I feel about that!

When people are sad, they should be allowed to color in tattoos. Sometimes all that is needed is a shoulder to crayon.

When the doctor chose to mend his own wound, the nurse agreed, saying “suture-self.”



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Romans 6:23

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