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LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY  
SAN BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE  
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**FREE**  
PUBLICATION

B 11 G 56 I 25

# BINGO BUGLE

North America's Bingo & Casino Newspaper

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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

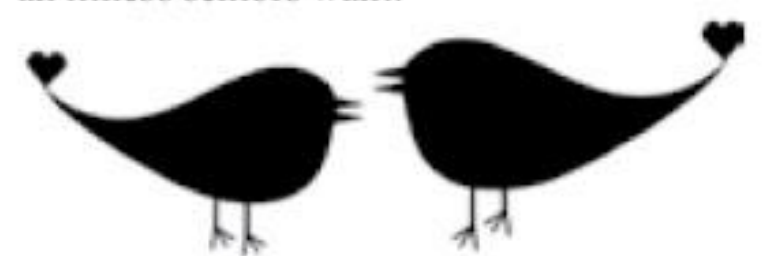
by Matilda Charles

### Staying Healthy, Staying Home

I've been lax lately in terms of my health. I admit it. While I haven't been at music concerts among thousands of people or riding packed subway cars, I have been going to stores during the daytime when the aisles are full. This was especially true during the holiday shopping season. It's time to stop that — again — and start staying home, again.

Respiratory syncytial virus (also known as RSV) is on the rise where I live, and likely elsewhere.

It was only a few months ago that the CDC was advising pediatricians to keep the standard RSV shot they usually give children and save it for the babies that were most vulnerable because supplies were limited. That does not bode well for getting a handle on the spread of RSV. And it's certainly not an illness seniors want.



And then we have Covid... still with us and never really went away, despite the number of people in stores who were not wearing masks. Seniors don't want that one either.

And then there's the regular, garden variety seasonal flu. The version of the flu shot for seniors this year is a high-dose quadrivalent, which covers two A types as well as two B versions. So we should be protected if we have that shot, they say.

While we were locked down because of the Covid pandemic, flu nearly disappeared. This is because we were staying home, we were washing our hands, we were wearing masks if we had to go out and we were social distancing — all things to protect against Covid, but it also worked to protect against flu.

I for one am going back to my safety protocols. With three viruses out there right now, I'm better off going back to Zoom calls with friends and the delivery of groceries.

Why take a chance?

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	÷		+		4			
-		+		×				
	-		×		3			
×		÷		+				
	×		-		4			
5		5			9			
1	2	3	3	5	6	7	8	9

DIFFICULTY: ★★  
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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## Lucky Lotto News

### From Dream Homes to Debts

There are endless possibilities for lottery winners once their checks clear and they've got full access to the thousands or even millions of dollars they've won.

Some use the money to buy new homes and catch up on bills. Others buy cars or go on vacation, but more frequently, lottery employees talk to people who want to use their money to do good for those around them.

"Just last week, we talked to a player who wanted to use a portion of winnings to pay off the mortgage of her church," wrote Kentucky Lottery spokesperson Travis Ragsdale. Following are just a few of the things lucky lottery winners have done with their money.

--A Colorado woman who won \$3 million in the lottery in 2022 made plans to treat her family to a vacation. The mom of three, Teanna, had previously packed up her family and moved about an hour from Castle Rock, Colorado, to Peyton to support her sick mother. She planned to take her little ones to Disney World.

--Manchester, CT resident Sharita won the lottery in 2019 and bought a new car her family desperately needed. "This is a blessing for me and my family right now," she told the lottery at the time. "A financial blessing. I'm going to buy my husband a new truck for his birthday—we share one car right now—so this will help my family a lot. The rest will pay for bills and the holidays."

--An Iowa woman recently announced plans for her winnings that would take a huge load off her financially.

Megan Balmer bought a lottery ticket last July in Garwin, Iowa, about 85 miles northeast of Des Moines. The life-changing purchase earned her \$2 million. She told lottery officials she planned to pay off her mortgage, student loan debt and that pesky credit card debt that lingers over the heads of many Americans. "That's huge," she said at the time. "That's such a relief to be able to say that I did those things. And I'll save some for retirement and my kids for their college. That's right around the corner, I'll blink and it will be there."

--Another Iowan, Tammy, won the \$2 million Powerball prize last June. Upon winning, she made plans to finish building a new home. Her family lost their home in 2001 when a tornado swept through Wapello County, about 90 miles southeast of Des Moines. She told lottery officials her new home would have "Better details...a walk-in closet and a Jacuzzi tub, that's what I'm talking about."

More Lottery Winners stories of spending next month!

### LUCKY LOTTO NUMBERS



16 - 20 - 35 - 36 - 52 \*15\*

### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## Savvy Senior

by Jim Miller

### Retirement Saver's Credit

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you explain to me how the retirement saver's tax credit works? My wife and I are in our fifties and are looking for creative ways to boost our retirement savings beyond our 401(k). Is this something we may be eligible for?

—Struggling to Save

Dear Struggling,

If your income is low to moderate and you participate in your employer-sponsored retirement plan or an IRA, the Retirement Savings Contribution Credit (aka Saver's Credit) is a frequently overlooked tool that can help boost your retirement savings even more. Here's how it works.

If you contribute to a retirement-savings account like a traditional or Roth IRA, 401(k), 403(b), 457, Thrift Savings Plan, Simplified Employee Pension or SIMPLE plan, the Saver's Credit will allow you to claim 10, 20 or 50 percent of your contribution of up to \$4,000 per year for couples or \$2,000 for singles.

Keep in mind that a credit is not the same as a tax deduction—it's better: While a tax deduction just reduces the amount of your income that is subject to taxes, a tax credit reduces your actual tax bill dollar-for-dollar.

To qualify, you must also be at least 18 years old and not a full-time student and were not claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return. And your adjusted gross income (AGI) in 2023 must be below \$73,000 or less as a married couple filing jointly, \$54,750 or less if filing as head of household, or \$36,500 or less if you're a single filer. These income limits are adjusted annually to keep pace with inflation.

To get the 50 percent credit, you'll need to have an income below \$43,500 for married couples filing jointly; \$32,625 if you're

filing as head of household; and \$21,750 if you're a single filer in 2023.

The 20 percent credit rate applies to couples earning between \$43,501 to \$47,500; for head of household filers it's \$32,626 to \$35,625; and for individuals it's \$21,751 to \$23,750.

And the 10 percent rate is for couples with an adjusted gross income between \$47,501 and \$73,000; for head of household filers \$35,626 to \$54,750; and individuals it's between \$23,751 and \$36,500.

Here's an example of how this works. Let's say that you and your wife earned \$75,000 in 2023. Over the course of the year, you contributed \$4,000 to your employer's 401(k) plan. After deducting your 401(k) contribution, your adjusted gross income (AGI) on your joint return is now \$71,000. Since your AGI puts you in the 10 percent credit bracket, and you've contributed the \$4,000 maximum that can be considered for the credit, you are entitled to a \$400 Saver's Credit on your tax return.

It's also worth mentioning that the Saver's Credit is in addition to any other tax benefits you get for your retirement contributions. So, in the previous example, not only would you be entitled to a \$400 credit, but you would also be able to exclude the \$4,000 401(k) contribution from your taxable income. So, if you're in the 12 percent tax bracket, this translates to an additional \$480 in savings, for a total of \$880.

### How to Claim

To claim the Saver's Credit, you will need to fill out Form 8880 (see IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8880.pdf) and attach it to your Form 1040 or 1040NR when you file your tax return.

For more information on the Saver's Credit, see IRS Publication 590-A Contributions to Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p590a.pdf).

The IRS also offers an online quiz you can take to help you determine if you qualify for the Saver's Credit. To access it go to IRS.gov/Help/ITA - click on "Do I Qualify for the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit?" under the "Credits" tab.

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- 6. \$1 Blackjack • Downtown Grand • Daily • \$1.20**
- 7. Breakfast • Emerald Island • Daily • \$5.49**
- 8. Prime Rib • Ellis Island Casino • Daily • \$24.99**
- 9. Shrimp Cocktail • Freemont • Daily • \$1.99**
- 10. Room Rates • Binion's Hotel Apache • 24 hours • \$39 and up**

List courtesy of Anthony Curtis' Las Vegas Advisor, a monthly newsletter devoted to helping you get the most for your money in Las Vegas. An annual subscription costs \$50 U.S./\$60 Canadian/\$70 foreign; sample issue \$5, Las Vegas Advisor, 3665 Procyon Street, Las Vegas, NV 89103. 800-244-2224. Website: [www.lasvegasadvisor.com](http://www.lasvegasadvisor.com).



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**Test Your Knowledge**

- 1. GEOGRAPHY:** In which city is the Brandenburg Gate located?
- 2. TELEVISION:** Which 1990s TV show catapulted actor George Clooney to fame?
- 3. MOVIES:** Which department store is featured in the 1947 holiday film, *Miracle on 34th Street*?
- 4. LEGAL:** What kind of legislative body is bicameral?
- 5. FOOD & DRINK:** What is the main ingredient in guacamole?
- 6. LITERATURE:** In *The Night Before Christmas* poem, how many reindeer does Santa Claus have?
- 7. CHEMISTRY:** Which chemical element's symbol is C?
- 8. HISTORY:** Who is the first female chancellor of Germany?
- 9. MUSIC:** Which female French singer had a hit song with "La Vie en Rose"?
- 10. SCIENCE:** When did the Krakatoa volcano have its last major eruption?

**ANSWERS**

1. Berlin, Germany.
2. ER.
3. Macy's.
4. A legislative body with two chambers, like House and Senate.
5. Avocado.
6. Eight.
7. Carbon.
8. Angela Merkel.
9. Edith Piaf.
10. 1883.

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**BINGO LAND**

NEWS FROM THE REAL WORLD & CYBERSPACE

**Big Win at Rampart Casino**

A Las Vegas local went home a big winner playing at Rampart Casino's Dual Action Bingo in Las Vegas this past December. According to casino officials Charmaine Maillet stopped by on a Thursday afternoon for the 3 p.m. session of Dual Action Bingo and hit the jackpot in just 34 numbers. She ended up taking home a whopping \$91,069.

**Historical Bingo Ban**

The *Calgary Herald* recently told the story of how Bingo was banned in Alberta in 1952 using the newspaper's archives. The article (available online) uses reproductions from the paper to tell the story. In December of that year, the provincial attorney-general decided a crackdown needed to occur regarding bingos, lotteries and raffles. A number of bingo games had been operating "wide open" in Calgary for several years, the police chief of the day noted. However, the only legal bingo games that should have been occurring were "occasional" games, in which proceeds were being used for a charitable purpose. The city was filled with both anti-bingo and pro-bingo folks, as the Letters to the Editor pages from 1953 reveal. Calgary City Council eventually weighed in as well, and on Feb. 16, 1953, council passed a motion (six to five) to ask the provincial government to allow charitable games of bingos, similar to what was occurring before the December crackdown. Within 10 days, the issue was back before the Alberta legislature, which decided bingo should be allowed to operate as it was before two-month crackdown occurred.

**Beads, Bags, and Bingo**

The Junior League of The Mahoning Valley (JLMV) were set at press time to present "Beads, Bags, and Bingo," a Mardi Gras-themed Purse Bingo fundraiser in Canfield, Ohio on Feb. 1st. Featured purses included Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Tory Burch, and more, and the event also included door prizes, appetizers and cash bar. Since its founding in 1901 by social activist Mary Harriman, the Junior League has evolved into one of the oldest, largest and most effective women's volunteer organizations in the world, encompassing more than 150,000 women in the 292 Leagues in four countries. The Junior League of The Mahoning Valley is an organization of women committed to building better communities, developing the potential of women and our members, and promoting voluntarism. The Junior League of The Mahoning Valley has provided effective leadership and training opportunities for the past 91 years. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The league was formed in 1932, the area's longest-serving women's organization.

**Jackpot in Aberdeen**

An Aberdeen, Scotland Bingo player scooped a massive £50,000 jackpot just before Christmas setting the stage for a very happy holiday. While it may have been a tough weekend for Dons fans watching the Scottish League Cup final, this city resident was celebrating the life-changing prize at Mecca Bingo. The lucky winner, who wishes to remain anonymous, was playing with her sister when they scooped the jackpot and plan to spend the sum with their family.

**BROOM-HILDA**



By Russell Myers



**PICKS OF THE MONTH**

**Barbie** (PG-13) — The highest-grossing film of 2023, clocking in at \$1.4 billion, is finally out on streaming! Margot Robbie stars as the titular character in director Greta Gerwig's fourth feature film, opposite a very sassy Ryan Gosling as none other than Ken. The film follows Barbie in Barbieland as she experiences an existential crisis after waking up one day and no longer being "stereotypically perfect." With the help of Ken, Barbie travels to the real world in an attempt to find the child who's playing with her — her "owner," if you will — so that she can return to her perfectly pink life. So far, its director, lead actress and supporting actor are all nominated for Golden Globes, and the film itself is nominated in the Best Motion Picture and Cinematic and Box Office Achievement categories. With the cultural movement that *Barbie* became this summer, the last nomination should be theirs for the taking! (Max)

**Saltburn** (R) — *The Banshees of Inisherin* star Barry Keoghan jumps into the role of Oliver Quick, a misunderstood, straight-edge student at Oxford University who struggles to fit in with his classmates. After a coincidental meeting with a popular student named Felix (Jacob Elordi), Oliver becomes fast friends with Felix and eventually gets invited to spend the summer at Felix's family estate, called Saltburn. The estate is buzzing with bizarre characters who filter in and out of the lavish property, including fellow Oxford student Farleigh (Archie Madekwe) and family friend Pamela (Carey Mulligan). As the summer comes to an end, Oliver realizes that the life he enjoyed at Saltburn is the only life he wants to live. Out now, this psychological thriller is director Emerald Fennell's sophomore film, her debut being *Promising Young Woman*, which also features Mulligan. (Prime Video)

**Beau Is Afraid** (R) — Directed by Ari Aster (*Midsommar*), this film features Oscar winner Joaquin Phoenix — and got Phoenix his seventh Golden Globe nomination. He plays Beau, the son of a wealthy businesswoman named Mona, who grew up to become a very anxious, accident-prone adult. Beau receives news that his mother died in an accident as he was on his way to visit her, and as if his astronomically bad luck couldn't possibly get worse, he gets into an accident himself after hearing the news. While the date of his mother's funeral looms closer, all of his plans to get there goes awry, and Beau surrenders to a series of trippy experiences that push him to let out the grief and guilt surrounding him. With an ensemble cast of Patti LuPone, Nathan Lane, Michael Gandolfini and more, this surreal horror film is out now, after a disappointing box-office release. (Paramount+)

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By Ralph Dunagin and Dana Summers



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Thank you for reading *The Bingo Bugle!*



# Gaming News

## Bullet Train Picks up Speed

News outlets reported that Brightline, the long-proposed high-speed rail line between southern California and Las Vegas, is receiving \$3 billion in public funding from the \$16.4 billion for passenger rail projects as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a signature program of the Biden Administration's economic agenda. The money, released by the federal Department of Transportation, will allow Brightline to break ground on the line, which it's touting in signage surrounding the property on Las Vegas Blvd. across from the Premium Outlets South earmarked for the train station. Brightline has announced that it hopes to complete the rail line by the 2028 Summer Olympics, which will take place in Los Angeles.

## Big Bad-Beat Payout in Pittsburgh

Rivers Casino Pittsburgh paid out the largest bad-beat jackpot in U.S. history in August 2022 at \$1.2 million. Fifteen months later, it paid out one that was almost as much: \$905,622. Two western Pennsylvania poker players won the top two prizes when one's quad aces were beat by a diamond royal flush. The aces won 40% of the jackpot, for \$362,250, while the royal won 30% for \$271,686. The other six players at the table each received \$45,281. The Rivers poker room also awards a bonus for a royal, but the player couldn't claim both the bad-beat payout and the royal bonus.

## Mayor Dreams of Dallas Casino

During Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson's annual sit-down interview with the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce he said those pushing for casino gaming in the city need to

be talking to the city council and not just the state legislature. The Adelson and Dumont families have spent millions already trying to bring casino gaming to Texas. They join Cuban's efforts to bring a resort-style casino to North Texas. The mayor told a crowd if the location is in Dallas the city council will also have to be consulted. The city has to approve permits, construction, road closures, and a large amount of procedures to build a large building. The mayor remains skeptical if it will even get that far along, with a conservative legislature that so far has not expanded gambling to include table games like poker and blackjack.

## Golden West Casino Takes Shape

The look of Golden West Casino's new home north of Meadows Field Airport in Bakersfield, California is coming into focus with the release of renderings showing an angular, well-landscaped building at the northwest corner of Merle Haggard Drive and Landings Way. Kern County Associates LP said its 30,723-square-foot building will contain 45 tables for playing a wide range of gaming options with up to 10 seats per table. There will be a contemporary casual restaurant, exclusive VIP lounge, versatile event spaces and entertainment facilities. The company won permission late last year to proceed with the complex so it can leave its 28-year home located in an area struggling with crime, ahead of the opening of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tejon starting in 2025 in Mettler. The new property is planned to operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The company has said it will employ about 200 workers.

## Airport Sets New Passenger Record

Reid International Las Vegas set a new all-time record for the number of passengers transiting the airport in a single month in October 2023. The 5.47 million passengers beat the previous record of 5.18 million passengers in October 2022 by 5.7%.



## Lights, Camera, Bingo!

From the Best of the Bingo Sisters

We were very surprised when we arrived to play Bingo to be asked to be in a movie. Of course, we said yes as we had never been in a movie before, and it sounded like fun. No pay was involved, but we were offered a free lunch if we would show up at the Bingo hall the next Sunday and spend the morning being filmed playing Bingo. We were asked to bring friends if possible, so we immediately recruited Cliff and Rodney who also thought it was a fine idea.

When we arrived, we were given regular Bingo packs and sat down as if playing an ordinary set of games. The normal schedule of games was followed, starting with a regular Bingo followed by a Texas blackout. The film crew encouraged us to be "active players" and wave our hands as well as stand up occasionally as the game became hot. We were also told to make loud remarks and encourage the caller to give us the number we wanted or else.

Bingo tends to be a rather sedate game, but the director wanted lots of action and noise, so we gave it to her. We were told never to look at the camera or move so as to be in camera range.

The director crowded us together at just four tables so it looked like it was a really big group.

We thought it would be just a very quick take, but we were wrong. The director set the scene, which meant she explained the scenario. "A robber has sneaked in the back door and is hiding among the Bingo players. You ignore him and go on playing. The cops spot him, and he drops to the floor under the tables. A couple of you ladies act surprised and very shocked." The director looked us over. "Here," she said to Kate handing her a cell phone. "You use the phone." I laughed because Kate hates cell phones and threatens mayhem to anyone who uses one during Bingo.

We had been told to wear bright colors and I was quite pleased with my new red sweater. "Do you have a coat?" the director asked me. "The camera grabs that red." "I do have a coat," I said. "But it's purple." I put it on.

"That's better," said the director. "Now be sure you wave your arms and ask the caller to give you the right number." She patted Rodney on his bald spot as she walked by. "Need powder over here," she called to makeup. Rodney did not look pleased.

Soon the cameras were rolling, and we were actively playing, waving arms and calling out comments on the game. I didn't see the bad guy sneak in, but I soon felt him on the floor under our table.

"Hey, watch it!" I said, and the director called, "Cut."

"I like your comment and your reaction," the director told me, "but say it to him." She pointed to Rodney. "A little comedy never hurts."

The first couple of takes were fun and we were really into the swing of it. However, the takes went on and on and on. After the seventeenth take, I was really ready to call it a day, but the director wanted "one more, just in case."

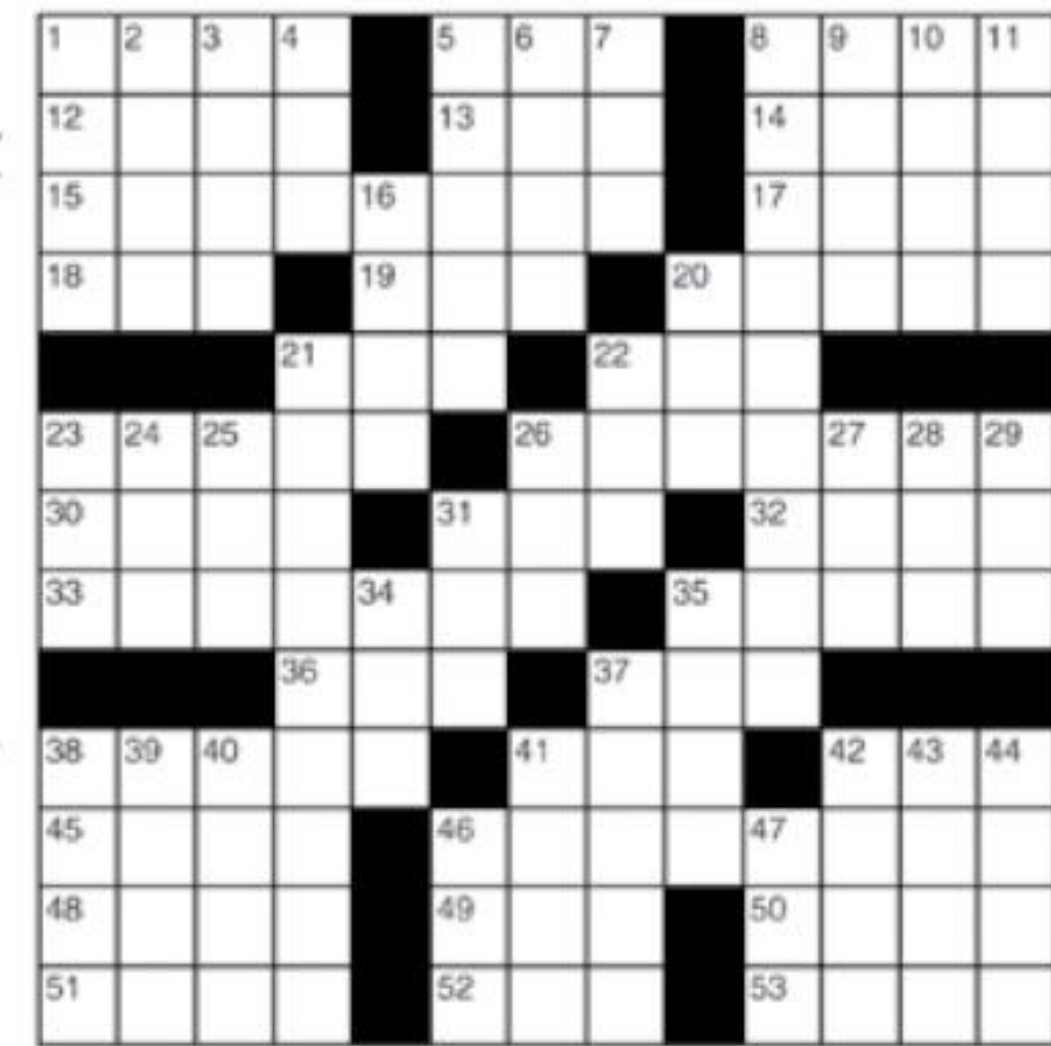
We had continued to daub our Bingo cards during the filming and now Kate was in a small frenzy. She threw down her cell phone, stood up and yelled. "I don't care if you caught the bad guy or not, I've got a Bingo!"

# COFFEE BREAK!

## BINGO BUGLE CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Trumpet
- 5 Recipe meas.
- 8 Arduous journey
- 12 Reed instrument
- 13 Pussy-Cat's partner
- 14 Present
- 15 Freebie
- 17 Wedding symbol
- 18 "Golly!"
- 19 Illuminated
- 20 Actor Tommy Lee
- 21 Automaton, for short
- 22 Not many
- 23 Strictly - nous
- 26 Excise
- 30 Old Italian money
- 31 Godfather's address
- 32 Greet silently
- 33 Abandon the nest
- 35 Gold measure
- 36 Child
- 37 Whatever number
- 38 Caesar, for one
- 41 Saturnian saucer?
- 42 Locate
- 45 Cabbage salad
- 46 Hidden pas-

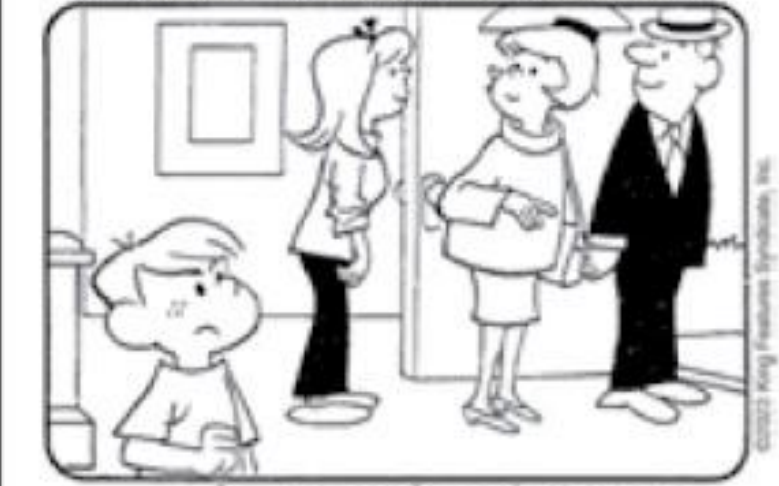


- 7 Thickness
- 8 Disposable
- 9 Check
- 10 Sea eagle
- 11 Small barrels
- 16 Burn aid
- 20 Lustrous black
- 21 Made to come apart easily
- 22 Merriment
- 23 Sprite
- 24 Zero
- 25 Have a go at
- 26 Coquettish
- 27 Series of skirmishes
- 28 Actress Gardner
- 29 Still
- 31 Pop
- 34 Victory
- 35 Recognize
- 37 Earlier, in verse
- 38 Answer an invite
- 39 Hodgepodge
- 40 Halloween purchase
- 41 Hexagonal state
- 42 Former ugly duckling
- 43 Bridge position
- 44 Spud's buds
- 46 Drunkard
- 47 Lawyers' org.

## HOCUS-FOCUS



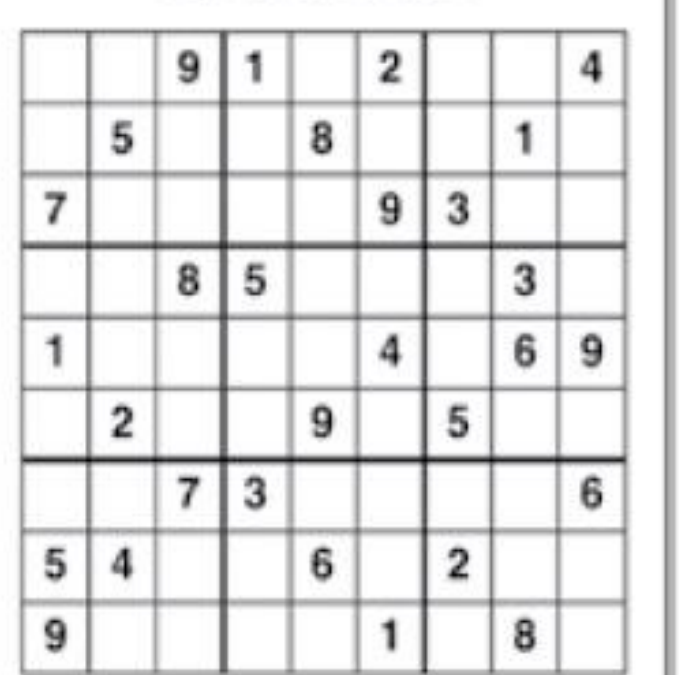
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS

## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SCRAMBLERS

**SCRAMBLERS**  
Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the empty word, which will complete the page!

Walk  
RATED

Path  
OUTER

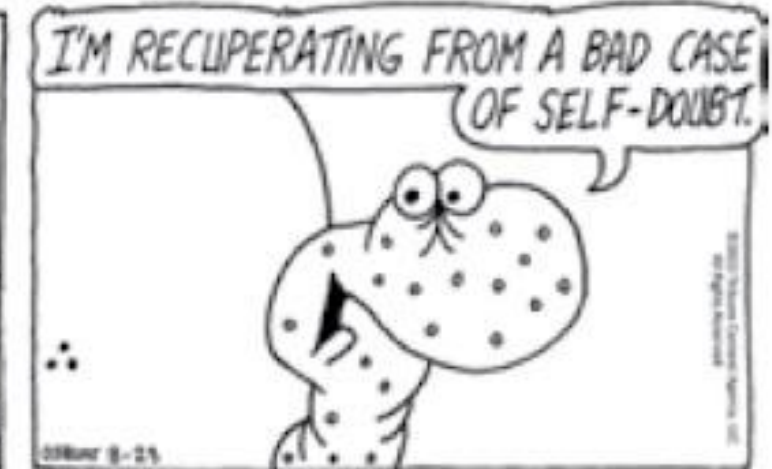
Brand  
BELLA

Figure  
PHASE

TODAY'S WORD

## ANIMAL CRACKERS

By Fred Wagner



## Gasoline Alley

By Jim Scancarelli



# BOB ON BINGO

By Bob Whittmore

## A Look Back with Old Bob

Thanks to the nice people at the *Bingo Bugle*, I have had the pleasure of being with you for more than twenty-three years. During that time a lot of wonderful e-mail has come in to bingo@earthlink.net. In looking back, I want to bring up this e-mail from a reader:

"Dear Bob. I like to think of you as a Bingo expert. But I remember the month you told us of how you failed as a Bingo Caller. I would like to read about that again. —D.F., Indianapolis."

Well, D.F., here goes. As you know, now that I have moved back to my hometown in southern Indiana, I have been playing Bingo in the same grade school cafeteria where I first played in 1957. Recently, the guy who runs the games asked me if I would like to become the Friday night official Bingo caller. I immediately agreed. The next week I went into training. I quickly found that being a

Bingo caller was mostly WORK and not that much FUN.

I had prepared a work sheet to use each week when I would solo as a caller. But I never imagined what a confusing job it would be. I failed miserably.

Over the years, the old Bingo hall has added a lot of gimmicks and quirks that most halls don't have. For example, the Early Bird session is divided into two parts: The Early-Early Bird and the Early Bird. Now, that might not seem confusing until you realize that the first games are all Double Bingo with a Wild Number. And, friends, telling the equipment what the wild number isn't easy.

The evening starts at 6 p.m. By the time 6:30 came and we were getting ready to switch to the "normal" single Bingo Early Bird games, I was ready to throw in the towel. My teacher was very supportive, but I felt clumsy and I was slowing down the games and I knew the audience knew that I was in a world of hurt. The last thing I wanted to do was mess up a tradition at my old school that had started decades ago.

Now, before the regular session there is an added level of complexity that I was not prepared for. This hall awards cow bells (don't laugh) to five different people before the main games. The bells go to anyone who has a birthday or whose name is called from entries submitted when people bought their packs. Each winner of a bell picks his or her own favorite number. The caller has to list those. Each time a person's number is called, they ring their bell and one of the runners has to pay them five or ten dollars, depending on which size bell they were awarded.

Part Two, next month.

## KOVELS Antiques & Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel

**Q:** Years ago, I was given a 3-cent postage machine with a hand crank that was used in drug stores during the war years. It gives three stamps for a dime and was distributed by H.M. Branson Distributing Company, 2nd Street, Louisville, Kentucky. I'd like to know what it's worth.

**A:** The first class postage rate was 3 cents from July 6, 1932, until Aug. 1, 1958. It was also the rate during World War I, from Nov. 2, 1917, to July 1, 1919. We found advertisements listing the H.M. Branson Distributing Company as a distributor of Rock-Ola phonographs and Bally pinball machines in the late 1940s to the late 1960s. Any coin-operated machine sells. Vintage postage machines sell for about \$100. If rare, they sell for more.

**TIP:** Clean the feathers on a stuffed bird with chunks of fresh white bread. After cleaning, spray lightly with hair spray.

Sign up for our free weekly email, *Kovels Comments*. Terry Kovel writes about the latest news, tips, questions and her views of the market. If you register on our website, kovels.com, there is no charge.

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## Booktrib's BookBites

## For the Love of Maggie O'Die by Cle Curbo

A mystery wrapped around a love story. Woman of a certain age and head of All Bio, Maggie O'Die, sees a strange likeness to her long-missing husband in young private investigator Ryger Deacon. When a secret group places a bounty on their heads, Ryger flees and discovers unexpected answers to his past as he searches for the missing Maggie O'Die and the granddaughter heir to her vast fortune.

"Curbo hooks his readers by dishing out the clues with enough breadcrumbs to keep his audience reading until the crack of dawn," says author M.L. Hamilton. Adds author Sheryl J. Bize-Boutte, "The unusual premise along with the brilliant use of crisp dialogue provides a taut and building tension in an edgy yet beautiful display of fiction at its best."

© NAPS

## MAGIC MAZE

### MAGIC MAZE ● ENDING IN "AGE"

Q N K H E B Y W E I R O L J G  
E B Y W U R P G G E N K I G D  
R Z F ( B R E A K A G E ) X E V F  
S Q B G O M M K D A G I G G F  
G E E C A A Y V A I A W A U G  
S Q V D P B N O L F R T R J A  
H F E E C A B Y Y U T X R V R  
U S R Q P E G A C O I N A G E  
N M A K J I I F G C M B E B C V  
B Z G S T A G E G A R E P M A  
Y X E G A B B I R C A V U T R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Clue: A Liquid Suitable for Drinking

- Adage
- Amperage
- Arbitrage
- Average
- Barrage
- Breakage
- Cabbage
- Cage
- Camouflage
- Coinage
- Cottage
- Cribbage
- Damage
- Stage
- Voyage

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## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FUINY

CRIFE

HSTIGT

UTELOT

A:



AFTER SIGNING A HUGE CONTRACT, THE FASHION MODEL WAS —

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**CryptoQuote**  
AKYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW  
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, K for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

ORD'S MZXD SNG VRPIO ZDO  
IRWG CRTP WRTI; VXWORB XW  
UGSSGP SNZD WXIQGP RP MRIO.  
— URU BZPIGC

**COFFEE BREAK ANSWERS NOW ON ASTROLOGY PAGE**



# FEBRUARY

PLAY OUR NEW GAME  
**FRAMED**

# CASINO MORONGO BINGO

**\$20 PAPER BUY-IN PLAYED  
5 DAYS A WEEK!!!**  
EARLY BIRDS PAY \$125  
REGULAR SESSION PAY \$250  
BINGO CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY

## ALL IN FRIDAY'S

**\$65 ALL IN BUY IN**  
(300 Cards)  
1-2-3 Warm Up's Paying \$500  
5 Early Birds Paying \$250  
10 Regular Games Pay \$500  
Double Action (cons \$500)  
Pick a Pet Jackpot (cons \$500)  
Framed Jackpot \$1,000 (cons \$500)  
\$2,500 Super Bonanza Jackpot  
Pick 8 Progressive 20# or less (cons \$500)

\*1 Line of Pick 8 Progressive included. \*\*Morongo Ball & Hatball not included.

## WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

**\$40 BUY-IN**  
(36 Cards)  
\*\*1-2-3 Warm Up's Paying \$500  
5 Early Birds Paying \$250  
5 Regular Games Pay \$500  
5 Regular Games Pay \$1,000  
Double Action (cons \$500)  
\*\*Pick a Pet Jackpot (cons \$500)  
\*\*Framed Jackpot \$1,000 (cons \$500)  
\*\*\$2,500 Super Bonanza Jackpot  
\*\*Pick 8 Progressive 20# or less (cons \$500)

\*\*Morongo Ball & Hatball not included. \*\*\*Not included in buy-in.

## HIGH STAKES THURSDAY & SATURDAY

**\$65 BUY-IN**  
(36 Cards)  
\*\*1-2-3 Warm Up's Paying \$500  
5 Early Birds Paying \$500  
10 Regular Games \$1199  
Double Action (cons \$500)  
\*\*52# or less Pick a Pet Jackpot  
\*\*Framed Jackpot \$1,000 (cons \$500)  
\*\*\$2,500 Super Bonanza Jackpot  
\*\*Pick 8 Progressive 20# or less (cons \$1199)

\*\*Not included in Buy-in. \*\*\*Morongo Ball & Hatball not included.

Come Stack Some

# BIG MONEY

## Ultra-High Stakes Bingo Session

OVER \$30,000 IN PAYOUTS GUARANTEED!!

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

**\$179 ALL IN**

123 Warm Up's Paying in total \$1,000 • 5 Early Birds paying \$1,000  
15 Regular Session Paying \$1,199 • Double Action \$2,500 Consolation \$1,000  
Pick A Pet Paying \$5,000 Consolation \$2,000  
Bonanza Paying \$5,000 Consolation \$2,000  
Pick 8 Jackpot Paying \$12,500 Consolation \$5,000

20 Strip Tab winners will be drawn to receive an electronic Buy-in  
Additional Specials May Be Purchased | Ask About Our Ultra Lightning Pack

BE MY  
**Valentine**

BE MY VALENTINE  
MINI SPECIAL!!!

Saturday February 10, 2024  
\$85 Buy in (36 Cards)  
With Rewards Club

\*\* Start Up's Paying in Total \$750  
5 Early Birds Pay \$500  
15 Games \$1,199  
Double Action (cons \$500)  
\*\*52# or less Pick a Pet Jackpot  
\*\*Framed Jackpot \$1,000 (cons \$500)  
\*\*\$2500 Super Bonanza Jackpot  
\*\*Pick 8 Jackpot 20# Progressive Jackpot (cons \$1,199)  
\*\*not included in buy in  
-PLUS-

20 winners will be drawn to receive an electronic Buy-in  
&  
**5 VALENTINE'S DAY PACK GIVEAWAYS**  
(1 Night Stay, Good Times Cafe and Sage Spa for 2)  
Doors Open at 3pm 1st Game at 6pm

WED - SAT - DOORS 3PM • 1<sup>ST</sup> GAME 6PM | SUN - DOORS 11AM • 1<sup>ST</sup> GAME 2PM  
CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY

IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES  
UNTIL SOMEONE YELLS



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OR CALL (951) 755-5500

\*Non Morongo Rewards Member add \$10 \*\*Not included in buy-in. Morongo reserves all rights.  
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Check it out!



by Bonnie Mitchell

## Control Issues

Dear Aunt Bingo,

It's amazing to me how people act at a Bingo hall. It seems like the regular players think they own the chairs they sit in. They do not! We have new people come in, and they don't know who's been sitting in those chairs. At our hall, if there is no buy-in ticket there, it can be anybody's seat. (Regardless of daubers setting there.) Until there is a buy-in, it is anybody's seat.

And all this shoving, arguing, and cursing is so childish—you're an adult and you should behave like one. I work as a volunteer in a Bingo hall and I think it is absolutely disgusting to hear and see this kind of behavior.

—Signed A Volunteer Worker

Dear Volunteer,

Recently I found myself chatting with a psychologist I met at a party, and I asked her what she thought of certain behaviors I've observed in Bingo halls, including seat saving.

She said such behavior is likely driven by two things. First, there is superstition. If a player won big money sitting in a particular seat, then that player may go to great lengths to make sure they get that seat again. The second is territorial control. We live in a time when people feel that much of what is happening in their lives is beyond their control. As a result, the little things they feel they can control, they do so with staunch determination. Bingo hall seat saving is a perfect example. The player may like the lighting, the airflow, the view of the caller or monitor, the supposed luckiness of the spot, you name it. As a result, they view the seat as "theirs" and see anyone who tries to take that seat as an intruder and a threat.

All this said, you are absolutely right to say that the seat is, in fact, not theirs, and they have no right to use confrontation to get what they want. Unfortunately, I fear that such issues in the Bingo hall are bound to continue. —Aunt Bingo

Write to Aunt Bingo c/o the Bingo Bugle,  
P.O. Box 527, Vashon, WA 98070.



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

Doors open 4pm • Bingo Starts at 6pm

FREE BINGO  
FOR FEBRUARY  
BIRTHDAYS!

♥ If your birthday lands on Feb. 14  
players play FREE on Feb. 16  
♥ If your birthday lands on Feb. 29  
players play FREE on Feb. 23  
(MUST SHOW ID)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
VALENTINE'S WEEK SPECIAL

Special pricing for players who buy online at  
([BingomeNow.com](http://BingomeNow.com)).  
Prices at the door will remain the same.  
♥ All Players will receive a FREE dauber  
♥ All Players will receive a FREE Strip Game  
♥ Online Pricing will be:  
• Early Bird and (1) Regular Pack \$20  
• Early Bird and (2) Regular Pack \$25  
• Early Bird and (3) Regular Pack \$30  
• Early Bird and (4) Regular Pack \$35

FREE GAME  
JACKPOT!  
\$500

ONE LUCKY WINNER  
WON THE \$2,300  
JACKPOT LAST MONTH!

3 WINNERS LAST  
WEEK ONLY GET A  
FREE BUY-IN FOR THE  
FOLLOWING WEEK  
(From a 1st or 2nd)

FREE BUY-IN

The last Friday of the month  
(Feb. 23), one VIP player will  
win a FREE BUY-IN for the  
entire following month of  
March!

• SMOKING SECTION AVAILABLE (OUTSIDE PATIO) FOR PLAYERS  
• ON-SITE KITCHEN FOR REFRESHMENTS

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21  
ST. MARY'S  
BINGO

EVERY MONDAY  
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM  
GAMES START AT 6:30  
AND THURSDAY

POWER BALLS PAY \$250 EACH  
STRIP GAMES PAY \$300 AND \$500  
FLASHBOARD PAYS \$250, \$500,  
\$750, \$1000, \$1199

3-PACK FOR \$52  
\$5 EACH ADDITIONAL PACK. UP TO 5 PACKS  
1/2 PACKS AFTER INTERMISSION:  
2-PACK FOR \$30  
\$5 EA. ADDITIONAL PACK. UP TO 5 PACKS

FREE  
Coffee & Tea  
food for sale!

EVERY BINGO  
MANAGER SPECIAL

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## Fun "Holidays" in February

February is well known for hosting Valentine's Day (14<sup>th</sup>), Black History Month, Groundhog Day (2<sup>nd</sup>), American Heart Month, Mardi Gras (13<sup>th</sup>) and more. Just for fun, let's take a look-see at some of the more unusual and offbeat "holidays" this month.

—February 1<sup>st</sup>: Spunky Old Broads Day. Right off the bat, we have a rather fun holiday to start our journey. Spunky Old Broads Day is a day to celebrate older women for all their courage, wisdom, and vivacity. I like to think of myself as a Spunky Old Broad, so bring on the gifts!

—February 4<sup>th</sup>: Stuffed Mushroom Day. Few things can match the flavor of a stuffed mushroom, and National Stuffed Mushroom Day is just the day to gorge on this delightful delicacy. There are many variations of stuffed mushrooms—my personal favorite is crab-stuffed mushrooms, but I also enjoyed a tasty serving of escargot-stuffed mushrooms a few years back. That was the first, and probably only time I've ever eaten snails.

—February 6<sup>th</sup>: Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day. Will your neighbors appreciate your friendly gesture, or will they think you're nuts? Try it and find out!

—February 9<sup>th</sup>: National Pizza Day. Do I really need to explain? I think this is a holiday we can all get behind. Whether you're a cheese pizza aficionado, or a supreme pizza connoisseur, this is holiday that will bring us all closer. Fun anecdote: At our house, we call cheese pizza "TV pizza", because it has no toppings. Watch your favorite TV shows. When pizza is featured, most of the time it's a sad looking no-topping pizza.

—February 18<sup>th</sup>: National Drink Wine Day. This holiday should be much closer to National Pizza Day, in my opinion. Go ahead and grab a pizza and get ready to unwind with a glass or two of your favorite Cabernet Sauvignon or Chardonnay. To be honest, I'm not sure which wine goes with pizza.

—February 22<sup>nd</sup>: My dog Frankie's birthday! Okay, it's also National Chili Day. I suppose the debate lingers on—do you prefer chili with beans or chili without beans? As for me, it's chili with beans for a nice cozy bowl or for Frito pie, and chili without beans for childlogs.

—February 26<sup>th</sup>: National Pistachio Day. I hope pistachio ice creams counts, because that's my favorite use of pistachios... second is pistachio pudding. Enjoy your pistachios however you want. Find a new recipe that uses pistachios or just munch on them while watching a good movie.

I wonder why I typically gravitate towards food-related commentary. I just end up hungry when I'm done. Well, if reading this has brought on some unexpected food cravings, then order that pizza, open that can of chili, or grab a glass of wine! We're all friends here.





# \$50,000

Coverall each day

MARCH 4-6  
NOTE: (MON-WED)

SECOND CHANCE \$5,000 & THIRD CHANCE \$2,500

19 REGULAR GAMES  
**\$1,199 EACH DAY!**

ENTRY FEE ONLY \$160

ADD A FOUR NIGHT  
STAY FOR

**\$140**

SUNDAY-THURSDAY  
NO RESORT FEE

SUPER BINGO  
PLAYERS RECIEVE:

- ONE (1) 6-ON PAPER PACK FOR BOTH DAYS
- \$10 FREE SLOT PLAY AFTER 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY SESSION
- CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 2 FREE DAUBERS
- FREE DRINKS
- BOXED LUNCHES (BOTH DAYS)

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ON THE ONE... THE ONLY... AND GOING 35 YEARS AND BEYOND...



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more than **\$100,000 IN CASH** PLUS A FREE CRUISE!

THIRTY FIVE YEARS of experience guarantees that the Bingo Bugle knows just how to bring you the best of Bingo. Our courteous, friendly and experienced staff members offer early-bird Bingo and special games in addition to the World Championship Tournament games.



### 7 DAY CARIBBEAN CRUISE

- MONTEGO BAY JAMAICA
- GRAND CAYMAN CAYMAN ISLANDS
- COZUMEL MEXICO

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## Soul Night

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

FREE  
DINNER AND  
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### \$50 BUY-IN INCLUDES:

PAPER **\$500**

STRIPS **\$1,000**

BE SURE TO RESERVE

**RESERVATIONS**

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### WEDNESDAYS

Doors open @ 4pm

Game starts @ 6pm

6 Paper Games Pay **\$300**

6 Paper Games Pay **\$400**

5 Paper Games Pay **\$500**

### SUNDAYS

Doors open @ 12pm

Game starts @ 2pm

**\$30** Buy-in includes:

3 Paper Packs

1 Double Action

1 Triple Double



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**And the Winner is!**

And the Winner Is! Cynthia Lehmann of River Falls, Wisconsin, pictured here with Tournament Director and *Bingo Bugle* publisher, Dennis Conroy, took home top prize and the title of Grand Champion aboard the *Bingo Bugle's* World Championship Bingo Tournament and Gaming Cruise this past November. Cynthia came into the final Bingo session hot, with two prior \$1,200 wins; in the final session she sealed the deal with yet another \$1,200 win (astounding luck!). After the final game was daubed, she walked away with an additional \$5,000 in cash for being atop the leaderboard, bringing her total to \$8,600, plus a free cruise for two to defend her title aboard this year's cruise, setting sail from fabulous New Orleans on October 27<sup>th</sup>. This luxury 7-day Caribbean vacation includes stops in Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico. More than \$100,000 in cash and prizes will be on offer at this one and only Bingo Championship event, now sailing into its thirty-fifth year. So come aboard for the fun, the sun and the opportunity to go dauber-to-dauber with Cynthia and grab some of that cash! Call (888) 352-2464 and talk to cruise specialist Roxanne Vasquez, or go online to [www.bingobugle.com/cruise](http://www.bingobugle.com/cruise) for more information. Space is limited, so make your reservations soon so you too can raise three cheers for 35 years of World Championship Bingo Cruising with *Bingo Bugle*!

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**BINGOMENOW**

**Strange BUT TRUE**

By Samantha Weaver

\* In 1837, Thomas Saverland took Caroline Newton to court for biting off part of his nose after he forcibly kissed her at a party.

\* The original Xbox had sound snippets of real space missions.

\* Korean college students once launched a protest against the amount of air in potato chip bags by building a raft out of them and sailing it across a river.

\* Frozen cow manure was the first-ever puck used in a hockey game.

\* Ten thousand light years away from Earth, a huge cloud 1,000 times larger than our solar system's diameter contains enough alcohol to fill 400 trillion pints. To drink it all, everyone on Earth would have to drink 300,000 pints each day for 1 billion years.

\* A violin known as "the Blackbird," carved entirely from stone, produces sound comparable to traditional wooden violins.

\* Research has shown that people born in September, October and November are more likely to live 100 years or longer.

\* French performer Michel Lotito, aka "Monsieur Mangetout," or "Mr. Eat All," could hardly be accused of being a picky eater, having earned a Guinness World Record for strangest diet. His gastronomic feats included downing bicycles, razor blades and even an entire airplane.

\* Much like humans, chimpanzees use strategic high ground for reconnaissance on rival groups during "chimp warfare."

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Q: Why isn't the actor who played Niles in the new *Frasier* reboot? Is he going to show up anytime soon? — *K.J.*

A: Unfortunately, the new *Frasier* series, which is streaming exclusively on Paramount+, is missing a few memorable supporting characters. Kelsey Grammer is, of course, reprising his iconic comedy character of *Frasier* Crane, which he originated on *Cheers* before the character moved to Seattle and got his own series. But there's no Niles, Martin or Daphne.

Sadly, John Mahoney passed away from throat cancer in 2018. David Hyde Pierce and Jane Leeves are both alive and well, but their characters, Niles and Daphne, are not a part of the new cast. Pierce recently told the *Los Angeles Times* that he had several other projects in the works and that he "never really wanted to go back" to *Frasier*. He further explained that he "loved every moment" of doing the original series, but that he wanted to do other things.

Those things include co-starring in the lovely HBO series *Julia*, where he plays famed chef Julia Child's husband, Paul, opposite Sarah Lancashire's titular character. He's also starring in Stephen Sondheim's new Off-Broadway musical *Here We Are*.

If *Frasier* gets renewed for another season, perhaps Pierce and Leeves will pop in for a guest appearance like Bebe Neuwirth (Lilith) and Peri Gilpin (Roz) did this year.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; or e-mail her at [letters@cindyelavsky.com](mailto:letters@cindyelavsky.com).

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### Buy Valentines? Not Us!

Forget Valentine's Day. I'm waiting for the marked down chocolates on February 15th.  
—Ms. Know-It-All

Kisses and hugs from me because February is the month of love. Valentines will be exchanged, and card companies will make tons of money; except not from my husband and me. Years ago, when cards were less expensive, and we were younger and dumber, we would go all out with fancy cards expressing our love and devotion. Then what? Some of our cards were saved, most were not, and life and our love for each other continued as usual. Research shows that currently over \$21 billion dollars is spent each year on valentines, with another \$200/person spent for candy, flowers, and other gifts.

Now, don't think that Robert and I are not sentimental because we very much are so, but we have a different routine from the usual for Valentine's Day. We go to a Walmart or similar store and browse the various card racks. Then, we pick out and read aloud to each other various cards that express our thoughts about the other; funny, serious, or whatever. We'll do that for maybe ten minutes; with loving glances and sometimes belly laughs. Other customers tend to look askance at us, and some ask us what we're

doing; some agree with our point of view and some not. Now, Robert and I are not cheap skates as evidenced by our frequent trips to casinos and far-flung bingos, but we question whether it is worth it to spend money on a pretty piece of paper that for the most part gets thrown away in a day or two. So, here's a thought if you don't want to do what we do. Look into the eyes of your loved ones and tell them how much you value their presence in your life. Then, after that, go out for a nice meal, followed by an evening of bingo. In my opinion, it's much more bang for your buck.

There is however one other angle to valentine exchanges that were common in the rural area where I grew up, but not so much these days. Less than nice valentines were available, with some being downright abhorrent. These valentines were sent anonymously to those you didn't like, who irritated you in some way, or if you were feeling grinchy and it wasn't Christmas. One year my mom received one of these appalling cards from a neighbor with whom she had exchanged harsh words. In our small village, she knew immediately from whence it came, so what did she do? She mailed it right back in an extra-large envelope with no postage attached. In those days, it would be delivered and the person receiving it would pay the postage. Imagine the surprise when her former friend paid extra postage for the extra-large envelope and found her own card inside. These two later talked it out—and ended up life-long friends. I do not advocate sending nasty valentines, but rather ask you to embrace the loving spirit of February 14th, even with store bought cards if you must.

Until next month may Lady Luck blow you kisses as you dance out the door with dollars. Win big. And speaking of love, my husband was born this month. If you see a chunky little old lady reading birthday cards to her husband in Walmart, that would be me. Contact: nlpvz6172@gmail.com.



### Increasing Profits

I received this interesting question from a reader: "I just started learning and using a card counting system to play blackjack. Although I'm winning more than losing, I'd like to increase my profits. What's the best way to go about this?"

One obvious way that a card counter can increase profits is to bet more money. But that is ill advised unless you also increase your bankroll—if you don't you will increase your risk of going broke in the short term.

There is a way, however, to increase your bets without increasing risk: get a trusting partner who would be willing to pool their bankroll with yours and split the profits (or losses).

The depth of the penetration or the percentage of cards dealt prior to the shuffle is another important factor that can increase a counter's profit. For example, a 6-deck game in which 75% of the cards are dealt before the dealer reshuffles is much more profitable for a card counter compared to one in which only 50% of the cards are dealt.

The fact is that the latter example (50%) is not really worth a counter's time.

In some casinos, dealers have some leeway in where they place the cut card and hence the penetration. Therefore, scout around for dealers in a casino to see which ones are dealing the most cards and that's the table you should be playing.

You can also enhance profits by not staying and betting when the count goes negative. One way to accomplish this is to back count games then jump in and play when the count goes positive and leave when the count goes negative. This way you are only making bets when you have the edge. Unfortunately, most casinos are sensitive to players who jump in and out of games because they understand that back counting is a tool used by counters to enhance profits. Therefore, they will post "No-Mid Shoe Entry" signs or limit a player to betting only the table minimum when entering a game in the middle of the shoe.

But this is not a universal policy and there are still plenty of casinos that allow players to enter in the middle of the shoe and thus back counting can be used carefully to enhance profits.

Another way to enhance profits is to put on a good "act" that will allow you longevity when you play blackjack. If you get barred from playing blackjack because of your skills, your profit potential will essentially be zero. Therefore, it's important you not give yourself away. One of the beauties of the new simple counting system, Speed Count, which I teach is that it behaves much differently than traditional counting systems with built in camouflage resulting in Speed Counters being able to play longer (and win more).

Another suggestion is to get yourself a blackjack software program that will test your card counting skills. I say this because a counter's edge is very small and a few errors in keeping the count could easily wipe out that edge.



### Calculating Pot Odds and Surviving Coolers in Poker

By Jonathan Little

I recently played a fun, educational hand from a \$1,000 buy-in poker tournament. With blinds at 400/800 with an 800 big blind ante, a loose, aggressive player raised to 1,800 out of his 30,000 stack from third position at a nine-handed table. I looked down at the JcJs on the button and three-bet (re-raised) to 4,400 out of my 25,000 stack.

My somewhat small three-bet size will allow my opponent to call and see a flop with lots of junky hands that I dominate while also giving him plenty of room to get out of line and put in a four-bet, which I will not fold against.

To my surprise, another loose, aggressive player four-bet all-in for 25,000 from the small blind.

The action folded around to the initial raiser who thought for about 15 seconds

before also going all in. That was not what I expected! Now I have to figure out both players' ranges and then determine how my jacks fare against them.

The small blind simply must have a decently strong range, perhaps AxAx - 9x9x, AxKx, and maybe AxQx. Against this range, jacks are in decent shape, winning 50% of the time.

The initial raiser who pushed all in over the small blind's all-in four-bet must have an incredibly strong range, perhaps only AxAx - JxJx and AxKx. Against this snug range, my jacks win only 36% of the time.

Against both players combined, jacks will win 28% of the time. That is not too often!

While I am getting decent pot odds (I have to put in 20,500 to win a 56,000 pot), I am getting roughly a breakeven price. To calculate my pot odds, you take the amount I have to call (20,500) and divide it by the amount I have to call plus the current pot (20,500 + 56,000 = 76,500). This means I need to win 20,500/76,500 = 26% of the time to justify calling.

Since I will win 28% of the time and I only need to win 26% based on the pot odds, calling will return a tiny profit, assuming the ranges I assigned to my opponents are accurate. However, in a tournament, you should strive to not go broke because when you do, you will no longer be able to play in profitable situations in the future and there will eventually be payout implications that are worth trying to capture. Calling in this situation will result in me going broke 72% of the time. That is not ideal.

It is worth noting that I may have made a mistake in assigning my opponents' ranges. If they are tighter than I estimated, my call quickly becomes unprofitable. Of course,

they could also be much looser, but you will find that very few players are trying to get their money in poorly.

Considering all these factors, plus the fact that I am likely better at poker than most of my opponents in this \$1,000 buy-in event, I should fold, which is what I did. Fortunately, the small blind had AxKx and the initial raiser had KxKx. By understanding the math behind this situation, I avoided going broke, allowing me to continue playing the tournament and finding profitable situations in the future.

It is worth noting that in this spot, you should also fold AxKx. This means the only hands you can profitably call with are aces, kings, and queens. Do not fool yourself into thinking that you will be able to figure out the optimal play the first time you encounter it at the poker table. By studying the game away from the table, you will learn how to profitably navigate many common situations, such as this one, so that when they occur, you will know the right decision.

Jonathan Little is a professional poker player and author with over \$7,000,000 in live tournament earnings. He writes a weekly educational blog and hosts a podcast at JonathanLittlePoker.com. Sign up to learn poker from Jonathan for free at PokerCoaching.com. You can follow him on Twitter @JonathanLittle.

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Rank	Property Name	Value
1	The Holme, London	\$321 Million
2	Central Park Tower Penthouse, NY	\$250 Million
3	Hacienda Canalete, Cartagena, Colombia	\$225 Million
4	Tarpon Isle, Palm Beach, FL	\$218 Million
5	Eisner Estate, Malibu, CA	\$195 Million
6	The Manor, Los Angeles	\$155 Million
7	Milestone at Meadow Lane, Southampton, NY	\$135 Million
8	Le Palais Venitien, Cannes, France	\$134.83 Million
9	Green Gables Estate, Woodside, CA	\$125 Million
10	Royal Style Mansion, Caesarea, Israel	\$109 Million

Source: GOBankingRates.com

### GOOD to KNOW Internet Connections Made Easier

A fast, reliable Internet connection is essential to many of our daily lives. However, many Americans still struggle to stay connected.

That's where the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) can come in.

ACP extends the Internet subsidy for families in need that began under the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. Falling under the \$1.2T bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the ACP is part of a \$65 billion broadband Internet initiative designed to bring affordable or even free Internet service to families who qualify.

Eligible households can save up to \$30 a month, or up to \$75 if they reside on tribal lands.

So, who qualifies? Here's a glance at the different criteria from the FCC of which one or more is required:

- Household at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Participants in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline.
- Participants in tribal-specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
- Participants in the National School Lunch or Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision.
- Anyone who received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Everyone who meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income Internet program.

**Learn More**  
Visit [fcc.gov/acp](http://fcc.gov/acp) for more details and call 844-844-WIFI (844-844-9434) to find a participating provider nearby.

© NAPS



**DEAR PAWS:** I bought a puppy a few weeks ago who was between 2 to 3 months old. Star is wonderful, and housetraining has been OK. But yesterday, he pooped in the hallway while we were out. My boyfriend says I need to push his nose into the mess and punish him. I don't think that's the right way to train a puppy. What do you think? —*Daria in St. Louis, Missouri*

**ANSWER:** Although many people with abnormal blood results are perfectly healthy, the more abnormal a test result is, the more likely it represents something wrong. In your case, you are correct that the readings are just outside of the normal range. But because it is persistent, it's worthwhile to get additional information.

Most importantly, were you having symptoms that made your doctor concerned about whether you might have a thyroid issue? Many people with high levels of thyroxine have excess energy, sweating, weight loss, tremors, anxiety and heat intolerance.

Next, do you have any other tests that might help support or reject the possibility of thyroid disease? In your case, it's the TSH level. A high TSH level means that your body needs more thyroid hormone, whereas excess production of thyroid hormone from the gland usually leads to a low TSH level. Your TSH level is normal, which is strong evidence that the slightly high T4 level might be typical for you, especially if you don't have any symptoms.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

Send your questions, tips or comments to ask@pawsoner.com.



Valerie S. was a happy bingo winner at St. John Bosco High School

### How much is too much?

**Blood alcohol levels**

■ Maximum legal limit\* Likely impaired    ■ Over legal limit

**Weight**

Weight	1.25 oz. of liquor	5 oz. of wine	or one 12 oz. beer
100 lb.	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup
120 lb.	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup
140 lb.	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup
160 lb.	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup
180 lb.	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup
200 lb.	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup
220 lb.	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup

\*.08 blood alcohol level

**One drink equals**

- 1.25 oz. of liquor
- 5 oz. of wine
- or one 12 oz. beer

**Deadly days**

Percentage of traffic fatalities that are alcohol-related.

New Year's	69%
Super Bowl Sunday	64%
Christmas	48%
Thanksgiving	40%

Source: U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, AAA  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

### Go Figure! answers

9	÷	3	+	1	4
-		+		x	
8	-	7	x	3	3
x		÷		+	
5	x	2	-	6	4
5		5		9	



### 3 No-Bake Peanut Butter Delights

The delectable duo of peanut butter and chocolate made easy.

We're going to give the oven a break today as we craft three delightful and affordable no-bake wonders. These easy recipes are perfect for getting the whole family involved. Including children in baking creates lasting memories and teaches valuable skills, making the kitchen a place for sharing time together and learning.

These recipes bring bliss to your taste buds without breaking the bank. Whether you choose to indulge in high-end nut butters and imported chocolate or opt for budget-friendly store-brand peanut butter and candy coating, the magic lies in the simplicity of each delectable treat. **THE**

### EASIEST PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

Yield: 40 pieces  
Total Time: 1 hour

- 4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

Line a 9-by-13 baking pan with parchment paper and set aside. In a heavy bottomed saucepan, set over medium heat, slowly bring milk and sugar to a boil. Boil for exactly 4 minutes, stirring constantly to dissolve the sugar into the milk. Over cooking leads to crumbly fudge. Remove from heat, stir in peanut butter, butter and vanilla until well incorporated and smooth. Pour into your prepared pan, let cool completely, then cut into delicious squares.

The following recipes require melted chocolate. Melting chocolate in the microwave is a quick and easy process. Break your chocolate into small, uniform pieces to ensure even melting. Place them in a microwave-safe bowl and heat in 15-second intervals, stirring after each interval. This prevents overheating and maintains a smooth texture. Typically, it takes around 1 to 2 minutes, depending on the quantity and type of chocolate. Just be patient, stir well, and you'll be rewarded with silky smooth chocolate.

### PEANUT BUTTER TRUFFLES

Yield: 90 pieces  
Total Time: 1 hour

- 3 1/2 cups sifted powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 cups creamy peanut butter
- 8 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 2 1/2 cups chocolate chips or chocolate candy coating

Mix powdered sugar, peanut butter, butter, vanilla and salt until well combined. Shape into 1-inch balls, placing them on waxed or parchment paper. Let balls stand for 20 minutes until firm. Melt chocolate according to directions. Using a fork or skewer, dip each ball in the chocolate and let them dry. Store covered in a cool, dry place.



### NO-BAKE CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

Yield: 30 sandwich cookies  
Total Time: 1 hour, 30 min

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 60 buttery crackers (such as Ritz, 2 sleeves)
- 2 1/2 cups chocolate chips or chocolate candy coating

Line a baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper. Spread a generous 1 teaspoon peanut butter onto half of the crackers, then top with the remaining crackers. Put them on your prepared baking sheet and refrigerate until firm (20-30 minutes). Melt chocolate according to directions. Dip each sandwich into chocolate to coat, and refrigerate until firm (about 30 minutes). Store in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

\*\*\*  
Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime — Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at [www.divasonadime.com](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](http://DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)

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## Veterans Post



## What's Up at the VAOIG?

The Office of Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs is always busy, and that's a good thing. Here's what they've been up to lately:

A surviving spouse in Florida lied to the VA and collected benefits he wasn't entitled to receive for 30 years. As the surviving spouse of a deceased service member, he collected DIC benefits to the tune of nearly \$365,000 before it was over. During those years he remarried twice and was no longer legally eligible to receive the benefits. When nabbed, he pleaded guilty. He's looking at 10 years in the pen, as well as forfeiting all the stolen money.

In another case, a woman lied to get a VA home loan, and then lied to an arms dealer about being the purchaser of firearms when she wasn't. She's nailed with wire fraud for using email to the VA and the lender about the loan. Then, at a gun store, she stated that she was the gun purchaser while in the

company of someone who indicated which weapons she should buy and who wasn't allowed by law to purchase firearms. Three years in prison and a \$177,000 fine don't seem like enough.

A pair of house cleaners attracted the attention of several agencies, including the VAOIG, Homeland Security and the Post Office, for their scams against clients. Specifically, they stole personal information by having the mail rerouted from clients' homes and using the info to open lines of credit, get loans and credit cards and steal identities. (Clue to thieves: When you want to steal mail, don't have it rerouted to your home address.) One of the pair is looking at 22 years in prison and a half-million-dollar fine.

And then there was the VA employee who took bribes to approve disability benefits applications. This included extortion of monies and then, when he suspected the game was up, witness tampering.

The VAOIG never rests...

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Pliny the Elder once wrote how the Druids held nothing more sacred than finding mistletoe growing on an oak tree. They prepared a banquet beneath the tree, while chanting. A priest dressed in white climbed the tree and cut the mistletoe off with a golden sickle, catching it in his garments. Two large white bulls were then killed as they asked their gods to accept their offering, and to impart fertility to any person or animal that ate the mistletoe berries. — Brenda Weaver

Source: thegardenstrust.blog

*"Druids Cutting Mistletoe on the Sixth Day of the Moon" by Henri Motte (1890)*

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## Casino Q&A

### Test Time!

- You have a better chance of winning with a player's club card in the machine. (T or F)
- A good slot system is worth whatever you pay for it. (T or F)
- More progressive jackpots are hit on weekends and holidays than at any other time. (T or F)
- When a new casino opens, its slots are looser the first few months to encourage people to come back. (T or F)
- When you play a mega-progressive, you win less and lose more than when playing a standard machine. (T or F)
- Casinos that advertise themselves as "locals" casinos tend to have better paying slots than tourist casinos. (T or F)
- It's better to play just one slot at a time. (T or F)

### ANSWERS:

- False. Use of a player's club card has no effect on whether you win or lose. Based on the amount of your play, the card is used to determine what comps you are entitled to: free rooms, meals, show tickets, cashbacks, and other freemiums. Caution: Think of comps as just a bonus. Don't make them your goal. Losing \$300 to get a \$5 sandwich and a pickle is no bargain.
- False. There's no such thing as a good slot system. The only person who makes money on a slot system is the one who sells it. If you discovered a way to make tax-free millions playing the slots, would you sell it for a few dollars?
- True. More progressive jackpots are hit on weekends and holidays simply because more people visit the casinos at these times. The more players, the more jackpots that will be hit.
- False. No casino would open with loose slots and then tighten them up a month or two later. To do so would be very expensive and time consuming. In general, once a slot is placed on the floor, its programmed payback percentage doesn't change.
- True. In general, mega-progressives pay out fewer small wins, and you lose more in the long run. If you don't hit the top jackpot, you're the one paying for it! If you enjoy playing progressives, stick to the ones with smaller top payouts. You'll get more play and have a better chance of winning.
- True. To survive, casinos off the beaten path must generate a loyal customer base from the people who live nearby—the locals, people who are more interested in looser slots and parking space than headliner shows and theme attractions (pirates, erupting volcanoes, etc.). So, to attract and hold the local market, the locals casinos must offer slots with higher percentage paybacks and more frequent payouts.
- True. By playing multiple slots you bet more and lose faster. You may also become a target for a team of ticket snatchers looking for players playing more than one machine. When found, one member of the team distracts the player in some way, while the other hits the cash-out button, snatches the ticket, and scoots off.



### QUESTIONS

- Mad Dogs & Englishmen were the backup band for which artist on their 1970 American tour?
- Which was bigger: Woodstock or Summer Jam at Watkins Glen?
- Who wrote and released "I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag"?
- To whom did the Beatles write "Dear Prudence"?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "Now, your daddy don't mind, And your mommy don't mind if we have another dance."

### ANSWERS

- Joe Cocker. Upward of 20 musicians were in the group. They were named after the Noel Coward song of the same name.
- Summer Jam, in 1973, saw 600,000 people come through the gates at the Watkins Glen Raceway.
- Country Joe and the Fish, in 1965. The song was a counterculture protest against the Vietnam War and appeared on their album of the same name.
- They wrote it to Prudence, the sister of Mia Farrow, who was studying meditation with them in India in 1968, as a way of getting her to stop hiding in her hut.
- "Stay," by Maurice Williams & the Zodiacs, in 1960. Songwriter Williams wrote the first version of the song as a teen when he tried to convince a date not to go home yet.

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## Nevada Happenings

### Boomers Relocating to Reno

SmartAsset.com, the consumer-focused financial-information and advice site, conducted a survey of the 268 largest U.S. cities to see where Baby Boomers, between the ages of 55 and 74, are moving when they relocate. They examined the data from the U.S. Census Bureau 1-Year American Community Survey to come up with the list of cities with 100,000 or more population. Cities were ranked by the percentage of the total population represented by Boomers who moved there in 2022. The number-one destination was Clearwater, Florida; nearly four percent of people moving there in 2022, 4,400, were Boomers and they make up 27% of the population. Reno ranked second at 3.1% of people moving there and 23.1% of the population. The other eight in the top ten were Florida's Orlando (#3), Cape Coral (#4), and St. Petersburg (#10); Surprise (#6) and Mesa (#8), Arizona; Billings (#5), Montana; Henderson (#7), Nevada; and High Point (#9), North Carolina.

### Firecreek Crossing Delayed

Firecreek Crossing, the first new casino that would have been built in Reno since 1995, has been delayed. Plans were filed with the city in November 2022 for a hotel-casino on a long-vacant lot owned by Station Casinos at one of Reno's busiest intersections. The developer, southern California-based real estate company Elevation Entertainment, issued a brief statement citing "the challenging financial market." According to the *Las Vegas Advisor*, "The rest of the statement sounds like a kiss-off: 'If and when the time is right, we would love to bring a first-class product to the market.'"

Reporting by the Las Vegas Advisor, www.Lasvegasadvisor.com



\* Before you use your grater to grate cheese, give it a quick shot of nonstick spray. It will keep the cheese from gunking up in the grate. If you need softened butter for a recipe, you can grate it from frozen and it will soften up very quickly, but not melt like in a microwave.

\* Eliminate odor of peanut butter after you wash the jar by rinsing it with white vinegar. I use peanut butter jars for storing things in my shop because they are a good size and the twist off top is very secure. One time, the jar smelled like peanut butter and I guess a mouse decided he'd like to get a taste. I found the gnawed-on jar on my outside workbench. Luckily, there wasn't anything in it. — T.E. in Georgia

\* Clean your cellphone screen often. This is especially important if you have a smartphone. We use our fingers nonstop to touch the phone, then put it directly up to our face. It's a germ's paradise. Just remember: A quick swipe with an alcohol cloth might save you from getting the flu this season. Stay healthy!

\* When heater season is in full effect — like now — I keep a spray bottle of water to which I add two tablespoons of liquid fabric softener. I spritz the house from time to time, and it will add humidity as well as a pleasant scent, but it also keeps my carpets from making my kids little zappers (from static buildup when dragging their feet!). — M.A. in Ohio

Send your tips to: Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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### Neon Museum Restores Sign

Corey Levitan, the reporter for Casino.org, recently published a story about a 55-year-old Flamingo pylon sign. When it was removed in 1987 to make room for O'Shea's, it was stashed away in storage by Hilton Corporation for 16 years. In 2003, it was donated to the Neon Museum and has been sitting in pieces in the boneyard ever since. Now the sign will be restored and put on proper display by May 2024. You can see several photos and read the entire history online.

### M Resort Breaks Ground

Groundbreaking has taken place for the long-planned second hotel tower at M Resort. When completed in "mid-2025" after 18 months of construction, the \$200 million 384-room tower will bring the total number of rooms and suites at M Resort to 774. It will also expand meetings space and upgrade some amenities.

### Springsteen Playing T-Mobile

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band will perform for one night in Las Vegas next year, the first time "the Boss" has rocked Sin City in more than 20 years. They'll appear at T-Mobile on Friday March 22nd.

### Roy Choi Food Truck at MGM

Chef Roy Choi and filmmaker-actor Jon Favreau, who collaborated on the hit movie *Chef* (2014), have opened a food truck at Park MGM, site of Choi's other Vegas restaurant, Best Friend. The food truck, named Chef Truck, is located indoors near the casino. The food is inspired by the menu in the movie: grilled cheese, Cubano, chicken, and roast-pork sandwiches, chef's salad, pork bowl, and breakfast burrito, croquettes, chips, and croissants, desserts, and beverages.

Reporting by the Las Vegas Advisor, www.Lasvegasadvisor.com



## Lucky Predictions for February 2024

### ARIES: March 21 to April 19

1st thru 6th... Feel the heat 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>!\$  
7th thru 12th... Spunky—got it down 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>!\$  
13th thru 18th... Make it a good one 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
19th thru 24th... Looks better on RED 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>!\$  
25th thru 29th... Time out

### TAURUS: April 20 to May 20

1st thru 6th... Go for it the 6<sup>th</sup>  
7th thru 12th... Think & grow rich 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>!\$  
13th thru 18th... Possibilities! 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
19th thru 24th... BLUE for the win 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>  
25th thru 29th... Look for GREEN early 25<sup>th</sup>

### GEMINI: May 21 to June 21

1st thru 6th... Not really in the stars  
7th thru 12th... Step up & play 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>!  
13th thru 18th... Beg or borrow to win 16<sup>th</sup>!\$  
19th thru 24th... Bank on RED 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>  
25th thru 29th... Multiple wins 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>!\$

### CANCER: June 22 to July 22

1st thru 6th... Get serious & win 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>!\$!  
7th thru 12th... Happy outcomes 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>!  
13th thru 18th... GREEN = luck 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>!\$  
19th thru 24th... You've got it made the 24<sup>th</sup>!  
25th thru 29th... You've got it! (early) 25<sup>th</sup>!\$

### LEO: July 23 to Aug. 22

1st thru 6th... Journey on to win 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>!  
7th thru 12th... Lady luck's on your side 12<sup>th</sup>  
13th thru 18th... Go for broke \$! 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
19th thru 24th... In for a nice surprise 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>!\$!  
25th thru 29th... A tad luckier 27<sup>th</sup>!\$

### VIRGO: Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

1st thru 6th... Awesome 2<sup>nd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>!\$  
7th thru 12th... Close the deal (7<sup>th</sup>)  
13th thru 18th... Money multiplies 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
19th thru 24th... BLUE rush win 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>!\$  
25th thru 29th... Powerful comeback 29<sup>th</sup>!\$

### LIBRA: Sept. 23 to Oct. 23

1st thru 6th... Primed for winning 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>  
7th thru 12th... PURPLE rewards 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>!\$  
13th thru 18th... Give the 16<sup>th</sup> a chance  
19th thru 24th... You won't be sorry 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>  
25th thru 29th... It's pure magic the 27<sup>th</sup>!

### SCORPIO: Oct. 24 to Nov. 21

1st thru 6th... Fabulous chances 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
7th thru 12th... A cinch! 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>!\$  
13th thru 18th... Late great payoff the 18<sup>th</sup>  
19th thru 24th... Right on target 24<sup>th</sup>!\$  
25th thru 29th... Slide into winning 29<sup>th</sup>

### SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

1st thru 6th... Could be YOU 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>  
7th thru 12th... Future's bright 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>!\$  
13th thru 18th... In your favor 13<sup>th</sup>  
19th thru 24th... Eye on the prize 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>!\$!  
25th thru 29th... Friends push you there 27<sup>th</sup>!\$

### CAPRICORN: Dec. 22 to Jan. 19

1st thru 6th... Better than expected 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>  
7th thru 12th... Sea of GREEN 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>  
13th thru 18th... Don't waste time 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>!  
19th thru 24th... Worth the wait 24<sup>th</sup>!\$  
25th thru 29th... In the \$\$...29<sup>th</sup>!

### AQUARIUS: Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

1st thru 6th... All comin' your way 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>!  
7th thru 12th... You lucky dog the 9<sup>th</sup>!\$!  
13th thru 18th... Way to go 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>!  
19th thru 24th... Chill  
25th thru 29th... Drinks are on you the 27<sup>th</sup>!

### PISCES: Feb. 19 to March 20

1st thru 6th... Got it goin' on 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>!  
7th thru 12th... Effort pays off 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>!\$  
13th thru 18th... Must be present 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> to win!  
19th thru 24th... You hit the jackpot 19<sup>th</sup>!  
25th thru 29th... Super advantages 29<sup>th</sup>!\$

Color associations refer to lucky objects, daubers, cards, machines, clothing/jewels you wear, or a dominant color in the room.

## PREDICTORS LUCKY CARD FOR FEBRUARY 2024

8	20	44	49	67
4	29	38	54	73
10	19	★	47	71
1	25	45	52	63
12	23	34	56	66

## MOON PHASES & SPECIAL EVENTS FEBRUARY 2024

2nd	Groundhog Day
2nd	Last Quarter Moon ☾
3rd	Feed the Birds Day
9th	New Moon 🌑
11th	Super Bowl
14th	Valentine's Day
16th	First Quarter Moon 🌒
19th	Presidents' Day
24th	Full Moon 🌕
24th	National Tortilla Chip Day
27th	Polar Bear Day
28th	Floral Design Day



by Frederick Woodruff  
Explore more at ASTROINQUIRY.COM

## Horoscopes for February 2024

**ARIES (MAR 21<sup>st</sup>-APR 20<sup>th</sup>):** Consider applying limitations to focus on what's most essential to you this month. This will streamline your efforts with any new projects. This means surrendering to scheduling and conscious slowdowns. Your nature prefers spontaneity, but this is a month for metered progress.

Lucky Days: 4 - 13  
Lucky Numbers: 51 - 55

**TAURUS (APR 21<sup>st</sup>-MAY 21<sup>st</sup>):** Sometimes, we need to trade simplicity and order for a little chaos to shake things up creatively. Don't dig in your heels and resist the urge for a radical makeover. You'll benefit most this month by scheduling time out in nature—your earthy disposition finds the outdoors a source of rejuvenation.

Lucky Days: 2 - 23  
Lucky Numbers: 7 - 14

**GEMINI (MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>-JUN 21<sup>st</sup>):** This is a great month to channel your keen mental skills into solving mysteries that might appear irrational or off the beaten path. Much of the activity we initiate in life comes from our unconscious and the secrets it guards. Consider starting a dream journal to keep track of the guidance that's arriving from the nocturnal world.

Lucky Days: 9 - 11  
Lucky Numbers: 33 - 45

**CANCER (JUN 22<sup>nd</sup>-JUL 22<sup>nd</sup>):** There's pressure throughout the month to abandon your comfort zone and jump into a new social circle. Use your intuition to guide you to like-minded peers. Moods can be inspirational, but you can't always count on them to galvanize your willpower. Let your empathetic nature guide the way.

Lucky Days: 12 - 29  
Lucky Numbers: 6 - 23

**LEO (JUL 23<sup>rd</sup>-AUG 23<sup>rd</sup>):** Your royal demeanor makes it difficult for you to engage with the common chores of life. But you'll benefit by taking a more down-to-earth approach and stepping down from your throne. February finds you working with the small details, making repairs on your home (and health), and allowing yourself to experience the wisdom of humility.

Lucky Days: 4 - 7  
Lucky Numbers: 3 - 15

## COFFEE BREAK ANSWERS

SCRAMBLER ANSWER: 1. Tread 2. Route 3. Label 4. Shape

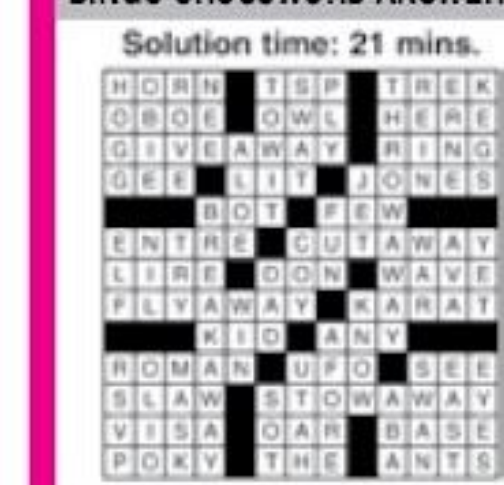
Today's Word: LOSER

JUMBLES: UNIFY PRICE TIGHTS OUTLET

Answer: After signing a huge contract, the fashion model was — SITTING PRETTY

HOCUS FOCUS DIFFERENCES: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Toothbrush is missing. 3. Body is slimmer. 4. Hat is smaller. 5. Corsage is missing. 6. Suitcase is missing. CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold. — Bob Marley

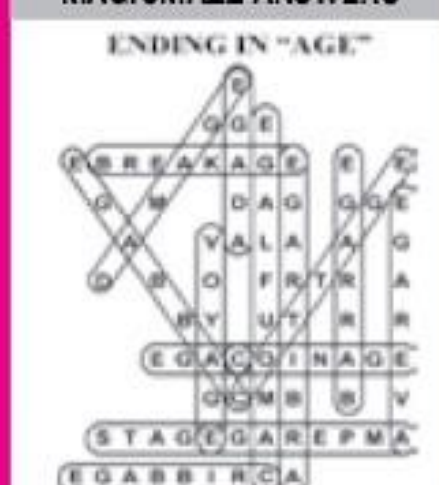
### BINGO CROSSWORD ANSWERS



### SUDOKU ANSWERS

8	3	9	1	7	2	6	5	4
6	5	2	4	8	3	9	1	7
7	1	4	6	5	9	3	2	8
4	9	8	5	1	6	7	3	2
1	7	5	2	3	4	8	6	9
3	2	6	8	9	7	5	4	1
2	8	7	3	4	5	1	9	6
5	4	1	9	6	8	2	7	3
9	6	3	7	2	1	4	8	5

### MAGICMAZE ANSWERS







Happy bingo winner showing off her winnings at Morongo Casino!



Rick J. spent his Thursday night at Fountain Valley High School. Congratulations!

**The Garden Bug** **Star of Bethlehem**

*Ornithogalum umbellatum* forms carpets of low-growing foliage that are topped with star-shaped white flowers in the spring. It's great for keeping a sunny bank of soil from eroding away, as an accent in a sunny garden, or for covering exposed roots under trees or shrubs. Its flowers are rich with nectar and pollen and attract bees and other pollinators. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: [www.easytogrowbulbs.com](http://www.easytogrowbulbs.com), [www.gardenersworld.com](http://www.gardenersworld.com), [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)

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**The Garden Bug** **The "New Year" rose**

This showy orange rose can display multiple blooms throughout spring, summer and fall. Its growth habit is upright, with 3'-4' possible in height. It likes warmer climates and full-sun exposure. It does well when cut for display indoors, giving a mild, pleasant fragrance. It is very attractive to pollinators. It can be propagated from cuttings, budding and by grafting. It is resistant to black spot, mildew and "rust." — Brenda Weaver

Sources: [garden.org](http://garden.org), [davesgarden.com](http://davesgarden.com)

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**ASK ANNIE**  
by Annie E. Ennis

**Cobbler in a Jiffy**

Dear Annie,  
My son-in-law has been raving about a recipe his mother used to make using Jiffy blueberry muffin mix, peaches, and a streusel topping. She lost the recipe and he has been trying to duplicate it, to no avail. Please help. Does anybody remember this recipe? Thanks.  
—Nancy

Dear Nancy,  
Your request has been quite a challenge! I personally do not have a lot of experience with Jiffy mixes. However, I have come up with the following recipe that was given to me by a friend. Good luck! —Annie

**BLUEBERRY-PEACH COBBLER**

- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- ½ cup peach nectar or peach juice (from a can of peaches)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 cups peeled sliced fresh peaches
- 1 cup fresh blueberries

- TOPPING**
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
  - ¼ cup sugar
  - 1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - ½ cup milk
  - ¼ cup butter, softened

In a saucepan, combine the first 5 ingredients. Bring to a boil, stirring until it thickens. Add fruit and pour into a 2- quart baking dish. For topping, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a mixing bowl. Stir in milk and butter. Spread over fruit mixture and bake at 375 degrees for 50 minutes or until topping is golden brown and tests done. Serve warm.

**top ten**

**AIRLINES IN THE WORLD: 2023**

1. Singapore Airlines
2. Qatar Airways
3. ANA All Nippon Airways
4. Emirates
5. Japan Airlines
6. Turkish Airlines
7. Air France
8. Cathay Pacific
9. EVA Air
10. Korean Air

Source: Skytrax

**HOLLYWOOD**  
by Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD** — Sir Michael Caine, who has now officially retired at 90 (his last film being *The Great Escaper* with the late Glenda Jackson), confirmed to the BBC: "I keep saying I'm going to retire. Well, I am now. I figured I've had a picture where I've played the lead and got incredible reviews."  
He continued, "The only parts I'm liable to get now are 90-year-old men. Or maybe 85. I thought, well, I might as well leave with all this. What have I got to do to beat this?" After over 160 films, he deserves to enjoy the fruits of his labor!  
\*\*\*

Bryan Cranston has also announced that he will be taking a hiatus from acting in 2026, stating: "It's not going to be like, 'Oh, I'll read and see what I'm going to do.' No, it's a pause. It's a stop. I won't be thinking about [work]. I'm not going to be taking phone calls." He plans to live in France with his wife in a small village and pursue gardening.  
Cranston, who at 67 has been in 67 films and 96 TV episodes, will be seen in the Apple TV+ three-film franchise *Argylle*, with Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard, Catherine O'Hara, Ariana DeBose, John Cena and Samuel L. Jackson, due Feb. 2, 2024. In addition, Cranston is currently completing *Everything's Going to Be Great*, with Allison Janney, Simon Rex and Chris Cooper.

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**top ten**

**BEST-SELLING Chip Brands IN THE U.S.**

1. Doritos
2. Cheetos
3. Tostitos
4. Lay's
5. Cape Cod
6. Ruffles
7. Pringles
8. Fritos
9. Takis
10. Sun Chips

Source: CandyRetailer.com

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- 2 sets of 15 strip games
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DOORS OPEN AT 12PM

### Nightly Door Prize Drawing

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- 2 \$100 Cash Drawings
- 5 \$100 Gas Cards
- 3 \$250 Cash Drawings



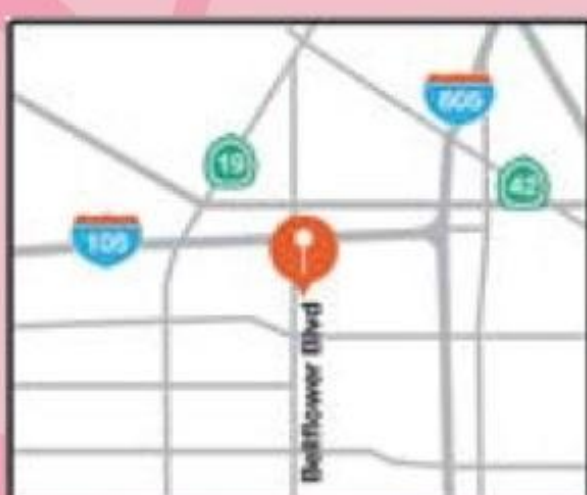
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