

BINGO BUGLE

North America's Bingo & Casino Newspaper

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\$35,000 PICK 8



Julia M. won \$35,000 on a Pick 8 at **Morongo Casino Resort & Spa**. Ready to be next? Bingo is played Wednesday through Sunday.

THREE TIME WINNER!



Lucky bingo player, Mitzi M. won three times at **St. Bernard Catholic School**, taking home \$1,200! Way to go, Mitzi!

\$2,500 BINGO WIN!



Pressure from TikTok was the proud winner of \$2,500 split from **St. John Bosco's** New Years Eve event last month. Congratulations, Pressure!

BINGO RETURNS TO VEGAS STRIP!



Circus Circus is bringing back the beloved game by "opening a bingo hall that embraces the true vintage Vegas bingo experience, built around paper cards, ink daubers, cheap eats and live gameplay," according to an official press release. The new bingo hall at Circus Circus is slated to open this February. See full article on page 4.



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Vegas' Top Ten Values for February

1. **Steak Dinner • Ellis Island Casino • 24 hours • \$9.99**
2. **Buffet • Palms • Daily • \$21.50-\$40.50**
3. **Cheeseburger & Fries • Station Casinos • Daily • \$5.99**
4. **Hot Dog/Beer • Downtown Grand • Daily • \$3.00**
5. **Shrimp Cocktail • Slots A Fun • Daily • \$2.00**
6. **Breakfast • Emerald Island • Daily • \$5.99**
7. **Prime Rib • Ellis Island Casino & Brewery • Daily • \$17.50**
8. **DiscoShow • LINQ Hotel + Experience • Wed-Sun • Free**
9. **Room Rates • Rio Hotel & Casino • 24 hours • \$23 and up**
10. **Beer • Stage Door Casino and Lounge • Daily • \$1.00**

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.

Monthly Sweeps

Jackson Hewitt Double Your Refund Sweepstakes

32 Grand prizes: (2 prizes per weekly entry period) The amount matching your Federal Tax Refund up to \$10,000 but not less than \$1,500

320 First prizes: (15 prizes per weekly entry period) \$200 cash

To enter: On a paper, print your name (and spouse's name if filing a joint return), the date on which your Federal IRS tax return was filed, stated as: *Federal Tax Return Filed on xx/xx/26* (must be exact date filed), address, e-mail address, and phone number. Mail in a #10 envelope with the Federal Return Filing Date on the envelope stated as: *Federal Tax Return Filed on xx/xx/26*. Only one mail-in entry per person.

Mail to:
"Jackson Hewitt Double Your Refund Sweepstakes"
PO Box 16470
Rochester, NY 14616

Deadline: Must be postmarked by the Thursday immediately following the date the Federal Tax Return was filed.

Open to legal U.S. residents 18 or over, void in PR, territories, and possessions. Start date 1/1/26. Entries do not carry forward to subsequent weekly drawings. End date 4/15/26. Automatic entries with taxes filed with Jackson Hewitt.

Freedom Street Garage FSG21 2023 BMW M3 Sweepstakes

1 Grand prize: 2023 BMW M3 (\$90,000) - OR \$50,000 cash

To enter: On a 3x5 card, print the words: "FSG21 - 2023 BMW M3" Sweepstakes entry, your first and last name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and date of birth. Mail in a hand addressed #10 envelope with a hand written return address including your first and last name.

Mail to:
CSS / FSG21 - 2023 BMW M3 Sweepstakes
5607 Pittsford Palmyra Road
PO Box 938
Pittsford, NY 14534

Deadline: Postmarked by 5/8/26 and received by 5/13/26.

Open to legal residents of the U.S. and Canada with a drivers license 18 or over, void in PR, VI, & GU. Start date 11/12/25. Entries also online at freedomstreetgarage.com/shop with a purchase (one entry for each dollar spent - each mail-in entry is worth 50 entries). See rules for bonus entry periods

CRIMINAL MIND



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EVERY
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BINGOMENOW



* If you are traveling with pets, you know to bring something for them to drink out of. If you have ice in a container, they can lick the ice to stay hydrated, but it doesn't slosh around or spill easily.

* For moister and softer cookies, use honey as a substitute for a third of the sugar in your cookie recipe.

* "At a party, a cup of red wine spilled on one of my throw pillows. I love the pillow, since it is just the right size and really soft, but I could not get the stain out. So I covered it with a new fabric. I ended up doing all the assorted pillows in the same fabric, and it made a big change in the room. I wish I had done it sooner." — *L.F. in Pennsylvania*

* "Keep venetian blinds from sticking to one another and discourage dust by rubbing them down individually with a sheet of fabric softener. This effect will last at least a month in my experience." — *S.E. in Alabama*

* "Have a headache? Try drinking a couple of glasses of a sports drink. This works for me and my friends. Maybe we just need to be drinking more water, but the sports drinks get us back on track more quickly than medicine most times." — *E.L. in Colorado*

* Bringing some plants indoors? Use Styrofoam packing peanuts in the bottom of pots when planting. They aren't as heavy as rocks, and they do just as good a job. The pots will be easier to move around should you need to move them.

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

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STREAMING
SOURCE

What to Watch
Where to Watch It

Him (Season 4) — Peacock
Mission: Impossible - The Final Test (R) — Peacock
The Crossover (Seasons 1-7) — Netflix
Ne Zha 2 (PG-13) — HBO Max
Goodbye June (R) — Netflix
Stranger Things (Season 5, Vol. 2) — Netflix
The Best You Can (R) — Netflix
Prep & Landing: The Snowball Protocol (TV-G) — Disney+
The Life of Chuck (R) — Hulu
A Royal Residence (Docuseries) — Acom TV

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Test Your Knowledge

- 1. LITERATURE: What is the name of the dragon in *The Hobbit*?
- 2. MOVIES: Which holiday is being celebrated at the end of *When Harry Met Sally*?
- 3. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to the famous Angkor Wat Temple?
- 4. HISTORY: In which year did the Internet become available to the public?
- 5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which wrestler is known by the nickname *The Rock*?
- 6. LANGUAGE: What is cryptophasia?
- 7. TELEVISION: In which state was the sitcom *Newhart* set?
- 8. MATH: How many sides does a nonagon have?
- 9. MUSIC: Which singer/songwriter wrote the soundtrack for the animated movie *Tarzan*?
- 10. FOOD & DRINK: What is the essential spice in paella?

ANSWERS

- 1. Smaug.
- 2. New Year's Eve.
- 3. Cambodia.
- 4. 1993.
- 5. Dwayne Johnson.
- 6. A unique language developed between twins.
- 7. Vermont.
- 8. Nine.
- 9. Phil Collins.
- 10. Saffron.

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Squash Soup Version 2.0

Dear Annie,
Do you have a winter soup recipe that you can recommend? We're all turkey noodled out!
—D. from Delaware

Dear D.,
Here's a new version of my squash soup. I added the pumpkin and red pepper—it was delicious. I served it for Thanksgiving and my guests were very pleased. I hope our soup-loving Bingo players enjoy this recipe as much as we did. —Annie

A FESTIVE SOUP

- 4 T. butter
- 1-2 T. olive oil
- 1 medium sweet onion, diced
- 2 T. minced garlic
- 1 small pumpkin, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 1 medium butternut squash, peeled, seeded and chopped

Veterans Post



Saving lives with Buddy Check

One of the most valuable things you can do in the new year will be to check on your buddies, those you've served with and those in your area, and make a regular routine of it. It's called Buddy Check, and you could be saving a life.

A few stats:

- Depending on the source you read, there are 17 to 22 veteran suicides per day. Yes, the numbers have decreased slightly over the years, but even one is too many.
- The rate of male veteran suicides is 60% higher than for nonveterans. For women veterans, the numbers are even higher.
- The reasons vary. Between needing to adjust to civilian life, homelessness, not wanting to ask for help and PTSD, many of our buddies are in trouble, especially if brain injury is part of the equation.

This is where Buddy Check comes in. Go online to va.gov and search for "Veteran Buddy Checks." Click on the fact-packed 20-minute training video and learn how you can help. Become familiar with the S.A.V.E. acronym—know the Signs, Ask the right questions, Value their life and Enlist help.

Your best source to locate other veterans is the Together We Served website (www.TogetherWeServed.com). Once on the site, you'll find a unit directory and over 2 million veterans who've signed up. You can start with their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TogetherWeServed.

Look at the American Legion Buddy Check. Go to www.legion.org and search for "Buddy Check." Learn about their program and download the tool kit.

If you are the one who needs help, don't wait, don't hesitate. Help is only a phone call away, day or night, at the Veterans Crisis Line. Dial 988 and press 1. Or text to 838255. For confidential support for a family member or friend, see VeteransCrisisLine.net.

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- 1 24-ounce jar roasted red and/or yellow peppers, drained
- 2 32-ounce cartons prepared chicken broth (low sodium)
- ½ tsp. Morton Natures Seasons
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 cup small croutons, optional

In a medium-sized soup pot (at least 4 quarts), melt the butter. Add the olive oil, diced onion, minced garlic and the chopped pumpkin and squash pieces. Sauté over a low flame for at least fifteen minutes, stirring constantly. Add one quart of the chicken broth and continue to cook until the pumpkin and squash starts to soften. Add the peppers. When the squash and peppers are soft, transfer to another bowl or container. In batches, half the size of your blender, mix well. Pour the blended soup back in the soup pot. Continue to mix the remaining pumpkin mix in the blender, transferring after each batch. Add the remaining quart of chicken broth, Natures Seasons and nutmeg. Cook over a low flame for at least 15 more minutes, stirring occasionally. Adjust your seasoning to taste. Serve hot. Garnish with croutons, if desired. Serves 8 to 10.



BINGO LAND

NEWS FROM THE REAL WORLD & CYBERSPACE

Bingo Returns to Vegas Strip

Circus Circus is bringing back the beloved game by "opening a bingo hall that embraces the true vintage Vegas bingo experience, built around paper cards, ink daubers, cheap eats and live gameplay," according to an official press release. The new bingo hall at Circus Circus is slated to open this February.

Bingo hasn't been offered on the Las Vegas Strip for one simple economic reason: It doesn't make enough money to justify the space. Bingo rooms are considered an amenity, much like buffets and spas, and they tend to have big footprints, with hundreds of seats, dedicated staff, equipment and fixed session times. They produce only a fraction of the revenue a casino can earn by filling that same square footage with slot machines. Plus, Bingo players tend to be locals, value-seekers and lower theoretical gamblers who aren't likely to spend big on slots, tables, bottle service or upscale dining before or after their bingo session.

Why, then, is Circus Circus bringing back bingo? Says Shana Gerety, General Manager at Circus Circus Las Vegas, "We've seen a lot of success leaning into nostalgia as we continue to refresh and update Circus Circus Las Vegas. It started with Slots-A-Fun, the only coin-operated casino on the Las Vegas Strip and enhancing the food and beverage options, by offering cheap beer and bites. Our customers loved the experience, and we're excited to offer the Strip's only bingo hall, with affordable pricing, great food and beverage options, and a true bingo experience without a tablet doing the work for you."

The hall will accommodate 255 players per session, and feature six sessions daily at the start. Each session will feature 10 total games, including traditional bingo games, a bonus game and a coverall, all played on paper with daubers. Guests will be able to purchase a full session package for \$30, with the opportunity to purchase additional cards. Prizes will be paid in cash, with payouts starting at \$50 and reaching up to \$1,500. The hall is located on the Promenade level and steps away from a new concession stand serving classic favorites, including hot dogs, pretzels, nachos, beer and a selection

of cocktails. Circus Circus will also debut a new gaming space outside of the bingo hall with popular coin-operated slot machines, enhancing the throwback experience.

Bingo Boosts Soldier Morale

On a recent Wednesday, scores of off-duty Soldiers and civilians talked, danced in place, and sang along to *Shake it Off* by Taylor Swift as they waited in line at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Stage and Entertainment area on Camp Buehring, Kuwait. A strategic staging and training post for Active Duty and National Guard troops alike, Camp Buehring was winding down for the night as the audience arrived to receive their game cards for the bi-weekly Bingo Night. This important morale event has become a staple of the base's community, offering a fun and engaging outlet, as well as high-end prizes.

During deployments, the stress of performing rigorous tasks daily in the heat of the desert, miles away from home, is quick to weigh on any person. While the post provides numerous resources such as sports tournaments, movie theatres, and recreation area to help, the MWR team has found few things have been more beneficial than a night out for Bingo with friends. MWR Volunteer DJ, Jake Bustos, says it's a reminder of home.

The Bingo Nights on Camp Buehring begin at 7pm every Wednesday and Saturday night, with players checking in to receive their game cards. Music blasts throughout the post as Busto deejays to start the night and in between rounds. A Volunteer MC explains which board arrangement will win the game and lights up an LED lightboard to help players track their play. Players are encouraged to participate throughout by joining the MC in call-and-response chants to certain combinations and shouting "Bingo!" loudly to indicate they have come up with the correct arrangement on their cards. Substantial prizes such as wireless speakers, ear buds, blankets, and even televisions are on offer. Bingo Night continues to be a vital occurrence for fostering esprit de corps on Camp Buehring, and MWR plans to keep hosting it for residents.

BROOM-HILDA

By Russell Myers



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: I equals S

AVYJ AFNDO EFN ZYDD LBDXBM

XS Y KYQXZYD YLXDXJE JF

OJBGBKXSB JVB FGXQXSI FM

JVXSQI? IFNGZBGE.

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PICKS OF THE MONTH

Jay Kelly (R) — This comedy-drama film directed by Noah Baumbach presents a very emotional and layered depiction of the life of a famous actor named Jay Kelly. George Clooney stars as the world-renowned Jay — a charismatic, suave man, the type of actor you see on screen and can't take your eyes off of. Of course, behind every heartthrob who can deliver lines well, there usually lies some convoluted personal life that's meant to be kept hidden from the world. And with Jay, it's no different. Even though he lives a spectacular life and has a team (comprised of Adam Sandler and Laura Dern) that scrambles to leap over every obstacle Jay creates for himself, a deep loneliness and sadness emanate from him. This leaves us to wonder, is the life of being a famous actor worth the price? Clooney and Sandler have already received Golden Globe nominations for their performances in the film, which is out now to stream! (Netflix)

The Running Man (R) — f you've seen Edgar Wright's *Baby Driver*, you know that Wright excels in creating action-packed blockbusters with a splash of comedy and incredulity. His latest release, starring Glen

Powell, is an adaptation of Stephen King's 1982 novel *The Running Man*, and Wright does not hold back on the action! The film takes place in a near-future United States that is ruled by an authoritarian media network. The network's most popular TV program is called *The Running Man*, where runners sign up to win \$1 billion if they can survive 30 days without getting killed by the network's hunters. Powell plays a blue-collar man named Ben, who signs up with the purpose of buying medicine for his daughter. But once he's thrown into the game, he realizes his actual purpose in the game is much larger than just escaping a few cold-blooded murderers. (Apple TV+)

Little Disasters (TV-MA) — Diane Kruger takes on a leading role in this new limited drama/thriller series out now to stream. This is the second novel of Sarah Vaughan's to get a miniseries adaptation, the first one being *Anatomy of a Scandal* in 2022. The little disasters commence at once in this six-episode series when mother Jess' (Kruger) life is thrown for a loop after her child suffers a concerning head injury. Her best friend, who is also the accident and emergency doctor treating the child, subsequently files a report to child social services following the incident. This results in major cracks within their friendship and even an unveiling of hidden secrets that Jess desperately tried to keep buried. Ben Bailey Smith and Jo Joyner co-star. (Paramount+)

Write in to Couch Theater by emailing TheCouchTheater@gmail.com or writing to KFWFS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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THE MIDDLETONS

By Ralph Dunagin and Dana Summers



Gaming News

Legal Cheating Explained

An excellent 19-minute video, *How They Legally Cheated Every Casino For \$21 Million, Then Vanished*, animates the story of Phil Ivey and Kelly Sun as they milked casinos for tens of millions, "using a technique so clever, so subtle, that even the surveillance cameras didn't catch it." The video shows Kelly turning Ivey onto edge sorting, illustrating the concept complete with a magnifying glass. "How do you get the casinos to rotate the cards?" he asks her. Her answer is surprisingly simple—and it launched an epic takedown of casinos in London and Atlantic City. The whole story is told in the book *Advantage Players*, but this is as clear and easy-to-assimilate an explanation as you'll find on YouTube.

Three NYC Casinos Approved

Three casinos are coming to the five boroughs—two in Queens and one in the Bronx. The New York state Gaming Commission made the official announcement late December, capping off a process that had been a dozen years in the making. The decision to award licenses to Bally's Bronx at Ferry Point, Hard Rock Metropolitan Park near Citi Field, and Resorts World New York City near JFK Airport could transform the city's economic and entertainment landscape in the coming years. The state is banking on a hefty financial return, beyond the \$500 million licensing fee to be paid by each of the casinos. An evaluation released by the Gaming Facility Location Board stated that with around 20 million people living in the metro area as well as a stream of domestic and international tourists, the total downstate

casino market "could reach approximately \$5.5 billion in gross gaming revenue in 2033," more than enough to sustain a thriving downstate gaming industry. Within the first decade of operation, the board predicted the three facilities would collectively generate almost \$13 billion in taxes, including \$7 billion in gaming taxes and \$5.9 billion in hotel, sales and property taxes. While advocates pointed to the thousands of jobs the projects are expected to generate, proponents worried about the potential toll on small businesses and families harmed by gambling addiction.

Two Dollar Bet Nets Big Win

A lucky gambler sat down at a slot machine near Tacoma, Washington and walked away with a "massive" jackpot win, casino officials said. The gambler won \$61,112 "on a single spin" on a Monkey in the Bank slot machine at Muckleshoot Casino Resort in Auburn, casino officials wrote in a Facebook post. The bet was \$2, a casino official confirmed in an email to *The News Tribune*.

Jai Alai Returns

Jai alai is returning to its historic home at Casino Miami. The World Jai-Alai League, which says it is the only professional jai alai league in the U.S., had been considering leaving South Florida after its lease at Magic City Casino ended in late 2024. The league—which plays a modified version of the traditional Basque game—recently announced its new home will be Jai-Alai Miami (JAM) Arena, a newly renovated entertainment space within the old Miami Jai-Alai complex. The 1,500-seat venue, which opens in 2026, will feature new seating, a refurbished terrace and bar area, and a redesigned entryway connecting to the casino. The World Jai-Alai League will operate the new venue, which will also host concerts, comedy shows and other programming, according to a spokesperson.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO

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Warm-ups 6:30pm • Early Birds Follow

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- ANSWERS
- 1. "Michelle," in 1965. It won the Grammy for Song of the Year in 1967. The song has been widely covered in various ways around the world, including as a cappella, a string quartet, Muzak and rap.
 - 2. "Ain't That a Shame," in 1955. The Four Seasons followed with a cover in 1963, as did Hank Williams Jr. in 1971.
 - 3. Dee Dee Sharp, in 1962. The song referred to the dance fad of the time, the Mashed Potato. It was used in soup advertising in 1996, with Sharp doing the recording.
 - 4. Deckers were the Belgian singing nun who released "Dominique" in 1963. Her religious name was Sister Luc Gabriel, and she was with the Missionary Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Fichermont.
 - 5. "I Hear a Symphony," by the Supremes, in 1965. The song was their sixth to top the charts.

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THE BINGO BUGLE NEWSPAPERS
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CASINO MORONGO BINGO FEBRUARY

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MONEY BAGS

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5 Early Birds Paying \$250
5 Regular Games Pay \$500
5 Regular Games Pay \$750
**Morongo Money Bags (cons \$500)
**Double Action Progressive Jackpot (cons \$500)
**\$2500 Super Bonanza Jackpot
**Pick 8 Progressive 20# or less (cons \$500)
**Morongo Ball & Hotball Not Included **Not included in buyin

HIGH STAKES THURSDAYS
***\$70 BUY-IN**
(36 Cards) *with Rewards Card
**Super Progressive paying in total \$1,000
5 Early Birds Pay \$750
10 Regular Games \$1199
**Morongo Money Bags (cons \$500)
**Double Action Progressive Jackpot (cons \$500)
**52# or less Pick a Pet Jackpot
**\$2500 Super Bonanza Jackpot
**Pick 8 Progressive 20# or less (cons \$1,199)
**Morongo Ball & Hotball Not Included **Not included in buyin

ALL-IN FRIDAYS
***\$50 BUY-IN**
(300 Cards) *with Rewards Card
5 Early Birds Paying \$200
10 Regular Games \$500
Double Action Progressive Jackpot
(cons \$500)
\$2,500 Super Bonanza Jackpot
Pick 8 Progressive 20# or less
(cons \$500)
**Morongo Ball & Hotball Not Included **Not included in buyin

SATURDAYS
***\$60 BUY-IN**
(36 Cards) *with Rewards Card
5 Early Birds \$1,000
10 Regular Games \$1,000
**Morongo Money Bags (cons \$500)
**Double Action Progressive Jackpot (Cons \$500)
**\$5,000 Super Bonanza Jackpot (Cons \$1,000)
**Pick 8 Progressive 20# or less (cons \$1,199)
**Morongo Ball & Hotball Not Included **Not included in buyin

SUNDAYS
***\$40 BUY-IN**
(36 Cards) *with Rewards Card
5 Early Birds Paying \$250
5 Regular Games Pay \$500
5 Regular Games Pay \$1,000
**Morongo Money Bags (cons \$500)
**Double Action Progressive Jackpot (cons \$500)
**Pick a Pet Jackpot (cons \$500)
**\$2500 Super Bonanza Jackpot
**Pick 8 Progressive 20# or less (cons \$500)
**Morongo Ball & Hotball Not Included **Not included in buyin

LOVE is in the AIR
Saturday February 14, 2026
\$85 Buy in (36 Cards)
With Rewards Club
**Start Up's Paying in Total \$750
5 Early Birds Pay \$500
15 Games \$1,199
**Morongo Money Bags (cons \$500)
**Double Action Jackpot \$5,000 Must Go!!
**52# or less Pick a Pet Jackpot
**\$2500 Super Bonanza Jackpot
**Pick 8 Progressive Jackpot 20# or less (cons \$1,199)
**not included in buy in
-PLUS-
Strip Tab Drawings &
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

**BINGO
INDEPENDENCE
DAY**
\$60,000 MUST GO!!!
\$260 Advanced Buy-In
Saturday July 4th 2026
Doors Open 2pm • 1st Game 5pm
40 Games of Bingo Paying Out \$1,199
Double Action Jackpot \$4,000 MUST GO!!
Bonanza Jackpot \$6,000 MUST GO!!
Pick 8 \$10,000 MUST GO!!
-PLUS-
Strip Tab Drawings!!!
On Sale
May 1st 2026
\$260 Advanced Buy in
(Add \$50 day of purchase)
OR
Play our Independence Day Game
Daily beginning February 1st, 2026
Only \$5.00
Single Winners Receive
A Free Entry Into This Special Event!
Multiple Winners Split \$100 Cash!

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
MORONGOCASINORESORT.COM/CASINOMORONGO
OR CALL (951) 755-5500

*Non Morongo Rewards Member add \$10 **Not included in buy-in. Morongo reserves all rights.
MORONGO SUPPORTS RESPONSIBLE GAMING. 1-800-GAMBLER



Check it out!



Joy G. was the winner of \$500 at
Santa Ana Elks



JoAnn C. was the winner of \$400 at
St. Joseph High School

Nevada Happenings

Fireworks Championship

The International Fireworks Championship Las Vegas will be held at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Saturday Feb. 21. This fireworks competition debut features multiple elaborate displays throughout the evening, as four teams from around the world perform 12- to 15- minute shows, with 15-minute entertainment-filled breaks between them. Described as a "full-on sensory experience," these are "incredibly intense and creative displays, exploding lower to the ground, and they're all highly choreographed and synchronized to music." Tickets are on sale now, starting at \$95 per person for general admission and \$144 for reserved seats. Gates open at 2:30 p.m., with the first fireworks show starting around 6 p.m. The program concludes around 8:30 p.m., when a world championship team will be crowned.

Red Rock Regal Theater Renovation

Station's Red Rock Casino has completed a major renovation of its 16-screen Regal movie theater. The lobby has been upgraded, the bar expanded (with craft beers and specialty drinks), a spacious lounge has been added for group gatherings before or after movies, and an RPX screen (Regal Cinemas' proprietary premium large format) is now part of the mix, along with IMAX and 4DX. Tickets remain \$10-\$15, with discounts for Regal loyalty members.

David Byrne at the Colosseum

David Byrne, lead singer and prime mover of the influential '80s rock, punk, and funk band Talking Heads, will play one show at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace on April 20. Talking Heads formed up in New York

in 1977 and issued eight studio albums before disbanding in 1991. They're biggest hits were *Once in a Lifetime*, *Burning Down the House* and *Road to Nowhere*. In his post-Talking Heads solo career, Byrne has received an Academy Award, a Grammy, a Special Tony, and a Golden Globe and is an inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Eggslut Opens at the Rio

Eggslut, the popular long-time breakfast fast-foot counter at the Cosmopolitan, opened at the Rio this past holiday season. Eggslut began life as a food truck in L.A. in 2011 and has since gone global, with locations as far flung as the UK, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Kuwait, and of course Las Vegas. The venue at Cosmo serves four breakfast sandwiches (\$9-\$10.50), cheeseburger (\$12.50), tri-tip sandwich (\$16.50), the Slut (coddled egg on potato puree, \$11.50), truffle hash browns (\$6), and coffee (\$6). The Rio location will open at 7 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. The Rio also has a Hash House A Go Go, open 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., so there're plenty of breakfasts to go around. And parking is free.

Chubby Chinatown

Chubby Group, the hospitality company behind the Chubby Cattle restaurant, is partnering with Hashi Market to create Chubby World in Chinatown at the corner of Spring Mountain and Valley View. Plans call for a four-story complex that features a theater for cosplay shows, anime, and cultural events, a Tokyo-style food court, a Hashi Market, and a music venue for concerts and a late-night club. A timetable for the project wasn't disclosed at press time.

Million Dollar December Hit

It was a lucky holiday weekend for one Fontainebleau Las Vegas guest—on Thanksgiving Day the player bet \$25 and won over \$1,152,000 on a high-limit Dragon Link slot machine.

ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN CHURCH BINGO

EVERY MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

DOORS OPEN AT 4PM & REGULAR GAMES AT 6PM

FEBRUARY SPECIALS

Mondays

February 2 & 16

\$37

up to 3 packs

Thursdays

February 5, 12, 19 & 26

\$32

up to 3 packs

February 12

Valentine's Day Bingo

Door Prize



500 S. CENTRAL AVE. GLENDALE, CA 91204 | (818) 245-6832

COFFEE BREAK!

BINGO BUGLE CROSSWORD

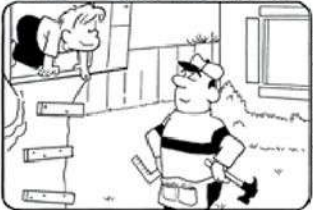
ACROSS

- 1 "— Lang Syne"
5 Steed stopper
9 Plead
12 Dandling site
13 Reactions to pyrotechnics
14 Preceding
15 Mid-month date
16 Automaker Ransom Eli —
17 Have a bug
18 Small winning margin
19 Go blue?
20 Air for a pair
21 "How I Met Your Mother" net
23 Census stat
25 Off-course
28 Auction, often
32 Use crib notes
33 Rechargeable battery
34 Grow canines
36 Tourist attractions
37 Moray or conger
38 Coop occupant
39 Witty one
42 Clay, now
44 "Super-food" berry
48 Tramcar contents
- 49 Teeny bit
50 So
51 Meadow
52 Expression
53 Deserve
54 Spigot
55 Whirlpool
56 "Phooey!"
- DOWN**
1 Related
2 Loosen
3 Dregs
4 Treated with irreverence
5 "Give a hoot, don't pollute"
6 owl
7 "Heavens to Murgatroyd!"
8 Donkey
9 Suitor
10 One of HOMES
11 Money
20 Like some divers or hitters
22 Wash
24 Aladdin's ally
25 Performance
26 The girl
27 Shirt shape
29 Interlaken
30 Long, crosser
31 Mag. staffers
35 Very happy
36 Vibrate abnormally
39 Filly's brother
40 Vicinity
41 Harvest
43 Byron or Tennyson
45 Burn somewhat
46 Atmosphere
47 "— It Romantic?"
49 Chowd down

HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS

SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

SCRAMBLERS



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the four words to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

ARLOV
AHMENU
ROCUBES
LIMPE

TODAY'S WORD

JUMBLE

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

TCOBH

CEWIN

TABYNO

KEWYEL

Ans. " " " "

here: " " " "

CryptoQuote

AXYLBAAH is LONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, & 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.

JADGQF CE QJ CFFHECAJ.
KROZ CE JADGQF ZA ZRW
EXCSWD CE TROAE ZA ZRW
YFP. — GADZCTCQ QSSQGE

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COFFEE BREAK ANSWERS NOW ON ASTROLOGY PAGE



Low-Stress Entertaining Starts Here

Some of the best gatherings I've ever hosted were powered by simple food, mismatched napkins and the sheer charm of wonderful people being together.

Instead of stressing about elaborate spreads or complicated appetizers, let's bring the joy back to hosting with low-cost, low-fuss tricks.

Easy, Affordable Entertaining Tips

Share the Spotlight with a Potluck: Ask guests to bring a favorite side or appetizer while you handle the main dish. It lightens the load and the bill.

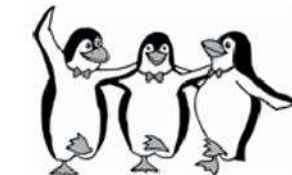
Create Instant Ambiance: Dim the lights, turn on lamps, light a candle — instant cozy, no decorating required.

Set Up a Self-Serve Drink Station: A few bottles of vino, a pitcher of sparkling water, some citrus, ice and glasses let guests help themselves while you enjoy the party.

Think "Nibbles." Not a Buffet: Crackers, fruit, veggies and your cream cheese spread looks generous without draining your time or budget.

Make Something You Can Ignore: Cream cheese dips and spreads shine here — no wilting, no reheating.

Start with my "Mother of All Cream Cheese Dips," a simple base — like a mother sauce — that every other flavor can be built on. Use whatever you have: herbs, cheese, leftover roast veggies, odds and ends. It turns out a little different each time, always delicious and perfect for effortless appetizers or last-minute hostess gifts. The very definition of frugal and fabulous!



THE MOTHER OF ALL CREAM CHEESE DIPS

1 1/2 cups
1 hour 5 mins.

- 1 (8-ounce) block cream cheese, at room temperature
1/2 cup sour cream or mayonnaise, at room temperature
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
Optional Mix-Ins (use one, some, or all — whatever's handy):
1 green onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cup shredded aged cheddar or other cheese
1/4 cup bacon crumbles
1/4 cup toasted almonds

Place the cream cheese in a bowl and beat with an electric mixer on high for about 2 minutes, until it's light and fluffy. Scrape the bowl, then add the sour cream or mayo, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Beat on high for another minute. Taste and adjust the seasoning — this is your dip, after all.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour so the flavors can get acquainted and settle in. Serve with breadsticks, pretzels, mini bagels, crackers or chips.

Note: The longer it chills, the better it gets, which makes this a perfect make-ahead recipe for busy hosts. Leftovers keep in the fridge for up to a week, although "leftover dip" is mostly a theoretical concept.

What else can you add? Truly anything else you love, like chopped herbs, leftover roasted veggies, a spoonful of pesto, diced olives, sundried tomatoes, everything bagel seasoning. This recipe is here for your creativity and your fridge clean-outs.

At the end of the day, people aren't coming over to evaluate your culinary skills or inspect your baseboards. They show up for laughter, warmth and the simple comfort of being welcomed. A cozy room, a low-stress menu and the delicious variety of potluck goodness is more than enough to make your home the spot everyone remembers.

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 and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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Bring Leftovers Together in a Meatloaf Mash-Up

Nothing says comfort, security and home like an old-fashioned meal of meatloaf and mashed potatoes. Try this tasty supper with your family, or better yet, invite another family over to enjoy this generous-sized recipe of Outside-Inside Meatloaf.

We call it the all-in-one vegetable/potato/meatloaf because when you slice the main dish, the kids discover that everything is hidden inside — everything, that is, except the salad and bread, which your guests could bring to complete this fabulous "let's get together" meal.

It's also the perfect solution for using leftovers. Extra portions of mashed potatoes, peas and corn are the perfect ingredients to complete this recipe. Even day-old dinner rolls are useful. They're all part of the mix.



OUTSIDE-INSIDE MEATLOAF MASH-UP

Serves 8

- 2 pounds lean ground beef
2 eggs, slightly beaten
2 cups fresh or packaged breadcrumbs
2 tablespoon tomato paste
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
3 cups prepared mashed potatoes
1 cup cooked peas or corn
1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
Ketchup or mustard for drizzling on top

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, with very clean hands, let your child thoroughly mix together the meat, eggs, breadcrumbs, tomato paste, Worcestershire sauce and seasonings.

Place on a large sheet of parchment or wax paper and form a 9-by-12-inch rectangle. Use a rolling pin to make it even and smooth. Spread the potatoes over the meat with a spatula, leaving a 1-inch border all around. Top with vegetable and cheese.

With adult assistance, your child can roll up the large meatloaf lengthwise, lifting up the paper to get it started. Remove paper and place the meatloaf seam-side down on a foil-lined baking pan. Pat it together firmly, pinch ends closed, and drizzle ketchup or mustard on top.

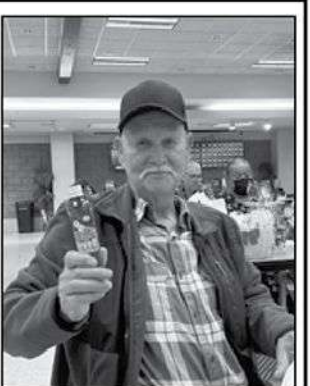
Bake uncovered for 1 to 1 1/4 hours, or until completely done. Remove from oven and let rest for 10 minutes before transferring to a large serving platter for slicing.

Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at www.donnaerickson.com.

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Iesha R. won \$400 at St. Joseph High School



Raul R. won \$150 at St. John Bosco High School



Pauline G. won the \$1,500 Double Action Jackpot at Morongo Casino Resort & Spa

ANIMAL CRACKERS

By Fred Wagner



Casino Q&A

Time to Test Your Slot IQ

- 1. Winning at slot machines is just a matter of luck. (T or F)
- 2. There are better days of the week or time of the day to play slots. (T or F)
- 3. After you hit a jackpot the slot turns cold to make up for the big payout. (T or F)
- 4. A slot with a 98% payback will return 98% of the money you put into it. (T or F)
- 5. Casinos really want you to win. (T or F)
- 6. A slot that hasn't paid out in a long time is overdue and bound to hit. (T or F)
- 7. The slower you play a slot machine the better. (T or F)

Answers:

- 1. True. Like in keno, Bingo, and your state lottery, winning is just a matter of luck. And if luck isn't with you, it doesn't matter what strategy you use or what you do.
- 2. False. When you're playing one of today's slot machines, you're really playing a computer. And the slot's computer doesn't know or care what day or time of the day it is. So, there's no better day of the week or time of the day to play slot machines.



Solomon's Seal

"Solomon's Seal" is the common name for a number of species in the genus Polygonatum. These plants display broad, alternating leaves and many clusters of bell-shaped flowers that dangle along each stalk. They prefer rich, moist, well-drained soil, partly or fully shaded. They are drought-tolerant once established, have few insect or disease problems, and are not favored by deer. Beside their use as garden plants, they are used medicinally, and also prepared as food. - Brenda Weaver

Source: hort-extension.wisc.edu

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ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FRIDAY BINGO

Doors open at 4:00pm | Regular games start at 6:00pm

SMALL HALL - GREAT PRIZES

BETTER ODDS TO WIN BINGO!

BUY-IN: \$50
5 STRIP GAMES PAY \$750

TABS PLAYED SEPARATELY FROM PAPER GAMES

Monthly Birthday Promotion
Friday, February 27
Receive a special pack on your birthday month!

- 1 set of 5 Strip Games
- 1 Early Bird Paper
- 1 Double Action
- 1 Lucky Elephant Strip

*Must show ID with a buy-in

St. Bernard Catholic School
9647 Beach Street
Bellflower, CA 90706
Off the 91 Freeway on Bellflower Blvd. and Beach St.

192 Seat Bingo
Air Conditioning
Lots of parking!
We now accept credit cards!

FIND US ON BINGOMENOW

GRAND REOPENING

FEBRUARY 19

ST. DOMINIC SAVIO

BINGO

THURSDAY NIGHT BINGO

A great place for paper players to gather

Doors open Thursdays at 4:00 PM
Warm up games start at 6:00 PM

13400 Bellflower Blvd.
Bellflower, CA 90706
(562) 920-7796

ONLINE BUY-IN
\$50 Reserve your seat with BingoMeNow
\$60 at the door

BUY-IN INCLUDES:

- ♦ Two 4 on 10 up for all 20 paper games paying \$250
- ♦ 5 mini strip games paying \$300
- ♦ 5 large strips games paying \$500

Early Birds, Double Action, Night Owls & wild cards sold separately

We remodeled and upgraded to video flashboards for an enhanced player experience.

HOUSE BINGO

THURSDAY - MONDAY
DOORS OPEN: 3:00PM
EARLY BIRD: 6:30PM
GAMES START AT 7:00PM

KARAOKE EVERY THURSDAY
DOORS OPEN 3PM
SING 4-5PM FOR PRIZES

CRY BABY MONDAYS
BALL IN THE MONITOR GETS \$250

VALENTINE SATURDAY
BRING YOUR SWEETHEART TO BINGO

February 14

DOWNLOAD OUR APP TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

GET ADDED TO OUR TEXT LIST FOR COUPONS AND UPDATES! TEXT LAX TO 70503 OR USE THIS QR CODE

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685 S. LA BREA AVE. INGLEWOOD, CA 90301

Lucky Lotto News

Left Behind Ticket Nets Big Win
A Michigan man won big in the lottery after discovering a scratch-off ticket left on a gas station counter. According to a news release from the Michigan Lottery, an anonymous 33-year-old Wayne County man took home the top \$1 million prize after picking up a ticket for the state's Blazing Suits game while visiting a Detroit gas station. "There was a Blazing Suits ticket set aside on the counter that someone else had decided not to purchase, so I purchased it," the player said in a statement, sharing that he made the decision to buy the \$10 scratch-off ticket from the counter, rather than grab a new one. "I scratched the ticket off and couldn't believe it when I saw it was a \$1 million winner!" he recalled. "I never would have thought I'd win such a large lottery prize, so it's truly a blessing." The winner visited the Lottery's headquarters to claim his prize and opted to receive his winnings as a one-time lump sum payment of about \$693,000, rather than annuity payments for the full amount. According to the player, he hopes to save the money for a rainy day. "Winning is a great feeling, but it's also a lot of pressure because your mind starts thinking of all the different things you can do with this amount of money," he said.

Another Unusual Michigan Win
This isn't the only time in the past year that a lottery player in Michigan became a prize winner after choosing their ticket in an unusual way. A woman won \$100,000 playing Powerball after she used ChatGPT to pick her numbers. Tammy Carvey, 45, of Wyandotte, bought a lottery ticket online at MichiganLottery.com for the Sept. 6 drawing. "I asked ChatGPT for a set of Powerball numbers, and those are the numbers I played on my ticket," she explained. "It wasn't until I logged into my Michigan Lottery account that I realized I added the Power Play to my ticket and actually won \$100,000. My husband and I were in total disbelief," she said.

Goodluck Grandma
A man is crediting a surprise run-in with his grandma at an Illinois convenience store as the reason why he ended up winning a \$1 million Powerball prize. The lucky winner, who gave himself the fitting nickname "Grandma is My Lucky Charm," told lottery officials that his luck began after he decided to purchase the ticket at a Road Ranger in Rochelle. "The \$240 million jackpot drawing was that night, but I work late, so I took a quick lunch break to grab a ticket and try my luck," he said. Before he even walked into the store, he noticed a car that looked just like the one his grandma drove. "And guess what? It was her car and she was right by the cash register, checking out," he said. Then she ran over and gave him a hug. Later that night he got the big news when he scanned his ticket and saw the words: "You won \$1,000,004." In addition to matching all five numbers — 13-16-18-20-27 — in the Oct. 11 Powerball drawing, the ticket netted him another \$4 from a different line of his ticket. Still, he didn't totally believe his win was real until he scanned the ticket a second time. "That's when I started screaming and hyperventilating," he recalled. "I instantly called my grandma, and her first response was, 'Are you sure you won?'" he said. "I checked the numbers manually online, and everything matched—except the Powerball." As for what he plans to do with his winnings, the man said he "definitely" plans to share some of his earnings with his grandma and buy her a new car. He added, "She's my good luck charm!"



Slip Up at Bingo

Our favorite Bingo place is always up to something. This time it proved to be an old-fashioned fashion show for the benefit of The Boys and Girls Club. They coerced both Kate and me to be in it, offering an extra Bingo pack as inducement. The show preceded Bingo on Thursday with what Kate called "antique clothes" setting the style. These were offered for sale by a local vintage clothing dealer and proved to be both interesting and frustrating. How did women put up with buttons in their plackets and gear to hold stockings up? I do not have the figure for old-fashioned clothes, being a bit too much in the bust; however, I do have small hips and one of the skirts would fit only me. I liked it, too, as it was fully lined black silk, but very slim, straight out of the twenties. Kate hated the whole idea and would have dropped out if I had let her. She was so antagonistic about "those prissy dresses" that they let her model coats. One had a beautiful cape collar and I would have bought it for her except that I knew she would never wear it.

"I'd a lot rather be playing Bingo," she muttered as we got ready to parade around the tables. "Behave yourself," I said, "and remember this is for charity. It won't hurt you to suffer a little." We pranced and wove around the room. I actually enjoyed myself, showing off several outfits. The prize antique clothes came last and I hastily buttoned myself into the black silk skirt, which I wore with a lacy black top that would scarcely go around my upper torso. I donned a lovely shawl to cover up how tight it was and pranced once around the room showing off the silk skirt. On my second circuit, as I was making a slow pirouette, the skirt fell to the floor. Of course, I was wearing no slip as the skirt was lined. There I was in my pink underpants and my embarrassment, to the delight of the audience. Some stood so they could see better. Somehow, I managed to grasp my skirt and shawl at the same time, managing to exit in mostly clothed disgrace. I was the hit of the show. My antique skirt sold for more than it was worth, treacherous thing that it was, and several bidders asked if the model would wear it again. As I pulled on my own clothes, I told Kate I was going home, not staying to play Bingo, that I had enough for one day. "Oh no," she said. "You talked me into this escapade, we have extra packs to play, and you are staying!" Actually, I enjoyed the Bingo game. They named a new pattern for me. It is called "the skirt" and is the complete I, N and G rows. I kind of like being famous and bonus: I won.

Americanisms



ALL NEW PAYOUTS THIS MARCH!



Plaza
\$160,000
SUPER BINGO

MARCH 12-14
NOTE: GAMES PLAYED
FRI & SAT

19 REGULAR GAMES
\$1,199 EACH DAY!

ALL REGULAR GAMES ARE NON-TAXABLE

DAY 1 COVERALL \$30,000 | **DAY 2 COVERALL \$40,000**

2ND CHANCE \$3,050 • 3RD & 4TH CHANCE \$1,999

\$160 ENTRY FEE
ENTRY FEE INCLUDES
FOR EACH DAY OF PLAY:
ONE 6-ON PAPER PACK
DONUTS BY **pinkbox**
FREE DRINKS & BOXED LUNCH

CALL 702.386.2318
TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

ADD A 4-NIGHT STAY FOR
\$140
WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY
— NO RESORT FEE —
PLAYERS ALSO GET
2 FREE DAUBERS &
\$10 FREE SLOT PLAY
DURING SUPER BINGO

Future Dates: April 13-15 • May 11-13 • June 15-17 • July 6-8 • August 3-5

Plaza | PlazaHotelCasino.com | @Plazalasvegas | #PlazaLV | 1 Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101 | 702.386.2110

ST. JOHN BOSCO H.S.

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(562) 920-1734 ext. 223 acastaneda@bosco.org
bosco.org/bingo

SATURDAY NIGHT BINGO

Doors Open 3:00 PM • Bingo Begins @ 5:00 PM
Feb 7 Feb 14 Feb 21 Feb 28

VALENTINE'S DAY GIVEAWAY
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
FREE VALENTINE DAUBER AND DESSERT!

EVERY SATURDAY \$15,500

GUARANTEED CASH PRIZES!
PAPER GAMES NOW PAY \$300!

\$100 BIG PACK
2 sets of 15 paper games
2 sets of 15 strip games
(\$150 value for \$100)

\$50 SMALL PACK
1 set of 15 paper games
1 set of 15 strip games
(\$75 value for \$50!)


Online Pricing

Nightly Door Prize Drawing
4 \$100 Admission Coupons
2 \$100 Cash Drawings
3 \$250 Cash Drawings

FREE \$100 BIRTHDAY BIG PACK
MONTH OF BIRTHDAY MUST SHOW ID

RESERVE YOUR SEATS ON BINGOMENOW AND SAVE 10% ON ORDERS OVER \$150
Sales Open Mondays at Noon
Close Fridays at Noon

SPECIAL PATIO AREA FOR SMOKERS CONVENIENCE



to your good health
WITH
Dr. Keith Roach

What do we now call what was once referred to as a "nervous breakdown" in the 20th century? — A.M.

ANSWER: I asked this question to my psychiatry professor way back in the late 20th century when I was a first-year medical student. My professor replied that the term didn't have a meaning anymore. There is no formal medical or psychiatric diagnosis of a "nervous breakdown." The term is used by laypeople to describe when a person has severe impairment of their day-to-day function as a result of a psychiatric diagnosis, especially mood disorders like generalized anxiety disorder or major depressive disorder.

An adjustment disorder may resemble a major depressive disorder, but it occurs within a few months of a traumatic life event. A severe case might also be termed a "nervous breakdown." It is not usually used to describe a person with acute psychosis (a term meaning a grossly distorted sense of reality), such as a person with schizophrenia or bipolar affective disorder in their acute and uncontrolled state.

All these conditions have effective treatments. Treatment starts by talking to someone, who might be your own regular doctor or a mental health professional. For people who are in acute distress with thoughts of hurting themselves, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is an option in the United States and Canada.

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

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KOVELS
Antiques & Collecting
By Terry and Kim Kovel

Q: I want to check the value of my vase. It is shaped like an urn with two handles on the sides and raised pictures of people and trees. There is a cupid flying above them. It is marked "F. & A. G." on the base.

A: It sounds like your vase is based on the Portland vase, a famous ancient Roman vase. Many potteries made copies of it in the 18th and 19th centuries. The most famous and most valuable copies are made by Wedgwood. The mark on your vase was used by the Austrian pottery company of Gerbing & Stephan (located in the present-day Czech Republic) from about 1900 to 1903. The initials stand for brothers Friedrich and Alexander Gerbing, who were running their family's company at the time. The company made majolica, a tin-glazed earthenware pottery, in styles inspired by ancient history, often with historical or mythological scenes. Today, their vases sell for about \$150 to \$200.

TIP: The general rule about dovetailing: The fewer the number of joints, the older the piece. A drawer made in the early 17th century was either joined with one huge dovetail or was pegged together.

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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Tips for Bankroll Management Part II

Last month we covered the rules of the session bankroll and proportional betting for the recreational blackjack player. This month we explore the details of varying your bets and more tips and strategies.

Varying Your Bets

The "safest" way to bet at blackjack when you don't have the edge is to make the minimum size bet on every hand. This will decrease your theoretical loss and reduce your risk of busting out quickly.

However, most recreational players find betting the same amount on every hand not very exciting. Therefore, they use some type of progressive betting system to vary their bets, where you increase or decrease bet based on whether your previous hand won or lost. The bottom line on progressive betting systems is this: mathematically speaking, you can't, and you won't, gain the advantage over the casino using a progressive betting system. Nevertheless, for those players who insist on varying their bets, I suggest using a conservative system known as Oscar's Grind. It works like this.

You begin your progression with a one-unit bet and after every win, you bet one unit

more than the previous bet; after any loss, you bet the same as the previous bet. The goal is to win one unit for each series of bets, with this stipulation: you never place a bet that would result in a win of more than one unit for the series.

More Tips to Preserve Your Playing Bankroll

You can preserve your session (and total) bankroll longer by decreasing your hourly theoretical losses (due to the house edge). Here are some ways to do this.

- Always use the basic playing strategy when you play in either a land-based or an online casino. You can reduce the house edge to roughly a half percent (playing-rules dependent), which will decrease your theoretical hourly losses. (Dominate the idea about how much money you will save by using the basic blackjack strategy is very important here)
- Check the playing rules. You want player-favorable rules (e.g., doubling down after pair splitting; dealer standing on soft 17, etc. And you definitely want to avoid rules that increase the house edge, such as a blackjack paying 6-5 instead of 3-2, dealer hits soft 17, or no soft doubling allowed. (The greater the mix of player-favorable rules, the lower will be the house edge. For more on this, read Chapter 2 in the Ultimate Blackjack Strategy Guide.)

- If you are playing in a land-based casino, get rated for your play. The comps the casino will give you have value, which can reduce the cost of playing. Depending on the value of the comps, you can end up playing even or enjoy a net positive expectation.
- Take advantage of gambling coupons (e.g., match play, blackjack bonus payoff, free ace, etc.). These coupons give you an edge on a hand when you use them, which will save you money.
- Play on crowded tables. This reduces the number of hands you play per hour (which decreases the exposure of your bankroll against the house edge), and correspondingly, reduces your hourly theoretical losses.

Online blackjack games are significantly faster than playing in a land-based casino with a live dealer. The more hands you play per hour, the greater your theoretical losses. If the software allows you to adjust the speed of play, I recommend that you dial down



Assuming the Worst

Hi Guy,

This week when I was at Bingo, I was hit with one of my biggest dreads—a woman with two small kids arrived at Bingo late after I was all settled in and sat at my table.

I could just imagine how the evening would go, with these two littles squirming, fussing and complaining and being bored while I tried to ignore them and concentrate on the numbers. So, I was surprised and a little ashamed when they sat quietly in their chairs and did coloring books and drawings and minded their manners for the entire night.

When the games ended and we were all packing up to leave, I made a point of telling the kids how impressed I was with their good behavior and complimented their Mom for the good job she was doing raising them. The woman positively lit up when I said this and said that as a single Mom, she did worry about how good of a job she was doing.

It gave me a second pang of shame that it had not occurred to me that this woman brought her kids to Bingo because she clearly had no other option. I decided from that moment that I would not be so quick to look negatively on a single parent and his or her kids in social situations. —Henry, via email

Hi Henry,

I'm a total sucker for kids—except for the ones you feared you might be confronted with—noisy, misbehaving brats who should not be allowed in public. Ever!

I'm glad you realized that we should

never assume the worst when it comes to kids at Bingo. While some folks argue that Bingo is gambling and children should not be "exposed" to it, others, like me, see it as a game and have no problem with kids playing or simply being in the hall with an adult. Well behaved kids, that is. And may we all be less quick to judge others, kids or adults. —Guy

Hey guys! (And gals!) Write to: Guy's Turn c/o The Bingo Bugle, P.O. Box 527, Vashon, WA 98070, or e-mail the editor at tara@bingobugle.com. Be sure to include your name and address (you may request that your name not be published), as typically Guy will not include anonymous letters in his columns.



Ramon H. And Alicia H. won \$400 at 40 Martyrs



Laura G. won \$500 at Montebello Armenian Center



Elizabeth A. won the \$1,600 Hotball at Morongo Casino Resort & Spa

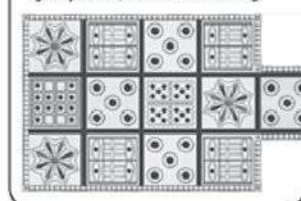


Vilma L. won \$1,500 at St. John Bosco High School

Fun Fact

The "Royal Game of Ur" is the oldest playable board game found in the world so far. In 1922, Sir Leonard Wooley led a team that discovered two sets of this game in a tomb near the site of ancient Ur, in southern Iraq. It has been dated to be roughly 4,600 years old.

Sources: gamecabinet.com, gdjora.com, britishmuseum.org



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Lucky Predictions for February 2026

ARIES: March 21 to April 19

1st thru 6th...
Fun on RED 1st-2nd\$!
7th thru 12th...
Best shots 9th-10th\$
13th thru 18th...
Trick moves the 16th\$!
19th thru 24th...
Best odds 20th & 24th
25th thru 28th...
Be there the 28th!

TAURUS: April 20 to May 20

1st thru 6th...
Plenty of SS the 4th!
7th thru 12th...
No dice 'til the 12th\$
13th thru 18th...
Looks good 13th & 18th
19th thru 24th...
You're all in the 22nd\$
25th thru 28th...
BLUE luck 26th-27th\$!

GEMINI: May 21 to June 21

1st thru 6th...
Best advantages 2nd & 6th!
7th thru 12th...
Step aside and wait
13th thru 18th...
Place your bets 15th-16th\$
19th thru 24th...
Stay and play the 21st & 24th!
25th thru 28th...
RED's the key 28th\$!

CANCER: June 22 to July 22

1st thru 6th...
Excellent chances the 4th\$
7th thru 12th...
Hand over fist 8th-9th\$
13th thru 18th...
Waiting to happen 17th-18th\$!
19th thru 24th...
All good the 22nd!
25th thru 28th...
Lots to appreciate 26th-27th\$!

LEO: July 23 to Aug. 22

1st thru 6th...
Unique chances the 5th\$
7th thru 12th...
Double your pleasure 10th\$
13th thru 18th...
Cool your jets
19th thru 24th...
RED's hot the 20th\$!
25th thru 28th...
You reign supreme 28th\$

VIRGO: Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

1st thru 6th...
Right on target 3rd-4th\$
7th thru 12th...
Be strategic 8th & 12th\$!
13th thru 18th...
Driven to win the 13th\$
19th thru 24th...
Born to win the 22nd!
25th thru 28th...
Risk brings SS 26th-27th\$

LIBRA: Sept. 23 to Oct. 23

1st thru 6th...
Lucky you 1st & 6th!
7th thru 12th...
Outstanding 11th-12th\$
13th thru 18th...
Word up 16th\$!
19th thru 24th...
Swift returns the 24th!
25th thru 28th...
Godsend the 28th\$

SCORPIO: Oct. 24 to Nov. 21

1st thru 6th...
GREEN attracts \$ 3rd-4th
7th thru 12th...
Focused efforts 7th & 12th\$
13th thru 18th...
PURPLE pays 17th-18th\$!
19th thru 24th...
Disappear for a bit
25th thru 28th...
Easy winning 26th-27th\$

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

1st thru 6th...
Fortunate fluke the 5th!
7th thru 12th...
Go for it 11th-12th\$
13th thru 18th...
SuccesSS 15th-16th!
19th thru 24th...
Hella luck 19th-20th\$
25th thru 28th...
Get on the RED train 28th\$

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22 to Jan. 19

1st thru 6th...
Sly and fly 3rd-4th\$!
7th thru 12th...
Pace yourself 8th & 12th
13th thru 18th...
Totally possible 17th-18th\$
19th thru 24th...
Aim high the 22nd\$
25th thru 28th...
Slight advantage 26th

AQUARIUS: Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

1st thru 6th...
In your favor the 6th\$
7th thru 12th...
Get outta town 11th-12th\$
13th thru 18th...
Got those moves 16th\$!
19th thru 24th...
Lucky schemes 19th & 24th\$
25th thru 28th...
Save it for March

PISCES: Feb. 19 to March 20

1st thru 6th...
Observe and wait
7th thru 12th...
Envy of all 8th-9th\$
13th thru 18th...
One after another 17th-18th\$
19th thru 24th...
Solid gains the 22nd\$!
25th thru 28th...
Amazing luck 26th-27th\$

Color references: lucky objects, blotters, cards, machines, the clothing/jewels you wear, or a dominant color in the room.

PREDICTORS				
LUCKY CARD FOR FEBRUARY 2026				
8	22	34	48	74
15	27	33	54	68
2	20	★	50	61
12	18	40	52	65
6	25	42	59	62

MOON PHASES & SPECIAL EVENTS		FEBRUARY 2026	
1st	Full Moon	1st	National Freedom Day
2nd	Groundhog Day	6th	National Wear Red Day
8th	Super Bowl	9th	Last Quarter Moon
14th	Valentine's Day	16th	Presidents' Day
17th	New Moon	17th	Lunar New Year
24th	First Quarter Moon	26th	National Pistachio Day



Horoscopes for February 2026

ARIES (MAR 21-APR 20): You're about to engage with the complexities of bringing new creations to life. This process will force you to reevaluate your relationships. A maturation process is underway, one that blends the imaginal with the discipline required to bring ideas to fruition.

Lucky Days: 1 - 10
Lucky Numbers: 19 - 56

TAURUS (APR 21-MAY 21): You're exiting a learning curve that forced you to confront feelings of insecurity and submission. You learned firsthand to confirm that some things *aren't* knowable or controllable. An opportunity arises this year to simplify the complexities in your life. But you must be willing to go where others fear to tread.

Lucky Days: 8 - 23
Lucky Numbers: 3 - 33

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN 21): Make a commitment to adopt a realistic approach toward your goals now. Bring outside assistance to help anchor you to the most realistic path forward: a wise friend, a skilled instructor (or savvy accountant) can assist you in getting where you want to go with minimal frustration.

Lucky Days: 9 - 11
Lucky Numbers: 2 - 17

CANCER (JUN 22-JUL 22): February requires that you tighten things up on the domestic front. Exert your authority to straighten up any unruly financial situations. Furthermore, minimize clutter—both literal and figurative. You operate optimally when your environment reflects order and security.

Lucky Days: 8 - 21
Lucky Numbers: 5 - 43

LEO (JUL 23-AUG 23): You might feel frustrated if you depend too much on others and their opinions. Ask yourself if you can forge a new path that isn't dependent on approval. If you feel feedback is necessary, be discerning about whom you invite to assess your plans. See if you can find a middle zone between self-promotion and rethinking what you're attempting to share.

Lucky Days: 11 - 20
Lucky Numbers: 4 - 32

VIRGO (AUG 24-SEP 23): You want to shine now! Your desire to return to an active social life is kicking back into gear. Existing, long-term relationships might feel stale; reassess carefully who is going to stay and who will go. If you're partnered, speak with your mate about your needs rather than expecting them to read your mind.

Lucky Days: 22 - 28
Lucky Numbers: 3 - 23

LIBRA (SEP 24-OCT 23): You have a strong compulsion to clear the decks now—on all fronts: work, home, and your social circle. Important clues for your new direction are percolating in your unconscious. For guidance, pay attention to your dreams and where your mind wanders when you're at peace.

Lucky Days: 8 - 25
Lucky Numbers: 19 - 50

SCORPIO (OCT 24-NOV 22): Liberation is buzzing in the air for you now. Uranus—the disruptor—has finally exited its opposition to your sign, and you feel like a genie released from a bottle. Assuming your new path forward requires a willingness to relinquish the past. Let it go, let it blow.

Lucky Days: 2 - 12
Lucky Numbers: 3 - 18

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DEC 21): You might feel lodged between two worlds this month. Surprising and shocking revelations keep coming at you—left and right. How bumpy the ride ahead will be will depend on your willingness to embrace transformation. One door closes another door opens.

Lucky Days: 3 - 10
Lucky Numbers: 6 - 60

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 20): Part of you loves the peace of mind that solitude allows. But as spring approaches, you find yourself ready to circulate and promote the various projects you've cultivated. Stay social, but then continue to carve out the private time you require to recharge your batteries.

Lucky Days: 4 - 27
Lucky Numbers: 5 - 19

AQUARIUS (JAN 21-FEB 19): Pluto, the regenerating planet, in your sign for a long haul, requires that you embrace the process of removing dead wood. You can expect this to challenge your self-confidence. And that's OK: you're on your way to establishing a whole new way of experiencing yourself (and the world.)

Lucky Days: 3 - 9
Lucky Numbers: 2 - 44

PISCES (FEB 20-MAR 20): Saturn will (finally) exit your sign for good; stop and congratulate yourself. You've been forged into an entirely new person. Reviewing the past couple of years, you'll see that commitment and discipline won the day for you. Now you're ready to return to the free-flowing nature of your imagination.

Lucky Days: 1 - 10
Lucky Numbers: 6 - 15

COFFEE BREAK ANSWERS

SCRAMBLER ANSWER: 1. Valor 2. Humaner 3. Obscure 4. Impel
Today's Word: NERVOUS

JUMBLES: BOTCH WINCE BOTANY WEEKLY

Answer: The baseball team's winning streak continued — "WON" BY "WON"

HOCUS FOCUS DIFFERENCES: 1. Hammer is longer. 2. Treehouse is not as wide. 3. Tree trunk is different. 4. House is wider. 5. Cap is different. 6. Hand is moved.

CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Normal is an illusion. What is normal to the spider is chaos to the fly. — Morticia Addams

BINGO CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	U	L	O	W	H	O	A	B	E	G
K	N	E	E	D	O	M	E	T	E	
T	O	R	E	D	O	L	D	A	I	L
N	O	I	S	T	O	D	I	E	D	I
A	S	T	R	O	A	D	I	E	S	
C	H	E	A	T	E	R	I	N	G	A
F	E	E	S	H	E	R	I	G	H	T
G	A	N	D	A	N	O				
O	F	F	I	C	T	I	O	N		
U	S	A								
E	A	P								

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

MAGICMAZE ANSWERS

—STICK



Bringing Trust and Transparency to America's HOAs

A new Phoenix-based Civic Trust-Tech™ startup, HOADoctor.com, has officially launched nationwide, introducing the Community Trust Index™ (CTI™) and Community Trust Score—the first verified benchmarks of trust, transparency, and governance for homeowner's associations (HOAs) and condominium associations (COAs).

Across the U.S., more than 74 million residents live in HOA or COA communities overseeing \$11 trillion in property assets and \$100 billion in annual dues. Yet until now, no verified system existed to measure how fairly or effectively those communities were managed.

HOADoctor.com solves that by verifying every homeowner reviewer through deed-level and payment validation, turning feedback into data-backed insights on governance, communication, and accountability. Its Community Trust Score distills this feedback into a standardized 1-5 rating that can appear in MLS listings, insurer models, and real estate dashboards—helping buyers, boards, and property managers make informed decisions.

Founder Bill McKay says the platform "turns frustration into collective progress," creating a national framework for transparency and accountability in an industry that impacts millions of homeowners.

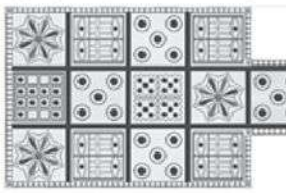
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Fun Fact

The "Royal Game of Ur" is the oldest playable board game found in the world so far. In 1922, Sir Leonard Wooley led a team that discovered two sets of this game in a tomb near the site of ancient Ur, in southern Iraq. It has been dated to be roughly 4,600 years old.

Sources: gamecabinet.com, gdlkeys.com, britishmuseum.org



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Boggle BrainBuster!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Garner
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST SEVEN FLOWERS in the grid of letters.

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Lonora B. won the \$2,500 Bonanza Jackpot at Casino Morongo Resort & Spa



Meet Caller, Juan and Manager, Anthony who celebrated his birthday at St. John Bosco High School's New Year's Event!



DEAR PAWS: I find it weird that my two dogs, "Shep" and "Bull," can eat just about anything (I have to hide all the pet food), while my cat "Trudy" will turn up her nose at most food. And although she's perfectly healthy, sometimes she gets sick after eating wet or fresh food. Why? — Sarah in Madison, Wisconsin

DEAR SARAH: Cats' eating behaviors have long been a source of curiosity for both pet owners and the scientific community. Why do they turn their nose up at certain foods and chow down on others? Why do they sometimes throw up after eating? Why do they gnaw on grass?

The answer is: It's complicated, and no one is entirely sure. A 2015 study, for example, found that cats have some genes that are more commonly possessed by herbivores (animals that eat only plants, like cows). These particular genes help them detect bitter flavors, alerting them to potentially poisonous plants.

This research opens a new avenue into understanding why cats are more picky about their food than dogs tend to be. If cats are detecting a bitter taste in their food then they may be less inclined to eat it. And, a bitter taste also may trigger a vomiting response to safeguard against ingesting what is perceived to be poison.

The study's results could lead to changes in how commercial producers formulate their cat food.

In the meantime, feeding a finicky cat remains a trial-and-error process. Try small amounts of different foods — dry, wet and fresh — and note Trudy's likes and dislikes.

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

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QUESTIONS

1. Name the Los Angeles Rams defensive end who scored two safeties in a single game in 1973 and went on to star in the 1984-1991 NBC TV police drama *Hunter*.
2. Basketball Hall of Famer Willis Reed's No. 19 is the first number retired in the history of what NBA franchise?
3. A pair of sneakers worn in 1984 by what Basketball Hall of Famer fetched \$1.472 million at a 2021 Sotheby's auction?
4. What trophy, created in 2009 and carved from a 1,000-year-old oak tree, is awarded to the winner of the Florida Gators vs. Georgia Bulldogs college football rivalry game?
5. In the 2022 National League Championship Series, who became the first siblings to face each other as pitcher and batter in a Major League Baseball playoff game?
6. What Detroit Lions defensive tackle, selected No. 7 overall in the 1987 NFL Draft, killed three teenagers in a drunk driving crash in 1988 and was convicted of vehicular homicide?
7. What Italian cyclist set the new hour record by completing 56,792 kilometers at the Velodrome Suisse in 2022?

ANSWERS

1. Fred Dryer.
2. The New York Knicks.
3. Michael Jordan (an autographed pair of Nike Air Ships worn in his fifth NBA game).
4. The Okefenokee Oar.
5. Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Aaron Nola faced his brother Austin of the San Diego Padres.
6. Reggie Rogers.
7. Filippo Ganna.

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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

Savvy Senior

by Jim Miller

Pet Products for the Physically Challenged

Dear Savvy Senior,

My pet-loving mother has two cats and a dog, but her knee and back problems make caring for them increasingly difficult. Are there pet care products you can recommend that help elderly pet owners with mobility problems? —Searching Susan

Dear Susan,

Great question! For older pet owners with limited mobility, daily tasks like feeding, walking or cleaning up after their pets can become physically challenging. Fortunately, there are a variety of products that are specifically designed to make pet care more manageable.

With the help of Next Avenue, a nonprofit, digital publication for older adults, here is a rundown on some top products that can help your mom care for her pets no matter her mobility.

Automatic Pet Feeder

Just like you, your pet needs to eat a few times a day. But lifting heavy food bags or bending to fill bowls can strain the back. An automatic pet feeder can help keep your mom's pets well-fed without having to stoop or bend much.

The Petlibro Air Automatic Feeder (\$50) has a locking food tank to prevent between-meal snacking and can hold up to 16 portions. It runs on batteries that last 180 days, so you can put it anywhere you want. You'll have to refill it now and then, but this product means a lot less bending and lifting.

Age-Friendly Litter Boxes

Bending or stooping over to fill or clean out the kitty litter box can be challenging for many mobility-challenged cat owners. To alleviate this, LoftyLoo sells an elevated litter box for \$289. Compatible with stairs and ramps for older cats, LoftyLoo's raised litter box furniture has options for anyone living with chronic pain or recovering from surgery. It's also fully wheelchair accessible.

Another option that can make kitty litter clean up easier is the Litter-Robot 4 by Whisker (\$699). This automatic, self-cleaning litter box eliminates scooping and reduces the odor and waste removal, which is helpful for older cat owners.

Long-Handled Pooper Scooper

Stooping over to clean up after your dog can be challenging if you have back, hip or knee problems. Long-handled waste scoopers can make this cleanup task much more manageable.

The ShinyDew Pooper Scooper (\$24) is a foldable, 32-inch-long dog poop picker upper, so you don't have to bend to pick up your pet's waste. You can use it with one hand, and also attach waste bags to the scooper for even easier disposal.

Hands-Free Leash

Most dogs love their daily walk and need the exercise for their own optimal health. But for seniors that use a cane, walker, wheelchair or have pain in their upper body, using a traditional leash can be challenging. If walking a pet is difficult, hands-free leashes or harnesses can make the experience more manageable.

One option is the Hands-Free Dog Leash with Zipper Pouch by iYoShop (\$22), which clips around your waist, has a reflective safety strip for visibility and includes two shock absorbers to prevent tugging. But note that this product should only be used if your pet cannot physically pull you down.

Pet Treadmill

If your mom can't walk her dog any longer, she can still give them plenty of exercise by getting a pet treadmill. The PETSITE Dog Treadmill (\$286) has 12 preset programs and three incline options. The large running belt measures 39 inches long by 14.5 inches wide with a slip resistant running surface and safety fences along the sides. It also comes with a remote to adjust speed and automatically turns off after 30 minutes.

Automatic Ball Launcher

Another way your mom can exercise her dog, if walking isn't an option, is with an automated ball launcher.

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* The blocks of the Washington Monument are held together by gravity and friction, rather than mortar.

* Ancient Romans gave a hard "no" to the practice of eating butter, with Pliny the Elder referring to butter as "the choicest food among barbarian tribes." Why? Mainly because they used it for treating burns and thus thought of it as a medicinal salve rather than food.

* Pencils have never been made from lead.

* The leather diamond patch on the outside of backpacks, called a "lash tab," was initially used by mountaineers to secure their gear.

* Harvard University is older than calculus.

* Some research has shown that up to 40% of a worker ant colony may remain idle while their comrades soldier on with the labor. But before you label them lazy, one theory, based on scientific observation, is that keeping a team of workers on standby allows the colonies to stay productive.

* Heinz Ketchup has a "speed limit" of .028 miles per hour, set by the company as an indicator of the product's consistency.

* "Watching paint dry" is an actual occupation for some folks, requiring an observation of the changing colors and particles of the substance as it dries, both on walls and under a microscope.

* Manhattan, New York's most popular transportation hub, Grand Central Terminal, is radioactive.

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Support Your Local Bingos!

Dear Aunt Bingo,
 We just had a church Bingo close because of lack of attendance. I was talking with my sister on the phone last week and she said that one of her favorite Bingos closed a few months ago. I think this is terrible and I am worried that more Bingos might close.
 I hope you will print this letter in your column to encourage people to keep supporting their local Bingos and do all they can to encourage new players to come and enjoy the Bingo games.
 —Staci C., Illinois, via e-mail

Dear Staci,
 These are wise words—for two reasons. First, we all love Bingo and want as many opportunities to play in as many Bingo halls as possible. Secondly, charity Bingo is a crucial source of revenue for countless charitable organizations. Without the support of local Bingo halls, the good works of these charities will either be scaled back or may disappear altogether.
 Let's all act on Staci's call to action. Help support your favorite Bingo hall by bringing a new player—a son, a daughter, a spouse,

a neighbor—to the next games you attend. This simple act will help guarantee the future of the game we love and the good works it supports. And consider volunteering, a critical factor in charity bingo's continued success! —Aunt Bingo

Dear Aunt Bingo,
 Last night I played Bingo at a Bingo hall in Arizona. When I entered the hall and went to the table I normally sit at, I looked down and found a debit card on the floor. I immediately went to the Bingo cashier, and she knew who the person was that lost the debit card. She gave it to her, and I did not even get a thank you from that woman. How rude are people? Lucky the right person found it.
 —DS, via e-mail

Dear DS,
 Manners definitely seem to be falling by the wayside more and more these days. Often it's young people who lack manners, which makes it all the more galling when we see rude behavior from our peers. This woman's behavior aside, the important thing to remember is that you did the right thing and the card was returned to its owner. Thank you! —Aunt Bingo

Write to Aunt Bingo c/o the Bingo Bugle, P.O. Box 527, Vashon, WA 98070, or email her editor at tara@bingobugle.com. Be sure to include your name and address (you can request your name not be published), as typically she will not include anonymous letters in her columns.



Top New Podcasts from 2025

There's no trophy or a definitive winner, but these newbies to the podcast world were the most downloadable podcasts of 2025, according to Apple Podcasts:

Good Hang with Amy Poehler — Comedic genius Amy Poehler's new one-on-one interview show has maintained a consistent top-10 ranking ever since its debut in March 2025. A-list guests include Ariana Grande, Kristen Wiig and Michelle Obama. (TheRinger.com)

Not Gonna Lie with Kylie Kelce — Taylor Swift's future sister-in-law Kylie Kelce has made a name for herself in her hit podcast where she speaks her truths on topics like modern parenting, social media trends, and women in sports. (Pod.Wave.co)

Fun Fact

Japanese chefs consider Gomi (the Five tastes), Gokan (the Five senses), Goshiki (the Five colors) and Goho (the Five cooking methods) to be the most important aspects of meal preparation. It is the chef's duty to make sure that everything creates a satisfying experience for those who are dining.

Sources: maff.go.jp/e/policies_japan-experience.com

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Oscar winner Brendan Fraser is reteaming with Rachel Weisz for a fourth sequel to their *Mummy* franchise. And why not? The first three made over \$400 million each. Even Tom Cruise's *The Mummy* (2017) made \$410 million. (But with his cut, it barely broke even.)

 Miss Piggy is ditching the Muppets after 50 years to star in her own film. Oscar winners Emma Stone and Jennifer Lawrence are developing the film, for which Cole Escola is writing the screenplay. It's likely that Stone and Lawrence will be Miss Piggy's co-stars!

 Meghan Markle is returning to acting after an eight-year hiatus. The Duchess of Sussex, who is married to Prince Harry, stars with Brie Larson, Lily Collins, Jack Quaid and Henry Golding in Amazon MGM Studios' *Close Personal Friends*. The speculation is that she was often difficult when she starred in the series *Suits* (2011-2019), and now that she's a Duchess, she's more than likely to be a royal pain in the arse!

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Deadly Mirage — This true-crime podcast from Dateline NBC tells the sad tale of a seemingly perfect family with a "tight-knit group of friends who call themselves the 'Wolf Pack.'" However, when one of the wolves is found murdered, secrets are uncovered that shatter the facade. (NBCNews.com)

Blink — This true-crime serial is about a coma patient named Jake Haendel. Just like in the soap operas, Haendel can hear his bedside visitor talking to him, even though he can't move or indicate in any way that he is aware. What the visitor has to say turns out to be a startling confession. (Blinkthepodcast.com)

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CryptoQuip answer

What would you call belief in a magical ability to determine the origins of things? Sourcery.

Boggle BrainBusters Answers:

ROSE LILY DAISY LILAC
TULIP DAHLIA AZALEA

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Stay Calm to Foil Scammers

This is a new scam, but then it's what we expect from thieves — yet another way to steal from us. This one involves our innocent-seeming bank debit card, a scanner and a pair of scissors. Here's how it works:

You'll get a call from someone claiming to be from your bank who says there is fraudulent activity happening on your account, and they need your help. You'll be told that you need to act fast before you lose all your money.

The scammers will tell you to cut up your debit card, but not to cut up the little microchip on the card. Put all the pieces, they'll say, in an envelope and leave it at your door, because a bank "official" is going to rush over to take possession of the evidence. Oh, and there will be one last little detail they'll need — your bank PIN. By that time, if you're sufficiently rattled, you'll willingly tell them the number.

A scammer will quickly show up at your door to grab the envelope. Armed with that little card chip and your PIN, they can quickly empty your account.

The key is for you to not get rattled, to not let scammers direct your actions.

If you're suspicious about any call, hang up! It's OK (even preferable in this case) to be rude! Call the bank or company on their official number and ask if they were trying to contact you about fraudulent activity on your account.

If your debit card (or any card) expires and the bank or company sends you a replacement, cut up the old one. Be sure to cut through the chip, the magnetic strip on the back and the numbers as well as your name. Divide them up in multiple trash bags to keep the pieces apart.

Remember: Stay calm to defeat the scammers.

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Los Angeles Program Listing

BINGO HALL	ADDRESS & PHONE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
ARMENIAN CENTER IN MONTEBELLO	410 Washington St., Montebello		DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm	DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm				DO 12:00pm ST 2:00pm
HOUSE BINGO LAX	685 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood	DO 3:00pm EB 4:30pm ST 7:00pm			DO 1:00pm EB 4:30pm ST 7:00pm	DO 3:00pm EB 4:30pm ST 7:00pm	DO 3:00pm EB 4:30pm ST 7:00pm	DO 3:00pm EB 4:30pm ST 7:00pm
ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL	9647 Beach St., Bellflower					DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm		
ST. DOMINIC SAVIO BINGO	13400 Bellflower Blvd. (562) 920-7796				DO 4:00pm WU 6:00pm			
ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN CHURCH	500 S. Central Ave., Glendale (818) 245-6832	DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm			DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm			
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	3848 Stewart Ave., Baldwin Park					DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm		
ST. JOHN BOSCO HIGH SCHOOL	13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower (562) 920-1734						DO 3:00pm ST 5:00pm	
SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL	5825 N. Woodruff Ave., Lakewood (562) 940-7197			ST 6:00pm				
VFW POST #3261 DIST. 4	1822 W. 162nd St., Gardena (310) 324-6161			DO 3:30pm EB 4:30pm				

Orange County Program Listing

BINGO HALL	ADDRESS & PHONE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
40 MARTYRS	5315 W. McFadden Ave., Santa Ana	DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm				DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm		
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	2580 W. Orange, Anaheim (949) 672-8306				DO 4:00pm ST 6:00pm			
SANTA ANA ELKS	17515 Elk Lane, Santa Ana	DO 4:00pm EB 6:15pm ST 7:00pm						

San Bernardino/Riverside Program Listing

BINGO HALL	ADDRESS & PHONE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS OF WINCHESTER	32665 Haddock St., Winchester (619) 721-4562						DO 8:30am WU 11:00am	
CASINO MORONGO	49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon (951) 755-5500			DO 3:00pm 1st Game 6:00pm	DO 3:00pm 1st Game 6:00pm	DO 3:00pm 1st Game 6:00pm	DO 3:00pm 1st Game 6:00pm	DO 11:00am 1st Game 2:00pm

Legend

- EB = EARLY BIRDS
- ST = STARTS
- WU = WARM UPS

The Weekly Program Listings list only those games advertised in the Bingo Bugle. Our advertisers will also be the only halls to carry Bingo Bugle Papers. Please support our advertisers! Thank you for reading!
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Kumquat Trees?

This year we can celebrate three days when the man is always right. That would be the 29th, 30th, and 31st of February 2026.
 —Ms. Anonymous

Sorry, dear readers, but we don't get an extra day this month as it is not a leap year. If it were, we would have an extra 24 hours to do stupid crap, act like idiots, and/or beg forgiveness from those we've previously alienated. Leap year occurs every four years so the next one is 2028; a year evenly divided by four. That's how you know when Leap Year is happening; or just check your February calendar. LOL. Wouldn't it be cool if that extra day every four years became a federal paid holiday? Those employed could enjoy a relax-and-chill day although some retirees, like Robert and me, do this most days anyway.

For those of you who are gainfully employed, did you know that February 6th is Working Naked Day? But, before you dash out your door naked as a jaybird, be advised that this day only refers to those who work remotely from their homes. Started in 2010, it's meant to encourage these workers to dress down or ditch their clothes completely so they're more comfortable as they do their computer projects. However, they should remember to dress appropriately from the waist up whenever zoom meetings are involved. No one will be the wiser if you're pantless, not to mention missing your undies, as long as you're careful about your camera angles. Not being careful with them might cause the @#S\$S to hit the fan, along with your job, if your boss sees your naked fanny.

The middle of this month, February 17-March 3rd, is Chinese New Year. To impress your friends and family, greet them with this phrase, Kung Hei Fat Cho. It's a traditional Chinese greeting meaning best wishes for a prosperous and happy new year. I have been told to usher in good luck in the coming year I need to stay up till midnight on Chinese New Year's Eve and utter only good/happy words while avoiding harsh ones until after midnight. The next day on February 17th, I should give red packets containing money to children and elders to keep Nian, the bad luck demon, away from me and mine. And, oh yeah, I should decorate my house with kumquat trees which summon wealth and good luck; wear yellow or red which are lucky colors; and eat flour coated peanuts and walnut cookies to enhance my wealth and happiness in 2026. My only question is, where the heck do I get a kumquat tree?

The Chinese Zodiac designates this as the Year of the Fire Horse; a symbol of energy, freedom, and passion. As for me, I was born in the Year of the Fire Dog meaning I am sincere, honest, helpful, and a great listener. U.S. Presidents Donald Trump, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton were all born in 1946, making them Fire Dogs also. Hmm-mm. I guess I'm in good company, or not, depending on one's political views. Until next month may Lady Luck blow you kisses as you dance out the door with dollars. Win big. Also, don't forget, February 1st is Spunky Old Broads Day. Find one, two, or more and take them to bingo with you. They'll live up to the games with shenanigans as that's what spunky old broads are inclined to do. Contact me at nlpzv6172@gmail.com.

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



A Cozy Mexican Potato Noodle Soup

This is one of my favorite cold-weather recipes. It's budget-friendly, quick, and easy to make. It's quite versatile as well—you can add just about anything you want—more vegetables (corn and beans are good choices) or meat (shredded chicken is my preference, but I usually make it meatless).

SOPA DE FIDEO CON PAPAS

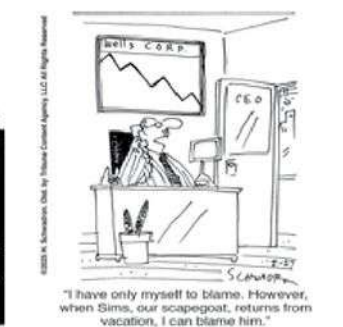
INGREDIENTS
 2 large potatoes
 2 tbsp olive oil (approximate)
 ½ large white onion (or 1 small), diced

2 garlic cloves, minced
 1 tsp ground cumin
 1 cup tomato sauce
 8 cups vegetable broth
 8 ounces fideo noodles (or broken spaghetti)
 Fresh cilantro, for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

—Peeling and cube the potatoes. Cut into roughly 1-inch pieces. Set aside.
 —Heat some olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the diced onion and sauté for 5 minutes.
 —Once the onions are translucent, add the garlic and cumin, and stir for an additional minute.
 —Add the tomato sauce and 2 cups of broth, stir to combine. Cook for a minute or two. Set this mixture aside.
 —Heat a little olive oil in a new clean pot. Add the fideo noodles and toast them for about 5 minutes. They should become golden brown then they are ready.
 —Combine the soup base and toasted noodles, followed by the remaining 6 cups of vegetable broth.
 —Drain the cubed potatoes and add them to the soup base.
 —Bring the soup to a boil over medium-high heat, then reduce heat to simmer, and continue cooking for 10 minutes or until potatoes are fork-tender.
 —Serve with fresh cilantro.

I hope you enjoy this cozy soup as much as I do! —Elle



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We Have a Winner!



Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a winner! Denise VanderVeer of Hugo, Minnesota is the 2025 World Champion of Bingo. Denise sailed aboard Bingo Bugle's World Championship Bingo & Gaming Cruise in late 2025, nabbing \$3,800 in the regular Bingo sessions. That amount was enough to put her at the top of the leaderboard netting her an additional \$5,000 in cash and a free cruise for two aboard the 2026 Bingo Bugle Cruise. All of this Bingo fun and excitement while enjoying a luxury cruise vacation. Denise, right, is pictured with Cruise Specialist Roxanne Vasquez. Call Roxanne today at (888) 352-2464 to reserve your cabin aboard the World Championship Bingo Cruise 2026 to see if you can be the next World Champion of Bingo. The cruise sets sail October 24th, 2026 from Los Angeles, California for an 8-day trip through the sparkling waters of the Mexican Riviera. More information online at www.BingoBugle.com/cruise.



Teaching in the Dark by Genét Simone

A young teacher buys a one-way ticket to the tiny Arctic village of Shishmaref, Alaska. Within minutes of landing, she finds herself dealing with unexpected, rustic accommodations and the culture shock of living in a remote Inuit community. To endure freezing temperatures, power outages, loneliness and first-year teacher anxieties and missteps, she relies on her courage, resilience, sense of humor and wit. Eventually, she realizes that her challenges pale in comparison to the life lessons she learns about the heart of teaching - lessons from her students, their culture and their community on the vast, windy landscape at the edge of the Chukchi Sea.

Full of poignancy and humor, this bold, heartfelt story has won numerous awards, garnering praise for Simone's "lyrical appreciation of the natural environment" (Gold Non-Fiction Book Award) and "rich character development," and the book's themes of "resilience, belonging, and the power of community" (International Impact Book Award). Jack Canfield, author of *The Success Principles* and the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, says, "Buy this book!"

Teaching in the Dark makes a great gift for new teachers or anyone who loves journeys of personal growth amid culturally unique settings.

Purchase at <https://amzn.to/4rPA0s9>.

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QUESTIONS

1. Name the Los Angeles Rams defensive end who scored two safeties in a single game in 1973 and went on to star in the 1984-1991 NBC TV police drama *Hunter*.
2. Basketball Hall of Famer Willis Reed's No. 19 is the first number retired in the history of what NBA franchise?
3. A pair of sneakers worn in 1984 by what Basketball Hall of Famer fetched \$1.472 million at a 2021 Sotheby's auction?
4. What trophy, created in 2009 and carved from a 1,000-year-old oak tree, is awarded to the winner of the Florida Gators vs. Georgia Bulldogs college football rivalry game?
5. In the 2022 National League Championship Series, who became the first siblings to face each other as pitcher and batter in a Major League Baseball playoff game?
6. What Detroit Lions defensive tackle, selected No. 7 overall in the 1987 NFL Draft, killed three teenagers in a drunk driving crash in 1988 and was convicted of vehicular homicide?
7. What Italian cyclist set the new hour record by completing 56,792 kilometers at the Velodrome Suisse in 2022?

ANSWERS

1. Fred Dryer.
2. The New York Knicks.
3. Michael Jordan (an autographed pair of Nike Air Ships worn in his fifth NBA game).
4. The Okefenokee Oar.
5. Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Aaron Nola faced his brother Austin of the San Diego Padres.
6. Reggie Rogers.
7. Filippino Ganna.

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More Winners from the 2025 Bingo Bugle Cruise



Cynthia S. won \$720
Yorba Linda, CA



Roxanne S. won \$720
St. Joseph, MO



Avis P. won \$770
St. Cloud, FL



Lynne L.
Dayton, OH



The Largest Pot in High Stakes Poker History - a \$1,412,500 Monster Hand

By Chad Holloway

High Stakes Poker (HSP) is one of the most famous poker shows of all time and has been a hit with fans ever since it debuted on the Game Show Network (GSN) back in 2006. In 2020, the show switched to PokerGO for Season 8 and has found a home there ever since.

Now in its 14th season, the show has been setting several records for large pots. Earlier in the season, Andrew Robl and Santhosh Suvarna played a record-setting pot of \$992,000, which was the largest in High Stakes Poker history. Well, that didn't last long as in Episode 10 a monster seven-figure pot took place.

The stakes were \$500/\$1,000 and the game was no-limit Texas hold'em. There was nearly \$4 million on the table with some action players including Rick Salomon, Nik Airball, Vinny Lingham, Justin Gavri, and the two players involved in the hand - Alan Keating and Peter Wang.

The hand began with a double straddle and action folded to Keating, who just called with the KdKc on the button. Peter looked down at the As3s in the big blind and raised to \$14,000, which prompted the straddlers to get out of the way. Keating then sprung to life with a three-bet to \$69,000 and Peter called.

The 2sJsKh flop had action written all over it as Keating flopped top set and Peter the nut-flush draw. The latter checked and the former continued for \$70,000. Peter then checked-raise to \$200,000 and Keating only called.

When the Ad turn paired Peter, he moved all in for \$434,000 and Keating snap-called to create a \$1,412,500 pot, making it the largest pot in High Stakes Poker history assuming there would be no chop as the duo agreed to run the river twice.

As it was in a vacuum, Keating was an 81.82% favorite to win while Peter had an 18.18% chance of hitting his flush. If Peter hit one of the two run outs, he'd at least recoup half the pot.

The Ac on the first runout ensured Keating would break even, but if he could avoid a spade on the second he'd scoop the entire pot. That's just what happened as the Jc completed the board on the second runout.

Not only did Keating win the largest pot in High Stakes Poker history, it came just four episodes after he won a \$911,000 pot off Peter after making what is considered one of the greatest hero calls of all time.

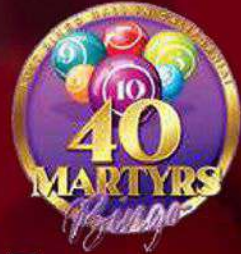
"It's my favorite hand because neither of us have much, but we made a game of chicken out of it by putting pressure on each other and no one backed down," Keating told media outlet PokerNews.

Clearly the two players have a long and expensive history, at least for Peter!

Chad Holloway is a 2013 World Series of Poker bracelet winner and PR & Media Manager for PokerNews.com. He is the host of the weekly show the PokerNews Podcast available on YouTube and all podcast platforms. Follow him on Twitter: @ChadAHolloway.

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