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BINGO BUGLE

North America's Bingo & Casino Newspaper

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\$50,000 BIG BINGO WIN!



What a difference a game makes! \$50,000 winner, Richard D. of Crestline, Ohio celebrated at **Plaza Casino** with his sister Diane S. and nephew Josh S. Congratulations Richard on your big win! Plaza Casino offers six daily bingo sessions on the odd hours starting at 11am through 9pm.

LUCKY DOG!



Scott and his dog, Bingo won 3 cashballs (\$5,241, \$3,214 and \$1,511) at **Palace Station** and the Progressive Coverall for \$15,584 at **Boulder Station**! It's safe to say that Bingo is one lucky dog! Congratulations, Scott!

\$40,055 DOUBLE DAUB



Nancy S. from Wisconsin hit it big when she won the Double Daub Jackpot progressive for a total sum of \$40,055 from **Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall**!



Arizona Charlie's Awards Nearly \$2.5 Million in Combined Jackpots in January

LAS VEGAS – Feb. 5, 2024 – Arizona Charlie's Boulder, located at 4575 Boulder Hwy., and Arizona Charlie's Decatur, located at 740 S. Decatur Blvd., awarded a total of \$2,484,350 in combined jackpots to lucky guests in January, including \$2,079,076 from slot jackpots and \$405,274 from bingo wins.

One lucky local started their year in a big way after winning \$20,275 on Luxury Line on Monday, Jan. 8 at Arizona Charlie's Decatur. Both properties also saw some big wins early in the year, with one player winning a \$15,536 jackpot on Lock It Link at Arizona Charlie's Decatur, and another player winning \$14,288 on Jackpot at Arizona Charlie's Boulder, both on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Additional highlights from the month include a local guest at Decatur who won \$19,105 on Lightning Link on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and one player who won \$12,530 at Boulder on Monday, Jan. 1.

Players are invited to sign up for True Rewards, Golden Entertainment's rewards program, to receive bonuses, including increased point multipliers, prizes such as cash and free slot play, and eligibility in select tournaments and special events. More information is available at www.TrueRewards.com.

About Arizona Charlie's Hotel & Casino

Arizona Charlie's Hotel & Casino has two locations in the Las Vegas Valley: 740 S. Decatur Blvd. and 4575 Boulder Hwy. Both offer expansive, award-winning bingo halls with daily sessions every odd hour and complimentary self-parking. Arizona Charlie's Boulder offers 300 rooms and suites, including an RV park, as well as an outdoor pool and hot tub and laundry facilities. Restaurants include PT's Express, Dunkin' and Sourdough Café. Arizona Charlie's Decatur offers 259 rooms and suites that come with an array of amenities. The casino has more than 700 slots, table games and a race and sportsbook. Restaurants include the newly-opened River Rock Pizza & Pasta, PT's Express, Dunkin' and Sourdough Café. More information about Arizona Charlie's can be found on the website at www.ArizonaCharlies.com and on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



Don't Do What I Did and Go All in Without Looking at Your Poker Hand

By Chad Holloway

Poker is a game of skill, one that requires a great deal of patience to win. That's especially true in poker tournaments, which are structured in such a way that they'll take either many hours or days to finish. If you don't take a slow and steady approach, you're destined to fail; hence, the old poker saying, "You can't win a poker tournament in the early levels, but you can lose it."

Now, let me show you what not to do in a poker tournament, and how you can best take advantage of a maniac like me. In early January, I had the opportunity to play in the Free Poker Network (FPN) \$100,000 Vegas

World Championship at the Golden Nugget. The invite-only tournament had 387 players from around the country, all of whom had qualified via FPN events.

There was a \$100,000 prize pool up for grabs, with the top 36 finishers earning at least \$720 in prize money and the eventual winner taking home a \$25,000 top prize. While I would've liked to given my best, I had conflicting plans that evening, so I knew I wouldn't actually be able to win. Instead, I decided to go in ready to gamble, maybe win a couple bounty prizes, and then go on my merry way.

In Level 4 (300/500/500), I moved all in for my last 4,400 under the gun (AKA first to act) without looking at my cards. Action folded to Anna Kimball in the big blind and she called with the JD7H. I then flipped over the QS7S and doubled after the board ran out QH2H10S8CAS.

On the next orbit, I decided to do it again and once again doubled through Kimball when my ace-queen held up against deuce-three. I figured the third time's the charm, so in Level 5 (300/600/600) I once again moved all in without looking, this time for 29,000!

The player to my left called off their last 3,400 with the AHKH and then the big stack at the table called with the 5SSD. I then revealed the AD8H, the worst of all three hands.

Well, lady luck had been on my side and this hand was no different as, I kid you not, the flop came down the 8S8C8D to give me quads!

The players at the table were in disbelief, and many of them grew quite frustrated by

BOB ON BINGO

By Bob Whittmore

I Can't Call Bingo Part II

If you happened to read last month's column, you are well aware of the fact that I FINALLY got the chance to be a full-time Bingo caller and found the job next to impossible. Ever since retiring back to my hometown in southern Indiana, I have been playing in the same school cafeteria in which I first played Bingo in 1957.

I was asked to be a caller. I said YES. It was then that I got a new respect for the men and women around the country who call out the numbers. The job was much more difficult than I imagined. And, to add to the difficulty, my old hall had a lot of extra gimmicks that made it nearly impossible to keep up.

As I mentioned last month, the hall awards cow bells to five different people before the main games. Anyone who has a birthday

gets a bell and the others are given out in a drawing of names placed in a hopper when you buy your cards. That means I had to know who got which bell and pay them each time their number was called. For Old Bob, it was a mess.

Between forgetting to pay people, not being able to hear timid people MUMBLE Bingo when they won, and dropping the balls on the floor, it was NOT a good debut for me as a Bingo caller. I finally got through the evening in one piece. In spite of my problems and frustrations, I was asked to come back and do it again. I said, NO. I had had enough.

Call me a wimp if you wish, but I found it takes a special kind of person to not only call Bingo but to deal with all the side issues, the book work and the procedures. So, my hat is off to the people who DO call Bingo. Please let all of them know how much we appreciate them and how tough we know the job really is.

Let me close with an email I got at bingo@earthlink.net from Todd H. in Paris, Illinois: "Bob, I hope this reaches you soon enough. I want everyone in the country to know just how much we have to be thankful for this time around. And, one of the best things we can be thankful for is the fact that most of us still have a place to play the game we love the best—Bingo. So, this time of the year, when we ARE saying thanks, let's remember to be thankful for Bingo. Even though I seldom win, I still smile every time I hear someone else shout: BINGO!" Every month is a good month to be thankful for Bingo, Todd. Thanks for the reminder.

Write me at: bingo@earthlink.net



my uncouth antics. So, what's the best way to play against someone playing like a wild man and not looking at their cards? The answer is stay patient and wait for a big hand.

That's what Cedric Thompson did when, for the fourth time, I moved all in dark under the gun in Level 8 (600/1,200/1,200) for 60,800. Thompson barely had me covered and picked up the granddaddy of all hands — pocket aces! I had the JD8D, and despite flopping an open-ended straight draw on the 7S5H6S flop, I missed when the 7C bricked on the turn followed by the JS on the river.

While I punted my stack and exited the tournament early, Jordan Sleen, a patron of Billy's Corner Bar & Grill in Minnesota, did the opposite and finished as the last player standing to win the title, trophy, and \$25,000 in cash!

Chad Holloway is a 2013 World Series of Poker bracelet winner and Executive Editor U.S. for PokerNews.com. Follow him on Twitter: @ChadAHolloway.

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Pop-In-The-Oven

Dear Annie,

I was recently told about a Dutch oven meal that was called Pop in the Oven. Have you ever heard of it? It was really good, and I would love to try it myself. Thank you!

—Georgeann from Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Georgeann,

This recipe was also given to me from my friend from Minnesota. The official name of the recipe is Pop-In-The-Oven-Stew. It's really easy. —Annie

POP-IN-THE-OVEN STEW

2 pounds boneless beef stew meat, cut into 1 and a half inch cubes

8 stalks celery, cut into 1-inch pieces

8 carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces

6 potatoes, peeled and quartered

2 large onions, sliced

1 cup water

2 12-ounce jars brown gravy (store bought)

1 teaspoon instant beef bouillon

1/3 cup instant tapioca

2 teaspoons salt

¼ teaspoon pepper

1 teaspoon minced garlic

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Using a Dutch oven, combine all of the above ingredients. Bake covered for 3 to 3.5 hours, or until the meat is tender. Serves 8 people.

Savvy Senior

by Jim Miller

Medicare Spouse Coverage

Dear Savvy Senior,

Are spouses who have not worked outside the home eligible for Medicare benefits? I have worked most of my adult life, but my wife has been a mother and homemaker since we got married and hasn't held an income-producing job since she was in college. Will she be eligible for Medicare? —*Searching Spouse*

Dear Searching,

There are many couples in your situation when it comes to applying for Medicare. The answer generally is yes, your spouse can qualify for Medicare on your work record. Here's how it works.

Medicare Requirements

Medicare, the government health insurance program for older adults, covers around 60 million Americans age 65 and older, as well as those younger that have a qualifying disability or have End-Stage Renal Disease.

To be eligible, you must have worked and paid Medicare taxes for at least 10 years to qualify for premium-free Medicare Part A hospital coverage when you turn 65. If you qualify, then your non-working spouse will qualify too, based on your work record when she turns 65.

Divorced spouses are also eligible if they were married at least 10 years and are single, as are surviving spouses who are single and who were married for at least nine months before their spouse died.

In addition to Part A, both you and your spouse would also qualify for Medicare Part B, which covers doctor's visits and other outpatient services, but requires a monthly premium. The premium for Part B beneficiaries in 2024 is \$174.70 per month per person. Couples filing jointly with incomes over \$206,000 per year pay even more.

There are also a number of other caveats you should know about depending on your wife's age.

Older Spouses

If your wife is older than you, she can qualify for Medicare on your work record at age 65, even if you're not getting Medicare yourself, but you must be at least 62 years old. You also must have been married for at least one year for your wife to apply for Medicare on your work record.

If you are still working and your wife is covered by your employer's health insurance, she may want to enroll only in the premium-free Medicare Part A until you retire, or your employer coverage ends. Part B - along with its premium - can be added later without penalty as long as your employer's group health plan is your "primary coverage." Check with your employers' human resources department to find out about this. (Note: If your wife is funding a health savings account, she may not want to take Part A because she can't make contributions after she enrolls).

Younger Spouses

If your wife is younger than you, she will need health insurance until she turns 65 and becomes eligible for Medicare. This may be through the Health Insurance Marketplace (see healthcare.gov), or if you're still working, through COBRA (see dol.gov/general/topic/health-plans/cobra).

Other Medicare Choices

In addition to Medicare Part A and B, when you and your wife become Medicare eligible, each of you will also need to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan if you don't have credible drug coverage from your employer or union. And, you may want to purchase a Medicare supplemental (Medigap) policy too, to help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. Or, you may want to consider an all-in-one Medicare Advantage plan.

For more information on Medicare choices and enrollment rules visit Medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227. You can also get help through your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see shiphelp.org), which provides free Medicare counseling.

Gasoline Alley

By Jim Scancarelli



DEAR PAWS: I've had to change the time of day that I visit the local dog park, because a new neighbor brings his two huge, aggressive dogs each morning at the same time as I do. They charge other humans, chase and snarl at other dogs, and make it impossible for other dogs to socialize calmly. The neighbor does nothing to control them and tells other owners that it's their fault that his dogs are acting aggressive. To prevent injury to my dog (or myself), I now wait until after work to go. But this is inconvenient for everyone in the neighborhood. How do I address this problem? — *Dog Mom in New York*

DEAR DOG MOM: You're doing the right thing by changing the time that you bring your dog to the park. That's only the first step, however. The new dogs are terrorizing other dogs within the park, making life miserable for them and their owners. It's not fair, nor is it right. Dog parks typically have rules of conduct posted at each entrance. It's up to each owner to properly train and socialize their dogs, and to keep them away from the park if they can't control rough play, aggression or reactivity. Report the problem to the organization in charge of maintaining the dog park. This may be a community group or the municipal parks department. Contacting animal control is another option. Write down the dates and times that incidents have occurred. If there is no active community group for the dog park, consider starting one so that owners can air their grievances and work out problems as a group.

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

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Balancing Eggs and Broken Eggs

The first person who pulled an egg out from under a chicken's butt and ate it, must have been really hungry. —lotsoftrue.com

Well, well. I guess I'm not a know-it-all as my husband says after all. I did not know that Bingo month is celebrated in March as well as in December, so butter my butt and call it a biscuit. Apparently, the difference is that December is bingo's birth month as designated in 2017 by the Bingo Association of America. This nonprofit group promotes and defends the interests of the gaming industry, including bingo, through education and public policy. March's bingo month is to celebrate the game of bingo itself, plus give back to our communities. It was created in 2006 by the American Bingo Association as an opportunity to raise money for charity. H-mmmm. Where I live, all bingo games are nonprofits with all money collected going to charitable causes. So, if you're a regular player, and you're like me and lose a lot, just consider that the money you spend is for a good cause. Also, playing bingo is a mood lifter, a time to meet with friends, and maybe, on occasion fatten your pocketbook.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Paramount Pictures has lost it biggest star now that Tom Cruise is moving his production company to Warner Bros. after 30 years. Cruise has been making pictures with Paramount since 1992, and his last release will be the upcoming eighth film in the *Mission Impossible* franchise. The seventh film, *Dead Reckoning Part One*, grossed \$567.5 million. It will be a sad day for Paramount when the 61-year-old superstar moves to Warner Bros.

Wonka, starring Timothee Chalamet, is impressive in an *Oliver Twist* kind of way. He sings, dances and acts great, but while it had some magic, it didn't have the appeal of the first two films with Gene Wilder and Johnny Depp. Still, you can't argue with half a billion in its first three weeks.

Killers of the Flower Moon was a disappointment at the box office — and at the Golden Globes when Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese didn't score any wins. But Lily Gladstone won for Best Actress in a Motion Picture. Scorsese says that his next project will be an 80-minute film called *A Life of Jesus*.

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In states where bingo is a business, not for charity, a good time is still had by all for the same reasons. My point is that both charitable bingos and commercial bingos are a lot of fun, so go as often as you can for the fun experience it is.

Also in March, we have Employee Appreciation Day, March 1, and National Write a Letter of Appreciation Week March 1-7. If you're so inclined, it would be nice to observe the last two dates by surprising the staff and management at your favorite bingo hall with sweet treats or a fruit and veggie tray. And maybe write them a note of appreciation for all they do. The caller's job can be especially vexing with players yelling at the top of their lungs for numbers to be called or that the caller has made a mistake. Be kind in your criticism and let it be known to all the workers that you do appreciate their efforts to make sure you have a good time.

That brings me to March 20, the spring equinox, when days and nights are of almost equal length. Supposedly, this is the only time that an egg can be balanced on its end. Truth be told, I don't really care, but if you do, let me know your results. Some who do care about this parlor trick say it's a hoax and eggs can be balanced on any ole day. Whoop-de-doo! Writing about eggs though, has caused a childhood memory to surface. When I was about ten, my mother called me from the little neighborhood store that my parents owned. We raised chickens and she asked me to bring a dozen fresh eggs to the store. I put them in a sack, placed them in my bike basket, and raced down the hill on which we lived. Disaster! I hit a bump and broke every single egg. I walked the bike back up the hill with broken eggs dripping everywhere. My parents laughed then told me to try again but on foot this time. Until next month, may Lady Luck blow you kisses as you dance out the door with dollars. Win big. Contact: nlpvzw6172@gmail.com.



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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.



1 Grand prize: 2024 Ford Mustang with \$5,000 cash (\$60,000)
To enter: On a plain 4x6 postcard, print in black ink, your first and last name, e-mail address, and phone number. **Limit of 200 mail-in entries per person.**
Mail to:
 ON3SUPPLY 2024 FORD MUSTANG
 137 Quiet Rd
 Sicklerville, NJ 08081
Deadline: Postmarked by 5/1/24 and received by 5/6/24.
 Open to legal residents of the **48 contiguous states** and Canada 18 or over, void in Quebec.
 Start date 11/21/23. Drawing 5/15/24.
 Entries also online at www.on3supply.com with a purchase (one entry for each dollar spent - each mail-in entry is worth 250 entries - maximum of 50,000 entries). See rules for bonus entry periods.

1 Grand prize: Pro Series double layer race suit with helmet, racing gloves, racing shoes, CarbonX underwear and socks (\$2,200)
To enter: On a standard size postcard, print your name, e-mail address, and phone number. **Only one entry per person.**
Mail to:
RacigJunk.com Leaf Racewear Giveaway
106 Main Street
North Adams, MA 01247
Deadline: Received by 9/30/24.
Open to legal residents of the **48 contiguous states** 18 or over. Start date 12/1/23. Drawing 10/7/24. Entries also online at www.racigjunk.com.



★ In 2012, a 90-year-old Baltimore woman named Venus Green locked a police officer in her basement when he tried searching her home without a warrant. Afterward, she brought a civil rights lawsuit and won a \$95,000 settlement.

★ Before the modern glass versions we use today became commonplace, mirrors were made from bronze and were prized possessions of rich households in Egypt, Greece, Rome, China and Japan.

★ The Statue of Liberty's full name is Liberty Enlightening the World.

★ More than 20% of all the world's freshwater is in the Great Lakes.

★ While humans and giraffes obviously have vastly different neck lengths, they still have the exact same number (seven) of neck vertebrae.

★ Ever wonder why some cocktails are shaken while others are stirred? Chalk it up to the level of dilution and texture required: The longer the shake or stir, the more diluted and cold the beverage gets. Hence cocktails made with spirits, tonics and bitters should be stirred, while those featuring fruit juices, egg whites, cream or cream-based liqueurs should be shaken.

★ Folks used to say “prunes” rather than “cheese” when having their pictures taken.

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A promotional banner for Boyd Bingo's March Promotions at Gold Coast. The background is dark blue with a white dotted pattern. At the top left, a gold seal reads 'BEST of LAS VEGAS BRONZE WINNER LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL 2023 BEST OF LAS VEGAS.COM'. The 'BOYD BINGO' logo is prominently displayed in the center, with four bingo balls (red with 18, white with 33, green with 51, and yellow with 75) below it. To the left of the logo is a large blue bingo ball with the number 5. To the right, the text 'March Promotions' is written in large white letters, followed by 'See Venue's Bingo Room for details.' in smaller white text. At the bottom, the 'GOLD COAST' logo is shown in white, with 'Valley View & Flamingo' underneath. On the right side, there is a red bingo ball with 21 and a white bingo ball with 33.

Wednesdays • 1:00pm & 9:00pm Sessions
 Fridays & Saturdays • 1:00pm Session
 All games pay triple, excluding Double Daub
 and session coveralls.

4X - Tuesdays • 3:00pm & 7:00pm Sessions
5X - Fridays & Saturdays • 7:00pm Session
5X - Sundays • 1:00pm & 3:00pm Session

Flamingo & Nellis

Alta & Rampart

March 17 • Games start at 2:00pm
25 \$1,000 Games • \$5,000 Clover Ball
\$50 Buy-In • Reservations Required

30 \$1,000 Games • Reservations Required

215 & Aliante Pkwy

March 1 • All Sessions
\$20,000 in Coveralls!

March 15 & 29 • 7:00pm & 9:00pm
March 16 • 1:00pm & 3:00pm
March 30 • 1:00pm & 7:00pm

Flip with two numbers,
flop with one!

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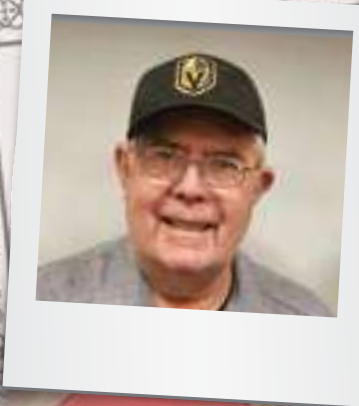
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GETTIN' LUCKY IN THE *Neighborhood*

CONGRATULATIONS      WINNERS



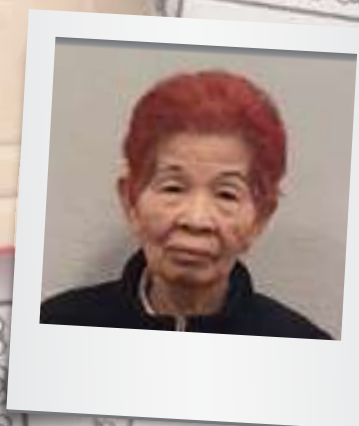
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\$74,201
CHARLIE'S DOUBLE
PROGRESSIVE



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\$5,375
BIGGER BINGO COVERALL



LUCKY LOCAL
\$5,000
BINGO BONUS X



NOKLEK
\$2,761
ACEBALL

PARK AND PLAY BINGO

EASY AND CONVENIENT AND JUST STEPS AWAY FROM WINNING
WITH 4TH FLOOR PARKING GARAGE ACCESS AT BOULDER PROPERTY



BUNNY CANDY JAR GIFT DAY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 • 9AM-11PM SESSIONS
GET A BUNNY CANDY JAR WITH A MINIMUM \$10 BUY-IN

VGK 24-HOUR BINGO

SATURDAY, MARCH 23-SUNDAY, MARCH 24
PLAY FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN FREE SLOT PLAY,
BINGO FREE PLAY, MYSTERY PRIZES AND MORE

VGK BINGO BLUE PACK

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS GAME DAYS 2023-2024 SEASON
WEAR YOUR VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS APPAREL ON
GAME DAYS TO RECEIVE 5 FREE ELECTRONIC BLUE PACKS



BIGGER BINGO COVERALL MULTI-LOCATION JACKPOT

WIN UP TO 100% OF THE PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT IN
55 NUMBERS OR LESS FROM \$10,000 AND GROWING
SCAN QR CODE FOR THE UPDATED PROGRESSIVE AMOUNT

50+ PERKS

EVERY THURSDAY FOR GUESTS 50 & ABOVE
FREE BINGO BLUE PACK
20% OFF SOURDOUGH CAFE
FREE SWIPE AND WIN PRIZE
20% OFF RIVER ROCK PIZZA & PASTA

HALF POINT BINGO

EVERY TUESDAY
USE YOUR POINTS FOR
DOUBLE THE BINGO PLAY

BINGO BOUNTY

EVERY THURSDAY & SATURDAY
WIN UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE
SLOT PLAY OR \$500 CASH



\$2,928,710*
PAID OUT IN BINGO JACKPOTS

*Total from July 1, 2023-January 31, 2024. See the bingo room for details.

ARIZONA★CHARLIE'S
CASINOS™

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SCRABBLE

G₂R₁A₁M₃S₁

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A₁

E₁

U₁

T₁

T₁

N₁

M₃

A₁

I₁

O₁

N₁

J₈

T₁

D₂

A₁

E₁

U₁

M₃

R₁

R₁

D₂

A₁

E₁

O₁

R₁

R₁

V₄

M₃

A₁

E₁

T₁

T₁

S₁

D₂

F₄

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

RACK 5

Double Word Score

2nd Letter Triple

PAR SCORE 260-270

BEST SCORE 330

FIVE RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition.

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgams@gmail.com

10-21



St. Patrick's Day Bingo Bash

Our favorite Bingo place loves to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and they do so every year with a bang. The decorations are something special. Shamrocks abound as do balloons, and streamers.

First everyone is greeted cheerfully and given a necklace of paper shamrocks. The game patterns are designed with the holiday in mind; first we played shamrock—which is the same as the Indian star. Then onto swords—which is two straight lines on a card. I was on for that one and got pretty excited, but no win. Then we played ordinary games, and just before intermission, the

snake. St. Patrick is reputed to have driven the snakes from Ireland, so the pattern is a jagged line from left to right; we look for a Bingo that goes up from the lower left corner, then down in the center, up again in the G row, then up still further in the O. Getting the hang of it is a bit of a challenge.

At intermission we each had an Irish doughnut, which is a regular powdered sugar doughnut with onion jam in the center. I really like onion jam, but it is not to everyone's taste. It is said to have originated in Ireland, folks having run out of berries and other fruit for jam.

We gathered our stuff together for the second half of play when there was a great bustle at the door and a man dressed as St. Patrick came roaring in. He was like a green Santa Claus, distributing small bundles here and there and finally approaching our table.

"Are these the Bingo Sisters?" he roared, and when we assented, he grabbed us, each by a forearm and marched us to the caller's stand.

"What do you have to say for yourselves?" he bellowed. "Are you winning tonight?"

"Not yet," I said, "but my hopes are high."

I was very embarrassed as was Kate, but we were determined to be good sports.

"You must do something special to entertain these good folks," roared St. Patrick.

Kate looked bewildered so I came to the rescue. "I'd like to propose a special game," I said tentatively. "Let's play the dragon." I then outlined a game that was essentially a blackout lacking three numbers.

"Great!" roared the "saint" and he returned us to our seats.

It was a tricky game to play, but Kate won! And we happily left for home with our winnings, saying St. Patrick's Day is the best ever holiday.

ANIMAL CRACKERS



By Fred Wagner

BROOM-HILDA



By Russell Myers

Micro Crossword

- Across
- 1 Polynesian feast
 - 5 Artist's motivation, in slang
 - 7 Sinks one's teeth into
 - 8 Collars for schoolboys
 - 9 Actress Carter, who played Wonder Woman on TV

- Down
- 1 Malign in print
 - 2 A principle of Kwanzaa

By Elizabeth C. Gorski

1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
9				

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- 3 ___ Martin (luxury sports car)
- 4 Overturn
- 6 Mountain in Thessaly



Print is Priceless

Hi Guy,

I want to tell you how much I like your column and the *Bingo Bugle*. I look forward to when each issue comes out. It is fun reading, it is fun to have the puzzles and crosswords and other games to play, and to read the different advice columns. It is amazing how much information you guys fit into each paper.

I have gotten into the habit of picking up a few copies...one for me and ones for my wife and daughter to have at home. I also will on occasion leave a copy at the mechanic's or doctor's office—to give people in the waiting room something to do. It works. When I return and if the paper is still there it is very folded and lots of the puzzles have been worked on. Makes me feel like I'm doing a good deed for a lot of bored people who are stuck waiting.

—*BL, Las Vegas, via email*

Hi BL,

I appreciate that you took the time to write about how much you enjoy the *Bugle*. Like you, in this digital age I remain a fan of printed newspapers, magazines and other publications that I can hold, flip the pages, mark up and take with me wherever I go.

This is the spirit behind the *Bingo Bugle*—to give Bingo players throughout North America a little something more, a little extra fun to pass the time before, between and after playing Bingo that doesn't cost them a single penny.



Q: What is Jeff Goldblum up to these days? I only see him on commercials for apartments, but not in any movies lately. —*P.T.*

A: Despite having what is surely a lucrative gig as the spokesman for Apartments.com, Jeff Goldblum is still very much a beloved and sought-after actor in Hollywood. Originally from Pittsburgh, Goldblum started out as most actors do when they move to California — landing guest-starring roles on hit primetime shows. He landed small but memorable roles in movies like *Annie Hall*, *The Right Stuff* and *The Big Chill*.

In 1986, he starred in the sci-fi/horror film *The Fly*, but it would be the *Jurassic Park* movies that would bring him his greatest box-office success. He's caught the eye of other big-name directors, including Taika Waititi for *Thor: Ragnarok* and Wes Anderson for *Asteroid City*, the latter of which was just released last year. So, yes, Goldblum's acting days are far from over. He even has a role in the highly anticipated film *Wicked*, which is based on the hit Broadway musical.

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

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How great that you take extra copies of the *Bugle* and leave them in waiting rooms. Starting now I'm going to do the exact same thing. I suspect people will enjoy having the option of doing a *Bingo Bugle* crossword instead of thumbing through a year-old copy of *Popular Mechanics*. —*Guy*

Hi Guy,

I got a kick out of the letter from the reader named Les who wrote in about the Bingo Diva at his hall who is constantly acting up and looking for attention. We have a couple such divas at Bingo. And while Les says they can sometimes be entertaining—I am not a fan and find their antics distracting.

Luckily, we have a take-charge Bingo manager who does not care for this kind of behavior either. One time, when one of the divas was acting up, the manager stopped the games and walked right up to her and very firmly said that if she did not settle down she would be banned. It resulted in more attention than even she could handle, and she quieted down for the rest of the night.

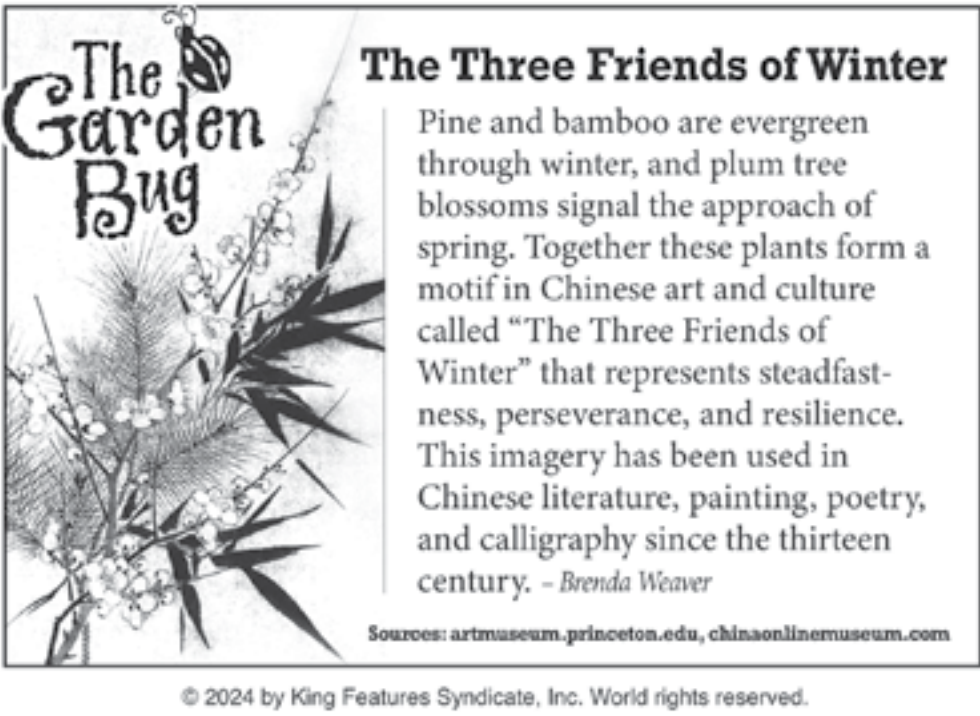
Another time we had a diva who kept fussing about the other people at her table bothering her. Again, the manager stopped the games and set up a card table in a corner and made her go sit there by herself. She was mortified. It was priceless!

—*Brian, via email*

Hi Brian,

I admire the style of this Bingo manager—reminds me of an old time schoolteacher—scolding the bad behavior of one pupil and giving another a "time out" by sitting her in the corner. Ha! Of course, I'd hate to have this guy turn on me. But maybe that's his point—if everyone fears him everyone will stay in line! —*Guy*

Hey guys! (And gals!) Write to: Guy's Turn c/o The Bingo Bugle, P.O. Box 527, Vashon, WA 98070 or email tara@bingobugle.com.



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Go Figure! answers

4	×	8	−	7	25
+		+		−	
6	+	8	×	2	28
×		×		×	
3	+	1	×	5	20
30		16		25	

Boggle BrainBusters Answers:

SAVVY VALVE VIVID
VELVET EVOLVE REVIVE
EVASIVE REVIVAL

Even Exchange answers

- 1. Ballet, Ballot
- 2. Orion, Onion
- 3. Brook, Broom
- 4. Remote, Remove
- 5. Pickle, Fickle
- 6. Expel, Excel
- 7. Convoy, Convey
- 8. Armor, Arbor
- 9. Orate, Irate
- 10. Attach, Attack

FLASHBOARD NUMBERS

B:	03	04	06	12	14
I:	21	22	25	26	28
N:	31	32	37	40	43
G:	49	50	53	55	57
O:	63	65	66	69	73

CryptoQuip answer

The guy working out at the gym wouldn't take the time to talk to people. He had too many pressing concerns.

WORD LADDERS

Can you go from ARMED to PILES in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

ARMED

PILES

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Sisters Renee N., Angela B., and April R. reunite and spend their time playing bingo at Rampart Casino.

MARCH BINGO



Easter
**CHOCOLATE CANDY BAR
GIVEAWAY!**

March 31 • All Sessions



**\$15,000
IRISH I HAD
MORE MONEY**

**BINGO BASH
MARCH 16
3PM SESSION**

\$35 BUY-IN
EXTRA PACKS \$15 EACH
RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY
AT BINGO.STATIONCASINOS.COM

**ROCK SHOT
BINGO**

**YELLOW BRICK ROAD
MARCH 23
11PM SESSION**

**BOULDER
STATION®**

SPEED BINGO

**MARCH 2
5PM SESSION
MINIMUM BUY-IN \$40**

**\$15,000
SPRING FLING
SUPER SESSION**

**MARCH 9
11AM SESSION**

\$15 PACKS, 4 PACK MINIMUM FOR
ELECTRONIC MACHINES (\$60).
15 GAMES EACH PAY \$1,000

\$7,500

**VGK BINGO BASH SESSION
MARCH 23
7PM SESSION
MINIMUM BUY-IN \$50**

**SANTA FE
STATION®**

**ROCK SHOT
BINGO**

**VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS
MARCH 3
9PM SESSION**

**\$5,000
MEGA SESSION**

**MARCH 16
7PM SESSION
EARN ENTRIES
NOW - MARCH 15**

**PALACE
STATION®**

**TRIPLE
ACTION**

**EVERY
TUESDAY & THURSDAY
11AM & 7PM SESSION
GAMES 4, 8, 10, & 12**

**DOUBLE PLAY
DOUBLE PAY**

**ALL THE WAY
SATURDAYS
9PM SESSION
\$30 MINIMUM BUY-IN
AT EACH SESSION**

PLAY AT THE 9PM SESSION AND RECEIVE
DOUBLE PAY AT THE 11PM EVERY SATURDAY.

**FREE BLUE
WEDNESDAY**

**WEDNESDAYS
1PM & 7PM SESSIONS
RECEIVE A FREE BLUE PACK
WITH A MINIMUM SPEND OF \$20**

ALL PAPER

**SUNSET
STATION®**

**MULTIPLIED
SPEED BINGO**

**MARCH 2
9PM SESSION**

REGULAR, DOUBLE, TRIPLE PAY!!!
WE PLAY AS MANY GAMES AS WE CAN
IN ONE HOUR, UP TO 20 GAMES PAY TRIPLE PAY!

**TRIPLE PLAY
TRIPLE PAY
EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**\$75 MINIMUM BUY-IN
AT EACH SESSION**

PLAY 3 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS, AND RECEIVE
TRIPLE PAY ON ALL VERIFIED BINGO WINS AFTER
THE 3RD CONSECUTIVE SESSION.

**DOUBLE PLAY
DOUBLE PAY**

**EVERY FRIDAY
9PM SESSION**

PLAY THE 9PM SESSION ON FRIDAYS
AND RETURN FOR THE 11PM SESSION.
SPEND \$50 OR MORE AT BOTH SESSIONS AND
RECEIVE DOUBLE PAY ON ALL VERIFIED BINGO
WINS DURING THE 11PM SESSION.



GREEN VALLEY RANCH®
RESORT • SPA • CASINO

**\$25,000
BINGO
MADNESS**

SUPER SESSION

**MARCH 23
7PM SESSION
\$50 BUY-IN, \$15 PACKS
25 GAMES AT \$1,000**

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY
AT BINGO.STATIONCASINOS.COM

**DOUBLE PLAY
TRIPLE PAY**

**EVERY SATURDAY
1PM SESSION**

**\$65 MINIMUM BUY-IN
AT EACH SESSION**

PLAY THE 11AM SESSION AND
RECEIVE TRIPLE PAY AT THE 1PM SESSION.

red rock
CASINO • RESORT • SPA

**St. Patrick's Day
BONUS BALLS**
MARCH 17

BINGO ON 1-17,
WIN \$1,000
BOULDER 1PM & 9PM PALACE 1PM & 7PM
SANTA FE 3PM & 5PM RED ROCK 3PM & 9PM
GVR 11AM & 7PM
BINGO ON ANY NUMBER ENDING IN 7, WIN \$500 BONUS!
BINGO ON 1-17,
WIN \$500
SUNSET 1PM & 7PM SESSIONS
BINGO ON ANY NUMBER ENDING IN 7, WIN \$250 BONUS!

BOULDER, SANTA FE,
PALACE, RED ROCK, GVR
UP TO 20 FREE BLUE PACKS FOR \$1 EACH
MINIMUM SPEND \$50

SUNSET
8 FREE BIG3
MINIMUM SPEND \$25

**SLAM DUNK
SPECIAL**

AVAILABLE AT ANY REGULAR SESSION

SEE BINGO ROOM FOR DETAILS AND RULES. MANAGEMENT RESERVES ALL RIGHTS.

STATIONCASINOSBINGO.COM



Whom to trust?

Wouldn't you get a sick feeling if you wondered whether your treatment nurse had obtained a fake diploma?

Three owners of nursing schools in two states were found guilty, as well as several of their pals (for a total of 27 scammers), for a scheme that involved selling fake nursing diplomas they apparently got from two formerly genuine schools. Students who wanted to take the national nursing board exam could purchase from the scammers diplomas that would allow them to take the tests. The genuine schools were eventually closed because of their test failure rate. However, some applicants managed to pass the exam and used the fake documents to get jobs everywhere in the country. Over 7,000 fake diplomas were handed out.

What happens now, one wonders? Assuming there were records, will anyone go after any of the faux nurses and at least let their new employers (such as the Department of Veterans Affairs) know about the fake diplomas?

In another case, a man was sent to prison (not for long enough) for distributing over \$16 million in adulterated HIV drugs, as well as other medications, all around the country. The scammer and his pals actually set up businesses in multiple states from which they sold the corrupted drugs to wholesale drug suppliers, which then sold them to pharmacies, ensuring that the drugs were spread far and wide. The criminals had on hand enough drugs to net them at least \$25 million when sold.

In one gut-wrenching case, two nurses lied to investigators after a patient died at a VA hospital. They claimed they hadn't "paused" the patient's medication. They actually had. The patient died.

Curiously, one nurse was given only three months in the federal slammer, and the other one got six months. Even more curious, the judge gave them both until January to turn themselves in at the prison, noting the "circumstances of the offense." What on earth does that mean?

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SCRABBLEGRAMS

N1

U1

T1

M3

E1

A1

T1

A1

D2

J8

O1

I1

N1

T1

E1

A1

R1

D2

R1

U1

M3

O1

V4

E1

R1

A1

R1

M3

D2

A1

F4

T1

E1

S1

T1

RACK 1 =

59

RACK 2 =

80

RACK 3 =

60

RACK 4 =

70

RACK 5 =

61

PAR SCORE 260-270

TOTAL 330



Page 14; Bingo Bugle (Nevada) March 2024

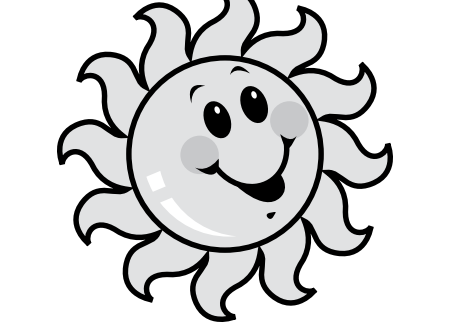


Test Your Knowledge

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the last name of Ken, who was Barbie's boyfriend?
- TELEVISION: In the sitcom *The Office*, the company is in which U.S. city?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which country is The Matterhorn located?
- MUSIC: Which 1990s group was the singer Beyonce a part of?
- U.S. STATES: In which state is Monument Valley located?
- LITERATURE: In which children's book do the characters Tweedledee and Tweedledum appear?
- MATH: In Roman numerals, what is XLVIII divided by XII?
- MEDICAL: What is a common name for polythelia?
- CHEMISTRY: How many elements are listed on the Periodic Table?
- MOVIES: What is the year of the Olympics in the movie *Chariots of Fire*?

- ANSWERS
- His full name is Kenneth Sean Carson.
 - Scranton, Pennsylvania.
 - Switzerland.
 - Destiny's Child.
 - Arizona.
 - Through the Looking-Glass*.
 - IV (Four).
 - Having an extra nipple, which affects about 1%-5% of the population.
 - 118.
 - 1924.

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Savvy Senior

by Jim Miller
Medicare Spouse Coverage

Dear Savvy Senior,

Are spouses who have not worked outside the home eligible for Medicare benefits? I have worked most of my adult life, but my wife has been a mother and homemaker since we got married and hasn't held an income-producing job since she was in college. Will she be eligible for Medicare? —*Searching Spouse*

Dear Searching,

There are many couples in your situation when it comes to applying for Medicare. The answer generally is yes, your spouse can qualify for Medicare on your work record. Here's how it works.

Medicare Requirements

Medicare, the government health insurance program for older adults, covers around 60 million Americans age 65 and older, as well as those younger that have a qualifying disability or have End-Stage Renal Disease.

To be eligible, you must have worked and paid Medicare taxes for at least 10 years to qualify for premium-free Medicare Part A hospital coverage when you turn 65. If you qualify, then your non-working spouse will qualify too, based on your work record when she turns 65.

Divorced spouses are also eligible if they were married at least 10 years and are single, as are surviving spouses who are single and who were married for at least nine months before their spouse died.

In addition to Part A, both you and your spouse would also qualify for Medicare Part B, which covers doctor's visits and other outpatient services, but requires a monthly premium. The premium for Part B beneficiaries in 2024 is \$174.70 per month per person. Couples filing jointly with incomes over \$206,000 per year pay even more.

STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

Can you match the shape names on the left with their meanings on the right?

1) hastiform

2) cruciform

3) aliform

4) conchiform

5) unciform

a) hook-shaped

b) spear-shaped

c) wing-shaped

d) shell-shaped

e) cross-shaped

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Micro Crossword
Answer

L	U	A	U	
I	N	S	P	O
B	I	T	E	S
E	T	O	N	S
L	Y	N	D	A

There are also a number of other caveats you should know about depending on your wife's age.

Older Spouses

If your wife is older than you, she can qualify for Medicare on your work record at age 65, even if you're not getting Medicare yourself, but you must be at least 62 years old. You also must have been married for at least one year for your wife to apply for Medicare on your work record.

If you are still working and your wife is covered by your employer's health insurance, she may want to enroll only in the premium-free Medicare Part A until you retire, or your employer coverage ends. Part B - along with its premium - can be added later without penalty as long as your employer's group health plan is your "primary coverage." Check with your employers' human resources department to find out about this. (Note: If your wife is funding a health savings account, she may not want to take Part A because she can't make contributions after she enrolls).

Younger Spouses

If your wife is younger than you, she will need health insurance until she turns 65 and becomes eligible for Medicare. This may be through the Health Insurance Marketplace (see healthcare.gov), or if you're still working, through COBRA (see dol.gov/general/topic/health-plans/cobra).

Other Medicare Choices

In addition to Medicare Part A and B, when you and your wife become Medicare eligible, each of you will also need to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan if you don't have credible drug coverage from your employer or union. And, you may want to purchase a Medicare supplemental (Medigap) policy too, to help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. Or, you may want to consider an all-in-one Medicare Advantage plan.

For more information on Medicare choices and enrollment rules visit Medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227. You can also get help through your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see shiphelp.org), which provides free Medicare counseling.



Arizona Charlie's
March Bingo Promotions

Bingo Half Point Tuesdays

Every Tuesday, True Rewards members may use their True Rewards card points at any session for bingo play at double the value. Two hundred and fifty True Rewards card points is equivalent to \$1 in bingo play.

Bingo Bounty

All players are invited to participate in the 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. sessions on Thursday and Saturday to receive a bonus for calling bingo on the bonus ball posted in the bingo room. Members may win up to \$1,000 in free slot play or \$500 in cash and non-members may win up to \$500 in cash or \$700 in free slot play if they sign up for a card.

VGK Bingo Blue Pack Giveaway

During any Vegas Golden Knights game day during the 2023-2024 professional hockey season, all True Rewards members who wear VGK logo apparel will receive five free electronic blue packs with a minimum \$10 electronic buy-in.

Bigger Bingo Coverall

In this multi-location progressive jackpot between bingo games at Arizona Charlie's Boulder, Arizona Charlie's Decatur, Pahrump Nugget Hotel & Casino and Lakeside Casino & RV Park, True Rewards members will have a chance to spin the



by Matilda Charles

Kittens Versus Senior Cats

One of my easy-to-accomplish resolutions for 2024 was to adopt a kitten, maybe 2-3 months in age. After consulting the local humane society's website and seeing dozens of tiny cats listed, I paid a visit to the shelter's group kitten room.

Of course they were cute, swinging from the chandeliers, racing, climbing and tumbling. And of course they were completely uninterested in the humans in the room who were smiling and enjoying the chaos.

Giving the kittens time to wind down for naps, I made my way to one of the adult cat group rooms... wherein I was approached by not one, but two beautiful adult cats. I sat on the floor petting them as they milled around me, bumping me with their foreheads, purring, one of them reaching out with a soft paw to get my attention... and did I mention the purring? The intention of both was clear: You will get me out of this place and you will take me home.

I consulted the list of cat information posted on the wall. One was a boy, one was a girl. Both had been found on the streets, both unclaimed. And they were both 12 years old.

That was not at all what I had in mind.

I came home catless, and a week later I'm still undecided. Can I handle the potential expensive vet care for two older cats? And the possible need for pricey specialty cat food as they age even more? While living on Social Security when our annual increase for 2024 is a mere 3.2% and vet care has increased nearly 15%?

Owning a pet brings down our blood pressure, reduces stress and keeps us active. It would seem that a senior human owning a senior pet would be a perfect match — except when it isn't because of the cost.

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bingo coverall wheel if they get a coverall on the 50th through 55th ball call. The wheel will determine the prize percentage awarded from the progressive jackpot. Guests can win up to 100% of the progressive jackpot in 55 numbers or less, from \$10,000 and growing.

VGK Bingo Marathon

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 23 through 7 a.m. on Sunday, March 24, both Arizona Charlie's properties will host sessions every odd hour for 24 hours with exciting prizes. During all sessions, any player who hits bingo on B14 will win their share of \$500 in free slot play. From 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., guests who play back-to-back sessions will receive a free electronic rainbow. Between 1 and 7 a.m., mystery prizes will be awarded to players. During the final session at 7 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, all players present will receive a VGK mystery item, and the grand prize drawing will take place. All guests with a \$4 buy-in will receive an electronic drawing entry for the chance to win one of the exciting grand prizes. The fourth- and fifth-place winners will receive mystery prizes, the third-place winner will receive \$100 in bingo free play, the second-place winner will receive \$250 in free slot play, and the first-place winner will receive a grand prize of \$1,000 cash.

Bingo Gift Day

During bingo sessions from 9 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, True Rewards players with a minimum \$10 buy-in will receive a bunny candy jar, while supplies last.



Ways to Lower Your Heating Bill

There's good news for the 46% of U.S. households who heat their homes with natural gas this winter: it's expected to cost 7.8% less this year than last year. Heating with electricity or oil, however, will likely cost more.

Saving on Energy

Fortunately there are ways everyone can save. One of the biggest sources of a house's energy consumption is the HVAC system. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut their energy bill by 20-30% simply by doing proper equipment maintenance, and air duct cleaning is a way to save big money on energy bills.

Indoor air contains unseen pollutants: dust, dander, pollen, mold, chemicals, and more. Your heating and cooling system circulates the contaminated air through the air duct pathways and it can build up in the ductwork and on other components.

Dirty HVAC systems—especially dirty coils—use up to 30% more energy resulting in higher utility bills.

The National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA) recommends having a professional clean the entire HVAC system.

One way to make sure you get a qualified contractor to do the job right is to search the NADCA online directory for a nearby member employing technicians with advanced training and certification in HVAC system cleaning.

Learn More

For further facts and tips visit www.breathingclean.com.

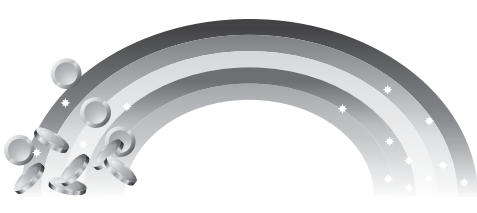
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- QUESTIONS**
- What was the name of Kenny Rogers' band in the '60s?
 - Name the longest Beatles song.
 - Which group was the first to release "Alley Oop"?
 - What was the original name of The Supremes?
 - Name the song that contains this lyric: "I know there's only, only one like you, There's no way they could have made two."

- ANSWERS**
- The First Edition. Their first big hit came with "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town," written by Mel Tillis, about a paralyzed veteran whose wife goes out at night by herself.
 - "Hey Jude." It came in at over seven minutes. Written by Paul McCartney, it was originally titled "Hey Jules" for John Lennon's 5-year-old son Julian who was upset over his parents' divorce.
 - The Hollywood Argyles, in 1957. Astonishingly enough, the caveman song topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart.
 - The Primettes, until 1967.
 - "You're the First, the Last, My Everything," by Barry White, in 1974. The song sat for over 20 years, originally written as a country song by Peter Radcliffe, until White changed the lyrics and turned it into disco. It was originally titled "You're the First, the Last, My In-Between."

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Gaming News

Chestnut Wins Bagel-Eating Contest

Joey Chestnut, the number-one-ranked competitive eater, showed up for the second annual (and his first) bagel-eating contest at Siegel's Bagelmania just off the Las Vegas Strip recently, and to no one's surprise walked away with the win, plus half of the \$10,000 prize pool. But he just squeaked by the number-two-ranked eater, Geoffrey Esper, by a half-bagel. Miki Sudo, the number-one-ranked woman competitor, just missed the top five by a quarter-bagel at 10. The bagels were slathered with cream cheese and contestants ate for eight minutes. Five hundred people spectators attended the event, rooting for Chestnut and Sudo all the way.

Vermont Sports Betting Goes Mobile

Online sports betting is now active in Vermont, with DraftKings, FanDuel, and Fanatics the licensed operators. Vermont is the 29th state, along with Washington, D.C., to permit mobile wagering.

Sphere London DOA

The second Sphere, announced several years ago for a five-acre lot in east London, has been canceled. Madison Square Garden Company bowed out when the project turned into a "political football" between the mayor of London and a national secretary of state. The mayor rejected Sphere as a "bulky, unduly dominant, and incongruous form of development" for the neighborhood that would have an "unacceptable negative impact on local residents." The national minister represented a coalition of local employers who welcomed plans for the arena, larger than the Las Vegas venue by 6,000 seats, which would bring "thousands



Fireflies and Zeroes
by Liz Larson

"A book as complex and rich as the small town it portrays in such loving detail." In this Amazon bestseller, the pop-punk trio The Generation is back — after a yearlong hiatus in which their beloved Charlottesville, VA, hometown was rocked by racist violence and they have heard nothing but radio silence from their brilliant yet volatile front man, Max.

At a party on the eve of their reunion tour, guitarist Jason watches in horror as Max is thrown to his death off a balcony. Or so he thinks. In the chaotic hours that follow, it's clear that the victim on the balcony was an imposter, and there are no simple answers when it comes to the real Max.

Jason resolves to find Max and, in doing so, will unravel surprising personal truths about the people and places he cares about most.

© NAPSI



of technical and creative jobs and other benefits and a fairer and greener economy to east London." The next possible Sphere expansion? Pundits say that it's only a matter of time before one ends up in Dubai.

Illegal Sports Betting Big in the U.S.

GeoComply, which provides geolocation and fraud-detection services for online sports books and casinos, logged 201 million visits to illegal offshore sports betting sites in the first three months of the NFL season alone, mainly from bettors in states without legal options, but also line shoppers in legal states. Bettors in the 13 states that haven't legalized it yet also attempt to access online books in neighboring states. GeoComply said it blocked 1.5 million attempts by Georgians to bet across state lines between September and November and 1.7 million by Nebraskans, which has a total population of just under two million! Extrapolating Nebraska from Oklahoma's 400,000 attempts from 380,000 customers, it would still equate with...lots and lots of Cornhuskers. Bovada was the main offshore recipient of bettors with more than half of the 201 million visits, followed by MyBookie and BetOnline.

Fontainebleau in Trouble Already?

Rumors are swirling and some evidence is appearing that Fontainebleau in Las Vegas could be suffering "birth pangs." Behind-the-scenes drama has led to the resignation of two key executives and the termination of a third. Three others came and went before the place even opened. First- and second-hand experiences and reports indicate low foot traffic and otherwise sparse patronage from drive- and fly-ins. Now a post on news and culture site Messenger.com, written by a local who lives in nearby condo that looks out at Fbleau's entrance, shines a spotlight and gives further details on another problem: arrogance and over-confidence. The article gives a glimpse of why the writer calls the shiny new megaresort a "ghost town."

Page 15; Bingo Bugle (Nevada) March 2024



All those technological marvels aside, I often miss the old-fashioned modes of communication. My phone rarely rings; I receive text alerts instead of phone calls. I read the news online instead of looking for the newspaper in the bushes. My mailbox contains bills and advertisements, no letters. Again, there are positives to all these but...



LAUGHLIN, Nev. – Feb. 20 2024 – There’s no better place to B-I-N-G-O than the Bingo Room at Edgewater Casino Resort, located at 2020 S. Casino Drive, as Edgewater’s Double Progressive Bingo Jackpot has soared to more than \$60,000.

Players will be required to pay the session's minimum buy-in and Double Progressive cards can only be played at the sessions in which they are purchased. For more Double Progressive rules, visit <https://www.edgewater-casino.com/casino/bingo/rules>

More information about Edgewater Casino Resort can be found at www.edgewater-casino.com.



The humble butternut squash takes center stage, joined by vibrant veggies, hearty barley and the protein of your choice — whether it's succulent chicken, tender turkey or satisfying sausage. My family especially enjoys turkey Italian sausage in this recipe. For a vegetarian

I remember when we would run out of shelf space to display our Christmas cards. I received two cards this year, with holiday greetings now being delivered through text or Facebook.

Yes, reading the news online while in bed with a cup of coffee is easy breezy, but I still think fondly of the days when I would fetch the newspaper and sit at the kitchen table with it. Reading the local news, the advice columns, the “funnies,” and working the crossword puzzle. We had a rather small local newspaper, which I enjoyed so much. I stayed subscribed until they finally went out of business because the Internet was just too much competition.

While I appreciate and benefit from advanced technology, please excuse me for being nostalgic. I think I'll mail my cousin some of her favorite licorice... if I can find her address.

Nevada Happenings

When more than 350 flights were delayed and 64 canceled at Reid International due to a huge storm in the northern U.S. this winter, one traveler was probably very thankful for the hold-up—winning a jackpot for \$1,031,199 on a Wild Wild Buffalo slot machine.

Singer-songwriters Jewel and Melissa Etheridge will tour together this summer and fall. The tour will kick off on July 11 in Montana and hit Las Vegas for one night only on July 24 to play the Pearl Theater at the Palms. Pre-sale at press time showed tickets in the \$41 to \$137 range (not including fees) and a six-ticket limit.

The newest Nevada state park opened early winter: The Ice Age Fossils State Park is 315 acres of paleontological and historical significance for fossil and Ice Age enthusiasts. This area was home to mammoths, lions, camels, dire wolves, ground sloths and other extinct mammals 8,000-20,000 years ago, at the tail end of the last of four great ice ages of the Pleistocene. Era when great lakes and lakeshore grasses and woodlands supported the abundance of fauna. The discovery of a treasure trove of fossils in this vicinity prompted extensive and intensive scientific research, including a "Big Dig" in 1962; the park has been in the works for the past seven years. The park is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; tickets are \$3, children under 12 free. It's located at 8660 N. Decatur Blvd. in North Las Vegas, a couple of miles north of the Bruce Woodbury Beltway.

Butternut squash and carrots, both bursting with beta-carotene, are rich sources of vitamin A and C, promoting healthy skin and vision while contributing to immune support. Refreshing celery, a hydrating hero, provides antioxidants and vital minerals. Enter barley, a fiber-packed grain that supports digestive health and helps maintain steady blood sugar levels. Together, they not only satisfy the palate but also nourish your body, making your winter evenings both delicious and nutritious.

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 celery ribs, chopped
- 3 medium carrots, chopped
- 1 butternut squash (2 to 3 pounds), peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes (about 6 cups)
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley flakes
- 2 garlic cloves, minced (or 1 teaspoon dried minced garlic)
- 1 teaspoon rubbed sage or poultry seasoning
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup pearl barley
- 4 cups (32 ounces) chicken or vegetable broth
- 4 cups water
- 2 cups (one pound) cooked chicken, turkey or sausage
- Kosher salt and fresh-cracked pepper, to taste

In a large soup pot, over medium-low

Olé Red, the four-story 27,000-square-foot country-themed restaurant in front of the Horseshoe in the Grand Bazaar Shops, opened recently. Owned by country star Blake Shelton, Olé Red touts itself as “providing the whole country experience,” encompassing the food, drinks, and live entertainment on two stages; the outdoor patios also overlook one of the most exciting intersections in the world. The restaurant can seat 700 diners comfortably, tucking into menu choices such as fried pickles, wings, tacos, sliders, burgers and sandwiches, salads, and a few entrees (ribs, salmon and chicken n waffles to name a few). The hours are 11 a.m. till “late night.”

A renowned sandwich shop from Florence, Italy, that at least one journal has named among the best in the world, opened in Sundry Food Hall at the UnCommons in late January. All'Antica Vinea, which means "At the Ancient Wine Merchant" and describes the location of the first shop that opened in Venice in 1991 across from a wine bar, features freshly baked schiacciata (skia-CHA-tah), a chewy Tuscan flatbread, sliced meats like capocollo and Tuscan prosciutto, gorgonzola and stracciatella (mozzarella soaked in cream), tomatoes and spicy eggplant, and other Italian specialties. The UnCommons is a mixed-use community (apartments, office space, restaurants including the new food hall, and entertainment) located at S. Durango and the Beltway, directly across the street from the new Durango Hotel-Casino.

The Miracle Mile Shops recently announced Miracle Eats, a 10-outlet food hall scheduled to open in about a year. VegasChanges posted a map pinpointing where it's going to be located: near the south entrance to the mall off the Strip.

Pour in the broth and water, bring to a boil, then simmer gently for 40 minutes. Add your cooked protein of choice and heat through; add salt and pepper to taste.

Place all ingredients (except your chosen protein) in a 5- or 6-quart slow cooker. Cook on low for 5-7 hours or until squash and barley are tender. Stir in cooked chicken, turkey or sausage; cook covered for an additional 15 minutes or until heated through.

Instant Pot Instructions:
Heat your Instant Pot to the “Saute” function. Saut the olive oil and saute the onion, celery and carrots until they begin to soften, taking about 3-4 minutes. Add butternut squash, seasonings and pearl barley, and continue to saute for an additional 2 minutes. Pour in chicken or vegetable broth, water, and mix well.

Cancel the “Saute” function and secure the Instant Pot lid, ensuring the vent is in the sealed position. Set the Instant Pot manually to cook for 15-20 minutes at high pressure.

Allow natural pressure release for 10 minutes, then quick release any remaining pressure. Stir in cooked chicken, turkey or sausage and heat through. Season the soup with salt and pepper to taste and serve.

In the spirit of my frugal ethos, this Butternut Squash Barley Soup not only nourishes the soul but also respects your hard-earned dollars. Here's to frugality, flavor and fabulous meals!

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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KOVELS®
Antiques & Collecting
By Terry and Kim Kovel





1. What U.S. Olympic gymnast retired from the sport in 1972 and went on to a successful career on the stage, most notably playing the title character in *Peter Pan*?
2. George Balabushka was considered to be the finest craftsman of what wooden sports equipment?
3. Jon Bon Jovi, Richie Sambora and Ron Jaworski were in the ownership group of what Arena Football League team that began play in 2004?

4. What member of the 1908 Chicago Cubs is the only player to have thrown four strikeouts in a single inning in a World Series game?

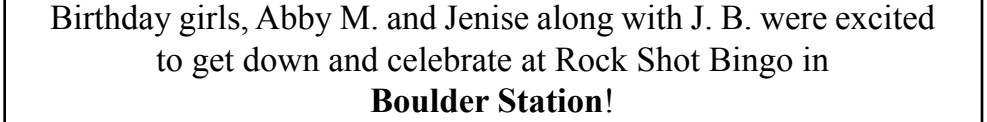
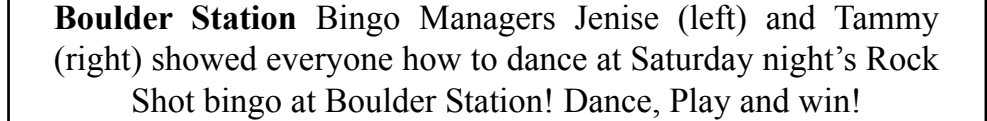
5. How many games did Marty Mornhinweg win in his two seasons as head coach of the Detroit Lions from 2001-02?

6. What American cyclist recovered from near-fatal wounds suffered in a 1987 hunting accident to win his second and third Tour de France titles in 1989-90?

7. Name the Swiss businessman who was elected president of FIFA in 1998 and was ousted in 2015 after a corruption and bribery scandal.

1. Cathy Rigby.
2. Pool cues.
3. The Philadelphia Soul.
4. Orval Overall.
5. Five.
6. Greg LeMond.
7. Sepp Blatter.

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**MORE THAN 5,000
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SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

Sales open at 5:00pm; Session starts at 6:30pm

\$30 BUY-IN INCLUDES

Reserved Seat / One 9-On Pack / Free Dauber

16 GAMES - \$250 / 3 COVERALLS - \$1,000

Pre-paid reserve seating starts January 15, 2024 8:00am online at <https://virginriver.com>

In person reservations available in the Virgin River Bingo Room (cash only)

Last day for online reservations is March 10, 2024. No refunds after March 10, 2024.



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See bingo staff for complete rules and details. Management reserves all rights. "Problem Gambling Helpline" 800-522-4700

\$20,000 WINNER!



COLOSSAL COVERALL
(42 Numbers) on 2/2/24

**CONGRATULATIONS
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Virgin River Bingo

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JANUARY 2024 BONUS WINNERS

REGULAR PAYOUTS \$308,158
BONUS PAYOUTS \$52,725
JACKPOTS PAID \$69,250

1/2/24	Troll Jackpot	\$5,830	1/19/24	Dual Action	\$4,000
1/3/24	Colossal Coverall	\$2,500	1/22/24	Troll Jackpot	\$5,093
1/5/24	Troll Jackpot	\$5,760	1/24/23	Bonus Badge	\$2,000
1/6/24	Troll Jackpot	\$3,230	1/25/24	Dual Action	\$4,000
1/8/24	Troll Jackpot	\$7,286	1/25/24	Troll Jackpot	\$3,783
1/8/24	Bonus Badge	\$2,000	1/25/24	Troll Jackpot	\$2,817
1/8/24	Troll Jackpot	\$2,700	1/26/24	Bonus Badge	\$2,000
1/17/24	Troll Jackpot	\$3,746	1/28/24	Troll Jackpot	\$3,228
1/18/24	Troll Jackpot	\$2,157	1/31/24	Troll Jackpot	\$7,120

And We're Just Getting "2024" Started!



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See bingo staff for complete rules and details. Management reserves all rights. "Problem Gambling Helpline" 800-522-4700



Ted and Gina H. have been traveling to Las Vegas from Lincolnshire England to play bingo for the past 50 years! The two are hoping they win big at **Rampart Casino**.



Krystal was the 1pm Big 3 winner at **Red Rock Casino**. Way to go Krystal!



Larry and Ruth V. of Reno, Nevada celebrated 45 years of love, laughter and bingo fun at **Plaza Casino’s** Bingo Blowout event!



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VGK BINGO BLUE PACK
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HALF POINT BINGO
EVERY TUESDAY
USE YOUR POINTS FOR DOUBLE THE BINGO PLAY

CONGRATULATIONS



KATHY H. MACUNGIE, PA
\$3,341
BIGGER BINGO COVERALL



EVERT W. GOLDEN VALLEY, AZ
\$2,152
DOUBLE BINGO



CARL D. BULLHEAD CITY, AZ
\$2,500
BINGO



STACY B. BUENA PARK, CA
\$1,784
BINGO

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Lucky Predictions for March 2024

ARIES: *March 21 to April 19*

1st thru 6th... Great bet the 3rd!
7th thru 12th... Born to win the 12th\$\$
13th thru 18th... Good on GREEN 15th\$
19th thru 24th... RED hot win 20th-21st!
25th thru 31st... Someplace new 29th-31st

TAURUS: *April 20 to May 20*

1st thru 6th... Many times over the 5th!\$
7th thru 12th... Cha-CHING 9th-10th\$\$
13th thru 18th... Must play 2 win 13th-14th!
19th thru 24th... Sensibility conquers 23rd!\$
25th thru 31st... None of this is for you

GEMINI: *May 21 to June 21*

1st thru 6th... Hold that thought
7th thru 12th... Optimal the 8th!
13th thru 18th... GO w/GREEN the 16th\$
19th thru 24th... See & believe 21st\$
25th thru 31st... Unique chances 25th-26th!

CANCER: *June 22 to July 22*

1st thru 6th... Early on the 1st\$
7th thru 12th... Dream materializes 9th-10th\$
13th thru 18th... Money likes U 17th-18th\$\$
19th thru 24th... Perfect day the 23rd!
25th thru 31st... Big-time wins 27th-28th!

LEO: *July 23 to Aug. 22*

1st thru 6th... Ready, set, WIN 2nd-3rd!
7th thru 12th... All about the 11th\$
13th thru 18th... Play hard but smart 16th!
19th thru 24th... Best of times the 21st\$!
25th thru 31st... RED calls it 31st\$\$

VIRGO: *Aug. 23 to Sept. 22*

1st thru 6th... Sure win the 5th\$\$
7th thru 12th... Step away from the game
13th thru 18th... Keep it coming the 13th!
19th thru 24th... Startin’ right 22nd-23rd\$\$
25th thru 31st... Big surprise 27th-28th!

LIBRA: *Sept. 23 to Oct. 23*

1st thru 6th... On your game the 3rd\$
7th thru 12th... You got this, 7th-8th
13th thru 18th... Many choices 15th\$\$
19th thru 24th... Get it done the 21st
25th thru 31st... Nothing to see here

SCORPIO: *Oct. 24 to Nov. 21*

1st thru 6th... Right on track the 5th\$\$
7th thru 12th... BLUE brings \$\$ the 9th
13th thru 18th... Make it count 17th-18th!\$
19th thru 24th... Far ahead 22nd-23rd!\$
25th thru 31st... It’s your call 28th-29th\$

SAGITTARIUS: *Nov. 22 to Dec. 21*

1st thru 6th... Odds in yr favor the 2nd\$\$
7th thru 12th... Electrifying! 7th-8th\$
13th thru 18th... Super choices the 15th\$
19th thru 24th... Lookin’ good 21st!
25th thru 31st... Let’s wait

CAPRICORN: *Dec. 22 to Jan. 19*

1st thru 6th... You’ve got it made the 5th!
7th thru 12th... Much to celebrate 8th-9th!\$
13th thru 18th... Hunch is right the 13th!
19th thru 24th... It’s a snap 22nd-23rd!
25th thru 31st... Maybe, late the 28th\$\$

AQUARIUS: *Jan. 20 to Feb. 18*

1st thru 6th... A leg up the 3rd\$
7th thru 12th... Holy smokes! 8th & 12th\$\$
13th thru 18th... Luckiest the 16th\$
19th thru 24th... Great thinking 25th-26th
25th thru 31st... Reach for it 26th & 31st!

PISCES: *Feb. 19 to March 20*

1st thru 6th... Solid wins 4th-5th!\$
7th thru 12th... Great weekend 9th-10th!
13th thru 18th... A big step ahead 13th & 17th-18th!
19th thru 24th... Better days ahead
25th thru 31st... Look at you 27th-28th!

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

PREDICTORS
LUCKY CARD FOR MARCH 2024

12	17	34	56	74
2	20	37	47	68
4	22	★	58	72
11	27	33	55	63
6	19	42	49	73

MOON PHASES & SPECIAL EVENTS

MARCH 2024

1st	Peanut Butter Lovers’ Day
3rd	Last Quarter Moon ²¹
10th	Daylight Saving Time starts
10th	New Moon ²¹
14th	National Potato Chip Day
17th	First Quarter Moon ³¹
17th	St. Patrick’s Day
19th	March Equinox
25th	Full Moon ²¹
26th	National Spinach Day
28th	Something on a Stick Day
31st	Easter Sunday



Horoscopes for March 2024

ARIES (MAR 21-APR 20): Ask yourself how you could benefit by trying to conform this month. Your usual MO is to buck trends and push through boundaries. But come the full Moon on the 25th, concessions are necessary. Blend in and seek camaraderie with like-minded rebels.
Lucky Days: 10 - 30
Lucky Numbers: 5 - 18

TAURUS (APR 21-MAY 21): Because routine is hardwired into your nature, you’ll want to preserve the impulse to conserve while radically changing up your routines—especially those ready for an overhaul. This doesn’t have to mean earth-shattering upheaval. Start small. Make your changes step by step.
Lucky Days: 8 - 13
Lucky Numbers: 44 - 46

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN 21): Friction in your environment is providing you with a wake-up call. What’s going on? You’re being challenged to set aside your rational approach and take a walk on the wild side. Put your imagination to work constructively. Pay attention to how your dreams and fancies can guide your reality.
Lucky Days: 4 - 21
Lucky Numbers: 9 - 38

CANCER (JUN 22-JUL 22): The full Moon on the 25th highlights the need to step outside your safety zone. Comfort can rejuvenate only after you’ve invested energy into an effort that demands all your mental and emotional force—and you have a surfeit of both now; but pace yourself. **Lucky Days:** 22 - 25
Lucky Numbers: 5 - 49

LEO (JUL 23-AUG 23): What surprising tactic can you employ to reach your long-term objectives? Let this question guide you into the spring, where you’ll be required to be on top of your game in the originality department. Do the opposite of what you’re expected to. After the dust settles, you’ll feel renewed.
Lucky Days: 7 - 22
Lucky Numbers: 35 - 55

VIRGO (AUG 24-SEP 23): Wanting to be special or unique makes it difficult to be ordinary. You’ll need to navigate between realism and fantasy. The ho-hum side of life can feel stifling. Find your center point between extremes. That’s where sanity and growth reside.
Lucky Days: 8 - 9
Lucky Numbers: 18 - 28

LIBRA (SEP 24-OCT 23): The full Moon on the 25th turns this wisdom from Woodrow Wilson into a slogan: “If you want to make enemies, try to change something.” Yet, as you head into spring, the pressure is on to find ways to disrupt what’s become confining or limiting. Trust your diplomatic skills to win the day.
Lucky Days: 3 - 11
Lucky Numbers: 34 - 51

SCORPIO (OCT 24-NOV 22): The path forward this month doesn’t involve answers but *questions*. What are you most curious about now? Formulate a clear question. The answer or solution will be equal to your lucidity. You’re an expert at exploring the specialized interests—focus on doing just that this spring.
Lucky Days: 12 - 22
Lucky Numbers: 44 - 55

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DEC 21): Get a jump on any disruption coming your way and ask yourself what you can rearrange in your life right now. Mix things up. To foster new ideas and solutions, start a project where you’d normally be finishing it, or put the ending in the middle.
Lucky Days: 1 - 5
Lucky Numbers: 41 - 49

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 20): Compromise isn’t always the best tactic to keep everyone happy. Trying to constantly please others will deplete your energy and scatter your focus. The full Moon on the 25th might agitate the relationships in your life that have become static. Allow the chess board to be rearranged—you’ll discover your next winning move in the shuffle.
Lucky Days: 2 - 15
Lucky Numbers: 17 - 40

AQUARIUS (JAN 21-FEB 19): You’re sitting in the middle between stop and go, yes and no. What’s it going to be? You want to grow, but there are niggling doubts. The way through involves an audacious spirit. Align yourself with a project or movement that takes chances and allows you to step outside of yourself.
Lucky Days: 5 - 7
Lucky Numbers: 48 - 59

PISCES (FEB 20-MAR 20): If there’s one month this year that best highlights your ability to ground the fantastical into a real-world happening, it’s March. How can you relate a recent dream to a current problem? Ask yourself this question on the 25th’s full Moon—solutions will appear from unlikely sources.
Lucky Days: 2 - 4
Lucky Numbers: 9 - 19

COFFEE BREAK ANSWERS

SCRAMBLER ANSWER: 1. Prized 2. Sweet 3. Simple 4. Kidnap
Today’s Word: SNEEZED

JUMBLES: RAINY VALID ORATOR VELVET
Answer: He practiced the high jump — OVER AND OVER

HOCUS FOCUS DIFFERENCES: 1. Newspaper is longer. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Lapel is missing. 4. File cabinet is taller. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Jacket sleeve is shorter.

CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Today carve out a quiet interlude for yourself in which to dream, pen in hand. Only dreams give birth to change. — Sarah Ban Breathnach

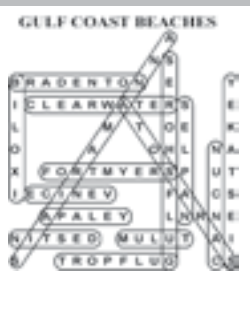
BINGO CROSSWORD ANSWERS



SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

MAGICMAZE ANSWERS



MARCH BINGO PROMOTIONS

Mad for March Bingo Jam – March 9

- All sessions include 4X \$1,000 coveralls
- 10 drawing winners receive \$50 free Bingo play

St Patrick’s Day Bonus Ball – March 17

- Bingo on I-17 and receive \$1,000: Bingo on any number ending in 7 and receive \$250 in addition to the regular payout
- All sessions; validation required

Easter Sunday Day Bonus Ball – March 31

- Bingo on N-31 and receive \$1,000; Bingo on any number ending in 1 and receive \$250 In addition to the regular payout
- All sessions; validation required

Daily Kiosk Swipe

- One swipe daily with a \$50 minimum buy-in

Fridays & Saturdays at 7pm & 9pm:

- 4x \$1,000 coveralls

Mondays – Half Price Bingo when paying with points

- Points vouchers issued at the Rampart Rewards Club and redeemed in Bingo

Free Blue Pack Wednesdays

- Three (3) free Blue Packs with \$25 minimum buy in validation required

Sundays at 11am & 1pm:

- 4x \$1,000 coveralls

Double/Triple pay sessions

- Monday- Saturday at 1pm & Sunday - Thursday at 7pm
- 1st chance coverall \$1,000, 2nd & 3rd chance \$250

Bonus “R” balls – Three times a week – every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

- At the 11am, 3pm, & 9pm sessions
- Bingo on B-3 or any number ending in 3 and receive an \$500
- At the 11am, 3pm, & 9pm sessions
- In addition to the regular payout / validation required

Crash Course

I remember to this day what a friend told me the first time I set foot in a Vegas casino some fifty years ago and was “scared to death” to sit down and play blackjack. “Look at all those people playing blackjack,” he said. “At one time they were all beginners, just like you.”

Of course, he was right. Even if you are a dedicated slot machine player, learning how to play blackjack is not as difficult as you think it is. Plus think about this: Blackjack has been the most popular casino table game for over 70 years, and even today, more folks play blackjack than poker (yep, that’s true). In short, blackjack is popular because it is easy to play, it’s fun, and it offers the best odds of winning.

The objective in blackjack is to beat the dealer’s hand. You can do this in one of two ways: by either having your hand total higher than the dealer’s hand, or by not going over 21 when the dealer subsequently goes over 21 (going over 21 is known as “busting” or “breaking”). So, if you’ve got 18 and the dealer has 17, you win. If you stand on 12 and the dealer busts, you win.

The cards count their face value in blackjack. Picture cards count as 10, and an Ace counts as either 1 or 11 (initially the Ace counts as 11 but if you draw more

cards, and the hand totals more than 21, then the Ace can be counted as 1). The total of any hand is the sum of the card values in the hand. For example, a hand containing a 4-5-8 totals 17 and Ace-5 is a 16. The highest-valued starting hand in blackjack (because it receives a bonus) contains an Ace plus a 10-value card, and it is known as a blackjack or natural.

When you win a hand at blackjack you are paid even money (i.e., if you bet \$5 and win, you get paid \$5). The only exception is a player’s blackjack, which gets paid either 3-2 or 6-5 (avoid all 6-5 games!) if the dealer doesn’t also have a blackjack. If your hand and the dealer’s hand have the same total, this is known as a push, or tie, and you neither win nor lose your wager. Card suits have no meaning at blackjack.

Some hands in blackjack are known as soft hands and others as hard hands, and it’s important to know the distinction. Any hand that contains an Ace counted as 11 is known as a soft hand. For example, Ace-6 is a soft 17. Likewise, 2-3-Ace is a soft 16. A hard hand is any hand that either does not contain an ace, or if it does, the Ace is counted as 1. For example, 10-5-Ace is a hard 16. Often a hand can start as a soft hand, and after receiving one or more cards, turn into a hard hand (Ace-5 is soft 16; if you hit and draw a 10, you now have a hard 16).

The dealer must act on their hand by house rules (they have no playing options). If their hand totals 16 or less, they must draw another card or cards. If their hand totals 17 to 21, they must stand. In some casinos, the dealer must stand on soft 17, and in others, hit (it will say so on the layout). The odds are slightly better for players when the dealer stands on all 17s, including soft 17.

The built-in house edge in blackjack arises from the simple fact that players act before the dealer, and if they bust they automatically lose, even if the dealer subsequently busts. Also, you have several playing options that are not available to the dealer, such as standing or hitting on any hand total, doubling down, pair splitting, and, in some venues, surrendering. By using these playing options optimally, you can reduce the house edge to about half of one percent!

by Jo Ann Derson

* File this one under safety AND energy smarts: Clean the dryer vent after every load. Clean the dryer vent screen monthly with a gentle soap and water bath. Rinse well and dry thoroughly before inserting back into your dryer.

* “I used to struggle with plastic wrap every time I tried to use it. But now, it’s a breeze since I learned to do these two things: One, keep plastic wrap in the freezer. It unrolls evenly, not one side or the other. Two, use a serrated knife to cut it instead of relying on the metal strip down the side of the box. You lay it out on the counter, and just run the knife down the edge you want to cut. Works like magic, and it’s no longer frustrating.” — *G.S. in Georgia*

* Store an apple or two with your potatoes to keep them from sprouting. Be sure to check them often.

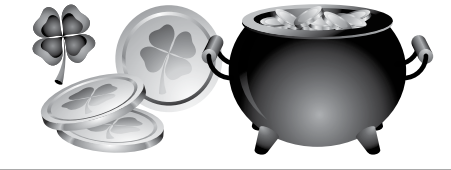
* Cut cotton pads in half to double your supply. They are typically big enough for two uses, and you can always use two halves if you need a whole.

* “Make a cream lipstick last longer and stay cleaner by using a makeup brush to apply. Your skin picks up more of the lipstick than necessary, one reason why we blot our lips afterward. But the brush uses only what you need. And there’s less bacteria transfer.” — *Y.R. in Massachusetts*

* Studies have shown that you spend more and make worse decisions when grocery shopping at peak hours. To be a saver on the family food bill, pick a time to shop when you’re not rushed; have a list; know the sales ahead of time; and eat before you go.

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

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PICKS OF THE MONTH

Expats (TV-MA) — Nicole Kidman (*Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*) leads this drama series adapted from the 2016 novel *The Expatriates* by Janice Y. K. Lee. The series centers on three women living in an affluent expatriate community in Hong Kong. Margaret (Kidman) is a mother and wife whose family enjoys the privilege of having staff wait on them hand and foot. Twenty-four-year-old Mercy (Ji-young Yoo) is desperate to find a fresh start after moving to Hong Kong from Korea. Last but not least is Hilary (Sarayu Blue), a neighbor of Margaret’s whose marriage is on the rocks. The series weaves in and out of these women’s lives while exploring this elite community and the domestic workers providing services to them. The first episodes are out now, with new episodes arriving every Friday. (Amazon Prime Video)



My mother and one of her brothers had the flu in 1918. She said she was very sick, but unlike her brother, who was profoundly deaf from high fever, she didn’t experience any aftereffects. She died at 90 without getting the flu again or taking the yearly flu vaccine.

I am 83, have never had a flu shot and have never had the flu. I have had all the COVID-19 vaccines, but never the yearly flu shots. Could I have received immunity from her? — *F.D.B.*

ANSWER: No, you don’t get specific immunity from parents. Babies do get a type of “passive” immunity from their mothers, since antibodies are shared through the placenta to the fetus, but this only lasts for weeks or months.

The 1918 influenza pandemic did leave survivors with very long-lasting immunity to some types of the flu (like H1N1). Unfortunately, this immunity does not extend to other types of flu viruses, so I still recommend getting the yearly flu vaccines.

It’s my experience that when people tell me they have never had the flu, it’s not always true. Sometimes, the flu is mild and goes unrecognized. The flu is highly variable, and even young, healthy people with apparently good immune systems can succumb to the flu.

You may have inherited some of your mother’s robust immune system, as this is partially heritable. However, I wouldn’t depend on it entirely and do recommend the vaccine to help your immune system reduce your risk of getting a severe flu. People over 65 may get a special, higher-potency flu vaccine.

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

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Orion and the Dark (TV-Y7) — Elementary school student Orion is terrified of many things in this world, but above all, his biggest fear is easily the dark. One night, after he’s tucked in his bed and surrounded by his soothing collection of nightlights, Orion is suddenly jolted awake to come face-to-face with his biggest fear personified! Dark, voiced by Emmy winner Paul Walter Hauser (*Black Bird*), brings Orion along for a night on the job of darkening the world. Joined by the other “night entities” for an evening full of adventure, Dark helps Orion see that his fears aren’t so hard to overcome after all. Jacob Tremblay (*The Little Mermaid*) lends his voice to Orion for this wholesome animated film out on Feb. 2. (Netflix)

Bosco (TV-MA) — Based on a true story, this drama-thriller stars Aubrey Joseph (*Little Fires Everywhere*) as Quawntay “Bosco” Adams, an inmate sentenced to 35 years for possession of marijuana. Once in prison, Bosco finds himself spiraling from the abusive treatment of the correctional officers and from knowing that his child is living without a father. After being threatened that he won’t see the light of day outside of prison ever again, Bosco is left with no choice but to figure out a means to escape. With the help of Tammy (Nikki Blonsky), a woman he meets through a lonely-hearts ad, Bosco attempts an escape that will leave you hanging on the edge of your seat. Tyrese Gibson (the *Fast & Furious* franchise) and Theo Rossi (*Luke Cage*) co-star. (Peacock)

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

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A Numbers Game

Dear Aunt Bingo,

Recently I went to my local Bingo hall for one of the \$1,000 games. I was set at 45 numbers. I needed G-53. I waited for 12 numbers and the caller did not call it. Every game after that she called G-53. The next session was the same. Is there a way that callers can actually avoid calling certain numbers, or was it just bad luck? — *Lynne L., via e-mail*

Dear Lynne,

I know that it sometimes feels like the caller has some personal vendetta against you, especially when you’re waiting for that last number that never comes. But you have to remember—as long as there is more than one ball blowing around in that chamber, there is a chance that another number besides yours will be the next one called.

As far as the caller avoiding calling your G-53, why would he/she do that? They’re dreading their 53rd birthday? 53 is the house number of their ex? There are 53 days left until Tax Day?

Sorry, Lynne, but I think you are going to have to chalk this one up to bad luck.

— *Aunt Bingo*



BINGO LAND

NEWS FROM THE REAL WORLD & CYBERSPACE

Singer Adele Plans to Play Bingo

Adele is planning to reach “peak physical fitness” and play a lot of Bingo after her Las Vegas residency ends, according to the *Daily Mail*. The 35-year-old pop superstar will continue performing her “Weekends with Adele” shows at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace until the end of summer, after having extended her stay there until late June 2024. And she revealed she has big plans for improving her fitness and her social life when she has more time to herself.

According to the *Daily Mail*, she said at a recent show: “I don’t normally do New Year’s resolutions, but I want to build my muscles in my core and my goal at the end is to learn how to do a backflip and not be in pain. So New Year’s Eve next year, I’m going to be in such good solid shape—that’s going to be such good fun—that I can do a backflip somewhere. I’ve decided that this year I want to get to my peak physical fitness.”

Adele went on to reveal she is also planning to host weekly Bingo nights for her friends

Dear Aunt Bingo,

I just have to say thank heavens for Bingo AND for the *Bingo Bugle* during yucky winter months. Bingo gets me out of the house to be with other people and have fun even when the snow is falling. The *Bingo Bugle* is my friend while I’m waiting for Bingo to start, or at home it’s my guide when I get the urge to play and need to find a game at the last second. As I write this it has only been mostly rainy so far this winter, so it has been easy to get to the games. But I know the snow is coming again and cabin fever too. Once again—Thank Heavens for Bingo! — *CCV in Moline, Illinois*

Dear CCV,

On behalf of the writers, editors, designers, photographers, and publishers who work so hard to bring you the *Bingo Bugle* each month, we thank you for your kind words of appreciation. Just like you, it can be hard for us to get out there and do interviews, get pictures, and deliver newspapers during the bad winter weather. But we know the *Bugle* is important to you and your fellow readers, so we all keep plugging away.

Please keep enjoying playing Bingo year-round and rest assured that the next issue of the *Bingo Bugle* will be there waiting for you. — *Aunt Bingo*



1. Mean Girls (PG-13) Angourie Rice, Renee Rapp
 2. The Beekeeper (R) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman
 3. Wonka (PG) Timothee Chalamet, Gustave Die
 4. Migration (PG) Kumail Nanjiani, Elizabeth Banks
 5. Anyone But You (R) Sydney Sweeney, Glen Powell
 6. Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG-13) Jason Momoa, Patrick Wilson
 7. I.S.S. (R) Ariana DeBose, Chris Messina
 8. Night Swim (PG-13) Wyatt Russell, Kerry Condon
 9. The Boys in the Boat (PG-13) Joel Edgerton, Callum Turner
 10. Poor Things (R) Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo
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Lucky Lotto News

Dog Helps Fetch Jackpot

A Massachusetts animal lover who recently won a \$4 million scratch-off game not only brought his dog to claim his prize at lottery headquarters, he says he plans to use some of his winnings to help other animals. Paul Riley of Peabody brought his dog Raven to the lottery office to claim his lump-sum prize of \$2.6 million after taxes, according to the Massachusetts Lottery. Riley won the 100X Cash scratch-off game after buying a ticket in Peabody. Riley plans to donate part of his winnings to the Animal Rescue League and buy a new car for his wife, he told the lottery. 100X Cash is a scratch-off game from the Massachusetts Lottery. Each ticket costs \$10, and players can win up to \$4 million in prizes. You can order tickets online through Jackpocket, the official digital lottery courier of the USA TODAY Network from some U.S. States. The app allows you to pick your lottery game and numbers, place your order, see your ticket and collect your winnings all using your phone or home computer.

Big Win in Grand Blanc

One lucky Powerball player in Michigan started the new year in a big way—a very big way—by winning the \$842.4 million New Year’s Day jackpot, according to the lottery game’s website, and a Flint area store is benefiting from the victory. The winning numbers for the drawing were 12, 21, 42, 44, 49 and 1. The Power Play multiplier was 3X. It has an estimated cash value prize of \$425.2 million. The prize is the fifth-largest Powerball jackpot ever won and the 10th-largest won in U.S. Lottery history, officials said. Two other winners in Florida and Texas matched five numbers with the Power Play for \$2 million. Players in California, Connecticut, Florida and Maryland matched five numbers for \$1 million prizes. Officials said the winning ticket was sold at the Food Castle of Grand Blanc. “I don’t know who won. I hope it was one of our regulars,” said Bill Nannoshi, owner of Food Castle. At press time the person had not yet come forward to claim the prize; the winner has one year from the date of the drawing to claim it.



Brother and sister Gina and Chris D. both won big at **Rampart Casino**. Gina was visiting her brother in Las vegas all the way from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.



Meet the happy staff at **Boulder Station!** (From left to right) Betty H., Brian G., Kim C., Trina B., and Manuel L.

Wish Ball  BINGO ON B-3 **\$1,000**
 BINGO ON ANY NUMBER ENDING IN 3 **\$500**
 Every Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday in March at the 1pm, 3pm, 7pm, & 9pm Sessions
 Must be validated to win.

SUPER SESSION
 MARCH 6-7-8-9-10-11-12
MARCH 9 DOORS OPEN: 10AM GAMES START: 1PM
MARCH 6-12 DOORS OPEN: 6PM GAMES START: 8PM

Five & Ten  **\$5 PACKS PAY \$250** **\$10 PACKS PAY \$500**
 MARCH 13 11AM • 1PM • 3PM • 7PM • 9PM • 11PM SESSIONS (NO 5PM SESSION)
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

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