

March 2024 • Vol. 44 • No. 3

#### North America's Casino & Gaming Newspaper

Northern California

#### TOP BINGO GAMES Colusa Casino Resort Hard Rock Sacramento Bingo **Durant Square Bingo** 8 Southside Community 11 Center Bingo 40 & 8 Bingo 11 San Martin Lions Bingo 11 Milpitas Charity Bingo 12





#### **GAMING NEWS**

#### **Chestnut Wins Bagel-Eating Contest**

Joey Chestnut, the numberone-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 numbertwo-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 Draft-Kings, 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

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 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.

Garden Company bowed out

#### **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

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

by Georgians to bet across state

lines between September and

November and 1.7 million by

#### 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 driveand 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."

#### 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 FI-NALLY 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

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

Write me at: bingo@earthlink.net





# FOLLOW THE BINGO BUGLE ON INSTAGRAM@ **BINGO - BUGLE - BAY\_AREA**



# bingo!

at colusa casino resort



#### check out our Special Days! FRIDAY BINGO PARTY hey there,

LET'S PLAY!

12 GAMES | Win up to \$2,000 on regular session games with the Bingo Punch Board (Single Winners Only)

March 1<sup>ST</sup> & 15<sup>TH</sup> / **6pm** / Admissions open at 3:00pm

10 Drawings |

Dawg House Cash Cube | Bingopoly

#### SPRING FLING BLOWOUT!

March 24th / 12pm / Admissions open at 8:00am

**20 GAMES PAY \$2,500** 

Reserve Your Seat by 3/20/24 for Discounted Pricing, Free Lunch and Instant Rewards (Issued On 3/24/24).

\$75,000 in total payouts **FRIDAY** WEDNESDAY THURSDAY SATURDAY 6pm / Admissions Open at 3:30pm 6pm / Admissions Open at 3:30pm 12pm / Admissions Open at 9:30am \$30,000 DAWG HOUSE CASH CUBE **CASH BASH** Look for this symbol to

12 GAMES PAY \$1,199

**BLOWOUT** QUALIFIER

12 GAMES PAY \$1,199 HIGH/LOW VIP DRAWINGS

12 GAMES PAY 20 \$1,199 FLOOR CLERK

DRAWING

12 GAMES PAY \$1,199

HIGH/LOW

SENIOR DAY 5 INTERMISSION **DRAWINGS** 

Win up to \$500

14 SENIOR DAY INTERMISSION DRAWINGS

21 SENIOR DAY 5 INTERMISSION **DRAWINGS** 

SENIOR DAY 28 **5 INTERMISSION DRAWINGS** 15 GAMES **ULTIMATE WIN** 

12 GAMES

SEE YOU

8

15

22

29

SATURDAY!

SEE YOU SATURDAY!

**SEE YOU** SATURDAY!

8

20 GAMES PAY \$1,199 Door Prize Drawings | Gift Bags

**15 GAMES PAY** \$1,199 HIGH/LOW

> 15 GAMES **ULTIMATE WIN**

16

23

15 GAMES PAY \$1,199 HIGH/LOW

15 GAMES PAY \$1,199

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** DRAWINGS

**ELECTRONIC SPECIALS** 

SUNDAY

15 GAMES PAY \$1,199

> 15 GAMES **ULTIMATE WIN**

10

17 **15 GAMES PAY** <sup>\$</sup>1,199 HIGH/LOW

SPRING FLING 24 BLOWOUT 20 GAMES PAY \$2,500 \$75,000

> 31 **HAPPY EASTER! SEE YOU** WEDNESDAY!

#### THURSDAY SPECIALS

12 GAMES PAY \$1,000

WILLOW \$60 CEDAR \$100 CEDAR X \$60

27

**OAK \$130 OAK X \$80** 

BUY 5, **GET 2 FREE** 

Pick-8 Not Included

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OAK X PACKS with Oak Buy-In

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Oak Buy-In for Spring Fling Blowout \$250 Cash \$100 Instant Rewards Multiple Winners Split \$500

Guests 50+ Receive a Free 1/2 Pack Single Winner on the Half Pack Wins an

Extra \$500 Multiple Winners split \$500 **ULTIMATE WIN** 

\$1,900

\$1,199 Cash Payout \$201 Instant Rewards \$500 Cash Match

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Winner Receives Daily \$100 Free Bingo Pack \$50 Instant Rewards \$13 Snack Bar Credit

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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 knowit-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. 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

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.

# Poker Talk

# 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 QH2H-10S8CAS.

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 5S5D. 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 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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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) costar. (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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### BINGO LAND

STORIES 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 at her Los Angeles home.

She added: "Once my shows have finished, I want to do weekly activities with my friends in my house at home, right. An activity every week and I was like: 'Oh my God! I should do Bingo!' My grandmas and my aunties when I was younger would play Bingo on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I used to think that maybe they had a gambling problem and it wasn't until I was older that I realized it was a socializing thing more than anything. So, then I was like: Oh maybe I can start actually doing it in real life, but they've closed down. We used to have one called Gala Bingo. Anyway, I'm gonna start hosting a weekly Bingo."

However, Adele might not have a huge amount of free time to devote to Bingo this year as reports suggest she's in talks to return to her native London for a homecoming show as well as playing other cities across Europe.

A source told *The Sun* newspaper: "Adele has found a new zest for live performances in Vegas. Her stage fright has diminished, her voice is really strong and she is ready to do some gigs again in Europe." Whatever her plans, we at the *Bingo Bugle* hope her Bingo nights become a reality for her!





#### **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 releasing every Friday. (Amazon Prime Video)

*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 Alessandra

#### **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 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>\$\$ 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 3<sup>rd</sup>\$ 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\$

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 blackiack. 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

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 22 to Dec. 21 1st thru 6th... Odds in yr favor the 2<sup>nd</sup>\$\$ 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 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>! 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.

\$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).

**Veterans Post** 

#### 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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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 per-

by Henry Tamburin

#### 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





#### by Jeff Pickering





#### The Story Of Milpitas Charity Bingo How It Has Disbursed Over \$2 Million in Grants to Local Nonprofits

Rhoda Shapiro – The Milpitas Beat February 1, 2024



#### Photo courtesy of Milpitas Charity Bingo.

Most evenings, if you're driving down South Milpitas Boulevard, you're likely to notice a certain location hopping with activity...

That spot is known as Milpitas Charity Bingo, and it has been embraced by the community since it opened in September 2019.

From all over the Bay Area, bingo players flock to Milpitas Charity Bingo, located at 461 S. Milpitas Blvd., citing its ultra-friendly staff and volunteers, cleanliness, and fun atmosphere as among their main reasons for coming every week.

And not only is it beloved by bingo players; it's also a place where nonprofit organizations have found the opportunity to volunteer and receive generous donations in the process. Nonprofits like the Milpitas Historical Society, the Milpitas Executive Lions Club, and Hope for

the Unhoused send volunteers out on a monthly basis to help out during bingo games.

Milpitas resident Cheryl Oldham works to organize and volunteer with three different entities that lend their time to Milpitas Charity Bingo in return for donations – Youth in Arts Milpitas, Fancy Dancers, Inc., and Milpitas High School Music Boosters.

"I'm so grateful that Milpitas Charity Bingo has created this opportunity for the families of our area to raise funds," Oldham told The Beat. "It just takes a few hours and it's not too far from home. We get to meet some amazing bingo patrons and at the same time, support our local families."

In the bingo industry, Milpitas Charity Bingo is quite unique. Usually, a single nonprofit group

runs a bingo game, and that group then gets to keep what it receives in donations. However, Milpitas Charity Bingo is its own entity, offering nonprofit organizations throughout Milpitas the ability to volunteer and make money for their own groups on a monthly basis.

Bob Livengood, who served as Mayor of Milpitas from 1984-1988 and 2008-2010, came up with the initial idea for Milpitas Charity Bingo. After he left office in 2010, Livengood was approached by representatives from a couple of small nonprofit organizations who asked if he had any ideas for raising funds.

He learned that most small nonprofit organizations didn't have a reliable mechanism for raising funds each year. They were all attempting the same kind of fundraising efforts – like selling candy or doing car washes. And despite all their time and energy, they just weren't raising enough money.

Livengood knew there had to be a better way.

"Most nonprofits are small groups, and they have a difficult time raising money," Bob Livengood told The Beat. "I saw an opportunity to help out these smaller groups – the PTAs, the sports teams, all of the folks that struggle."

Soon Livengood started looking into the possibility of bingo – and from there the whole idea for Milpitas Charity Bingo blossomed.

"I found out about bingo by talking to people and looking on Google," said Livengood. "There were all these small bingo games in churches and American Legion halls. And I began to think, we can do that in Milpitas."

But the applicable ordinance in Milpitas only allowed for a given entity to organize bingo games one night a week. So in 2017, Livengood went to the City Council to ask for a change to five nights. They agreed, and the rest is history.

"Since its inception, Milpitas Charity Bingo has disbursed more than \$2 million dollars in grants to local charities, churches, nonprofits, and foundations. And we're just getting started!" said Livengood.

At Milpitas Charity Bingo, games go on five nights a week, Thursday to Monday. They're open regularly from 5:30pm-10pm, and have special matinee hours from 12pm-2pm on weekends. There are no games on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Currently, Milpitas Charity Bingo has about 35 different nonprofit volunteer groups in its lineup, which they refer to as "nonprofit partners." For each night of bingo, a new group comes in.

Each of these nonprofit groups must bring seven volunteers to work one night a month. Sometimes, members from more than one nonprofit group will volunteer, and the different groups will share in the donations.

The volunteers mostly do sales, work the bingo floor, and sell bingo cards to players.

As far as the amount of donations received, every night is different. Nonprofit groups receive money based on donations made by the players

"On an average night, it's about \$1,000," said Livengood. "Some nights they make more than that"

Rob Jung is the President of Hope for the Unhoused (H4U), a nonprofit organization that has been working to reduce homelessness in Milpitas since it was founded in 2020.

"Milpitas Charity Bingo is a critical partner for H4U because they provide us additional funding for us to provide Milpitas unhoused essential items such as food, water, tents, hygiene packs and sleeping bags," Jung shared with The Beat.

A bingo player from San Jose who wishes to be called Jill likes to come out to play at Milpitas Charity Bingo once a week. She remembers sitting in the parking lot and playing in her car a few years ago, during the height of the pandemic.

"It's my escape. I still go once a week. I like that they help out a lot of different organizations. It's not just focused on one group. They help the whole community," Jill told The Beat.

Andy Junio has been playing at Milpitas Charity Bingo since it opened. When asked why he prefers it over other spots, he said, "The staff is friendly, there are nice people here, and they give us more incentives compared to other bingo halls."

Debbie Engley has been playing bingo since 1997, after a friend happened to introduce her to the game. Since then, she has been hooked. She started coming out to Milpitas Charity Bingo since the day of its inception, and continues to come just about every day it's open.

"I'm a creature of habit. And once I find a place I like, I tend to set roots," Engley told The Beat. "The people that run it are really nice, and the people that work there are nice. After a while, they've become like family. I've met a lot of people there that I've grown friendships with."

Livengood, who is currently a Trustee on the San Jose Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) Board, likes to come into Milpitas Charity Bingo a few times a week – to stay connected to the players and also offer support to any of the volunteers who need it.

"This is working because the City is so supportive of us. We would have never gotten here if not for them," shared Livengood. "It's also working because of the awesome nonprofits that come in every day we play and provide that level of assistance. I can't say enough about them. They walk in and are ready to go and work hard for three hours. It makes me very proud of our community."



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Games 7:00pm M-F • 2:00pm Sat
Closed Sunday
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Monday-Thursday
1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, & 7:00pm

833-337-3473

MILPITAS CHARITY BINGO
461 S. Milpitas Blvd.,
Milpitas, CA 95035
Evening Sessions (Strips & Flash)
Thursday-Monday
Doors 3:30pm • Session 6:30pm
Matinee Sessions
(Paper Bingo & Flash)
Saturday-Sunday
Doors 10:00am • Session 12:00noon
408-649-3055

#### **TUESDAY**

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1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, & 7:00pm
833-337-3473

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Monday-Thursday
1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, & 7:00pm
833-337-3473

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Colusa Casino Reso 3770 Hwy. 45, Colu Doors 3:30pm Games 6:00pm 530-458-8844

HARD ROCK HOTEL & SACRAMENTO AT FIRE IS 3317 Forty Mile Ro Wheatland, CA 956 Monday-Thursday 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:833-337-3473

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Colusa Casino Resort 3770 Hwy. 45, Colusa, CA 95932 Doors 3:30pm Games 6:00pm 530-458-8844

MILPITAS CHARITY BINGO 461 S. Milpitas Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035 Evening Sessions (Strips & Flash) Thursday-Monday

Doors 3:30pm • Session 6:30pm

Matinee Sessions
(Paper Bingo & Flash)
Saturday-Sunday
Doors 10:00am • Session 12:00noon

408-649-3055

#### **SATURDAY**

DURANT SQUARE BINGO
10800 International Blvd.
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Doors 3:30pm M-F • 11:00am Sat
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Saturday-Sunday

Doors 10:00am • Session 12:00noon

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#### **SUNDAY**

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Evening Sessions (Strips & Flash)
Thursday-Monday
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Matinee Sessions
(Paper Bingo & Flash)
Saturday-Sunday
Doors 10:00am • Session 12:00noon

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7:00 PM

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M9 DE:E

7:00 PM

THURSDAY

M9 OE:E

7:00 PM

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#### by Frederick Woodruff 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.

Savvy Senior

Are spouses who have not worked out-

side the home eligible for Medicare bene-

fits? I have worked most of my adult life,

but my wife has been a mother and home-

maker 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

**Medicare Spouse** 

Lucky Days: 7 - 22 Lucky Numbers: 35 - 55

by Jim Miller

Coverage

Dear Savvy Senior,

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

older as well as those vounger that have Older Spou 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

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



#### On3supply 2024 Ford Mustang Sweepstakes

1 Grand prize: 2024 Ford Mustang with \$5,000 cash (\$60,000)

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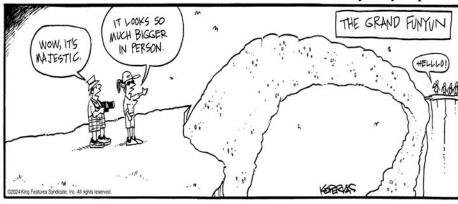
Deadline: Received by 9/30/24.

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.racingjunk.com.



#### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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 en-

#### 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 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 allin-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.

#### 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

# COFFEE BREAK

#### BINGO BUGLE CROSSWORD

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Subject of the 1998 Supreme Court case New Jersey v. New York
- 12 Information
- 15 "Tristes apprets" from "Castor et Pollux," e.g.
- 16 Billy's reply?
- 17 Group sharing a name with a cranberry cocktail
- 18 Docs' work areas
- 19 Slip or clip follower
- 20 Rich rocks
- 21 Hot
- 23 Satyr's kin
- 24 Rear
- 25 Obvious
- 28 Holiday decor item
- 29 Final announcements
- 30 Comes across
- \_ Crossroads": Bone Thugs-n-Harmony song
- 32 Hue
- 33 Game with a varying number of cards
- 34 Like many horses
- 35 \_\_ Nova
- 36 Turkestan tents
- 37 Full moon, e.g.
- 38 Sports nail-biters
- 40 Felix \_\_\_, CIA friend of Bond
- 41 Siouan tribe
- 42 Portrayer of Buddy's father in "Elf"
- 43 Acrimonious
- 44 Prince in "Frozen"
- 45 Wise chip flavor
- 48 Low numéro
- 49 Actress in "Spy" (2015)
- 52 Wet blanket
- 53 "Grown Ups" star
- 54 Loan application fig.
- 55 Al Jazeera and Yomiuri Shimbun

- 1 1960s-'70s Orr teammate, to fans
- 2 Prime cut
- 3 OR teammates
- 4 Needle 5 Apia natives
- 6 Suffering from ennui
- 7 "Either/Or" author Kierkegaard
- 8 Muscles strengthened by muscle-ups
- 9 Shipping nickname
- 10 Longtime Seattle Mariners' majority owner
- 11 Jersey homes
- 12 "Couldn't agree with you more!"

- 16 17 18 26 27 28 30 32 35 40 38 39 41 42 43 44 48 49 53
- 13 It has its kinks
- 14 Basic kids' book
- 22 Key to backing up?
- 23 Regale
- 24 Some royals
- 25 Betty Crocker brand of instant mashed
- 26 Indigenous Tasmanians
- 27 Show biz nickname
- 28 Gelato units
- 30 Kindles
- 33 Hitchhike \_ splints
- 36 Every Skull and Bones member, until 1991
- 37 Serf
- 39 Hood's weapon
- 40 Convertible carriage
- 42 "I'll show you!"
- 44 Acting coach's banes
- 45 Bundle in a field 46 Maverick on TV

- 47 Game divs.
- 50 Unembellished
- 51 Med. number that's better when it's

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# PERSONNEL Find at least six differences in details between panels

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: I. Newspaper is longer. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Lapel is missing. 4. File cabinet is taller. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Jacket sleeve is character.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



## CryptoQuote

#### **AXYDLBAAXR** is LONGFELLOW

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

PYEQN OQSWH YTP Q ITKHP KDPHSFTEH JYS NYTSCHFJ KD XUKOU PY ESHQR, BHD KD UQDE. YDFN ESHQRC LKWH AKSPU PY OUQDLH.

CQSQU AQD ASHQPUDQOU

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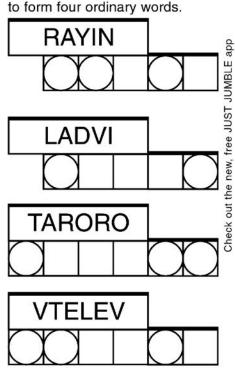
#### - Sarah Ban Breathnach

dream, pen in hand. Only dreams give birth to change. Today carve out a quiet interlude for yourself in which to

**CryptoQuote** 



Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square,



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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



OVER

He practiced the high jump — OVER AND :Y9Wer: VELVET **AOTARO** VALID :səlquinr YNIAA



The Bingo Bugle is on Instagram!



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#### **Americanisms**



"Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself."

— Harvey Fierstein

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SPONSOR: 40&8 Voiture 365

ALL REGULAR GAMES PAY \$120 EACH \$250 BLACK OUT GUARANTEED Minimum Buy-In is 2 Packs \$7.00 Each Additional Pack is \$3.50

5 All Number Games 14 Regular Games \$3.00 & \$5.00 Script Games - Flash Boards

SMALL CROWDS
GREAT ODDS TO WIN

**Color Monitors** 

#### **WE DO BIRTHDAYS!**

Must Show ID and Be the <u>Current Calendar Week</u>
of the Bingo Session
\$1.00 for 1st Pack
Additional Packs \$3.50 Each
Free "Happy Birthday" Dauber

Do you have the Milpites Charley Elngo Mobile App?







Where Fun is Number One

John Our Text Message



and information about special events, coupons promotions&discounts



We Play at 6:30pm-Doors Open by 3:30pm

We Will Play 10 Strips & 4 Premium Strips

\*Birthday Club Discounts not available for Mega Max'd Out Sessions.

BUY-IN PACKAGE INCLUDES:

4 SETS OF \$2500 STRIPS 4 PREMIUM \$5000 STRIPS

You Can Purchase Extra Strips at \$25 Per Set American Heroes, Bingo Shark, Monopoly & Broadway

4-DOUBLE ACTION

BUY-IN ONLY \$120! LIMITED NUMBER OF BUY-INS AVAILABLE

Must reserve your seat & pay for your buy-in on the App to guarantee your reservation.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH ST. PATRICK'S DAY DOUBLE HEADER

MATINEE SESSION: 12 NOON - Doors Open by 10am **BUY-IN \$40/BINGO PAYOUTS: \$500** 

6:30pm - Doors Open by 3:30pm

**EVENING SESSION:** BUY-IN \$60, \$100, \$150

ALL STRIPS ARE \$1777 (\$250/\$1777) TONIGHT!

PLUS MONOPOLY \$5K Must-Go and IRISH COINS \$2500 Must-Go

Mega Max'd Out starting March 16th





"Lots of fun! Clean. Very comfortable seats. Check in is fast and friendly. Strips and tabs available at counter. Gave us a free douber for our first time visit. They offer free buyin during your birthdaymonth, Callers are loud and clear and folks are patients. We really enjoyed ourselves!" - Rose

"Proud of being a part of the MCB fam since day one! When I didn't win, I just thought of it as a charity... giving back to the community! But of course winning on weekend matinees and strip nights is always a plus I like the way Steve, Joe, Bob and the rest of the staff interact with the members. Feels like a second family to me! There's no place like MCB. They treat everyone like family!" - Agnes



Matinee Bingo Buy-in MATINEE PAPER BINGO **PAYOUTS - \$500!** 

Every Saturday & Sunday - 12 Noon - Doors Open @ 10 AM



Coupon must be used by March 31, 2024.