



The Bowfin Inquirer



August 2026

Bowfin Street Pizza/Potluck Party

Date: **Saturday, September 19**

Time: **4 PM – 6 PM +**

Place: **344 Bowfin St Backyard**

A great chance to meet your neighbors! 9 of the 38 families on Bowfin have already RSVPed they'll be coming. If you'd like to attend and haven't already reached us regarding that, please do so promptly at editor@bowfininquirer.com

A Binocs Soapbox

by Jerry Lerman (344)

Coming up in just a few months for Eve and me is a two week trip to the country of South Africa, including a two day visit to its Kruger National Park. I shared this info with my lifelong friend, David, in a phone call a few days ago. David is an avid birder and photographer, and his travels have included seeing the wildlife and avifauna of Kruger. After our phone discussion, he couldn't help but send me some "unsolicited" (as he put it) advice: get a good pair of binoculars for the trip!

He emailed me links to commercial sites that sell excellent, but not exactly *cheap*, optical instruments. The prices prompted me to check out the specifications of the binoculars that we already had stashed away in a cupboard. I found that their magnification and lens diameter numbers

continued on page 3

Aaron's Question Column



A lunar rock sample collected on the Apollo 14 mission. Credit: NASA

Questions: The moon landing by Armstrong and Aldrin on July 20, 1969, and subsequent visits have included bringing back moon rocks. I assume they've been studied by now, and I'm wondering what has been learned from them? Also, are any on public display?

-Jerry

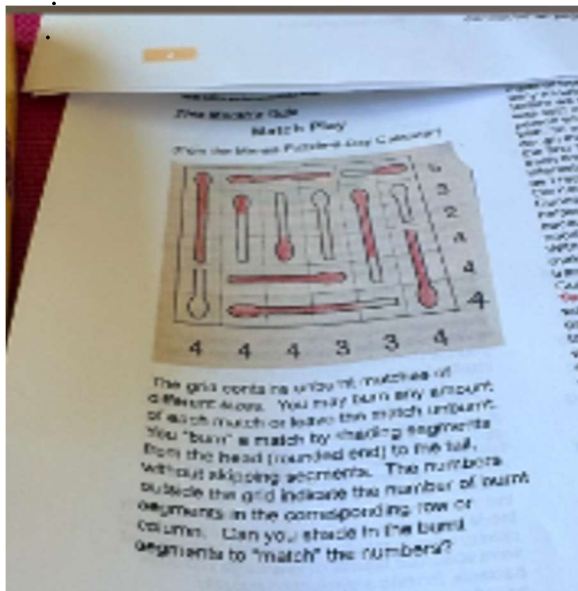
Aaron's Answer (A'sA): The Apollo missions returned over eight hundred pounds of lunar material, including basalt rocks, core samples, pebbles and dust gathered during human exploration of the Moon. These extraterrestrial samples have undergone decades of rigorous laboratory research, transforming human understanding of planetary science and the origin of our solar system.

Researchers have established several discoveries that confirm the history of the Moon. First, chemical analysis demon-

continued on page 3

Solution to Last Month's Quiz

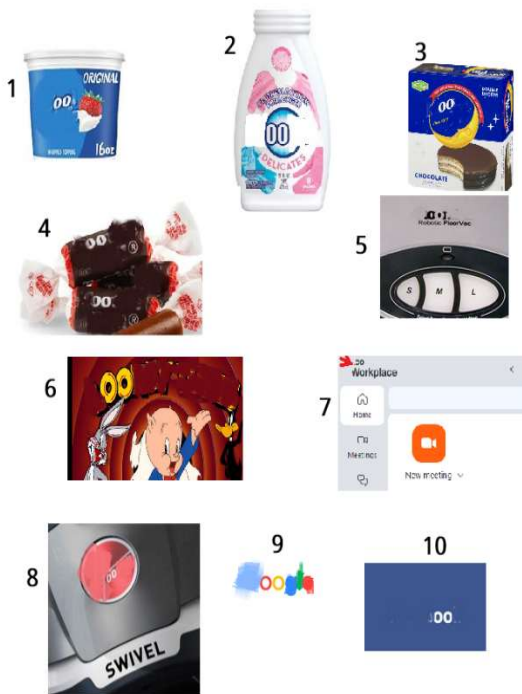
Match Play



Solution provided by neighbor, Ronav K.

This Month's Quiz

OO La La!



Identify the full brand names of the ten pictured items. Spell them out in their corresponding entries below. The lengths of the brands' word or words you'll need are provided in parentheses.

From the letters you've entered, transfer exactly one from each into the NAME grid to **root** out the author whose novels included a famous "double-O."

1. OO (4,4)

2. OO (7)

3. OO (4,3)

4. OO (7,4)

5. OO (6)

6. OO (6,5)

7. OO (4)

8. OO (6)

9. OO (6)

10. OO (8)

Name Grid

1 5 3

10 4 8 7 2 6 9

Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1

strated that lunar rocks share oxygen isotopic compositions similar to Earth, supporting the theory that the Moon formed following a collision between early Earth and a Mars sized planetesimal. Returned samples also contained anorthosite, proving that a molten magma ocean once covered the entire surface of the Moon. Geologists used radiometric dating on lunar basalts to make age benchmarks, which now help scientists determine the age of planetary surfaces across the solar system. Modern reanalysis of sealed core samples revealed trace amounts of water molecules locked inside volcanic glass beads, demonstrating that the lunar interior contains volatile compounds previously thought to be absent.

Public access to these historical artifacts remains widespread today. While NASA preserves the majority of specimens inside the Lunar Sample Laboratory Facility at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, selected rocks are on public display worldwide. Visitors can view these samples at major institutions, including the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, Space Center Houston, the American Museum of Natural History in New York and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Additional goodwill rocks given to foreign governments are showcased in museums across the globe, ensuring that the legacy of lunar exploration remains accessible to the public. With the rejuvenation of space exploration in recent years, maybe sometime in the future we will be able to secure more samples of the Moon.

Now at Hillbarn Theatre



Binocs Soapbox continued from pg. 1

weren't quite as high as the 8x magnification David had recommended for good looks at those lions, leopards, rhinos, and exotic birds.

So, why am I calling this column a 'soapbox'? Well, Eve remembered there was a camera store on Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park, and David had suggested we might want to buy locally, rather than from a website. So we paid a visit to Mike's Camera. There we explained our situation to Mark, who was very helpful in finding us suitable binoculars (we bought Nikon Monarch M7 8x42) at a comparable price to what we'd seen online. *He also inserted the straps and adjusted them for us, a level of service exceeding what one gets from online commerce!*

Should you find yourself needing high quality photographic equipment or binoculars, you might want to turn to Mike's Camera. *End of soapbox!* 😊



Postscript: While preparing this article, I found that REI also carries the binoculars – at an identical price to Mike's. But I don't know if they'll install and adjust the straps!

Target Date for YOUR Contributions to the next BI:

September 23, 2026

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or questions for Aaron at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our email address EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM or

by adding a NOTE on our website:

BOWFININQUIRER.COM