



B · I · N · G · O

Everyone wins at Brazos Valley Bingo. Although players can win up to \$500 per game, there is more to gain from bingo than something monetary.

Those who don't win money get an inexpensive night of fun and the satisfaction of helping three worthwhile non-profit organizations in the Brazos Valley — the Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, the Boys Clubs of Brazos County and the Child Placement Center.

Jack Greve, the caller for Brazos Valley Bingo, said each charitable organization raises funds from three designated bingo sessions per week. The money generated at the particular sessions pays for the organization's wages, rent and other expenses.

Two sessions of bingo per night are conducted Wednesday through Saturday at 7:15 and 9:00 p.m. and one early session on Tuesday night. Speed bingo begins at 6:45 every night but Friday.

Greve said speed, package and instant bingo are all played throughout the week.

If spending time with friends and giving money to charitable organizations is not enough to draw you to the bingo hall, the money given away will. In addition to the \$500 games lucky bingo players can win, Greve said \$2,500 per session in prize money is allocated for package bingo and \$1,500 for

pull tab or instant bingo.

This large amount of available winnings causes people to take their bingo seriously.

In addition to a posted sign requesting people to keep voices to a minimum, Greves must ask that the noise be kept to a "library quiet" during games so players can concentrate on their bingo cards. This is an understandable request since some players play as many as 36 cards per game surrounded by about 225 people each night.

Of the people who attend bingo, Greve said about 70 percent are women. He said all ages of people, including students, attend the weekly sessions.

For people who want to share in the fun and winnings of bingo and gain the satisfaction of helping local charities, go see Brazos Jack at the bingo hall.

He'll greet you every time with, "Brazos Jack welcomes you back to Brazos Valley Bingo."

**Story by
Stacy E. Allen
Photos by
Phelan M. Ebenhack**



TOP: "Brazos Jack" Greve calls out numbers to bingo players in the Townshire Shopping Center. Nicknamed by his players, he has controlled the flow of the game since Brazos Valley Bingo opened in August 1988. **ABOVE:** Players continue to play the game, even after filling trash cans with losing cards. Prizes range from \$1 to \$500.



After picking a ball from an air hopper, Greve displays the number in front of a video camera which projects the number on to television screens around the hall for players to double check the cards.