

by Jill Laufer - FloBowling

by Jill Laufer - FloBowling

Danny Wiseman Honored With PBA Community Service Award

Well into retirement as a
continued on page 8

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PBA Makes The Big Time With \$1 Million Players Championship

-\$250,000 First Place Prize Tops Historic Prize Fund-

by Dave Williams

A recent news release from the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) must have caught many of the 3,000 PBA bowlers by surprise... a \$1,000,000 tournament with a \$250,000 first place prize! All that you can say to that is thank you to the Bowlero chain and for what they have done for professional bowling in the past couple of years.

The format is a bit involved, but also explains why CEO Colie Edison and her folks can offer such a substantial prize. A normal tournament comprises anywhere from 160 to 240 entrants at a particular location. However, by opening up the event to five regional tournaments, the entries are quintupled to a range of 800 to 1,200 competitors.

That's genius! Each regional will be a 28-game event, with the top five in each region advancing to the national finals in Jupiter, Florida. According to the PBA release, the five finalists from each region will roll a separate televised final between January 24th and February 14th, with the sixth telecast featuring the five regional winners competing for all that prize money on Sunday, February 21st, at 12:30 PM on Fox Broadcasting Network.

That's also genius! On more than one occasion we have alluded to the fact that the corona hysteria was actually a blessing in disguise for bowling, because the events could all be conducted in a weekend, and then spread out over a series of weeks, saving an enormous amount of production costs. Frank Esposito, a founding member of the PBA and TV Coordinator for more than 40 years, once told me, "Bowling is the perfect sport for television, because it is in a controlled space and requires very little set up, and only two cameras!"

The \$250,000 first place prize brings back memories of my involvement with Seagram's Coolers and the US Open in the late 1980's. When AMF first brought me to Westbury, New York, to work at the ivy covered walls of the famous world headquarters as Vice President of Marketing for AMF Bowling Centers, it was truly a dream come true. And the marketing opportunities were extensive, with Madison Avenue just a train ride away on the Long Island Railroad.

Every weekend that I wasn't working away from home usually culminated in a trip to Manhattan, where I put my geography degree to good use by exploring the many incredible buildings and architectural wonders that the city had to offer. One of those visits led to a meeting with Mr. Pat Roney of Seagram's, in a skyscraper noted for its black obelisk appearance and the famous Four Seasons Restaurant.

Our meetings led to a couple of nationwide marketing campaigns with the newly created Seagram's

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Get Things Rolling! - Advertisements similar to this ran in bowling publications and community newspapers from coast to coast in 1986

Wine Coolers at all of the AMF Bowling Centers locations in the United States... "Get Things Rolling" in the fall and winter months, and "Roll for Gold" in the summertime. Both were incredibly successful league promotions that incorporated Pan American World Airways (another weekend adventure to Manhattan), Quality and Comfort Inns, Coca-Cola and others, as additional corporate sponsors.

Ironically, the "Get Things Rolling" promotion paralleled the new PBA event to some degree, with ten regional roll offs throughout the United States, leading up to the national finals at AMF Altamonte Lanes in suburban Orlando, Florida. After a couple of successful years under our belt, Roney asked if there were any other bowling groups that he could approach that wouldn't upset our relationship. I put Pat in touch with the Bowling Proprietors Association

of America (BPAA), and the Seagram's Coolers U.S. Open for both men and women was inaugurated in 1987.

Another interesting analogy is that the \$100,000 first place prize won by Del Ballard in the 1987 U.S. Open would be equivalent to \$230,000 today! I don't know why the PBA and Seagram's Coolers ended their relationship after only three years, because I had moved on to American Recreation Centers (ARC) in 1989, but those years were certainly a boost to the PBA in terms of exposure and prize money for the bowlers.

As Bon Jovi once said, *"The more things change, the more they stay the same."* Here's hoping that this new format provides the PBA with many years of success for the organization and their players.



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Please email us at info@tatbowl.com with any questions. You can also call us 844-321-8100 or message us directly on Facebook. We hope everyone is staying safe and has a great Holiday Season!

USBC will be contacting state associations to share details on how to receive funding. Additional information about the USBC state association aid program, including the amount of funding available to each state, is published on BOWL.com.



from your friends at



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SEASON PREVIEW: CONTENDERS FOR 2021 PWBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ARLINGTON, Texas – Working from a points-based format, the winner of the Professional Women’s Bowling Association Player of the Year award has been determined prior to the start of the final event of the year in each of the last three seasons.

Two of those seasons registered on the recent count-down of the top 20 seasons in the history of professional women’s bowling (Liz Johnson’s 2017 and Shannon O’Keefe’s 2019), so one could expect a player to run away from the rest of the tour on the points list. And, they were incredibly fun to watch.

While it may be hard to recreate the drama from the 2015 season, (Stefanie Johnson had to double in the 10th frame of the title match to win the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship AND PWBA Player of the Year), the upcoming 2021 campaign may offer the most overall excitement we’ve seen yet.

With six additional events on the schedule, and the twist of the Classic Series events, the scenarios for player of the year (and rookie of the year) heading into the Fall Classic Series to finish the season in October and November could be endless.

Players only are guaranteed spots in two of the three events of the Fall Classic Series, and they must earn their spots into the final event of the season.

What does this mean for PWBA fans? If someone has locked up player-of-the-year honors before the Fall Classic Series, that player likely has put together a season worthy of being included in the next edition of the top 20 seasons.

If the award is up for grabs? Well, let’s just say it’s going to be fun crunching the numbers during those final three events, live on [BowlingTV.com](#).

Speaking of crunching the numbers, you won’t find a better deal on a one-year subscription to BowlingTV than between now and the end of 2020. Pick up the entire 2021 PWBA Tour season, and much more, for just \$49.95 – a savings of \$30.

Which players could be in the mix for the award at the end of the season?



Shannon O’Keefe, Danielle McEwan & Dasha Kovalova

We already discussed in this story the reasons why Shannon O’Keefe, the two-time reigning PWBA Player of the Year, could be on her way to another big season in 2021. She has a permanent spot on this preseason prediction list.

O’Keefe’s closest challenger the last two seasons has been five-time PWBA Tour champion Danielle McEwan, who finished second in points in both 2018 and 2019.

McEwan has been in the top five in points in each of her five seasons on tour, finishing third in 2016, fourth in 2015 and fifth in 2017.

Her consistency has been incredible and matched only by the two players who have won the player-of-the-year award in the last five seasons – O’Keefe and Liz Johnson.

What could make 2021 McEwan’s breakthrough year? During a recent stop on The PWBA Podcast, McEwan

was asked about her goals going into the 2021 season. She previously has kept those to herself in other interviews but did say that “I have been sitting here for the last year thinking about my goals and how bad I want to achieve them. So, they’re going to be bigger and better than ever.”

We certainly can speculate winning the PWBA Player of the Year award is one of those goals, but the biggest moment for McEwan leading into the 2021 season could have been her performance at the PBA League All Star Clash.

Although she didn’t collect the win that day in Centreville, Virginia, she packed an entire year’s worth of clutch strikes and pressure moments into one session on her way to a third-place finish.

Add those to her big-time double to win the U.S. Women’s Open in 2019, and it seems like McEwan’s confidence is at an all-time high.

Dasha Kovalova was the tour’s breakout star in 2019. With two wins, a major and a major moment (300 on TV!) during the year, she finished the season third on the points list.

The 26-year-old right-hander made the stepladder finals in three of the four majors in 2019, and she looked comfortable and confident during each of those appearances.

After a season like that, expectations moving forward for Kovalova are high, but the progression she’s exhibited through her first four seasons on tour suggests she’ll be staying near the top of the points list.

Kovalova has shown improvement each year since joining the tour in 2016, and she’s continued to add new facets to her game to become a more versatile competitor.

Now, she knows how to win. We could continue moving along the points list to name other players in contention for PWBA Player of the Year honors in 2021.

Liz Johnson still is Liz Johnson, so she’s always in the mix for a big season after winning the award three consecutive times (2015-2017). Jordan Richard will be in the discussion every year after just two seasons on tour.

The athlete looking to make the biggest jump in 2021, strictly looking at the 2019 points list, is Colombia’s Rocio Restrepo.

Restrepo nearly won player of the year in 2016 after capturing a pair of titles and finishing second in points to Johnson. She’s won four PWBA Tour titles and was in the top 10 in points in each of her first four seasons on tour (2015-2018). Injuries have slowed her down the past two seasons, though, and she only competed in eight events during the 2019 season to finish 27th in points.

Restrepo started to heat up toward the end of the 2019 season, however, finishing third at the BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open and 11th at the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship.

Don’t be surprised to see her near the top of the standings and making a return to player-of-the-year form in 2021.

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BOWLING CALENDAR

SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH EVENT IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE TO BE SURE THE CENTER IS OPEN FOR THE EVENT

DECEMBER

by Bette Addington

USBC Open Nationals, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV—CANCELED, [bowl.com](#) (2021 will be in Las Vegas, NV)
USBC Women’s Nationals, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV—CANCELED, [bowl.com](#) (2021 will be in Reno, NV)

- 26 – Elite Bowling Club 2 squad Scratch 5 Gamer, 9am & 1pm, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751
- 27 – Elite Bowling Club 2 squad Scratch 5 Gamer, 9am & 1pm, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751
- 26-30 – 17th JBT Las Vegas Main Event, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV, [bowljbt.com](#)
- 31 – Donation deadline for CA Bowling Writers 2020/17th annual Operation Freedom Paws Charity Drive, [www.calbowlingwriters.org](#)

JANUARY

- 2-7 – Team USA Trials, Western Bowl & Expo Bowl, Indianapolis, IN, [bowl.com](#)--CANCELLED
- 9 – Elite Bowling Club Women’s & Senior 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751
- 9-10 – Elite Bowling Club 3 squad 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751
- 15 – CUSBC State Hall of Fame/Star of Tomorrow, etc., submission deadline, [calusbc.com](#)
- 16 – Adult/Sr. VIP Doubles, Riverside Lanes, Laughlin, 909/628-3966, [5126fish@gmail.com](#)
- 16-26 – Military Bowling Championships, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, 800/257-6179, [high-roller.com](#)
- 17 – 13th Laughlin Blast Sr. No-Tap Doubles Handicap Tourn., Riverside Lanes, Laughlin, 619/251-9660
- 17-29 – BPAA & Bowling Summit, Nashville, TN, [bowlingsummit.com](#)
- 18-26 – PWBA Kickoff Classic Series, ITRC, Arlington, TX, [pwba.com](#)
- 19-21 – PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, [pwba.com](#)
- 22-23 – PWBA ITRC Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, [pwba.com](#)
- 25-26 – PWBW Hall of Fame Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, [pwba.com](#)
- 30 – Youth Sports USA Bowling Southwest Regional, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV, [bowl.com](#)
- 30 – PBA50, Bowlero Glendale, Glendale, AZ, [jblanchard@pba.com](#), 909/908-5713
- 31 – PBA Regular, Bowlero Glendale, Glendale, AZ, [jblanchard@pba.com](#), 909/908-5713

Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers ([www.calbowlingwriters.org](#))
Email your upcoming events for inclusion to [baddington@addington.net](#)

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MERRY CHRISTMAS BOWLING

by Frank Weiler

- Merry Christmas BOWLING – Merry Christmas Bowlers
- Merry Christmas WBA – Merry Christmas Kevin Dornberger (Retired)
- Merry Christmas USBC – Merry Christmas Chad Murphy
- Merry Christmas CAUSBC – Merry Christmas Larry Peppers
- Merry Christmas PBA – Merry Christmas Tom Clark
- Merry Christmas PWBA – Merry Christmas Tennelle Milligan
- Merry Christmas Bowling Coach’s –
Merry Christmas Mark Baker & All Coach’s
- Merry Christmas Bowling Proprietors –
Merry Christmas Bowlero & Independents
- Merry Christmas BPAA – Merry Christmas Frank DeSocio
- Merry Christmas Bowling Ball Manufacturer’s –
Merry Christmas Brunswick, Storm etc.
- Merry Christmas Bowling Publications –
Merry Christmas BJI, IBI etc.
- Merry Christmas Bowlers Journal International –
Merry Christmas Keith Hamilton
- Merry Christmas International Bowling Industry –
Merry Christmas Scott Frager
- Merry Christmas California Bowling News –
Merry Christmas Carol Mancini
- Merry Christmas Bowling World – Merry Christmas Donna Hazel
- Merry Christmas Bowling Media – Merry Christmas IBMA, CBW etc.
- Merry Christmas IBMA – Merry Christmas Johnny Campos
- Merry Christmas CBW – Merry Christmas Bette Addington

Wiseman continued from page 1
credited youth coach, Wiseman still takes notes from his lifelong coach, Bill Hall.

“**I learned a lot from Bill,**” Wiseman said. *“He’s been working with me since 1987, and I still go back to him when I have questions. He’s been a tremendous influence on me and continues to be as I work with the youth bowlers.”*

Established in 2013, the Tony Reyes Community Service Award recognizes a current PBA member who exemplifies extraordinary community service, charitable or educational contributions over the course of a PBA season. Reyes, who passed away in 2012, was an eight-time PBA Regional champion, collegiate All-American and the 18th player in PBA history to bowl a 300 game on national television.

Previous Tony Reyes Community Service Award Recipients
Chuck Gardner, 2019
Chris Barnes, 2018
Del Ballard Jr., 2017
Rhino Page, 2016
Ed Godbout, 2015
Missy Parkin, 2014
Parker Bohn III, 2013



START OF 2021 USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LAS VEGAS SHIFTS TO MAY 1

by Matt Cannizzaro

ARLINGTON, Texas - The start date of the 2021 United States Bowling Congress Open Championships will move to May 1, and the event will feature a modified schedule to allow for social distancing with one team per pair during competition. Flexibility in the availability of the South Point Bowling Plaza and nearby South Point Bowling Center, plus the commitment of the property’s leadership to the success of the 2021 USBC Open Championships, will allow up to 50,000 bowlers to return to the biggest stage in bowling in 2021.

The tournament is slated to run for 79 days from May 1-July 18, but adjustments to the daily squad schedule will allow the entry capacity to remain at more than 9,300 five-player teams. Based on demand, the 2021 Open Championships can be extended as far as July 31, increasing the potential capacity to nearly 11,000 teams.

The event originally was scheduled to begin March 6 and conclude July 18.

“We are grateful that our partners at South Point are as committed to the Open Championships as we are and that they were willing to help us find a way to conduct the event while meeting local social distancing guidelines,” USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. “We are confident that vaccine distribution in early 2021, along with good planning, will allow our members to return to the lanes and see champions crowned once again.”

Team competition will be held as planned at the 60-lane Bowling Plaza, while all doubles and singles competition will shift to the 64-lane Bowling Center, which previously hosted the Bowlers Journal Championships presented by USBC and team practice sessions during the run of the Open Championships in 2017 and 2019.

The new location for the Bowlers Journal Championships and practice sessions in 2021 will be announced by Feb. 1.

The primary need for the additional lanes for the 2021 Open Championships is because team competition will shift from the traditional two teams per pair of lanes, to just one, to meet with the social-distancing requirements in Nevada. The maximum number of teams per day will be approximately 120, but four team squads will be required, instead of just two.

The doubles and singles format will not change, and each pair of lanes still will feature four bowlers (two doubles teams) as planned. There will be five squads of D/S each day.

The team times for 2021 will be at 8 a.m., noon, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., and D/S squads will take place at 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Teams signed up to compete in March and April will work with the tournament staff to select alternative dates, but if the timing doesn’t work, captains will have the option to receive a tournament credit toward their 2022 entries or receive a complete refund.

Teams currently scheduled to bowl in May, June or July will not be required to change their competition dates, but they may be assigned new squad times based on the changes to the daily schedule.

There is no action to take at this time. Captains of the more than 8,500 signed up for the 2021 Open Championships will receive further information and instructions by email no later than early next week. Additionally, the online registration portal for the Open Championships will be offline indefinitely to allow staff to reset the system and move teams to new squads.

During the downtime, the tournament staff will work with captains to relocate teams currently scheduled for March and April, while also reassigning squad times for teams signed up for May 1 and beyond.

Once the system reopens, captains would be able to log in to adjust their dates or squad times on their own, based on what’s available.

Another feature being introduced at the 2021 event to help minimize person-to-person contact and money exchange will be a cashless system for purchasing brackets. Brackets entries during the 2021 event must be purchased using a credit or debit card.

For those competing in the USBC Women’s Championships at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, no additional changes have been made to the format or competition dates.

The 2021 Women’s Championships will take place in Reno, Nevada, from April 23-July 4, and the registration process opened with social distancing in mind, allowing for just one team per pair of lanes, per team squad.

For questions about either event, the tournament staff can be reached by phone at 888.910.2695 or email at usbccopen-championships@bowl.com or usbcwomenschampionships@bowl.com.

We Thank All The Contributing Writers For the 52 Issues of 2020

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HISTORY IS RECORDED BY THINKERS AND DOERS. THE BOWLING NEWS IS BLESSED BY HAVING SO MANY CONTRIBUTORS THAT LOVE OUR SPORT AND TAKE TIME TO REPORT THE NEWS OR SHARE A THOUGHT. WE THANK YOU! AND LOOK FORWARD TO 2021.

Miller continued from page 1
advancing to the round of eight in the PBA Playoffs. Miller finished the season ranked 10th in earnings, doubling his previous year’s total, and 11th overall in competition points. *“This whole year was so difficult in so many ways, but I think it’s a good turning point for me,”* Miller said about receiving the award. *“This is a nice little reminder that there is still work to do.”*

Off the lanes, Miller serves as chairman of the PBA Players Committee. A group of touring players that share input from the entire membership on a variety of programs that impact professional bowlers. Along with Kyle Sherman, Miller also runs the Brad & Kyle YouTube channel, which gives their fans insight into PBA life through the players’ eyes.

“There’s only a small list of people that find joy in traveling the world trying to see how well they match up to the best and potentially make a few bucks,” Miller said. *“It’s a special group. When the shoes come off, everybody has respect for each other and it’s pretty easy for me to cherish.”*

First presented in 1966, the PBA’s sportsmanship award honors Steve Nagy, a PBA Hall of Famer and founding member who was instrumental to the success of the PBA Tour in its early years. Miller was chosen by his peers from among four other finalists: Martin Larsen of Sweden; Tommy Jones of Simpsonville, South Carolina; Canada’s Francois Lavoie; and Sean Rash of Montgomery, Ill.

Drive Underway To Help Save California Bowling Centers

California – The Southern California Junior Bowling Foundation was founded with the goal of growing and supporting youth bowling in Southern California. The group has found a new emergency goal- trying to raise funds to help bowling centers reopen in California.

Bowlers, including many prominent nationally recognized youth bowlers, have been unable to participate in the game they love due to the overbearing restrictions placed on bowling centers by the State of California. While other businesses have been permitted to open, bowling proprietors have seen their doors closed and lights off since mid-March. The frustration was escalated when bowling centers in 49 of 50 states were permitted to open while Californians lanes sat dormant in the dark.



Bowling is a big part of many people’s daily lives. Seniors are suffering from missing their weekly exercise and social activity. Many junior bowlers are missing their opportunity to earn college scholarships due to their inability to practice. The SCJBF has

recognized that it has become essential to help open bowling centers immediately.

The SCJBF has started a Go Fund Me campaign to help raise money for the fight to open bowling centers in California. At a time when many proprietors are

struggling and centers are on the brink of closing forever, you can help with the fight.

We would appreciate any donation big or small to help with the cause. Log on to www.gofundme.com/helpbowling and help today!

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The True Meaning of “The 12 Days of Christmas”

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won’t come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics.

It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles’ Creed.

So there is your history for today. Interesting and enlightening and now you know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol... so pass it on if you wish.’

Merry (Twelve Days of) Christmas Everyone - and, remember, the Twelve Days of Christmas are the 12 days following December 25th. The Christmas Season runs until Epiphany, January 6.



FREEDOM ISN’T FREE

Thank you to all who have donated and supported BVL this year. Thanks to your generosity, BVL was able to provide not only our designated grants but also \$100,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs for two unique programs to help our veterans who do not have access to their “normal” therapies because of the pandemic.

Compassionate Contact Corps and Tele-Yoga have already reached thousands of veterans, helping them physically as well as emotionally. We thank you for your generosity.

This is the time of year our thoughts go towards spending time with family, friends, exchanging gifts and enjoying good food. Although this year will be very different in some parts of the country, others will continue their annual traditions.

Unfortunately, for many of our veterans that is not possible. Many are homeless, while others reside in VA hospitals or state veterans homes and are unable to connect with friends and family. Some are not able to access their much-needed therapies.

As you consider your end-of-year giving, please think about [donating to BVL](#) in support of those men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms. As our BVL Board Member David Kellerman says, “Freedom isn’t free”. BVL continues to provide grants for recreation therapy, helping our brave men and women transition back to civilian life - no matter what that looks like. Some have to learn how to live without a limb, others have to deal with flashbacks and, at times, paralyzing fear. They need our help now more than ever.

We wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

Mary Harrar
BVL Executive Director • mary@bvl.org



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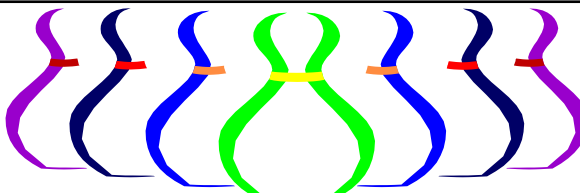
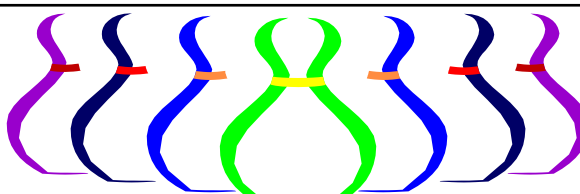
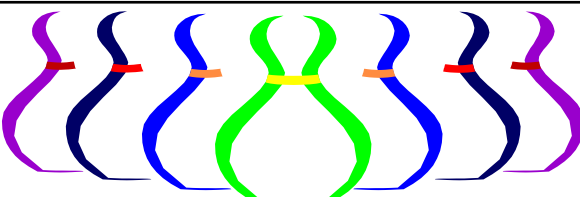
The California
Bowling News

*May the holiday season
bring you joyful moments,
warm memories and
special happiness*

*Charlie • Carol • Dean
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*A 80 Year
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