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The VOICE of the FAMILY in GAMING

Christmas

November 2024

hristian comic books, Astro Bot, and more this year!!!!

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**Christmas** 

November 2024



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Family Friendly Gaming

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## Editor's Desk

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

I am so looking forward to this Christmas. Man oh man. If you have been reading the different articles I wrote this year then you know there have been plenty of challenges. There have been plenty of horrible, bad things that happened in the year of our Lord 2024. I reached multiple points where I had to take it one day at a time. There were periods of time where it was like walking through a swamp. Taking one step at a time, and each step was a struggle. The boot got stuck in the mud and my foot came out. I had to put my foot back in the boot and fight to get it out of the mud. There were days with little to no progress at all. I got it through it. We got through it.

There were also some good things that happened in the year of our Lord 2024. We passed the two million mark multiple months in terms of hits on the website. All of those companies wanting to make sales really missed out on an opportunity to make money. They should be advertising with us every single day, week, and month. They are leaving money on the table by not advertising with Family Friendly Gaming. Maybe a few of them are paying attention now. As I write this we are getting closer and closer to 350K subscribers on our YouTube channel. Hey there is another spot they can advertise. I got a VA card and base privileges. Noah's disability came in, and he is in Project Search. There are slow financial improvements happening with our family. I am getting close to releasing the third Future Glimpses book. Back to taking it one day at a time.

I feel like we are crawling out of the mud, or getting out of a hole and coming toward the light again. There are still issues, problems, and challenges. Things are starting to slowly feel better. A little bit at a time. I have hope that things will be better in the future. I do not know how much farther down the line that better future is. I also know that there are forces fighting to make things worse. There are evil, vile, and wicked people going after us for being obedient to God. There are people abusing their positions of power and making the country and world a worse place to live in. Evil is on the march, and evil is on the rise. We must continue to stand up to it, and be obedient to God on

### a daily basis.

I am so thankful for Christmas time and remembering the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for all of us. I accept that gift, and hope to have a wonderful candle light service on Christmas Eve. I look forward to some amazing rest and relaxation this Christmas time. I also look forward to spending some time on some really cool projects. I hope to have some wonderful announcements for all ya'll coming up really soon. Until next year do not forget to read your Bible, and pray. Treat others better than they treat you.

God bless, Paul Bury



## Statement

Family Friendly Gaming (FFG) was created in March of the year of our Lord 2005 as the first ever Christian video game magazine. The goal of Family Friendly Gaming is to report on video games from the family view point. Family Friendly Gaming takes a fair and balanced approach to all news, previews, reviews, interviews, features, and other articles found within. The secular video game media reports mainly on the most morally bankrupt games and call those games good. The major secular media reports on the bad side of video games mainly. Most other Christian media outlets claim video games turn the player into a zombie, or they completely worship video games. Family Friendly Gaming reports the good, and bad side effects to video games. It is the belief of the owners that readers are smart enough to come to their conclusions without those in the media handing opinions to them. Those of us at Family Friendly Gaming believe by giving you the facts, you can decide for yourself. There are plenty of really good video games on the market that teach wonderful lessons. Both inside the Christian video game market, and from non-Christian video game developers. Family Friendly Gaming seeks out these video games to bring them to your attention. Since it is unknown before playing a game how family friendly it is; it is possible that this magazine will preview a game, and then the review will expose problems previously unknown. Family Friendly Gaming promises to always ask the question: "how God feels about certain video games." God's opinion on the matter is more important than any mere mortal. Which is why the rest of the industry does not influence FFG.



Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

## nristimas Story

Matthew 1:18-25 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Luke 2:1-20 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Matthew 2:1-12 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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## OLDER Games

### Atari 50th Anniversary Collection

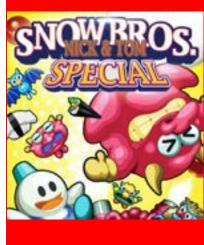
Atari 50th Anniversary Collection does not stop with all of those video games though. Atari 50th Anniversary Collection also contains history of Atari, its games, and systems. There are pictures of systems, and videos with people talking about the mistakes made in the past. There are interesting tidbits like why the Atari Jaguar wound up dying. I was really fascinated about what went wrong for the Atari 5200.

I had a blast live streaming Atari 50th Anniversary Collection on our Rumble channel. I gave my opinions as a consumer. Atari kept releasing the same games for every single system. I did not want to play Asteroids on the Atari 2600, Atari 5200, and Atari 7800 when I was a kid. I had also played it in the arcades. So when Atari was like buy a new system and play the same games they lost me. Now it is interesting to go back and play the different versions of these games.

Walt Disney's The Jungle Book Rhythm n' Groo

THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Families can play Walt Disney's The Jungle Book Rhythm n' Groove on different difficulty settings. I found the easy is actually pretty easy. Which is nice but also can be a bit boring. I did not know how difficult Walt Disney's The Jungle Book Rhythm n' Groove would be on any of the difficulty settings. Walt Disney's The Jungle Book Rhythm n' Groove can get challenging on the harder difficulty settings.



10w Bros. Nick & T

The thing that shocked me about Snow Bros. Nick & Tom Special is the whole story concept. I had no idea what was going on in this game. Snow Bros. Nick & Tom Special really opened my eyes. Stickers and a manual also come with the physical copy version of Snow Bros. Nick & Tom Special. This is why I like physical copy versions of these games. I may not be into this game that much but that physical copy version helps it out. Snow Bros. Nick & Tom Special looks better on the Nintendo Switch than the Evercade. With that said Snow Bros. Nick & Tom Special does not look that great compared to other Nintendo Switch video games. If you like arcade action then you might get into Snow Bros. Nick & Tom Special

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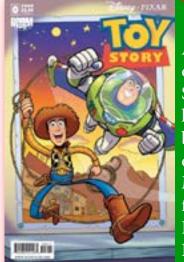
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### Tom Special

## Comic Books

## Comic Books



Andy gets a new toy in a month there are no birthdays or holidays. The different toys are curious to see what gift came from grandma in Toy Story #0. Can you guess what grandma sent to Andy? Well she sent him another copy of Buzz Lightyear. The toys should have stayed away before mom could take this toy to the toy store and exchange it for one Andy does not currently have. Sadly the toys go and check it out. Mainly Buzz Lightyear because he recognizes the box shape as being from Star Command. Woody tries to stop Buzz from doing this. The Buzz Lightyear in the box decides he should stay and the original Buzz Lightyear should go. The two of them compare things, and wind up tussling. The original Buzz Lightyear gets put into the box and returned

to the store. Mom and Andy come back with another toy from that line.

There are numerous moments of humor within Snoopy Beagle Scout Adventures FCBD 2024. I found myself laughing quite often while reading Snoopy Beagle Scout Adventures FCBD 2024. There is enough content for the free price of admission in my opinion. The goal of Snoopy Beagle Scout Adventures FCBD 2024 is to get you the reader to go and buy the book which should have more content. It was free after all.



THE COMIC BOOK DAY





The Christ #1 will list the verses from the Holy Bible that the story is this comic book come from. The emotion in the characters in The Christ #1 is fantastic. It is so neat to see such a great story being told in the comic book format. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about Mary, Joseph, the wise men and more. We even get to the parents of John the Baptist in The Christ #1.

## Cars #4



The interesting thing about this race is two cars must do it together. So the cars must go in pairs of two in Cars #4. The characters decide they need to do this race. So Lightning and Mater team up. Flo and Sally team up in Cars #4. Mack and Gray team up in Cars #4. Ramone and Fillmore also team up. Chick and Bubba team up in Cars #4 as well. That is all of the teams racing in Cars #4. The race starts in Cars #4 but it does not end. Lightning and Mater get in first place in Cars #4. Then they come across a trap laid by Chick Hicks. Those flashy race cars pretend to need help, and get Mater tied up to a cactus tree. Everyone passes the duo while Lightning is trying to get Mater free. They also learn a valuable lesson about stopping and helping others. It was an obvious trap they should have avoided.

## Garfield #1

The first story Collectors Classic in Garfield #1 is kind of an interesting idea. Nermal gets thrown out a window and into a trash can. Nermal finds an original issue of a comic book that is worth a lot of money. So Jon, Oddie, Garfield and Nermal go on a quest to find out if it is worth anything. They find out it is worth a lot of money. The comic book accidently flies out the window and gets run over by a truck.





Marvin the Martian is found in all three stories within Looney Tunes #275. There is a definite humor within Looney Tunes #275. I laughed out loud multiple times while reading the Looney Tunes #275 comic book. Marvin the Martian is so abused within Looney Tunes #275. He tries to shoot the Earth, and the ray hits a satellite and reflects back into Mars. Marvin is then kicked off Mars.

## The Christ #2

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There are a couple of people that were promised they would see the Mesiah before they died in The Christ #2. Those two people see Jesus and are thrilled. We also see the part where Jesus stayed at the temple and was talking with the scholars there. His parents were very freaked out when they could not find him. Mary thought he was with Joseph, and Joseph thought he was with Mary.





## FOR KIDS

## Evercade



There are four worlds within PJ Masks Power Heroes Mighty Alliance. Each of the world has five levels and then a vehicle level, and quick time events for the boss. The heroes in PJ Masks Power Heroes Mighty Alliance team up into groups of two. They are the same team ups in every single world. We have four levels with team ups, and one vehicle in the five main levels of each world. The levels are catered to the powers of the heroes in PJ Masks Power Heroes Mighty Alliance.

The vehicle levels have players go on rails left and right. Then players get to jump in these vehicle levels. Finally there is a dive in the vehicle levels in PJ Masks Power Heroes Mighty Alliance. It can be challenging to get all of the gems in these levels since there are hidden areas and specific timing needed. Some levels would take multiple play throughs to get all of the gems (the sledding levels are what I am referencing).

There are some interesting things in Bluey the Videogame. For example if you go up or down stairs the game will slow you down. You can however jump from the top of the second floor and skip the stairs. The same goes for stairs that are outside. We can jump over them and bypass that slowdown altogether. There are a few cute mini games to play like keeping a balloon up in the air. The storyline in Bluey the Videogame revolves around finding



a map, and seeing what your dad buried when he was a kid. It was a toy he and his brothers fought over. So the dad made them bury it, make a treasure map, and split the treasure map into three pieces.

## Have some product you want Family Friendly Gaming to Unbox in a video?

## Email: ffgnews@familyfriendlygaming.com

### Family Friendly Gaming

### VERCADE Piko Interactive Arcade 1



I am very thankful I had all of the money to be able to purchase a copy of the Piko Interactive Arcade 1 on the Evercade systems. I live streamed all nine games on Rumble and we will get videos of each of the games onto our video sites when time and financial resources allow. The games on the Piko Interactive Arcade 1 cartridge are Dragon Master, Steel Force, Master's Fury, Burglar X, Diver Boy, Magic Purple, Fancy World Earth of Crisis, The Legend of Silkroad, and Ultimate Tennis. Piko Interactive Arcade 1 provides us with two fighters, two platformers, one beat em up, two action games, one maze game, and one sports game. Ultimate Tennis is the stand out title in Piko Interactive Arcade 1 for me. I had fun playing that sports video game.

## ndie Heroes Collection 2

That live stream where I played all of the games on the Indie Heroes Collection 2 was such a hopping time. I am thankful I had the money to purchase a copy of this cartridge on the Evercade systems. The games that are on the Indie Heroes Collection 2 cartridge are Tapeworm Disco Puzzle, Nessy The Robot, Reknum Souls Adventure, The Cowlitz Gamers' Adventure Trilogy, Anguna: Scourge of the Goblin King, Eyra: The Crow Maiden, Lunar Journey, Yeah Yeah Beebiss II, Gelatanous: Humanity Lost, The Gruniożerca Trilogy, Nix: The Paradox Relic, and Beer Slinger. That is twelve games in all.

## The C64 Collection 1



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The fourteen games on The C64 Collection 1 are Summer Games, Jumpman, Movie Monster Game, Subterranea, Alleykat, Winter Games, Lee, Marauder, Battle Valley, Street Sports Baseball, Impossible Mission, Gateway to Apshai, Stormlord, and Idridis Alpha. The C64 Collection 1 contains three sports games, ten violent games, and one role playing game. A few of the violent video games could also be listed as platformers.

### The C64 Collection 3

The thirteen games within The C64 Collection 3 are Summer Games II, Boulder Dash, Heavy Metal Paradroid, Super Cycle, Jumpman Junior, Cyberdyne Warrior, Cybernoid II The Revenge, Deliverance Stormlord II, Netherworld, Anarchy, Exolon, Street Sports Soccer, and Break Dance.





## Streaming





In the first episode Groot is being pampered by some robots until the cup he is in cracks. Then he is replaced by a bonsai plant. Groot goes after this plant to get back to where he was. Groot eventually breaks free and can walk around again. In the second episode Groot finds a tiny civilization under a rock and messes with it. They at tack him, and he winds up stepping on after giving them leaves for food. In the third episode of I Am Groot Season One Groot comes across some alien that makes itself

ook like him. There is a dance off, until Groot sends this alien out the airlock. Groot Takes a Bath is all about Groot relaxing, taking a bath, and getting all kinds of different leaf designs. In the final Episode Groot paints a picture of the Guardians of the Galaxy, and also blowing a hole in the ship. Crayons would have been easier.

The betrayal from Nine is really messed up in Sonic Prime Season Three. Nine is so selfish in Sonic Prime Season Three. Nine takes the shards and starts to build his own world. The problem is all of the other worlds are being destroyed and consumed. The power is also a bit much for Nine. Green Hills is completely destroyed in Sonic Prime Season Three. Sonic tries to save as many of the others as he can. Sonic Prime Season Three eventually winds up in a big battle between the main characters from all the other worlds, and Nine's robot versions of them. There is even a giant Big the Cat robot in



Sonic Prime Season Three. The Chaos Council works with the others to get the shards back. They wind up betraying everyone at the end. Sonic is the missing piece of the shard that will save the worlds.



We learn about the mistake the Beast makes in Beauty and the Beast 2017. I love how he sets Belle free in Beauty and the Beast 2017. She does come back to him. There is such a great moment in Beauty and the Beast 2017 when she professes her love to him. It was almost too late but the Enchantress sets everything right. I wonder if she planned that all along. Beauty and the Beast 2017 has a wonderful happy ending.

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## Nintendo Switch



There are plenty of hidden chests in this isometric looking video game. Battles in Super Mario RPG are turn based. This is where the violent content comes into play. Flower points are used in place of magic in Super Mario RPG. It is beat to see Mario and Bowser work together in Super Mario RPG. Bowser's castle gets attacked and he is not able to take it back from Smithy. There are plenty of fun characters within Super Mario RPG. I like Mallow and Geno. We must find the seven stars to fix Star Road in this role playing video game. I love getting a star powerup and running through enemies to get experience without the battles in Super Mario RPG. There are plenty of interesting locales to visit in Super Mario RPG. I enjoyed my time with this Nintendo Switch video game.

Music is used quite well within Super Mario Bros. Wonder. The final boss battle is devoted to a musical theme. It is a very interesting kind of boss battle too. I actually enjoyed that boss battle. The same goes with the different things in the different levels. We can earn and purchase badges within Super Mario Bros. Wonder. They do a variety of different things like let us glide with the hat, or jump really high. I liked adding additional blocks to make levels easier. One badge can be used at a time in each of the levels. We can keep using the same badge in level after level if we so choose.





We start out in Pikmin 4 on a mission to save Captain Olimar. I thought Captain Olimar saved himself in the previous games thanks to the Pikmin. Oh well. Whatever. So there is a rescue squad sent to the planet. The rescue squad crashes and needs to be rescued. So we start out as the final savior to the rescue squad. Once we have the entire rescue squad then we need to rescue Captain Olimar. When that is done we need to rescue the doggie Oatchi. The rescue of Oatchi is optional and after the end credits roll.

There are four floors in Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures. We can go around and do a few different things within Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures. We can look at the different rooms and select the question mark circles and find out about the different areas. We can cook food, grow vegetables, and place characters in certain areas. The characters will lightly interact with the areas.



## uper Monkey Ball Banana Rumble



The storyline in Super Monkey Ball Banana Rumble revolves around a monkey named Palette. She is trying to find her father and talks the other monkeys into an adventure where they can find the golden banana. Supposedly you can eat as much as you want when you find that treasure. I got through the levels with a few skips near the end to find out this thief is her father and she is kidnapped. Multiple family members can play Super Monkey Ball Banana Rumble online or locally. There is a battle mode. There are two hundred levels total in Super Monkey Ball Banana Rumble. After the first ten worlds are done with their ten levels then players can go into EX versions where it is even more difficult. There are also some fun mini games in Super Monkey Ball Banana Rumble for families to play.

### Sociable Soccer 24

There are different cards in Sociable Soccer 24. As the player first starts the game they get some cards. We can also earn cards by playing and winning matches. There is a Friendly mode, career mode, online, offline, and more in Sociable Soccer 24. Cards will level up as we play them. If we get other cards we can use them to upgrade the current card player we are using in Sociable Soccer 24. Sociable Soccer 24 looks nice, and it sounds nice.



Everything in Pretty Princess Magical Garden Island takes a certain amount of time. The crops take five minutes to complete for example. The eggs from the chickens each take five minutes as well. Pretty Princess Magical Garden Island is more of a time management sim that looks like Animal Crossing. We can decorate the town, and resources take so long to spawn. We earn recipes as we level up in Pretty Princess Magical Garden Island. The way to level up in Pretty Princess Magical Garden Island is to fulfill requests. Characters want different things like a sugarcane for example. Give them one and you earn money and experience. Once the experience is high enough you will get a new level and more items to purchase and craft. There is no watering the crops in Pretty Princess Magical Garden Island.

### Mario vs Donkey Kong

We collect presents in the levels within Mario vs Donkey Kong. We also find a key and bring it back to the door. Most of the levels within Mario vs Donkey Kong make perfect sense. I could see in my mind what needed to be done. There were a few levels that were annoying. After the first level of a world is played then players can play any of the other five in whatever order they choose. All six must be beaten to unlock the toy box level. The toy box level must be beaten to unlock the boss battle. Then the next world is unlocked.



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## Detective Pikachu Returns

The gameplay in Detective Pikachu Returns consists of walking around and talking to people. We also investigate clues. When we have enough clues we can make a deduction on what happened. At times I knew what happened but had to find the right clue. At the end of the chapter we must present our findings to reveal who the culprit is. Some characters sure changed their tune really fast in Detective Pikachu Returns.

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## Playstation 4

### 1214



F1 22 looks really nice and there are some cool different camera angles. I am not big on how the camera is changed. I prefer to do that with the press of a button. The hair on the characters does not look right. The tracks and vehicles look amazing. There is some spraying of champagne by the winning racers in F1 22. They do not look wet after getting doused with that alcohol though. I played F1 22 on the Xbox One. Families can also find this game on the PC, PS4, PS5, and Xbox Series X if they are looking for a Formula One racing video game. We do more than Formula One racing in F1 22. We pick a super car early on. I think we might be able to unlock more later. There are other races in F1 22 like drifting or keeping a certain speed. F1 22 does include some assists for players not that good at racing. Even with the assists I had trouble with some of those curves. The computer controlled drivers are less aggressive when you are

on the lower difficulty settings. The presentation in F1 22 is stellar. I can tell a lot of effort was put in there.

## EA Sports F1 23

EA Sports F1 23 can be played online if you log into the EA Servers with an EA account. EA Sports F1 23 looks decent and there are multiple camera angles. Players must go into the pause menu screen to change the camera angles. There are enough tracks to race to keep most gamers busy for a week or two. There are different modes, teams, and vehicles within EA Sports F1 23. I had some fun playing EA Sports F1 23. I just needed to keep concentrating on the race track and line every single lap.



1.254

## 1254



There are assists like auto jumping that work in races, but not in the giant areas. Drifting and boosting are a major part of Hot Wheels Unleashed 2 Turbocharged. Multiple difficulty settings makes the races approachable by all skill sets. Again those giant areas with the blue columns are totally different. Drifting is usually pretty easy. Just remember to avoid hitting the wall during a drift. Points will stop counting in that instance. I did find drifting pretty easy due to the loose nature of the controls in Hot Wheels Unleashed 2 Turbocharged. Vehicles can knock one another around with a side swipe attack now as well. There are tons of cars to purchase with real world or in game currency in Hot Wheels Unleashed 2 Turbocharged. Vehicles can also be upgraded in Hot Wheels Unleashed 2 Turbocharged.

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## The Crew Motorfest

The playlists in The Crew Motorfest focus on different vehicles and different styles. Some may be on the road, and others may be through the jungle. We can also fly and use boats on the water in The Crew Motorfest. I do not like the flying mode in The Crew Motorfest. The boating one is fine to race in The Crew Motorfest. I prefer the road driving the best in The Crew Motorfest. We have a fantastic rewind button in The Crew Motorfest.



Smurfs Kart

There are two speed difficulty settings in Smurfs Kart. I was able to lose on the easiest setting thanks to the other Smurfs tagging me with different attacks. There are berries to collect, and gifts to collect. The gifts can grant the player different power ups or attacks. Drifting can give a short boost. I learned to avoid drifting around certain corners because the slide is so pronounced in Smurfs Kart. I went off the edge multiple times before I learned that lesson.

### Sea of Stars

The story telling in Sea of Stars is interesting. I hated the moments when characters would break the fourth wall and talk about RPG tropes. Garl is an interesting character in Sea of Stars. He is a normal young man that loses his eye being with his Solstice Warrior friends. He actually winds up dying in Sea of Stars. There are side quests that can be done after beating the game once to bring Garl back to life. I found that out thanks to some research.

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The Smurfs 2 Prisoner on the Green Stone

We traverse through levels and clean up the stones that are stuck all around the levels in The Smurfs 2 The Prisoner of the Green Stone. We battle the same series of monsters again and again. They are given different skills in different areas like fire or ice. There are three major areas within The Smurfs 2 The Prisoner of the Green Stone.

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We collect presents and puzzle pieces in The Grinch Christmas Adventures. After we complete levels we use the puzzle pieces to put together some puzzles. Once those puzzles are done then we earn some new power up or clothing item. If you want the power ups faster then you need to get more puzzle pieces. Levels can be replayed and players can look around to try and find the missing puzzle pieces. If you have two players one of them can control Max the dog. If you are playing with just one player then you can swap between Max and The Grinch. There are some runner levels where we must avoid something trying to smash us while sledding or snowboarding down the icy mountain. The final level is to try and return all of the presents on Santa's sled. The Grinch Christmas Adventures is a short but fun experience.





## XBOX ONE



These two raptors realize that Gigantosaurus is going to hurt them for what they did. So they go through some lava fields to get another pineapple. They get the pineapple back to the competition before the games end. I wound up winning when I played Gigantosaurus Dino Sports. There are two difficulty settings. One is easy and the other is more challenging. Like a kids or adults mode. I do see Gigantosaurus Dino Sports being more for the younger members of the family. There is some violence here and there as different characters are launched around, or rocks hit certain characters in the head. The player is saved when they fall off from the climbing game. That one is all about seeing how high you can get in the time allocated. There is a shooting game where we are feeding plants and dinosaurs.

## Justice League Cosmic Chaos

The thing about Justice League Cosmic Chaos that really caught me off guard is the humor. This action adventure beat them up video game had me laughing over and over again. I really enjoyed the story and the different character's perspectives. Batman has a major issue with Snapper and it shows. I can tell effort was put into the writing of Justice League Cosmic Chaos. I for one appreciate that effort. Justice League Cosmic Chaos is a bit of a hidden gem that families and gamers may miss. I suggest checking it out. The humor and story are more than enough.



As we progress through Embr we earn money. That money is used to upgrade our equipment, outfits and more. Embr also gets more dangerous as we progress through. For example there can be electrical current running around in certain levels. That can be dangerous if we are not paying attention. The same goes for barrels that can explode if they get too hot.

## NHL 24

I had some fun playing NHL 24. You really must be into hockey to have much interest in NHL 24. I will admit hockey is not my thing. I have been to a few games in my lifetime. Fighting is possible in NHL 24. I did not get into any because I never looked up the button to initiate a fight. Peter is the one that always liked to get fights going in the hockey games. Since I played alone I did not have much interest in it.



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There are twelve tracks in Nascar Arcade Rush. There are nine cups where we race those twelve tracks. As families race in Nascar Arcade Rush they will level up and unlock new things. We can customize the cars and racers in Nascar Arcade Rush. There are cool outfits, helmets and more in Nascar Arcade Rush. The cars can get different numbers, styles, spoilers and more.

I wrapped up my time with EA Sports Madden NFL 24 recently. Noah and I had a fun little live stream of this game. I have enjoyed additional time beyond that with EA Sports Madden NFL 24 as well. Presentation is better in EA Sports Madden NFL 24 from last year. We can play in Ultimate Team, Franchise, Online Play, Superstar, and Training Camp. There are mini games within EA Sports Madden NFL 24. I noticed the passing is interesting in EA Sports Madden NFL 24. We see a circle around the receiver we are throwing to. So we can place the ball right where we want to. Timing in the passing game is very key and critical in EA Sports Madden NFL 24. Tackles can be broken when we are running by pressing the right button at the right time. It will slow you down though so you might want to sprint right afterward. I love being able to swap the view when on defense and rushing the quarterback. I had issues getting to

the quarterback a lot though.

What is cool about Paw Patrol World is there are plenty of things to do in each of the worlds. There are pup treats to collect. Once we get enough pup treats then we can earn stickers, hats, and more in Paw Patrol World. There are a fair amount of unlockables in Paw Patrol World. There are tags to collect in each of the worlds. There are other areas that pups can interact with in Paw Patrol World. We get all these pups and their vehicles.





There are fifty party games in The Smurfs Village Party. There is also an adventure story mode that takes around three hours to complete. Up to four family members can enjoy The Smurfs Village Party at the same time. The party games in The Smurfs Village Party are decent and remind me of Mario Party. The gameplay area

in the adventure mode is huge. There are all kinds of areas to explore. The story in The Smurfs Village Party is we are trying to have this big Smurf party. Gargamel is trying to make a potion that will grant him all kinds of prosperity and needs a Smurf. So at one point Gargamel kidnaps some Smurfs and we must save him. There is even a party game for that. We hit Gargamel in the mouth with this cake that makes him like a slime for a short time.

### Gigantosaurus Dino Sports





## Personal Computer



### Megaman Battle Network Legacy Collection

In essence Megaman Battle Network Legacy Collection contains Megaman Battle Network one through six. Each of the games had two versions. Families can choose which of the versions they want to play. These games were on the Gameboy Advance and Nintendo DS. I played through all six of them back in the day. We even have a review of Megaman Battle Network 6 on the Family Friendly Gaming website. Scores can be found on the Gameboy Advance review page as well. There was a very

controversial and highly divisive piece of content within Megaman Battle Network 4 that I still remember to this day. Players are required to donate to a Buddhist temple in order to progress. Megaman Battle Network Legacy Collection also contains violent content as we shoot all these different viruses with Megaman's blaster and the chips we use in the battle

### Dreamworks All-Star Kart Racing

Dreamworks All-Star Kart Racing is a total and complete kart racer with a few interesting twists. First and foremost we build up an orb to get some kind of a power. We also pick up items that grant us some kind of boost or attack on the other racers. There are boost pads in Dreamworks All-Star Kart Racing as well. In fact I got a trophy for doing so many of them in the live stream.





### Super Mega Baseball 4

Super Mega Baseball 4 is arcade style baseball. The biggest thing to learn is the timing of the swings. I noticed there is a bit of lag between when we press the button and when we swing. So I had to time for that delay before hitting the contact button. The power button is even worse since it must charge for a second before released. I wish Super Mega Baseball 4 was more like the old Little League World Series games in the charging

of the power. Tutorial windows pop up when you are first exposed to a certain situation. Fielding is intuitive. Players must time how long they hold the ball to get a faster throw. It is easy going for extra bases in Super Mega Baseball 4.

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## Future Glimpses Moon Murderer

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## **BLU-RAY**

## DVD



Victoria Vance is the main villain in Paw Patrol The Mighty Movie. She does team up with Mayor Humdinger in Paw Patrol The Mighty Movie. I did not realize that Mayor Humdinger was in jail in this series. He helps Victoria escape from prison in Paw Patrol The Mighty Movie. Why exactly was Victoria in prison in Paw Patrol The Mighty Movie? Paw Patrol The Mighty Movie has an interesting commentary about committing a crime and recording it, and posting it on social media. This is exactly what Victoria Vance does. She pulls a meteorite down to Earth and streams her mad scientist deed. She winds up in jail because of all the damage this meteorite does. At the same time this same meteorite gives the Paw Patrol powers. They can save more people with super powers.

Branch was in the boy band Brozone when he was a baby. The band broke up for various reasons. These brothers went their separate ways. Velvet and Veneer are using one of the brothers to give themselves singing talent so they can be at the top of the charts. The brothers need to save Floyd before the singing siblings take all of his essence. The issue is he is in a diamond case and the brothers must reach perfect harmony to free him.





It becomes very apparent early on that Po is expected to pass along the title of Dragon Warrior to a successor. Po is expected to become the spiritual leader of the Valley of Peace. Po goes on one last mission with Zhen (a city thief fox) to stop the chameleon. This sorceress chameleon is able to make herself look like anyone. Which means you might want to be careful how you talk about her behind her back. She might just be present. There are plenty of laughs within Kung Fu Panda 4. The song in the end credits is pretty funny as well.

I love the scenes where Superman and Batman are being parents in Batman and Superman Battle of the Super Sons. Those father and son moments are fantastic in this movie. It really shows an effort. Families are an important theme in Batman and Superman Battle of the Super Sons as well. The Kent's live in Smallville if you were curious. Damian is in Gotham. I hope they do more movies like this one in the future.





### Christmas Town

Christmas Town stars Candace Cameron Bure, and Tim Rozon. The first thing about Christmas Town that stuck out to me is how friendly, nice, and helpful the people are in this movie. I come from a small town, and have been to other small towns. I never saw people like the ones in Christmas Town. I think this is how Hallmark Channel wants the world to be. To be blunt it is a very nice place. Candace Cameron Bure plays Lauren Gabriel in Christmas Town. Tom Rozon plays Travis Mabry in Christmas Town. These two are the characters with a love interest in Christmas Town. They do kiss at the end of the movie. Lauren is on her way to another city to become a full time teacher. She leaves behind Boston, her job, and her boyfriend. Lauren wants to start a family and her boyfriend is not into that.

Michael Walker is a professor at a local college. He is not fond of Christmas because his brother died around that time of year when he was a kid. By the way he was skating to ward thin ice, his brother saved his life, and went down into the freezing water. Michael also is looking for a house with his wife and son. They are about to be forced out of their house they were renting. The problem is the houses cost too much for them.



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I found quite a bit of humor on the Paw Patrol Jungle Pups DVD disc. The sloth has to be my personal favorite character. I almost wondered if Paw Patrol Jungle Pups was part of the war on men for Mayor Humdinger thinking the sloth was a monkey. The whole turn whatever you touch into gold was a bit different in Paw Patrol Jungle Pups. I loved that Chickaletta was able to fly in Paw Patrol Jungle Pups.

### Rubble & Crew Construction Crew to the Rescue

The episodes on Rubble & Crew Construction Crew to the Rescue are The Crew Builds a Beaver Home, The Crew Fixes a Road, The Crew Builds a Popcorn Cafe, The Crew Fixes a Slippery Mess, The Crew Builds a Drive-In Movie Theater, The Crew Finds a Rainbow Trea sure, The Crew Builds a Pig Barn, The Crew Builds a Giant Runway, The Crew & Marshall Build a Fire Station, The Crew Does Home Renovation, and The Crew Builds a Lighthouse.

### Family Friendly Gaming

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## ADVERTISEMENT



## **EDITOR's PICKS**

### Dr. Stone 26



Ryusui goes up into space with a board the space team needs in Dr. Stone 26. I am a bit perplexed how it broke. Or how he knew it would break. Since characters can be easily petrified air is not a problem on their space craft. Taiju and Yuzuriha get married in Dr. Stone 26. I feel like so much nore could have been done and shown in Dr. Stone 26.

The level design in Disney Illusion Island is extremely tight. We will revisit different ar eas once we have certain upgrades. For example we cannot reach a certain spot until we have the ability to float on the updrafts. Once we have that ability then we can go back to previous areas to access new locales. There are plenty of secrets hidden all around in Disney Illusion Island. I focused on getting through the game personally. It took me around seven to eight hours to completely beat Disney Illusion Island.



## **EA Sports PGA Tour**

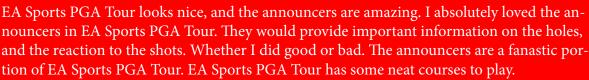
Mack and Gray are actually in first place in Cars #5. The bad news for them is Mack wants to stop at every single little interesting roadside attraction. This is causing issues with Gray who wants to get through the race, and possibly even win the thing. The continues after Cars #5 which is a good thing. I am glad they took their time with this story.

## Garfield Garfield #2



The second story in Garfield #2 is about Jon trying to count all of these jelly beans in a jar. If you can get the exact number right then you will earn fifty dollars. Jon keeps getting interrupted. Garfield comes by and immediately knows the number. So Jon gets the money. Sadly Jon loses most of the money to things Garfield destroyed while Jon was counting.

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# VIDEO GAME



## Paul Bury

## Version 3

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The Wacom One works with a plethora of drawing and art software. Not only that you can also use it to navigate your computer just like a mouse. It felt a little weird to me at first. Eventually the pen does feel pretty natural in the GUI interface. Multiple pen tips are included as well as a tool to remove them. The back of the pen can be screwed off and swapped with one that will hook on your clothing. The pen also has a

holder on the Wacom One.

Nex Playground

This cute little device is in the shape of a small cube. The upper left quadrant is yellow with a camera. The rest of the top is a nice shade of blue. The bottom is white. There is a power plug, and a plug for a HDMI cable. Nex Playground can recognize the players and their hands. The controller looks like a little small cylinder with a couple of buttons on them. Pressing in on the joystick will select the options.

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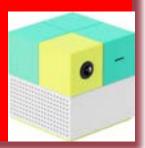
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### Wacom One



## **SPORTS**

# FREE AT LAST



Konami made things a bit tighter this year with eFootball 2024. This franchise is recovering from the repeat pay to play concept it was changed into. Which is sad since the eFootball franchise was beating the Fifa one quite handily until the free to play concept was applied. There is so much less content within Football 2024 unless you are willing to play forever and constantly pay. I picked my favorite team as the Seattle Sounders. Then when it came to playing a normal one player

game by myself I could not play my favorite team. The controls work really well in eFootball 2024. Even on the lowest difficulty setting can start with a challenge. I learned how to avoid defenders otherwise they would take the ball from me. Goalies will knock away a lot of balls in eFootball 2024. I also was able to score quite a few goals in eFootball 2024 when I was living streaming this game. If you missed that action packed time then you need to check it out on our website in the videos section as soon as possible.

We can race the twenty-one stages within the real race in Tour de France 2023. There is training within Tour de France 2023 if you want to learn how to play the game. I found the controls continue to be annoying. It is also a pain to hold that trigger button just so to stay at one speed. I ran into issues getting the follow another racer to work. I ran into issues with the water. I really had to dig into the controls to figure out how to do some things.





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### Wild Card Football

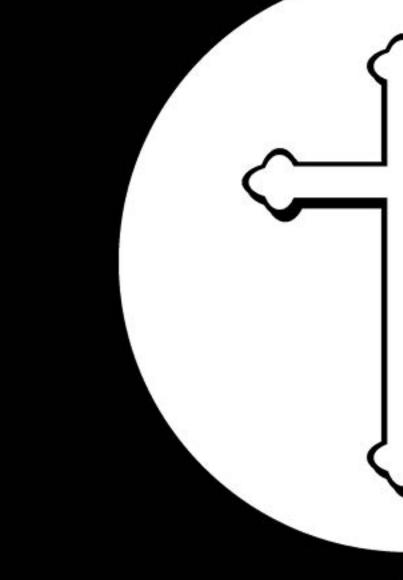
Wild Card Football is actually some fun football that is generally a bit more pass heavy than run in my opinion. I could make some runs work like outside pitches in Wild Card Football from time to time. I gave up on running up the middle in Wild Card Football. There are numerous things offensive and defensive players can do in Wild Card Football. We got quite a 🚔 few interceptions when we played Wild Card Football too.



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# FUTURE GLIMPSES



## Bγ PAUL BURY BUY IT NOW RIGHT HERE

## Playstation 5



### MLB The Show 23



There are plenty of teams to play with in MLB The Show 23. We can even play a season or a franchise with a ball club. The cool thing we found in our live stream is we can pick two different teams and a completely different city to play in. I like how the different stadiums look in MLB The Show 23. Commentators can be helpful at times. I noticed the commentators were tied to the stadium the game is in. So for example I had Tampa Bay, and Noah had Toronto in our game. We played in Boston. The announcers talked about Boston as if they were the home team when Boston was not even playing. Batting and pitching are generally decent in MLB The Show 23. I ran into issues getting a pitch to go at times. I had to press the button multiple times sometimes to get the pitcher to throw. Batting is mainly about timing and deciding if you should swing at the ball or not.

## MLB The Show 24

MLB The Show 24 has a good feel to it. I honestly have no idea how MLB The Show 24 decides what is a home run and what is an easy out. At times I would think I had a good swing and get a fly out, or a ground out. Other times in MLB The Show 24 I would think something would be an easy out and then the cinema shows the player dropping the bat and watching that ball go out of the park.



1215

The dig site for archaeology was very interesting to me. We could dig in this small area and find different things. Many of them could be sold for some nice money. Speaking of money the sheep provides a better return than the chickens. The harvest sprites give us recipes that are needed to eat.

House Flipper 2

House Flipper 2 is a great video game for those wondering if they might like the house flipping job. Do you think you would like to purchase, fix up, and then sell a house? House Flipper 2 lets families get a taste of that work. I absolutely love how we are guided on what to do in House Flipper 2. The room needs a certain amount of furniture for example. We must purchase and place the furniture.







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## Xbox Series X



### EA Sports FC 24

This is the year that EA Sports lost the FIFA license. I have no idea what happened there. I do not know what is going on with Fifa. I do know that the Konami product did not change its name this year. So the new name is EA Sports FC 24. I had no idea what FC stood for at first. I was totally baffled. I eventually ran across Football Club and realized that is what it stood for. Why does EA Sports need to be part of the game's name? EA Sports FC 24 looks good and it plays good. There are plenty of options and adjustments to make the game play easier or harder. I love being able to pick what kind of a game I will have. EA Sports FC 24 will even ask you if you want to increase the difficulty if you happen to absolutely stomp the computer. I told EA Sports FC 24 that I was happy with the difficulty and challenge level. I love crushing the computer. I have enough challenges in life, when I play a game I want to slay it.

## NBA 2K24

The live stream I performed of NBA 2K24 was such a slam dunk. A bit shoutout and thank you to everyone who participated in that stream. It was such a good time for all. am thankful I had the money to purchase a copy of NBA 2K24 on the Xbox Series X. I was able to get the Kobe Bryant Edition of this video game. I love the different difficulty settings in NBA 2K24. It makes this game approachable by more family members.



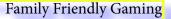
### Dreamworks Trolls Remix Rescue

Chaz decides everyone needs to listen to his smooth jazz in Dreamworks Trolls Remix Rescue. He winds up using some power that brainwashes all these characters. Your character is immune since you are wearing headphones. The goal in Dreamworks Trolls Remix Rescue is to free all the trolls and stop Chaz. The boss battles are actually easier than some of the evel areas. We do use a spin dash and a hair throw to attack various creatures in this game.

### Just Dance 2024 Edition

Just Dance 2024 Edition started with forty songs and keeps adding. In fact as I was recording each different dance more and more songs were being added. Just Dance 2024 Edition is pretty KPOP heavy too. Multiple family members can get some exercise thanks to Just Dance 2024 Edition.

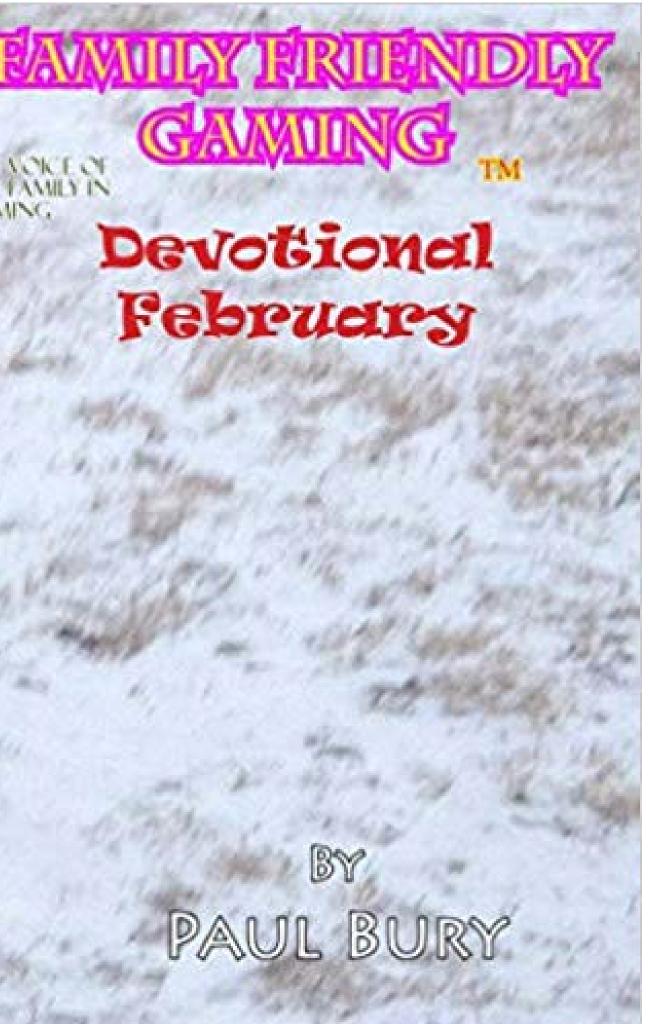




AMING

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## LAST MINUTE

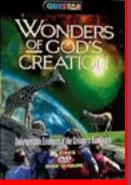


### Scooby-Doo! Where Are You? #129

t cost me \$2.99 to purchase a copy of the Scooby-Doo! Where Are You? #129 comic book. There are two stories within Scooby-Doo! Where Are You? #129. Each story within Scooby-Doo! Where Are You? #129 is ten pages long bringing the total comic book content to twenty pages. There are plenty of twenty page comic books that cost a dollar more.

Wonders of God's Creation

Wonders of God's Creation is so encouraging that it makes one feel great to be a human. There are so many wonders in the human body alone. Wonders of God's Creation really makes you thankful for how God made us. Wonders of God's Creation makes you appreciate the level of intelligence to make us the way we are. If you are looking for some uplifting educational material I highly recommend Wonders of God's Creation.





There are a plethora of different teams and modes that can be played in Cricket 24. Please note I have little real world knowledge of how teams are in the real world. I have never been to a Cricket match. Although who has four days to sit and watch one game? Men and women are available in

Cricket 24.

## Paw Patrol Ultimate Film & TV Collection

If your family has not previously purchased the movies and DVDs then Paw Patrol Ultimate Film & TV Collection could be a really good thing to look for. Kids can get all kinds of quality Paw Patrol action. There are forty-one television episodes on Paw Patrol Ultimate Film & 'V Collection if you were wondering. There are a range of topics and characters.





## Astro Bot

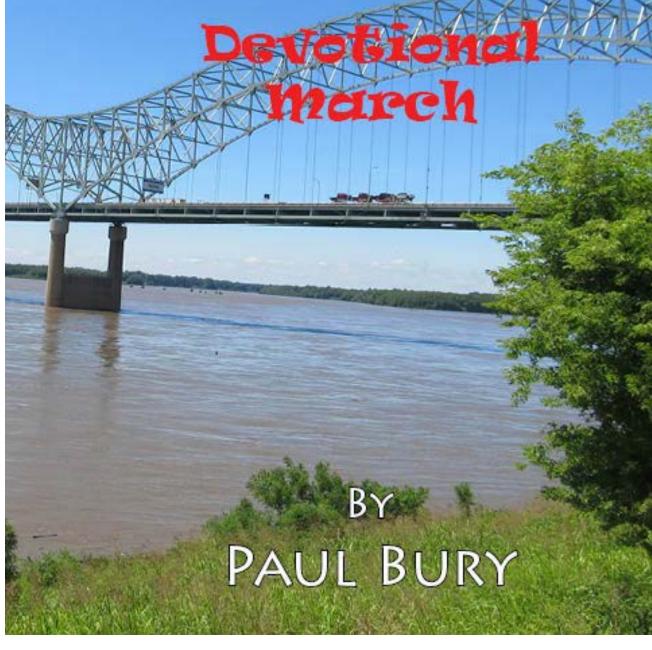
There are seven different galaxies in Astro Bot. There is also the Hub World or the Crash Site in Astro Bot. There we unlock a plethora of different items. Once players have two hundred bots recovered they can fight the boss of the seventh galaxy and winning that unlocks the battle with the end boss. There are so many cool things in Astro Bot. Like bots dressed like characters from other Playstation franchises.

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