

Las Vegas Advisor



COUPONOMY

by Anthony Curtis

Wynn Cans Paid Parking

Someone finally blinked.

Effective immediately, Wynn Las Vegas and Encore will no longer charge for self-parking. The gates at the garage entrances will be removed, but the enhanced parking features—e.g., the lighted guidance system—will remain. The valet parking situation won't change: Valet parking is free for hotel guests; non-guests who spend \$50 or more onsite receive validation that cancels the charge.

What happened?

Wynn's front office didn't share its reasoning with me, or with anyone else in the media, but it didn't have to. We've maintained from day one that paid parking wasn't gonna fly with the customers. And that became even more likely when several casinos declined to participate. Resort fees are different. One casino added them, then they all did (minus Four Queens), and that was that—there was no way to avoid them. But when Venetian/Palazzo, TI, SLS, Station, Boyd, and others didn't follow suit on parking, the customers had a choice. The breaking of casino ranks was also an indication that maybe this wasn't such a good idea. It wasn't. Behind the positive proclamations and deflecting comments relative to sagging numbers, customer dissatisfaction had to be showing up on the balance sheets. Let's put it this way: Wynn didn't dump paid parking to be nice.

So what about the others? MGM, Caesars, and Cosmo (it's only these three, by the way) continue to charge for parking. To think that only Wynn was being affected adversely is foolish. But following the Wynn announcement, an executive at MGM ("Many Gouging Maneuvers"?) commented that Wynn's "independent decision won't change ours going forward." Really? Then choke on it, boys.

Now that I think about it, to say that Wynn "blinked" isn't cool, because it implies weakness, and what Wynn did wasn't weak. It assessed the situation, realized a mistake, and fixed it. Good job! Who's next? ■

The Big 2020 Losing Steam

So maybe it won't be all about 2020 after all. For a while, it seemed like there wasn't a project on the boards that wasn't debuting in 2020, but there's been some adjusting of timetables. First, the MSG Sphere announced that it was pushing back to 2021. This month, both the Drew and Virgin announced delays (see [News](#)), though the latter is still aiming for late 2020. Circa claims it's gonna make it, but it'll be close. And does anyone really think Resorts World won't reschedule at least once or twice more? That leaves the Raiders stadium and the Las Vegas Convention Center, which are both pretty good bets to make deadline. ■

Learn From a Bookie

Our new book [Then One Day—Recollections From 40 Years of Bookmaking in Nevada](#) will be back from the printer early this month. In addition to being a fun read with lots of stories about the author's bookmaking experiences, it's also an excellent starting point for those interested in learning about sports betting as it continues to be legalized across the country. Here's an example of the type of information you'll find.

A Point Better

Back in the Stardust days, giving an extra point to a good or otherwise influential customer wasn't that uncommon. It might not have been a completely kosher business practice, but it wasn't technically against any regulations. An extra point in basketball, where the numbers all have similar value, would raise the player's win percentage by 2%-3%. The value varies in football, depending on the number (taking +4 on a bet that should be +3 would be huge, while taking +9 on a game that should be +8 wouldn't mean nearly as much).

Years later, Nevada Gaming instituted a regulation that a line had to be available for anyone to bet it, meaning you couldn't offer a deal to just one person. It might be done on occasion today, but it's definitely against gaming regulations.

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Double Windowing

An age-old battle between the bookmaker and the bettor is the attempted circumvention of betting limits. The books impose limits for risk management and protection against mistakes. On the other side, bettors who find a good situation want to bet as much as possible without moving the number.

One method of getting around the limit is known as "double windowing." If the limit is \$1,000, for example, a guy might bet \$750 with one writer, then move to another window and bet it again. Or a team of two could hit two windows simultaneously. The advent of betting apps and kiosks introduced more ways to beat the limits, but the bookmakers countered with more stringent approval protocols. Requiring approval means that a big bet can be held up while someone surveys the situation before approving it.

Beards and Movers

A "beard" or a "mover" is someone who's betting for someone else (usually a wiseguy). A beard is usually sent in specifically to keep the identity of the person making the bet hidden, while a mover might be tied into a bigger betting operation, or syndicate, that employs workers to get their bets down.

I've never made it a point to throw out wiseguys, beards, or movers, but I like to know if a bet coming in is from a sharp guy or not. When it's a stranger, I have to guess if it's just a public bettor with a lot of money or someone betting for someone who knows what he's doing.

See the wrap to order at a discount. ■

NEWS

Downtown Sports Books—The Nevada Gaming Commission has approved the license for Derek Stevens' Circa Sports, clearing the way for the new full-service sports book at the Golden Gate to open on June 1. A satellite book will also open at the D. Both are intended to blaze the trail for the giant sports book at Circa, which last month poured the concrete for its foundation and is on schedule to open in December 2020.

The Drew—The owner of the Drew Hotel-Casino has announced that the opening of the former Fontainebleau on the north end of the Strip has been postponed by a year and a half. The delay in opening the 67-story 3,800-room tower that was mothballed in 2009 is being blamed on the amount of time that was spent on design work for the reopening. Originally scheduled for a late 2020 debut, the grand opening has been moved back to the second quarter of 2022.

The Palms Digs Whale Digs

As part of the epic remake of the Palms (the nearly \$700 million is the highest for a casino remodel in Las Vegas history), the casino has opened three new super-suites. The Kingpin Suite is 4,500 square feet and boasts a full-sized two-lane bowling alley with an automatic scoring system (shoes are free); it goes for \$15,000 per night. The Hardwood is a 10,000-square-foot bi-level with two bedrooms, game room, hidden whiskey room, and basketball court. It's large enough to host a party of 300 and goes for \$20,000 per night. The Empathy is "only" 9,000 square feet, but it houses two lounges, a 13-seat bar, two massage rooms, fitness room, healing salt room, outdoor veranda and cantilevered Jacuzzi, and 52-seat theater. The suite retails for \$100,000 per night (two-night minimum), though it's reserved mainly for million-dollar players. And if you want to live at the Palms, you can buy Phil Maloof's penthouse that occupies the entire 58th-floor rooftop of the Palms Place condo tower for a cool \$15 million, down from \$38 million, the asking price in 2014.

Virgin—The changeover from Hard Rock to Virgin Las Vegas will take place almost a year later than originally planned. Work on the switch was scheduled to begin early this fall and be completed in the spring of 2020. However, the scope of the project has expanded to the point that construction had to be postponed until February. The property will remain open as the Hard Rock for the first few months of work, then close sometime in the second quarter, with the reopening as Virgin scheduled for November 2020.

Lucky Dragon—The 2.5-acre Lucky Dragon was purchased for \$36 million by Las Vegas-based Ahern Rentals. The new owner says it will be reopened as a non-casino hotel and under a different name. A timetable was not disclosed.

Mirage-TI Tram—The two-car 100-passenger tram that has run between the Mirage and Treasure Island since TI opened in 1993 is back in service after closing early last year for a complete renovation. The tram runs 9 am to 1 am Sunday through Thursday and until 3 am on Friday and Saturday.

Atlantic City—Ocean Resort Casino has officially changed its name to Ocean Casino Resort. Good one!

LAS VEGAS ADVISOR

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Arkansas—The state's first two legal casinos (Arkansas has a long history of illegal gambling houses) have opened at racetracks. Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort in Hot springs has 1,300 machines and eight table games. Southland Casino and Racing in West Memphis has 2,000 machines and 40 tables.

California—Harrah's Northern California has opened in Amador County south of Sacramento in a partnership between Caesars Entertainment and the Buena Vista Rancheria Me-Wuk tribe. The 71,000-square-foot casino has 1,000 slots and 20 table games.

New York—The casino portion of Monticello Casino & Raceway has closed. It's the first to close in New York since racinos were approved there in 2001. Monticello owner Empire Resorts, which recently opened Resorts World Catskills nearby, said the casinos were too close in proximity for both to continue operating. The harness track remains open.

Virginia—The Colonial Downs horse-racing track, closed since 2014, has reopened as Rosie's Gaming Emporium, a slots-only casino with machines that use horse-racing results to derive their outcomes. The track is expected to reopen in August.

Statistics—Nevada's statewide gambling win was down .6% in February compared to the same month last year, a second consecutive decline. The Strip win was down 2.0%, while downtown was up 9.0%. Northern Nevada's results didn't help the state's total, as the win was down big in Reno (-7.7%), North Lake Tahoe (-24.7%), and South Lake Tahoe (-26.6%).

Visitation was up for the third month in a row, rising by 1.9%. An 8.5% increase in convention attendance contributed to the result.

Airline traffic also increased, up 1.8%. Allegiant Air will begin round-trip service between McCarran and LAX on June 5. It will be the 54th city that Allegiant serves out of Las Vegas. ■

Sports Betting Scorecard

Court is in session with regard to New Hampshire's challenge of the U.S. Justice Department's Wire Act opinion that threatens online gambling operations, including New Hampshire's lottery. The DOJ has since stated that its opinion did not address lotteries. However, it didn't go so far as to say lotteries are exempt, and the lawsuit continues. The District Court judge presiding over the case denied the government's move to dismiss, declared that the Wire Act is a grammatical mess, called the issues "the most challenging [he has] seen in 26 years on the federal bench," and said he expects that the case will ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court.

The Alliance of American Football (AAF) suspended

Las Vegas' Top Ten Values

1. **Steak Dinner** • *Ellis Island* • 24 hours • \$7.99
2. **Buffet** • *Palace Station* • Daily • \$9.99-\$16.99
3. **Mac King** • *Harrah's* • Tues.-Sat. • \$14.98
4. **Hot Dog** • *South Point* • Daily • \$1.25
5. **Beer** • *Stage Door* • 24 hours • \$1
6. **Shrimp Cocktail** • *Skyline* • Daily • \$2.25
7. **Breakfast** • *Club Fortune* • Daily • \$1.99/\$2.99
8. **\$1 Blackjack** • *Hooters* • 24 hours • \$1.20
9. **Lunch** • *Planet Hollywood* • Daily • \$4.99
10. **No Resort Fee** • *Four Queens* • Daily • \$39 and up

The Ellis Island steak dinner remains in the top spot. Served 24/7 in the Café, get the \$7.99 price by playing at least \$5 in any slot machine with your club card inserted, then downloading the required discount coupon from an EI kiosk. The Feast Buffet at Palace Station (#2) is our choice for Las Vegas' best buffet when considering the combination of quality and price; get the listed prices by showing a Boarding Pass card. Get a ticket to the *Mac King Comedy Magic Show* and a drink for \$14.98 by asking at the players club booth (#3). The hot dogs at South Point (#4) are sold from a cart in the sports book from 10 am until they close down the cart around 5 pm. Michelob, Michelob Light, or Bud Light in the bottle are \$1 at the Stage Door slot house on Flamingo, just east of the Strip (#5). We found another \$1-beer deal this month (see [ENTERTAINMENT](#)), but it's not nearly as well-located as the Stage Door. The Skyline shrimp cocktail (#6) is available 24/7 at the main bar. The Club Fortune breakfast (#7) served in the Club Café is bacon or sausage & eggs for \$1.99 weekdays from 6 to 11 am and ham & eggs for \$2.99 on weekends during the same hours. Hooters' \$1-minimum blackjack game (#8) runs 24/7 in the pit; naturals pay even money on bets of \$1-\$4. The \$1.20 listed cost is your expected loss for one hour of play at these stakes. Everything on the lunch menu is \$4.99 at Ocean One in the Desert Passage Mall at Planet Hollywood; lunch hours are 11:30 am to 4 pm daily. The Four Queens takes the #10 spot as the last major casino still not charging a resort fee. It's old-school Vegas all the way here, with good video poker at the bar and a fast-comping players club.

operations prior to the conclusion of its inaugural season. The new league had intended to be gambling-friendly, but opened too far in front of widespread legalization and didn't catch on with current sports bettors. The AAF Championship game had been slated to be played in Las Vegas.

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Isleta Resort near Albuquerque is preparing to open a sports book. It's the third Indian casino in New Mexico to do so.

Bills to legalize sports betting are on the desks of the governors in Iowa and Indiana. Oregon and Montana are also said to be close.

Follow the progress of sports betting legalization across the country and track developments as they occur via our blog and map at LasVegasAdvisor.com. ■

DINING

Nickel Coney

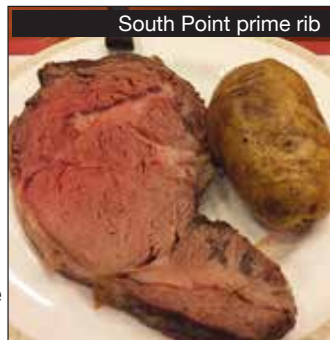
To celebrate the 102nd birthday of its original restaurant on W. Lafayette Boulevard in downtown Detroit, American Coney Island at the D will sell Coney dogs for their original price of 5¢ on May 9. The offer runs from 11 am to noon only, one per customer, and you must have exact change.

That 5¢ price in 1917 apparently didn't go up too rapidly, as Anthony Curtis' father, who worked at the competing Senate Coney Island on Michigan Avenue, told of saving his wages in the early '40s to see a movie and buy a couple of hot dogs for a quarter. The dogs are \$4 today and you can get two for that price with the offer in the MRB. The American Coney Island at the D is the company's only location outside of Michigan. ■

Prime Rib

We don't have a prime rib deal in the [TOP TEN](#) for the third month in a row. It's not like we've always had one in the list, but prime rib and Las Vegas kind of go together and there's usually a prime deal out there that belongs. The previous best was at Klondike Sunset, but after it took a dive, we haven't found a new one to fill the spot. Now we're on the hunt and this month we tried two.

First was the prime rib special at South Point, served in the Coronado Café daily from 11 am to 11 pm



for \$14.95. It comes with a fresh salad and choice of potato. This one spent some time in the TOP TEN several years ago. It's still good, but no longer Top Ten-worthy.

The second is an old favorite, the \$15.95 special at Jackson's Bar & Grill.



This one comes with choice of potato and green beans; salad is an extra \$2. It's the best in town for the size of the prime alone (you can see what we mean by comparing the photos) and only the availability precludes Jackson's from being a sure-bet Top Tenner—it's available on

Mondays only. Roasted, not zapped in a microwave, they start serving at noon and continue until they run out. Call ahead to confirm availability. Jackson's also serves 24/7 rib-eye specials—a 10-ouncer for \$14.49 and a 16-ouncer for \$16.39. Get the 10-ounce steak comped for \$100 in video poker play with the offer in the Member Rewards Book.

As for a Top Ten prime rib, we'll keep looking. ■

Moneyline Burger

The new Moneyline sports book at Park MGM is more like a bar than a book and we didn't expect we'd spend a lot of time there. That is, until we heard that it serves a cheeseburger in the attached Side Betty Grill that's famous in Chicago. Sure enough, Side Betty's food service is managed by Hogsalt Hospitality, the owner of Chicago's Au Cheval; a version of its cheeseburger is served at Side Betty for \$10. We checked it out. The burger is smallish, topped with onions and pickles only, and doesn't come with fries. Two of us ordered it cooked differently, but both came out the same, medium. The burger was good, so we didn't complain, but no one was raving, either. ■



Boathouse Sushi

All-you-can-eat sushi for \$17.95. That's the deal Mon.-Fri. from 4 to 6 pm in the Boathouse at Palace

Station. It's one of the few AYCE sushi specials you'll find in a Las Vegas casino. There are some pretty good ones in Reno, but for some reason, they never seem to quite make the grade when they show up here.

The Boathouse follows that pattern—it's a great price and pretty good quality, but this one has some kinks to work out. There's a long counter with an area that fronts the sushi chefs, but you can't order directly from them. All orders have to go through the waitresses, but since they're not experienced in the format, they aren't



California and spicy tuna rolls at Boathouse

prepared (or inclined) to take rapid-fire orders. OK, just order more, right? Nope. The rule is two orders at a time. Urp!

We recommend two tacks. One, don't go in for

a sushi gorge. Expect the orders to come slowly and you won't be disappointed. The rolls here are better than the nigiri, so go that route for both taste and sushi density. Or two, don't do AYCE. The AYCE hours coincide with the regular happy hour, during which several of the rolls are half-price. Ordering two or three rolls off the menu will be easier and cost less. Be sure to spend at least \$20 and you can use the Member Rewards offer to get \$10 off. ■

Side Piece Pizza

Part of the highly anticipated Greene Street Kitchen, Side Piece Pizza is a cool little quick-stop at the Palms. The menu is the smallest we've ever seen for a pizza place: cheese (\$5 for a slice and \$26 for a pie), bianca, pepperoni, veggie, and meat lover (\$7/\$30), and Sicilian-style cheese and pepperoni (\$8-\$9 per slice). There's also canned beer (\$7) and wine (\$11). That's it.

This is quintessential New York-style pizza, with a crust that some might consider a step above Cosmo's Secret Pizza, TI's Francesco's, and Miracle Mile's Pin-Up Pizza. It's slightly thicker, but coming from a very hot oven, it's just as crisp and pliable as its thinner counterparts and it doesn't get at all soggy in time. While it might seem a little expensive, these are big hearty slices; one is plenty for a typical eater. And it's an easy in-and-out with free parking and late-night hours, Thurs.-Sun. (4 am).

About the name. UrbanDictionary.com defines "side piece" as a girl or guy you call up at 2 am with no

attachments. We saw an obscure ad to the effect that "side pieces" eat free. Who knows? Bring a date and there might be a twofer to be had. ■

DJ's Clam Shack

For fans of fried clams and conch fritters, the options in Las Vegas have been slim to none. No longer. DJ's Clam Shack (originally opened in 2009 on Duval Street in the heart of old-town Key West, Florida) has hit the Boulevard. The new Las Vegas DJ's is located in the Boulevard Food Court on the east side of the Strip across from Park MGM and next to the defunct Hawaiian Marketplace. It shares space with a Fatburger, Tacos Papí for fast Mexican, Masala Express for Indian, and a pizza/wings counter.

If you're like us, when you hear the word Ipswich, you have an immediate Pavlovian response that conjures thoughts of perhaps the best fried clams in the continental United States. DJ's serves Ipswich clams and they're the real deal, tender soft-shell clam bodies, bellies and all, coated in special crumbs and deep-fried crunchy-crisp. Irresistible! They're not cheap, \$29 for a basket or roll, but this is the only place we've ever seen them in Vegas and with the fries, one order can easily feed two.

We also tried the lobster roll, a relative bargain at \$18 for eight big chunks (claw, knuckle, and tail meat) in a grilled-to-perfection bun. By comparison, the roll at Lobster Me at the Miracle Mile and Grand Canal malls is \$24. Middleneck steamers are \$14 for 18 (78¢ each) and come in a classic garlic broth. These are good, too. DJ's also serves New England clam chowder (\$7), grilled or fried shrimp (\$14), and conch fritters (\$11). Our bill for the roll, steamers, and Ipswich basket came to \$69.28. ■

Slater's 50/50

Slater's 50/50 is a beer-and-burger sports bar with 11 locations around the west, including one in Las Vegas that opened last year on Silverado Ranch Blvd. a couple miles from South Point. The hook here is bacon—in ways that you might not have imagined it could (or should?) be used. You can try bacon mac & cheese balls, bacon chicharron, balsamic-bacon dressing, caramel-bacon kettle corn, jalapeno-bacon jam, bacon ketchup, sriracha bacon, bacon brownies, bacon cocktails—you get the idea. The 50/50 part signifies half ground beef and half bacon (made from ground hickory-smoked center-cut pork belly). The combination produces a dense burger, whose color is generally reddish, whether you order it rare or well. The toppings are out there. For example, the

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ADVANCE PLANNER—HEADLINERS AND EVENTS

MAY

5/3	• Juice WRLD Hard Rock • \$39.50–\$132	5/11	• Carrie Underwood MGM Grand • \$49.50–\$99.50	5/25	• Rockin' In Paradise: Styx Tribute Suncoast • \$19/\$22
5/3	• Nicky Jam • Cosmo • \$71–\$201	5/11	• CSN Express: Tribute Suncoast • \$19.95/\$22.94	5/25	• Spyro Gyra Aliante Casino • \$35–\$50
5/3	• Pablo Cruise Golden Nugget • \$49–\$109	5/11	• Fred Armisen Comedy Brooklyn Bowl • \$30–\$55	5/25–5/26	• Sebastian Maniscalco Wynn LV • \$59.50–\$155
5/3	• Passion Pit: Manners MBay • \$29/\$122	5/11	• Guess Who • Silverton • \$25/\$40	5/26	• B2K MGM Grand • \$39.50–\$129.50
5/3	• Savage Society • Hard Rock • \$20	5/11	• Picnic at The Park Park MGM • \$199/\$265	5/26	• Juanes • MBay • \$41
5/3	• Violent Femmes Brooklyn Bowl • \$35.50–\$60.50	5/12	• Abba the Concert: Abba Tribute Cannery • \$19.95–\$103	5/26	• Sponge • Rio • \$23
5/3–5/4	• 80's In the Desert • Rio • \$225	5/14	• Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers Silverton • \$25/\$55	5/26	• Third Eye Vision Brooklyn Bowl • \$27/\$30
5/3–5/4	• Arch Allies • Orleans • \$20/\$30	5/14–5/31	• Celine Dion Caesars Palace • \$88–\$689	5/29	• Machine Gun Kelly Palms • \$44–\$205
5/3–5/4	• Bruno Mars Park MGM • \$171–\$1,100	5/15–5/25	• Carlos Santana MBay • \$99–\$374	5/30	• Lady Gaga Enigma Park MGM • \$82.57–\$344.95
5/3–5/5	• Sarge • South Point • \$25	5/16	• Adam Beyer x Cirez D Downtown Events Center • \$60	5/30	• Summer Jam Cosmo • \$29–\$225
5/4	• Buckcherry Brooklyn Bowl • \$30/\$35	5/16–5/30	• Frankie Moreno South Point • \$20–\$30	5/31	• Jay & The Americans Golden Nugget • \$39–\$129
5/4	• Canelo Alvarez vs Danny Jacobs T-Mobile • \$305–\$2,505	5/17	• Florence + The Machine T-Mobile • \$39.50–\$109	5/31	• Tal Wilkenfeld Brooklyn Bowl • \$20/\$22
5/4	• Countess Luann De Lesseps Mirage • \$65–\$108	5/17	• Jay Leno • Mirage • \$65–\$87	5/31–6/1	• EMERGE Hard Rock • \$130/\$199
5/4	• Gary Allan • M Resort • \$22–\$42	5/17	• Sommor Aliante Casino • \$35–\$50	5/31–6/2	• Jo Koy Wynn LV • \$49.50–\$119.50
5/4	• Phil Lesh & Friends Hard Rock • \$40/\$110	5/17–5/19	• Electric Daisy Carnival LVMS • \$319–\$779	5/31–6/2	• Kingston Trio South Point • \$25–\$35
5/4	• Seth Meyers Wynn LV • \$49.50–\$119.50	5/17–5/19	• Winter Dance Party South Point • \$25–\$35	5/31–6/8	• Anita Baker Venetian • \$94–\$201
5/4	• Unraveling the Wilburys: Tribute Cannery • \$26/\$29	5/17–5/26	• Janet Jackson Park MGM • \$72–\$559	5/31–9/27	• Shin Lim Mirage • \$50.99–\$70.99
5/4–5/5	• Taking Back Sunday MBay • \$35–\$55	5/18	• Jim Gaffigan Wynn LV • \$59.50–\$129.50	JUNE	
5/4–5/5	• PBR's Last Cowboy Standing T&M • \$25–\$405	5/18	• Johnny Marr Brooklyn Bowl • \$32–\$45	6/1	• Spinners & Thelma Houston Cannery • \$24–\$59
5/5	• Clintons • Park MGM • \$72–\$228	5/18	• Lou Gramm & Asia Cannery • \$39–\$89	6/1–6/8	• Celine Dion Caesars Palace • \$109–\$799
5/5	• Colin Hay Brooklyn Bowl • \$35/\$40	5/18	• Snow Patrol Hard Rock • \$36–\$55	6/1–6/14	• Lady Gaga Enigma Park MGM • \$82.57–\$344.95
5/5	• Pepe Aguilar's Jariepo MGM Grand • \$49–\$249	5/18	• Sommore • Suncoast • \$35–\$50	6/1–11/16	• Bert Kreischer • Mirage • \$54–\$98
5/5–5/6	• Rodeo Showdown at Helldorado Days • T&M • \$15–\$80	5/18	• Tom Segura: Take It Down Tour Cosmo • \$29–\$59	6/2	• Brown Sabbath Brooklyn Bowl • \$18/\$20
5/5–5/26	• Matt Goss • Mirage • \$27–\$91	5/18	• Whitney Cummings Orleans • \$44–\$64	6/2–6/9	• Lady Gaga Jazz & Piano Park MGM • \$170–\$505
5/7–5/12	• Billy Ray Cyrus Orleans • \$19–\$32	5/18–11/9	• Tim Allen • Mirage • \$65–\$87	6/2–6/16	• Matt Goss • Mirage • \$27–\$91
5/8	• Songs for Our Planet Brooklyn Bowl • \$20/\$500	5/24	• Herman's Hermits Golden Nugget • \$49–\$139	6/3	• Snarky Puppy Brooklyn Bowl • \$30–\$50
5/8	• Yngwie Malmsteen MBay • \$27.50	5/24	• Lil Mosey Brooklyn Bowl • \$20–\$100	6/5	• American Aquarium Brooklyn Bowl • \$15/\$20
5/9	• Leilani Wolfgramm Hard Rock • \$12/\$20	5/24	• Sands Cares INSPIRE w/Kelly Clarkson • Venetian • \$92–\$442	6/5	• Hillsong United Hard Rock • \$28–\$250
5/10	• Association Golden Nugget • \$29–\$109	5/24–5/26	• Air Supply • Orleans • \$41–\$61	6/5–6/15	• Diana Ross Wynn LV • \$60.50–\$301
5/10	• Jenny Lewis • MBay • \$25–\$40	5/24–5/26	• Gabriel Iglesias Mirage • \$65–\$98	6/6–6/15	• Barry Manilow Westgate LV • \$39.75–\$329.75
5/10	• Hollywood Vampires Hard Rock • \$36–\$224	5/24–5/26	• Rob Schneider South Point • \$35–\$45	6/7	• Felix Cavaliere's Rascals Golden Nugget • \$39–\$129
5/10–5/11	• Daniel Tosh • Mirage • \$65–\$104	5/25	• All Elite Wrestling MGM Grand • \$39–\$1,000	6/7–6/8	• Jeff Ross & Dave Attell Mirage • \$43–\$65
5/10–5/12	• Gary Puckett and The Union Gap South Point • \$30–\$40	5/25	• New Kids On The Block MBay • \$29.95–\$139.95	6/8	• 4NR: Foreigner Tribute Cannery • \$19.95/\$22.94
5/10–5/18	• Lady Antebellum Palms • \$32–\$275				
5/11	• Ariana Grande T-Mobile • \$49.95–\$224.95				

ADVANCE PLANNER—HEADLINERS AND EVENTS

- 6/8 • Dizzy Wright
Brooklyn Bowl • \$22–\$150
- 6/8 • P.O.D. w/Nonpoint, Islander,
Nine Shrines • Hard Rock • \$26
- 6/13 • Chris Webby w/Grieves, Lock-
smith, Ekoh • Hard Rock • \$23
- 6/13–6/27 • Frankie Moreno
South Point • \$20–\$30
- 6/14 • Buttertones • Hard Rock • \$18/\$29
- 6/14 • Blue October
Brooklyn Bowl • \$29.50–\$49.50
- 6/14 • POCO
Golden Nugget • \$29–\$109
- 6/14 • Sublime w/Rome • MBay • \$56
- 6/14–6/15 • George Lopez
Mirage • \$65–\$87
- 6/14–6/16 • Ricky Nelson Remembered
South Point • \$20–\$30
- 6/15 • Adam Sandler & Friends
Cosmo • \$49–\$179
- 6/15 • Bryan Callen & Brendan Schaub
Orleans • \$49–\$64
- 6/15 • Bobby Brown + Bell Biv Devoe
Hard Rock • \$34–\$170
- 6/15 • Jennifer Lopez It's My Party
T-Mobile • \$59–\$320
- 6/15 • Joan Osborne
Aliante Casino • \$50.65–\$73.45
- 6/15 • Lady Gaga Jazz & Piano
Park MGM • \$205–\$399
- 6/15 • Mirage: Visions of Fleetwood Mac
Suncoast • \$19/\$22
- 6/15 • Pat Green • M Resort • \$22–\$42
- 6/15 • Ziggy Marley and Michael Franti
& Spearhead • MBay • \$48/\$87
- 6/16 • Anderson, Paak & The Free
Nationals • Palms • \$92–\$386
- 6/18 • Chromeo
Brooklyn Bowl • \$30–\$65
- 6/19–6/29 • Aerosmith
Park MGM • \$215–\$688
- 6/19–6/29 • Robbie Williams
Wynn LV • \$59.50–\$250
- 6/20 • Drive-By Truckers
Brooklyn Bowl • \$30
- 6/21 • Greg Kihn Band
Golden Nugget • \$29–\$109
- 6/21 • Kathleen Madigan
Mirage • \$33–\$55
- 6/21 • Rhett & Link • GVR • \$37.50–\$70
- 6/21–6/22 • Clean Up Crew
South Point • \$20–\$30
- 6/21–6/22 • Jerry Seinfeld
Caesars Palace • \$82.50–\$165
- 6/22 • Hootie & the Blowfish
T-Mobile • \$29.50–\$129.50
- 6/22 • Jay Leno • Mirage • \$65–\$87
- 6/22 • Khalid: Free Spirit Tour
MGM Grand • \$39.95–\$79.95
- 6/22 • Queensrÿche and Skid Row
Cannery • \$29–\$69

- 6/23 • Long Beach Dub Allstars
Brooklyn Bowl • \$22/\$25
- 6/26–6/29 • Reba, Brooks & Dunn
Caesars Palace • \$55–\$189
- 6/28 • Coheed/Cambria/Mastodon
Hard Rock • \$40–\$114
- 6/28 • Gary Lewis & The Playboys
Golden Nugget • \$29–\$109
- 6/28–6/29 • Pablo Francisco
South Point • \$20–\$30
- 6/28–6/29 • Paul McCartney
T-Mobile • \$49.50–\$520
- 6/28–6/29 • The Platters • Orleans • \$19/\$25
- 6/28–6/29 • Ron White • Mirage • \$68–\$88
- 6/29 • DSB: An American Journey
Suncoast • \$19.95/\$22.94
- 6/29 • Dio Returns
Brooklyn Bowl • \$29.99–\$39.99
- 6/29 • Judas Priest
Hard Rock • \$40–\$63
- 6/29–6/30 • Rock and Roll Fantasy Camp
Hard Rock • \$20/\$45

JULY

- 7/2–7/9 • Aerosmith
Park MGM • \$215–\$688
- 7/3–7/6 • Reba, Brooks & Dunn
Caesars Palace • \$55–\$189
- 7/3–7/6 • Robbie Williams
Wynn LV • \$59.50–\$250
- 7/4 • Mystic Roots Band • MBay • \$20
- 7/5 • Godsmack • Hard Rock • \$49.50
- 7/5 • Joe Rogan • Mirage • \$90/\$100
- 7/5 • Sinbad
Green Valley Ranch • \$25–\$45
- 7/5–7/7 • It Takes Two
South Point • \$20–\$30
- 7/6 • Iliza • Mirage • \$33–\$55
- 7/6 • Jon Bellion
MBay • \$49.50–\$69.50
- 7/6 • Ocean Alley • Rio • \$18
- 7/6 • Pentatonix
MBay • \$29.50–\$129.50
- 7/6 • UFC 239
T-Mobile • \$210–\$850
- 7/6 • Vince Neil of Mötley Crüe
Cannery • \$29–\$99
- 7/9 • Los Campesinos!
Brooklyn Bowl • \$22/\$25
- 7/12 • Celeste Barber
Cannery • \$19–\$32
- 7/12 • Hammer's House Party
Palms • \$45–\$220
- 7/12 • Melissa Etheridge
Wynn LV • \$49.50–\$150
- 7/13 • Celeste Barber
Orleans • \$19–\$32
- 7/13 • Gary Owen
Palms • \$39.95–\$89.95
- 7/13 • Howard Jones, Men Without
Hats, All Hail The Silence
Cannery • \$24–\$184

SHOW NOTES

- *Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel in Concert* has opened at Harrah's; tickets are \$65.66/\$90.46/\$125.66/\$157.
- *Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox Hideaway* has opened at the Mirage; tickets are \$55.58–\$99.18.
- "Jimmy Kimmel's Comedy Club" has opened in the LINQ Promenade; tickets are \$53.76/\$65.66/\$90.46.
- Ticket prices for *Blond Invasion The Show* in the V Theater at Planet Hollywood have been decreased from \$79.98/\$89.98 to \$76.98/\$86.98.

See inside wrap for "Weather,"
"Room Rates," and "Key Dates."

Dining continued ...

original 50/50 burger comes with a fried egg, the P.B. & Jellousy is definitely the only peanut-butter-and-jelly bacon burger in town, and the 50 Alarm Burger (so hot you have to sign a waiver to eat it) has grilled jalapeños, habañero-bacon spread, spicy fried peppers, and an egg, all topped with chile powder. There's also a bacon-stuffed and bacon-wrapped hot dog.

The prices are typical for a sports bar—\$7.99 for starters, \$13 for salads and wings, up to \$17 for the Porkapalooza Platter and most expensive burger. You can get off a little more cheaply weekdays from 11 am to 3 pm with the \$10 lunch deal for your choice from three burgers, a few flatbreads, and Caesars or Cobb salads. Slater's also has a full bar and pours 50 craft beers from the tap; members of the 50/50 Club get one beer every day for \$30 a month (think about it; that can't be good). We tried the original 50/50 and P.B. & Jellousy from the lunch special. It's not exactly light fare, but we were pleasantly surprised by both burgers; peanut butter, jelly, bacon, and a burger turn out to be not a bad combo. It was certainly a conversation starter back at the office. ■

Dining Notes

Two in the Top 30—After considering AAA and Michelin ratings, 250 combined reviews on Google and Yelp, and editorial reviews, the news and opinion website 24/7WallSt.com compiled a list of the 30 best U.S. restaurants that includes two from Las Vegas. Yep, it's the big two again: Joel Robuchon (MGM Grand) was ranked 11th and Restaurant Guy Savoy (Caesars Palace) was ranked 19th. New York led all cities with eight in the listing, including Le Bernadin at number one and Eleven Madison Park at number two. Los Angeles and San Francisco garnered three listings each.

Most Starbucks—Las Vegas has the most Starbucks outlets per capita in cities of 100,000 or more. According to *Apartment Guide*, Las Vegas has 10 Starbucks for every 5,100 residents, a total of 125 stores. ■

Openings/Closings

Two high-end restaurants, along with Side Piece Pizza ([reviewed above](#)), have opened at the Palms. Shark is a seafood restaurant from celebrity chef Bobby Flay. Greene Street Kitchen serves expensive American fare; enter via a door that looks like a cola vending machine stationed in an old-time video arcade.

Reader Leader

Reader-board signs inside the Golden Gate are advertising that the original Golden Gate shrimp cocktail is now available at its partner restaurant 7th & Carson. I phoned the restaurant and they said they'd be selling it for 18 months. The price is \$9.99, but you can also use your ONE Club points.

LVA: We've always wondered when that shrimp cocktail would show up again, but \$9.99? That's the price it was for a long time at Golden Gate, minus the first "9," of course, and it's 20 times the original price of 50¢. We'll have to be convinced.

The Crack Shack, a gourmet fried-chicken chain out of California, will open at Park MGM this summer.

A branch of L.A.'s Roaring Twenties-inspired restaurant and lounge Delilah has been announced for the Wynn with an opening date in 2020.

Saga Pastry + Sandwich, the first Las Vegas restaurant we've heard of to specialize in Scandinavian fare, has opened at 10345 S. Eastern Avenue.

Steel City Sandwich, serving "burgh-style" sandwiches from Pittsburgh, has opened in the Hard Hat bar at 1675 Industrial Road.

Las Vegas' first location of the breakfast/lunch franchise Broken Yolk has opened in the Town Square shopping district.

A Hello Kitty café is opening in June in The Park outside of T-Mobile Arena. It will feature baked goods, teas, and coffees.

After announcing that it was closing, Las Vegas' original Macayo's on E. Charleston will now remain open pending a possible sale.

Zippy's, the 52-year-old Hawaiian restaurant chain, has announced the Las Vegas location of its first mainland restaurant. The 7,000-square-foot restaurant and bakery, plus a 12,000-square-foot commercial kitchen, will be built on vacant land about five miles southwest of the Strip. Originally scheduled to open early this year, Zippy's is now set to debut in 2020.

Culinary Dropout has closed at the Hard Rock and been replaced by Craft + Community Bar & Grill.

Shizen has closed at Rampart and has been replaced with Jade Asian Kitchen & Noodles.

The MGM Grand Sports Deli has closed. It was the Stage Deli for 23 years before switching to the Sports Deli, but this is the end of the line for delis of any kind in that location; it will be replaced by a Starbucks.

The Diamond Chinese restaurant in Sonny's Saloon on Sammy Davis Jr. Dr. has closed (with rumors that Sonny's is next). That means no more fukien fried rice (yes, that was a real menu item).

The second Goodwich that opened on the west side of town last year has closed. The original sandwich shop remains open downtown ([LVA 9/16](#)). ■

ENTERTAINMENT

Pool Season

A change in entertainment preferences notwithstanding (see “Mega-Shift?”), one entertainment segment that isn’t going anywhere is daylife, as all the major resorts continue to battle to attract the big-spending pool partiers. This year brings two new players—NoMad at Park MGM and KAOS at the Palms. The NoMad pool is located on the third floor of Park MGM. The pool party is called Jemaa, named for the main market square in old-town Marrakech, Morocco. KAOS is the product of a year-long build-out to completely transform the Palms pool area. It began as a partnership with the Tao Group and though that arrangement is no longer in place, it figures that a lot of the design elements were hatched during that collaboration (see this issue’s cover). Otherwise, the scene looks a lot as it has for the past several years, with the usual suspects dominating the vibrant daylife space.

This year, according to the information we could gather prior to all the openings, 11 pools are dealing live blackjack, 9 are “toptional,” and 36 (four fewer than last

year) are open to the public in some form, though there’s often an admission charge. As always, things change and some information hasn’t been divulged yet. So while the chart below is comprehensive and up to date as of late April, some of it may become dated over the course of the season. Use this information as a starting point, then verify by phone. ■

Mega-Shift?

An article in the *LV Review-Journal* that quoted some pretty connected entertainment empresarios indicates that there may be a shift in the works with regard to nightlife preferences. “Vegas has definitely hit the saturation point with nightclubs,” said a co-founder of the Tao Group, while an executive from the Hard Rock went as far as calling the mega-clubs “a broken model.” The alternative? Smaller lounges that provide more intimate experiences. Perhaps, but it seems like we’ve seen that before with moves to and away from ultra-lounges. Meanwhile, the mega-clubs have demonstrated staying power, running strong for two decades. Evidence to support the shift, however, includes developments this month at Bellagio and the Wynn (see ENTERTAIN-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Blackjack by the Pool

Blackjack by the Pool

Caesars	Plaza
Cosmopolitan	Planet Hollywood
Encore	Red Rock
Flamingo	Tropicana
Golden Nugget	Wynn
Hard Rock	

Topless Sunbathing

Topless Sunbathing

Artisan
Caesars (Venus Pool)
Encore (European Pool)
MBay (Moorea Beach Club)
Sapphire (Day Club)
SLS (European Pool)
The STRAT (Radius)
Venetian (TAO Beach)
Wynn (European Pool)

Pool Parties

Pool Parties

(These pools all have parties planned—several on specific days of the week. For details, see “Pools” and “Events” at LasVegasAdvisor.com.)

Aria	Mirage (Bare)
(Liquid)	NoMad (Jemaa)
Artisan	Palace Station (DJ’s)
Caesars (DJ’s)	Palms (KAOS)
Cosmopolitan	Planet Hollywood
Cromwell	(DJ’s)
Downtown Grand	Plaza
Encore	Red Rock
Flamingo	Rio (DJ’s)
Green Valley	Sapphire
Ranch (DJ’s)	SLS (Foxtail)
Golden Nugget	The STRAT
Hard Rock	(Radius DJ’s)
LINQ	Top Golf (Hideaway)
Luxor	Venetian
(LGBT Party)	(TAO Beach)
M Resort	
MBay	
(Daylight Beach Club)	
MGM Grand	
(Wet Republic)	

Open to the Public:

(For times, prices, and details, see “Pools” at LasVegasAdvisor.com.)

Aliante, Aria, Artisan, Caesars (Venus), Cosmopolitan (Marquee Day Club), Cromwell (Drai’s), Downtown Grand, Encore (Encore Beach Club), Excalibur, Flamingo (Go Pool), Green Valley Ranch, Golden Nugget, Hard Rock, Harrah’s, The LINQ, JW Marriot, Luxor, M Resort, MBay (Moorea Beach, MBay Beach), MGM Grand (Wet Republic), Mirage (Bare), NoMad (Jemaa), Palace Station, Palms (KAOS), Planet Hollywood, Plaza, Red Rock, Rio, Sapphire, Silverton, SLS (Foxtail, Grand Pool), The STRAT (Radius), Sunset Station, Top Golf (Hideaway), Tropicana, Venetian (TAO Beach)

Poolside Concerts:

Cosmopolitan, Flamingo, Hard Rock, M Resort, MBay, NoMad (Jemaa), Palms (KAOS), Plaza, Red Rock

Entertainment continued ...

MENT NOTES), along with, as pointed out in the article, the emergence of hybrid venues, e.g., the Barbershop at the Cosmopolitan and Topgolf. ■

Bars and Happy Hours

A new Sunday brunch in Mabel's BBQ at the Palms has an all-you-can-drink option for \$29. The brunch alone is also \$29 and you can get both for \$49.

The Treasures gentlemen's club has unveiled a rare Premium Happy Hour, with top-shelf booze on special for four hours every night, seven days a week. From 4 to 7 pm, domestic beers are \$2, imports and well drinks are \$3, call drinks are \$4, and premium brands are \$5. From 7 to 8 pm, all drinks are half-price. This is an especially strong deal if you parlay with the Member Rewards offer for a 2-for-1 entrée in the Treasures Steakhouse.

Rock & Reilly's on the Strip has different happy hours each day Mon.-Thurs. from noon to midnight, including 2-for-1 drinks on Tuesdays and half-price bottles of wine and flatbreads on Wednesdays. A second HH runs Mon.-Fri. from 2 to 6 am, with rotating food and drink discounts.

Crab Corner Rainbow has a happy hour daily from 2 to 6 pm, with \$3 domestic beer and well drinks and appetizers from \$1 to \$9, including \$1 raw oysters and \$2 grilled oysters.

At Hard Hat bar, bottles of Sol beer are \$1 24/7.

At Aztec Inn, draft PBR is \$2 24/7. Aztec Inn is a slot house located across the street from the STRAT. It's a bit low-rent in appearance, but interesting with a pool table, jukebox, snacks vending machine, and surprisingly good video poker (see [GAMBLING](#)).

Five new Distill bars have opened. All were previously Putter's and the conversions were made in 10 days. The locations are 1231 American Pacific, 5750 S. Decatur, 4140 S. Durango, 6945 S. Rainbow, and 7790 W. Cheyenne.

A new wine bar called The Local has opened in The District at Green Valley Ranch.

Beauty Bar in the Fremont East Entertainment District has closed after having its liquor license revoked due to a series of legal infractions. The bar had operated since 2005, but ran into trouble after changing ownership last year.

The last of the BJ's bars, known for their corset-clad female bartenders, has closed.

At T-Mobile a 24-ounce Estrella is \$15 and a spiked seltzer is \$11. At Sagos Spring Mountain, a draft Modelo or draft Tenaya Creek Gypsy Fade is \$7. At Hard Hat Lounge, a draft Dead Guy Rogue Ale is \$7 and a Bud

is \$5. In HoloHolo at the California, a Stella Artois is \$6. At O'Aces Decatur, a DRF Stone IPA is \$5. At Distill Durango, a draft Stella is \$5.

Notes: The T-Mobile prices were during a VGK play-off game. Beat higher prices at the California bars by ordering Heineken, Corona, or Bud Light, which are \$3 each all day. ■

Entertainment Notes

Colosseum Remodel—The Colosseum at Caesars Palace will close in July to undergo its first remodel since opening in 2003. The 4,400-seat theater will go dark after the last Reba McEntire and Brooks & Dunn show on July 6 and reopen for Rod Stewart on September 18. The seats, carpet, video screen, and sound system will be upgraded, VIP bottle service will be added, and a standing-room general-admission section will be built in front of the stage.

Hyde Closing—The eight-year-old Hyde nightclub at Bellagio will close, on July 6. The 10,000-square-foot indoor-outdoor space with a prime view of the Bellagio fountains will remain closed till sometime toward the end of the year, when it will reopen with a new concept and a new name.

Intrigue Closing?—While it hasn't been officially announced, word is Intrigue at the Wynn will close and not be reopened as a club.

Fewer Shows for Angel—Criss Angel's *Mindfreak Live* at Planet Hollywood has canceled all 9:30 and 10 pm performances due to a condition affecting the illusionist's shoulder. He'll perform five 7 pm shows per week, Wednesdays through Sundays, till further notice. Angel announced that his show will remain at Planet Hollywood through 2024.

Tents—Only one month into a scheduled six-month run at Excalibur, the *Fuerza Bruta* tent show has closed. Another show in a tent, *Celestia*, is scheduled to open May 1 at the STRAT. It joins Las Vegas' resident tent show, *Absinthe*, which recently celebrated its eighth anniversary at Caesars Palace.

New Venetian Show—A new production called *Atomic Saloon Show* will debut at the Venetian in September. It's produced by Spiegelworld, the company behind *Absinthe* at Caesars Palace and *Opium* at the Cosmopolitan.

More Ways to Zip—Fly LINQ, the 1,100-foot zipline running from the Strip to the High Roller observation wheel, now claims to be the only zipline in the world to offer four ride styles. You can ride seated or superhero-style (horizontal and face-down) facing forward as usual, but also both ways facing backwards. (We're waiting for the superhero-style face-up option.) Ride prices start at \$25.

Cat's Meow—The happenin' karaoke bar located in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter, Cat's Meow, is opening its first and only new venue in downtown Las Vegas. It's reported that the second incarnation of the 25-year-old Bourbon Street bar, which bills itself as "the world's number-one karaoke nightclub," will occupy a 10,000-square-foot space on the second floor of Neonopolis, with live streaming of the amateur performances. Cat's Meow Vegas is expected to open in June.

Residencies/Added Dates—Anita Baker will play five shows at the Venetian: May 31, June 1, 5, 7-8; tickets start at \$49.95 base. Jackson Browne will play three dates at the Venetian beginning Aug. 21; tickets start at \$49.95 base. Journey will play nine dates in the Colosseum at Caesars Palace beginning Oct. 9; ticket prices start at \$69 base. Sting will play 16 dates at Caesars Palace beginning May 22, 2020; ticket prices for *Sting: My Songs* start at \$59 base.

New dates have been added for *Rod Stewart: The Hits*: Sept. 18, 20-21, 24, 30;

See the [ADVANCE PLANNER](#) for dates, prices, and additional show updates. ■

GAMBLING

The New Indie

While all the attention is being focused on the business side of the opening of the Circa sports books this month (see [News](#)), there's a whole other consideration for skilled sports bettors: A new independent bookmaker is entering the market. By independent, we mean an otherwise unaffiliated book that will make its own lines. For example, whereas all William Hill outlets have the same line on a game, an independent makes its own. It will often be the same as Will Hill's, but not always, which increases options for the bettors. Owner Derek Stevens has shown that he has plenty of gamble when it comes to sports betting and he's hired Matthew Metcalf, a Jay Kornegay disciple from the Westgate SuperBook, to run the Circa show. It sounds like a good mix that will only make the Las Vegas betting scene better. ■

Sports Bettor on Jeopardy!

On the off chance that you haven't heard by now, Las Vegas James Holzhauer is rewriting the record books on "Jeopardy!" As this issue goes to press, Holzhauer has won 18 straight games. That's well off

record-holder Ken Jennings' 74 straight; however, Holzhauer's money total of \$1.3 million is more than a third of the way to Jennings' \$3,022,700. The disparity in games played to money won is what sets Holzhauer apart from anyone before him. He now holds the all-time single-game record of \$132,127 and has topped the previous one-day record on multiple occasions. The high scores are a result of an aggressive style of play that includes betting high, often the max, on Daily Doubles. Holzhauer unabashedly describes himself on the show and in interviews as a professional sports bettor and we can attest that it's true—we know people on both sides of the betting counter who knew him as a player before his "Jeopardy!" notoriety. His style and results on the show reflect an advantage player approach that goes hand in hand with gambling for profit. Interestingly, we're working on a sports betting book now (not yet titled) that includes a chapter about "Jeopardy!" that was written before Holzhauer came onto the scene. ■

Tiger Rocks the Books

Love him or hate him, it doesn't matter. Tiger Woods won the Masters and any way you cut it, the result was darned good for golf. But it wasn't so good for the sports books. Woods' form in lead-up tournaments kept the exposure down somewhat, but the odds against him to win were still in the 10-1 to 15-1 range and there were a lot of takers. Almost all of the books claimed losses of some level. FanDuel reported losing \$2 million, but the biggest hit was absorbed by William Hill, which made a single-bet payout of \$1.19 million when someone cashed an \$85,000 wager at 14-1. It was by far the largest payout on a golf bet in Will Hill history. Woods opened as the 8-1 favorite to win this month's PGA Championship. ■

Gambling Notes

Megabucks Hits—A visitor from Arizona hit Megabucks at Sunset Station for \$13,154,723 last month. The unidentified player bought in for \$40 and had played for less than two minutes before lining up the Megabucks symbols on a Triple Red Hot Sevens machine.

Cashing at the D—The D has finally installed a ticket-redemption machine on the second floor. Previously, the only way to cash out when playing upstairs was to take tickets to the main floor.

Kentucky Derby—Pre-race odds have Omaha Beach and Roadster as the co-favorites at 7-2 to win the Kentucky Derby, followed by Improbable at 5-1 and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Gambling continued ...

Maximum Security at 6-1. Free handicapping seminars will be held at Fiesta Henderson at 1 pm and Boulder Station at 6 pm on May 2, and Texas Station, Sunset Station, South Point, and Rampart at 6 pm on May 3. Check out “[Vegas News](#)” at [LasVegasAdvisor.com](#) for more details on seminars and promotions leading up to the race.

Reno—In Reno, all table games have been removed from Circus Circus. The casino is part of three connected properties, along with Eldorado and Silver Legacy where table games remain at both.

Baby Betting—The betting handle on the name, weight, even the chosen godparents of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s baby is expected to reach \$1.3 million at U.K. sports books. Someone must know something about the sex—the name favorites are reportedly Diana, Alice, and Elizabeth. ■

Video Poker Lost and Found

The best game at the Aztec Inn is 25-15-9-4-4-3 Deuces Wild, returning 98.91% with perfect play. It’s available on most of the machines there, including at the bar for 1¢ to \$1. The penny games are 5-coiners, which is rare for pennies when the schedule is this good. Don’t expect to get comped drinks at that level, though. At most bars, it’s unlikely you’ll be comped for 5-coin play below quarters.

There’s nothing good at the sports book bar at the STRAT. Remember, the casino is now owned by Golden Gaming, which runs the stingy (video-poker-wise) PT’s bars. The best schedule at the sports book bar is 6/5 Bonus Poker (96.87%) and the best in the casino is 8/6 Bonus Poker Deluxe (98.49%) for dollars.

We’ve mentioned the quarter 7/5 BP progressive at Wildfire Valley View that tends to make its way to positive territory (when the RF hits \$1,900), due to a \$1,250 reset. Last month, it went to \$2,450 (101.40%) before it was hit.

The online database vpFREE2 reports that the Eldorado in Henderson has removed its quarter 10/7 Double Bonus games. Eldorado has steadily downgraded its VP inventory over the years and now has a best game of 12-8 Loose Deuces (99.20%) at \$1 and \$2. The best at 25¢ is 9/7/5 Double Bonus (99.11%).

It’s a similar situation at the sports book bar at Park MGM, where the best game for quarters is 6/5 BP. It bumps up to 7/5 BP (98.01%) at dollars. Weak.

The best game at Hard Hat Lounge is also 6/5 BP, but there’s a play-\$20-get-\$10 club sign-up bonus.

Currently, no Bob Dancer video poker classes are

scheduled. They’re expected to resume in August. In the interim, be sure to check out Bob’s weekly Tuesday blog and the Thursday “[Gambling With an Edge](#)” podcast, with Bob and Richard Munchkin, both at [LasVegasAdvisor.com](#). ■

FAST TRACK

Demon at the Palms—If you’re wondering about the image on this issue’s cover, it’s artist Damien Hirst’s “Demon With Bowl,” a 60-foot-tall bronze sculpture of a naked and headless ogre, holding (what looks like) a shellfish bowl and encrusted with barnacles, coral, and other underwater stuff at the Palms’ KAOS pool complex. It’s the second Hirst piece at the Palms; the first is “The Unknown (Explored, Explained, Exploded),” a three-piece tiger shark at the Hirst-themed Unknown Bar.

Third Term for Goodman—The Goodman mayoral era in Las Vegas will now span an entire generation. Carolyn Goodman overwhelmingly won a third and final term in office; her 12 years will match the three terms served by her husband Oscar. This was a primary election against six challengers in which Goodman received 83.5% of the vote; she needed only 51% to skip the general election.

Chapel for Sale—A Little White Chapel, one of the oldest and most popular wedding venues in Las Vegas is on the market. The chapel, which opened in 1951, is located on an acre of land on Las Vegas Blvd. S., just south of Charleston. The chapel has been the venue for the weddings of Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Michael Jordan, and Britney Spears. The asking price is \$12 million for the property and the business.

Airbnb Cutting In—According to a report issued by Telsey Advisory Group, Airbnb is having a noticeable impact on Las Vegas room revenues. In 2018, 718,000 Airbnb renters cost Strip hotels an estimated \$150 million. The number of renters could hit one million this year. Resort and parking fees alone can equal the entire cost of a short-term private rental.

Lucy Launches—The Lucy, a mixed-use complex aiming to cater to the arts, has opened at 519 S. 6th Street. Its anchor tenant is the independent Writer’s Block Book Shop, but the campus also includes a dozen loft-style residences, three of which will apparently be provided gratis to artists and writers working on projects to benefit the Las Vegas community.

Gambling Conference—The 17th International Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking runs May 27-30 at Caesars Palace. Held only once every three years, it’s considered by many to be the most prestigious gambling conference in the world. ■