

DEAL ME IN

Friend Might Try Shuffle Master's Leg

Dear Mark: I was sitting at a casino bar in casual conversation with another player who said that he was a card counter. I asked him why play here since this casino uses only continuous shuffle machines. He replied that he liked to play on them because it drew less scrutiny versus a hand or shoe dealt game. Funny thing was that he was broke and couldn't even buy a round of drinks. Was he pulling my leg?

Tom D.

So let me get this straight, Tom. Here's a guy belled up at the bar, tapped out and unable to buy you a dollar draft, telling you he loves continuous shuffle machines because they draw less heat from pit bulls. Huh?

I remember reading a few years back that Shuffle Master, one of the manufacturers of continuous shufflers, offered \$100,000 to any player who could show that a continuous shuffle machine could be beaten by either shuffle tracking or card counting techniques. What I haven't read is anyone ever collecting on that \$100,000 challenge.

But thwarting card counters isn't the only reason casinos love continuous shuffle machines. What they like best about a constant shuffle machine is that dealers do not waste time manually shuffling the cards. From the casino's perspective, shuffling is time, and time is money -- their money.

The more hands you, the player, see per hour, the more you are exposed to the house edge, which allows the built-in casino advantage to eat away at the chips in front of you. It's for this reason, Tom, and not the ability to count down a deck or two that I'm no fan of continuous shuffle machines.

Dear Mark: If as you say, all spins are random, then how can a machine be set to return a certain percentage back to the player, especially machines that "supposedly" are advertised to return 98% back to the player?

Tracy H.

Let's start with the premise that when a slot machine displays the outcome of any one particular spin, it hasn't been picking and choosing; it displays at a mechanically dictated moment, a randomly arrived-at member of a pre-defined pool of possible outcomes.

Now, Tracy, to guarantee a 98% return on a select machine, all the casino has to do is add up all the money the player could win on all



Mark Pilarski

of the equally likely outcomes, then divide that by the total number of all those possible outcomes, and out pops the payback percentage of that particular machine.

To radically simplify matters, imagine an undernourished, underprivileged machine with only 100 possible outcomes -- although today's electronic gizmos actually have millions and millions -- and the total amount of money you can win when you've hit them all is 98 dollars. Divide 98 by 100, and there's your 98% payback machine.

What happens over the long haul is that the odds of getting any particular outcome will get closer to 1 out of 100, and the amount of money the machine pays back will get nearer to 98% of the money wagered. But when you're dealing in real world slots, with millions and millions of possible outcomes, it doesn't necessarily mean that every time you sit in front of a slot machine and play through \$100, you should expect to end up with 98 credits.

Dear Mark: Why shouldn't I insure my twenties against a dealer ace? It's darn near a guaranteed winner, so why not protect it?

Zell R.

Who's holding at least two of the cards the dealer needs to make blackjack? YOU, Zell. When you insure a hand composed of two 10 cards you're giving the house a huge edge, up to a 14.3% edge on a single deck game, making this one of the worst bets you can make in the casino.

Granted when you do insure a pair of 10's, 30% of the time you'll save your wager, but 70% of the time you'll be throwing half that bet away. To me, that's a losing proposition every time.

Gambling Wisdom of the Week: "What's a whale?" he asked finally. Martinez clinked his glass against the window. "A whale is someone who can lose a million dollars at cards--and not give a damn." --Ben Mezrich, Bringing Down the House

Got a question about gambling? Write to: Deal Me In, P.O. Box 1234, Traverse City, Michigan 49685 --e-mail: pilarski@markpilarski.com • To order Mark Pilarski's "Hooked on Winning" audio cassettes-laminated win cards package (\$12.95 plus \$2 S&H) call 1-800-WINNERS.

LaSalle High School

Steiner, Wyers Named Top Leaders for Class of 2008

LaSalle High School has named Brendon Steiner valedictorian and Audrey Wyers salutatorian, for the Class of 2008.

Mr. Steiner earned a grade point average of 4.114 and plans to major in business at Western Michigan University.

The son of Laurie and Dean Steiner of St. Ignace, he served on the quiz bowl team, is a member of the National Honor Society, and played varsity baseball. Throughout his high school career, Mr. Steiner has taken advanced placement courses and won several medals.

During his senior year, he won the Social Studies Award, Anatomy and Physiology Award, and the Physics Award. He received the

Eastern Upper Peninsula Principals Award for Academic Excellence and the Senior Community Service Award. He earned the St. Ignace Kiwanis Club Scholarship, St. Ignace Area Schools Scholarship, St. Ignace Lions Club Scholarship, St. Ignace Community Foundation Educational Enhancement Scholarship, and the McKinnon Scholarship.

Miss Wyers earned a grade point average of 4.08 and plans to major in music education at Alma College.



Brendon Steiner



Audrey Wyers

The daughter of Ann Wyers of St. Ignace and Dan Wyers of Sault Ste. Marie, she earned a varsity letter in cross country track in her senior year. A member of the National Honor Society, her numerous academic awards include the Social Studies Award, Anatomy and Physiology Award, Outstanding Musician Award, Louis Armstrong Jazz Band Award, and the James Vaughn Award for Dramatic Excellence.

She donated 270 hours in community service during her four

years of high school. The St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce recognized her for her leadership in community service with this year's Student Citizen Award, and she was selected by LaSalle's faculty as this year's Alpha Beta Award winner.

Miss Wyers received the St. Ignace Kiwanis Club Scholarship, St. Ignace Education Association Scholarship, Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Scholarship, Fred Stearns Scholarship, Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship, St. Ignace Community Foundation Educational Enhancement Scholarship, and the McKinnon Scholarship.

Commencement for the Class of 2008 will be Friday, May 23, at 8 p.m. at LaSalle High School.

Engadine High School

Dunne, Maison Named Class Valedictorian, Salutatorian

Samantha Dunne, daughter of Robert and Joyce Robarge and Francis Dunne, has been named valedictorian of the Engadine High School Senior Class of 2008.

Miss Dunne maintained a 4.05 grade point average throughout her high school career.

She has participated in cheerleading, quiz bowl, volleyball, and track. She is also active in the 4-H Core team, serving as vice president, and volunteering in the community.

She has received numerous academic awards for outstanding

achievement. She has been on the honor roll, and has received the academic achievement award, E.U.P. Principals Award, citizenship award, and Michigan Promise award.

Her future plans are to attend Michigan Technology University to major in environmental chemistry.



Samantha Dunne

Jamie Maison, daughter of Christopher and Yvonne Maison, has been named salutatorian of the Engadine High School Senior Class of 2008.

Miss Maison maintained a 3.87 grade point average over her high school career.

She has participated in volleyball, cheerleading, basketball,

yearbook, and golf. She has also been active in the 20-20 Youth Group, taking mission trips to Mexico and New York and volunteering in the community.

She has been on the honor roll for four years, received the academic achievement award, the E.U.P. Principals Award, and the Michigan Promise award.

Her future plans are to attend Northern Michigan University.

Commencement will be Friday, June 6, at 8 p.m. at Engadine Consolidated Schools.



Jamie Maison

Mackinac Island

By Jeannette Doud
847-6298



Beautiful spring days have arrived on Mackinac, making everyone happy that the snow and cold temperatures have finally passed.

Buds on the trees are showing signs of opening. The lilacs are very healthy and should produce a wide variety of blooms in many shades of lavender. Their fragrance will permeate the air as many visitors attend the Lilac Festival. Daffodils, narcissus, and lilies of the valley are in full bloom.

With a few more warm days, the thousands of tulips in every color of the rainbow will burst into bloom, just in time to welcome the Michigan State Knights of Columbus Convention Thursday,

May 22, and Friday, May 23, at Grand Hotel.

Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4, the Georgia Southern Classic Golf Tournament was televised. Scott Parel, son of Jack and Paige Parel, took fourth place in the tournament and won \$30,000. Scott has a brother, Dr. Robert Parel. His uncle, Larry Parel, gave me the information. Congratulations to Scott from his many Island fans.

We send special greetings to Pam Lach, who continues to recuperate from her recent illness. Pam has moved, to be with her sister and family in Merrillville, Indiana. We wish Pam all the best. Please remember her with cards at the fol-

lowing address: Pam Lach, c/o Laurie Matteli, 8812 Harrison

Street, Merrillville, IN 46410.

* Turn to page 24: Doud

Cedarville Graduates Led by a Trio

CDV Grads: From page 22 competitive levels, and participating in two Pre-Gold skate dances. She has coordinated American Red Cross Blood Drives for the Clark Township community, and is a member of the First Union Church Youth Group.

She plays piano and flute, and is a member of the Cedarville Woodwind Quintet. As a cross country runner, she was a member of the first place team in the final runs of 2004 and 2005.

Miss Schlosser plans to attend Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, where she will major in accounting.

She has five siblings, including Jonathan, 22, Chad, 20, Matthew, 15, Bethany, 13, and Leila, 9.

Miss Sudol, 18, is the daughter

of Linda and David Sudol of Hessel

She has a 3.94 grade point average and has been on the honor roll at Cedarville High School. Her athletic activities include volleyball and track, and she earned a varsity letter for participation.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, and has participated in BABES for elementary students, served as a cadet teacher at the school, was a member of the Cedarville High School Drama Club, Student Council, and band. She was a member of the Les Cheneaux Youth Advisory Committee. She plans to attend Ferris State University in Big Rapids and study pre-dentistry.

She has a brother, David, and a twin sister, MacKenzie.

NOTICE

Clark Township Planning Commission

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE Clark Township Planning Commission on June 10, 2008, at the Clark Township Hall, 207 N. Blind Line Road at 7:00 p.m., Clark Township, Mackinac County, Cedarville, MI 49719.

Case #206: Andrew McMillan is requesting a Special Land Use for a boat shelter. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION LES CHENEAU CLUB SUBDIVISION West 1/2 of Lots 42 and 96. All of lots 43 and 46-50 inclusive and Lots 75 and 76. Address: 1132 S. West Shore Club Drive, Marquette Island

Tentative text, property description and zoning map may be examined at the Township Clerk's Office during regular business hours 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. each weekday.

Clark Township Planning Commission

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING Mackinac Island Planning Commission

As prescribed under Article 19, section 19.03, 19.04, 19.05 and 19.06 of Ordinance Number 278, as amended, notice is now given that the City of Mackinac Island Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing as described:

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Community Hall Mackinac Island, Michigan

Application has been made by Ken Styburski and Debra Borchert, requesting a use change to allow them to convert an existing building known as the "Great Turtle Lodge" currently approved for Bed and Breakfast use, into an employee housing/boarding house use. The subject property is located at 2186 Annex Road (Property No. 49-051-630-003-00), City of Mackinac Island, County of Mackinac; and is zoned High Density Residential (R-3). The City of Mackinac Island zoning ordinance permits both the current use and the proposed use by special land use approval of the Mackinac Island Planning Commission, provided that they are in compliance with the standards of section 7.03 and the procedures and standards in article 19.

The Mackinac Island Planning Commission will hold one public hearing on the proposed use to receive public comment concerning the request and before making its determination. Notice of this hearing shall be sent to the owners of record of the property.

Persons who wish to provide comment on the application may do so by appearing before the Mackinac Island Planning Commission at the hearing or by submitting comment by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing to:

Dennis Dombroski, Zoning Administrator
Mackinac Island Planning Commission
City of Mackinac Island
P.O. Box 455
Mackinac Island, MI 49757

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Brevort Township Master Plan

The June 11, 2008 Brevort Township Planning Commission meeting has been rescheduled for June 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. During this meeting the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Master Plan. The meeting will be held at the Brevort Township Community Center, 4020 N. Church St., Moran, and all interested persons are invited to attend and comment. The proposed Master Plan is available for public inspection by contacting Luci Wallace, Planning Commission Chair at 906-643-8503 or Susan Stelzer, Township Clerk at 906-643-6773. Written comments may be sent to: Brevort Township Planning Commission, c/o Township Clerk, W2148 Charles Moran Rd., Moran, MI 49760.

MORAN TOWNSHIP, RESIDENTS ONLY SPRING CLEAN-UP Saturday, May 31, 2008 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (One Day Only)

EASTERN PART OF MORAN TOWNSHIP, a container will be located at the **MORAN TOWNSHIP HALL, W1362 US-2, ST. IGNACE.**

VILLAGE OF BREVORT AND OZARK AREA, a container will be located at the **BREVORT COMMUNITY CENTER, N4421 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD, BREVORT.**

CONTACT: George's Body Shop (906) 643-8696 for removal of cars and refrigerator disposal.

There will be a container at both sites for disposal of SCRAP METAL

ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED: Appliances that do not have proof of freon removal. No batteries. No chemicals, oil, paint, air-conditioning units or propane tanks. No concrete or construction materials. No brush. No railroad ties. No tires.

The St. Ignace Hope Chest will have a volunteer on site for donated items.

ANYONE CAUGHT DUMPING BEFORE SCHEDULED TIME WILL BE PROSECUTED

~ DISPOSAL SITES WILL BE ATTENDED ~

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