

Destruction of gaming chips a regulated process

By Ed Komenda, Las Vegas Sun

All poker chips expire.

But unlike with sour milk in a fridge, casino bosses choose when chips go bad. It can be months, years or decades after they are issued.

“It’s a personal choice,” said Mark Lipparelli, a gaming consultant and former chairman of the Gaming Control Board.

Caesars Entertainment and MGM Resorts International recently ran newspaper ads warning people that the chips used in several of their casinos will be discontinued in six months. After that, anyone holding onto them will be out of luck.

Expired chips lose their face value. Gaming regulators made the law in the late '80s to try to cut down on fraud and counterfeiting.

Before 1987, the state didn’t care much about what casinos did with their chips. Today, the process is very different.

Read the whole story

‘Peanutcracker’ headed to Carson City

The Sierra Nevada Ballet will present “Peanutcracker – The Story in Nut Shell” on Dec. 6 and 7 in Carson City.

Based on Lev Ivanov's original ballet "The Nutcracker", "Peanutcracker" is a shorter, 45-minute narrated version that is "designed for families with younger children to introduce them to the wonderful world of ballet," noted Rosine Bena, artistic director of the Sierra Nevada Ballet. Bena wrote and choreographed this traditional holiday show.

The shows are scheduled for 2 and 7pm at the Carson City Community Center. Ticket prices start at \$6 for youth (15 and under); all other tickets are \$11 and can be reserved by calling Gina Nelson at (775) 220. 4452 or emailing gina704@msn.com. Tickets are also on sale on-site before each show

Introverts, extroverts each contribute something

By Mandy Kendall

There are a lot of connotations to being extrovert or introvert. Most people would characterize an extrovert as "life and soul of the party'", very friendly and maybe a bit loud. Whereas introverts are often described as "shy, timid, softly spoken and not really into socializing much at all."

One dictionary definition of introvert describes them as a "shy, reticent, and typically self-centered person", with extrovert being defined as "an outgoing, overtly expressive person."

However, according to personality experts, being confident or shy has nothing to do with being extrovert or introvert. You can be confident and be an introvert, or shy and an extrovert.

Who knew?



Mandy Kendall

Although those definitions may be true in the extremes, just as there are many layers to personality types, there are layers to being extrovert and introvert. As with most things, there is a spectrum and some people may be more introverted than others or more extroverted than others. Indeed there are ambiverts, having the best of both worlds by being in the middle of the spectrum, described as “moderately comfortable with groups and social interaction, but also relishes time alone, away from a crowd. “

Take me for example, I’d like to think that I am an ambivert but with some research I discovered that I definitely fit into the introvert mold more than the extrovert model.

Kate Bartolotta, owner and founder of Be You Media Group, uses a cup analogy to help explain some of the basic differences. She says to think of ourselves as having a cup of energy available to us. Most of us love social interactions, being with friends and family and being around people. Introverts will tend to find that their cup of energy is depleted over time being around people and need to have some time alone to replenish their cup, whereas extroverts find that socializing fills their cup. Another way of looking at it is to think about how you respond to stimulation, social or otherwise. Extroverts tend to crave stimulation to help them feel alive and energized, whereas introverts tend to find they are at their best in calmer environments.

Bartolotta also suggested this 12-question quiz to find out just where you are on the introvert/extrovert scale.

With one third to half of the population being introverted, but society forcing us to conform to social expectations, it's easy to see how a lot of people may well be living lives that just aren't good for them, or those around them. It might seem these days that in order to survive or be accepted we all have to be gregarious and charismatic. But we need the balance of the contribution that introverts and extroverts give to society. Try not to be persuaded to fit in with social convention and just be who you really are.

Qwik-e tips on dealing with introversion

Be honest – with yourself, family, friends and co-workers. Forcing yourself to be sociable when you really don't feel like it is not going to help you, or anyone have a good time. Tell those close to you that sometimes you just need some alone-time so that you can be at your best when you are with them. Let co-workers know that you need some quiet time to get your work done or be creative. You might be surprised how many people feel the same way too. Make sure you are not doing things a certain way because you feel that is what is expected of you.

Think about those around you – Do you know someone who seems fine one minute, then quiet or moody the next? Maybe they struggle with keeping up with your social circle interactions and need to withdraw occasionally. Allow them some space and just ask them what they like to do to recharge their batteries, you may be surprised by what you hear.

No excuses – Don't feel like you have to make excuses for not joining every event. No one really expects more than just a "sorry I can't make that". You can be honest with close friends and family and tell them you need some recharging time, but generally social acquaintances don't need to be told

why you're not joining them.

Let your emotions be your guide – Think about where and when you feel your best (home reading a book, at a quiet dinner with a few friends, at a rock concert or large parties) and let that help you decide how you are going to spend your spare time.

This TEDx talk gives a very good overview of introversion versus extroversion.

Until next time.

Mandy Kendall operates Health Connective in South Lake Tahoe, which aligns wellness seekers with their ideal wellness provider. If you have questions, would like some advice, or would like to request some Qwik-e tips on any health and well-being topic, drop her an email at connect@healthconnective.com or keep an eye out on Lake Tahoe News for regular Qwik-e tips on how to make healthy changes one Quick and Easy step at a time.

Calif. governor's mansion reopens to the public

By Anita Creamer, Sacramento Bee

The third floor of the California governor's mansion, which reopened to the public this month after being closed to visitors for decades, is a place filled with history that's mostly quiet and personal rather than political: a place of family memories.

Gov. Jerry Brown, already in seminary and college when his father, Pat Brown, was elected governor in 1959, remembers holing up in the third floor in early 1965 to study for the California bar exam.

“I spent a lot of time there,” he said through a spokesperson. “The whole house was quite livable.”

His sister, former state Treasurer Kathleen Brown, spent much of her teenage years living in the mansion. She was the last governor’s child to occupy the house, which has been a state park since shortly after Nancy Reagan famously declared it a firetrap in 1967 and refused to live there. Kathleen Brown remembers the third floor as a secluded and unpretentious space in a large, grand house.

“The third floor had two bedrooms and an office, but it wasn’t used much,” she said by phone from Los Angeles. “There was an attic room, and I set up a clubhouse there.”

More than a decade before the Brown era, Robert Warren, the youngest of Gov. Earl Warren’s five children, also remembers spending time on the third floor, which then housed his father’s home office.

Read the whole story

Sustainability film festival at SNC

The Sierra Nevada College Sustainability Resource Center presents the 2nd annual Sustainability Film Festival beginning Nov. 7 with a screening of the film “Chasing Ice”.

The Festival continues on Friday and Saturday with food and drink starting at 5:30pm in Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences lobby on the campus of Sierra Nevada College.

The 2013 Festival lineup will feature “Chasing Ice”, the story of one man’s mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of climate change. Some of the featured films include “The Garden”, “Bidder 70”, and “Pipe Dreams”.

Go online for the festival schedule and more details.

Churches turning to beer to get congregants

By John Burnett, NPR

With mainline religious congregations dwindling across America, a scattering of churches is trying to attract new members by creating a different sort of Christian community. They are gathering around craft beer.

Some church groups are brewing it themselves, while others are bring the Holy Mysteries to a taproom. The result is not sloshed congregants; rather, it’s an exploratory approach to do church differently.

Leah Stanfield stands at a microphone across the room from the beer taps and reads this evening’s gospel message.

She’s a 28-year-old leasing agent who’s been coming to Church-in-a-Pub here in Fort Worth for a year and occasionally leads worship.

“I find the love, I find the support, I find the non-judgmental eyes when I come here,” she says. “And I find friends that love God, love craft beer.”

Beer and Hymns is an event at the annual Greenbelt Festival in London. Since 1974, Greenbelt has brought people together to explore faith, arts and justice issues.

Every Sunday evening, 30 to 40 people gather at Zio Carlo brewpub to order pizza and pints of beer, to have fellowship, and have church – including communion.

Leah Stanfield, a leasing agent in Fort Worth and regular attendee of Church-in-a Pub, hands out bread during communion at the tavern.

Pastor Philip Heinze and his Calvary Lutheran Church sponsor Church-in-a-Pub, whose formal name is the Greek word, Kyrie.

Some patrons are understandably confused. They come in for a brew and there’s a religious service going on in their bar. They expected Trivia Night and they get the Holy Eucharist.

Read the whole story

‘The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later’ at LTCC

How does a community deal with and recover from a tragedy that shocked the entire world? Lake Tahoe Community College Theater Arts Department will explore that question in its production of “The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later.”

The play by Moisés Kaufman, Stephen Belber, Leigh Fondakowski

and Greg Pierotti seeks to understand a town that is forced to cope with the aftermath of a brutal hate crime, while also facing their own biases and fears under the media spotlight.



"The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later" will be at LTCC this month. Photo/Provided

The play, an epilogue to the original "The Laramie Project," will be presented Nov. 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 at 7:30pm, and Nov. 16 and 24 at 2pm in the Duke Theatre. Discussions with the cast and audience will follow each performance. The play contains mature subject matter and may not be suitable for children under 15.

In addition to revisiting the people whose words make up the original play, the epilogue includes interviews with the two murderers, as well as Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard.

Zeina Barkawi, a close friend of Matthew Shepard's, will be joining the director and cast for a discussion with the audience following the Nov. 17 matinee performance. Barkawi is also featured in the new documentary film, "Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine."

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$7 for seniors and groups of eight or more, and \$5 for students with a valid student ID and children under 13. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the LTCC Bookstore Monday through Thursday 10am-7:30pm and Friday from 9am-2:30pm. The Box Office will

open one hour prior to performances. For information, call (530) 541.4660, ext. 207.

Young Tahoe actors to star in holiday play

By Kathryn Reed

Children not listening, talking when it's not their line and parents almost looking more bewildered. It's impossible at this juncture to know who the angels, shepherds or wise men are. Joseph is one of the tall boys. Mary is twirling a doll – aka Jesus.

"The whole play is supposed to be chaotic and I expect it will be," Ginger Nicolay Davis said of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" days after this particular rehearsal. She laughs a little when she says this. But this veteran South Lake Tahoe actor knows that rehearsals look nothing like the end product.

But Davis admits there are a couple boys she wonders about. They have a few lines and know them well. It's just that they say them at random times and never at the right time.



Director Dave Hamilton talks to the actors about how the scene is supposed to unfold.
Photo/LTN

Davis is producing the play for Barton Foundation's fifth annual Festival of Trees & Lights. Dave Hamilton is directing the production and Diana Evans is co-producing. Davis, Hamilton and Evans all have ties to the Tahoe Tallac Association. This play is a partnership with Barton Foundation.

Forty children are part of the show, ranging in age from 5 to 12. The 10 adults in it will be performing alongside at least one of their children.

"It's the right little show to get anyone in the mood for the holidays," Davis told *Lake Tahoe News*. "There is a religious component, but it's a funny look at it." Even the non-religious will enjoy it, she said.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is about a woman putting on a church Christmas pageant. The problem is the worst kids in town are part of the cast. It's about how those kids and the Christmas story meet head-on.

The Tallac Association has long wanted to do a winter play, but the boathouse where summer events are staged isn't heated. Talks began a couple years ago about partnering with Barton Foundation. The goal is this particular play could run for multiple years during the Festival of Trees and Lights, with

the cast changing.

Davis chose this play because of the age group of actors involved. There aren't many opportunities for elementary and middle school students to act on the South Shore.

Of course there are challenges with this group, but nothing the adults aren't ready to overcome. Hamilton is patient and tolerant of his young charges. Practicing at the Grand Hall at Valhalla, he tells them where to go, answers questions and keeps an eye on the moving young people. When one boy wants to sit instead of stand, Hamilton says fine but has him move so the audience would see him.

The cast will have three days to rehearse on the actual stage of MontBleu so the kids can get a feel for what show time will be like. Of course, all of this is after the weeklong Thanksgiving break when no rehearsals are scheduled.

Davis said it's all part of the chaos – some choreographed, some not.

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Notes:

- “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” is Dec. 5-6 at 6pm and Dec. 8 at 2pm. All shows are in the MontBleu showroom. Tickets are \$20 for ages 9 and older, \$10 for ages 2-8. For tickets, go online.
 - The Festival of Trees and Lights is Dec. 4-8 at MontBleu.
 - For more details about the entire festival, go online.
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'The Counselor' disappoints at nearly every turn



By Jeremy Miller

I went into "The Counselor" with hopes standard to what I expect from Ridley Scott, especially with the cast line-up and writer. However, I was quickly disappointed.

"The Counselor" stars Michael Fassbender, Javier Bardem, Brad Pitt, Penelope Cruz, and Cameron Diaz. The screenplay was written by Cormac McCarthy ("No Country for Old Men" – the novel), who made it very clear that he needs to stick to books.

Counselor (Fassbender) is a high-end lawyer looking to further indulge his lavish lifestyle by making investments in the drug scene. He's courting (clever?) Laura, a beautiful and mysterious woman played by Penelope Cruz. He's the retired playboy looking to settle down and she's the perfect one to do it with.



Counselor is buddied up with Reiner (Bardem) who's an associate involved in the drug game and together they plan on opening a club. Reiner is tied up with Malkina (Diaz), a ferociously desirable woman full of sexual flare. From the get-go you worry about her; she's just very obviously out there. Despite warnings from both Reiner and a middleman named Westray (Pitt) Counselor decides to risk it all and play his hand at the deal. As large-

scale drug trades usually do, and as the trailer makes it very clear, something goes wrong.

The story quickly turns to every man for himself, and quickly spins out of control. That's about all I have on the plot.

Here's why I give it a low rating. Cameron Diaz is an actress I'm fond of and sure I respect her, but for some reason she just wasn't doing this character the way it should have been done. There were times that she just nailed it, but others she missed so completely I couldn't take her seriously. Cormac gave screenwriting a shot, and he failed miserably. The story is OK. It's your average drug trafficking story but with way too many insightful, preachy monologues.

Even the Mexican Cartel who is seemingly incapable of rational thought has the most epic of monologues. The plot is extremely overdone, half the people I've spoken to about the film had only one question: "What the hell just happened?"

I don't blame them. It moved too fast and didn't have enough substance to really hold you there. The couple next to me gave up after an hour and just left.

Now, don't get me wrong, there were a few times during the movie that I sat back and said "damn I'm into this" ... but they

were few. Thinking back the only parts I actually enjoyed were those with Javier. He brings such magic to the screen, even with a script that's barely tolerable. Also thinking back, he didn't have any monologues. These monologues were so over the top, it was face to palm every five seconds. They would see the most minute object or occurrence and ramble for four minutes about all the symbolism and meaning it had and how it relates to death and the world and on and on. Terrible.

I'm not sure what Ridley Scott was thinking, but it was bold to support such a rambunctious script. I'm a Ridley Scott fan (obviously, who isn't) and for the first time I can say I am extremely disappointed.

South Lake Tahoe resident Jeremy Miller has more movie reviews online.

Twain delights patrons of S. Tahoe library



McAvoy Layne as Mark Twain
entertains library
supporters Nov. 3.

Photo/Denise Haerr

Sprinkling a bit of truth with a ton of humor, the sold-out crowd was transported to a time with Mark Twain walked the shores of Lake Tahoe.

McAvoy Layne entertained a large group Sunday at a fundraiser for the South Lake Tahoe Library. He is a legendary Twain impersonator.

Sharing his take on what happened when a fire that Twain and a friend started got out of control, Layne said, "I like to take credit for the first prescribed burn up here."

Sitting in the library chairs and couches, enjoying adult beverages and hearty appetizers, it was a bit like an adult storytime as Layne carried on about days gone by.

The second volume of Twain's autobiography came out this fall, with the third and final volume set for release in 2016. Asked why his words are being published more than 100 years after his death, Layne said, "Because only a dead man can tell the truth."

The money raised from the Nov. 3 event will be used by Friends of the Library to bring programs to the South Lake Tahoe Library.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*