



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY

LOVERS OF GAMES OF CHANCE



▲ **Trips to Las Vegas** — If you have extra to spend and have someone on your list who needs to get away for a while or at least for a few days, Las Vegas is only a flight away. The Detroit or Toledo airports, local travel agencies, or any online service such as Kayak.com, Priceline.com, or Travelocity.com offer hotel and flight packages. AAA Northwest Ohio <http://www.aaanw ohio.com>; Central Travel, 419-897-2070.



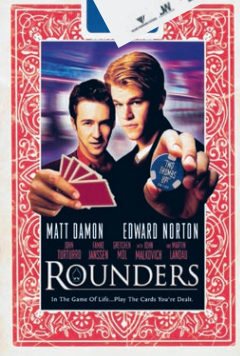
▲ **Local and regional casinos** — It's easy to get in the car and get away, whether it's for a few hours or overnight. **Hollywood Casino Toledo** offers more than 2,000 slot machines, a 20-table poker room, as well as dining options and casino table games while the **MGM Grand Detroit** — one of three casinos in Detroit and an hour's drive north of Toledo — offers lodging and dining packages. For gift suggestions, check www.mgmgranddetroit.com, hollywoodcasinotoledo.com.



▲ **Lucky sevens** — Hosting a holiday or New Year's party, but have too many guests for individual gifts? Make it a Vegas-themed party and have guests spin the wheel of a replica in-home slot machine. www.ginnys.com. \$69.95.



▲ **New Years Raffle** — Take a shot at helping someone win a million dollars. The Ohio Lottery holds its annual **New Year's Raffle**, in which a \$20 wager qualifies for one of four prizes of \$1,000,000, or prizes of \$10,000, \$1,500, \$500, and \$100. Tickets can be purchased seven days a week, through Jan. 1, with the annual drawing at 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 2. www.ohiolottery.com. \$20



▲ **Books and movies on and about gambling** — Read 'em and weep. Or watch 'em instead. If someone on your gift list likes watching others spend their money, help them live vicariously through books and movies based on gambling, beginning with the "Oceans" movie trilogy — *Ocean's Eleven*, *Ocean's Twelve*, and *Ocean's Thirteen*. Also recommended: the movie *Rounders*, starring Matt Damon, John Malkovich, and Edward Norton; and the book/movie combination of *Bringing Down the House* by Ben Mezrich and 21, starring Kevin Spacey and Kate Bosworth. www.walmart.com, bestbuy.com, www.amazon.com. \$7.99-\$14.99



▲ **MegaMillions tickets** — Didn't win the Powerball drawing? So, give your friends a chance at **MegaMillions**, which is drawn every Tuesday and Friday. Each play costs \$1 unless the \$1 Megaplier is added, and MegaMillions cards are available online at ohiolottery.com or at **Ohio Lottery retailers**. If purchased in Ohio, winning tickets can be redeemed only in Ohio. If the recipient wins, maybe he or she will remember who bought the ticket.



▲ **Kentucky Derby** — Buy Derby hats or give the ingredients for homemade mint juleps, plus a pair of tickets to the next Run for the Roses. Churchill Downs in Louisville — a five-hour drive from Toledo — hosts the 139th running of the **Kentucky Derby**, dubbed the "fastest 2 minutes in sports," on May 4. General admission tickets start at \$40, and are sure to be snapped up quickly. www.kentuckyderby.com



▲ **Casino poker tournaments** — Front the buy-in fee for a poker tournament for a friend or family member — **Hollywood Casino Toledo** offers daily tournaments with buy-in fees between \$30 and \$100, depending on the time of day and day of the week, while **Motor City Casino** in Detroit hosts tournaments on Saturdays and Mondays. hollywoodcasinotoledo.com, motorcitycasino.com



▲ **Poker sets** — They can host their own casino night, instead of driving across state lines or across town. For simpler — and less lucrative tastes — give them tools for a fun Friday night card game: a **poker set** that includes chips, cards, dealer buttons, and dice. **Dick's Sporting Goods**, www.amazon.com \$29.99-\$79.99



▲ **Online poker apps** — Help bring the poker games and slot machines directly to the living room. With a **Kindle Fire**, **iPad**, **iPhone**, and **iTouch**, several game opportunities are available: apps such as **Poker by Zynga**, **World Series of Poker**, or **World Poker Tour Hold 'Em Showdown** are free — an iPad 2 starts at \$399, \$329 for an iPad mini. **The Apple Store**, **Best Buy**, or **Amazon.com**

Prices subject to change