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# CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

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415<sup>TH</sup>  
EDITION

## COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CRYPTO CASINOS GAINING MOMENTUM IN 2026

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# EDITORS

Bitcoin opened the week under pressure as risk assets sold off after renewed tariff tensions in the United States. The broader market reacted quickly, and crypto followed equities lower, showing that macro sentiment is still driving short-term price action. Fear remains dominant, with the Crypto Fear & Greed Index sitting deep in extreme fear territory and staying there for nearly three weeks — something not seen since the 2022 bear market. Traders are becoming defensive, and prediction markets now heavily price a drop toward the mid-\$50,000 region. While many analysts believe the bottom is not confirmed yet, the longer-term view has not changed much, as historical data still suggests Bitcoin tends to recover after prolonged fear phases and statistically has a strong probability of trading higher within the next year.

# LETTER

Bitcoin slipped below the \$65,118 support on Monday, but buyers are trying to hold the level into the daily close. The bounce so far looks weak, and any recovery is likely to meet selling pressure near the 20-day EMA around \$70,185. If price gets rejected there, it would show traders are still selling rallies and the market could drift toward the major \$60,000 support zone. That level is extremely important for sentiment, because a clean breakdown below it could accelerate selling and drag BTC toward the \$52,500 region. For the structure to improve, bulls must reclaim and hold above the 20-day EMA, which would indicate demand is returning at lower prices. A successful move higher could then push Bitcoin toward \$74,508, though sellers are expected to defend that area aggressively.

Ether dropped below the nearby \$1,897 support, increasing the chances of a retest of \$1,750. The falling moving averages and a weak momentum reading suggest bears still have control in the short term. If \$1,750 fails to hold, the next downside level sits near \$1,537 and the broader downtrend may resume. However, a strong bounce from \$1,750 would show buyers are stepping in and could keep ETH range-bound between \$1,750 and \$2,111 for some time. A close above \$2,111 would be the first real bullish signal and could open the way toward the 50-day average near \$2,593.

BNB also broke under \$587, but the long lower wick shows dip-buying interest. Bulls may attempt a recovery, although the 20-day EMA near \$651 is expected to act as overhead resistance. If price fails there, sellers will again try to push BNB under \$570, which could send it toward the \$500 psychological level. A stronger recovery above the 20-day EMA would improve sentiment and allow a move toward \$730.

XRP continues to trade between the descending channel support and the 20-day EMA around \$1.47. The downward-sloping average and weak momentum show sellers still have the advantage. A break below the channel support could lead to a retest of \$1.11, and losing that level may open the door toward \$1. For bulls to regain control, XRP must break and sustain above the channel's downtrend line, signaling a possible trend reversal.

#### Trader's Outlook:

The overall market structure remains fragile and traders are still cautious. Bitcoin is the key driver, and all eyes are on the \$60K support because losing it would likely trigger broader panic selling across altcoins. A reclaim above the 20-day EMA would be the first positive shift in momentum. Until then, rallies are likely to be sold into rather than chased. Ether traders are watching \$1,750 closely as the defensive line for buyers. Holding that level could create a consolidation phase, while losing it would likely extend the downtrend. BNB is showing mild accumulation but still needs a move above \$651 to signal stability. If it fails, the \$500 level becomes a realistic downside target. XRP remains range-bound and reactive, with \$1.11 acting as a critical support. A breakout above the downtrend line would be needed to attract fresh buyers. Overall, traders may prefer short-term trades and quick profit taking rather than long holds. The market is still in a recovery attempt, not a confirmed uptrend. Risk management remains more important than aggressive positioning at current levels.

Lastly please check out the advancement's happening in the cryptocurrency world

Enjoy the issue!

*Karnav Shah*

Karnav Shah  
Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief



# CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY



Cryptonaire Weekly is one of the industry's longest-running and most trusted sources for cryptocurrency news, market insights, and blockchain analysis. Created to support our Platinum Crypto Academy clients and global subscribers, the magazine delivers clear research, actionable technical analysis, and strong thought leadership across the digital asset space.

Each week, we provide readers with in-depth articles, project updates, and market commentary that cover the rapidly evolving world of blockchain and Web3. For traders, investors, developers, and entrepreneurs, navigating this fast-changing environment can be challenging. Our mission is to simplify that journey and help readers make informed, confident decisions.

Since our launch in 2017, we've covered every major cycle in crypto from Bitcoin's early rally past **\$20,000 in 2017** to its sharp correction near **\$3,200 in 2018**, marking one of the strongest bear markets in the sector's history. We followed Bitcoin's surge to **\$69,000 in 2021** and its deep pullback to around **\$16,000 in 2022** during a period of global uncertainty and high-profile exchange failures. Most recently, we've tracked Bitcoin's powerful 2025 resurgence as it broke into six-figure territory, hitting levels above **\$123,000** and reaffirming long-term market confidence.

Our **Platinum Crypto Academy** community includes thousands of students and traders worldwide. Over time, **Cryptonaire Weekly** has grown to more than **250,000 active subscribers** and a **social reach of over 1.2 million followers across multiple platforms and community groups**. Through our research-driven insights and strategic relationships, we've also helped **350+ blockchain and crypto projects gain** meaningful traction and visibility in the global market.

For anyone looking to stay informed, identify opportunities, and understand the technologies shaping the future of finance, Cryptonaire Weekly remains a trusted and valuable resource.



#### Featuring in this weeks Edition:

- CryptoGames
- UK Financial Ltd
- LabGemTraders

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- Markets Analysis
- Market News Update
- Read Our Latest Blog:

**WHY COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CRYPTO CASINOS ARE GAINING MOMENTUM IN 2026**

**415<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

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# WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 415th edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is \$2.19 trillion, Down \$150 billion since last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is \$103.56 billion, which makes a 42.08% increase in the last 24 hours. The Fear & Greed index is 11% Extreme Fear and the Altcoin season index is 32% which makes a 1% increase since last week.

Bitcoin's price has decreased by 7.46% from \$68,000 last week to around \$62,925 and Ether's price has decreased by 7.36% from \$1,970 last week to \$1,825 Bitcoin's market cap is \$1.26 trillion and the altcoin market cap is \$930 Billion

Bitcoin opened the week under pressure as risk assets sold off after renewed tariff tensions in the United States. The broader market reacted quickly, and crypto followed equities lower, showing that macro sentiment is still driving short-term price action. Fear remains dominant, with the Crypto Fear & Greed Index sitting deep in extreme fear territory and staying there for nearly three weeks — something not seen since the 2022 bear market. Traders are becoming defensive, and prediction markets now heavily price a drop toward the mid-\$50,000 region. While many analysts believe the bottom is not confirmed yet, the longer-term view has not changed much, as historical data still suggests Bitcoin tends to recover after prolonged fear phases and statistically has a strong probability of trading higher within the next year.

Legal and industry developments also kept traders cautious. The bankruptcy case tied to the Terra ecosystem resurfaced after a lawsuit accused a major trading firm of using insider knowledge during the collapse, reopening old concerns about market integrity. At the same time, World Liberty Financial reported coordinated attacks, including short selling and social media fear campaigns targeting its stablecoin, briefly knocking the token off its peg before it stabilized again. These events reminded the market how quickly sentiment can shift when trust becomes a factor.

Despite short-term weakness, the structural narrative around crypto continues to grow. Analysts expect the stablecoin sector to expand massively over the coming years, potentially reaching trillions in market size as adoption increases and regulations mature. However, liquidity conditions right now remain tight. Stablecoin reserves on exchanges have dropped sharply, and that matters because stablecoins act as trading fuel for crypto markets. When reserves fall, it usually means traders are pulling capital out instead of preparing to buy. The current contraction suggests capital is cautious and waiting on the sidelines rather than positioning for an aggressive rally.

Ethereum founder Vitalik Buterin has been swapping thousands of ETH for stablecoins via decentralized exchange CoW Swap, on-chain data shows, continuing a recent trend of sales. Wallets labeled as belonging to Buterin by on-chain analytics firm Arkham Intelligence show routine swaps over the last few days totaling more than 3,100 ETH, or greater than \$6.1 million. The transactions bring his on-chain Ethereum holdings to just more than 224,000 ETH valued at \$426 million at present time. Buterin's latest string of sales come just a few weeks after he moved more than \$29 million worth of Ethereum, at least \$2.3 million of which was sold to help fund Ethereum Foundation initiatives. In pursuit of an aggressive roadmap for the future of Ethereum, the co-founder previously telegraphed that he would be offloading around \$44.7 million of the asset as the Foundation entered a period of "mild austerity" over the next few years. Beyond the roadmap, Buterin said this period of austerity, or stricter economic policies that may reduce spending, also "ensures the Ethereum Foundation's own ability to sustain into the long term, and protect Ethereum's core mission and goals.

## Market Outlook:

The market is currently moving in a macro-driven phase rather than a purely crypto-driven one. As long as global economic uncertainty and policy risk remain high, Bitcoin is likely to trade reactively instead of trending strongly. Extreme fear often appears near cycle lows, but price usually needs time to stabilize before a sustained recovery begins. Liquidity is the key missing ingredient right now, and without fresh inflows, rallies may continue to fade quickly. Stablecoin outflows suggest traders are preserving capital rather than deploying it. That typically creates choppy trading conditions and false breakouts. Volatility may stay elevated while price searches for a stronger demand zone. A deeper shakeout toward lower supports cannot be ruled out, especially if macro markets weaken further. However, long-term positioning from institutions and ongoing adoption narratives remain intact. Once liquidity returns and sentiment stabilizes, crypto historically rebounds quickly. For now, the environment favors patience, shorter-term trading, and disciplined risk management rather than aggressive long exposure.

## Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Domnance)

BTC	57.64%
ETH	10.08%
USDT	8.43%
BNB	3.69%
SOL	2.00%
Others	18.16%



# CATCH THE WINNING SPIRIT!

Play your favorite game, use the coin of your choice & chat with your friends.  
Simple, social and most importantly entertaining!

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 <b>Roulette</b>	 <b>Slot</b>
 <b>Blackjack</b>	 <b>DiceV2</b>
 <b>Keno</b>	 <b>Plinko</b>
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### Provably fair



We utilize the industry standard for provably fair gaming. Verify drawings with our or 3rd party verification tools.

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With every bet on dice and roulette you have the chance to win our ever growing jackpot.

### Secure and private



We don't collect sensitive private information such as bank accounts, which makes your stay with us safe and private.



**PRESS RELEASE**



# UK FINANCIAL LTD'S MAYACAT BECOMES THE FIRST EXCHANGE-TRADED TOKEN STRUCTURED UNDER ERC-3643

**UK Financial Ltd** has confirmed that MayaCat is progressing within the regulatory compliance phase. The token now holds historic status as the industry's first Exchange Traded ERC-3643 security token. This regulatory shift includes an 88.5% supply reduction that creates significant ownership gains for existing holders. The legacy MCAT supply of two billion tokens

was consolidated into a new SMCAT structure capped a 50 million Created Tokens tokens and a 5m token float. This restructuring increased holder ownership by approximately 4000%.

"This isn't just another token reduction, it's a message to regulators and the market that we're doing this the right way," said James Dahlke, President, CEO and Founder of UK Financial's asset-backed digital framework. The CEO emphasized that compliance-first design attracts institutional capital that speculation cannot reach.

CATEX exchange provides the trading venue for this regulated token transition. All legacy MCAT tokens will convert automatically to compliant SMCAT tokens on the exchange platform. The company coordinated directly with CATEX exchange to determine the most efficient conversion method. Trading resumed on CATEX with institutional-grade infrastructure fully operational.

ERC-3643 enforces compliance through smart contract logic rather than external systems. Transfer validation occurs on-chain using digital identity verification integrated directly into token mechanics. Both investor eligibility rules and offering rules must be satisfied simultaneously before any transfer executes. Smart contracts reject transactions if counterparties fail to meet compliance criteria. This way will ensure only verified SMCAT holders can receive, hold, or transfer tokens.

UK Financial Ltd has also initiated an independent third-party verification process with CoinMarketCap for SMPRA and SMCAT supply figures. This verification confirms circulating float limits and total outstanding supply through external validation. CoinMarketCap's independent methodology ensures supply metrics remain transparent and publicly verifiable. This verification opens institutional capital channels previously unavailable to unverified projects.

## **About CATEX Exchange**

CATEX is a cryptocurrency exchange established in 2018 with staking, farming and multiple faucet features. The platform has global communities across Brazil, Vietnam, South Korea, Bangladesh, Russia, Turkey, the Middle East, India, Indonesia, and the United States. The exchange supports crypto-to-crypto trading with low fees and fast settlement. All SMCAT tokens will trade on CATEX with full compliance protocols embedded into the platform's transaction validation system.

### About The Maya Preferred Project

The Maya Preferred Project operates under its flagship company, UK Financial Ltd with eight years of continuous operational history. No insiders have taken compensation since 2019, maintaining

exclusive focus on token holder value creation. Even when decisions are difficult, the commitment to compliance and long-term credibility has never changed.

# UK FINANCIAL LTD



**"BACKED BY GOLD NOT PROMISES.  
WHAT BACKS YOUR TOKEN?"**



introducing  
**FAIRCARATS**

# FAIRCARATS TOKEN INTRODUCTION

## **Bridging Lab-Grown Gemstones and Decentralized Finance**

In the evolving landscape of digital assets, LabGemTraders OÜ is proud to introduce the restructured FairCarats (FCAR) token. More than just a digital asset, FCAR is a utility-driven bridge between the timeless elegance of premium lab-grown gemstones and the efficiency of the Polygon blockchain.

[labgemtraders.info](https://labgemtraders.info)

## **FAIRCARATS (FCAR) – PRIVATE SALE**

FairCarats (FCAR) is a digital utility voucher that can be redeemed for FairStones™ certified lab-grown gemstones and services.

FCAR gives early participants access and enhanced purchasing power inside the FairStones ecosystem.

The the private Sale will start 27th of January 2026. But you can whitelist your wallet address already at our 🖱️ **“Private Sale Whitelist Application”**.

[official whitepaper](#)

[Private Sale Offering](#)



The LabGemTraders company is the sole supplier of gemstones to FairStones:

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## ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

### BITCOIN RECORDS HISTORIC 23% DECLINE IN WORST-EVER START TO A YEAR

Bitcoin has logged its worst-ever start to a year on record, falling 23% within the first 50 trading days of 2026. The leading cryptocurrency faced a brutal combination of a 10% slide in January followed by a further 15% drop in February, marking the first time in history that the asset has opened a year with back-to-back monthly losses.

Market data indicates that the current drawdown is significantly deeper than typical “down” years, with Bitcoin’s performance index currently sitting at 0.77 compared to the historical average of 0.84 during bearish cycles. This downturn follows a disappointing 17% decline throughout 2025, defying historical trends where post-election years typically yield stronger returns for digital assets.

ETF outflows and macro pressure fuel the slide. The acceleration of the sell-off appears closely linked to a shift in institutional sentiment and the mechanics of spot Bitcoin ETFs. This has triggered a cascading effect, where redemptions drain on-exchange liquidity and force further liquidations.

Since the market peak in October 2025, spot ETFs have recorded net outflows totalling approximately \$6.18 billion. Furthermore, open interest in Bitcoin futures has collapsed by more than 45%, suggesting a massive flush-out of leveraged positions as traders move into a capitulation phase driven by extreme fear.

Shifting correlations and the search for support Bitcoin ETFs face nearly five weeks of net outflows, the longest streak since 2025. This, plus macro factors, fuels market wariness. The crash has also challenged the long-held narrative of Bitcoin as digital gold or a non-correlated hedge.

During this recent drawdown, Bitcoin has shown a 0.80 correlation with the Nasdaq and a staggering 0.88 link to the VIX volatility index. This suggests that investors are increasingly treating Bitcoin as a high-risk macro asset, sensitive to traditional market downturns. Technically, the market has entered a bearish channel. Support at the \$63,000 level remains critical; however, analysts warn that a failure to hold this could see prices slide toward \$52,000, a level not seen since September 2024.

[Read more...](#)



## Bitcoin ETFs bleed \$3.8 billion in historic five-week outflow streak

Outflows underscore persistent institutional wariness toward bitcoin after the early October crash.

Investors have withdrawn nearly \$3.8 billion from U.S.-listed spot bitcoin exchange-traded funds over the past five weeks, marking the longest outflow streak since February 2025.

BlackRock's IBIT has led the retreat with about \$2.13 billion in redemptions over the same period.

Outflows underscore persistent institutional wariness toward bitcoin after the early October crash.

Investors just pulled nearly \$3.8 billion from

U.S.-listed spot bitcoin BTC \$66,301.87 exchange-traded funds over five straight weeks, the longest outflow streak since February 2025.

Last week alone saw \$316 million vanish, according to SoSoValue.

Leading the outflows trend is BlackRock's IBIT. The fund has lost \$2.13 billion over five straight weeks of outflows.

This shows institutions are still steering clear of the leading cryptocurrency, extending the aversion that kicked in after the early October crash, which exposed its vulnerability to shenanigans on offshore exchanges such as Binance.

[Read more...](#)

## Mysterious Offshore Entity Takes \$436M Position in Blackrock's Bitcoin ETF

A little-known offshore entity has stepped into the spot bitcoin exchange-traded fund (ETF) arena with a \$436 million position, instantly becoming one of the largest new institutional shareholders in

Blackrock's Ishares Bitcoin Trust (IBIT).

Offshore Capital Flows? Hong Kong-Linked Laurore Ltd. Holds Major IBIT Stake According to a Form 13F-HR filed with the U.S. Securities and



Exchange Commission (SEC) on Jan. 28, 2026, Laurore Ltd. disclosed ownership of 8,786,279 shares of IBIT as of Dec. 31, 2025, valued at \$436,238,752 at the time. The filing marks the firm's first and only reported holding, making the bet both deliberate and highly concentrated.

Laurore Ltd. is incorporated in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and lists a Hong Kong business address in Central district office towers. Beyond that, the corporate profile is thin. No public website, no prior investment disclosures, and no visible operating history accompany the

filing. Its Central Index Key, 0002082507, shows a single 13F entry and little else.

The 13F indicates Laurore exercises sole investment discretion and sole voting authority over the entire IBIT position. No shared managers. No diversified basket. Just one ETF, and a sizable one at that.

At the time of filing, the valuation reflected IBIT's year-end 2025 pricing. With shares trading near \$38 in early 2026, the stake's market value would sit closer to \$334 million.

[Read more...](#)

# UK FINANCIAL LTD: VERIFIED SUPPLY ON COINMARKETCAP

Clarity and Transparency for SMPRA and SMCAT



**ATTENTION! NO NEW ISSUANCE OR EXPANSION OF CURRENT FLOAT.**  
Verification standardizes the report.



## SMPRA (MAYA PREFERRED)

TOTAL SUPPLY:  
23,000,000



Clarity of Supply

MAX CIRCULATING:  
1,000,000



BACKED BY GOLD



8 YEARS OF HISTORY



ASPIRATION TO TOP 10 BY VALUE



DATA STANDARDIZATION ACROSS PLATFORMS

## SMCAT (MAYACAT)

ISSUER CONTROL OVER THE REST



10% PUBLIC FLOAT:  
5,000,000

TOTAL SUPPLY:  
50,000,000



ERC-3643 SECURITY TOKEN



VERIFIABLE ASSETS ON-CHAIN



TRADED ON EXCHANGE

**COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY: UK FINANCIAL LTD (LONDON & DELAWARE) ASSURES REGULATED BLOCKCHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSET TOKENIZATION FOR COMPLIANCE. [2]**

Information for educational purposes. Not financial advice.



UK Financial Ltd



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CoinMarketCap  
VERIFIED ON CMC



## Bitcoin Activity Plummet: New & Active Addresses Both Down 40%+ Since 2021

Bitcoin on-chain data shows both the Daily Active Addresses and Network Growth indicators have seen sharp drops compared to five years ago.

Wallet-Related Bitcoin Metrics Have Declined In Recent Years  
As highlighted by on-chain analytics firm Santiment in an X post, there is a staggering difference between the level of activity on the Bitcoin network today and February 2021. There are several on-chain metrics that can be used to gauge blockchain activity, but two in particular are of focus here: the Daily Active Addresses and Network Growth.

The first of these measures the total number of BTC addresses that are coming online every day. A wallet is said to come 'online' when it participates in some kind of transaction activity on the network. Thus, the Daily Active Addresses essentially tracks the unique daily count of addresses making at least one transfer on the network.

The other indicator, the Network Growth, tells us about the amount of addresses that are coming online on the blockchain for the first time. In other words, it tracks the amount of new addresses joining the network every day.

[Read more...](#)

## Crypto Market Structure Bill Nears Finish Line, Says White House Digital Asset Director

Negotiations over the long-debated crypto market structure bill, known as the CLARITY Act, appear to be moving forward after a third round of talks at the White House on Thursday, even though a final agreement has

yet to be reached.

White House Takes Lead In Crypto Talks  
Patrick Witt, executive director of the President's Council of Advisers on Digital Assets, described the meeting as "a big step forward" in a post on



social media platform X (previously Twitter). "We're close," Witt wrote, adding that if both sides continue negotiating in good faith, he fully expects the deadline to be met.

Additional details about the latest session were reported by Crypto In America journalist Eleanor Terrett. According to sources present at the meeting, the gathering was smaller than the previous week's session and included representatives from Coinbase and Ripple.

No individual bank executives attended directly. Instead, the

banking industry was represented through trade associations, including the American Bankers Association, the Bank Policy Institute, and the Independent Community Bankers of America.

Terrett indicated that, unlike earlier sessions where industry groups largely guided the discussion, the White House took a more assertive role this time. Witt reportedly introduced draft legislative language that became the centerpiece of the conversation.

[Read more...](#)



# WHY COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CRYPTO CASINOS ARE GAINING MOMENTUM IN 2026

In a traditional casino, the house always has the edge. Players bet, and operators profit. But a new model is changing that dynamic. Community-driven crypto casinos are turning players into active participants. Ethereum L2 casinos recorded 320% year-over-year volume growth in Q4 2025. That is not a small shift. It is a signal that something fundamentally different is happening.

Platforms are also reporting 40% higher repeat play compared to centralized peers. Players are not just returning for the games. They are returning because they feel invested. When people have a real voice in how a platform runs, they stick around. That changes everything about how online gambling works.

## What “Community-Driven Casino” Means in 2026?

A community-driven casino is not just a platform with a chat feature. It is a model where players actively shape the experience. Transparency sits at the core of this approach. Games are publicly verifiable, bet histories are open, and return-to-player stats are trackable by anyone. Players do not have to take the operator’s word for it.

Feedback also plays a major role in how these platforms evolve. Many community-driven casinos use player voting, feature request boards, and

active forums. When users flag an issue or suggest a new game mode, that input often influences the next platform update. Development is not decided behind closed doors.

Trust, in this model, is built through reputation rather than advertising. Players rely on community reviews, forum discussions, and shared experiences far more than promotional claims. A platform’s credibility lives and dies by what its users say. That is a powerful shift from the old casino model, and it is one reason this approach is gaining serious momentum in 2026.

## Why Community-Driven Platforms Are Growing Faster?

### Trust Through Transparency

Traditional casinos use black-box RNG systems that players simply cannot verify. Operators make claims about fairness, and players have no choice but to accept them. Disputes are nearly impossible to resolve without access to backend data. Provably fair systems solve this by letting players audit every outcome themselves. Blockchain culture naturally embraces open verification, and that alignment is a key reason community platforms are pulling ahead.

### Open Stats Build Confidence

When bet history, RTP data, and fairness checks are publicly available, players feel secure. They

can share those checks with each other and spot inconsistencies quickly. Regulated fiat casinos are required to provide evidence of fair play through independent audits, but community-driven crypto casinos go further by making that data accessible to every user in real time. Public accountability creates a level of confidence that no marketing campaign can match.

### **Player Participation Drives Loyalty**

Users today want more than a platform to bet on. They want influence over how that platform evolves. Some blockchain gaming models allow players a stake in operations or governance decisions, and that participation drives deeper engagement. Platforms use daily missions, token rewards, and community events to keep players involved long term, creating an ecosystem where frequent players feel genuinely valued rather than just monetized.

### **Repeat Play Rates Are Higher**

Community involvement creates a habit loop that centralized casinos struggle to replicate. When players feel heard, they return. Platforms operating on this model report 40% higher repeat play rates compared to centralized peers. That is not a marginal gain. For operators, higher retention means lower acquisition costs and stronger long-term revenue. For players, it means a platform that keeps improving based on their real feedback.

## **The Numbers Behind Crypto Casino Adoption**

The numbers tell a clear story. Players wagered at least \$81 billion at crypto casinos in 2025, up from roughly \$16 billion just three years prior. That kind of growth does not happen by accident. It reflects a real shift in how people choose to gamble online. Bitcoin leads the sector with the largest market share, but the broader trend is clear. More players across more regions are choosing blockchain-based platforms over traditional alternatives.

The global crypto gambling market grew from \$50 million in 2019 to \$250 million in 2024, a compound annual growth rate of 38%. That pace far outstrips the wider online gambling industry. Asia alone is expected to represent a 40% share of worldwide crypto gambling revenue by 2026.

Transaction volumes could reach \$10 billion by 2026, driven largely by mobile adoption and fast, low-cost blockchain settlements. These are not projections built on hype. They are backed by real user behavior and growing platform infrastructure. Community-driven models sit right at the center of this expansion.

## **Community Engagement Mechanics That Actually Work**

### **1. Daily Missions and Tokens**

Sign-up bonuses alone do not keep players coming back. What actually drives retention is an ongoing rewards ecosystem. Daily missions give players a reason to log in every single day. Token rewards earned through gameplay create real, tangible value beyond a one-time promotion. Some platforms offer weekly missions with prize pools and native token rakeback paid instantly with no wagering requirements, building a habit loop that sign-up bonuses simply cannot replicate.

### **2. Leaderboards and Tournaments**

Competition is a powerful motivator. Leaderboards and cross-casino tournaments have turned casual play into a shared, social experience. Many platforms now organize community competitions such as slot races, crash game contests, and poker tournaments, with players competing for crypto prizes and loyalty rewards. This competitive layer keeps engagement high long after the initial deposit.

### **3. Discord and Telegram as Products**

Discord and Telegram are no longer just support channels. Leading platforms treat them as core product features. Top-performing casino communities now integrate gamified leaderboards, shared bonuses, in-game tipping, and social progress sharing directly within the messaging environment. Players share strategies, enter exclusive giveaways, and receive early access to new features, all without leaving the app they already use daily.

### **4. Token-Based Governance**

Some platforms go even further by giving players a genuine stake in how the casino operates. Decentralized governance models, where players vote on platform decisions via native tokens, have

become a key driver of user loyalty and community-driven growth. When players feel like co-owners rather than customers, their connection to the platform runs much deeper. That sense of ownership is something no traditional casino can easily offer.

## **How CryptoGames Reflects the Community-Driven Casino Model?**

### **1. Billions of Bets Processed**

**CryptoGames** has processed billions of bets over its years of operation. That volume is not just an impressive number. It is direct evidence that the platform's fairness systems work at real scale. Players return consistently because the experience has proven reliable over time. In a space where trust is everything, that kind of long-term track record carries far more weight than any promotional claim ever could.

Scalability and fairness go hand in hand on this platform. Every bet processed is a data point that confirms the system holds up under pressure. Many newer platforms make big promises but lack the history to back them up. CryptoGames has the data, and that data speaks clearly to any player willing to look.

### **2. In-House Game Ecosystem**

CryptoGames builds and runs its own games rather than relying on third-party providers. That approach gives the platform a distinct identity and stronger brand recognition. Players know exactly what they are getting when they sit down to play. There is no inconsistency across different game suppliers or conflicting RTP standards to navigate.

An in-house ecosystem also means the development team has full control over updates and improvements. When the community raises feedback, the platform can act on it directly. There is no middleware or external vendor slowing things down. That responsiveness is something players notice, and it reinforces the sense that the platform is genuinely listening.

### **3. Blog, Forum, and Social Infrastructure**

CryptoGames supports ongoing player conversation through a blog, active forum, and social channels. These are not afterthoughts bolted onto the platform. They are built-in spaces where players

share strategies, ask questions, and discuss outcomes openly. That kind of infrastructure signals that community engagement is part of the core product, not a marketing add-on.

Research consistently shows that players trust peer reviews and forum discussions more than advertising. CryptoGames leans into that reality. When new players arrive, they find an existing community with real conversations and real history. That environment builds confidence faster than any welcome bonus or promotional banner could.

### **4. Transparent Fairness Approach**

CryptoGames gives players the tools to verify game outcomes independently. Every result can be checked against the platform's provably fair system, and no technical expertise is required to do it. Players do not have to trust the operator. They can confirm fairness for themselves, which is a meaningful distinction in the crypto casino space.

This approach aligns directly with what the broader community-driven model stands for. Open verification is not just a feature at CryptoGames. It is a core part of how the platform operates and how it earns player trust. In 2026, that transparency is no longer optional for platforms that want to compete seriously.

## **Takeaway**

Community is not marketing. It is infrastructure. The platforms gaining the most ground in 2026 are not the ones with the biggest ad budgets. They are the ones that have built genuine systems around player participation, open verification, and shared trust.

When players become part of the platform rather than just customers of it, something fundamental changes. Retention improves. Trust deepens. Growth follows naturally. That is the real reason community-driven crypto casinos are pulling ahead, and based on the numbers, that momentum shows no signs of slowing down.



## Blockchain Apps Have Failed to Win Over the Masses, Ethereum Builders Admit

Ethereum builders at ETH Denver said that the crypto infrastructure has been laid—but not products people actually want to use.

ETH Denver founder John Paller says Web3 has been “epically bad” at building usable consumer products. Aztec Network Zac Williamson argues crypto must beat Web2 on experience, not ideology. Both say adoption will stall unless blockchain becomes invisible to users. Crypto built the plumbing, but it still hasn’t built the products. This was a common theme at the annual Ethereum development conference ETH Denver last week, as attendees attempted to shift the focus away from a con-

tinually down market and to building better Web3 products.

Two prominent voices at the event, ETH Denver founder John Paller and Aztec Foundation founder Zachary Williamson, delivered a blunt assessment of why blockchain has yet to win over mainstream users.

“When you look at what we’ve accomplished in 10 years, we have built an amazing amount of technology and architecture and scaffolding and plumbing systems that power this revolution,” Paller told Decrypt. “But what we’ve actually been epically bad at is getting regular people to use regular things.”

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## AI agent created by OpenAI dev 'accidentally' sends entire memecoin holdings to reply guy

An automated crypto-trading bot created by an OpenAI employee admitted it “accidentally” sent its entire stash of its own memecoin tokens to an account that asked for only 4 SOL on X.

The recipient then sold the entire stack, 5% of the overall supply, for a profit of about \$40,000, onchain data shows, though the same amount of tokens is now worth over \$400,000.

The bot has spent Sunday sending various X users sums of about \$500 in return for completing various tasks. Some critics warned that as AI develops, fraudulent activity may be hidden behind the veneer of reportedly autonomous agents.

An automated AI crypto trading bot dubbed “Lobstar Wilde” by its OpenAI-employed creator admitted it “acci-

dently” sent its entire memecoin stash to a “beggar” on X, sparking conversation and debate on the social media platform Sunday.

The bot was created by Nik Pash, who was previously head of AI at coding agent startup Cline before being fired in December 2025 after posting a comment widely criticized as racist toward Indian developers. He subsequently joined OpenAI along with at least seven other former Cline employees, according to a report in The Information. Before Cline, Pash founded Nugbase, a blockchain technology company.

“Just gave my Lobstar a crypto wallet with 50 grand worth of sol in it. Told him make no mistakes,” Pash wrote on X on Thursday night. “Gonna get him his own twitter account so he can share his journey to becoming a millionaire.”



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## BNP Paribas taps Ethereum for new money market fund tokenization pilot

Cryptocurrency The tokenized shares were issued by the BNP Paribas' AssetFoundry™ platform using a "permissioned access model on Ethereum." This follows other experiments, including efforts to bring Swift onchain, and issue tokenized shares via Allfunds Blockchain.

BNP Paribas Asset Management is tapping Ethereum for a new blockchain pilot, this time issuing a tokenised share class of a French-domiciled money market fund.

The tokenized shares, issued onchain using BNP Paribas' AssetFoundry™ platform, will offer gated access via a "permissioned access model on Ethereum ... whereby

holdings and transfers are restricted to eligible and authorised participants, in line with applicable regulatory requirements," according to the announcement.

"The initiative was conducted as a one-off, limited intra-group experiment, enabling BNP Paribas to test new end-to-end processes, from issuance and transfer agency to tokenisation and public-blockchain connectivity, within a controlled and regulated framework," the company wrote.

BNP Paribas Asset Management acted as the fund issuer, with BNP Paribas Securities Services business acting as transfer agent and dealer.

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## ProShares' stablecoin-ready ETF sees \$17 billion debut, sparking speculation about Circle



Analysts speculated that a large issuer like Circle might be moving reserve assets en masse into the ETF, but data show otherwise.

ProShares launched IQMM, a money market ETF designed to comply with U.S. stablecoin reserve requirements under the GENIUS Act. The fund saw over \$17 billion in first-day trading, sparking speculation about a large stablecoin issuer like Circle moving funds.

Data suggests that internal fund movements, not Circle, are likely behind the volume.

Still, the IQMM could see demand from the \$300 billion stablecoin industry as the sector gets increasingly regulated,

10x Research's Markus Thielen said.

ProShares' new ETF built for the fast-growing, \$300 billion world of stablecoins had a massive launch, fueling speculation that one major stablecoin issuer may be involved.

The fund, called the ProShares GENIUS Money Market ETF (IQMM), is designed to hold short-term U.S. Treasuries and meet the reserve requirements laid out in the GENIUS Act, a federal law regulating stablecoin issuers in the U.S. It's the first ETF structured specifically to fit those rules, and that positioning may have caught the attention of some of the largest players in crypto.

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# Bitdeer liquidates entire Bitcoin treasury, holdings fall to zero

**B**itcoin miner Bitdeer liquidated 943 BTC from reserves and sold newly mined coins, cutting corporate holdings to zero.

Update (Feb. 23, 12:13 pm UTC): This article has been updated to include a statement from Bitdeer's Ross Gann.

Bitcoin mining firm Bitdeer has sold all of its corporate Bitcoin holdings, reducing its treasury balance to zero, according to the company's latest operational update.

In its latest weekly report, Bitdeer disclosed that its "pure holdings," excluding customer deposits, have fallen to 0 Bitcoin BTC \$63,183. The report shows the company produced 189.8 BTC during the period and sold the full amount, alongside an additional 943.1 BTC, which was liquidated from its existing treasury reserves.

In its earlier update on Feb. 13, the miner still held 943.1 BTC, selling 179.9 BTC out of 183.4 BTC mined that week,



leaving its treasury intact despite routine sales of newly mined coins.

Mining firms commonly sell a portion of production to fund electricity, hosting and equipment costs, but they also maintain a treasury balance to keep exposure to Bitcoin's price appreciation. Fully liquidating

reserves is less typical.

Bitdeer said the sales reflect a liquidity decision rather than a shift away from Bitcoin mining. "Bitdeer remains on track to grow its hash rate and is committed to continuing to mine Bitcoin for the interest of our shareholders."

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# Bitcoin Quantum Threat Takes Center Stage at Ethereum Conference

**A**t ETH Denver, developers warned that advances in quantum computing could threaten Bitcoin's digital signatures as the industry continues to debate how to prepare.

BIP 360 co-authors say Bitcoin signatures are the main quantum risk for the blockchain. About 30% of Bitcoin sits under exposed public keys.

As quantum hardware thresholds fall, Bitcoin and Ethereum devs alike are ramping up quantum planning. While this year's Ethereum developer conference, ETH Denver, focused on building in a down market and empowering AI agents via blockchain,

one panel examined whether Bitcoin's cryptography can survive in a post-quantum world.

Onstage this week, the focus on Bitcoin's ability to survive the quantum computing threat was narrow, focusing on what could actually break first. According to Hunter Beast, co-author of BIP 360—a proposal that aims to solve the blockchain's quantum conundrum—confusion often starts with Bitcoin's hashing algorithm.

"Hash algorithms like SHA-256 are actually believed to be very difficult for even the most ideal, biggest quantum computer we can imagine," Beast said.

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# Vitalik Buterin proposes using AI to strengthen DAO governance



A researcher at the Near Foundation told Cointelegraph last year that he was working on AI-powered digital twins that vote on behalf of DAO members to address low voter participation.

Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin says artificial intelligence could help create more efficient decentralized governance models and enable users to make better-informed decisions.

Buterin said in an X post on Sunday that one of the main issues with democratic and decentralized modes of governance, like DAOs, is the “limits to human attention,” because of the many decisions that can require a wide range of expertise or time, which most don’t have.

“The usual solution, del-

egation, is disempowering. It leads to a small group of delegates controlling decision-making while their supporters, after they hit the delegate button, have no influence at all,” he said.

Buterin proposes that personal assistant large language models (LLMs) could help solve the “attention problem” by providing users with the relevant information needed for a vote.

“If a governance mechanism depends on you to make a large number of decisions, a personal agent can perform all the necessary votes for you, based on preferences that it infers from your personal writing, conversation history, direct statements,” he said.

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# Crypto Flows To Human Traffickers Reaches ‘Hundreds of Millions of Dollars,’ Surging 85% in One Year: Chainalysis

The number of crypto payments for human trafficking transactions surged in 2025, according to new report by the blockchain analytics firm Chainalysis.

The report shows that crypto flows to suspected human trafficking groups reached hundreds of millions of dollars over a period of one year, marking an increase of 85%.

“The dollar amounts significantly understate the human toll of these crimes, where the true cost is measured in lives impacted rather than money transferred.”

The firm says cryptocurrency-facilitated human trafficking exploded alongside the growth of Southeast Asian scam

compounds, online casinos and gambling sites as well as Chinese-language money laundering (CMLN) and guarantee networks operating on the messaging platform Telegram.

Payment methods vary across different categories of human trafficking. International escort services and prostitution networks prefer stablecoins, which suggests that the entities involved prioritize payment stability and ease of conversation over the risks of the crypto assets getting frozen by centralized issuers.

Meanwhile, child sexual abuse material (CSAM) vendors have shifted away from Bitcoin (BTC) with the emergence of alternative layer-1 blockchains.



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# Trump's crypto venture is building a tokenized debt pipeline that could test crypto liquidity in 2026



The Trump name is entering the structured credit market. World Liberty Financial plans to package expected interest payments from loans financing a Maldives resort into blockchain-based securities for investors.

A Trump-linked crypto firm is bringing the former president's brand into the structured credit market.

World Liberty Financial plans to tokenize loan-revenue interests tied to the Trump International Hotel and Resort Maldives, offering investors exposure to projected interest payments connected to the project's financing rather than ownership of the property itself.

With the completion date set for 2030, the deal

converts future debt service into a digital security and places the current President's name at the center of a regulated financial product.

Put simply, investors will be buying a slice of a resort loan's interest payments rather than buying any part of the resort.

Update (Feb. 23, 2026): As Wall Street pushes deeper into real-world asset (RWA) tokenization, deals like World Liberty Financial's Trump International Hotel & Resort Maldives structure show what the next wave may look like: tokenized private-credit cashflows sold through regulated digital securities infrastructure.

With Securitize acting as the compliance-and-distribution rail and the product framed for accredited investors.

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# Elliptic Flags Network of Russian Crypto Platforms Bypassing Sanctions

The study identifies five trading platforms, most of them not formally sanctioned, that continue to provide channels for high-volume crypto transactions beyond the oversight of the traditional banking system.

The findings arrive as European officials consider tighter measures, including a potential blanket ban on crypto transactions involving Russia, amid concerns that new platforms are emerging to replace previously targeted operators.

Elliptic: Nearly 10% of Bitpapa Transactions Tied to Sanctioned Targets

Among the exchanges examined, only the peer-to-peer marketplace Bitpapa is under US sanctions.

The US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated the platform in March 2024 for alleged sanctions evasion.

Elliptic found that about 9.7% of Bitpapa's outgoing transactions were linked to sanctioned entities and that the exchange frequently rotated wallet addresses to make monitoring more difficult.

The report also highlights ABCeX, an unsanctioned exchange operating from Moscow's Federation Tower, the same building previously used by Garantex before US authorities seized its domains in March 2025.

Elliptic estimates ABCeX has processed at least \$11 billion in crypto, with significant transfers flowing to Garantex and another exchange, Aifory Pro.



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