

The Indiana Casino Gaming News

A regular update of issues regarding Indiana casinos

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Resorts — Grand Opening Celebration

Resorts East Chicago recently hosted their official Grand Opening Celebration. Events surrounding the unveiling of the brand new casino included a \$150,000 slot tournament, cash giveaways, live entertainment, food and beverage specials, and a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Resorts East Chicago is a subsidiary of Resorts International – a premier name in gaming entertainment. Resorts Interna-

tional, which has casinos in Atlantic City, NJ, East Chicago, IN, Tunica, MS and Las Vegas, NV, is an affiliate of Colony Capital, LLC, a private, international investment firm. For the past 13 years, Colony Capital

has invested more than \$13.5 billion in over 7,500 assets through various corporate, portfolio and complex property transactions and operates offices worldwide.

The Resorts East Chicago casino is 53,000 square feet and has over 1,900 slots, 50 table

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Senior Vice President and General Manager Joe DeRosa, Byron Florence, City of East Chicago Director of Community Services, and City of East Chicago Controller Charlie Pacurar.

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Casino Quick News

- Nevada officials signed off on the merger between Harrah's Entertainment Inc. and Caesars Entertainment Inc., creating the world's largest gambling company with nearly 100,000 employees and \$9 billion in revenue.

- A study released by PricewaterhouseCoopers says that US casino and "racino" gambling revenues will reach \$64.1 billion in 2009, up from \$47.3 billion in 2004, and will reach \$100 billion globally. American Indian casinos will go from \$18.5 billion in 2004 to \$26 billion in 2009.

Ohio's Push for Casinos

Gaming petitions circulated throughout Ohio in order to place an amendment to the Ohio Constitution on the Fall ballot. The amendment would allow larger cities (50,000 or more residents) and counties that draw at least 1 million visitors each year to decide by local vote if they want casinos.

In order for the amendment to appear on the Fall ballot 322,899 valid signatures were needed by August 10. Those signatures had to include at least 5 percent of voters in each of 44 Ohio counties. However, collecting that many signatures turned out to be a tall order. In early July, only 116,000 sig-

natures had been gathered, indicating that the campaign would not have enough signatures to ensure that the goal would be met by the deadline. Voters in Ohio have rejected gaming expansion referendums three times over the past 20 years, most recently in 1996.

Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell believes that casinos would generate jobs and strengthen downtown's package of entertainment venues. Possible casino sites include areas near Cleveland Browns Stadium, the west side of the Flats, land behind Tower City and Scranton Peninsula.

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Ohio's Push for Casinos
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In the meantime, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma has started the process of filing a land claim for 145 square miles, and is cutting casino-hosting deals with four towns (Monroe, Botkins, Lordstown and Lorain). It hopes to make Ohio the 29th state with Indian-chartered casinos.



Ohio has a state-sanctioned lottery, seven horse-racing tracks and easy access to casinos in Michigan, Ontario, West Virginia and Indiana. But rather than having residents cross the state's border to gamble, casino supporters want them to spend their money at home. Even though they failed to gather enough signatures this time, Ohioans for Local Option will try again, with sights now set for November 2006. "People are starting to believe gambling is coming to Ohio" said Campbell.

Warning: May Cause Excessive Gambling

Imagine taking your prescribed medication and developing a gambling habit! That's exactly what happened to several people taking Mirapex.

Mirapex reduces tremors and the slow, stiff movements associated with Parkinson's disease by mimicking the effects of dopamine, a brain chemical that controls movement. It targets a region of the brain that is sensitive to pleasure and reward-seeking behavior.

A Mayo Clinic study found that some patients became compulsive gamblers while taking this drug. The gambling behavior usually disappears when the drug's dosage is lowered. One man lost more than \$200,000 at casinos over six months.

Getting to Know... Bryan Robinson

Bryan Robinson is the Vice Chairman of the Indiana Gaming Commission. He was appointed to the very high profile position in March 2005 by Governor Mitch Daniels. "He is a very bright and personable young man...a real go-getter," Daniels said. "I remember thinking: 'This is the kind of person Indiana needs.'"

Robinson attributes his drive and focus to a back injury he suffered in a car accident as a teenager. He endured a long hospital stay and months of rehabilitation. "It gives you some perspective when you're a junior in high school and you're going down the hall with a walker," he said. "That brought about a maturity in me early on. It gave me a focus."



In 1998, Robinson earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Louisville. At age 30, he is a real estate developer and Executive Vice President of the Canaan Realty Group, Inc. He lives in Greenville with his wife, Kathy, and children Madalynn (5), Rex (4), and twins Klayton and Kole (age 21 months).

He is an avid sports fan, movie buff and reader of legal thrillers. Although he is not a gambler, he says that he is fascinated by casinos. "I feel like I'm doing good for the state of Indiana," he said. His term will end in the Fall of 2006.

ADMISSION AND WAGERING TAXES...

Admission Tax - June 05	\$ 6,598,794
Wagering Tax - June 05	\$ 63,954,145
Admission Tax Fiscal YTD	\$ 80,091,135
Wagering Tax Fiscal YTD	\$694,783,047

Total FY Admission and Wagering Tax **\$774,874,182**

Fiscal Year Defined as July 1 to June 30



Resorts—Grand Opening Celebration

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games and 16 poker tables in a live poker room. In addition, Resorts offers several new restaurants and a luxurious 15 floor, 293-room hotel complete with seven super suites located on the top floor.

“We’ve taken the best facility and have looked to add a variety of enhancements that will improve the gaming experience of each and every customer who walks through our doors,” stated Resorts East Chicago Senior Vice President and General Manager Joe DeRosa.

Orange County Casino Becomes a Reality

When Trump Springs Valley withdrew from the Orange County casino project last summer, residents thought they had lost their chance at reviving a dismal economy. However, Blue Sky Casino, LLC has now proposed to invest over \$240 million in the project – over double the amount offered by Trump’s company. The new deal is tentatively approved with six conditions that must be met by August. Also, the casino which will be operated by Majestic Star Casino, must be operational by December 23, 2006, or Blue Sky will face penalties.

Blue Sky’s parent company is a joint venture owned by

Lauth Resorts & Casino, LLC. This is an affiliate of Lauth Group, Inc., a national real estate developer based in Indianapolis and

Casino Quick Facts

- 70,000 square feet
- 1,000 slot machines
- 25 table and poker games
- Parking garage
- Entertainment lounge
- Sports bar
- Casual bistro

MORE NON-SMOKING SLOTS AT GRAND VICTORIA CASINO

On July 1, Grand Victoria Casino added Level 1 Forward as a non-smoking area, boosting the number of machines in the non-smoking sections to 385. The Rising Sun property has offered a non-smoking area on its fourth level since April 2000.

“We take great pride in our superb customer service,” said Scott Cooper, Grand Victoria’s general manager. “Guests have been asking for more non-smoking areas. With this accommodation, about 25 percent of our slots will be located in a non-smoking area. Our poker room on Level 1 Aft is also a non-smoking area.”



Orange County Holdings, Inc., a not-for-profit organization formed by the Cook Group companies in Bloomington.

Renovation of the French Lick Springs Resort & Spa and the nearby West Baden Springs Hotel is also part of the deal. The nautically-themed casino will be Indiana’s 11th casino and will be the smallest.

The 7.3% unemployment rate in Orange county is 6th highest in the state. Residents there will have first priority for positions at the casino and hotels. At full tilt, Blue Sky expects to employ 1,410 people earning \$32.5 million annually in salaries and benefits.



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**Is Your Gambling Out of Control?
Help is available. 1-800-994-8448.**



Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. What casinos make up the Casino Association of Indiana (CAI)?
A. The CAI is comprised of 9 casinos located throughout the state. See above map.
- Q. What is a slot drop?
A. In casinos, the amount of coins collected in

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Indiana casinos are joining the gaming industry nationwide in observing the 8th annual Responsible Gaming Education Week, August 1—5, 2005 to increase awareness of problem gambling.



This year's theme is "We're Banding Together to Keep it Fun". Casino employees and customers will be wearing orange silicone wristbands with the message, "Keep it Fun", which ties in well with this year's theme. All proceeds from the sale of the wristbands will be donated to the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG), which has been very successful in bringing attention to gambling addiction.

The wristbands are just one way the American Gaming Association (AGA) and state gaming associations support the NCRG. The gaming industry recognizes that there is still much to learn about problem gambling. The industry's proactive approach and eagerness to support responsible gaming are evidenced by the AGA Code of Conduct for Responsible Gaming, which, in part, calls for continued funding for research.

Each Indiana casino is very diligent in maintaining a comprehensive program to educate their employees about problem gambling, as well as providing information to individuals who feel they are in need of help to keep gaming in perspective as an entertainment venue. While promoting responsible gaming is a year-round initiative for Indiana casinos, the riverboat properties are taking the opportunity to heighten awareness during this week.

Mike Smith, Executive Director

the bucket inside a cabinet underneath the slot machine.

- Q. What does the term 'Day-trip market' mean?
A. This is a market segment that can drive to the property and return home the same day.
- Q. What is a destination resort?
A. This is a place where guests spend at least one night rather than making a "day-trip"
- Q. What is an admission tax?
A. This is a tax that a casino pays for every entrance into its casino. The admission tax is \$3 per person in Indiana.