

The Indiana Casino Gaming News

A regular update of issues regarding Indiana casinos

February 2005

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Casino Quick News

- Two bills have been filed in the Kentucky legislature to introduce slot machines into the state. Both bills are authored by Rep. Tom Burch, D-Louisville. One would place slots at race-tracks while the other would permit county referendums to allow local citizens to decide if they want slot machines in their area.
- Harrah's Entertainment Inc. doubled its 4th quarter profit during the last year. In the 3 month period ending December 31, 2004, Harrah's earned \$77M (68 cents a share) which is up from the previous year's total of \$35.4M (32 cents a share).

Flooding Temporarily Closes 2 Casinos

The Ohio River saw high flood levels early in January, forcing two casinos to close gaming operations to ensure patron and employee safety. Hardest hit was Caesars Indiana located in Harrison County. While exact numbers are unknown, it has been estimated that the flood losses amounted to roughly \$1 million a day. The casino was closed for the better part of 10 days.

This is the 4th time the casino has been forced to close due to weather related concerns. At the time of closure, the hotel was booked up for the weekend, and all visitors, patrons and employees were required to leave. "Our number 1 concern is public safety," stated Ed Garruto, General Manager for Caesars Indiana.

At its worst, the Caesars Hotel



was surrounded on three sides by water and the first floor or the employee parking lot was under water. No carpeted or interior areas were affected. The river crested approximately 6 feet above flood stage.

Estimated tax loss to the state due to the closure is approximately \$2.4

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Casino Spotlight - Grand Victoria by Hyatt

Rising Sun is host to one of the Midwest's finest casinos - Grand Victoria Casino & Resort by Hyatt. With nearly 1,500 of the newest and hottest slot machines and a wide variety of table games, Grand Victoria invites guests to discover what makes the casino sizzle.

Grand Victoria ensures a wide variety of slot machine options with denominations ranging from 1 cent to \$100. They have upgraded most machines to the new, innovative technology of Ticket-In/Ticket-Out redemption (TITO). With TITO, patrons receive a paper ticket that can be inserted into another machine for play or can be redeemed through any

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Casino Spotlight - Grand Victoria Casino & Resort

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cage cashier. They are also proud to host an exclusive non-smoking area that has over 60 slot machines in 5 cent, 25 cent and \$1 denominations.

The adjoining hotel has 201 comfortable rooms including 5 suites for guests who want an extended stay. In addition to the re-



cently renovated rooms, there is a health club, indoor swimming pool, whirlpool and sauna for extended relaxation.

Grand Victoria boast 5 wonderful restaurants to fit anyone's dining style. The River View Buffet has a delicious all-you-can-eat bounty of food with a beautiful setting to match. A feast of carved meats, country BBQ, delectable Italian fare and an array of fresh salads and desserts is available with seating that overlooks the scenic Ohio River. A diner at Wellington's experiences turn-of-the-century Victorian charm while enjoying the finest choice cuts of tender beef, tantalizing chops and freshest ocean seafood.

Victoria Pub and Picadilly's Deli serve a more laid-back dining experience. Patrons can enjoy a frosty beverage at the Pub while

watching their favorite sporting event or order deli sandwiches, hot pizza or pastries and cookies 24-hours a day at the Deli.

The fifth restaurant at the casino is a retreat for the most valued players at Grand Victoria. Windsor

Lounge specializes in fine wines, premium liquors and complimentary hors d'oeuvres in a relaxed atmosphere with a casually elegant Victorian theme.

For golf enthusiasts, The Links at Grand Victoria Casino is one of a kind in southern Indiana. It is an 18-hole, 6400 yard Scottish Links style golf course designed by Tim Liddy. The par 71 course features panoramic views of the Ohio River Valley. Sweeping bunkers and winding lakes line the gently rolling bent grass fairways, tees and greens. The golf clubhouse is a fabulous stop during your trip to the course, featuring a well-stocked pro shop, snack bar, dressing rooms and shower facilities.

For large groups, Grand Victoria's Theatre can be used for tradeshow, conventions, private dinner parties, large meetings and entertainment. With an available sound system and sizing options for smaller

Fast Facts

Host City: Rising Sun
Date Opened: October 1996
Total Employees: 1,016
2004 Total Admissions: 1,668,662
Boat Capacity: 3,000
Hotel Rooms: 201
Table Games: 42 (including 6 poker tables)
Slots: 1,499

Other amenities: Grand Victoria's pavilion is home to a variety of dining options, hotel with health club, indoor swimming pool, whirlpool and sauna and the Grand Theatre, a meeting space venue for large or small groups. The Links at Grand Victoria is a haven for golf enthusiasts with 18 hole course, pro shop and clubhouse.

600 Grand Victoria Drive, Rising Sun, IN 47040
812-438-1234, Toll-free: 800-472-6311
www.grandvictoria.com



groups, the facility is fully designed for any need. The Turner Boardroom is a smaller business setting for groups of up to 20 people.

Grand Victoria Casino & Resort by Hyatt is a first class gaming experience for anyone. They are open from 8am to 5am Monday through Thursday and 24 hours on the weekends.





Caesars, Belterra Casinos Close Due to Ohio River Flooding

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million, with another \$1.8 million to the local community, and employee loss of wages is estimated at \$600,000.

Belterra Casino Resort was also forced to close briefly when the Ohio River made a pedestrian ramp crossing to the casino too precarious to cross. After making some minor modifications to the casino's main entrance, the casino was able to reopen follow-

ing a U.S. Coast Guard inspection. There was no additional damage to the vessel.

Belterra was closed for about a day and a half, but the hotel, pavilion and restaurants remained open. There were no threats of flooding to these areas. Since the hotel remained open, the casino assisted local citizens in the area displaced by flooding by offering deeply discounted room rates.



ADMISSION AND WAGERING TAXES...

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Admission Tax - Jan 04 | \$ 5,947,137 |
| Wagering Tax - Jan 04 | \$58,230,044 |
| | |
| Admission Tax Fiscal YTD | \$45,957,228 |
| Wagering Tax Fiscal YTD | \$347,753,335 |

Total FY Admission and Wagering Tax **\$393,710,563**

Fiscal Year Defined as July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

Grand Victoria Employees Excel with Shining Star Program

Over the past few years, Grand Victoria Casino & Resort has implemented a unique method to identifying and recognizing employees who truly shine in their workplace environment. Through their "Shining Star Awards Program," front-line employees are applauded for efforts to better the casino experience for customers and fellow employees.

On a monthly basis, a volunteer committee comprised of individuals of various departments and organizational levels choose up to three employees to receive the

award. On a quarterly basis, the same committee chooses a "Supervisor of the Quarter" and "Manager of the Quarter." The choice is based on nomination forms which may be filled out by any employee on behalf of any other employee.

Recipients are presented with a balloon, bottle of wine and an invitation to attend a monthly luncheon held in their honor attended by the award winner, their nominator and the General Manager. Additional kudos are presented at this time, including a trophy, monetary

award, a nametag indicating their achievement and special parking privileges.

At year end, following an extensive selection process, yearly award winners are chosen from among the monthly and quarterly recipients. These individuals are presented with an additional week of paid vacation (which includes a trip for two to any place in the continental U.S. – flight and accommodations), \$1000, a digital camera, parking privileges and a professionally produced photo and certificate.



One North Capitol
Suite 520
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: 317-231-7030
Fax: 317-231-7035
Email: info@CasinoAssociation.org

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

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:



Hoosiers now have something new to be proud of: a high performing stock index based on companies who are located here. In a recent USA Today report, Indiana was listed as one of the biggest success stories in the country. States and metropolitan areas were ranked using the performance of companies that are either based there or have significant operations in that state. This ranking has several good implications for our state. It shows that the companies who find their homes here in Indiana are among the strongest in the country. Indiana also boasted a wide range of industries, which boosted our ranking and economic stability. The casino industry contributed to this high ranking as most casinos in Indiana are publicly traded on the stock market and continue to be stable, strong market leaders.

The study also showed another interesting connection to gaming. One of the other areas that performed so highly is the Las Vegas metropolitan area. And as many of you know, the economic climate in Las Vegas is heavily dependant on gaming operations. Even with the downturn in the travel market over the past few years, Las Vegas continues to be a market leader, highlighting the stability of the industry. Going forward, these results can only foretell great results for both gaming and our great state of Indiana.

Mike Smith, Executive Director

Majestic Star Casino Presents Ditka Dollars

Majestic Star Casino presented a new series of slot machines with the famous football coach, Mike Ditka, hosting the ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, January 21st. The new slot machines have a progressive amount currently over \$352,000. Once the jackpot hits, the progressive amount will reset at \$100,000.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was also attended by several other casino dignitaries. The new slot machines hope to

appeal to a new audience and add to the variety of gaming available at Majestic Star Casino.

In conjunction with the new slot machines, the casino will also be featuring Ditka Dollars Ritzy Weekend Giveaways. Participants in the promotion will be eligible to win a weekend getaway for two in Chicago with dinner at Ditka's Restaurant, limousine service and a spa package.

