

# The Indiana Casino Gaming News

A regular update of issues regarding Indiana casinos

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## Casino Spotlight - Majestic Star Casino

At Majestic Star Casino, you'll find the hottest gaming experience in the Northeast Indiana/Chicagoland area. Majestic Star is home to some of the finest gaming around. Patrons appreciate the spacious and comfortable casino as well as the helpful and friendly staff.



Majestic Star offers the latest slot machine games available as well as all the old classic favorites. New additions include "Ditka Dollars," featuring famous football coach Mike Ditka. In total, the casino hosts over 1,540 of the hottest and most popular slots and video poker games in denominations from one cent to \$25. If table games are more to the style of a

patron, Majestic Star has over 50 table games including Blackjack, Craps and Roulette, as well as newer favorites such as Fortune Pai Gow and 21+3 which adds a 3-card Poker "side game" to original Blackjack. According to the Midwest Gaming and Travel Reader's Choice Awards, Majestic Star has the "Best Se-

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### Casino Quick News

- The American Gaming Association recently announced the election of a new chairman and several members of the Board of Directors. Serving as chairman is Terry Lanni, Chairman and CEO of MGM Mirage.
- Ohio may be fast approaching the addition of a Native American casino to the southwestern area. The Monroe City Council approved a revenue-sharing agreement with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma for a proposed casino to be located at the intersection of Ohio St. Rd. 63 and Interstate 75.

## Expanded Kentucky Gaming Gains Support

In a recent poll released from the Louisville Courier-Journal, if additional funding is needed to balance the Kentucky state budget, most voters favor additional gambling over increasing taxes. 61% of respondents supported allowing slot machines at racetracks in the Bluegrass state, with the state receiving a portion of the taxing proceeds. The margin of error for the poll results was  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points. The poll was taken from 801 adult Kentucky residents. Urban areas were more supportive of the shift than rural areas (71% to 58%) and men more so than women (69% to 55%).

gaming and believe that Kentucky is losing funding to neighboring states, including Indiana. While current legislation to expand slot machines to horse tracks is languishing in the current session of the legislature and additional legislation to allow electronic slots throughout the state appears to be dead, the issue may continue to resurface in state budget negotiations.

Residents and lawmakers are seeing the tax benefits from casino

Indiana casinos could be greatly affected by expanded gaming in the neighboring state. Consumers are likely to patronize locations geographically closest to them, effectively removing Kentucky gamblers from Indiana casinos.

## Casino Spotlight - Majestic Star Casino

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lection of Table Games” among all Midwest casinos.

Majestic Star also offers an exciting line-up of concerts, entertainment, special events and exclusive live sports simulcasts to add excitement and entertainment options to their gaming experience.

The casino is home to a wide variety of restaurants to cater to any taste bud preference and budget. For fine dining with selections from around the world, Passports buffet features selections from Asian, Italian, Mexican and American cuisine. Open for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch, Passports offers tantalizing tastes with a huge variety of options.

At Koko Taylor’s Blues Café, the *Queen of the Blues* temps you with her special brand of fine southern cuisine. Dishes such as Koko’s World Famous Barbecue Rib Platter, Mississippi Delta Crawfish Gumbo, Black-Eyed Peas, and BB’s King Cut of Char Broiled Beef Tenderloin are tantalizing to every guest. After a piece of “Let Me Love You Baby” Kentucky Bourbon Pecan Pie for dessert, you won’t be singing the blues when you’re done.

If you want a quick and tasty meal on the go, Miller Pizza Co. is the place. With fresh baked thick crust pizza and a wide variety of toppings, Miller Pizza satisfies the snacking urge. For other light snacks, Harbor Treats offers popcorn, caramel and cheese corn, nachos, ice cream, soft drinks and more. As well, the Jackpot Java features gourmet coffees, teas,

lattes and espressos as well as a delectable assortment of fresh baked goods, pastries and light meals. Good food is a great bet at any of these fine locations.

Majestic Star has partnered with nearby Best Western Northwest Indiana in Hammond to provide comfortable, convenient accommodations only minutes away from the gaming action.

Additional facility space is located in the adjacent Buffington Harbor Pavilion. The one-of-a-kind pavilion is a joint venture between Majestic Star Casino and Trump Casino Hotel and is available to patrons of both casinos.

### Fast Facts

Host City: Gary  
 Date Opened: June 1996  
 Total Employees: 977  
 2004 Total Admissions: 2,890,274  
 Boat Capacity: 3,000  
 Hotel Rooms: N/A  
 Table Games: 47  
 Slots: 1,631

Other amenities: Majestic Star recently added hundreds of new slot and Ticket In/Ticket Out games, new tournament activities and offers live weekly entertainment. The adjacent Buffington Pavilion offers a variety of additional dining and entertainment options.

One Buffington Harbor Drive, Gary, IN 46406  
 1-888-2BLUCKY (225-8259), 219-977-7700  
[www.majesticstar.com](http://www.majesticstar.com)



## ADMISSION AND WAGERING TAXES...

**Admission Tax - Feb 05** **\$ 6,743,352**

**Wagering Tax - Feb 05** **\$ 70,823,848**

**Admission Tax Fiscal YTD** **\$ 52,700,580**

**Wagering Tax Fiscal YTD** **\$418,577,183**

**Total FY Admission and Wagering Tax** **\$471,277,763**

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



## Gaming Commission Releases Numbers for Self-Exclusion List

According to recently released statistics from the Indiana Gaming Commission, 465 people have registered for the state’s “self-exclusion” program. Casinos have been very proactive in assisting patrons who inquire about the list.

The program has been in existence for over 7 months and is designed to provide individuals with the opportunity to keep themselves from visiting casinos throughout the state. Once signed up for the program, the individual may not return to a casino within the state without possibly being charged with trespassing and/or forfeiting any winnings.

Exclusion options include time periods of 1 year, 5 years and a lifetime to correspond with a patron’s level of concern. Once chosen, a patron may not reduce his or her length of time, but they may increase the ban at any point.

According to the Commission, nearly 45% of individuals who registered for the program chose the lifetime ban. Approximately 34% chose one-year bans and the remainder elected for the 5 year option.

A few individuals have violated the agreement and have appeared at Indiana casinos, but most have taken their gambling problems seriously and have remained away from the casinos.

Interestingly, only 31% of participants registered on the list are from Indiana. Over 36% hail from Illinois, 18% from Kentucky and 13% from Ohio. Residents of several other nearby states have also registered. These statistics are consistent with patronage at the casinos throughout the state as large portions of patrons live in outlying states and population centers.

### Casino Self-Exclusion List

Casino	##s	% of Total
Argosy Casino,	63	13.5
Casino Aztar, Evansville	32	2.6
Belterra, Vevay	21	4.5
Blue Chip Casino, Michigan City	22	4.7
Caesars Indiana, Elizabeth	88	18.9
Grand Victoria, Rising Sun	33	7.1
Harrah’s, East Chicago	51	11.0
Horseshoe, Hammond	77	16.6
Majestic Star, Gary	48	10.3
Trump Hotel and Casino, Gary	47	10.1
Gaming Commission office, Indianapolis	3	0.6

## Harrah’s Receives National Grassroots Innovation Award

Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc. has been awarded a Grassroots Innovation Award from the Public Affairs Council for its employee voter education program, “Winning Together.”

Each year the Public Affairs Council, the leading association for public affairs professionals, honors the nation’s best grassroots programs and campaigns. Harrah’s was honored in the corporate category.

Winning Together is designed to organize Harrah’s employees and vendors into a grassroots network. Employees are kept informed of legislative activities in their states and communities that could have an impact on the company, and

are urged to become involved in the political process, both by communicating with lawmakers and becoming regular voters.

The Winning Together program was launched in 2004 at Harrah’s properties in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi and New Jersey. Harrah’s plans to expand the program to properties in other states over the next several years.

“We’re proud our employee grassroots efforts have earned this prestigious recognition,” said Jan Jones, Senior Vice President of Communications and Government Relations for Harrah’s. “Through Winning Together, we encourage our

employees to register to vote, to advocate our industry and the positive impact it has on the communities in which we operate, and to become actively involved in the political process.”

Based in Washington, D.C., the Public Affairs Council is the nation’s leading association for public affairs professionals.

Winning Together was also awarded a bronze Pollie Award by the American Association of Political Consultants for an automated phone message from Harrah’s Chief Executive Officer Gary Loveman reminding Harrah’s employees to vote. The Pollie Awards recognize excellence in political communications.



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

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

How about a little lighthearted thoughts this month?

Want to know the odds on Elvis appearing at Wimbledon? Or whether pop singer Britney Spears will be president of the United States by the year 2030? These and many other off-beat bets are commonplace in Great Britain according to a recent article published in the Baltimore Sun.



“Novelty Betting,” as it is known throughout the United Kingdom, has grown in great popularity throughout recent years. Such odds are only taken at gambling houses in the U.K., but span a wide gamut of events and worldwide public figures. Bookmakers have taken bets on the number of sips of water the chancellor will take while addressing the House of Commons or have gone as personal as whether the bettor’s grandmother will live to be 100 years old.

According to the Sun article, “sometimes bookmakers will come up with the offbeat bets; other times it’s the gamblers who come up with some event - or nonevent - and approach the gambling houses for odds. ‘If I lived in a vault and based what was going on outside solely on the bets we get, I’d think I live in a very strange country,’ said Warren Lush, the chief oddsmaker at Ladbrokes Limited, which has about 2,000 betting houses in Britain. ‘I’d also know a lot of what’s going on, in terms of trends and specific events, even before the newspapers.’ “

*Mike Smith*, Executive Director

## Kentucky Continues Expanded Gambling Discussions

The need for additional tax monies for the State of Kentucky continues to keep legislators and the state’s Governor open to expanded gambling. In a recent interview, Governor Ernie Fletcher stated that he expects gambling legislation to fuel even more debate next year as the need for funding increases.

In the budget recently passed through the Kentucky legislature, lawmakers added nearly \$2 billion in debt for projects throughout the state. Kentucky is also fac-

ing a \$500 million shortfall in Medicaid health care spending. Projections for next year’s budget are already showing it to be a very tight squeeze.

Indiana casinos continue to draw large numbers of visitors from the state to the south. Some Kentucky leaders see the flow and want to stem the tide by keeping gambling tax dollars within the state.

Bills that would have permitted gambling at various locations

throughout the state received substantial hearings and debate during this legislative session, but none became law. Some supporters encourage casinos located at horse tracks to beef up the horseracing industry, while others support riverboat or land-based casinos near the Indiana border.

Governor Fletcher has stated that he will not be an overt cheerleader of the proposals, but would not oppose such legislation either.