

The Indiana Casino Gaming News

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Caesars gives \$500,000 to library

The new library at Indiana University Southeast received its largest donation to date this month, when the Caesars Foundation presented representatives with a \$500,000 check.

The campus, a branch of Indiana University in New Albany, had a ceremony to acknowledge the gift, which was the largest given since the library opened in January 2005. Caesars Indiana General Manager Ed Garruto, who also serves as treasurer of the Caesars Foundation, was on hand to present the check – and even to sign it, when someone in the audience noted that the check was without signature.

Garruto told the Louisville *Courier-Journal* that he was thrilled to be able to make the contribution – especially after research showed how much the community was using the new library.

“The Caesars Foundation looks for philanthropic opportunities that have a strong and positive impact on the community,” Garruto told the paper. “When we examined just how extensively this library was



Representatives of Indiana University Southeast receive their \$500,000 check from Caesars, the largest donation in their library's short history.

being used by students and the entire community, we knew it would be the perfect place to put foundation dollars.”

Those dollars will go toward buying both print and electronic books, periodicals, and other resources. It will allow IUS to maintain up-to-date resources and materials in the library for students and the community.

New Albany Mayor James Garner noted that such efforts help reduce the “brain drain” in

Southeast Indiana – something that IUS has been doing since its opening.

And, according to university Chancellor Sandra Patterson-Randles, this sort of donation will help keep that trend alive.

“We are thrilled” by the donation, Patterson-Randles told the *Courier-Journal*. “Our library is a state-of-the-art facility, and this donation will go a long way toward keeping it that way.”

Resorts East Chicago dons denim to fight breast cancer

The army of researchers fighting breast cancer gained a few extra weapons October 5, as businesses like Resorts East Chicago took part in Lee National Denim Day.

That Thursday became casual day for employees at Resorts, who were allowed to wear jeans to work in exchange for a \$5 donation to the Women's Cancer Programs of the Entertainment Industry Foundation.

“Lee National Denim Day is extremely important to our employees as many of them have taken a very personal interest in the enormity of this disease,” said Joe DeRosa, Resorts East Chicago Senior Vice President and General Manager. “We enjoy participating in this cause significantly because it empowers everyone to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer and is a great education



program for us to implement within our work walls.”

Since its inception more than a decade ago, Lee National Denim Day has raised more than \$61 million for breast cancer research. This year's funds will go toward a groundbreaking scientific pro-

ject aimed at detecting breast cancer in its earliest stage.

The funds also will help accelerate treatment research, and increase patient access to some of the most significant trials in the nation. Numerous grassroots programs across the country also will receive aid.

For questions about EIF's women's cancer programs and information about breast cancer, visit eifoundation.org or call 1-800-426-0010.

Vegas strip is hitting its glass ceiling

I read something interesting the other day that I'd like to share.

For some time, I've held the opinion that Nevada - thanks, in no small part, to Las Vegas - has the strongest economic climate in the United States. A tax rate favorable to businesses has led to almost constant growth, which leads to an increase in jobs, a decrease in unemployment, and a booming tourist industry.



Exactly how strong the economy is, and how much growth Las Vegas is seeing, was the subject of my reading. And, frankly, I couldn't help but laugh a bit when I learned that expansion of the Vegas strip has reached the point where they are running out of glass.

I'm not making this up.

Along with a problem finding labor for expansion projects (available subcontractors are reportedly tied up until mid-2008 on existing projects), those looking at future projects have been warned that the availability of glass could slow down future projects. Apparently, major suppliers in China and Mexico - the only suppliers who can handle the kind of quantity needed for most Vegas projects - are telling prospective clients that they cannot accommodate any additional projects until at least 2008.

Can you imagine that? One city is drawing so much business that they are running major manufacturers in two countries beyond their capacity! And why? Because their state has recognized the true economic potential and value of the industry, and has created a climate that gives businesses maximum opportunity to make money - thus maximizing the state's potential to collect tax dollars.

I'm looking forward to watching all of this play out, via a new project called the "Pipeline in Pictures." This Internet-based project will allow people to watch Vegas construction projects progress over the next several years - by which time, no doubt, there will be even more projects in the proverbial pipeline.

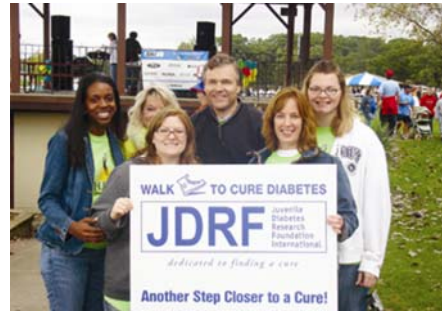
Assuming, of course, they can find the glass.

- Mike Smith, Executive Director



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In Brief...

Horseshoe's H.E.R.O.s walking to cure disease

It's been a busy walking month for the H.E.R.O.s at Horseshoe, as the group helped raise funds for two major organizations.

On September 24, as part of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's annual walk, the H.E.R.O. organization donated \$3,407. The JDRF is a group dedicated to finding a cure for Type 1 Diabetes, which strikes children and makes them insulin-dependent for life.

Then, Horseshoe's H.E.R.O.s took part in the American Heart Association's largest fund-raiser, its annual Heart Walk. Several Horse-

shoe employees took part in the event, helping to raise \$12,000 and counting for the American Heart Association's signature event.

"As the signature fund-raising event for the American Heart Association, the Heart Walk is one event that promotes physical activity and heart-healthy living in a fun environment," said Rick Mazer, Horseshoe's senior vice-president and general manager. "It's always great to see our employees band together to give back to the community, and to help improve the quality of life for all."

Congress passes anti-online gambling bill

The United States Congress made an 11th-hour move this month, passing a bill banning online gambling at the last minute.

It had been reported that the bill was dying in the Senate, until Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist managed to tack the bill onto an important Ports Safety measure. Both bills then passed both houses of Con-

gress, and have since been signed into law by President George W. Bush.

The anti-online gambling bill doesn't ban online gambling, per se. It merely bans the means of payment, stating that credit card companies and other groups that handle online payments may not collect money lost on Internet gambling.

Admission and Wagering Taxes

Admission Tax, September '06	\$ 6,702,897
Wagering Tax, September '06	\$ 54,148,762
Admission Tax, Fiscal YTD	\$ 20,963,058
Wagering Tax, Fiscal YTD	\$131,644,051
Total Admission and Wagering Tax	\$152,607,109

*Fiscal Year Defined as July 1 to June 30

Aztar named business of the year

Casino Aztar recently added to its trophy shelf after being honored with yet another Evansville local business award.

The Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce awarded Casino Aztar its prestigious Norman P. Wagner 2006 Business of the Year Award. Aztar received the award “in recognition of their business accomplishments, their success in creating good-paying jobs, and their commitment to the Evansville community.”

Jim Brown, Casino Aztar’s president and general manager, accepted the award on behalf of all Aztar employees, who he gave credit for this award and for Aztar’s reputation as a committed corporate citizen. “On behalf of all of the crewmembers at Casino Aztar,” Brown said, “I am proud to receive this honor and wish to acknowledge the team work and community spirit that we all put



Representatives of Jillian’s and Ri Ra’s joined Jim Brown last month to cut the ribbon on The District at Casino Aztar.

forth on an ongoing basis.”

In its 10-year-plus history, Aztar has repeatedly shown its commitment to the community – most recently by creating a \$40 million entertainment district Downtown.

That development, which includes Ri Ra’s Irish Pub and Jillian’s Billiards Pub, opened in September. A new luxury hotel and Ultra-Lounge will open later this year.

“The Aztar team has cre-

ated wealth and opportunity for our region by generating good paying jobs and building its capital investment,” said Matt Meadors, President and CEO of the Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce. “Their level of participation in our community indicates that they have a profound regard for the citizens in our area. They have been active in improving the overall quality of life here.”

Harrah’s sponsors gala to benefit young adults

Horseshoe Casino and Caesars Indiana were top sponsors at this year’s annual black tie affair, named in honor of both casinos, as a kick off to Circle City Classic weekend in Indianapolis.

Their sponsorship was made possible by parent company Harrah’s Entertainment’s, Inc. community foundation.

This is the second year the sister properties have partnered for this extravagant affair, which attracted the likes of award-winning performer Stephanie Mills. Proceeds from the “Horseshoe Casino & Caesars Indiana Annual Classic Gala” will support the Classic’s scholarship program, statewide minority youth readiness work-



shops, SAT preparatory workshops and college fairs.

Pictured (from left) are: Tony Mason, Circle City Classic Executive Director; Joyce Rogers, Indiana Black Expo President and CEO; Attorney Lacy Johnson, Ice Miller; Rick Mazer, Horseshoe Casino Senior Vice

President & General Manager; State Representative William Crawford; Patzetta Trice, Indianapolis International Airport Vice President of Communications, Marketing and Air Service; and A. John Baker, Harrah’s Regional Vice President of Government Relations.

Gaming views may swing Kentucky race

A Republican challenger for the Kentucky State Senate is attempting to paint his race as a “referendum on casino gambling” in the state.

“If (incumbent Democrat) Ed Worley gets elected in November, this state will soon have casino gambling,” said Barry Metcalf, Worley’s Republican challenger. “If he does not, Kentuckians don’t have to mess with it.”

Metcalf, who served in the Kentucky Senate from 1994-1999, is attempting to unseat Worley, who is the Democrat floor leader in the chamber. Worley has served the 34th Senate District in the chamber since 1999.

In his re-election literature, though, Worley does not trumpet support for gambling; in fact, he has not even said publicly whether he favors the idea or not.

Instead, he said, he simply favors putting it on a ballot, and letting Kentuckians decide whether they want casino gambling in their state.

For that reason, and because he has publicly bemoaned the amount of money Kentuckians spend gambling in Indiana, Metcalf has made gambling the central issue of his campaign.

If he is elected, though, Metcalf said Kentuckians won’t have to worry about the issue.

Because of such comments, Metcalf likely has made his race a referendum on casino gambling, as anyone in favor now would be unlikely to vote for him.

Meanwhile, those in the Indiana gaming business will be keeping a close eye on the race, as expansion of casino gambling into Kentucky will create increased competition.

New French Lick casino bracing for opening day

The brand new French Lick Resort Casino officially has begun accepting reservations for the opening of its 442-room French Lick Springs Hotel next month.

After 16 months of major renovations, in which its historic features have been carefully restored and modern amenities added, the French Lick Springs Hotel will open to the public Nov. 3. Reservations are available now.

"We are thrilled to begin accepting reservations," said Scott Spurlock, resort general manager. "Whether you have visited the resort in the past or will be a new guest, we welcome you. A new history for French Lick begins officially this November."



Among those rooms open for reservations are French Lick Springs' 31 suites, including four deluxe suites: The FDR Suite, Hagen Suite, Governor's Suite, and Pool Suite. The FDR Suite is

named for our 32nd president, who was known to frequent this hotel, while the Hagen Suite is attributed to 1924 PGA Champion Walter Hagen, who won his title in French Lick.

The Governor's Suite features two bedrooms and two and a half baths, along with a sitting room. The resort's newest suite is the Pool Suite; the approximately 1,400-square-foot retreat offers a large sitting room and a Jacuzzi bath with wet bar and entertainment center. It overlooks the resort's lavish outdoor pool.

Room rates begin at \$139. Call center agents are available to answer any questions and book reservations from Nov. 3 and beyond, including New Year's Eve. Guests can call (866) 379-2202 to find out all the details. For more information about the French Lick Resort Casino, please visit www.frenchlick.com.

The slots at Resorts East Chicago were named the best in numerous categories in this year's "Best of Slots" poll, done by Strictly Slots magazine.



Resorts East Chicago rewarded in Strictly Slots competition

When *Strictly Slots* Magazine announced its 2006 "Best of Slots" awards recently, one name seemed to be spread across the magazine's pages: Resorts East Chicago.

Resorts East Chicago Casino Hotel received a total of 31 awards in the annual competition, which reflects the opinions of *Strictly Slots* readers across the country. All readers were asked by the magazine to cast their votes for their favorite casinos.

Of the 31 awards, 12 represented first-place recognition, reflecting Resorts' standing in the Chicagoland market. Prizes went to Resorts in such cate-

gories as Best Variety of Slots, Best Casino for Reel Slots, Best Slot Club Promotions, and Best Cashback. Resorts East Chicago also received high recognition in a variety of other prestigious categories, including Best Casino for Video Poker, Best Casino for Progressive Slots, Best Quarter Slots, and Best Slot Service.

The awards came on the heels of Resorts' 23 awards in this year's *Casino Player* magazine "Best of Gaming Awards," where Resorts took home Best Overall Hotel Casino, Best Video Slots, Most Innovative Slot Floor, and several other prestigious awards.

Gaming terms

Dice Degenerate – In craps, a compulsive player who cannot control their need to gamble.

Flush – 1) A gambler who is winning or has a lot of money; 2) In poker, a hand containing any five cards of one suit.

Indian Dice – A traditional Native American bar game using five dice and allowed under Class 1 gaming. Each player gets three throws; the object is to build the best possible poker hand.

Mexican Standoff – A wagering session that ends in either incidental winnings or losses.

Rating Slip – 1) A sheet which indicates a player's activity for comps; 2) A record of a dealer's performance.