

The Indiana Casino Gaming News

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I once heard this story about two men in my hometown:

With some regularity, this pair would go visit a local tourist attraction, where one would pretend to be staggering drunk. He would find some unsuspecting tourist, and he would approach him, slurring his words as he suggested a wager:



"I'll bet you \$5," the man would say, "that the guy over there against the wall has six toes on one of his feet."

The tourist, believing that the man is simply drunk, accepts the bet. So the two approach the second man only to find that - SURPRISE! - he does, indeed, have six toes on one foot.

So what in the world does this have to do with the gaming industry, you ask?

What those two men were doing was playing a fixed game; at no point did the tourist have a chance to win the bet. It could be a lot like gaming at an internet site or other illegal gaming venue that is unregulated.

Indiana's gaming industry is heavily regulated - meaning that a visit to Indiana's casinos isn't just a fun time. It's also a fair shake. Every time.

- Mike Smith, President

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Aztar chef jumps in regional battle

Casino Aztar's Chef Glen Chapman qualified and competed against four other casino chefs in *Southern Gaming Magazine's* Casino Cook-off on Sept. 24 in Biloxi, Miss.

Chef Chapman qualified by submitting his recipe for a Wild Mushroom Kentucky Bourbon Filet in a recipe contest on the magazine's website. The contest featured fifteen recipe entries, all using Four Roses Kentucky Bourbon in some way, from casino chefs in five states. The four finalists were determined by those who voted for their favorite recipes over a sixty day voting period.

The four chefs who received the most votes were invited to compete in the Grand Champion "iron-chef" style competition at the Gulf Coast Convention



Glen Chapman, executive sous chef at Cavanaugh's

Center in Biloxi, Miss.

Chef Glen Chapman has been cooking since he was 16 years old and his love of the culinary arts eventually led him to Casino Aztar, where he has been prepar-

ing dishes and menus for 14 years. Chapman is the executive sous chef at Cavanaugh's at the casino property in Evansville.

Chapman competed against Chef Abel Vergara from Seminole Coconut Creek Casino in Florida, Chef Gunter Kilian from Diamond Jacks Casino in Louisiana, and Chef Chris Poplin from IP Casino Resort & Spa in Biloxi, Miss.

"This is the single most talented group of casino chefs ever assembled in the South - maybe the country!" said G. Douglas Dreisbach, *Southern Gaming's* General Manager.

The Casino Cook-off is the premier casino culinary competition in the Southeastern region and was the marquee event of the 29th annual *Chefs of the Coast Culinary Weekend*.

Illinois gaming expansion may not be dead

Expanded gaming may still be coming to Illinois this year, in spite of Governor Pat Quinn's reservations about the issue.

Quinn recently rejected a plan that would have called for a significant expansion to the state's gaming industry - including some measures that were aimed at creating a competitive edge over Indiana's casinos. According to the Danville, (Illinois) *Commercial News*, Quinn's reservations were over the size of the expansion, and the possibility of the expansion weakening regulation of Illinois' casinos.

To combat those concerns, Illinois Senate President John Cullerton has said he is willing to look at a reduction in the number of gaming positions in the bill. He also said he's willing to remove plans for year-round horse racing with slot machines at the Springfield fairground.

According to the *Commercial News*, though, Cullerton wants to maintain the part of the bill calling for five new casinos.

"I think we can certainly look to reduce the number of gaming positions in the bill without eliminating any of the locations that are

authorized," he told the newspaper. "So the number of positions at each new location would be something that we could adjust, if the governor cares and if that helps us with getting votes."

The legislature is slated to revisit the issue during an October "veto session," which is scheduled for Oct. 25-27 and Nov. 8-10 (but could be expanded if necessary).

The *Commercial News* also reported that the governor's office has received more constituent support for the project than opposition.

Erpenbach finds life's work in casino industry

Jahnae Erpenbach always knew she wanted to work in the hospitality industry.

So, to pursue that goal, she went back to college in the 1990s, with the hope of obtaining a degree in culinary arts management.

Then, Merv Griffin International and Players International brought a riverboat casino to Metropolis, Illinois, and Erpenbach's life changed forever.

"I saw this boat on a very foggy night on the river, and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, that's like Disneyland on water!'" Erpenbach said. "I had never been to Vegas before in my life; I had never gamed. But

when I saw this riverboat on the water, I thought, 'I need to work there.'"

So she did. And now, years later, Erpenbach not only works at a casino – she oversees one, as the vice president and general manager of gaming at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino in Anderson, Indiana.

Erpenbach's career began in sales, where she remained from 1993 until 2001 – first as a sales representative, then group sales manager, sales director, re-



Jahnae Erpenbach

tail sales and marketing manager, and finally, vice president of marketing. All of that was at that same Metropolis casino where she began. From there, she went on to Majestic Star casinos in Indiana; after that, she served as the general manager of the Empress Casino in Joliet, Illinois.

"Then, (Hoosier Park President) Jim Brown called me and said he's opening this casino in a small town in Indiana, and he'd love to have me come and help on the opening team," Erpenbach said. "I had opened facilities before, but never from scratch. So I came in to be his director of marketing;

as we flourished, I became the VP of marketing, and when the company disposition changed, I became the general manager of gaming."

The job at Hoosier Park has stretched Erpenbach beyond her comfort zone – this is the first time, she noted, that she has worked in a facility that also includes horse racing. But she has loved the challenge – and the perks that come with it.

"I look out my office window, and I see all of these beautiful barns and horses cascading by," she said. "I hear that in my right ear, and in my left, I hear slot machines ... it's just such a wonderful place to work!"

Indiana Live! pushes health-related fun



Indiana Live! Casino employees put their best foot forward on Oct. 1 as part of the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides to End Breast Cancer" 5K walk, which took place at the Benesse Oncology Center in Shelbyville.

Employees at Indiana Live! were treated to food, gifts, and plenty of good, healthy fun last month, as the property combined its Employee Appreciation Day with a Health Information Fair.

Alongside the food, gifts, and prizes that traditionally accompany an Employee Appreciation event, Indiana Live! provided its employees with information about healthy lifestyles, courtesy of numerous vendors brought in for the event. Health care providers, banks, fitness center, booksellers, and area recreation

facilities and parks offered the property's team members more information about making healthy choices.

The first 200 employees in attendance also received free flu shots.

The event drew more than 650 team members at the Indiana Downs Family Pavilion, where all received gifts including kitchenware, sports apparel, and various gift baskets and outdoor assortments. After the event, property officials held a drawing for more than 125 prizes, ranging from high-end electronics to gift cards.



Aztar efforts support cure

On Sept. 24, Aztar Team Members braved the pouring rain to support the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in downtown Evansville. A record number of 171 Aztar team members participated by walking, running or working for the cure. Casino Aztar even received an award for increased participation from 2010. To make the event more special, Aztar conducted a contest for its team t-shirt. Brian Eads, of the Aztar Beverage Department, provided the winning design (above).

In addition, Aztar team members raised more than \$700 during two "Jeans Day" on Sept. 20 and 27. Team members wore blue jeans for the day for a donation of \$5 to the Komen organization.

Majestic Star Golf outing brings in \$7,200 for United Way

The Lake Area United Way saw another sizable gift this month, courtesy of the Majestic Star casinos.

The Gary, Ind. property, which recently was named as the Lake Area United Way's Company of the Year, hosted its second annual golf fundraiser at the Sherwood Golf Course in Schererville, Ind. All \$7,200 in proceeds went to the Lake Area United Way.

"As a company committed to the community, our employees continue to work together as a team by providing the much-needed resources for Lake Area United Way," said Larry Buck, senior vice president and general manager of Majestic Star.

This year's outing sold

out, with the 112 participants including former Chicago Bulls Bob Love and Cliff Livingston. Event sponsors included Coca Cola, the Bulls, the Chicago White Sox, and Christina Foods.

Majestic Star's fundraising team for the event was led by Human Resources' Sonja Dactelides and Food & Beverage's Avery Bryant and Gene Stubblefield.

"Our team members are proud to make a difference in helping to support the 39 community programs, 31 local member agencies, and four initiatives under the umbrella of the Lake Area United Way," said Chareice White, Majestic Star corporate director of community relations.



From left: Lynette Jones (standing in for Terian Steele), Sonja Dactelides, Millie Ramirez (standing in for Michelle Oral) and Nicole Raudry won first place during the golf outing.

Sept. 11 dedication brings out 1,200 bikers to Hoosier Park

Local motorcyclists got together at Hoosier Park last month to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York.

More than 1,200 bikers rode to see the 22-foot steel beams at their final destination in downtown Indianapolis.

The beams were officially dedicated in a ceremony to open the new Project 9/11 memorial site, which was established early last year by Indianapolis firefighter Greg Hess. Hess was part of Indiana Task Force 1 in 2001, and his group was one of the first search-and-rescue teams to arrive at ground zero in New York City in the days following the attacks.

Hoosier Park became temporary home to the twin beams on Aug. 21. Spokesman Grant Scharton esti-



Anderson Fire Department color guard stands at attention while singer Sammy Boudreaux-Panco, an Anderson native, performs the National Anthem.

mated that nearly \$4,000 had been raised by the casino for Project 911 in that time.

"We're just glad to have room for everybody today," Scharton told The Herald

Bulletin. "It's amazing seeing this many motorcycles all in one place."

The ride and ceremony did run into a small amount of rain, but not enough to derail the experience. "The

ride went wonderfully and the ceremony was unbelievable," ride organizer Don Leasure told the newspaper. "The state police and all the local agencies were fantastic."

Upcoming events

October/November Casino Entertainment:

Savannah Jack
Casino Aztar
Oct. 21 & 22—8 p.m.



Savannah Jack

Gin Blossoms
Belterra Casino Resort
Oct. 21—8 p.m.

Dionne Warwick
Rising Star Casino
Oct. 22—7 p.m.



Kenny Rogers

Air Supply
Belterra Casino Resort
Nov. 5—7 p.m.

Kenny Rogers
Rising Star Casino
Nov. 5—7 p.m.



Judas Priest w/Black Label Society & Thin Lizzy

The Wright Brothers
Indiana Live! Casino
Nov. 11 & 12—9 p.m.

Judas Priest w/Black
Label Society & Thin Liz
Horseshoe Hammond
Nov. 12—6 p.m.



Dionne Warwick



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Admission and Wagering Taxes

Admission Tax, September '11	\$ 6,253,113
Wagering Tax, September '11	\$ 53,373,763
Admission Tax, Fiscal YTD	\$ 19,672,113
Wagering Tax, Fiscal YTD	\$ 142,224,432
Total Admission and Wagering Tax	\$161,896,545
*Fiscal Year Defined as July 1 to June 30	
Total Taxes Paid Since Inception	\$9,792,453,569

The Casino Association of Indiana (CAI) was formed to support the Indiana casino industry. Currently, there are 11 member properties in the CAI. We will utilize the highest standard of ethics and integrity to promote and protect the interests of the Indiana Casino Gaming Entertainment Industry through advocacy, communications and education.