

The Indiana Casino Gaming News

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State gaming position has been sure bet Commission keeps work interesting

Ten years ago, Christine Gray wasn't sure about her job. She'd just become an auditor for the Indiana Gaming Commission, leaving a good job as the controller for an Indianapolis car dealership. She'd taken a pay cut to work as a field auditor for the state's southern casinos.

"My sister worked with the director of audits, and she found out they were hiring, so she called me," Christine said. "I had to think about it, because I was going to be taking a pay cut. But the owner (of the car dealership) was about to retire, so things were kind of up in the air there.

"So I did several interviews with the gaming commission, and they finally offered me a position, and I accepted."

That was in 1997; since then, Christine has never had to look back.

Today, Christine Gray is the IGC's Director of Compliance. She is in charge of promotions, as well as managing the state's

electronic gaming devices, and handling any disciplinary actions against Indiana's casinos.

"Actually, since I took over as director, the job has changed slightly," she said. "When I started, for the most part, it was doing the disciplinary actions against the casinos, and promotions were also under me; they've recently added all the electronic gaming devices for Indiana, for all the casinos."

Not that the new responsibilities are any problem; after all, before taking the director position, Christine was the lead field auditor for both the southern casinos (1999-2004) and the northern casinos (2004-April 2006, when she became director of compliance). In that job, she was essentially responsible for going to the casinos and han-



Christine Gray

dling audits – making sure each casino was in compliance with all the state's rules and regulations.

That job, like her new responsibilities as director, kept Christine busy – but not too busy to spend time with the most important part of her life: Todd, her husband of 13 years, and their three children, Nick, 12, Nate, 9, and Katie, 8.

"I spend as much time with my family as I can," she said. "Most of my free time is spent with them; my kids are in sports, and I usually read to my children."

And as for her job – well, let's just say Christine feels more sure about it now.

"I really enjoy this job, simply because it changes so much," she said. "The industry changes so much with the technology changes, so it stays exciting. I think that's what keeps me with the commission – just seeing all these changes within the industry, it keeps you on your toes."

Slot machine proposal for racetrack is gaining ground

Step One in Hoosier Park's plan to add slot machines at its racetrack is almost in place.

Both the Indiana Horse Racing Commission and Anderson zoning officials approved plans late last month to add 90,000 square feet to the Hoosier Park building. The additional space would house 2,000 new slot machines at the track.

The plan still hasn't gained official approval; according to WISH-TV8 in Indianapolis, the Indiana Gaming Commission still must give final approval to the plan. But as commissioners already have given preliminary approval to the project, which would more than double the interior space of the horse track.

Hoosier Park is one of Indiana's two horse tracks

According to WISH-TV8 in Indianapolis, the Indiana Gaming Commission still must give final approval to the plan.

considering the addition of slots (the other is Indiana

Downs). Both are allowed to do so based on legislation passed this year, which says each track can place up to 2,000 slot machines on-site.

In order to do so, however, the tracks have to pay a \$250 million licensing fee, the first \$150 million of which is due in November.

They also must promise to spend at least \$100 million on the slot facilities.

Casino Q & A

Jim Klimesh
Horseshoe Casino

Q: How long have you been in the casino industry?

My casino career started in early 1973. I started out dealing Craps in a small casino on Fremont Street, downtown Las Vegas. I actually worked at several casinos, until the opening of gaming in the Midwest in early 1992. At that point, I became one of the original Empress Casino, Joliet employees as a Shift Manager and went on to earn positions of increasing responsibility including Manager of Special Projects, Director of Table Games, Executive Director of Casino Operations and Interim General Manager. I am currently at the Hammond property, where I serve as Vice President of Table Games.



Q: How has working for casinos improved the quality of your life?

A: I can't say enough about the industry and the opportunities that are available. If you want to advance, set your goals and put your heart into it. I can highly recommend it for anyone who is a people person and doesn't mind shift work.

Q: What do you enjoy about your job, on a day-to-day basis?

A: The people. Mostly the team I work with at Horseshoe and their "positive, can do attitudes" . . . and seeing them advance in their careers.

Q: Do you plan to stay in the casino industry until you retire, and why?

Yes I do and that time is rapidly approaching. I have been doing this for over 34 years, and it has been a very fast and rewarding 34 years.



In Brief...

Horseshoe H.E.R.O.s 'Cram the Van'

Once again, Horseshoe Casino Hammond has come to the aid of a local shelter in need.

Late last month, Horseshoe sponsored a "Cram the Van" drive to benefit Haven House, a local domestic violence shelter. During the event, Horseshoe employees crammed about \$2,000 worth of donated supplies into a security van, which then was taken to the shelter as a donation.

Among the items in the van were household cleaning items, bed linens, personal care items and school supplies. All were taken to Haven House on August 31.

Horseshoe representatives said the shelter was "wowed" by this show of generosity.

"The Heroes at Horseshoe never cease to amaze me," said Shelby Curry, communications manager at Horseshoe.

Aztar bringing books to women's prison

Women in the Madison, Indiana Correctional Facility are trying to build a library.

They can't do it without money. The prison, which houses non-violent female offenders as they prepare to re-enter society, will not receive any state funds for the library project. So Casino Aztar is stepping to the plate.

Employees at Aztar have planned a book drive for mid-October. The event will coincide with Aztar's annual Chili Cook-Off, and will feature Aztar team mem-

bers bringing both books and donations to help build the library at Madison.

Along with books, the prison needs basic library materials like checkout cards, plastic sleeves, glue, tape, pens, pencils, and other such items. Cash donations at the book drive will go toward buying such materials for the library.

According to casino representatives, Aztar employees have chosen to take on this project because they believe it will help ease inmates back into society.

Admission and Wagering Taxes

Admission Tax, August '07	\$ 7,283,224
Wagering Tax, August '07	\$45,674,857
Admission Tax, Fiscal YTD	\$15,080,530
Wagering Tax, Fiscal YTD	\$83,323,596
Total Admission and Wagering Tax	\$98,404,126

*Fiscal Year Defined as July 1 to June 30



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Mother of two finds casino job is family-friendly

Myndi May is genuinely excited about her career.

Before she entered the casino industry, she had jobs. She worked for Texas Roadhouse, where she waited tables and worked as the office manager. Then, she came to Caesars Indiana, where she worked in the Food & Beverage area.

But now, as the Administrative Assistant to both the directors of finance and communications at Caesars, Myndi has a career she's excited about.

"They really strive here to help you build your career, if that's what you want to do," Myndi said. "Every time you get a review, they ask, 'What can we do to help you build your career,' or, 'What direction do you want to take?'"

"They want to see you grow, so there's definitely chances for me to get out there."



Myndi May poses at her desk. Behind her are pictures of her daughters, with whom she can spend time because of her convenient casino hours.

Not that she's ready to move out of her current job just yet.

Myndi came to work in the Food & Beverage department at Caesars when she was married with two children. Working nights in the restaurants was hard, but she was able to do it because her husband had a day job, so someone always was home with the children.

After her divorce, though, Myndi needed to make a switch – and Caesars helped

her do it. Myndi moved into a day-shift, office job; she worked to learn the finance and communications fields, because nights just didn't work for a single parent of two.

"It was imperative that I find something I could work during the day," she said. "Being home with my girls, cooking dinner – that was the most important thing."

And now, that's what Myndi does every day.

Of course, it was a challenge in the beginning – with no background in accounting or communications, Myndi could have struggled. But between her own hard work, and the "wonderful" department heads who answered all of her questions and helped her in any way they could, Myndi quickly became an invaluable part of the Caesars team.

"It was great ... (Director of Communications) Judy Hess would bring me in when she had to take reporters on the boat," Myndi said. "I was able to learn a lot from her about working with reporters and helping handle them when they are looking for a story."

And, because of her mix of responsibilities, the job never gets boring.

"Finance can be a little boring at times," she said. "So working on the media side breaks things up a bit."

Majestic Star honors employees

The shining stars of Majestic Star Casino gathered earlier this month to honor the area's brightest stars.

On Sept. 5, the South Shore honored its R.O.S.E. (Recognition of Service Excellence) Award finalists – service industry professionals who have demonstrated dedication and excellence, and who have positively influenced customers' experiences in the South Shore.

The ceremony, which was emceed by John Livengood, president and CEO of the Restaurant and Hotel Association of Indiana, took place in the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza. Twenty Majestic Star employees were chosen as finalists for this year's R.O.S.E. Awards,



Rosie Buchanan poses with, from left, John Livengood, Majestic Star GM & VP David Schugar, and Spiros Batistatos of the Lake County Convention & Visitors' Bureau.

with hotel staff employee Roxie Buchanan walking away as Majestic Star's 2007 Shining Star.

All finalists received awards at the dinner.

Chinese security guards find bad luck in the lottery

Think the Hoosier Lottery is popular?

That – or any lottery in America – is nothing compared to the popularity of the Chinese lottery, where winnings are so prized that citizens will bet their stolen millions on a chance at winning.

At least, that was the case with two employees of the Handan branch of the Agriculture Bank of China. The pair, who worked as security guards and were the only pair with keys to the bank vault, allegedly stole a few thousand dollars one night, just to see if anyone noticed. When no one did,

they tried again ... and again ... and again.

Eventually, the pair stole more than \$8.2 million. But instead of walking away to enjoy their newfound riches, they decided to try to strike it rich. The pair used their stolen money to buy lottery tickets. One of the men reportedly told media after his arrest that, once they "hit it big" in the lottery, they planned to return the money.

Instead, they went on a horrible losing streak, and the pair – who, until this incident, had reputations as "model workers" – got caught in the act.

Tragedy inspires Argosy greeter to new heights

Eight years ago, Sharon Coffee's life changed.

About a year after Sharon took a job at the Argosy Casino & Resort working as a greeter, her 12-year-old son, Ben, took his own life. For years, Ben had been the subject of severe taunting and teasing by his classmates at school.

Finally, he decided he couldn't take any more.

The loss was crushing to Sharon and her family. But in the eight years since, she has found a way to cope – and to give to the community – in the hopes that others don't suffer the same

fate as her son. Sharon has made it her mission to bring attention to the effects that bullying and peer pressure have on children. Every year, she gives her time to speak in schools, sharing her son's story.

And every year, Sharon presents the "Friendship Award," an award she developed and funds to recognize students with "exceptional character." Every year, she gives this award to 50 deserving students in the Lawrenceburg area.

Recently, Sharon also was able to receive state



Sharon Coffee

recognition for the award, and has sent a letter to Presi-

dent Bush in an attempt to create a national program.

But even if that fails, Sharon still feels good about the good she is doing.

"If I can help just one young person avoid the pain and suffering that my son felt," she said, "then everything I've done is worth it."

The Casino Association of Indiana would like to join Argosy – where Sharon still greets the tour buses and other customers with an unflinching smile – in thanking Sharon for her exceptional efforts. It is people like her who make Indiana's casinos great.



Majestic Star Casino was a corporate sponsor for the Gary Air & Water Show. The United States Army flight crew presented a baton to David Schugar, vice president and general manager of Majestic Star Casinos & Hotel, during the air show in Gary, Indiana.



Majestic Star Community Ambassadors and Dave Schugar, vice president and general manager, presented gift baskets to Brothers Keeper executive director Mary Edwards. Edwards will distribute the gifts for the men at the facility.

Gaming terms

Ace – 1) A playing card; 2) In blackjack, a playing card with a value of one or 11; 3) In craps, a single dot on one die; 4) One dollar bill

Blacklist – List and/or photographs of certain people who are not allowed in the casino.

Eighty-Six – 1) Used in casinos and restaurants, to eject, evict, or try to get rid of; 2) To close down a table, pit, or entire casino for the night.

Jimbroni – A slow-thinking dealer.

Picture Cards - In a deck of cards, the face cards (jack, queen, king).

Roller – 1) In cards, the weight that holds the cards against the shoe; 2) Player or gambler.