

# The Indiana Casino Gaming News

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## Golf Classic uses music, fun to help students

Business and community leaders from across Gary came together this month to shoot a hole-in-one for local students at the Barden Gary Foundation's second annual Golf Classic.

The fundraiser at Whitehawk Golf Course in Crown Point, Indiana, was created to benefit the Foundation's scholarship program, which helps send Gary high school seniors to college. In the past year, the fund has distributed 23 scholarships worth about \$50,000.

"In addition to that, the event last year was successful in paying for 16 students and seven chaperones to go to Washington, D.C.," said Chareice White, president of the Barden Gary Foundation. "When they arrived, we partnered with the Close-Up Foundation to give them the opportunity to learn about



*Barden Gary Foundation board members join forces to support the second annual golf outing (l-r) Cindy Hall (Ivy Tech College), Rene Golas (Lakeshore Television), Chareice White (Majestic Star & Fitzgeralds Casino and Hotel), Danielle O'Reilly (Majestic Star Casino), Caren Jones (City of Gary) and Joel Levy (Majestic Star Casino).*

government and attend all of the inauguration festivities."

This year's event brought in about 80 golfers and included a substantial contribu-

tion from music legend Smokey Robinson. As a result, the Foundation is preparing to launch its Smokey Robinson Endowment to help stu-

dents in the area.

Foundation representatives also presented another scholarship at the event to Christian Jenkins, who will study music at Columbia College this year.

"And the funds raised from this event will provide another incentive program for our students, much like the Washington, D.C. trip was last year," White said. "Exactly what that trip will be is still in the planning phases, but it will likely be in conjunction with our annual Black History Contest."

White also is at work planning the Foundation's next fundraiser, Jubilation, scheduled for October 22. The event will honor survivors of breast cancer, with some of the funds raised going toward the Methodist Hospital Foundation, earmarked for treatment of breast cancer patients at the hospital.

## Gaming tax revenue takes a hit throughout the country

Many states across America are scrambling for cash this year, after gaming tax revenues saw a significant decline.

A total of 48 states (all but Utah and Hawaii) rely on some form of gaming tax for a significant source of budget funding. However, with the amount of that tax revenue going to state and local governments down 2.2 percent – or \$5.7 billion – in the fiscal year that ended in mid-2009, states are dashing to make up the difference.

"Gambling revenues are declining across the board," Lucy Dadayan, a senior policy

analyst at the Rockefeller Institute, told the *Wall Street Journal*. "States can no longer count on gambling when it comes to closing budget gaps."

Indiana, however, was one of only four states with commercial casino gaming to see an increase in revenue over the last fiscal year. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Indiana's gaming tax revenue increased 6.9 percent from the 2007 fiscal year. The article credited "thousands of new slot machines" at venues such as Hoosier Park Racing & Casino and Indiana Live! for the increase.

### FOCUS ON TAXES

While Indiana's revenues have risen, many states – including both Illinois and gaming capital Nevada, where gaming tax revenues make up 30 percent of the state budget – saw gaming tax income fall by a greater percentage of the state's overall revenue.

Still, in many states, gambling revenues are keeping bad budget situations from becoming outright dire. The *Journal* cited Chester, Pennsylvania, as a community

where gaming revenues have created a balanced budget and allowed the city to start a rainy day fund.

And lawmakers in 14 states are considering expanded gaming as an alternative to raising property or income taxes. Pennsylvania is one of those states.

"It would be a substantial amount of help to our state in this very challenging moment," Pennsylvania State Rep. Bill DeWeese told the *Journal*. "There is no difference, in my view, in putting \$20 in a slot machine and putting \$20 on a blackjack table."

# Responsible Gaming a year-round focus

Every year, about this time, we start talking about Responsible Gaming.

Responsible Gaming Education Week was at the beginning of August, bringing plenty of attention to the subject. But now that it has passed, and we're more than 45 weeks from it coming around again, it's important to



remember that responsible gaming is an issue the casino industry stays focused on 52 weeks a year.

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is the leading authority in the field - not only in creating programs that encourage responsible gaming, but in funding research into how we can better understand, treat, and prevent problem gaming. Through its Institute for Research on Gambling Disorders, the NCRG manages and administers a competitive research grants program, and conducts public awareness and education campaigns on the subject.

Through the grants program, the Institute provides both long-term funding for innovative research at NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research (located at Yale University and the University of Minnesota), as well as a competitive grants program that allows researchers from institutions around the world to fund specific research projects.

Through work funded by the Institute - both at the NCRG and other institutions around the globe - we are constantly gaining new knowledge about problem gaming. We're learning why it happens, how to recognize it, and how to treat it.

In Indiana, our casinos also are partnering with the Indiana Council on Problem Gaming (ICPG) - an organization that uses those latest developments to generate awareness, promote education, and advocate for quality treatment of Indiana's problem gamblers, visit their Web site at [www.indianaproblemgambling.org](http://www.indianaproblemgambling.org).

To learn more about the work being done by the NCRG, as well as the Institute for Research on Gambling Disorders, visit their Web site at:

[www.ncrg.org/research/the-institute.cfm](http://www.ncrg.org/research/the-institute.cfm)

And remember: Keep it fun!



One North Capitol, Suite 520  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-231-7030  
Fax: 317-231-7035

Email [info@CasinoAssociation.org](mailto:info@CasinoAssociation.org)  
Problem Gambling Hotline: 1-800-994-8448



## Horseshoe cleans up the beach

Dozens of volunteers from Horseshoe Hammond rolled up their sleeves, donned rubber gloves, and scoured the Lake Michigan area for trash and debris.

In all, CodeGreen Beach Cleanup, which took place Aug. 12, lasted two hours and saw Horseshoe team members clean more than a dump truck's worth of trash from the Lake Michigan beach and the surrounding area.

"When our group got out their ultra-handy garbage grabbers, even the toughest, most tucked-away trash didn't stand a chance!" said Nicki Mackowski, internal communication supervisor for Horseshoe.

Among the trash found during the excursion was a pair of jeans, Horseshoe wallpaper, a car seat, dentures, balloons, and a whopping 16 Employee Dining Room tumblers.

## Aztar is Evansville's Local Choice

Evansville's Casino Aztar is celebrating this month, after nabbing five awards in the Evansville *Courier & Press's* annual Reader's Choice contest.

The awards, which were announced at a presentation in Aztar's Executive Conference Center on August 27, are divided into 119 categories. This year, more than 70,000 votes were received from April 9 to 29.

Aztar received mention for the following awards:

- Best Local Hotel: Le Merigot (First Place)
- Best Place to Hear Live Music: Hoosier's Lounge (First Place)
- Best Local Hotel: Casino Aztar Hotel (Second Place)
- Best Place for a Steak: Cavanaugh's (Second Place)
- Best Place for a Martini: Blush (Second Place)

## Admission and Wagering Taxes

Admission Tax, August '09	<b>\$ 7,121,187</b>
Wagering Tax, August '09	<b>\$49,983,646</b>
Admission Tax, Fiscal YTD	<b>\$14,737,346</b>
Wagering Tax, Fiscal YTD	<b>\$93,400,702</b>

Total Admission and Wagering Tax **\$108,138,048**  
\*Fiscal Year Defined as July 1 to June 30

**Total Taxes Paid Since Inception \$8,011,065,828**

# Ohio's lucky seven

## State's racetracks to add slot machines

Ohio's racetracks likely will follow in the footsteps of their Hoosier counterparts soon, after the Ohio Lottery Commission last month approved adding slot machines to their gaming repertoires.

The state's seven horse racing tracks each will be allowed to host Video Lottery Terminals, and patrons older than 18 will be allowed to play them. The exact rules for the machines will be created by the state's Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, with a vote on final language scheduled for September 21.

There also will be a public hearing on September 18, allowing the public one last chance to raise questions about the issues.

Officials began discussing the gaming expansion as a way to combat the \$933 million shortfall in the state's cur-



rent two-year budget. To begin dealing with that issue, each track integrating slots will be required to pay a \$100,000 application fee and a \$13 million installment toward its \$65 million licensing fee by September 13.

The rules also will require each track to spend \$80 million on improvements, including \$20 million in the first year.

According to the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*, the machines will be set up by the same Greek gaming company that operates the Ohio Lottery. Meanwhile, Intralot, which runs the state's online lottery games, will have the first bid at a contract to install the central gaming system that will monitor the daily slot activities at the racetracks.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland hopes to see the machines up and running by May 2010.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Grand Victoria boosts Aurora printer

Jenny Fischesser saw the writing on the wall about six years ago.

The job she'd held for 16 years with a local printing company was being phased out by technology. Unless she did something, and quickly, Fischesser would find herself unemployed.

"I saw that there really wasn't a sales force for local printing companies,"

Fischesser said. "So I started my business, and I offered my clients free design work in exchange for printing orders. It just kind of took off from there."

The result was Solutions for Print, LLC, a certified Women-Owned Business in Aurora, Ind. Fischesser started the business as a printing company; because of her background in printing, engraving, silk-screening, and embroidering, an expansion into promotional items "just seemed to complement what I was already doing."

But it was when she began working with Grand Victoria Casino that Solutions for Print really began taking off.

"Working with Grand Vic has really broadened my business," she said. "It has given me more confidence in dealing with my other clients, because I've been able to locate items at great prices that I didn't think I would be able to get."

It also has led to the company going through two service expansions. The partnership between Grand Victoria and Solutions for Print began with an order for envelopes; it now has Fischesser printing business cards and acquiring furniture for the employee dining room and strings for player's club cards.

"It is so much fun working with Grand Victoria," Fischesser said. "You never know what request you're going to get next. I got the voodoo dolls for a Mardi Gras promotion from the 'Voodoo Queen' of New Orleans. It was an interesting project, to say the least; I really came across some scary sites trying to find them!"



*Horseshoe Hammond celebrated the one-year anniversary of MOAB's grand opening on August 28 with team members. That night, employees of the property were invited to come and celebrate "Horseshoe Style" in The Venue, where they were treated to food, entertainment, raffles, and games.*

## Inside our casinos

*Ryan Thomas celebrates his victory in the Hoosier Park Racing & Casino Mixed Martial Arts competition, held Saturday, August 8. The event featured 11 fights with two main events, a Super Bout, and a feature bout.*



*More than 2,000 Belterra employees enjoyed the summer weather at Coney Island early last month, as the property held its annual Employee Appreciation event.*

*Casino Aztar recently promoted Dan Stevens to the role of Executive Chef for the property. Dan has worked at several of the property's restaurants in his career with Casino Aztar.*



## SPOTLIGHT ON INTERNET GAMING

As the federal government's ban on Internet gaming withstood its first legal test, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed a law this month taking his state in the opposite direction.

The Illinois bill will allow Internet betting on horse racing from anywhere in the state, as soon as the state's Racing Board can create the rules to regulate it. Illinois Racing Board spokesman Michey Ezzo told the *Thoroughbred Times* that the rule-making process was on the fast track, but he was not sure exactly when Illinois residents would be able to log on and place bets.

"We're getting everything in the pipeline to get it up and going," Ezzo told the *Times*. "We are in the process of writing the rules and preparing an application for the advance deposit wagering companies."

"We'll probably do emergency rules, which will be effective immediately, and then we'll get the applications to the applicants."

Without emergency status, such a process would take 90 to 120 days.

Meanwhile, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this month upheld the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which effectively bans online bets made in any state where gambling is illegal. The New Jersey-based Interactive Media Entertainment & Gaming Association filed the lawsuit, claiming the federal prohibition was "too vague" and violated privacy rights.

The ruling does not affect Illinois' law because the Circuit Court noted that state law reigns supreme in this instance. Therefore, if Illinois state law allows such online gambling, the federal law would not trump it.

The 2006 law does not actually ban online bets, but makes it illegal to process payment of them.