

August 2013

# NEWSLETTER

## KANSAS STAR CASINO HOLDS BLOOD DRIVE FOR THE *American Red Cross*



The Kansas Star team members rolled up their sleeves in July to help out the Red Cross. Dozens of team members volunteered their time to donate blood at the casino's first team member blood drive.

"The Red Cross reached out to us because the summer months are some of the slowest in terms of donations," said Scott Cooper, Kansas Star Casino General Manager. "We knew that with our large staff we could really make an impact."

The blood drive ran for four hours and the Kansas Star Casino exceeded its donation goal by nine units. Those donations translate into potentially saving the lives of 102 people!

Bob Wells, Kansas Star Casino Purchasing Manager was one of the first to sign up and the first to donate.

"I try and give blood as often as I can," said Wells. "With the Kansas Star hosting a drive on site it just makes it easier for me to donate and support the Red Cross."

The blood drive not only benefits the Red Cross but also supports the casino's volunteer initiative. Team members are encouraged to donate their time to area non-profits. Their hours are tracked and each month one person is chosen to be the "Volunteer of the Month," winning a \$25 gift card. As of July the Kansas Star team members have donated more than 1,000 hours of volunteer work in 2013!

"The Kansas Star Casino is dedicated to being a good community partner," adds Cooper. "We're very proud of how dedicated our team is to supporting the communities where we live and work."

**"WE'RE VERY PROUD OF HOW DEDICATED OUR TEAM IS TO SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITIES WHERE WE LIVE AND WORK."**



## A message from our GENERAL MANAGER



As the Kansas All-Star Scholars Fund starts its second year of distributing reward cards to area students and teachers, I can't help but remember the outpouring of appreciation we received when we kicked this program off last year.

The All-Star Scholars Fund is funded 100% by the Kansas Star Casino and run by an amazing board made up of education and business leaders from across the area. Last year, each board member received a stack of thank you cards, pictures and letters from families all over Sumner County, thanking them for the financial support the fund was able to provide.

While we are incredibly thankful for the appreciation shown by the fund's scholarship and reward card recipients, we are just happy to be making positive impact on education in Sumner County and Mulvane.

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"JOINING THE TEAM  
AT THE KANSAS STAR  
IS A TREMENDOUS  
OPPORTUNITY,"  
—



KANSAS STAR CASINO ANNOUNCES

## — Dan Ihm — AS ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Dan Ihm comes to the Kansas Star Casino with more than 19 years of executive level casino experience. Ihm grew up in Dubuque, Iowa and got his start in gaming by helping open one of the first riverboat casinos in the state. Ihm's career has taken him to two other Iowa casinos as well as properties in Indiana, New Mexico, Las Vegas and Colorado. He's held property positions ranging from Director of Marketing to Senior Vice President and General Manager, as well as corporate positions including Senior Vice President of Corporate Operations & Marketing.

"Joining the team at the Kansas Star is a tremendous opportunity," said Ihm. "This is one of Boyd Gaming's most successful properties, as well as one of the most successful properties in the Midwest."

Ihm brings with him years of experience and says he looks forward to learning from the team at the Kansas Star and Boyd Gaming.

Ihm has been married for 23 years and he and his wife have two daughters and a son. He replaces Wendy Runde who accepted a promotion to General Manager at the Boyd Gaming owned Diamond Jo Casino in Dubuque, Iowa.

## AREA TEACHERS RECEIVE \$500 REWARD CARDS, VOLUNTEERS PREPPING FOR STUDENT CARD DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers with the Kansas All-Star Scholars Fund began distributing \$500 VISA reward cards in July and will continue into August. All full-time classroom teachers, employed by a Sumner County or Mulvane school district are eligible for the money. The grants are intended to help teachers with the out-of-pocket costs associated with their classrooms.

"We're seeing the same excitement and enthusiasm from our local teachers as we did last year," said Jill Docking, Chair of the Kansas All-Star Scholars Fund. "We love hearing about the great things they will be able to do with their classrooms thanks to this money."

Volunteers are also preparing to start distribution for the \$100 VISA reward cards that will go to K-12 students in Sumner County and Mulvane school districts. Each student is eligible for one card to assist with back-to-school shopping. Distribution will start August 5th and run through August 13th. Parents and legal guardians will be notified of specific dates and times by their district. Only a student's parents or legal guardians will be allowed to pick up the card and they must have a photo ID with them.

## Kansas Star Casino TO WELCOME BELLATOR MMA

The Kansas Star Arena is excited to announce the addition of Bellator MMA to its fall events schedule. Bellator MMA is the world's largest tournament based Mixed Martial Arts organization, televised to nearly 500 million homes worldwide in over 115 countries.

The event, scheduled for October 11, will feature the Bellator Featherweight Semifinals, along with some of Kansas' premier athletes. Tickets are on sale now at [www.kansasstararena.com](http://www.kansasstararena.com) or at the Kansas Star Arena Box Office.

"The upcoming Bellator Mixed Martial Arts event is a great addition to our program schedule," said Tim Lanier, Kansas Star Arena Director. "This event is an extreme sport that brings that rough and tough edge to our event roster."

It will be broadcast live starting at 8pm CT on Spike TV, as well as in Spanish language on mun2. The preliminary card will be streamed live and free exclusively on Spike.com starting at 5pm CT. Look for information on who will be on the fight card later this month!



## Kansas Star Casino HELPS TO LOWER PROPERTY TAXES AND ADD SERVICES IN MULVANE

At a time when many cities are raising taxes and cutting services, the city of Mulvane says it's prepared to do just the opposite.

"We like to think of it as improved service at a lower price," said Kent Hixson, Mulvane City Administrator. "Thanks to gaming revenue and property taxes from the Kansas Star Casino we're in a position where we can actually save our residents some money."

The Mulvane City Council has approved a recommendation to lower property taxes in the city by 10% next year. They are also increasing services in the community by

hiring additional police officers and more than a dozen fulltime EMT professionals.

"The additional services will help reduce response times for residents as well as allow us to start some new community health initiatives," adds Hixson. "We want to see our newly added medical professionals going to do blood pressure checks at the senior center and doing other proactive health events."

Last year Mulvane was also able to lower property tax rates by 10%. They also lowered electrical rates by 5% in the first year of receiving Kansas Star Casino gaming and property tax revenue.

## Upcoming EVENTS

Things will be heating up in August at the Kansas Star Casino! Ladies need to mark their calendars for Friday, August 9th – Ladies Day. All ladies will receive a free buffet and a free bling lanyard from the Lucky Star Players Club from 10:00am-8:00pm.

Do you love to Barbecue? The Kansas Star Casino will celebrate BBQ Bonanza on August 16th. The contest will run from Noon until 9pm with a lucky winner receiving a \$500 gift certificate to Yoder Meats every hour. Ten winners will be drawn at 10pm when a top prize of \$5,000 in StarPlay, \$5,000 to Yoder Meats and \$5,000 to Metro Appliances will be awarded.

The Kansas Star will round out the month by once again opening the prize vault! Lucky Star Players Club members can earn entries all month long for their shot at one of nearly 50 prizes to be given away on August 31st. One name will be drawn every 15 minutes between Noon and 12am. Each winner will have five minutes to claim their prize. Any prizes not claimed will be added to the winnings of the final name drawn at Midnight. Prizes include \$500 gift cards to Lowe's, Dillon's and Bradley Fair, 60" TVs, iPads and up to \$5,000 in StarPlay!



# GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM MEMBERS



Kristin Edwards says she was looking for a change.

"I was a registered Nurse and decided that I wanted to try something new," said Edwards. "I originally came to the Kansas Star Casino wanting a bartending job and they asked me if I had ever considered being a dealer."

She made the decision to join the Kansas Star Casino's dealer school in late 2011. Six days later she says she knew how to deal Blackjack. "I loved it right away, it was so different from anything I had ever done."

Eventually Edwards started learning to deal more games and now works at the craps table, one of the hardest games to learn.

"Two years ago I didn't know what a craps table looked like!"

She says she loves interacting with the customers and hearing their stories.

"I also couldn't ask for better co-workers. I have a whole new family here at the Kansas Star."

Next time you're at the Kansas Star Casino be sure and tell Kristin Edwards "hello."

**KRISTIN EDWARDS**  
*Table Games*

**KANSAS STAR**  
casino \* hotel \* arena

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Looking for an interesting presentation for your organization's next meeting? We love it when we get the opportunity to tell people about the exciting things happening at the Kansas Star Casino. Contact us today! It would be our pleasure to speak at your next event.

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# Did you KNOW?

THE KANSAS STAR CASINO  
IS ACTIVE ON BOTH:



NEARLY **17,000**  
PEOPLE HAVE LIKED THE  
KANSAS STAR CASINO  
ON **f** FACEBOOK!

NEARLY **900**  
PEOPLE FOLLOW THE  
KANSAS STAR CASINO  
ON **t** TWITTER!

