

Innovation Capital

Investment Bankers



Gaming Newsweekly
For the week ended November 4th, 2018

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For securities-related inquiries, please contact an Innovation Capital banker.

Newsweekly Archive

You can now access Innovation Capital's Newsletter archive on the firm's website [here](#). This feature is password protected-- this month's password is: **Gamble** (case sensitive).

Gaming Industry Public Company & High Yield Data:

[Public Company Trading Comparables](#)

[High Yield Bond Trading Levels](#)

Featured Article:

Casino giant Caesars Entertainment's CEO to step down

November 1, 2018

LAS VEGAS- (The Associated Press) - The president and CEO of Caesars Entertainment Corp. will step down next year, the casino giant said Thursday. The announcement came just before Caesars reported third-quarter net income of \$110 million, after posting a loss in the same period a year earlier. The Las Vegas-based company said Mark Frissora, who joined the company in 2015 and guided it through bankruptcy reorganization, will remain on the job until Feb. 8.

[Click here to read the full article in ABC News](#)

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Hollywood Casino Sportsbook Could Be Just Three Weeks From Launch

November 2, 2018

PENNSYLVANIA- (Jessica Welman, Play Pennsylvania) - The whispers that November is the month sports betting launches in Pennsylvania are getting louder. On Wednesday, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) approved a slew of applications. The headliners were the three sportsbook and two online casinos. There was another important application in the bunch though. PGCB approved William Hill's application to do business in Pennsylvania as a sports betting provider. The European gaming giant is the sports betting partner of Penn National Gaming, owner and operator of Hollywood Casino.

[Click here to read the full article in Play Pennsylvania](#)

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Churchill Downs Inc. agrees to buy majority in Rivers Casino

November 1, 2018

CHICAGO- (Matt Hegarty, Daily Racing Form) - Churchill Downs Inc., the publicly traded company that owns a swath of racing and casino assets across the U.S., has reached an agreement to purchase a majority share in a casino northwest of Chicago that is just miles from its Arlington Park racetrack in Arlington Heights, the company announced Wednesday night. The casino, Rivers Casino in the Chicago suburb of Des Plaines, had gross receipts of \$433.5 million in 2017, according to records of the Illinois Gaming Board, and is owned by a partnership called Midwest Gaming Holdings.

[Click here to read the full article in Daily Racing Form](#)

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Sports minister resigns over delay to gambling curb

November 1, 2018

UNITED KINGDOM- (Rob Davies, The Guardian) - Sports minister Tracey Crouch has resigned in protest at the government's "unjustifiable" refusal to speed up plans to curb controversial fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs). Crouch, who launched the review that concluded that FOBT stakes should be slashed from £100 to £2, quit after the chancellor revealed in this week's budget that the change would not take effect until October next year. The Conservative MP had lobbied hard for the cut to be implemented as soon as possible, in April 2019.

[Click here to read the full article in The Guardian](#)

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Casino Stocks Jump On China Hopes, Market Hails Caesars

November 1, 2018

WORLDWIDE- (Michael Larkin, Investor's Business Daily) - Casino stocks surged Thursday after hints of economic stimulus from China raised hopes for a rebound in gambling mecca Macau, which saw revenue growth slow to a crawl last month. Meanwhile Caesars Entertainment (CZR) surged after hours when it posted an unexpected profit and announced the forthcoming exit of CEO Mark Frissora. Gross gaming revenue in Macau grew 2.6% in October to 27.3 billion patacas (\$3.4 billion), down from 2.8% growth in September, when results were affected by a typhoon, and below analysts' estimates for 3.5% growth.

[Click here to read the article in Investor's Business Daily](#)

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Rivers Casino aims to start taking sports bets in December

October 31, 2018

PITTSBURGH- (Gary Rotstein, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) - Steelers fans on their way to a Dec. 2 home game vs. the Los Angeles Chargers might be able to place their first legal wager on the game a few hundred yards away at the Rivers Casino. That's the hope of casino officials, who received tentative approval Wednesday morning from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to begin offering sports

wagering under the state's gambling expansion. Five casinos in the state are now approved to take sports bets, once they set up a site, staffing and technology that receive final approval from the gaming board's staff.

[Click here to read the full article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

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William Hill in £241m bid for online gambling operator MRG

October 31, 2018

UNITED KINGDOM- (Steven Stradbroke, Calvin Ayre) - UK-listed gambling operator William Hill has made a SEK2.82b (US\$306.7m) offer to acquire online gambling operator MRG (formerly Mr Green). On Wednesday, Hill announced that it had submitted an offer to buy the Stockholm-listed MRG at a price of SEK69 (\$7.50) per share, representing a 48.5% premium on MRG's share price at the close of Tuesday's trading on the Nasdaq Stockholm. At the same time, MRG's board of directors issued a statement saying it had unanimously recommended that its shareholders accept the deal. Seven MRG shareholders, who hold a combined 40% stake in the company, have indicated their willingness to make the deal.

[Click here to read the full article in Calvin Ayre](#)

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Jets and MGM Resorts Strike First NFL Casino Partnership

October 31, 2018

NEW JERSEY- (Al Walsh, Fanduel) - The New York Jets and MGM Resorts came to an agreement of a gaming partnership, the first NFL deal that consists of more than just a casino sponsorship. The main caveat is a game named "I Called It," where fans can answer selected questions about future events in live Jets' games. The game will be exclusively on the Jets' mobile app, which is sponsored by MGM's app, Play MGM.

[Click here to read the full article in Fanduel](#)

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Las Vegas Casinos Are Worried The Worst Is Yet To Come

October 30, 2018

LAS VEGAS - (David G. Schwartz, Forbes) - They say the house always wins, and they're right almost all of the time. But in Las Vegas, for the big publicly-traded companies, just winning isn't enough: win should be increasing at a rate that justifies optimism in the future and a higher stock price. In the third quarter, Las Vegas Strip casinos still won money from gamblers, but gaming income as a whole declined-which makes investors understandably impatient because, after all, the house is always supposed to win, and win big.

[Click here to read the full article in Forbes](#)

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Arkansas casino campaign raises more than \$2.7 million

October 30, 2018

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - A campaign to legalize casinos in Arkansas has raised more than \$2.7 million this month from two American Indian tribes in Oklahoma and the parent owner of a dog track in West Memphis. Driving Arkansas Forward on Tuesday reported spending more than \$2.7 million from Oct. 1 through Saturday on the campaign for a proposed constitutional amendment that would legalize casinos at the Southland dog track in West Memphis and the Oaklawn horse track in Hot Springs. The proposal would also legalize casinos in Pope and Jefferson counties.

[Click here to read the full article in the Tampa Bay Times](#)

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NHL Partnering with MGM Casino to Share Data for Gambling Purposes

October 29, 2018

UNITED STATES- (Tyler Conway, Bleacher Report) - NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman announced the league has partnered with MGM Casino to provide proprietary data for gambling purposes Monday. The NHL joins the NBA as an official partner with MGM, though the deals are non-exclusive. Other casinos can strike a deal with the NHL for their proprietary data. "The new sports betting landscape presents a unique opportunity for fan engagement utilizing technology and data that are exclusive to our League," Bettman said in a statement.

[Click here to read the full article in Bleacher Report](#)

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Judge Rules Daily Fantasy Sports Are Gambling And Illegal In New York

October 29, 2018

ALBANY, N.Y. (CBSNewYork/AP) - A judge in Albany has ruled that daily fantasy sports games are a form of gambling and should be considered illegal in New York State. Acting Supreme Court Justice Gerald Connolly overruled a 2016 law signed by Gov. Cuomo which allowed and regulated daily fantasy contests. The law said that the contests, offered by sites like DraftKings and FanDuel, were games of skill and weren't a true form of gambling.

[Click here to read the full article in CBS New York](#)

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