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NEWS

Fri, Dec 11, 2009

Del Pointe officials select CEO for racino

Lawmakers to soon review study

By Kevin Spence

A consultant with international experience in the casino industry is set to become the chief operating officer of Del Pointe Resort & Racino.

Del Pointe principals have hired Dean Macomber, a 62-year-old consultant with more than 35 years of experience. Macomber will begin consultancy work with the intention of becoming Del Pointe's chief operating officer.

Macomber said he has worked with 200 to 300 casinos worldwide. "I think I bring to the table a broad experience in seeing how things work and don't work," he said.

Preston Schell, who has proposed a 377-acre entertainment complex and racetrack in Millsboro, said he, Chris Schell and Gene Lankford were impressed with Macomber's resume.

"It may seem premature to start building the team right now, but we are very interested in hitting the ground running if and when we receive legislative approval," said Schell.

The General Assembly is waiting for a study to be completed by New Orleans-based TMG Consulting, which is researching the impact additional venues would have on three racinos the state already has.

The gaming commission will first review the report Tuesday, Jan. 5, and again Tuesday, Jan. 13, before forwarding the results to Dover lawmakers.

In the end, the Delaware General Assembly must approve adding additional racinos in Delaware before allowing additional venues.

Macomber, who has experience in the gaming industry ranging from dealer to president, has been involved in opening seven casinos and two takeovers. He has recently returned from Macau, where he took over temporary responsibilities for a venue that owns three casinos, employs 7,000 and has generated more than \$3 billion annually in gaming revenue.

In the mid-1990s, Macomber also served as general manager and president of Casino Niagra, starting with four consultants, and growing the casino from no employees to 3,200 for a venue with 3,000 slot machines and \$400 million in annual gaming revenue.

"I think the process of going through several openings from concept to business marketing is going to come in handy. I got them up and running, bringing many jobs to people," said Macomber.

He said he would work to bring jobs to Sussex County, as he did with casinos in Quebec and Ontario, Canada.

"We can teach the casino industry to people that never worked in the casino industry. That's a real advantage to Sussex County," said Macomber.

"That's one of the reason's we've hired Dean. He's very focused on creating as many jobs as possible.

"The primary reason is to bring jobs plus plugging the huge deficit. We're making sure we're in a position to hire as many Delawareans and Sussex Countians as possible," said Preston Schell.

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The Cape Gazette Cape Life » Prime Hook residents take an icy plunge

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A Polar Bear Plunge was held at the residence of John and Cindy Chirtea on Prime Hook Beach Saturday, Jan. 9, to raise funds for the Milford Community Food Pantry. This is the third year that the residents of Prime Hook have plunged, raising funds for various causes. ...

Yesterday at 10:54am

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