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Nitro gambling center changes name, goes 24/7

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Owners of Tri-State Casino & Resort in Nitro have renamed the gaming establishment and will stay open for gambling 24 hours a day, starting this weekend.

The facility has been renamed Mardi Gras Casino & Resort, casino owners announced Friday.

"The addition of table games and our new hotel have launched this resort to a whole new level," said Dan Adkins, vice president of Hartman & Tyner, which owns the facility. The 150-room hotel is expected to open by the end of the month.

"This is simply the next step in the transformation of this property from a local establishment to a regional resort and entertainment destination," Adkins said.

Kanawha County voters approved the addition of table games such as poker and blackjack at the racetrack and casino in 2007. Under the state law allowing the table-games vote, casino owners were required to build a hotel on site, and Adkins promised a performance hall and conference center.

Casino owners changed the facility's name from Tri-State Racetrack & Gaming Center to Tri-State Casino & Resort last year. The name change to Mardi Gras Casino & Resort already is on file at the Secretary of State's Office.

"The new name helps convey our Mardi Gras-style party atmosphere and better promotes the wide variety of activities available at this entertainment complex," Adkins said.

Another state racetrack, Charles Town Races & Slots in the Eastern Panhandle, renamed itself Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races earlier this month after the introduction of table games.

Casino owners also announced that they plan to start 24-hour operations at the facility on Sunday.

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