

For further information,
Please contact Lori Hutzler Eckert
850-855-0055
Lori@Eckert.com



Island View Casino Resort Culinary Team wins again at Barbecue Under the Oaks

- Editor's note: For photo link, information, please see below.

GULFPORT, Miss. (April 9, 2012) – Island View Casino Resort's culinary team went whole hog for the win at the 2012 Barbecue Under the Oaks competition, and their efforts were recognized with the coveted Lagniappe Award in the professional division.

Marking its 24th year as an annual fundraiser for the Gulf Coast Symphony, the event featured 27 professional and amateur teams from across the Coast competing for the pork-praising prize, complete with a pig figurine. More than 1,000 people attended the event, which was held March 31 and themed "The Olympigs." Four culinary professionals judged the lagniappe category, which included the side dishes.

Island View's grilled beef tenderloin on a crispy fried risotto cake, which was topped with crumbled Barq's Root Beer-glazed, bacon-pop crumble, was the winning dish, making 2012 the second consecutive year the casino team has won the trophy.

Other items prepared by Island View included grilled flank steak, Memphis-style pulled pork, Korean barbecue chicken, osso buco, pulled-pork hush puppies, brisket-stuffed jalapenos, bread pudding. As well, the team also offered house-made pina colada gelato from the resort's new frozen dessert station in The Buffet.

The Gulfport resort's team was led by Executive Chef David Crabtree and included Jackie Espinoza-Seavey, executive sous chef; David Bladsacker, employee dining room manager; Ian Ziska, The Buffet dining room manager; and Scott Hixson, food manager. Bernie Donlin, hotel operations manager, and Brian "Chico" Williams, assistant beverage manager, participated as honorary members, assisting and serving food.

Since opening in 2006, Island View Casino Resort, which operates four on-site restaurant outlets, has been the recipient of several food and beverage awards, including honors from the American Culinary Foundation's South Mississippi Chapter.

Barbecue Under the Oaks has been held annually at Oaklawn, the Pass Christian home of Don and Peggy Sprabery since 1998. For more information on the event or the Gulf Coast Symphony, go to GulfCoastSymphony.net.

Photo information:

For a downloadable images please go to: <http://thelastword.zenfolio.com/ivcr12bbq>
password: ivcr

- ivcr 12 bbq 1.jpg: *Several members of the Island View team prepare for the Barbecue Under the Oaks annual culinary competition. The team captured the Lagniappe Award for the professional category.*

- ivcr 12 bbq 2.jpg: *The Island View Barbecue Under the Oaks team included David Crabtree, executive chef; Jackie Espinoza-Seavey, executive sous chef; Ian Ziska, The Buffet dining room manager; Brian "Chico" Williams, assistant beverage manager; David Bladsacker, employee dining room manager; Bernie Donlin, hotel operations manager; and Scott Hixson, food manager.*

- ivcr 12 bbq 3.jpg: *Island View Casino Resort has won the Barbecue Under the Oaks Lagniappe Award for two consecutive years. The 2011 award is in the acrylic box, with the 2012 award atop. The awards are displayed in front of intricate fruit and vegetable carvings created by the Island View team, which were used for decorations at the event.*

About Island View Casino Resort:

Island View Casino Resort opened on Sept. 18, 2006 as the only casino in Gulfport, Miss. The land-based casino, located on 40 acres of waterfront property, currently offers an 80,000-plus-square-foot casino with approximately 2,030 slots and 45 table games. The 520,000-square-foot resort also features a 562-room hotel with a tropical pool and cabanas; Carter Green Steakhouse, the resort's signature restaurant; C&G Grille, offering contemporary, casual dining; The Buffet, a 500-seat restaurant; The Coffee Shop, an upscale deli; and the View Bar, an entertainment lounge. Island View Casino Resort is privately held by Rick Carter and Terry Green, two Gulfport natives and longtime casino executives committed to the post-Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.