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Island View Casino Resort announces plans for \$50 million expansion

GULFPORT, Miss. (Aug. 14, 2013) – Island View Casino Resort officials today announced plans for a \$50 million expansion to the Gulfport resort.

Island View will develop the waterfront corridor of the resort's 40 acres to include a beachfront hotel, restaurants, meeting and convention space, as well as a pool and bar overlooking the beach and Gulf of Mexico. The hotel will be constructed within the existing footprint of the structure currently located on the south side of Beach Boulevard.

The expansion will increase Gulfport's hotel-room inventory by approximately 400 beachfront rooms, as well as create the largest meeting and convention space in Gulfport and west Harrison County.

"The 16-story beachfront hotel tower will offer exceptional views of the Gulf of Mexico, along with immediate access to the beach. Those features are a unique combination not only in our market, but also for the region," said Rick Carter, a Coast resident and businessman who owns the resort with partner and fellow Coast native, Terry Green. "The project will meaningfully contribute toward enhancing overall tourism, creating local jobs and cementing the position of the Gulf Coast as the premier gaming destination in the South."

Construction will begin this fall and is expected to be completed by summer 2015.

"We are very pleased to see Island View, our tenant, move forward with the restoration of this property," said Jim Simpson, president of the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport. "This will be a positive development for Gulfport, the port and the tourism industry on the coast."

Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes, said, "We fully support this expansion and are enthusiastic about the future development of Island View Casino. This beautiful coastal property will soon come to life and ignite new development along our Gulfport shoreline."

Dr. John Kelley, chief administrative officer for the city of Gulfport, said "The Island View currently provides over 1,100 jobs and with the expansion of the hotel property, several hundred additional jobs will be created that will have a strong impact on Gulfport's economy."

Island View is one of the Coast's largest casino resorts, featuring 1,980 slots and 46 table games on an 80,000 square foot gaming floor; a 565-room Hotel; the Beach Blvd. Steamer restaurant; Carter Green Steakhouse; C&G Grille; The Buffet; The Coffee Shop; Coast Candymakers, the View Showroom entertainment venue; the Sunset Bar and Deck; a tropical style pool with cabanas plus the Windance Championship golf course.