

STATION CASINOS INC  
Form 10-Q  
November 09, 2004

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

ý **QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2004

OR

o **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 000-21640

**STATION CASINOS, INC.**

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Nevada**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**88-0136443**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

-

**2411 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**89102**

(Zip Code)

**(702) 367-2411**

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

**N/A**

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer. Yes  No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

| Class                          | Outstanding at October 29, 2004 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value | 66,057,220                      |

STATION CASINOS, INC.

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## PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Financial Statements

## STATION CASINOS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(amounts in thousands, except share data)

|  | September 30,<br>2004<br>(unaudited) | December 31,<br>2003 |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                                      |                      |
| Current assets:  |                                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$ 53,831                            | \$ 62,272            |
| Receivables, net   | 18,234                               | 28,224               |
| Inventories  | 4,903                                | 5,110                |
| Prepaid gaming tax   | 16,898                               | 14,940               |
| Prepaid expenses   | 8,213                                | 7,114                |
| Deferred income tax  |                                      | 16,804               |
| Total current assets   | 102,079                              | 134,464              |
| Property and equipment, net  | 1,284,651                            | 1,158,299            |
| Goodwill and other intangibles, net  | 156,070                              | 148,717              |
| Land held for development  | 131,751                              | 119,197              |
| Investments in joint ventures  | 99,772                               | 86,425               |
| Other assets, net  | 119,022                              | 98,870               |
| Total assets   | \$ 1,893,345                         | \$ 1,745,972         |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>  |                                      |                      |
| Current liabilities:   |                                      |                      |
| Current portion of long-term debt  | \$ 23                                | \$ 22                |
| Accounts payable   | 8,335                                | 20,438               |
| Construction contracts payable   | 20,725                               |                      |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities   | 102,734                              | 121,856              |
| Total current liabilities  | 131,817                              | 142,316              |
| Long-term debt, less current portion   | 1,287,759                            | 1,168,935            |
| Deferred income tax, net   | 21,860                               | 65,285               |
| Other long-term liabilities, net   | 35,189                               | 29,497               |
| Total liabilities  | 1,476,625                            | 1,406,033            |
| Commitments and contingencies  |                                      |                      |
| Stockholders' equity:  |                                      |                      |
| Common stock, par value \$0.01; authorized 135,000,000 shares; 75,639,442 and 70,912,227 shares issued | 544                                  | 497                  |
| Treasury stock, 10,157,135 and 10,121,677 shares, at cost  | (136,154)                            | (134,534)            |
| Additional paid-in capital   | 517,966                              | 387,973              |
| Deferred compensation - restricted stock   | (76,865)                             | (27,003)             |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss   | (1,110)                              | (1,334)              |

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|  |    |           |    |           |
|--|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| Retained earnings                          |    | 112,339   |    | 114,340   |
| Total stockholders' equity                 |    | 416,720   |    | 339,939   |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ | 1,893,345 | \$ | 1,745,972 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

## STATION CASINOS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(amounts in thousands, except per share data)

(unaudited)

|   | Three months ended<br>September 30, |            | Nine months ended<br>September 30, |            |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2004                                | 2003       | 2004                               | 2003       |
| Operating revenues:                               |                                     |            |                                    |            |
| Casino  | \$ 181,048                          | \$ 157,637 | \$ 533,016                         | \$ 479,890 |
| Food and beverage                                 | 34,418                              | 32,692     | 103,451                            | 98,542     |
| Room  | 13,426                              | 12,803     | 42,545                             | 37,500     |
| Other   | 10,644                              | 11,618     | 30,973                             | 35,035     |
| Management fees                                   | 19,995                              | 19,914     | 62,174                             | 27,769     |
| Gross revenues                                    | 259,531                             | 234,664    | 772,159                            | 678,736    |
| Promotional allowances                            | (16,669)                            | (15,994)   | (50,155)                           | (50,500)   |
| Net revenues                                      | 242,862                             | 218,670    | 722,004                            | 628,236    |
| Operating costs and expenses:                     |                                     |            |                                    |            |
| Casino  | 69,391                              | 66,297     | 203,239                            | 196,612    |
| Food and beverage                                 | 25,355                              | 22,089     | 74,212                             | 62,901     |
| Room  | 5,418                               | 4,883      | 15,601                             | 14,628     |
| Other   | 4,369                               | 4,061      | 12,582                             | 11,650     |
| Selling, general and administrative               | 44,129                              | 42,236     | 126,906                            | 120,532    |
| Corporate expense                                 | 11,311                              | 7,968      | 33,874                             | 24,653     |
| Development expense                               | 2,113                               | 2,859      | 8,309                              | 2,859      |
| Depreciation and amortization                     | 21,935                              | 18,397     | 62,117                             | 54,575     |
| Preopening expenses                               | 233                                 |            | 577                                |            |
| Impairment loss                                   |                                     |            |                                    | 1,394      |
|   | 184,254                             | 168,790    | 537,417                            | 489,804    |
| Operating income                                  | 58,608                              | 49,880     | 184,587                            | 138,432    |
| Earnings from joint ventures                      | 7,038                               | 4,875      | 18,249                             | 14,788     |
| Operating income and earnings from joint ventures | 65,646                              | 54,755     | 202,836                            | 153,220    |
| Other income (expense):                           |                                     |            |                                    |            |
| Interest expense, net                             | (18,624)                            | (22,681)   | (58,615)                           | (70,758)   |
| Interest and other expense from joint ventures    | (894)                               | (1,570)    | (3,271)                            | (4,416)    |
| Interest income                                   | 29                                  | 8          | 115                                | 4,867      |
| Loss on early retirement of debt                  |                                     |            | (93,265)                           |            |
| Other   | (487)                               | 919        | (3,299)                            | 1,199      |
|   | (19,976)                            | (23,324)   | (158,335)                          | (69,108)   |
| Income before income taxes                        | 45,670                              | 31,431     | 44,501                             | 84,112     |
| Income tax provision                              | (16,584)                            | (11,629)   | (16,163)                           | (31,121)   |
| Net income  | \$ 29,086                           | \$ 19,802  | \$ 28,338                          | \$ 52,991  |
| Basic and diluted earnings per common share:      |                                     |            |                                    |            |
| Net income:                                       |                                     |            |                                    |            |
| Basic   | \$ 0.45                             | \$ 0.34    | \$ 0.45                            | \$ 0.92    |
| Diluted   | \$ 0.43                             | \$ 0.32    | \$ 0.43                            | \$ 0.86    |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding:       |                                     |            |                                    |            |
| Basic   | 65,052                              | 58,634     | 63,647                             | 57,762     |
| Diluted   | 67,769                              | 62,840     | 66,300                             | 61,354     |
| Dividends paid per common share                   | \$ 0.175                            | \$ 0.125   | \$ 0.475                           | \$ 0.125   |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.



## STATION CASINOS, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(amounts in thousands)

(unaudited)

|   | Nine months ended<br>September 30, |           |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|
|   | 2004                               | 2003      |
| Cash flows from operating activities:   |                                    |           |
| Net income  | \$ 28,338                          | \$ 52,991 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                                    |           |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 62,117                             | 54,575    |
| Loss on early retirement of debt  | 93,265                             |           |
| Deferred income tax   | (25,643)                           | 13,525    |
| Tax benefit from exercise of stock options  | 37,856                             | 19,175    |
| Earnings from joint ventures, net   | (14,978)                           | (10,372)  |
| Amortization of debt discount and issuance costs                                  | 2,231                              | 2,344     |
| Impairment loss   |                                    | 1,394     |
| Changes in assets and liabilities:  |                                    |           |
| Receivables, net  | 9,990                              | (8,900)   |
| Inventories and prepaid expenses  | (2,850)                            | (3,614)   |
| Accounts payable  | (12,103)                           | 3,101     |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities                                    | (20,100)                           | 2,713     |
| Other, net  | 11,383                             | 4,167     |
| Total adjustments   | 141,168                            | 78,108    |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | 169,506                            | 131,099   |
| Cash flows from investing activities:   |                                    |           |
| Capital expenditures  | (197,013)                          | (141,539) |
| Purchase of land held for development   | (40,901)                           | (18,571)  |
| Construction contracts payable  | 33,659                             |           |
| Payments on construction contracts payable  | (12,934)                           |           |
| Proceeds from sale of land, property and equipment                                | 27,066                             | 4,258     |
| Decrease in note receivable   |                                    | 34,487    |
| Other, net  | (16,683)                           | (14,291)  |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | (206,806)                          | (135,656) |
| Cash flows from financing activities:   |                                    |           |
| Redemption of senior and senior subordinated notes                                | (1,028,815)                        |           |
| Proceeds from the issuance of senior and senior subordinated notes, net           | 1,248,214                          |           |
| Payments under bank facility with maturity dates less than three months, net      | (127,000)                          | (50,100)  |
| Payments under bank facility, maturity dates greater than three months            | (50,000)                           | (205,000) |
| Borrowings under bank facility, maturity dates greater than three months          |                                    | 260,000   |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options   | 33,596                             | 26,222    |
| Debt issuance costs   | (14,922)                           | (585)     |
| Payment of dividends  | (30,339)                           | (7,379)   |
| Purchase of treasury stock  | (1,620)                            | (24,855)  |
| Other, net  | (255)                              | (1,061)   |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities                               | 28,859                             | (2,758)   |
| Cash and cash equivalents:  |                                    |           |
| Decrease in cash and cash equivalents   | (8,441)                            | (7,315)   |
| Balance, beginning of period  | 62,272                             | 59,339    |
| Balance, end of period  | \$ 53,831                          | \$ 52,024 |
| Supplemental cash flow disclosures:   |                                    |           |
| Cash paid for interest, net of \$4,408 and \$2,035 capitalized                    | \$ 64,703                          | \$ 63,626 |
| Cash received for income taxes, net   | \$ 3,027                           | \$ 1,558  |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.





STATION CASINOS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

**1. Basis of Presentation**

Station Casinos, Inc. (the Company), a Nevada corporation, is a gaming and entertainment company that currently owns and operates eight major hotel/casino properties (one of which is 50% owned) and five smaller casino properties (one of which is 50% owned), in the Las Vegas metropolitan area, as well as manages a casino for a Native American tribe. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Palace Station Hotel & Casino, Inc. (Palace Station), Boulder Station, Inc. (Boulder Station), Texas Station, LLC (Texas Station), Sunset Station, Inc. (Sunset Station), Santa Fe Station, Inc. (Santa Fe Station), Fiesta Station, Inc. (Fiesta Rancho), Lake Mead Station, Inc. (Fiesta Henderson), Tropicana Station, Inc., d.b.a. Wild Wild West Gambling Hall & Hotel (Wild Wild West), Rancho Station, LLC, d.b.a. Wildfire Casino (Wildfire), Magic Star Station, LLC (Magic Star) and Gold Rush Station, LLC (Gold Rush). The Company also consolidates MPM Enterprises, LLC (MPM), in which it owns a 50% interest and is required to be consolidated. The Company also owns a 50% interest in Town Center Amusements, Inc., d.b.a. Barley's Casino & Brewing Company (Barley's) and Green Valley Ranch Gaming, LLC (Green Valley Ranch Station) and a 6.7% interest in the Palms Casino Resort, which are accounted for under the equity method. The Company is the managing partner for both Barley's and Green Valley Ranch Station. In addition, the Company manages Thunder Valley Casino (Thunder Valley) near Sacramento, California on behalf of the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), which opened on June 9, 2003. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

On August 2, 2004, the Company acquired the Magic Star and the Gold Rush Casinos in Henderson, Nevada. The Company expects to spend approximately \$20 million for the acquisitions and enhancements to the facilities, of which approximately \$18.6 million has been spent as of September 30, 2004. The acquisitions were accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. The purchase price was allocated based on estimated fair values at the date of acquisition. A total of approximately \$8.2 million, representing the excess of acquisition cost over the estimated fair value of the tangible net assets, was allocated to goodwill.

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared by the Company, without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations, although the Company believes that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (which include normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the interim periods have been made. The results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004 are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the full fiscal year. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Certain amounts in the condensed consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003 have been reclassified to be consistent with the current year presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on the previously reported net income.

## 2. Investments in Joint Ventures

The Company has investments in two 50% owned joint ventures, Green Valley Ranch Station and Barley's, and a 6.7% investment in a joint venture that operates the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, that are accounted for under the equity method. Under the equity method, original investments are recorded at cost and adjusted by the Company's share of earnings, losses and distributions of the joint ventures. The investment balance also includes interest capitalized during the construction period, which is amortized against the earnings of the joint venture. Investments in joint ventures consist of the following (amounts in thousands):

|                                    | September 30,<br>2004<br>(unaudited) | December 31,<br>2003 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Green Valley Ranch Station (50.0%) | \$ 78,831                            | \$ 66,484            |
| Barley's (50.0%)                   | 2,974                                | 2,899                |
| Palms Casino Resort (6.7%)         | 17,967                               | 17,042               |
| Investments in joint ventures      | \$ 99,772                            | \$ 86,425            |

Summarized balance sheet information for the joint ventures is as follows (amounts in thousands):

|  | September 30,<br>2004<br>(unaudited) | December 31,<br>2003 |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Current assets                               | \$ 53,931                            | \$ 51,551            |
| Property and equipment and other assets, net | 593,871                              | 525,515              |
| Current liabilities                          | 55,850                               | 37,977               |
| Long-term debt and other liabilities         | 209,399                              | 196,399              |
| Stockholders' equity                         | 382,553                              | 342,690              |

Summarized results of operations for the joint ventures are as follows (amounts in thousands, unaudited):

|                                 | Three months<br>ended September 30, |           | Nine months<br>ended September 30, |            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|
|                                 | 2004                                | 2003      | 2004                               | 2003       |
| Net revenues                    | \$ 93,905                           | \$ 82,233 | \$ 283,467                         | \$ 242,690 |
| Operating costs and expenses    | 73,387                              | 68,401    | 223,675                            | 194,389    |
| Operating income                | 20,518                              | 13,832    | 59,792                             | 48,301     |
| Interest and other expense, net | 2,979                               | 1,939     | 7,648                              | 8,849      |
| Net income                      | \$ 17,539                           | \$ 11,893 | \$ 52,144                          | \$ 39,452  |

The operating earnings from these joint ventures are shown as a separate line item on the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations after operating income. In addition, interest and other expense from these joint ventures is shown as a separate component under other income (expense) in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations. The following table identifies the total equity earnings from joint ventures (amounts in thousands, unaudited):

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|  | Three months<br>ended September 30, |          | Nine months<br>ended September 30, |           |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | 2004                                | 2003     | 2004                               | 2003      |
| Operating earnings from joint ventures         | \$ 7,038                            | \$ 4,875 | \$ 18,249                          | \$ 14,788 |
| Interest and other expense from joint ventures | 894                                 | 1,570    | 3,271                              | 4,416     |
| Net earnings from joint ventures               | \$ 6,144                            | \$ 3,305 | \$ 14,978                          | \$ 10,372 |

*Green Valley Ranch Station*

Green Valley Ranch Station is owned by a 50/50 joint venture between the Company and GCR Gaming. In December 2003, Green Valley Ranch Station entered into a \$250.0 million Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, the proceeds of which were used to pay off secured equipment and other financing and to fund the ongoing expansion of the facility. Green Valley Ranch Station has entered into an agreement to swap the majority of its floating-rate debt into fixed-rate debt that will approximate 7.0% during the term of the loan. The loan requires a limited make-well of \$42.8 million, if necessary (based on operating results of the property). Pursuant to the make-well agreement, if Green Valley Ranch Station fails to comply with the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio or the Leverage Ratio (both as defined in the Green Valley Ranch Station credit agreement), the partners will be required to make cash equity contributions in such amounts as required, which will result in pro forma compliance with the covenants. The make-well is a joint and several obligation of each partner, with GCR Gaming's obligation collateralized. The make-well agreement will terminate upon achieving a post-expansion debt to Adjusted Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization ( EBITDA ) ratio (as defined in the credit agreement) of less than or equal to 3.00 to 1.00 and producing Adjusted EBITDA before management fees for four consecutive quarters of at least \$42.0 million after the completion of the expansion discussed below. As of September 30, 2004, the debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio was 2.14 to 1.00. The outstanding balance of the Green Valley Ranch Station revolving credit facility as of September 30, 2004, was approximately \$173.9 million.

Green Valley Ranch Station has entered into interest rate swaps that have converted a portion of its floating-rate debt into fixed-rate debt and are matched to a portion of its revolving facility. At September 30, 2004, the combined notional amount of the interest rate swaps was \$149.5 million. As of September 30, 2004, Green Valley Ranch Station was paying a weighted average fixed-rate of 4.27% on the interest rate swaps and was receiving a weighted average floating-rate based on three-month LIBOR of 1.77%. These interest rate swaps were priced to have no value at inception. As a result of the mark-to-market valuation of the interest rate swaps, the Company recorded approximately \$1.1 million and \$1.3 million as of September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003, respectively, for its share of the Green Valley Ranch Station interest rate swaps in accumulated other comprehensive loss in the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets.

In the fourth quarter of 2003, the Company began a \$115 million expansion at Green Valley Ranch Station. The expansion will include 296 hotel rooms, 25,500 square feet of additional meeting space, approximately 200 slot machines and an expanded spa facility. Construction of the hotel rooms and additional meeting space is expected to be completed near the end of the fourth quarter of 2004. Construction of the spa facility is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2005. In connection with the expansion, Green Valley Ranch Station purchased the lease of the existing spa during the nine months ended September 30, 2004. Green Valley Ranch Station also purchased the lease of a restaurant at the property during the nine months ended September 30, 2004. As a result of the purchase of these leases, the Company has recorded a reduction in earnings from joint ventures of approximately \$3.6 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2004, which represents its 50% share of the total loss.

### 3. Management Fees

The Company manages Thunder Valley for the UAIC and receives a management fee equal to 24% of net income (as defined in the management agreement). The Company is also the managing partner for both Green Valley Ranch Station and Barley s and receives a management fee equal to 2% of revenues and approximately 5% of EBITDA from Green Valley Ranch Station and 10% of EBITDA from Barley s. The Company s management fees are included in net revenues on the Company s condensed consolidated statements of operations.

#### *United Auburn Indian Community*

The Company has entered into a Development Services Agreement and a Management Agreement with the UAIC. The Company s seven-year Management Agreement was approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission ( NIGC ) and expires in June 2010. Pursuant to those agreements, and in compliance with a Memorandum of Understanding entered into by the UAIC and Placer County, California, the Company and the UAIC developed Thunder Valley, a gaming and entertainment facility on approximately 49 acres located approximately seven miles north of Interstate 80, in Placer County, California, near Sacramento, which opened on June 9, 2003. Thunder Valley currently has approximately 2,700 Class III slot machines and 98 table games, including a private VIP gaming area, three specialty restaurants, a 500-seat buffet, a food court, a center pit bar and parking for over 4,500 vehicles. In June 2004, the UAIC successfully negotiated a new Tribal-State Gaming Compact ( Amended Compact ) with the State of California which has received approval by the United States Department of the Interior (the DOI ). The Amended Compact allows an unlimited number of slot machines at Thunder Valley and extends the term an additional 18 years to 2037. The Amended Compact also includes a revenue sharing agreement with the State of California. The UAIC will pay approximately \$33.8 million annually to the State of California commencing in January 2005 and additional fees for any slot machines added above the 1,906 machines that were in operation at Thunder Valley prior to the Amended Compact.

On September 17, 2002, the DOI accepted the land into trust on behalf of the UAIC. The acceptance of the land into trust followed the decision of the United States District Court for the District of Washington, D.C., dismissing a lawsuit filed by the cities of Roseville and Rocklin, California, and Citizens for Safer Communities, which challenged the DOI s decision to accept the land into trust. Immediately following the District Court s decision, the plaintiffs appealed the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. On November 14, 2003, the Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal of the lawsuit by the District Court. On February 15, 2004, Citizens for Safer Communities filed a petition for writ of certiorari with the United States Supreme Court, seeking to appeal the decision of the Court of Appeals. The remaining plaintiffs did not seek to appeal the decision. On April 5, 2004, the United States Supreme Court denied Citizens for Safer Communities petition for writ of certiorari.

The Company assisted the UAIC in obtaining \$215.0 million of financing for the project through a group of lenders, with the Company providing an unlimited completion guaranty and credit support for all amounts outstanding under such financing. Based on the operating results of Thunder Valley, the Company s commitment to provide credit support has been terminated. The Company has evaluated its obligations related to the completion guaranty in accordance with FASB Interpretation No. 45, Guarantor s Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others and has determined that the fair value of the obligation is not material.

#### 4. Long-term Debt

Long-term debt consists of the following (amounts in thousands):

|   | September 30,<br>2004<br>(unaudited) | December 31,<br>2003 |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Revolving credit facility, \$500.0 million limit at September 30, 2004, due September 30, 2007, interest at a margin above the Alternate Base Rate or the Eurodollar Rate                               | \$                                   | \$ 177,000           |
| 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % senior notes, interest payable semi-annually, principal due February 15, 2008, callable February 15, 2005   | 16,894                               | 400,000              |
| 6% senior notes, interest payable semi-annually, principal due April 1, 2012, callable April 1, 2008, net of unamortized discount of \$1.7 million at September 30, 2004                                | 448,309                              |                      |
| 9 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % senior subordinated notes, interest payable semi-annually, principal due July 1, 2010, callable July 1, 2005, net of unamortized discount of \$47 at September 30, 2004 | 17,331                               | 373,886              |
| 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> % senior subordinated notes, interest payable semi-annually, principal due February 1, 2014, callable February 1, 2009  | 450,000                              |                      |
| 6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % senior subordinated notes, interest payable semi-annually, principal due March 1, 2016, callable March 1, 2009  | 350,000                              |                      |
| 8 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % senior subordinated notes, interest payable semi-annually, principal due December 1, 2008   |                                      | 199,900              |
| Other long-term debt, interest at 6.0% at September 30, 2004, maturity dates ranging from 2004 to 2007  | 6,065                                | 6,082                |
| <b>Total long-term debt</b>   | <b>1,288,599</b>                     | <b>1,156,868</b>     |
| Current portion of long-term debt   | (23)                                 | (22)                 |
| Market value of interest rate swaps   | (817)                                | 12,089               |
| <b>Total long-term debt, net</b>  | <b>\$ 1,287,759</b>                  | <b>\$ 1,168,935</b>  |

#### *Revolving Facility*

In March 2004, the Company increased the availability under its revolving credit facility (the Revolving Facility) from \$365.0 million to \$500.0 million. The Revolving Facility contains no principal amortization and matures in September 2007. The Borrowers are the major operating subsidiaries and the Revolving Facility is secured by substantially all of the Company's assets. Borrowings under the Revolving Facility bear interest at a margin above the Alternate Base Rate or the Eurodollar Rate (each, as defined in the Revolving Facility), as selected by the Company. The margin above such rates, and the fee on the unfunded portions of the Revolving Facility, will vary quarterly based on the Company's combined consolidated ratio of debt to Adjusted EBITDA (each, as defined in the Revolving Facility). As of September 30, 2004, the Borrowers' margin above the Eurodollar Rate on borrowings under the Revolving Facility was 1.75%. The maximum margin for Eurodollar Rate borrowings is 2.50%. The maximum margin for Alternate Base Rate borrowings is 1.25%. As of September 30, 2004, the fee for the unfunded portion of the Revolving Facility was 0.375%.

The Revolving Facility contains certain financial and other covenants. These include a maximum funded senior debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio for the Borrowers combined of 2.25 to 1.00 for each quarter and a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio for the preceding four quarters for the Borrowers combined of 1.50 to 1.00 for each quarter. As of September 30, 2004, the Borrowers' funded debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio was 0.04 to 1.00 and the fixed charge coverage ratio was 3.22 to 1.00. In addition, the Revolving Facility has financial and other covenants, which state that the maximum consolidated funded debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio can be no more than 5.00 to 1.00 through June 30, 2005, which reduces to 4.75 to 1.00 on September 30, 2005 through December 31, 2005, to 4.50 to 1.00 on March 31, 2006 through June 30, 2006 and to 4.00 to 1.00 on September 30, 2006. As of September 30, 2004, the Company's consolidated funded debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio

was 3.6 to 1.0. Other covenants limit prepayments of indebtedness or rent



(including subordinated debt other than re-financings meeting certain criteria), limitations on asset dispositions, limitations on dividends, limitations on indebtedness, limitations on investments and limitations on capital expenditures. The Company has pledged the stock of all of its major subsidiaries.

#### *Senior and Senior Subordinated Notes*

During the first quarter of 2004, the Company refinanced substantially all of its senior and senior subordinated notes. The Company issued \$1.25 billion in new senior and senior subordinated notes which consists of \$450.0 million 6% senior notes due in April 2012, \$450.0 million 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % senior subordinated notes due in February 2014 and \$350.0 million 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ % senior subordinated notes due in March 2016. The proceeds from these offerings were used to redeem or repurchase the \$199.9 million 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ % senior subordinated notes due in December 2008, to repurchase \$357.6 million of the 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ % senior subordinated notes due in July 2010, to repurchase \$383.1 million of the 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ % senior notes due in February 2008 and to reduce amounts outstanding under the Revolving Facility. As a result of these redemptions, the Company recorded a loss on early retirement of debt of approximately \$93.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2004 to reflect the write-off of the unamortized loan costs, unamortized discount, call premium, tender fee and consent payments which were partially offset by the fair value of the interest rate swaps that were tied directly to the redeemed senior and senior subordinated notes.

The indentures (the "Indentures") governing the Company's senior and senior subordinated notes (the "Notes") contain certain customary financial and other covenants, which limit the Company and its subsidiaries' ability to incur additional debt. At September 30, 2004, the Company's Consolidated Coverage Ratio (as defined in the Indentures) was 3.71 to 1.00. The Indentures provide that the Company may not incur additional indebtedness, other than specified types of indebtedness, unless the Consolidated Coverage Ratio is at least 2.00 to 1.00. In the event the Company's Consolidated Coverage Ratio is below 2.00 to 1.00, the covenant limits the Company's ability to incur additional indebtedness for borrowings under the Revolving Facility not to exceed the greater of \$200 million or 1.5 times Operating Cash Flow (as defined) for the four most recent quarters, plus \$15 million. The Indentures also give the holders of the Notes the right to require the Company to purchase the Notes at 101% of the principal amount of the Notes plus accrued interest thereon upon a Change of Control and Rating Decline (each as defined in the Indentures) of the Company. In addition, the indenture governing the senior notes also contains a limitation on liens the Company can incur.

The Company has entered into various interest rate swaps with members of its bank group to manage interest expense. As of September 30, 2004, the Company has interest rate swaps with a combined notional amount of \$250.0 million that are tied directly to the Company's 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % senior subordinated notes and the Company's 6% senior notes. The interest rate swaps convert a portion of the Company's fixed-rate debt to a floating-rate based upon three and six-month LIBOR rates. At September 30, 2004, the Company pays a weighted average rate based on LIBOR, which approximates 3.62% and receives a weighted average rate of 6.33%. The interest rate swaps terminate in April 2012 and February 2014. The net effect of the interest rate swaps resulted in a reduction in interest expense of \$1.8 million and \$0.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The net effect of the interest rate swaps resulted in a reduction in interest expense of \$5.7 million and \$2.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

The interest rate swaps that the Company entered into qualify for the "shortcut" method allowed under SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities", which allows for an assumption of no ineffectiveness. As such, there is no income statement impact from changes in the fair value of the hedging instruments. Instead, the fair value of the instrument is recorded as an asset or liability on the Company's balance sheet with an offsetting adjustment to the carrying value of the related debt. In accordance with SFAS No. 133, the Company recorded a liability of \$1.2 million and an asset of \$3.9 million as of September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003, respectively, representing the fair value of the interest rate swaps and a corresponding decrease and increase in long-term debt, respectively, as these interest rate swaps are considered highly effective under the criteria established by SFAS No. 133.



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In March 2004, the Company terminated an interest rate swap with a notional amount of \$50.0 million, which was due to terminate in 2008. The interest rate swap was terminated at its market value and, as a result, the Company received approximately \$3.6 million, which is included in the calculation of the net loss on the early retirement of debt as the interest rate swap was tied directly to the redemption of the \$400.0 million 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% senior notes.

In December 2002, the Company terminated an interest rate swap with a notional amount of \$100 million, which was due to terminate in 2010. The interest rate swap was terminated at its market value and, as a result, the Company received approximately \$9.5 million. This interest rate swap was tied directly to the \$375 million 9<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% senior subordinated notes. Approximately \$357.6 million of the 9<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% senior subordinated notes were redeemed in the first quarter of 2004 and, as a result, approximately \$7.6 million of the remaining value of this fair value hedge termination was included in the calculation of the net loss on the early retirement of debt.

### 5. Stockholders Equity

During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, the Company repurchased 35,458 shares of its common stock for approximately \$1.6 million. As of September 30, 2004, the Company had acquired approximately 10.2 million shares at a cost of approximately \$136.2 million. The Company is authorized to repurchase approximately 10.4 million additional shares of its common stock as of September 30, 2004.

SFAS No. 130, Reporting Comprehensive Income, requires companies to disclose other comprehensive income and the components of such income. Comprehensive income is the total of net income and all other non-stockholder changes in equity. The Company has recorded its 50% interest in the mark-to-market valuation of the interest rate swaps at Green Valley Ranch Station as other comprehensive loss. Comprehensive income was computed as follows (amounts in thousands, unaudited):

|   | Three months<br>ended September 30, |           | Nine months<br>ended September 30, |           |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
|   | 2004                                | 2003      | 2004                               | 2003      |
| Net income  | \$ 29,086                           | \$ 19,802 | \$ 28,338                          | \$ 52,991 |
| Mark-to-market valuation of interest rate swaps, net of tax | (1,098)                             | 415       | 224                                | (30)      |
| Comprehensive income  | \$ 27,988                           | \$ 20,217 | \$ 28,562                          | \$ 52,961 |

The weighted average number of common shares used in the calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share consisted of the following (amounts in thousands, unaudited):

|  | Three months<br>ended September 30, |        | Nine months<br>ended September 30, |        |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|
|  | 2004                                | 2003   | 2004                               | 2003   |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding (used in calculation of basic earnings per share)                         | 65,052                              | 58,634 | 63,647                             | 57,762 |
| Potential dilution from the assumed exercise of stock options  | 2,717                               | 4,206  | 2,653                              | 3,592  |
| Weighted average common and common equivalent shares outstanding (used in calculation of diluted earnings per share) | 67,769                              | 62,840 | 66,300                             | 61,354 |



On March 4, 2004, the Company paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.125 per share to shareholders of record on February 12, 2004 for approximately \$7.8 million. On June 4, 2004 and September 3, 2004, the Company paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.175 per share to shareholders of record on May 14, 2004 and August 13, 2004 for approximately \$11.1 million and \$11.4 million, respectively. On October 18, 2004, the Company's Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.21 per share payable on December 3, 2004 to shareholders of record on November 12, 2004.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003, the Company paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.125 per share to shareholders of record on August 14, 2003 for approximately \$7.4 million.

## **6. Asset Impairment**

The Company recorded an impairment loss of \$1.4 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2003, which primarily related to the write-off of the Company's investment in a new slot product development. The impairment of this asset was based upon a decision by the Company to no longer pursue the development of certain slot products. As a result, all of the development costs that the Company had incurred were written off, as they were deemed to have no value.

## **7. Future Development**

### *Red Rock Station*

In April 2004, the Company commenced construction on Red Rock Station Resort Casino and Spa in the Summerlin master-planned community in Las Vegas, Nevada, located on Charleston Boulevard at the Interstate 215/Charleston interchange. The initial phase of the property is expected to include 60 table games and 2,700 slot machines. The property is expected to also include 400 hotel rooms, 45,000 square feet of meeting space, 16 movie theaters, a 20,000 square-foot spa facility, multiple restaurants, including a buffet and a nightclub. The cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$550 million, of which approximately \$106.3 million has been spent as of September 30, 2004. The Company believes the project will be completed in late 2005 or early 2006.

### *Santa Fe Station Expansion*

The Company is currently expanding Santa Fe Station, which will add more than 20,000 square feet of additional casino space, 350 slot machines, a new 16-screen movie theater complex, an upgrade of the property's bowling center, a new entertainment venue and bar, a new Kid's Quest child care facility and other amenities. The expansion project also included the removal of the ice arena. The cost of the expansion is expected to be approximately \$52 million, of which approximately \$14.2 million has been spent as of September 30, 2004. The Company believes the expansion project will be completed in the first quarter of 2005 with the exception of the movie theater complex, which will be

completed in the second quarter of 2005.

*Sunset Station Expansion*

The Company is currently expanding Sunset Station to add a bowling center and additional casino space for 300 slot machines. The cost of the expansion is expected to be approximately \$24 million, of which approximately \$3.7 million has been spent as of September 30, 2004. The Company believes that the expansion will be completed in the first quarter of 2005.

*Fiesta Rancho Expansion*

The Company completed a 31,000 square-foot expansion project at Fiesta Rancho in September 2004, which added a new ice arena to the property, complete with concession area, pro shop, locker rooms and private special event rooms. The cost of the expansion was approximately \$8.0 million.

*The Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria*

In April 2003, the Company entered into Development and Management Agreements with the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria (the FIGR), a federally recognized Native American tribe. Pursuant to those agreements, the Company will assist the FIGR in developing and operating a gaming and entertainment project to be located in Sonoma County, California. The FIGR selected the Company to assist it in designing, developing and financing the project and, upon opening, the Company will manage the facility on behalf of the FIGR. The Management Agreement has a term of seven years from the opening of the facility and the Company will receive a management fee equal to 22% of the facility's net income. The Company will also receive a development fee equal to 2% of the cost of the project upon the opening of the facility.

In August 2003, the Company and the FIGR entered into an option to purchase 360 acres of land just west of the Rohnert Park city limits in Sonoma County, California. The proposed site of the project is bordered by Stony Point Road, Wilfred Avenue and Rohnert Park Expressway, approximately one-half mile from Highway 101 and approximately 43 miles from downtown San Francisco. In October 2003, the FIGR entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Rohnert Park. Development of the gaming and entertainment project is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, including, but not limited to, negotiating a gaming compact with the State of California, the DOI accepting the land into trust on behalf of the FIGR and approval of the Management Agreement by the NIGC. No assurances can be given as to when, or if, the necessary government and regulatory approvals will be received. Prior to the receipt of such government and regulatory approvals, the Company will contribute significant credit support to the project. As of September 30, 2004, the Company had advanced approximately \$21.4 million toward the development of this project, primarily to perform due diligence and secure real estate for the FIGR project, which is included in other assets, net on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets. Funds advanced by the Company are expected to be repaid with the proceeds of the project financing or from the FIGR's gaming revenues. In addition, the Company will make approximately \$11.3 million of payments upon achieving certain milestones, which will not be reimbursed. As of September 30, 2004, approximately \$2.0 million of these payments have been made which are expensed in development expense as incurred. The Company anticipates that the gaming and entertainment facility will open in 2007, but there can be no assurance that it will be completed within that timeframe or at all.

*Gun Lake Tribe*

On November 13, 2003, the Company agreed to purchase a 50% interest in MPM Enterprises, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company (MPM). Concurrently with the Company's agreement to purchase that interest, MPM and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomie Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe commonly referred to as the Gun Lake Tribe (Gun Lake), entered into amended Development and Management Agreements, pursuant to which MPM will assist Gun Lake in developing and operating a gaming and entertainment project to be located in Allegan County, Michigan. The Company has agreed to pay \$6.0 million for its 50% interest in MPM, which is payable upon achieving certain milestones and is not reimbursable. As of September 30, 2004, approximately \$2.0 million of these payments have been made which are expensed in development expense as incurred. An additional \$12.0 million in total may be paid by the Company in years six and seven of the amended Management Agreement, subject to certain contingencies. Under the terms of the amended Development Agreement, the Company has agreed to arrange financing for the ongoing development costs and construction of the project. As of September 30, 2004, the Company had advanced approximately \$11.9 million toward the development of this project, primarily to secure real estate for the project, which is included in other assets, net on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets. Although no firm construction budget has been established, the Company expects that the total cost of the development and construction of the project will be less than \$250 million. Funds advanced by the Company are expected to be repaid with the proceeds of the project financing or from Gun Lake's gaming revenues. The amended Management Agreement has a term of seven years from the opening of the facility and provides for a management fee of 30% of the project's net income to be paid to MPM. Pursuant to the terms of the MPM Operating Agreement, the Company's portion of the management fee is 50% of the first





\$24 million of management fees earned, 83% of the next \$24 million of management fees and 93% of any management fees in excess of \$48 million.

The proposed project will be located on approximately 145 acres on Highway 131 near 129<sup>th</sup> Avenue, approximately 25 miles north of Kalamazoo, Michigan. As currently contemplated, the project would include approximately 2,500 slot machines, 75 table games, a buffet and specialty restaurants. Construction of the project includes the conversion of an existing 192,000 square-foot building into the entertainment facility. Development of the gaming and entertainment project and operation of Class III gaming is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, including, but not limited to, entering into a gaming compact with the State of Michigan, the DOI accepting the land into trust on behalf of Gun Lake and approval of the Management Agreement by the NIGC. On February 27, 2004, the DOI issued a Finding Of No Significant Impact with respect to the proposed project. No assurances can be given as to when, or if, the necessary government and regulatory approvals will be received. Prior to the receipt of such governmental and regulatory approvals, the Company will contribute significant financial support to the project. The Company anticipates that the gaming and entertainment facility will open in 2006, but there can be no assurance that it will be completed within that timeframe or at all.

*Mechoopda Indian Tribe*

In January 2004, the Company entered into Development and Management Agreements with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, California (the MITCR), a federally recognized Native American tribe. Pursuant to those agreements, the Company will assist the MITCR in developing and operating a gaming and entertainment facility to be located on approximately 650 acres in Butte County, California, at the intersection of State Route 149 and Highway 99, approximately 10 miles southeast of Chico, California and 80 miles north of Sacramento, California. Under the terms of the Development Agreement, the Company has agreed to arrange the financing for the ongoing development costs and construction of the facility. Although no firm construction budget has been established, the Company expects the total cost of the development and construction of the facility will be less than \$80 million. Funds advanced by the Company are expected to be repaid from the proceeds of the facility financing or from the MITCR's gaming revenues. As of September 30, 2004, the Company had advanced approximately \$5.6 million toward the development of this project, primarily to secure real estate for future development, which is included in other assets, net on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets. In addition, the Company will make approximately \$2.2 million of payments upon achieving certain milestones, which will not be reimbursed. As of September 30, 2004, \$50,000 of these payments had been made which are expensed in development expense as incurred. The Management Agreement has a term of seven years from the opening of the facility and provides for a management fee of 24% of the facility's net income. As currently contemplated, the facility will include approximately 700 slot machines, 12 table games and dining and entertainment amenities. Development of the facility is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, including, but not limited to, negotiating a gaming compact with the State of California, the DOI accepting land into trust on behalf of the MITCR and approval of the Management Agreement by the NIGC. No assurances can be given as to when, or if, the necessary governmental and regulatory approvals will be received. Prior to the receipt of such governmental or regulatory approvals, the Company will contribute significant financial support to the project. The Company anticipates that the gaming and entertainment facility will open in 2006, but there can be no assurance that it will be completed within that timeframe or at all.

*North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indian Tribe*

In March 2004, the Company entered into Development and Management Agreements with the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians ( Mono ), a federally recognized Native American tribe located near Fresno, California. Pursuant to those agreements, the Company will assist the Mono in developing and operating a gaming and entertainment facility to be located in Madera County, California. The Company has secured for the benefit of the Mono two parcels of land located on Highway 99 north of the city of Madera. Under the terms of the Development Agreement, the Company has agreed to arrange the financing for the ongoing development costs and construction of the facility. Although no firm construction budget has been established, the Company expects the total cost of the development and construction of the facility will be approximately \$250 million to \$300 million. Funds advanced by the Company are expected to be repaid from the proceeds of the project financing or from the Mono's gaming revenues. As of September 30, 2004, the Company had advanced approximately \$1.0 million toward the development of this project, primarily to secure real estate for future development, which is included in other assets, net on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets. In addition, the Company will make approximately \$1.3 million of payments upon achieving certain milestones, which will not be reimbursed. As of September 30, 2004, none of these payments have been made. The Management Agreement has a term of seven years from the opening of the facility and provides for a management fee of 24% of the facility's net income. As currently contemplated, the facility will include approximately 2,000 slot machines, 60 table games and dining, hotel and entertainment amenities. Development of the gaming and entertainment project is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, including, but not limited to, negotiating a gaming compact with the State of California, the DOI accepting the land into trust on behalf of the Mono and approval of the Management Agreement by the NIGC. No assurances can be given as to when, or if, the necessary governmental and regulatory approvals will be received. Prior to the receipt of such governmental or regulatory approvals, the Company will contribute significant financial support to the project. The Company anticipates that the gaming and entertainment facility will open in 2007, but there can be no assurance that it will be completed within that timeframe or at all.

*Land Held for Development*

The Company has acquired certain parcels of land in the Las Vegas valley and near Sacramento, California as part of its future development activities. As of September 30, 2004, the Company had \$131.8 million of land held for development that consists primarily of four sites that are owned or leased, which comprise 167 acres in the Las Vegas valley and 188 acres in the Sacramento area near Thunder Valley. The Durango site, located at the intersection of Durango Road and the Southern Beltway/Interstate 215 in the southwest quadrant of Las Vegas, currently consists of 67 acres. The Company also owns a 49-acre gaming-entitled parcel in southwest Las Vegas at the intersection of Flamingo Road and Interstate 215. During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, the Company purchased approximately 51 acres of land in a gaming enterprise district on the southern end of Las Vegas Boulevard at Cactus Avenue for approximately \$31.6 million.

In April 2004, the Company sold a 27-acre parcel of land, after removing the gaming entitlements, located at the intersection of Boulder Highway and Nellis Boulevard for net proceeds of approximately \$10.5 million. In July 2004, the Company sold a 68-acre parcel of land, after removing the gaming entitlements, located at the intersection of Boulder Highway and Tropicana Avenue in eastern Las Vegas for net proceeds of approximately \$15.2 million. As a result of the sale of these parcels of land, the Company recorded a loss of approximately \$2.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2004.

On October 1, 2004, the Company purchased approximately 26 acres of real property and improvements formerly known as the Castaways Hotel Casino and Bowling Center (the Castaways ) in Las Vegas, Nevada, for \$33.75 million. The Castaways closed on January 26, 2004, shortly after its former owners filed for bankruptcy. The Company is currently evaluating the potential uses of the property, but does not believe it is competitive in its current state.



The Company has acquired approximately 27 acres of land adjacent to Wild Wild West. In addition, the Company exercised its option to purchase the 19-acre parcel of leased land on which Wild Wild West is located. Pursuant to the lease, the purchase will occur in July 2005 at a purchase price equal to the fair market value of the land, but in no event less than \$27 million or more than approximately \$36 million. No amounts related to this purchase option have been recorded on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets. The Company currently leases this land for approximately \$2.9 million per year.

The Company's decision whether to proceed with any new gaming or development opportunity is dependent upon future economic and regulatory factors, the availability of financing and competitive and strategic considerations. As many of these considerations are beyond the Company's control, no assurances can be made that it will be able to secure additional, acceptable financing in order to proceed with any particular project.

## 8. Stock Based Employee Compensation

The Company accounts for its stock-based employee compensation programs using the intrinsic value method under APB Opinion No. 25 and related interpretations. The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing method. Accordingly, compensation expense recognized was different than what would have been otherwise recognized under the fair value based method defined in SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. Had compensation expense for the programs been determined in accordance with SFAS No. 123, the effect on the Company's net income and basic and diluted earnings per common share would have been as follows (amounts in thousands, except per share data, unaudited):

|  | Three months<br>ended September 30, |           | Nine months<br>ended September 30, |           |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | 2004                                | 2003      | 2004                               | 2003      |
| Net income as reported                                   | \$ 29,086                           | \$ 19,802 | \$ 28,338                          | \$ 52,991 |
| Stock-based compensation expense reported in net income  | 57                                  | 174       | 404                                | 521       |
| Stock-based compensation expense under fair value method | (1,356)                             | (2,284)   | (4,491)                            | (6,211)   |
| Pro forma net income                                     | \$ 27,787                           | \$ 17,692 | \$ 24,251                          | \$ 47,301 |
| Earnings per common share:                               |                                     |           |                                    |           |
| Basic as reported  | \$ 0.45                             | \$ 0.34   | \$ 0.45                            | \$ 0.92   |
| Basic pro forma  | \$ 0.43                             | \$ 0.30   | \$ 0.38                            | \$ 0.82   |
| Diluted as reported                                      | \$ 0.43                             | \$ 0.32   | \$ 0.43                            | \$ 0.86   |
| Diluted pro forma  | \$ 0.41                             | \$ 0.28   | \$ 0.37                            | \$ 0.77   |

**9. Recently Issued Accounting Standards**

In April 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 149, *Amendment to Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. SFAS No. 149 amends and clarifies accounting for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts, and for hedging activities under SFAS No. 133. SFAS No. 149 is applied prospectively and is effective for contracts entered into or modified after June 30, 2003, except for SFAS No. 133 implementation issues that have been effective for fiscal quarters that began prior to June 15, 2003 and certain provisions relating to forward purchases and sales on securities that do not yet exist. The Company has determined that SFAS No. 149 will not have a significant impact on its results of operations or financial position.

In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 150, *Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of Both Liabilities and Equity*. SFAS No. 150 establishes standards for how an issuer classifies and measures certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. It requires that an issuer classify a financial instrument that is within its scope as a liability (or an asset in some circumstances). SFAS No. 150 is effective for financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise is effective at the beginning of the first interim period beginning after June 15, 2003. On October 29, 2003, the FASB voted to defer for an indefinite period the application of the guidance in SFAS No. 150 to non-controlling interests that are classified as equity in the financial statements of the subsidiary but would be classified as a liability in the parent's financial statements under SFAS No. 150. The FASB decided to defer the application of SFAS No. 150 to these non-controlling interests until it could consider some of the resulting implementation issues associated with the measurement and recognition guidance for these non-controlling interests. The Company currently has no instruments impacted by the adoption of this statement and therefore the adoption did not have a significant impact on its results of operations or financial position.

**10. Other**

*Cash Transaction Reporting Violations*

In April 2003, the Company became aware of violations of certain gaming regulations regarding the reporting of certain cash transactions at three of its properties. The Company self-reported these administrative violations to the Nevada State Gaming Control Board. The Company, along with the Nevada State Gaming Control Board, has investigated the violations. On September 15, 2004, the Company and the Nevada Gaming Control Board entered into a settlement agreement with respect to these violations, pursuant to which the Company agreed to pay approximately \$2.4 million in fines and investigative costs to the State of Nevada. On September 24, 2004, the Nevada Gaming Commission approved the settlement agreement. The Company has hired additional staff at each of its properties and has increased the level of internal audit review to prevent this type of violation in the future.

**Item 2.****MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF  
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****(unaudited)****Overview**

The following table highlights the results of our operations as compared to the prior period (dollars in thousands, unaudited):

|                                    | Three months ended<br>September 30, |            |  | Percent<br>change | Nine months ended<br>September 30, |            |  | Percent<br>change |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------|--|-------------------|
|                                    | 2004                                | 2003       |  |                   | 2004                               | 2003       |  |                   |
| Net revenues total                 | \$ 242,862                          | \$ 218,670 |  | 11.1%             | \$ 722,004                         | \$ 628,236 |  | 14.9%             |
| Major Las Vegas Operations (a)     | 213,981                             | 191,236    |  | 11.9%             | 636,113                            | 577,793    |  | 10.1%             |
| Management fees (b)                | 19,995                              | 19,914     |  | 0.4%              | 62,174                             | 27,769     |  | 123.9%            |
| Other Operations and Corporate (c) | 8,886                               | 7,520      |  | 18.2%             | 23,717                             | 22,674     |  | 4.6%              |
| Operating income (loss) total      | \$ 58,608                           | \$ 49,880  |  | 17.5%             | \$ 184,587                         | \$ 138,432 |  | 33.3%             |
| Major Las Vegas Operations (a)     | 50,887                              | 40,867     |  | 24.5%             | 165,553                            | 138,670    |  | 19.4%             |
| Management fees (b)                | 19,995                              | 19,914     |  | 0.4%              | 62,174                             | 27,769     |  | 123.9%            |
| Other Operations and Corporate (c) | (12,274)                            | (10,901)   |  | (12.6)%           | (43,140)                           | (28,007)   |  | (54.0)%           |
| Cash flows provided by (used in):  |                                     |            |  |                   |                                    |            |  |                   |
| Operating activities               | \$ 68,548                           | \$ 58,762  |  | 16.7%             | \$ 169,506                         | \$ 131,099 |  | 29.3%             |
| Investing activities               | (73,114)                            | (12,821)   |  | (470.3)%          | (206,806)                          | (135,656)  |  | (52.4)%           |
| Financing activities               | (6,882)                             | (56,153)   |  | 87.7%             | 28,859                             | (2,758)    |  | 1146.4%           |

- (a) The Major Las Vegas Operations include the wholly owned properties of Palace Station, Boulder Station, Texas Station, Sunset Station, Santa Fe Station, Fiesta Rancho and Fiesta Henderson.
- (b) Includes management fees from Thunder Valley (since June 9, 2003), Green Valley Ranch Station and Barley s.
- (c) Other Operations and Corporate includes the wholly owned properties of Wild Wild West, Wildfire (since January 27, 2003), Magic Star (since August 2, 2004), Gold Rush (since August 2, 2004) and Corporate and development expense.

**Results of Operations**

Consolidated net revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2004 increased 11.1% to \$242.9 million as compared to \$218.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 primarily due to revenue increases at our Major Las Vegas Operations. Consolidated net revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 increased 14.9% to \$722.0 million as compared to \$628.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in net revenues during the nine months ended September 30, 2004 was due primarily to revenue

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increases at our Major Las Vegas Operations and an increase in management fees, primarily from Thunder Valley, which opened on June 9, 2003, and from Green Valley Ranch Station.

Combined net revenues from our Major Las Vegas Operations increased 11.9% to \$214.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$191.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Combined net revenues from our Major Las Vegas Operations increased 10.1% to \$636.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$577.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in combined net revenues was primarily due to a strong Las Vegas local economy, continued population and employment growth in the Las Vegas valley, no new competition in the locals market, as well as the introduction of our Jumbo brand of products

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including Jumbo Jackpot. Jumbo Jackpot, which we introduced in April 2003, is an exclusive progressive slot jackpot that allows our customers using their Boarding Pass card the opportunity to win between \$50,000 and \$150,000 just for playing slot machines. The increase in revenues was also due to relatively easy comparisons as a result of a short-term slowdown in our business during the first quarter of 2003, as our customers were distracted by the events leading up to and including the war in Iraq.

Consolidated operating income increased 17.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2003. Our consolidated operating margin increased 1.3 percentage points over the same three-month period. Consolidated operating income increased 33.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2003. Our consolidated operating margin increased 3.6 percentage points over the same nine-month period. The increase in consolidated operating income is primarily due to increased consolidated net revenues noted above. There is significant operating leverage on incremental revenue because there are a significant amount of fixed costs.

The following table highlights the various sources of our revenues and expenses as compared to the prior periods (dollars in thousands, unaudited):

|  | Three months ended<br>September 30, |              |  | Percent<br>Change | Nine months ended<br>September 30, |              |  | Percent<br>Change |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|--|-------------------|
|  | 2004                                | 2003         |  |                   | 2004                               | 2003         |  |                   |
| Casino revenues                              | \$ 181,048                          | \$ 157,637   |  | 14.9%             | \$ 533,016                         | \$ 479,890   |  | 11.1%             |
| Casino expenses                              | 69,391                              | 66,297       |  | 4.7%              | 203,239                            | 196,612      |  | 3.4%              |
| <i>Margin</i>                                | <i>61.7%</i>                        | <i>57.9%</i> |  |                   | <i>61.9%</i>                       | <i>59.0%</i> |  |                   |
| Food and beverage revenues                   | \$ 34,418                           | \$ 32,692    |  | 5.3%              | \$ 103,451                         | \$ 98,542    |  | 5.0%              |
| Food and beverage expenses                   | 25,355                              | 22,089       |  | 14.8%             | 74,212                             | 62,901       |  | 18.0%             |
| <i>Margin</i>                                | <i>26.3%</i>                        | <i>32.4%</i> |  |                   | <i>28.3%</i>                       | <i>36.2%</i> |  |                   |
| Room revenues                                | \$ 13,426                           | \$ 12,803    |  | 4.9%              | \$ 42,545                          | \$ 37,500    |  | 13.5%             |
| Room expenses                                | 5,418                               | 4,883        |  | 11.0%             | 15,601                             | 14,628       |  | 6.7%              |
| <i>Margin</i>                                | <i>59.7%</i>                        | <i>61.9%</i> |  |                   | <i>63.3%</i>                       | <i>61.0%</i> |  |                   |
| Other revenues                               | \$ 10,644                           | \$ 11,618    |  | (8.4)%            | \$ 30,973                          | \$ 35,035    |  | (11.6)%           |
| Other expenses                               | 4,369                               | 4,061        |  | 7.6%              | 12,582                             | 11,650       |  | 8.0%              |
| Management fees                              | \$ 19,995                           | \$ 19,914    |  | 0.4%              | \$ 62,174                          | \$ 27,769    |  | 123.9%            |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | \$ 44,129                           | \$ 42,236    |  | 4.5%              | \$ 126,906                         | \$ 120,532   |  | 5.3%              |
| <i>Percent of net revenues</i>               | <i>18.2%</i>                        | <i>19.3%</i> |  |                   | <i>17.6%</i>                       | <i>19.2%</i> |  |                   |
| Corporate expense                            | \$ 11,311                           | \$ 7,968     |  | 42.0%             | \$ 33,874                          | \$ 24,653    |  | 37.4%             |
| <i>Percent of net revenues</i>               | <i>4.7%</i>                         | <i>3.6%</i>  |  |                   | <i>4.7%</i>                        | <i>3.9%</i>  |  |                   |
| Earnings from joint ventures                 | \$ 7,038                            | \$ 4,875     |  | 44.4%             | \$ 18,249                          | \$ 14,788    |  | 23.4%             |

*Casino.* Casino revenues increased 14.9% to \$181.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$157.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Casino revenues increased 11.1% to \$533.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$479.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in casino revenues is primarily due to the same factors affecting the combined net revenues for our Major Las Vegas Operations noted above. Casino expenses increased 4.7% to \$69.4



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million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$66.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Casino expenses increased 3.4% to \$203.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$196.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in casino expenses is due primarily to an increase in gaming taxes. There is significant operating leverage on incremental gaming revenue because there are a significant amount of fixed costs in the casino department and, as a result, the casino profit margin increased 3.8 and 2.9 percentage points over the same three and nine-month periods, respectively.

*Food and Beverage.* Food and beverage revenues increased 5.3% and the average guest check increased 8.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2003 due to selected menu price increases, as well as restaurant enhancements at Santa Fe Station with the expansion of the coffee shop in December 2003 and upgrade of the steakhouse in March 2004. Food and beverage expenses increased 14.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2003 due to increased payroll and related costs primarily due to rising benefit costs and increases in selected food cost items. The food and beverage net profit margin decreased by 6.1 percentage points over the same three-month period. Food covers decreased 1.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2003 due to decreases in buffet prices in the prior year as part of short-term marketing program which increased the food covers during this period.

Food and beverage revenues increased 5.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2003. Food covers increased 3.9% and the average guest check increased 1.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2003. Food covers increased due to restaurant enhancements at Santa Fe Station with the addition of a Mexican restaurant in May 2003, the expansion of the coffee shop in December 2003 and upgrade of the steakhouse in March 2004 in addition to an aggressive marketing program promoting the buffet. The increase in the average guest check was a result of selected menu price increases which was offset by lower prices in the buffet. The food and beverage net profit margin decreased by 7.9 percentage points over the same nine-month period. Food and beverage expenses increased 18.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2003. As a result of the additional volume, food and beverage expenses increased over the same period. Food and beverage costs also increased due to increases in selected food cost items in addition to increased payroll and related costs primarily due to rising benefit costs.

*Room.* Room revenues increased 4.9% and 13.5% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively, as compared to the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003. Room occupancy increased to 96% for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to 93% for the three months ended September 30, 2003, while the average daily room rate increased to \$52 from \$50 over the same periods. Room occupancy increased to 96% for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to 94% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003, while the average daily room rate increased to \$56 from \$49 over the same periods. The increase in occupancy and room rates was primarily due to a general increase in demand for travel to Las Vegas as compared to the prior year.

Room expenses increased 11.0% to \$5.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$4.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Room expenses increased 6.7% to \$15.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$14.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in room expenses is due to increased payroll and related costs primarily due to rising benefit costs. As a result of the increased costs during the three months ended September 30, 2004, the room profit margin decreased 2.2 percentage points over the same three-month period. The room profit margin increased 2.3 percentage points during the nine months ended September 30, 2004 due to the increased room revenues over the same nine-month period.

*Other.* Other revenues primarily include income from the gift shops, bowling, entertainment, leased outlets and arcades. Other revenues decreased by 8.4% to approximately \$10.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to approximately \$11.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Other revenues decreased by 11.6% to approximately \$31.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to approximately \$35.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The decrease in other revenues is directly related to development fees which we received from Thunder Valley for approximately \$0.8 million and \$4.4 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003, respectively.

*Management Fees.* We manage Thunder Valley on behalf of the United Auburn Indian Community ( UAIC ) and receive a management fee equal to 24% of net income (as defined in the management agreement). We are the managing partner for both Green Valley Ranch Station and Barley s and receive a management fee equal to 2% of revenues and approximately 5% of Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization ( EBITDA ) from Green Valley Ranch Station and 10% of EBITDA from Barley s. For the three months ended September 30, 2004, management fees increased to approximately \$20.0 million as compared to \$19.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, management fees increased to approximately \$62.2 million as compared to \$27.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase is due to management fees from Thunder Valley, which opened in June 2003, as well as improved results at Green Valley Ranch Station. Management fees were somewhat impacted during the three months ended September 30, 2004 due to increased political contributions at Thunder Valley.

*Selling, General and Administrative ( SG&A ).* SG&A expenses increased 4.5% to \$44.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$42.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. SG&A expenses increased 5.3% to \$126.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$120.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. Included in SG&A expenses for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004 is \$0.8 million for the net settlement of certain litigation and the payment of a fine and investigative costs related to violation of Nevada Gaming Commission Regulation 6A. The increase in SG&A expenses was also due to an increase in payroll and related expenses, primarily related to benefits, and an increase in accounting fees related to the new corporate governance rules mandated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. SG&A as a percentage of net revenues, decreased to 18.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to 19.3% for the three months ended September 30, 2003. SG&A as a percentage of net revenues, decreased to 17.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to 19.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. A large portion of these costs are fixed and, as a result, as revenues increased the percentage of SG&A to net revenues decreased.

*Corporate Expense.* Corporate expense as a percentage of net revenues increased to 4.7% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, as compared to 3.6% and 4.0% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003, respectively. Corporate expense increased 42.0% to \$11.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$8.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Corporate expense increased 37.4% to \$33.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$24.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase is due primarily to increased investment in corporate infrastructure to handle projected growth and a change in incentive compensation from a stock option based program to a program which includes cash and restricted stock. In addition, employer payroll taxes on stock option exercises increased during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003. This increase was offset by Harrah s patent litigation costs of approximately \$0.5 million and \$2.3 million incurred during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003, respectively.

*Development Expense.* Development expenses include costs to develop new gaming opportunities, which includes payroll, travel and legal expenses. Development expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004 was approximately \$2.1 million and \$8.3 million, respectively. Also included in development expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2004, is a \$2.0 million non-reimbursable milestone payment related to the Gun Lake project in Michigan (see Future Development ).

During the three months ended September 30, 2003, we increased our development resources in an effort to identify potential gaming opportunities, with an emphasis on expanding our management of Native American casinos. Development expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003 was approximately \$2.9 million, which included \$2.0 million of costs related to the Graton Rancheria project, which were made upon achieving certain milestones on the project and are not reimbursable (see Future Development ).

*Depreciation and Amortization.* Depreciation and amortization increased 19.2% in the three months ended September 30, 2004 to \$21.9 million as compared to \$18.4 million in the three months ended September 30, 2003. Depreciation and amortization increased 13.8% in the nine months ended September 30, 2004 to \$62.1 million as compared to \$54.6 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2003. This increase was due primarily to the addition of new ticket-in, ticket-out slot machines at a majority of the Major Las Vegas properties and the addition of a new slot system at Fiesta Rancho and Fiesta Henderson, as well as the addition of new restaurants at Santa Fe Station and Fiesta Henderson during 2003.

*Preopening Expenses.* Preopening expenses for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004 were approximately \$0.2 million and \$0.6 million, which include costs incurred prior to the opening of Red Rock Station.

*Impairment Loss.* We recorded an impairment loss of \$1.4 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2003 primarily related to the write-off of our investment in a new slot product development. The impairment of this asset was based upon our decision to no longer pursue the development of certain slot products. As a result, all of the development costs that we had incurred were written off, as they were deemed to have no value.

*Earnings from Joint Ventures.* We own a 50% interest in Green Valley Ranch Station and Barley s, and a 6.7% interest in the Palms Casino Resort. For the three months ended September 30, 2004, we recorded approximately \$7.0 million as our share of the earnings from these joint ventures as compared to approximately \$4.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in earnings from joint ventures is primarily a result of improved results at Green Valley Ranch Station.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, we recorded approximately \$18.2 million as our share of the earnings from these joint ventures as compared to approximately \$14.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in earnings from joint ventures is primarily a result of the improved results at Green Valley Ranch Station, which were offset by the buyout of certain leases relating to a restaurant and spa at Green Valley Ranch Station for approximately \$3.6 million, which represents our 50% of the total loss, during the nine months ended September 30, 2004.

*Interest Expense.* Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, decreased 17.9% to \$18.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$22.7 million in the three months ended September 30, 2003. Gross interest expense decreased approximately \$3.7 million over the same periods. Long-term debt increased by approximately \$132.7 million to approximately \$1.29 billion as of September 30, 2004 as compared to approximately \$1.16 billion as of September 30, 2003. We reduced our weighted average cost of debt to 5.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2004 from 7.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Capitalized interest increased approximately \$0.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 primarily due to interest capitalized for the construction of Red Rock Station (see Future Development ).

Interest expense, net of capitalized interest, decreased 17.2% to \$58.6 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$70.8 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2003. Gross interest expense decreased approximately \$9.8 million over the same periods. Long-term debt increased by approximately \$132.7 million to approximately \$1.29 billion as of September 30, 2004 as compared to approximately \$1.22 billion as of September 30, 2003. We reduced our weighted average cost of debt to 6.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 from 7.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. Capitalized interest increased approximately \$2.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 primarily due to interest capitalized for the construction of Red Rock Station (see Future Development ).



*Interest and Other Expense from Joint Ventures.* For the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, we recorded approximately \$0.9 million and \$1.6 million, respectively in interest and other expense related to our unconsolidated joint ventures. For the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, we recorded approximately \$3.3 million and \$4.4 million, respectively in interest and other expense related to our unconsolidated joint ventures. The decrease in interest and other expense from joint ventures is primarily due to the Company's 50% share of capitalized interest recorded at Green Valley Ranch Station of approximately \$0.6 million and \$1.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively.

*Loss on Early Retirement of Debt.* During the first quarter of 2004, we refinanced substantially all of our senior and senior subordinated notes. In connection with the refinancing, we completed tender offers and consent solicitations for approximately \$940.6 million of our senior and senior subordinated notes outstanding. As a result, we recorded a loss on the early retirement of this debt of approximately \$93.3 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2004 to reflect the write-off of the unamortized loan costs, unamortized discount, call premium, tender fee and consent payments which were partially offset by the fair value of the interest rate swaps that were tied directly to the redeemed senior and senior subordinated notes (see Description of Certain Indebtedness and Capital Stock - *Senior and Senior Subordinated Notes* ).

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The following liquidity and capital resources discussion contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to our business, financial condition, results of operations, dispositions, acquisitions, expansion projects and our subsidiaries, which involve risks and uncertainties that cannot be predicted or quantified, and consequently, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied herein. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, financial market risks, the ability to maintain existing management, integration of acquisitions, competition within the gaming industry, the cyclical nature of the hotel business and gaming business, economic conditions, regulatory matters and litigation and other risks described in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, construction projects such as Red Rock Station, the Green Valley Ranch Station expansion, the Santa Fe Station expansion and the Sunset Station expansion entail significant risks, including shortages of materials or skilled labor, unforeseen regulatory problems, work stoppages, weather interference, floods and unanticipated cost increases. The anticipated costs and construction periods are based on budgets, conceptual design documents and construction schedule estimates. There can be no assurance that the budgeted costs or construction period will be met. All forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and projections about future events.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, we generated cash flows from operating activities of approximately \$169.5 million. We refinanced substantially all of our senior and senior subordinated notes, which allowed us to issue \$1.25 billion in new senior and senior subordinated notes, while redeeming approximately \$940.6 million of our existing senior and senior subordinated notes (see Description of Certain Indebtedness and Capital Stock - *Senior and Senior Subordinated Notes* ). In addition, we received approximately \$33.6 million from the exercise of stock options and \$27.1 million from proceeds from the sale of land, property and equipment. There were no amounts directly outstanding on the Revolving Facility as of September 30, 2004. At September 30, 2004, we had total available borrowings of \$488.5 million under the Revolving Facility, which reflects the issuance of various letters of credit totaling approximately \$11.5 million. We had \$53.8 million in cash and cash equivalents as of September 30, 2004, which included approximately \$5.5 million of cash in excess of the amounts required to be on hand at our properties.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, total capital expenditures were \$197.0 million, of which approximately \$52.6 million was for the accelerated replacement of slot machines to take advantage of ticket-in, ticket-out technology, approximately \$35.8 million was related to the development of Red Rock Station (see Future Development ), approximately \$18.6 million was for the purchase and enhancements of the Gold Rush and Magic Star which we acquired on August 2, 2004, approximately \$14.2 million was related



to the expansion at Santa Fe Station, approximately \$7.8 million was related to the construction of the ice skating rink at Fiesta Rancho, approximately \$3.7 million was for the bowling center at Sunset Station, approximately \$21.4 million was for maintenance capital expenditures and approximately \$42.9 million was for various other capital and project expenditures. In addition to capital expenditures, we purchased land near the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and Cactus Avenue for approximately \$31.6 million, we paid approximately \$18.4 million in reimbursable advances for our potential Native American development projects (see *Future Development*) and we paid approximately \$30.3 million in common stock dividends.

Our primary cash requirements for the remainder of 2004 are expected to include (i) approximately \$7 million for maintenance capital expenditures, (ii) approximately \$14 million for the payment of common stock dividends, (iii) approximately \$5 million for the accelerated purchase of ticket-in, ticket-out slot machines, (iv) approximately \$34 million for the development and construction of Red Rock Station (see *Future Development*), (v) approximately \$16 million for the expansion at Santa Fe Station, (vi) approximately \$11 million for the expansion at Sunset Station, (vii) approximately \$33.75 million for the purchase of the Castaways, (viii) other project capital expenses, (ix) payments related to our existing and other potential Native American projects, (x) principal and interest payments on indebtedness, (xi) other strategic land purchases throughout the Las Vegas area and (xii) opportunistic repurchases of our common stock.

We believe that cash flows from operations, borrowings under our Revolving Facility and existing cash balances will be adequate to satisfy our anticipated uses of capital during the remainder of 2004 and 2005. However, we are continually evaluating our financing needs. If more attractive financing alternatives or expansion, development or acquisition opportunities become available to us, we may amend our financing plans assuming such financing would be permitted under our existing debt agreements (see *Description of Certain Indebtedness and Capital Stock*) and other applicable agreements.

#### *Off Balance Sheet Arrangements*

As of September 30, 2004, we have certain off-balance sheet arrangements that affect our financial condition, liquidity and results of operations, which include a limited make-well agreement for \$42.8 million as of September 30, 2004, related to the financing at Green Valley Ranch Station (see *Description of Certain Indebtedness and Capital Stock - Green Valley Ranch Station Financing*), a completion guaranty related to the financing of Thunder Valley (see *Description of Certain Indebtedness and Capital Stock - United Auburn Indian Community Financing*) and interest rate swaps with a notional amount of \$250.0 million (see *Description of Certain Indebtedness and Capital Stock - Senior and Senior Subordinated Notes*). We also have certain contractual obligations including long-term debt, operating leases and employment contracts. Other than the refinancing of substantially all of our senior and senior subordinated notes referred to above, there were no material changes to our contractual obligations previously reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.

#### *Future Development*

##### *Red Rock Station*

In April 2004, we commenced construction on Red Rock Station Resort Casino and Spa in the Summerlin master-planned community in Las Vegas, Nevada, located on Charleston Boulevard at the Interstate 215/Charleston interchange. The initial phase of the property is expected to include 60 table games and 2,700 slot machines. The property is expected to also include 400 hotel rooms, 45,000 square feet of meeting space, 16 movie theaters, a 20,000 square-foot spa facility, multiple restaurants, including a buffet and a nightclub. The cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$550 million, of which approximately \$106.3 million has been spent as of September 30, 2004. We



believe the project will be completed in late 2005 or early 2006.

*Santa Fe Station Expansion*

We are currently expanding Santa Fe Station, which will add more than 20,000 square feet of additional casino space, 350 slot machines, a new 16-screen movie theater complex, an upgrade of the property's bowling center, a new entertainment venue and bar, a new Kids Quest child care facility and other amenities. The expansion project also included the removal of the ice arena. We believe that the expansion will cost approximately \$52 million, of which approximately \$14.2 million has been spent as of September 30, 2004. We believe the expansion project will be completed in the first quarter of 2005 with the exception of the movie theater complex, which will be completed in the second quarter of 2005.

*Sunset Station Expansion*

We are currently expanding Sunset Station to add a bowling center and additional casino space for 300 slot machines. The cost of the expansion is expected to be approximately \$24 million, of which approximately \$3.7 million has been spent as of September 30, 2004. We believe that the expansion will be completed in the first quarter of 2005.

*Fiesta Rancho Expansion*

We completed a 31,000 square-foot expansion project at Fiesta Rancho in September 2004, which added a new ice arena to the property, complete with concession area, pro shop, locker rooms and private special event rooms. The cost of the expansion was approximately \$8.0 million.

*Green Valley Ranch Station Expansion*

In the fourth quarter of 2003, we began a \$115 million expansion at Green Valley Ranch Station. The expansion will include 296 hotel rooms, 25,500 square feet of additional meeting space, approximately 200 slot machines and an expanded spa facility. Construction of the hotel rooms and additional meeting space is expected to be completed near the end of the fourth quarter of 2004. Construction of the spa facility is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2005. In connection with the expansion, Green Valley Ranch Station purchased the lease of the existing spa during the nine months ended September 30, 2004. Green Valley Ranch Station also purchased the lease of a restaurant at the property during the nine months ended September 30, 2004. As a result of the purchase of these leases, we have recorded a reduction in earnings from joint ventures in the nine months ended September 30, 2004 of approximately \$3.6 million, which represents our 50% share of the total loss.

*The Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria*

In April 2003, we entered into Development and Management Agreements with the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria (the FIGR), a federally recognized Native American tribe. Pursuant to those agreements, we will assist the FIGR in developing and operating a gaming and entertainment project to be located in Sonoma County, California. The FIGR selected us to assist it in designing, developing and

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financing the project and, upon opening, we will manage the facility on behalf of the FIGR. The Management Agreement has a term of seven years from the opening of the facility and we will receive a management fee equal to 22% of the facility's net income. We will also receive a development fee equal to 2% of the cost of the project upon the opening of the facility.

In August 2003, the FIGR and we entered into an option to purchase 360 acres of land just west of the Rohnert Park city limits in Sonoma County, California. The proposed site of the project is bordered by Stony Point Road, Wilfred Avenue and Rohnert Park Expressway, approximately one-half mile from Highway 101 and approximately 43 miles from downtown San Francisco. In October 2003, the FIGR entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Rohnert Park. Development of the gaming and entertainment project is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, including, but not limited to, negotiating a gaming compact with the State of California, the United States Department of the Interior ( DOI ) accepting the land into trust on behalf of the FIGR and approval of the Management Agreement by the National Indian Gaming Commission ( NIGC ). No assurances can be given as to

when, or if, the necessary government and regulatory approvals will be received. Prior to the receipt of such government and regulatory approvals, we will contribute significant credit support to the project. As of September 30, 2004, we had advanced approximately \$21.4 million toward the development of this project, primarily to perform due diligence and secure real estate for the FIGR project, which is included in other assets, net on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. Funds advanced by us are expected to be repaid with the proceeds of the project financing or from the FIGR's gaming revenues. In addition, we will make approximately \$11.3 million of payments upon achieving certain milestones, which will not be reimbursed. As of September 30, 2004, approximately \$2.0 million of these payments have been made which are expensed in development expense as incurred. We anticipate that the gaming and entertainment facility will open in 2007, but there can be no assurance that it will be completed within that timeframe or at all.

*Gun Lake Tribe*

On November 13, 2003, we agreed to purchase a 50% interest in MPM Enterprises, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company (MPM). Concurrently with our agreement to purchase that interest, MPM and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe commonly referred to as the Gun Lake Tribe (Gun Lake), entered into amended Development and Management Agreements, pursuant to which MPM will assist Gun Lake in developing and operating a gaming and entertainment project to be located in Allegan County, Michigan. We have agreed to pay \$6.0 million for our 50% interest in MPM, which is payable upon achieving certain milestones and is not reimbursable. As of September 30, 2004, approximately \$2.0 million of these payments have been made which are expensed in development expense as incurred. We may pay an additional \$12.0 million in total in years six and seven of the amended Management Agreement, subject to certain contingencies. Under the terms of the amended Development Agreement, we have agreed to arrange financing for the ongoing development costs and construction of the project. As of September 30, 2004, we had advanced approximately \$11.9 million toward the development of this project, primarily to secure real estate for the project, which is included in other assets, net on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. Although no firm construction budget has been established, we expect that the total cost of the development and construction of the project will be less than \$250 million. Funds advanced by us are expected to be repaid with the proceeds of the project financing or from Gun Lake's gaming revenues. The amended Management Agreement has a term of seven years from the opening of the facility and provides for a management fee of 30% of the project's net income to be paid to MPM. Pursuant to the terms of the MPM Operating Agreement, our portion of the management fee is 50% of the first \$24 million of management fees earned, 83% of the next \$24 million of management fees and 93% of any management fees in excess of \$48 million.

The proposed project will be located on approximately 145 acres on Highway 131 near 129<sup>th</sup> Avenue, approximately 25 miles north of Kalamazoo, Michigan. As currently contemplated, the project would include approximately 2,500 slot machines, 75 table games, a buffet and specialty restaurants. Construction of the project includes the conversion of an existing 192,000 square-foot building into the entertainment facility. Development of the gaming and entertainment project and operation of Class III gaming is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, including, but not limited to, entering into a gaming compact with the State of Michigan, the DOI accepting the land into trust on behalf of Gun Lake and approval of the Management Agreement by the NIGC. On February 27, 2004, the DOI issued a Finding Of No Significant Impact with respect to the proposed project. No assurances can be given as to when, or if, the necessary government and regulatory approvals will be received. Prior to the receipt of such governmental and regulatory approvals, we will contribute significant financial support to the project. We anticipate that the gaming and entertainment facility will be open in 2006, but there can be no assurance that it will be completed within that timeframe or at all.

*Mechoopda Indian Tribe*

In January 2004, we entered into Development and Management Agreements with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, California (the MITCR), a federally recognized Native American tribe. Pursuant to those agreements, we will assist the MITCR in developing and operating a gaming and entertainment facility to be located on approximately 650 acres in Butte County, California, at the intersection of State Route 149 and Highway 99, approximately 10 miles southeast of Chico, California



and 80 miles north of Sacramento, California. Under the terms of the Development Agreement, we have agreed to arrange the financing for the ongoing development costs and construction of the facility. Although no firm construction budget has been established, we expect the total cost of the development and construction of the facility will be less than \$80 million. Funds advanced by us are expected to be repaid from the proceeds of the facility financing or from the MITCR's gaming revenues. As of September 30, 2004, we had advanced approximately \$5.6 million toward the development of this project, primarily to secure real estate for future development, which is included in other assets, net on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. In addition, we will make approximately \$2.2 million of payments upon achieving certain milestones, which will not be reimbursed. As of September 30, 2004, \$50,000 of these payments had been made which are expensed in development expense as incurred. The Management Agreement has a term of seven years from the opening of the facility and provides for a management fee of 24% of the facility's net income. As currently contemplated, the facility will include approximately 700 slot machines, 12 table games and dining and entertainment amenities. Development of the facility is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, including, but not limited to, negotiating a gaming compact with the State of California, the DOI accepting land into trust on behalf of the MITCR and approval of the Management Agreement by the NIGC. No assurances can be given as to when, or if, the necessary governmental and regulatory approvals will be received. Prior to the receipt of such governmental or regulatory approvals, we will contribute significant financial support to the project. We anticipate that the gaming and entertainment facility will open in 2006, but there can be no assurance that it will be completed within that timeframe or at all.

*North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indian Tribe*

In March 2004, we entered into Development and Management Agreements with the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians ( Mono ), a federally recognized Native American tribe located near Fresno, California. Pursuant to those agreements, we will assist the Mono in developing and operating a gaming and entertainment facility to be located in Madera County, California. We have secured for the benefit of the Mono two parcels of land located on Highway 99 north of the city of Madera. Under the terms of the Development Agreement, we have agreed to arrange the financing for the ongoing development costs and construction of the facility. Although no firm construction budget has been established, we expect the total cost of the development and construction of the facility will be approximately \$250 million to \$300 million. Funds advanced by us are expected to be repaid from the proceeds of the project financing or from the Mono's gaming revenues. As of September 30, 2004, we had advanced approximately \$1.0 million toward the development of this project, primarily to secure real estate for future development, which is included in other assets, net on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. In addition, we will make approximately \$1.3 million of payments upon achieving certain milestones, which will not be reimbursed. As of September 30, 2004, none of these payments have been made. The Management Agreement has a term of seven years from the opening of the facility and provides for a management fee of 24% of the facility's net income. As currently contemplated, the facility will include approximately 2,000 slot machines, 60 table games and dining, hotel and entertainment amenities. Development of the gaming and entertainment project is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, including, but not limited to, negotiating a gaming compact with the State of California, the DOI accepting the land into trust on behalf of the Mono and approval of the Management Agreement by the NIGC. No assurances can be given as to when, or if, the necessary governmental and regulatory approvals will be received. Prior to the receipt of such governmental or regulatory approvals, we will contribute significant financial support to the project. We anticipate that the gaming and entertainment facility will open in 2007, but there can be no assurance that it will be completed within that timeframe or at all.

*Land Held for Development*

We have acquired certain parcels of land in the Las Vegas valley and near Sacramento, California as part of our future development activities. As of September 30, 2004, we had \$131.8 million of land held for development that consists primarily of four sites that are owned or leased, which comprise 167 acres in the Las Vegas valley and 188 acres in the Sacramento area near Thunder Valley. The Durango site, located at the intersection of Durango Road and the Southern Beltway/Interstate 215 in the southwest quadrant of Las Vegas, currently consists of 67 acres. We also own a 49-acre gaming-entitled parcel in



southwest Las Vegas at the intersection of Flamingo Road and Interstate 215. During the three months ended September 30, 2004, we purchased approximately 51 acres of land in a gaming enterprise district on the southern end of Las Vegas Boulevard at Cactus Avenue for approximately \$31.6 million.

In April 2004, we sold a 27-acre parcel of land, after removing the gaming entitlements, located at the intersection of Boulder Highway and Nellis Boulevard for net proceeds of approximately \$10.5 million. In July 2004, we sold a 68-acre parcel of land, after removing the gaming entitlements, located at the intersection of Boulder Highway and Tropicana Avenue in eastern Las Vegas for net proceeds of approximately \$15.2 million. As a result of the sale of these parcels of land, we recorded a loss of approximately \$2.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2004.

On October 1, 2004, we purchased approximately 26 acres of real property and improvements formerly known as the Castaways Hotel Casino and Bowling Center (the "Castaways") in Las Vegas, Nevada, for \$33.75 million. The Castaways closed on January 26, 2004, shortly after its former owners filed for bankruptcy. We are currently evaluating the potential uses of the property, but do not believe it is competitive in its current state.

We have acquired approximately 27 acres of land adjacent to Wild Wild West. In addition, we exercised our option to purchase the 19-acre parcel of leased land on which Wild Wild West is located. Pursuant to the lease, the purchase will occur in July 2005 at a purchase price equal to the fair market value of the land, but in no event less than \$27 million or more than approximately \$36 million. No amounts related to this purchase option have been recorded on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. We currently lease this land for approximately \$2.9 million per year.

Our decision whether to proceed with any new gaming or development opportunity is dependent upon future economic and regulatory factors, the availability of financing and competitive and strategic considerations. As many of these considerations are beyond our control, no assurances can be made that we will be able to secure additional, acceptable financing in order to proceed with any particular project.

## Regulation and Taxes

We are subject to extensive regulation by the Nevada gaming authorities and will be subject to regulation, which may or may not be similar to that in Nevada, by any other jurisdiction in which we may conduct gaming activities in the future, including the NIGC and tribal gaming agency of the UAIC. In June 2004, the UAIC successfully negotiated a new Tribal-State Gaming Compact ("Amended Compact") with the State of California which has received approval by the DOI. The Amended Compact allows an unlimited number of slot machines at Thunder Valley and extends the term an additional 18 years to 2037. The Amended Compact also includes a revenue sharing agreement with the State of California. The UAIC will pay approximately \$33.8 million annually to the State of California commencing in January 2005 and additional fees for any slot machines added above the 1,906 that were originally in operation at Thunder Valley prior to the Amended Compact. Thunder Valley has added approximately 800 slot machines.

The gaming industry represents a significant source of tax revenue, particularly to the State of Nevada and its counties and municipalities. From time to time, various state and federal legislators and officials have proposed changes in tax law, or in the administration of such law, affecting the gaming industry. In 2003, the Nevada legislature enacted various tax increases, which raised the tax on gross gaming



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revenue from 6.25% to 6.75%. In addition, a payroll tax was enacted as well as increases in the taxes on alcohol and cigarettes. The various taxes went into effect at various points throughout the second half of 2003.

We believe that our recorded tax balances are adequate. However, it is not possible to determine with certainty the likelihood of possible changes in tax law or in the administration of such law, regulations or Compact provisions. Such changes, if adopted, could have a material adverse effect on our operating results. We recently settled and finalized the Internal Revenue Service audits up through and including the years ended December 31, 2002.

*Cash Transaction Reporting Violations*

In April 2003, we became aware of violations of certain gaming regulations regarding the reporting of certain cash transactions at three of our properties. We self-reported these administrative violations to the Nevada State Gaming Control Board. We, along with the Nevada State Gaming Control Board, have investigated the violations. On September 15, 2004, we entered into a settlement agreement with the Nevada Gaming Control Board with respect to these violations, pursuant to which we agreed to pay approximately \$2.4 million in fines and investigative costs to the State of Nevada. On September 24, 2004, the Nevada Gaming Commission approved the settlement agreement. We have hired additional staff at each of our properties and have increased the level of internal audit review to prevent this type of violation in the future.

**Description of Certain Indebtedness and Capital Stock**

*Revolving Facility*

In March 2004, we increased the availability under our revolving credit facility (the *Revolving Facility*) from \$365.0 million to \$500.0 million. The *Revolving Facility* contains no principal amortization and matures in September 2007. The Borrowers are the major operating subsidiaries and the *Revolving Facility* is secured by substantially all of the Company's assets. Borrowings under the *Revolving Facility* bear interest at a margin above the Alternate Base Rate or the Eurodollar Rate (each, as defined in the *Revolving Facility*), as selected by us. The margin above such rates, and the fee on the unfunded portions of the *Revolving Facility*, will vary quarterly based on our combined consolidated ratio of debt to Adjusted EBITDA (each, as defined in the *Revolving Facility*). As of September 30, 2004, the Borrowers' margin above the Eurodollar Rate on borrowings under the *Revolving Facility* was 1.75%. The maximum margin for Eurodollar Rate borrowings is 2.50%. The maximum margin for Alternate Base Rate borrowings is 1.25%. As of September 30, 2004, the fee for the unfunded portion of the *Revolving Facility* was 0.375%.

The *Revolving Facility* contains certain financial and other covenants. These include a maximum funded senior debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio for the Borrowers combined of 2.25 to 1.00 for each quarter and a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio for the preceding four quarters for the Borrowers combined of 1.50 to 1.00 for each quarter. As of September 30, 2004, the Borrowers' funded debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio was 0.04 to 1.00 and the fixed charge coverage ratio was 3.22 to 1.00. In addition, the *Revolving Facility* has financial and other covenants, which state that the maximum consolidated funded debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio can be no more than 5.00 to 1.00 through June 30, 2005, which reduces to 4.75 to 1.00 on September 30, 2005 through December 31, 2005, to 4.50 to 1.00 on March 31, 2006 through June 30, 2006 and to 4.00 to 1.00 on September 30, 2006. As of September 30, 2004, our consolidated funded debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio was 3.6 to 1.0. Other covenants limit prepayments of indebtedness or rent (including subordinated debt other than re-financings meeting certain criteria), limitations on asset dispositions, limitations on dividends, limitations on indebtedness, limitations on investments and limitations on capital expenditures. We have pledged the stock of all of our major subsidiaries.

*Senior and Senior Subordinated Notes*

During the first quarter of 2004, we refinanced substantially all of our senior and senior subordinated notes. We issued \$1.25 billion in new senior and senior subordinated notes which consists of \$450.0 million 6% senior notes due in April 2012, \$450.0 million 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>% senior subordinated notes due in February 2014 and \$350.0 million 6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% senior subordinated notes due in March 2016. The proceeds from these offerings were used to redeem or repurchase the \$199.9 million 8<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% senior subordinated notes due in December 2008, to repurchase \$357.6 million of the 9<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% senior subordinated notes due in July 2010, to repurchase \$383.1 million of the 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% senior notes due in February 2008 and to reduce amounts outstanding under the *Revolving Facility*. As a result of these redemptions, we recorded a loss on early retirement of debt of

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approximately \$93.3 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2004 to reflect the write-off of the unamortized loan costs, unamortized discount, call premium, tender fee and consent payments which were partially offset by the fair value of the interest rate swaps that were tied directly to the redeemed senior and senior subordinated notes.

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The indentures (the "Indentures") governing our senior and senior subordinated notes (the "Notes") contain certain customary financial and other covenants, which limit us and our subsidiaries' ability to incur additional debt. At September 30, 2004, our Consolidated Coverage Ratio (as defined in the Indentures) was 3.71 to 1.00. The Indentures provide that we may not incur additional indebtedness, other than specified types of indebtedness, unless the Consolidated Coverage Ratio is at least 2.00 to 1.00. In the event that our Consolidated Coverage Ratio is below 2.00 to 1.00, the covenant limits our ability to incur additional indebtedness for borrowings under the Revolving Facility not to exceed the greater of \$200 million or 1.5 times Operating Cash Flow (as defined) for the four most recent quarters, plus \$15 million. The Indentures also give the holders of the Notes the right to require us to purchase the Notes at 101% of the principal amount of the Notes plus accrued interest thereon upon a Change of Control and Rating Decline (each as defined in the Indentures) of the Company. In addition, the indenture governing the senior notes also contains a limitation on liens that we can incur.

We have entered into various interest rate swaps with members of our bank group to manage interest expense. As of September 30, 2004, we have interest rate swaps with a combined notional amount of \$250.0 million that are tied directly to our 6 1/2% senior subordinated notes and our 6% senior notes. The interest rate swaps convert a portion of our fixed-rate debt to a floating-rate based upon three and six-month LIBOR rates. At September 30, 2004, we pay a weighted average rate based on LIBOR, which approximates 3.62% and receive a weighted average rate of 6.33%. The interest rate swaps terminate in April 2012 and February 2014. The net effect of the interest rate swaps resulted in a reduction in interest expense of \$1.8 million and \$0.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The net effect of the interest rate swaps resulted in a reduction in interest expense of \$5.7 million and \$2.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

The interest rate swaps that we entered into qualify for the "shortcut" method allowed under SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities", which allows for an assumption of no ineffectiveness. As such, there is no income statement impact from changes in the fair value of the hedging instruments. Instead, the fair value of the instrument is recorded as an asset or liability on our balance sheet with an offsetting adjustment to the carrying value of the related debt. In accordance with SFAS No. 133, we recorded a liability of \$1.2 million and an asset of \$3.9 million as of September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003, respectively, representing the fair value of the interest rate swaps and a corresponding decrease and increase in long-term debt, respectively, as these interest rate swaps are considered highly effective under the criteria established by SFAS No. 133.

In March 2004, we terminated an interest rate swap with a notional amount of \$50.0 million, which was due to terminate in 2008. The interest rate swap was terminated at its market value and, as a result, we received approximately \$3.6 million, which is included in the calculation of the net loss on the early retirement of debt as the interest rate swap was tied directly to the redemption of the \$400.0 million 8 3/8% senior notes.

In December 2002, we terminated an interest rate swap with a notional amount of \$100 million, which was due to terminate in 2010. The interest rate swap was terminated at its market value and, as a result, we received approximately \$9.5 million. This interest rate swap was tied directly to our \$375 million 9 7/8% senior subordinated notes. Approximately \$357.6 million of the 9 7/8% senior subordinated notes were redeemed in the first quarter of 2004 and, as a result, approximately \$7.6 million of the remaining value of this fair value hedge termination was included in the calculation of the net loss on the early retirement of debt.

### *Green Valley Ranch Station Financing*

Green Valley Ranch Station is owned by a 50/50 joint venture between us and GCR Gaming. In December 2003, Green Valley Ranch Station entered into a \$250.0 million Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, the proceeds of which were used to pay off secured equipment and other financing and to fund the ongoing expansion of the facility. Green Valley Ranch Station has entered into an agreement to swap the majority of its floating-rate debt into fixed-rate debt that will approximate 7.0% during the term of the loan. The loan requires a limited

make-well of \$42.8 million, if necessary (based on operating results of the property). Pursuant to the make-well agreement, if Green Valley Ranch Station fails to comply with

the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio or the Leverage Ratio (both as defined in the Green Valley Ranch Station credit agreement), the partners will be required to make cash equity contributions in such amounts as required, which will result in pro forma compliance with the covenants. The make-well is a joint and several obligation of each partner, with GCR Gaming's obligation collateralized. The make-well agreement will terminate upon achieving a post-expansion debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio (as defined in the credit agreement) of less than or equal to 3.00 to 1.00 and producing Adjusted EBITDA before management fees for four consecutive quarters of at least \$42.0 million after the completion of the expansion discussed above. As of September 30, 2004, the debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio was 2.14 to 1.00. The outstanding balance of the Green Valley Ranch Station revolving credit facility as of September 30, 2004, was approximately \$173.9 million.

Green Valley Ranch Station has entered into interest rate swaps that have converted a portion of its floating-rate debt into fixed-rate debt and are matched to a portion of its revolving facility. At September 30, 2004, the combined notional amount of the interest rate swaps was \$149.5 million. As of September 30, 2004, Green Valley Ranch Station was paying a weighted average fixed-rate of 4.27% on the interest rate swaps and was receiving a weighted average floating-rate based on three-month LIBOR of 1.77%. These interest rate swaps were priced to have no value at inception. As a result of the mark-to-market valuation of the interest rate swaps, we recorded approximately \$1.1 million and \$1.3 million as of September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003, respectively, for our share of the Green Valley Ranch Station interest rate swaps in accumulated other comprehensive loss in our condensed consolidated balance sheets.

#### *United Auburn Indian Community Financing*

We have entered into a Development Services Agreement and a Management Agreement with the UAIC. Our seven-year Management Agreement was approved by the NIGC and expires in June 2010. Pursuant to those agreements, and in compliance with a Memorandum of Understanding entered into by the UAIC and Placer County, California, we developed, with the UAIC, Thunder Valley, a gaming and entertainment facility on approximately 49 acres located approximately seven miles north of Interstate 80, in Placer County, California, near Sacramento, which opened on June 9, 2003. Thunder Valley currently has 2,700 Class III slot machines, 98 table games, including a private VIP gaming area, three specialty restaurants, a 500-seat buffet, a food court, a center pit bar and parking for over 4,500 vehicles. In June 2004, the UAIC successfully negotiated a new Tribal-State Gaming Compact ( Amended Compact ) with the State of California which has received approval by the DOI. The Amended Compact allows an unlimited number of slot machines at Thunder Valley and extends the term an additional 18 years to 2037. The Amended Compact also includes a revenue sharing agreement with the State of California. The UAIC will pay approximately \$33.8 million annually to the State of California commencing in January 2005 and additional fees for any slot machines added above the 1,906 machines that were in operation at Thunder Valley prior to the Amended Compact.

On September 17, 2002, the DOI accepted the land into trust on behalf of the UAIC. The acceptance of the land into trust followed the decision of the United States District Court for the District of Washington, D.C., dismissing a lawsuit filed by the cities of Roseville and Rocklin, California, and Citizens for Safer Communities, which challenged the DOI's decision to accept the land into trust. Immediately following the District Court's decision, the plaintiffs appealed the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. On November 14, 2003, the Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal of the lawsuit by the District Court. On February 15, 2004, Citizens for Safer Communities filed a petition for writ of certiorari with the United States Supreme Court, seeking to appeal the decision of the Court of Appeals. The remaining plaintiffs did not seek to appeal that decision. On April 5, 2004, the United States Supreme Court denied Citizens for Safer Communities' petition for writ of certiorari.

We assisted the UAIC in obtaining \$215.0 million of financing for the project through a group of lenders, and we provided an unlimited completion guaranty and credit support for all amounts outstanding under such financing. Based on the operating results of Thunder Valley, our commitment to provide credit support has been terminated. We have evaluated our obligations related to the completion guaranty in accordance with FASB Interpretation No. 45, Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others and have determined that the fair value of the obligation is not material.



*Common Stock*

We are authorized to issue up to 135 million shares of our common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, 75,639,442 shares of which were issued and 10,157,135 shares of which were held in treasury as of September 30, 2004. Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held of record on each matter submitted to a vote of stockholders. Holders of our common stock have no cumulative voting, conversion, redemption or preemptive rights or other rights to subscribe for additional shares other than pursuant to the Rights Plan described below. Subject to any preferences that may be granted to the holders of our preferred stock, each holder of common stock is entitled to receive ratably, such dividends as may be declared by our Board of Directors out of funds legally available therefrom, as well as any distributions to the stockholders and, in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, is entitled to share ratably in all of our assets that remain after payment of liabilities.

On March 4, 2004, we paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.125 per share to shareholders of record on February 12, 2004 for approximately \$7.8 million. On June 4, 2004 and September 3, 2004, we paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.175 per share to shareholders of record on May 14, 2004 and August 13, 2004 for approximately \$11.1 million and \$11.4 million, respectively. On October 18, 2004, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.21 per share payable on December 3, 2004 to shareholders of record on November 12, 2004.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003, we paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.125 per share to shareholders of record on August 14, 2003 for approximately \$7.4 million

*Preferred Stock*

We are authorized to issue up to 5 million shares of our preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share of which none are issued. The Board of Directors, without further action by the holders of our common stock, may issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series and may fix or alter the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions, including the voting rights, redemption provisions (including sinking fund provisions), dividend rights, dividend rates, liquidation rates, liquidation preferences, conversion rights and the description and number of shares constituting any wholly un-issued series of preferred stock. Except as described above, our Board of Directors, without further stockholder approval, may issue shares of preferred stock with rights that could adversely affect the rights of the holders of our common stock. The issuance of shares of preferred stock under certain circumstances could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control of the Company or other corporate action.

*Treasury Stock*

During the nine months ended September 30, 2004, we repurchased 35,458 shares of our common stock for approximately \$1.6 million. As of September 30, 2004, we had acquired approximately 10.2 million shares at a cost of approximately \$136.2 million. We are authorized to repurchase up to approximately 10.4 million additional shares of our common stock as of September 30, 2004.

*Rights Plan*



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On October 6, 1997, we declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a Right ) for each outstanding share of common stock. The dividend was paid on October 21, 1997. Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from us one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share ( Preferred Shares ) at a price of \$40.00 per one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share, subject to adjustment. The Rights are not exercisable until the earlier of 10 days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons have acquired beneficial ownership of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock ( Acquiring Person ) or 10 business days (or such later date as may be determined by action of the Board of Directors prior to such time as any person or group of affiliated persons becomes an Acquiring Person) following the commencement of, or announcement of an

intention to make a tender offer or exchange offer, the consummation of which would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock.

The Rights will expire on October 21, 2007. Acquiring Persons do not have the same rights to receive common stock as other holders upon exercise of the Rights. Because of the nature of the Preferred Shares' dividend, liquidation and voting rights, the value of one one-hundredth interest in a Preferred Share purchasable upon exercise of each Right should approximate the value of one common share. In the event that any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person, the proper provisions will be made so that each holder of a Right, other than Rights beneficially owned by the Acquiring Person (which will thereafter become void), will thereafter have the right to receive upon exercise that number of shares of common stock having a market value of two times the exercise price of the Right. In the event that the Company is acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or 50% or more of our consolidated assets or earning power are sold after a person or group has become an Acquiring Person, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a Right will thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise thereof, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company, which at the time of such transaction will have a market value of two times the exercise price of the Right. Because of the characteristics of the Rights in connection with a person or group of affiliated or associated persons becoming an Acquiring Person, the Rights may have the effect of making an acquisition of the Company more difficult and may discourage such an acquisition.

## **Critical Accounting Policies**

### *Significant Accounting Policies and Estimates*

We prepare our condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Certain of our accounting policies, including the determination of bad debt reserves, the estimated useful lives assigned to our assets, asset impairment, insurance reserves, purchase price allocations made in connection with our acquisitions and the calculation of our income tax assets and liabilities, require that we apply significant judgment in defining the appropriate assumptions for calculating financial estimates. By their nature, these judgments are subject to an inherent degree of uncertainty. Our judgments are based on our historical experience, terms of existing contracts, observance of trends in the gaming industry and information available from other outside sources. There can be no assurance that actual results will not differ from our estimates. To provide an understanding of the methodology we apply, our significant accounting policies and basis of presentation are discussed below, as well as where appropriate in this discussion and analysis and in the notes to our condensed consolidated financial statements.

### *Promotional Allowances*

We recognize as casino revenues the net win from gaming activities, which is the difference between gaming wins and losses. All other revenues are recognized as the service is provided. Revenues include the retail value of food, beverage, rooms, entertainment and merchandise provided on a complimentary basis to customers. Such amounts are then deducted from revenues as promotional allowances on our condensed consolidated statements of operations. The estimated departmental costs of providing such promotional allowances are included in casino costs and expenses.

### *Slot Club Programs*

Our Boarding Pass and Amigo Club player rewards programs (the Programs ) allow customers to redeem points earned from their gaming activity at all Station and Fiesta properties for complimentary food, beverage, rooms, entertainment and merchandise. At the time redeemed, the retail value of complimentary items under the Programs are recorded as revenue with a corresponding offsetting amount included in promotional allowances. The cost associated with complimentary food, beverage, rooms, entertainment and merchandise redeemed under the Programs is recorded in casino costs and expenses. We also record a liability for the estimated cost of the outstanding points under the Programs.

*Self-Insurance Reserves*

We are self insured up to certain stop loss amounts for workers' compensation, major medical and general liability costs. Insurance claims and reserves include accruals of estimated settlements for known claims, as well as accruals of estimates for claims incurred but not reported. In estimating these accruals, we consider historical loss experience and make judgments about the expected levels of costs per claim. We believe our estimates of future liability are reasonable based upon our methodology; however, changes in health care costs, accident frequency and severity and other factors could materially affect the estimate for these liabilities.

*Guarantee Obligations*

In November 2002, the FASB issued FIN 45, *Guarantors' Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others*. FIN 45 requires that future guarantee obligations be recognized as liabilities at inception of the guarantee contract and increases the disclosures required for current and future guarantee obligations. We adopted the initial recognition provisions of FIN 45 beginning January 1, 2003 and have included the disclosures required in the accompanying notes to our condensed consolidated financial statements. The adoption of FIN 45 did not have a significant impact on our results of operations or financial position.

*Derivative Instruments*

We enter into interest rate swaps from time to time in order to manage interest rate risks associated with our current and anticipated future borrowings. The interest rate swaps that we have entered into qualify for the "shortcut" method allowed under SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, which allows for an assumption of no ineffectiveness. As such, there is no income statement impact from changes in the fair value of the hedging instruments. Instead, the fair value of the instrument is recorded as an asset or liability on our balance sheet with an offsetting adjustment to the carrying value of the related debt.

*Property and Equipment*

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets or the terms of the capitalized lease, whichever is less. Costs of major improvements are capitalized, while costs of normal repairs and maintenance are charged to expense as incurred.

We evaluate our property and equipment and other long-lived assets for impairment in accordance with SFAS No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*. For assets to be disposed of, we recognize the asset to be sold at the lower of carrying value or fair market value less costs of disposal. Fair market value for assets to be disposed of is generally estimated based on comparable asset sales, solicited offers or a discounted cash flow model. For assets to be held and used, we review fixed assets for impairment whenever indicators of impairment exist. If an indicator of impairment exists, we compare the estimated future cash flows of the asset, on an undiscounted basis, to the carrying value of the asset. If the undiscounted cash flows exceed the carrying value, no impairment is indicated. If the undiscounted cash flows do not exceed the carrying value, then impairment is measured based on fair value compared to carrying value, with fair value typically based on a discounted cash flow model. Our condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments required by SFAS No. 144 as of September 30, 2004.

*Goodwill and Other Intangibles*

The FASB issued SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, in June 2001. SFAS No. 142 changed the accounting for goodwill from an amortization method to an impairment-only approach. Amortization of goodwill, including goodwill recorded in past business combinations, ceased upon the adoption of SFAS No. 142. We implemented SFAS No. 142 on January 1, 2002 and tested for impairment in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 142 in the first quarter of 2002 and annually

perform such test. In order to test for impairment of goodwill, we use the Income Approach, which focuses on the income-producing capability of the respective property. The underlying premise of this approach is that the value of an asset can be measured by the present worth of the net economic benefit (cash receipts less cash outlays) to be received over the life of the subject asset. The steps followed in applying this approach include estimating the expected after-tax cash flows attributable to the respective property and converting these after-tax cash flows to present value through discounting. The discounting process uses a rate of return, which accounts for both the time value of money and investment risk factors. The present value of the after-tax cash flows is then totaled to arrive at an indication of the fair value of the goodwill. If the fair value of the goodwill exceeds the carrying value, then impairment is measured based on the difference between the calculated fair value and the carrying value. Our condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments required by SFAS No. 142 as of September 30, 2004.

#### *Capitalization of Interest*

We capitalize interest costs associated with debt incurred in connection with major construction projects. Interest capitalization ceases once the project is substantially complete or no longer undergoing construction activities to prepare it for its intended use. When no debt is specifically identified as being incurred in connection with such construction projects, we capitalize interest on amounts expended on the project at our weighted average cost of borrowed money.

#### *Income Taxes*

We are subject to income taxes in the United States of America and file a consolidated federal income tax return. We account for income taxes according to SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*. SFAS No. 109 requires the recognition of deferred tax assets, net of applicable reserves, related to net operating loss carryforwards and certain temporary differences. A valuation allowance is recognized if, based on the weight of available evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax asset will not be recognized.

Our income tax returns are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities. We regularly assess the potential outcomes of these examinations in determining the adequacy of our provision for income taxes and our income tax liabilities. Inherent in our determination of any necessary reserves are assumptions based on past experiences and judgments about potential actions by taxing authorities. Our estimate of the potential outcome for any uncertain tax issue is highly judgmental. We believe that we have adequately provided for any reasonable and foreseeable outcome related to uncertain tax matters.

#### *Recently Issued Accounting Standards*

In April 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 149, *Amendment to Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. SFAS No. 149 amends and clarifies accounting for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts, and for hedging activities under SFAS No. 133. SFAS No. 149 is applied prospectively and is effective for contracts entered into or modified after June 30, 2003, except for SFAS No. 133 implementation issues that have been effective for fiscal quarters that began prior to June 15, 2003 and certain provisions relating to forward purchases and sales on securities that do not yet exist. We have determined that SFAS No. 149 will not have a significant impact on our results of operations or financial position.

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In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 150, Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments With Characteristics of Both Liabilities and Equity . SFAS No. 150 establishes standards for how an issuer classifies and measures certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. It requires that an issuer classify a financial instrument that is within its scope as a liability (or an asset in some circumstances). SFAS No. 150 is effective for financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise is effective at the beginning of the first interim period beginning after June 15, 2003. On October 29, 2003, the FASB voted to defer for an indefinite period the application of the guidance in SFAS No. 150 to non-controlling interests that are classified as equity in the financial statements of the subsidiary but would be classified as a liability in the parent's financial statements under SFAS No. 150. The FASB decided to defer the application of FASB No. 150 to these non-controlling

interests until it could consider some of the resulting implementation issues associated with the measurement and recognition guidance for these non-controlling interests. We currently have no instruments impacted by the adoption of this statement and therefore the adoption did not have a significant impact on our results of operations or financial position.

### Forward-looking Statements

When used in this report and elsewhere by management from time to time, the words believes, anticipates and expects and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements with respect to our financial condition, results of operations and our business including our expansion, development and acquisition projects, legal proceedings and employee matters. Certain important factors, including but not limited to, competition from other gaming operations, factors affecting our ability to complete acquisitions and dispositions of gaming properties, leverage, construction risks, the inherent uncertainty and costs associated with litigation and governmental and regulatory investigations, and licensing and other regulatory risks, could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Further information on potential factors which could affect our financial condition, results of operations and business including, without limitation, the expansion, development and acquisition projects, legal proceedings and employee matters are included in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date thereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly release any revisions to such forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof.

### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices, such as interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates and commodity prices. Our primary exposure to market risk is interest rate risk associated with our long-term debt. We attempt to limit our exposure to interest rate risk by managing the mix of our long-term fixed-rate borrowings and short-term borrowings under the Revolving Facility. Borrowings under the Revolving Facility bear interest at a margin above the Alternate Base Rate or the Eurodollar Rate (each, as defined in the Revolving Facility) as selected by us. However, the amount of outstanding borrowings is expected to fluctuate and may increase from time to time. The Revolving Facility matures in September 2007.

The following table provides information about our long-term debt at September 30, 2004 (see also Description of Certain Indebtedness and Capital Stock ) (amounts in thousands):

|   | Maturity date  | Face amount | Carrying value | Estimated fair value |
|---|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Revolving Facility  | September 2007 | \$ 500,000  | \$             | \$                   |
| 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % senior notes              | February 2008  | 16,894      | 16,894         | 18,161               |
| 6% senior notes   | April 2012     | 450,000     | 448,309        | 459,000              |
| 9 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> % senior subordinated notes | July 2010      | 17,378      | 17,331         | 18,247               |
| 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> % senior subordinated notes | February 2014  | 450,000     | 450,000        | 459,000              |



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|                                     |            |    |           |    |           |    |           |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| 6 7/8% senior subordinated notes    | March 2016 |    | 350,000   |    | 350,000   |    | 357,000   |
| Other debt, interest at 6.0%        | 2004-2007  |    | 6,103     |    | 6,065     |    | 6,065     |
| Market value of interest rate swaps | 2012-2014  |    | (817)     |    | (817)     |    | (817)     |
| Total                               |            | \$ | 1,789,558 | \$ | 1,287,782 | \$ | 1,316,656 |

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We are also exposed to market risk in the form of fluctuations in interest rates and their potential impact upon our debt. This market risk is managed by utilizing derivative financial instruments in accordance with established policies and procedures. We evaluate our exposure to market risk by monitoring interest rates in the marketplace, and do not utilize derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. Our derivative financial instruments consist exclusively of interest rate swap agreements. Interest differentials resulting from these agreements are recorded on an accrual basis as an adjustment to interest expense. Interest rate swaps related to debt are matched with specific fixed-rate debt obligations.

The following table provides information about our financial instruments that are sensitive to changes in interest rates (amounts in thousands):

|   | As of September 30, |       |      |       |      |       |      |        |      |  |            |           |       |           |
|---|---------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|------|--|------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
|   | 2004                |       | 2005 |       | 2006 |       | 2007 |        | 2008 |  | Thereafter |           | Total |           |
| Long-term debt (including current portion): |                     |       |      |       |      |       |      |        |      |  |            |           |       |           |
| Fixed-rate                                  | \$                  |       | \$   | 5,335 | \$   |       | \$   | 16,894 | \$   |  | \$         | 1,265,640 | \$    | 1,287,869 |
| Weighted average interest rate              |                     |       |      | 6.00% |      |       |      | 8.38%  |      |  |            | 6.50%     |       | 6.52%     |
| Variable-rate                               | \$                  | 23    | \$   | 24    | \$   | 264   | \$   | 419    | \$   |  | \$         |           | \$    | 730       |
| Weighted average interest rate              |                     | 6.00% |      | 6.00% |      | 6.00% |      | 6.00%  |      |  |            |           |       | 6.00%     |
| Interest rate swaps:                        |                     |       |      |       |      |       |      |        |      |  |            |           |       |           |
| Notional amount                             | \$                  |       | \$   |       | \$   |       | \$   |        | \$   |  | \$         | 250,000   | \$    | 250,000   |
| Average payable rate                        |                     |       |      |       |      |       |      |        |      |  |            | 3.62%     |       | 3.62%     |
| Average receivable rate                     |                     |       |      |       |      |       |      |        |      |  |            | 6.33%     |       | 6.33%     |

**Item 4. Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company conducted an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act)). Based on this evaluation, the principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms. There has been no significant change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the Company's most recently completed fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**Part II - OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk**

The Company and its subsidiaries are defendants in various lawsuits relating to routine matters incidental to their business. As with all litigation, no assurance can be provided as to the outcome of the following matters and litigation inherently involves significant costs. Following is a summary of key litigation impacting the Company and its subsidiaries.

*Poulos/Ahearn Litigation*

On April 26, 1994, a suit seeking status as a class action lawsuit was filed by plaintiff, William H. Poulos, et al., as class representative, in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida (the Florida District Court ), naming 41 manufacturers, distributors and casino operators of video poker and electronic slot machines, including Station Casinos. On May 10, 1994, a lawsuit alleging substantially identical claims was filed by another plaintiff, William Ahearn, et al., as class representative, in the Florida

District Court against 48 manufacturers, distributors and casino operators of video poker and electronic slot machines, including the Company and most of the other major hotel/casino companies. The lawsuits allege that the defendants have engaged in a course of fraudulent and misleading conduct intended to induce persons to play such games based on a false belief concerning how the gaming machines operate, as well as the extent to which there is an opportunity to win. The two lawsuits have been consolidated into a single action, and have been transferred to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada (the Nevada District Court). On September 26, 1995, a lawsuit alleging substantially identical claims was filed by plaintiff, Larry Schreier, et al., as class representative, in the Nevada District Court, naming 45 manufacturers, distributors, and casino operators of video poker and electronic slot machines, including the Company. Motions to dismiss the Poulos/Ahearn and Schreier cases were filed by defendants. On April 17, 1996, the Poulos/Ahearn lawsuits were dismissed, but plaintiffs were given leave to file Amended Complaints on or before May 31, 1996. On May 31, 1996, an Amended Complaint was filed, naming William H. Poulos, et al., as plaintiff. Defendants filed a motion to dismiss. On August 15, 1996, the Schreier lawsuit was dismissed with leave to amend. On September 27, 1996, Schreier filed an Amended Complaint. Defendants filed motions to dismiss the Amended Complaint. In December 1996, the Nevada District Court consolidated the Poulos/Ahearn, the Schreier, and a third case not involving the Company and ordered all pending motions be deemed withdrawn without prejudice, including Defendants' Motions to Dismiss the Amended Complaints. The plaintiffs filed a Consolidated Amended Complaint on February 13, 1997. On or about December 19, 1997, the Nevada District Court issued formal opinions granting in part and denying in part the defendants' motion to dismiss. In so doing, the Nevada District Court ordered plaintiffs to file an amended complaint in accordance with the Court's orders in January of 1998. Accordingly, plaintiffs amended their complaint and filed it with the Nevada District Court in February 1998. The Company and all other defendants continue to deny the allegations contained in the amended complaint filed on behalf of plaintiffs. The plaintiffs are seeking compensatory, special, consequential, incidental, and punitive damages in unspecified amounts.

On June 25, 2002, the Nevada District Court denied plaintiffs' motion for class certification. On July 11, 2002, plaintiffs filed a petition for permission to appeal such class certification ruling with the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. On August 15, 2002, the Ninth Circuit granted the plaintiffs' petition for permission to appeal such class certification ruling. On January 15, 2004, the Court of Appeals heard oral argument on this matter. On August 10, 2004, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court's order denying the plaintiff's motion for class certification. Accordingly, the matter is scheduled to move forward on behalf of the three named plaintiffs only. While no assurances can be made with respect to any litigation, the Company believes that the plaintiffs' claims are without merit and does not expect that the lawsuits will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

#### *Harrah's Litigation*

On July 13, 2001, the Company and five of its major operating subsidiaries were named as defendants in a lawsuit brought by Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. and Harrah's Operating Company, Inc. in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada (CV-S-01-0825-PMP-RJJ). The plaintiffs allege that the Company and its subsidiaries are liable for unspecified actual and punitive damages, and they seek injunctive and other relief, based on allegations that the Company's Boarding Pass Rewards Program infringes on various patents held by the plaintiffs.

On October 4, 2001, the Company and the subsidiaries filed their answer and counterclaim seeking declaratory judgment that Harrah's patents (1) are not infringed by the Company's and the subsidiaries' actions, (2) are invalid under federal patent law and (3) are rendered unenforceable due to Harrah's inequitable conduct. On March 27, 2002, Harrah's filed an amended complaint, which added an additional defendant, Green Valley Ranch Gaming, LLC, which is an affiliate of the Company. On April 22, 2002, the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliate filed their amended answer and counterclaim denying infringement by Green Valley Ranch Gaming, LLC, and alleging Harrah's committed further acts of inequitable conduct.

On January 17, 2003, the Company filed motions for summary judgment or partial summary judgment on several issues: (1) a Motion for Summary Judgment of Patent Unenforceability Due To Inequitable Conduct, (2) a Motion for Summary Judgment of Patent Invalidity Under 35 U.S.C. ss 102 and



103 (lack of novelty and obviousness), (3) a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment of Patent Invalidity Under 35 U.S.C. s 112 (indefiniteness, lack of written description and failure to disclose best mode), (4) a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment of Non-Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,013, and (5) a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment of Non-Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,183,362. That same day, Harrah's filed motions for partial summary judgment on several issues: (1) a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment of Infringement of Claims 15-18 of U.S. Patent No. 5,761,647, (2) a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment of Infringement of Claims 1-2 and 49 of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,013, (3) a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Defendants' Invalidity Defenses, and (4) a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment That Certain Third Party Systems Are Not Prior Art. During February and March of 2003, the parties filed oppositions, reply briefs and various motions to strike in response to the summary judgment motions.

On March 23, 2004, the District Court heard oral argument on certain of the summary judgment motions and motions to strike. On May 19, 2004, the District Court granted the Company's motion for summary judgment on Harrah's claims that the Company had infringed upon U.S. Patents Nos. 5,761,647 and 6,183,362, held by Harrah's relating to its customer rewards and tracking program. In granting that motion, the District Court ruled that such patents are invalid as a matter of law due to indefiniteness and lack of enabling disclosure of the claimed subject matter. A substantial portion of the patent infringement claim brought by Harrah's regarding U.S. Patent No. 6,003,013 (the '013 Patent') was also dismissed as a result of that summary judgment ruling. On August 23, 2004, the District Court entered final judgment and declared invalid all claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,761,647 and 6,183,362, and all but three claims of the '013 Patent. The final judgment also dismissed with prejudice all claims of the '013 Patent that were not declared invalid, and dismissed without prejudice the Company's counterclaims for declaratory judgment of noninfringement and invalidity.

On September 13, 2004, Harrah's filed a Notice of Appeal with the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. On October 14, 2004, the Company filed a Notice of Cross Appeal with the same Court of Appeals. While no assurances can be made with respect to any litigation, the Company believes that the plaintiffs' claims are without merit and does not expect that the lawsuit will have a material adverse effect on its financial position or results of operations.

#### *Plattner Litigation*

On May 2, 2003, the Company and one of its operating subsidiaries, Palace Station Hotel & Casino, Inc. (Palace Station), were named as defendants in a lawsuit seeking status as a class action brought by Dov Plattner in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, California (Case No. CB295056).

The lawsuit seeks to recover for alleged breach of contract, fraud, negligent misrepresentation, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing, promissory fraud, unjust enrichment and violations of sections 17200 and 17500, et. seq. of the California Business and Professions Code, all in connection with energy and telephone surcharge fees imposed on Palace Station hotel guests. The plaintiff is requesting unspecified actual and punitive damages, as well as injunctive and other relief.

On November 10, 2003, the defendants filed a response to the complaint denying all liability. On June 18, 2004, the parties entered into a Settlement Agreement and Release (the Proposed Settlement). Pursuant to the Proposed Settlement and subject to Superior Court approval, the parties have agreed that the Company will (i) issue two personalized coupons to each Settlement Class Member (as defined in the Proposed Settlement), one for \$3.00 and one for \$2.50, with each coupon to be good toward a discount of a quoted room rate for a single night's stay at any of the Station Hotels (as defined in the Proposed Settlement), and (ii) pay the plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses in exchange for the plaintiff dismissing the lawsuit (including all claims held by the members of the settlement class and the general public) with prejudice. The Proposed Settlement stipulates that the Company denies any liability with respect to the plaintiff's claims. On October 22, 2004, the Superior Court approved the Proposed Settlement and dismissed the lawsuit with prejudice, except for the claims of eight class members that opted out of the settlement class.



*Castillo Litigation*

On May 14, 2003, the Company (as a nominal defendant only) and all of its executive officers and directors were named as defendants in a derivative action lawsuit, which also seeks status as a class action, brought by Bernard Castillo in the District Court of Clark County, Nevada (Case No. A467663).

The lawsuit alleges that (1) the director defendants breached their fiduciary duties by failing to make certain disclosures in the Company's 2002 Proxy Statement regarding the sale by the Company of its subsidiary, Southwest Gaming Services, Inc. (SGSI), and regarding a proposal seeking shareholder approval of an amendment to the Company's stock option plan; (2) the director defendants breached their fiduciary duties in approving the sale of SGSI and in recommending approval of the option plan amendment; and (3) the purchasers of SGSI and the recipients of certain benefits made possible by the option plan amendment were unjustly enriched. The plaintiff is requesting unspecified actual damages, as well as injunctive and other relief.

On July 21, 2003, the defendants filed a motion to dismiss or, in the alternative, motion to stay all of the plaintiff's claims. On October 24, 2003, the District Court granted the motion to stay all of plaintiff's claims pending the consideration of such claims by a special litigation committee to be formed by the Company in accordance with the Court's order granting such motion. On November 19, 2003, the defendants filed their first amended answer to the complaint. On February 27, 2004, the District Court entered another order extending the stay for another 120 days pending the special litigation committee investigation.

On July 9, 2004, the parties entered into a Stipulation of Settlement (the Proposed Settlement). Pursuant to the Proposed Settlement and subject to District Court approval, the parties have agreed that the Company will (i) adopt new language in its Corporate Governance Guidelines, which specifically relates to interested director transactions, and (ii) pay the plaintiff's attorneys' fees and expenses in exchange for the plaintiff dismissing the lawsuit (including all claims held by the Company and the members of the certified class), with prejudice. The Proposed Settlement stipulates that the Company denies any liability with respect to the plaintiff's claims. On September 13, 2004, the District Court approved the Proposed Settlement and dismissed the lawsuit with prejudice.

**Item 2. Changes in Securities and Use of Proceeds - None.**



**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities - None.**

**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders - None.**

**Item 5. Other Information** None.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

No. 4.1 Amendment No. 5 to Amended and Restated Loan Agreement dated as of August 18, 2004.

No. 31.1 - Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

No. 31.2 - Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

No. 32.1 - Certification pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

No. 32.2 - Certification pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Station Casinos, Inc.,  
Registrant

DATE: November 8, 2004

/s/ Glenn C. Christenson  
Glenn C. Christenson,  
Executive Vice President,  
Chief Financial Officer and  
Chief Administrative Officer  
(Principal Accounting Officer)