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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gulfside Casino Partnership Goes All-In on Pope County with \$405-Million Resort

The \$65-million upfront economic development pledge includes nearly \$40 million for the county

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (May 29, 2024) - Gulfside Casino Partnership announced plans today for a \$405-million investment in Pope County that will set a new standard for regional tourism and economic development. The transformational package includes a pledged \$65-million upfront payment to Pope County, Russellville and other local communities to drive additional economic development. Gulfside will invest nearly \$40 million directly into Pope County as part of the agreement, plus \$2 million annually for economic development.

“The unveiling of this visionary project marks a pivotal moment for Pope County and the Arkansas River Valley,” said Terry Green, co-owner of Gulfside. “Our proposed River Valley Casino Resort will redefine regional tourism with 70,000 square feet of unparalleled gaming space, 1,500 state-of-the-art slot machines, 50 table games and a dedicated sportsbook, among other world-class amenities. This high-end destination will drive economic development in the region and be an employer of choice, fostering a thriving community for generations to come.”

River Valley Casino Resort will feature 300 luxurious hotel rooms, a fine-dining steakhouse, a casino lounge, 24-hour cafe, and a coffee and pastry shop. The property will also feature an outdoor amphitheater and entertainment area, a resort pool and cabanas, a luxury spa, a fitness center, a convention center and meeting spaces.

“Our goal from day one has been to offer the citizens of Pope County and Arkansas a best-in-class resort experience,” said Casey Castleberry, Gulfside counsel. “We are proud to present that offer to the Pope County Quorum Court, along with a landmark investment in the community.”

As a family-owned company, Gulfside Casino Partnership is dedicated to building and enriching communities, evidenced by the creation of 1,695 new direct jobs and a projected \$60.5 million annual payroll with this project. River Valley Casino Resort will generate estimated tax revenues of \$29.5 million, all of which will be invested back into the state, county and local communities.

“Gulfside Casino Partnership is more than just a tourist destination or local employer; it is an economic driver and philanthropic partner committed to the prosperity and vitality of our Pope County communities,” said Castleberry. “As part of our commitment to the region, we are exploring an option to purchase nearly 20 acres from the City of Russellville that had previously been acquired for a convention center.”

Contingent upon the city agreeing to a land option to purchase nearly 20 lakefront acres for no more than \$5 million, Gulfside will pay \$10 million to the City of Russellville. The total investment would help the city move forward with its long-planned convention center.

The \$10 million for the City of Russellville is in addition to \$5 million Gulfside proposes to pay the City to purchase approximately 20 lakefront acres. If the city does not sell the property to Gulfside, Russellville will receive \$5,000,000, reducing the total Economic Development Agreement to \$60,000,000.

“With a focus on excellence, innovation and community engagement,” said Castleberry, “the River Valley Casino Resort represents a bold step forward in regional tourism and economic development for Russellville, Pope County and Arkansas. Russellville is poised to become the Gateway to the Ozarks and the Buffalo National River Country. Simply put: River Valley Casino Resort is a sure bet to bring Arkansas more jobs, more entertainment and 50% more tax revenue than any other option on the table.”

In addition to the Pope County and Russellville payments, Gulfside would also invest nearly \$15 million in five other Pope County communities, fire protection districts and education-related and arts nonprofit organizations.

Pope County Quorum Court members will have the opportunity to grant Gulfside a resolution of support at their next regularly scheduled meeting on June 6. The Arkansas Racing Commission’s application window will close on June 11.

About Gulfside Casino Partnership

Gulfside Casino Partnership is an independent, family-owned industry partner with four decades of experience in hospitality and entertainment. Island View Casino Resort in Gulfport, Mississippi, is a community anchor that’s one of Mississippi’s top casino resorts, built and expanded through more than \$600 million in investment by Gulfside Casino Partnership. Today, Island View Casino Resort employs 1,840 along the Gulf Coast and features 1 million square feet of beachfront gaming, hotel and entertainment space with 2,700 slot machines, 20 dining and drinking options and an 18-hole championship golf course.

About River Valley Casino Resort

Capitalizing on its proximity to I-40 and the billions in disposable income in the River Valley Casino Resort's travel radius, Gulfside Casino Partnership estimates exponential growth in tourism and tax revenue for Pope County and Arkansas. Generating millions of guest visits, River Valley Casino Resort will be one of the most popular destinations in Arkansas. With a total investment of more than \$405 million in Pope County, the River Valley Casino Resort will cover 70,000 square feet of gaming space and create 1,695 new direct jobs in Pope County with an estimated total payroll of \$60.5 million. For more information, visit rivervalleycasinoresort.com.

Pope County Casino Resort Options

	<i>GCP/River Valley Casino Resort</i>	<i>CNE/Legends</i>
Initial Investment	\$405 million	\$300 million*
EDA	\$65 million	\$38.8 million*
New Direct Jobs	1,695	1,000**
Estimated Payroll	\$60.5 million	\$50.3 million**
Gaming Space	70,000 sq. ft.	50,000 sq. ft.*
Table Games	50	32*
Slot Machines	1,500	1,200*
Hotel Rooms	300	200*
Annual Tax Revenue	\$29.5 million	\$19.5 million**

**legendsarkansas.com*

***Legends application to the Arkansas Racing Commission*

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