



## Atlantic City Information

Atlantic City Mourns the Loss of Sen. Jim Whelan- In continuing coverage from [The Press of Atlantic City](#) , members of the Atlantic City community, personal friends and colleagues ~~share~~ honor memory of a truly beloved friend and public figure. A memorial service for Sen. Whelan was held on

## Local Gaming News

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City Clashes with Scores AC -As reported by [NJ.com](#) and [CourierPostOnline.com](#), Hard Rock AC filed suit on Sept 18 to block Scores AC's claims that they have a right to open their venue, a gentleman's club,

# National Gaming News

AGA Releases Amicus Brief Challenging PASPA In a Sept 5 [press release](#), the American Gaming

contest standings as they are displayed in real time on dedicated TV monitors. EagleStrike has paid out nearly \$250,000 in total prizes in its first year of contests.

Pennsylvania on the Edge of Legalizing Online Gambling - As reported by [OnlinePokerReport.com](#) Pennsylvania has teetered on the edge of passing online gambling legislation since 2013 however, state legislators have been unable to come to an agreement on a 'gaming package.' The 2017 state budget has made provision for funds generated through gaming expansion, but the legislation authorizing the expansion has yet to be passed.

PGA Hires Genius Sports to Monitor Wagering Activity - As reported by [ESPN](#), The PGA Tour has entered into an agreement with Genius Sports to provide monitoring of worldwide betting patterns for irregularities. The choice to monitor wagering is part of the PGA's Integrity Program set to launch in January 2018, and intended to preserve the integrity of tournaments. This is especially critical in an atmosphere of live betting where patrons are permitted to wager on tournaments while they are in progress. The PGA's actions are similar to those of other professional sports leagues (although the PGA is not involved in PASPA) which are preparing themselves for potential widespread legalization of sports betting in the U.S.

## Hospitality News

Caribbean Tourism Destinations Face Long Road to Recovery - As reported by [The New York Times](#), the highly tourism dependent Caribbean suffers in the wake of two major hurricanes in the span of a few weeks. Some locations, which emerged mostly unscathed, will resume normal operations within a few days others within a few months. The hardest areas may be facing years of recovery and will likely never be the same. While damage to tourism infrastructures varies from island to island, the whole of the island chain could suffer as cruise operators and airlines alter their itineraries and flight schedules.

CBRE Hotels Americas Research Shows U.S. Hotel Demand at All Time High - In an article for [hospitalitynet.org](#), Richard Barkham, Ph.D., Global Chief Economist for CBRE reported the latest trend in demand for U.S. Hotels. Despite relatively weak GDP growth, demand for U.S. Hotels has shown strong growth since the middle of 2016 and has now reached a new high. Barkham notes a 'major structural shift' in the industry related to the growth in the working age population and the entry of non-hotel lodging (home sharing) into the marketplace as being responsible for the rapid growth in the number of hotel rooms sold. Other influences include the advent of budget airlines, Travel Agencies (OTA), and demographic changes which boost the 'demand for experiences over physical goods.'

IHG Announces New Midscale Brand - As reported by [HotelBusiness.com](#) IHG announced its new midscale brand, Avid Hotels. The new brand will feature open public and work areas, and communal spaces at a price point \$10 lower than IHG's industry leading Holiday Inn Express brand. The first locations should begin construction in early 2018 and open in early 2019.

MGM Launches First Corporate Brand Campaign - As reported by [HotelBusiness.com](#) MGM Resorts International has launched a campaign to highlight the variety of experiences at the company's 27 resort destinations. The 'Welcome to the Show' brand message will be shared through various channels including social media, national TV & print, out-of-home media and in highly trafficked spaces in New York, Washington, DC, and Los Angeles.

Motel 6 Introduces Guest Information Policy - As reported by [The New York Times](#) following news that Phoenix, Arizona area Motel 6 chains had been sharing guest information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials without a warrant, Motel 6 parent company, G6 Hospitality, introduced a new policy protecting guests' privacy. G6 Hospitality released a statement saying Motel 6

locations will not share guest lists with law enforcement officials unless compelled to do so by subpoenas, warrants or in the case of an imminent threat to public safety

Restaurants and Hotels Commit to National Apprenticeship Program As reported by [Lodging Magazine](#), leading hospitality companies, including Golden Corral, FATZ Café, Firehouse Subs, Hilton, Wyndham, and Hyatt, have committed to creating 475 apprenticeship positions as part of the Hospitality Sector Registered Apprenticeship (HSRA) program. HSRA is an award-winning, on-the-job, and classroom-based, you-learn apprenticeship program, developed by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) and American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), for the nation's restaurant, food service and lodging industries.

U.S. Domestic Travel and Road Trips Increase As reported by [Lodging Magazine](#), MMGY Global's 2017 Portrait of American Travelers, found that U.S. Domestic Travel accounted for 85 percent of total U.S. vacations. In the last 12 months, American travelers took 13.9 million more domestic rather than international vacations. Many of these vacations, 39 percent in 2016, up from 22 percent in 2015, were road trips. Roadtrippers (household income over \$50,000 who took at least one road trip in past 12 months) now represent 46 percent (27.8 million households) of American travelers and spent \$215.1 billion on leisure travel. Consumer spending on road trip travel has increased from \$66.6 billion in 2015 to \$113.7 billion in 2016.