

Table game facts are not being revealed

By Janene Watson, Charles Town

<http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/528345.html?nav=5061> posted 11/25/09

Having read the Nov. 13, 2009, endorsement editorial from The Journal, it sounds like it was written by the racetrack. When you see most of the horsemen endorsements, it sounds like they have been written, narrated or approved by the racetrack. This letter has not been written or approved by CTRS. I am a 26-year resident, owner, trainer and breeder of thoroughbred horses in Jefferson County. I have been put on the dias of all forums thus far, because I am the one with the actual facts, having the legislated bill in front of me to show the attendees. I want to say, "thank you" to The Journal reporters who tried to cover these forums.

Did they state the actual facts and figures that were presented by me? The answer is, no. But they did try to do a good job of reporting for CTRS. A special thanks to Jamie West, he correctly stated that I said "without horse racing, there would be no slots." This is a legislated fact! The media has under reported that the Charles Town horsemen have to give a share of their money to Mountaineer horsemen. The media has never printed that the municipalities' 1 percent can only be used for capital improvements. The media has never reported that there is no money given to tourism. The media has never reported that the money for the Breeders Classics that they get from slots revenue will not be coming from table games, because the West Virginia Racing Commission receives zero from table games. The media has never reported the amount of money that the racetrack is going to receive from table games. The media has never reported that CTRS can put these table games alongside slots in 29-22C-3 "one or more buildings anywhere on their property." The media has never reported that virtual electronic table games are approved in this bill, which means they do not have to hire live dealers, supervisors, etc. The media has never reported that there is a preemption clause 29-22C-32 in this bill. This allows CTRS not to have to follow our local Jefferson County rules and regulations. The media has never reported that the Mountaineer racetrack has laid off more than 300 employees, lowered purses about 26 percent, cut number of races, and now want to cut four months of racing, and this is after they got table games.

The Journal stated the estimated amounts that everybody is going to receive, which is only an estimate given to them by CTRS, and they did not tell you that all of Jefferson County is going to lose slot money that they are getting today. The March 3, 2009, West Virginia Gazette reported the lottery director has stated, "table games at three of the state's four racetracks will provide \$93 million of revenue for the state this year, but not enough to offset losses from racetrack video lottery."

The facts are, if Jefferson County passes table games, the CTRS slots player that gets down off his/her stool to go to the tables will amount to a 47 percent player being a 66 percent player for the racetrack (according to their estimates, this amounts to \$66 million a year).

The Horsemen's Purse Fund loses a \$14 customer to get a 70-cent customer.

The County Commission loses a \$1 customer to get a 35-cent customer.

The five municipalities lose a \$1 customer to get a 35-cent customer (capital improvements only).

Jefferson County tourism loses a \$3 customer to get a zero customer.

I believe these facts, according to the legislated bill, needed to be stated before you vote and found out the truth after it was too late!