
ELITE CASINO RESORTS

August 19, 2025

Lake Mac Casino Resort & Racetrack

Opens with Grand Opening Celebration

Governor Jim Pillen led first race Post Parade

OGALLALA, NE — Lake Mac Casino Resort & Racetrack officially opened its doors on Tuesday, August 19, bringing exciting new gaming and racing entertainment to western Nebraska. Gov. Jim Pillen led the ceremonial first race Post Parade.

The opening marks the return of Quarter Horse racing to Nebraska.

An enthusiastic crowd attended the grand opening event that featured a special appearance by Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, who led the first race Post Parade. Elite Casino Resorts was honored to welcome Governor Pillen to Lake Mac Casino Resort & Racetrack for this momentous occasion, marking a historic milestone for Keith County and Ogallala, and the future of racing and gaming in western Nebraska.

“We are incredibly proud to open our doors with the Governor’s support and leadership,” said Dan Kehl, CEO of Elite Casino Resorts. “His presence underscores the importance of this project to the state, and we were thrilled to celebrate the beginning of what will be a world-class entertainment destination at Lake Mac Casino.”

“This project represents new opportunity, new jobs, and new energy for Keith County and Ogallala,” added Kehl. “We’re honored to welcome guests with exceptional service that reflects the spirit and hospitality of Nebraska.”

This project brings Elite Casino Resorts total investment in Nebraska to a quarter of a billion dollars. Elite has over 600 employees state wide between its Lake Mac Casino and Grand Island Casinos.

“This return of Quarter Horse racing to Nebraska is a major win for the local and agricultural economy in this area,” said Director of Racing Cynthia Smith. “Most importantly, this boosts the Nebraska Quarter Horse breeders and trainers who now have more opportunities closer to home. We all should be excited about what the future holds for the industry of running Quarter Horses in Nebraska in the coming years.”

The casino will be open daily from 7 AM to 3 AM.

Lake Mac Casino Resort & Racetrack is developed in partnership with Hastings Exposition and Racing. The site will eventually expand into a full resort complex, with plans underway for a hotel, indoor/outdoor pool, fine and casual dining, and RV parking.