

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

Form 8-K

July 27, 2006

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): July 24, 2006

Ameristar Casinos, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada

000-22494

880304799

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(Commission
File Number)

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

3773 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 490S,
Las Vegas, Nevada

89169

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(702) 567-7000

3773 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 490S
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Former name or former address, if changed since last report

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (See General Instruction A.2. below):

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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Item 8.01. Other Events.

On July 24, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Registrant approved the repurchase of up to 2.8 million shares of the Registrant's common stock, representing approximately 5% of its issued and outstanding common stock, in a stock repurchase program. The shares may be repurchased from time to time during the three-year period ending July 24, 2009 in open market transactions or privately negotiated transactions at the Registrant's discretion, subject to market conditions and other factors. A copy of the press release issued by the Registrant on July 26, 2006 announcing the stock repurchase program is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit	Description
99.1	Press release of the Registrant dated July 26, 2006.

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SIGNATURES

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 hereunto duly authorized.

Ameristar Casinos, Inc.

July 27, 2006

By: /s/ Peter C. Walsh

Name: Peter C. Walsh

*Title: Senior Vice President and General
Counsel*

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit	Description
99.1	Press release of the Registrant dated July 26, 2006.