

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

Form 8-K

January 31, 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): January 27, 2006  
Ameristar Casinos, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|  |                             |                                      |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nevada   | 000-22494                   | 880304799                            |
| (State or other jurisdiction<br>of incorporation)            | (Commission<br>File Number) | (IRS Employer<br>Identification No.) |
| 3773 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 490S,<br>Las Vegas, Nevada |                             | 89109                                |

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (702) 567-7000

Not Applicable

(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 5.02. Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.**

On January 27, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Registrant elected Luther P. Cochrane as a member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Cochrane was also appointed to the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. There was no arrangement or understanding between Mr. Cochrane and any other person pursuant to which Mr. Cochrane was selected as a director. There is no information with respect to Mr. Cochrane that is required to be reported pursuant to Item 404(a) of Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-K.

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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.

January 31, 2006

By: /s/ Peter C. Walsh

Name: Peter C. Walsh

Title: Senior Vice President and General  
Counsel

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