

NEILSEN ESTATE OF CRAIG H  
 Form 4  
 April 11, 2011

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 NEILSEN ESTATE OF CRAIG H

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 AMERISTAR CASINOS INC  
 [ASCA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 04/07/2011

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_X\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)

C/O AMERISTAR CASINOS INC., 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY SUITE 490S

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 \_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 \_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount or Price		
Common Stock	04/07/2011		S		2,500 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.73 31,223,392 D
Common Stock	04/07/2011		S		2,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.76 31,221,392 D
Common Stock	04/07/2011		S		6,139 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.83 31,215,253 D
Common Stock	04/07/2011		S		400 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.833 31,214,853 D
	04/07/2011		S		500 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.835 31,214,353 D

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Common Stock							
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	357 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.86	31,213,996	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	6,504 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.87	31,207,492	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	100 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.873	31,207,392	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	9,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.88	31,198,392	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	3,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.89	31,195,392	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	2,900 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.895	31,192,492	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	100 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.9001	31,192,392	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	7,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.91	31,185,392	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	8,000 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.93	31,177,392	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	1,200 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.94	31,176,192	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	300 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.95	31,175,892	D
Common Stock	04/07/2011	S	1,800 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.97	31,174,092	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	2,671 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.51	31,171,421	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	800 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.511	31,170,621	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	100 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.5125	31,170,521	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	100 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.513	31,170,421	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	974 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.515	31,169,447	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	1,055 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.52	31,168,392	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	1,200 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.5201	31,167,192	D
	04/08/2011	S	100 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.525	31,167,092	D

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Common Stock							
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	4,199 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.53	31,162,893	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	701 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.57	31,162,192	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	100 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.5701	31,162,092	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	3,200 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.58	31,158,892	D
Common Stock	04/08/2011	S	1,800 <u>(1)</u>	D	\$ 18.59	31,157,092	D

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 5)
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## Reporting Owners

**Reporting Owner Name / Address**

**Relationships**

Director    10% Owner    Officer    Other

NEILSEN ESTATE OF CRAIG H  
C/O AMERISTAR CASINOS INC.  
3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY SUITE 490S  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

X

## Signatures

/s/ Gregory H .Cooper,  
Attorney-in-Fact

04/11/2011

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Sales made pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 sales plan implemented by the reporting person.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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