

Those four recent robberies occurred at

- Gold Coast, Nov. 16
- Green Valley Ranch, Dec. 12
- <u>Silverton</u>, Dec. 20

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- Rampart, Dec. 24

And that list doesn't include another robbery that targeted the Resorts World on Nov. 9. In that case, \$6,000 was taken from the casino cage.

But unlike the four other heists, which targeted casinos off the Strip, that robbery netted the arrest of suspect Zubaid Al Jarmi, 25, on Nov. 16. According to reports, at the time he was on probation for a 2020 robbery of the casino cage at The Venetian.

But the robberies of the Gold Coast, Green Valley Ranch Resort, Silverton and Rampart Casino all remain unsolved with no arrests made.

Alan Feldman, who worked in the gaming industry for nearly 30 years with MGM Resorts International and who is now a distinguished fellow at UNLV's International Gaming Institute, said the number of recent robberies "feels like it's a bit high."

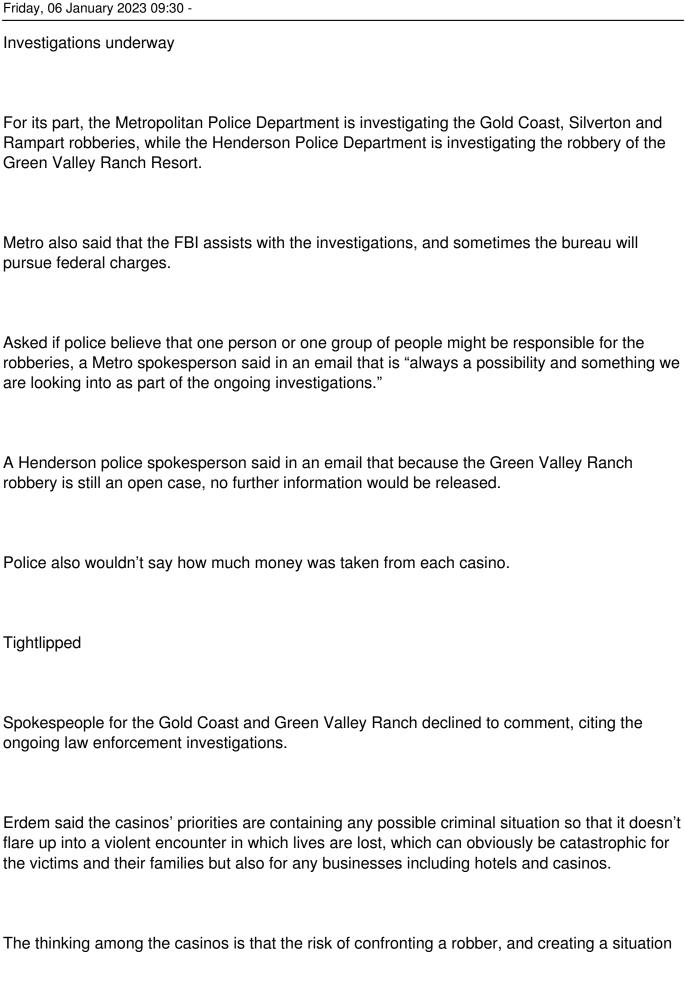
Although Feldman has decades of experience in the gaming industry, he was careful to clarify, as did Erdem, that he is not a law enforcement or security expert.

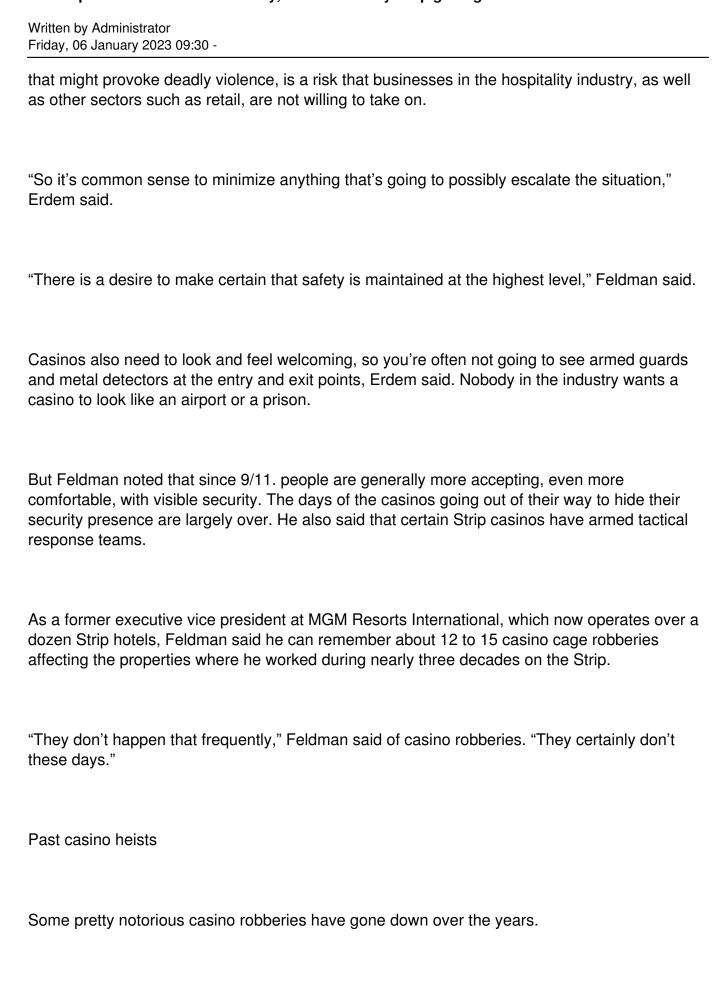
But from his many years as a senior executive in the casinos on the Strip, Feldman said that casino cage robberies seem relatively rare, with a high likelihood of being solved.

"Casinos are pretty lousy targets for something like this," Feldman said. "And this impression that they just keep millions and millions of dollars sitting around isn't true."

Both Feldman and Erdem added that financial losses via cyber crime are likely costing the casinos more money than old-school, over-the-counter robberies.

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In 2000, 27-year-old Reginald Johnson committed three robberies in a six-month stretch at Treasure Island, nabbing \$55,000 in July, about \$30,000 in October and nothing in December 2000, when he was foiled by bars the casino had installed around the casino cashier's desk but shot a security guard, who survived. He was arrested the next day, according to a Review-Journal report from the time, while walking barefoot down Lake Mead Boulevard in a Hello Kitty nightshirt and a Santa Claus hat.

In June 2001, police arrested Jose Manuel Vigoa, who was the ringleader of a gang involved in several heists including the robbery over \$155,000 from the casino cages at the Bellagio on June 3, 2000, as well as the fatal shootings of two armored car guards outside a Ross Dress for Less store in Henderson in March 2000.

In December 2010, Anthony Carleo, the son of a Las Vegas judge, made off with \$1.5 million in chips from the Bellagio. Carrying a handgun and wearing a motorcycle helmet, Carleo was dubbed the "Bellagio Bandit."

He was caught after trying to sell 14 \$25,000 chips at a cut rate to an undercover Las Vegas police officer.

In 2019, a Las Vegas police officer shot and killed Michael Charles Cohen, 49, after an armed robbery at the

Bellagio

. Cohen then shot a police officer outside the hotel, and was killed when officers returned fire. Police said Cohen also robbed the Bellagio in 2017, the same year that another group of four masked men, one who wore a large pig mask, used sledgehammers to rob a jewelry store.

In the recent cases, police have released photos of a man who is believed to have robbed the Gold Coast as well as photos of a car and a man believed responsible for the Rampart Casino.

In the Gold Coast robbery, the suspect is described as a man standing between 6 feet and 6-foot-2 in height, between 25 and 35 years old, and wearing a black jacket with a hood, black jogging pants and white shoes. In that case, the man threatened to shoot the cashier, police said.

Although this is a similar description released Wednesday of a man police say drove a stolen

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vehicle that was used in the Rampart robbery, police wouldn't say if investigators believe the robberies are connected or believed to have been committed by the same person or group of people, only that it's a possibility.

In this photo, the man, who is also described as being in the same height and age range, is seen wearing a tan hoodie, blue jogging pants and white shoes.

In the Rampart robbery, Metro has also released a photo of a 2009 silver Mazda 6 with a Nevada license plate that reads 902 M64. The car was stolen and used in the robbery, police said.

Contact Brett Clarkson at bclarkson@reviewjournal.com . Follow @BrettClarkson\_ on Twitter.

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