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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



MOTORCITY CASINO CLOSES IN CONNECTION WITH UNION NEGOTIATIONS

According to published reports on the websites of *The Detroit News* and *The Detroit Free Press*, MotorCity Casino closed its doors at approximately noon today after the expiration of the extended union contract negotiation deadline at 11:59 a.m. this morning. Though workers have said that there has been no official strike action taken, MotorCity decided to close the casino given the strike deadline that the union had set. Though MotorCity Casino is currently closed, contract negotiations are ongoing.

According to news reports from early yesterday, the Detroit Casino Council, which represents approximately 6,100 employees at the three Detroit Casinos, MGM Grand Detroit, MotorCity and Greektown, entered into an agreement to negotiate beyond the original deadline of midnight Tuesday with MGM Grand and Greektown, and late yesterday, *The Detroit Free Press* noted that at 10:15 p.m. an agreement for an extension was entered with MotorCity Casino. Notably, MGM Grand and Greektown agreed to a day-to-day contract extension with the Detroit Casino Council, while MotorCity agreed to only a twelve-hour extension, i.e. today at 11:59 a.m.

The MGM Grand Detroit Casino and the Greektown Casino are currently open for business.

A recorded message on MotorCity Casino's main telephone number said: "MotorCity Casino is currently shut down due to the threatened strike by the Detroit Casino Council scheduled to occur at noon today. We apologize for any inconvenience."

The Detroit News reported today that the unions are asking for a new four-year contract which would expire in 2011 and include a 75-cent-per-hour, or 5 percent pay hike, whichever is higher over the life of the agreement, along with a \$2,000

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contract signing bonus for workers. The unions also want to limit monthly health care premium contributions. MGM Grand and MotorCity Casinos have also asked the unions to agree to tip pooling, a controversial plan that would require tipped employees to share their off-payroll earnings with each other.

The Detroit/Windsor market was the subject to a union strike in 2004, when the labor agreement at Casino Windsor expired. Casino Windsor closed its operations for 41 days while company management and labor representatives from CAW 444 worked on a new collective bargaining agreement.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN TRIBE SEEKS MARINA FOR LEELANAU SANDS CASINO

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians approved plans to develop a 100 to 130 slip marina in Grand Traverse Bay in Peshawbestown, Michigan. At an August 2007 Tribal Board meeting, a Resolution was adopted by a 5-1 vote to issue a bond for the Development of a Marina by the Grand Traverse Band Municipal Marina.

The *Traverse City Record Eagle* reported that Mr. Ron Olson, CEO for the Tribe's Economic Development Corporation, said "We are looking at certainly trying to protect Peshawbestown and its businesses, so we felt there is an untapped market there for boaters that might enjoy going to the property as well as playing (at Leelanau Sands Casino)."

According the *Record Eagle*, the Tribal Council will apply for permission to lease lake bottomlands through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and US Army Corps of Engineers.

Assuming all approvals are received, the Tribe's General Counsel, John Petoskey, has indicated that construction could start in the spring of 2008.