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*Editor in Chief:*

**David D. Waddell, Esq.**

Phone: 517.507.3859

[waddell@rmclegal.com](mailto:waddell@rmclegal.com)

*Senior Gaming Analyst*

*& Editor:*

**Robert R. Russell, II**

Phone: 517.507.3858

[russell@rmclegal.com](mailto:russell@rmclegal.com)

*Reporter*

**Douglas L. Minke**

Phone: 313.221.9380

[minke@rmclegal.com](mailto:minke@rmclegal.com)

*Reporter*

**Blaine R. DeGracia**

Phone: 517.507.3857

[degracia@rmclegal.com](mailto:degracia@rmclegal.com)

*Subscription information:*

[info@michigangaming.com](mailto:info@michigangaming.com)

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**RMC Ventures, LLC**

University Place Center  
333 Albert Ave, Suite 450  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
Phone: 517.507.3860  
Fax: 517.908.0235  
[www.rmclegal.com](http://www.rmclegal.com)

# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## **GREEKTOWN CASINO-HOTEL OPENS HIGH LIMIT GAMING AREA**

Last Friday, November 28, 2008 Greektown Casino-Hotel opened its new High Limit Gaming Area. The casino's high limit area had been closed since May 27, 2008 for extensive remodeling as part of the permanent casino facility project.

The new high limit lounge was designed based on input from the casino's high limit players. The lounge includes VIP valet parking, private seating, a full-service bar, a daily buffet and complimentary butler service. The lounge also includes:

- Personal massage therapists that can perform massages while the guests are playing;
- A new high limit slot area containing 78 machines, with the maximum wager of \$100 per spin;
- 18 high limit table games with a maximum wager of \$10,000. Table games include blackjack, craps, roulette, three card poker, and more;
- Eight big screen TVs (including a 60-inch television);
- A private cage for players to exchange chips;
- A private host's office to provide player accommodations, comps, etc; LED ceiling lights that slowly change to each color of the casino's logo (blue, green, yellow, red, purple).

Greektown Casino also plans to open its new international buffet later this month. The Greektown Casino-Hotel is scheduled to open in February, 2009, though room reservations are already being taken.

## **JACKSON HARNESS RACEWAY CLOSED**

Yesterday, December 4, 2008, MTR Gaming Group, Inc.(MTR) announced that it would be closing the Jackson Harness Raceway in Jackson, Michigan. A press release issued by the company states: “[e]ffective today (December 4th) Jackson Trotting Association, LLC. has ceased operation of live racing and simulcast wagering at Jackson Harness Raceway in Jackson, Michigan. Jackson Harness Raceway will not schedule live and simulcast racing in 2009.”

Patrons with uncashed winning tote tickets are advised to contact Jackson Racing, P.O. Box 881, Jackson, MI 49204. Approximately 40 employees will be effected, along with 110 seasonal workers.

MTR holds a 90 % interest in the Jackson Trotting Association through a subsidiary, an interest it acquired in 2005. Published reports have stated that MTR, which is a publicly-traded company, has recorded losses totaling at least \$3.6 million related to its operation of Jackson Harness Raceway since 2005.

Jackson Harness Raceway opened with three racing dates in 1948. Its closure reduces the number of horse tracks in the state to five. These tracks include Hazel Park Harness Raceway (Hazel Park), Northville Downs (Northville), Sports Creek Raceway (Swartz Creek), Mount Pleasant Meadows (Mt. Pleasant) and Pinnacle Race Course (New Boston).

Michigan Racing Commissioner, Christine White made the following statement in connection with the closure:

“Jackson Harness Raceway has been a Michigan tradition for sixty years. Unfortunately, this is a sad day for Michigan horse racing.”