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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit [www.michigangaming.com](http://www.michigangaming.com)

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# The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



## GUN LAKE CASINO GROUND BREAKING

Yesterday, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians ("The Gun Lake Tribe") broke ground in Wayland Township, Michigan marking the beginning of construction efforts to build a proposed \$157 million casino.

Phase I plans call for a 83,000 square foot facility that will feature 1,200 slot machines, 36 table games, an entertainment lounge and a casino bar. In addition, Gun Lake Tribe officials suggest the new casino will create 600 direct jobs and 1,000 indirect jobs while generating approximately \$9.1 million and \$2.3 million annually to state and local revenue sharing boards, respectively.

In January of 2009, the Gun Lake Tribe announced the federal government had approved 147 acres of land and placed it into trust for the proposed facility to be built in Wayland Township, Michigan. Due to the economic climate, the casino will initially be smaller than was originally planned. Under the original plan, the Gun Lake Tribe's facility included an estimated 2,500 slots and 80 table games.

The casino will be located about twenty miles south of Grand Rapids in Western Michigan. It will be operated by the Tribe's management partner, MPM Enterprises, LLC, owned by an affiliate of Station Casinos, Inc., as well as private investors from Michigan.

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## **GREAT LAKES DOWNS DEMOLITION BEGINS**

Demolition of the former thoroughbred racetrack, Great Lakes Downs, located in Fruitport Township began this week. The track has been closed since fall of 2007.

The Great Lakes Downs site was acquired in July of 2008 by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The Little River Band is planning for a development project, including a Tribal casino. They currently own and operate the Little River Casino Resort in Manistee.

According to statements made earlier this year by Tribal officials, 800 to 1,000 permanent casino jobs and hundreds of temporary construction jobs will be created for the area, with an annual payroll and benefits totaling around \$30 million. Although the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners has shown strong backing for the casino idea, if and when the Little River Band officially decides to propose a casino for the Great Lakes Downs facility, the project must be approved by local, state and federal governments.

For more information about the Little River Band please visit: <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/>.

## **GOVERNOR AND HURON BAND AGREE TO COMPACT CHANGES**

On Monday, Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced the signing of an amended tribal gaming compact with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP). The amendments officially take effect when published in the Federal Register.

According to a press release issued by the Governor, the amended compact “stabilizes” the revenue sharing agreement between the state of Michigan and the NHBP, restructuring the Local Revenue Sharing Board in conjunction with the new FireKeepers Casino, located near Battle Creek, Michigan.

“This new agreement benefits the state, the tribe and local communities in Calhoun County,” stated

Governor Granholm. “It creates a better understanding and relationship between the state and the tribe while stabilizing a revenue stream used to enhance Michigan’s economic development efforts.”

The new agreement requires the tribe to comply with a more “limited form of gaming exclusivity from the state.” Additionally, the tribe’s revenue sharing payments to the state for the FireKeepers Casino will be reduced using a sliding scale. Specifically:

- For 2009 and 2010, the tribe will pay a fixed 4 percent of net slot win;
- For 2011, the tribe will pay 4 percent of up to \$100 million in net slot win and 6 percent of net slot win over the \$100 million threshold;
- Beginning 2012, the tribe will pay the state based on a sliding scale of net slot win for the remainder of the compact term (revised to expire in 2030) with payments never to exceed 8 percent of the net slot win

The tribe’s contribution to the Local Revenue Sharing Board remains at 2 percent of net slot win, but expands Board membership from three to six members. Payments will be made annually instead of semi-annually.

A complete copy of the amended compact agreement can be found at: [http://nhbpi.com/pdfs/nhbp\\_compact.pdf](http://nhbpi.com/pdfs/nhbp_compact.pdf).

## **LEGISLATOR SEEKS CASINO “CONTRIBUTIONS” TO HELP FUND EDUCATION**

On Monday, State Representative Fred Durhal, Jr. (D-Detroit) announced House Joint Resolution BB, a plan seeking to enact a “Michigan College Tuition Act,” a proposed plan aimed to assist students competing for jobs by providing free college tuition for Michigan’s high school graduates.

Pursuant to Rep. Durhal’s proposal, funding for

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the program would be provided through the creation of three annual “super” lotteries, an income tax check box; corporate and foundation donations; and the contribution of 1 percent of total gross receipts from “all functioning Michigan Casinos.” Rep. Durhal made it clear that no “taxp” dollars would be involved in the plan. Mr. Durhal also indicated that he would pursue contributions from both the Detroit casinos and tribal casinos.

For more information regarding the proposed plan please visit Rep. Durhal’s website at:

[www.006.house Dems.com](http://www.006.house Dems.com)