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Editor in Chief:

David D. Waddell, Esq.
Phone: 517.507.3859
waddell@rmclegal.com

*Senior Gaming Analyst
& Editor:*

Robert R. Russell, II
Phone: 517.507.3858
russell@rmclegal.com

Reporter

Douglas L. Minke
Phone: 313.221.9380
minke@rmclegal.com

Reporter

Blaine R. DeGracia
Phone: 517.507.3857
degracia@rmclegal.com

Subscription information:
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

The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



HURON BAND APPOINTS AARON PAYMENT AS TRIBAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On Tuesday, March 23, 2010, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi ("NHBP") announced the hiring of a new Tribal Executive Director, Aaron Payment. According to the NHBP's press release, Mr. Payment assumed the position on March 8, 2010.

"We are very pleased to have Aaron Payment join our team," said Homer A. Mandoka, Vice Chair of the NHBP. "Payment brings with him experience, background and leadership, which will help provide guidance for the Tribal Council as the Tribe continues to grow and as we strengthen our programs and services for Tribal members."

Mr. Payment is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians ("Sault Tribe"). He brings over seven years of executive administrative experience and 12 years of tribal government experience to the NHBP. His previous positions include Tribal Chairperson/CEO and Vice Chairperson of the Sault Tribe, as well as serving as the chair of the Greektown Casino Management Board of Directors.

The NHBP tribe owns the \$300 million FireKeepers Casino, located near I-94 in Battle Creek, Michigan. FireKeepers Casino features a 107,000 square foot gaming floor with over 2,600 slot machines and 78 table games. It opened in January of 2009 and is managed by Gaming Entertainment, LLC, a joint venture between Las Vegas-based Full House Resorts, Inc., and RAM Entertainment, LLC, a privately owned investment company.

As the NHBP's new Tribal Executive Director, Mr. Payment's responsibilities will

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include budgeting, planning, and supervising the Tribe's governmental and administrative operations.

"Though it will be a challenge for me to be away from my home and Tribe in Sault Ste. Marie, I am humbled and respectful of the opportunity afforded to me by the Huron Potawatomi Tribal Council to help advance their Tribal programs, service and administrative operations," stated Mr. Payment.

IN OTHER NEWS

The NHBP has unanimously decided to wait until the Tribal Council's April 24, 2010 elections to fill the chairperson's seat, which has remained vacant since the passing of Laura Spurr.

Per Tribal bylaws, Vice Chairman Homer Mandoka will handle the chairperson's administrative duties on the five person council until a successor is chosen.

MGCB MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING APRIL 15, 2010

On Thursday April 15, 2010, the Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB") will be holding its regular monthly public meeting at the MGCB Detroit office, Cadillac Place, located at 3062 West Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, in Detroit. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m.

Any person needing special arrangements to attend or address the MGCB is asked to contact Larry Smith at 313-465-4100 to make the necessary arrangements.

For more information regarding the MGCB and its operations, please visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/mgcb>.

MICHIGAN GOVERNOR URGES SUPPORT FOR MUSKEGON AREA TRIBAL CASINO

On March 19, 2010, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm sent letters to the Speaker of the House, Andy Dillon and Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, Mike Bishop, indicating that she has entered into two separate but related amendments to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Class III Gaming Compact. The changes will permit the Little River Band to proceed with efforts to develop a casino in Fruitport Township, Michigan. The Little River Band current operates the Little River Casino in Manistee, Michigan, (www.lrcr.com).

Pursuant to the Governor's March 19, 2010 letter, certain changes require Michigan Legislative approval. Gov. Granholm has requested that both chambers of the Legislature take up Resolutions to approve these changes. The Governor noted that she is legally permitted to agree to State and Tribal Compact changes. Changes have been entered into with the tribe and will take effect upon review and approval by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. However, as she outlined in her letter, the changes that require legislative approval are necessary for the state and local units of government in Muskegon County to realize the benefits of the additional revenue sharing that would come from the new Fruitport Township casino.

Notably, Fruitport Township officials approved a Municipal Services Agreement and a Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement on March 22, 2010. On March 23, 2010, the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners also provided its approval to the agreements.

Assuming the Michigan Legislature approves the Tribal State Gaming Compact amendments, the Little River Band will need to seek federal governmental approval to take the land "into trust" for the gaming facility. Approval of its amended compact and several environmental and traffic studies would also be required to proceed with the casino project.

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CASINOS BRING TOP NOTCH ENTERTAINMENT PERFORMANCES TO MICHIGAN

This spring brings many top-name entertainment performances to several Michigan casinos. Several of Michigan's tribal and commercial casinos have had great success in bringing customers in through the use of big-name entertainment. The casinos seek to provide casino patrons with a wealth of entertainment options in their own backyards.

MotorCity Casino Hotel's Sound Board live-music theater venue opened in October of 2008 with performances by Anita Baker and Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks. Since opening, it has hosted numerous performances by both national and local entertainers.

Upcoming performances include acts from:

- Tim Allen — April 8-9, 2010;
- Fashion de Cirque — April 10, 2010;
- Rick Springfield — May 21, 2010 and;
- Cyndi Lauper — July 1, 2010.

The state-of-the-art Sound Board theater is able to seat between 1,500 and 2,300 people. The venue is in addition to MotorCity's existing Amnesia and Radio Bar lounges, which feature local musicians and DJ's.

In addition, Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort will be hosting big-name acts in their Concert Hall this year. The Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort Concert Hall opened in 1998 and has hosted over 200 concert and events including Alice Cooper, Brooks & Dunn and Rodney Carrington.

Upcoming performances include acts from such names as:

- Jason Aldean — April 9, 2010;
- Rodney Carrington — April 16, 2010 and;
- Creedence Clearwater Revisited — June 4, 2010.

For more information on either venue, please visit the MotorCity Casino Hotel and Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort websites at <http://www.motorcitycasino.com/Home> and <http://www.soaringeaglecasino.com/> respectively.