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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 and Associate Editor

Dustin M. Ford

Phone: 517.999.5414

dford@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



GUN LAKE TRIBE AND GUN LAKE CASINO DONATE K-9 UNIT TO ALLEGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Yesterday, August 25, 2011, the Gun Lake Tribe of Pottawatomi Indians ("Gun Lake Tribe") and Gun Lake Casino announced that they have made a donation of \$12,000 to the Allegan County Sheriff's Department to purchase a German Shepherd K-9. The donation consists of \$6,000 from both the Gun Lake Tribe and Gun Lake Casino.

"Thanks to our outstanding staff of 900 team members and the popularity of our first-class entertainment facility, we are excited to help the community with the addition of Medo," said Chairman D.K. Sprague. "This donation maintains our commitment to public safety, and our solid partnership with the Allegan County Sheriff's Department."

The Gun Lake Casino, located off of U.S. 131 between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, is owned by the Gun Lake Tribe and is operated by the Tribe's management partner, MPM Enterprises, LLC, owned by an affiliate of Station Casinos, Inc. and private investors from Michigan. The casino opened on February 11, 2011 and features 1,450 slot machines and 28 table games. In addition, the facility offers a food court, multiple dining options, lounges, and live entertainment.

Notably, in June the Gun Lake Tribe made its first state and local revenue sharing payments at over \$2.5 million based on its first two months of operation. Future payments will be based on 6-month operating periods.

SAULT TRIBE APPOINTS NEW CHAIRMAN

On August 23, 2011, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (“Tribe”) announced that the Tribe’s Board of Directors had appointed board member Joe Eitram as chairman of the Tribe. Mr. Eitram will fill the vacancy left by former Tribal Chairman Darwin “Joe” McCoy who resigned earlier this year. The Board of Directors must now fill the vacant board member seat which resulted from Mr. McCoy’s departure.

On May 10, 2011, Darwin “Joe” McCoy announced his resignation as the chairman of the Tribe’s Board of Directors. The Tribe has stated that the resignation was unexpected, and Mr. McCoy stated that it resulted from “circumstances beyond my control,” in a letter he sent to the board.

Mr. McCoy had served as the chairman for three years after defeating then-Chairman Aaron Payment in the summer of 2008. Mr. Eitram will serve as chairman for the remainder of Mr. McCoy’s term which will end in June of 2012. According to the Tribe’s election policy, Mr. Eitram must win re-election next year in order to continue to serve as chairman.

In addition to the change in the Tribe’s Board of Directors, on June 1, 2011, the Tribe announced that it had selected Mr. John Wernet, former deputy legal counsel to Gov. Jennifer Granholm, as its new general counsel. Mr. Wernet brings an extensive amount of experience dealing with Native American legal issues both nationally and in Michigan, working in the field for over thirty years.

The 39,000 member tribe has its headquarters in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and has members throughout the state and the nation. In addition to other business ventures, the Tribe operates the five Kewadin Casinos in the state. The tribe was granted federal recognition status in 1972 and operates under a tribal constitution established in 1975.

LTBB APPOINTS MCNAMARA AS NEW CHAIRMAN

According to *Indian Country Today Media Network*, on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, former vice chairman of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (“LTBB”), Dexter McNamara was sworn in as chairman for the LTBB. The leadership change comes in response to an August 8, 2011 Special Recall Election of Mr. McNamara and Ken Harrington, then chairman of the LTBB.

AGA TO RECOGNIZE JAN JONES WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Yesterday, August 25, 2011, the American Gaming Association (“AGA”) announced that Jan L. Jones, senior vice president of communications and government relations for Caesars Entertainment Corporation, will be awarded the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award for Gaming Communications. Ms. Jones will receive the award on Wednesday, October 5 at the Sands Expo & Convention Center in Las Vegas during Global Gaming Expo 2011.

“For several decades, Jan has been a key figure in the gaming community, and she is certainly well-deserving of this honor,” said Frank Fahrenkopf, president and CEO of the AGA. “Throughout her career, she has made substantial contributions to the growth and development of the gaming industry, such as advancing the industry’s focus on corporate social responsibility and communicating the positive impact of the gaming industry in communities across the country and around the world.”

Ms. Jones currently oversees all worldwide government affairs, corporate communications, community relations and corporate social responsibility programs for Caesars Entertainment. Prior to joining Caesars Entertainment in 1999, Ms. Jones served two terms as mayor of the City of Las Vegas. She also sits on the board of directors of Nevada Public Radio and the Women’s Campaign Fund and is the regional vice chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Executive Committee.

Ms. Jones is the first woman to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for Gaming Communications. For more information about the AGA, please visit: www.americangaming.org.

HORSE RACING INDUSTRY SEEKS CHANGES TO FUNDING

On June 30, 2011, two pieces of legislation were introduced in the Michigan legislature that would amend the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act, MCL §432.201 *et seq* (“Act”) to divert a portion of the state services fee fund to horse racing industry. As the proposed legislation would amend the Act, which was implemented via voter referendum, it will require a supermajority vote in the legislature and signature of the governor in order to be passed.

The proposed legislation, House Bill 4849 and Senate Bill 550, contain identical amendments to the Act and, if passed, would appropriate 12.5% of the state services fee fund to the Michigan Agriculture Equine Industry Development Fund. The state services fee fund receives payments from the state’s casino licensees and makes distributions for the purpose of funding regulatory costs, compulsive gambling services, casino-related services of the attorney general and state police, and other casino-related programs.

The equine fund was established under the Horse Racing Law of 1995 and serves to provide financial support to horse racing events, purses, training programs, and other equine programs throughout the state.

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The American Gaming Association acts as the central voice for the casino-gaming industry and also produces the annual Global Gaming Expo.

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