

September 25, 2015

Volume 21, Issue 32

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



## 4 DAYS REMAIN — G2E 2015

**The publishers of *The Michigan Gaming Newsletter*, RMC Legal, will be exhibiting at the 2015 Global Gaming Expo. Please stop by our booth 3223 and say 'hi' for a free gift and to chat with our staff.**

## DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS SCHEDULES MUSKEGON DEVELOPMENT HEARING

On Monday, September 21, 2015, the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs ("Bureau") published a hearing notice regarding a proposed casino project in Muskegon County. The hearing will be held to consider public comments on a proposed land-into-trust and casino project for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians ("Tribe").

The Tribe has proposed to convert approximately 60 acres of land it currently holds in fee to trust land for the purpose of constructing a gaming facility. Converting the land from fee to trust status is one method of meeting federal land requirements to construct a full-scale tribal casino. The land is located five miles south of Muskegon, adjacent to Interstate 96 in Fruitport Township.

In 2008, the Tribe purchased the former Great Lakes Downs racetrack, and later, adjacent parcels, in an effort to establish a site for a tribal casino. The Tribe sought to amend the current Tribal-State Gaming Compact in 2010 to include a Fruitport-based casino, but the proposal stalled in the legislature. The plan was revived in October of 2013, when the Tribe and Governor Snyder agreed to waive certain rights held by the state which, in turn,

allowed the Tribe to move forward with the federal approval process. Since the initial land purchase, the Tribe has negotiated local operating agreements with Fruitport Township and Muskegon County which cover the provision of municipal and public safety services for the future development.

The public scoping hearing will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Fruitport Middle School Auditorium. Topics to be discussed include a range of environmental issues, including the project's potential effect on air quality, noise, public health, water resources, and public aesthetics. In addition to the public meeting, written comments may be submitted to the Bureau by October 21, 2015.

For more information on the project and the public hearing, please visit the Environmental Impact Statement website for the project, located at: <http://www.littlerivereis.com/>

## **SIMULCAST LEGISLATION INTRODUCED**

On Thursday, September 24, 2015, legislation was introduced that, if passed, would amend the state's horse racing laws to allow tracks to amend their racing licenses to permit additional simulcast wagering under certain circumstances. [Senate Bill 504 \("SB 504"\)](#) was introduced by Sen. David B. Robertson (R – Genesee County) and co-sponsored by eight additional senators.

Under current law, horse tracks must hold a certain number of live racing events per year in order to be eligible to host simulcast events. SB 504 would allow tracks to continue simulcasting if the number of live events falls below the simulcast threshold under specific circumstances, such as inadequate horse supply, insufficient funding for purses, or if there is no certified horseman's association operating in the state. If these scenarios occur, then the Executive Director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB"), which oversees the state's horse racing industry, may amend the track's license to permit continued simulcasting despite the lack of live events.

For simulcast wagering to be available to any track

licensee under [SB 504](#), there must be a total of at least 50 days of live thoroughbred racing held in the state in that year at all of the tracks. Exceptions to this rule could be made if they are approved by the state's thoroughbred certified horsemen's association.

The bill would also change the language of the state's horse racing laws to recognize the jurisdiction of the Executive Director of the MGCB, who was delegated authority to regulate the industry through an executive order issued by Governor Snyder in 2009.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

## **MGM GRAND DETROIT NAMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL COUNSEL**

On Tuesday, September 15, 2015, MGM Grand Detroit announced the appointment of Mr. Louis Theros as vice president and general counsel.

Mr. Theros is responsible for ensuring that business practices, policies and dealings of MGM Grand Detroit meet regulatory compliance requirements. The position brings Mr. Theros in house with a company that he previously represented as outside counsel.

"This role provides the unique opportunity to work internally with an organization that I have represented for almost sixteen years," said Mr. Theros. "I look forward to working in such an exciting industry with a great team."

Prior to joining MGM Grand Detroit, Mr. Theros served as vice president and as a member of the board of directors at Detroit-based Butzel Long, following over twenty years at Dickinson Wright PLLC, a national law firm with offices in Michigan. In private practice, Mr. Theros specialized in the areas of employment litigation, labor, advising and counseling clients on statutory employment compliance and gaming law. Numerous prestigious and professional organizations have recognized him throughout his career, including being named a Fellow of The

College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

“Louis has exceptional legal knowledge, background and experience,” said Mr. Zanella. “He’s also dedicated to his local community, making him a well-rounded addition to our team. We are excited to have him on our side.”

Mr. Theros is a graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Law and earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. Outside of his professional career, Mr. Theros is a member of the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council and is vice president of the Michigan Ice Hawks Hockey Association.

## GLOBAL GAMING EXPO BEGINS NEXT WEEK IN LAS VEGAS

This year’s Global Gaming Expo (“G2E”) will officially begin on Monday, September 28, 2015, with the exhibit floor to be open Tuesday, September 29 through Thursday, October 1. The event will be held at the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas.

The publishers of *The Michigan Gaming Newsletter* welcome and encourage any of our readership base that will be attending this year’s event to stop by the RMC booth for a free gift. We will be located at booth 3223 on the exhibit hall floor.

This year’s G2E marks the first-ever [“Integrated Resort Experience at G2E,”](#) which is catered toward food and beverage professionals. The new program will present innovative non-gaming technology, products and services as guests would experience them in a gaming-resort setting. This new effort will deliver an “end-to-end” solution to help casinos attract more guests, encourage them to stay and play longer, and increase revenue per visitor.

“Food and beverage programs are more important to the casino-gaming industry than ever before,” said Ron Rosenbaum, chief operating officer of the American Gaming Association. “As the world’s preeminent gaming event, G2E is at the forefront of this expansion and sees it not only as an opportunity – but a necessity – to provide

specialized programming for this key sector and unparalleled opportunities for professionals in both industries to do business together.”

The G2E notes that the Integrated Resort Experience will include leading-edge technologies, products and services offering solutions to casino operators interested in corporate meeting business, longer hotel stays, greater profitability and loyalty through management systems, increased food and beverage spending, longer engagement and enhanced guest satisfaction.

In addition, highlights of “INDULGE,” the F&B experience inside the Integrated Resort Experience, include a unique welcome event presented by Belvedere Vodka; a culinary competition judged by world-renowned celebrity chefs and national TV stars; lessons in mixology, craft beer and wine service from the foremost leaders in their respective industries; expertly curated educational seminars; and cutting-edge exhibits from some of the biggest names in F&B.

Additionally, the GGB’s 15th annual Gaming & Technology Awards will also be presented at G2E. The Gaming & Technology awards are the gaming industry’s awards for casino technology, products and services. This award ceremony will take place at the G2E. The winners include:

### Best Consumer-Service Technology

- 1st - IGT, OnPremise Mobile Solution
- 2nd - Gamblit Gaming, Gamblit Gaming Platform

### Best Productivity-Enhancement Technology

- 1st - Konami Gaming, SYNKROS SYNKdot
- 2nd - Duetto, Game Changer

### Best Slot Product

- 1st - Aristocrat, Game of Thrones
- 2nd - Everi, TournEvent

### Best Table-Game Product or Innovation

- 1st - Scientific Games, Flushes Gone Wild
- 2nd - AGS, The Tornado

Judges for the 2015 Gaming & Technology Awards are as follows:

- Claudia Winkler, president of GHI Solutions
- Rob Russell, gaming analyst, Regulatory Management Counselors, P.C.
- Frank Neborsky, CEO, Power Strategies
- Gerhard Burda, president and CEO, ESCAPES Advisory Services
- Cliff Paige, slot director, South Point Casino Resort, Las Vegas

To learn more about G2E, including full conference schedules, and how to register, please visit <http://www.globalgamingexpo.com/>

## **SPECTRUM GAMING/BRISTOL ASSOCIATES RELEASES 15TH ANNUAL EXECUTIVE SATISFACTION SURVEY**

On Friday, September 18, 2015, Spectrum Gaming Group and Bristol Associates publicly released the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Executive Satisfaction Survey which tracks executives' attitudes of the current state of the gaming industry.

The report found that “[t]his year, it seems that executives are placing slightly more emphasis on compensation, job security and other factors that would indicate a certain level of career maturity, and that is benefitting an industry that has expanded significantly across the United States in recent years, but is facing fewer growth projects.”

This year's report contained a record high number of respondents (1,021) that consisted of industry executives across a range of job responsibilities, locations, and experience levels. In response to questions on employers of first choice, the Seminole Tribe of Florida was the industry leader, followed by Penn National Gaming and Mohegan Sun. Respondents cited the Seminole Tribe's emphasis on job security, base compensation, and career growth as the top three critical factors affecting their decisions.

Regarding market optimism, the survey reveals that executives continue to be optimistic about nearly all gaming markets, with the exception of Atlantic City. Respondents displayed a 3.37/5 level of optimism for the Midwest Market compared to the 3.49/5 ranking for Las Vegas, which represented the highest level of optimism of the 8 market regions.

## **IAGA HONORS LUNCHEON— SEPTEMBER 29 AT G2E**

On Tuesday, September 29, 2015, the International Association of Gaming Advisors (“IAGA”) will be holding its annual IAGA Honors Luncheon at 12:45 p.m. at the Sands Convention Center during the 2015 Global Gaming Expo.

The annual event seeks to recognize significant contributions of a global gaming industry executive. This year's Luncheon will honor the impact Nevada attorney and former regulator Frank Schreck has had on gaming law and regulation.

Mr. Schreck has nearly 40 years of experience representing many public and private gaming companies and is the current chair of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's Gaming Law Practice. He has also served as IAGA President in 1990 and is also a former member of the Nevada Gaming Commission.

The luncheon will also announce the 2015 recipients of the Shannon Bybee Scholarship, an annual award established to honor the memory of Shannon Bybee, one of IAGA's founders, by awarding prizes for the best scholarly research papers written by accredited law school students during the school year.

Space is limited, and registration is required. To RSVP, click [here](#).