

February 8, 2019
Volume 25, Issue 4

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A publication of
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MICHIGAN GAMING

Newsletter



MGCB PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

The Michigan Gaming Control Board will hold a regular public meeting on Tuesday February 12, 2019. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the staff briefing, followed immediately by the regular agenda items. [Click here for a link to the meeting agenda.](#)

The meeting is open to the public and questions, comments and suggestions from the public regarding Board business and the licensing regulation and conduct of casino gaming in Detroit under the Act are welcomed and encouraged during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The meeting will be located at the MGCB Detroit office, Cadillac Place, 3062 West Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, Detroit. The Cadillac Place is in Detroit's New Center Area near the John Lodge Freeway (M-10), between Second Avenue and Cass Avenue. The Fisher Building and the Albert Kahn Building are nearby landmarks.

NEW OWNER ANNOUNCES THAT SCHWARTZ CREEK THOROUGHBRED TRACK WILL BE DELAYED: SURRENDERS 2019 TRACK LICENSE

AmRace & Sports LLC recently announced a one-year delay in its efforts to offer live thoroughbred racing at the Sports Creek Racing facility that it acquired last year.

Yesterday, Michigan Gaming Control Board Executive Director Richard Kalm issued an [order](#) accepting AmRace and Sports L.L.C.'s surrender of its 2019 race meeting license and simulcast permit for Sports Creek Raceway. "AmRace and Sports was unable to meet two key licensing conditions: an agreement with a certified horsemen's association and a contract for simulcasting races from other tracks," Kalm said. "This means they could not hold live races, and the public could not bet on broadcast races. While the

outcome is unfortunate, I accept AmRace and Sports' decision."

The Michigan Gaming Control Board issued a conditional license to AmRace in October under the original plan to commence racing in 2019, but the company is now planning to begin racing in 2020. Nelson E. Clemmons, CEO of Amwest Entertainment, LLC issued a press release, stating, in relevant part, the following:

Site improvements are continuing. Legislation developed to bring Michigan in line with other racing states to allow for advance deposit wagering and contribute revenues critical to a viable Michigan Thoroughbred racing and breeding program passed overwhelmingly by both Houses in the State Legislature. Sadly for the Thoroughbred industry it was ultimately vetoed by the former Governor at the very end of the session due to last minute alterations made to the bill suggested by those that don't have Michigan Thoroughbred racing as their priority.

Without the supporting legislation and overall economics to support live racing in this current year, and after considering all options, AmRace will withdraw its 2019 license application, commit its efforts to seeing beneficial legislation redeveloped and passed this year, continue to work through the renovations required at the race track facility and then submit an application in August for 2020 racing. Other planning and development work continues as well. Our dedication to see this effort through to a successful conclusion remains firm. We look forward to working with the current Legislature, Governor Whitmer's office, the MGCB, the Department of Agriculture and local/Genesee government to make this collective effort a reality for a brighter Michigan future.

Senator Dan Lauwers recently introduced Senate Bill 0012, which includes the Advanced Deposit Wagering that former Governor Snyder vetoed

late last year. The Bill has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture in the State Senate.

MACOMB COUNTY MEN CHARGED WITH CONDUCTING AN ILLEGAL GAMBLING OPERATION

According to a Press Release dated February 6, 2019, two Macomb County men were arraigned in late January in the 42nd District Court on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges of conducting an illegal gambling operation in 2018 at Jackpots, located in Chesterfield Township. Charges were filed against Leonard V. Szalai, 49, of Chesterfield Township and Raymond J. Seman, 45, of Sterling Heights following a joint investigation by the Michigan Department of Attorney General and the Michigan Gaming Control Board.

Each man is charged with:

- One felony count of conducting a gambling operation where wagering was used without a license;
- Two felony counts of using computers to commit a crime; and
- One misdemeanor count of maintaining a gambling house for gain.

The duo could face penalties of up to 10 years in jail and/or a \$100,000 fine for the most serious charges.

"Gambling is a highly regulated industry in our state and those who seek to fly under the radar with illegal gambling operations will consistently be held accountable," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said.

"Illegal gambling operations bring crime to a community," said Richard Kalm, MGCB executive director. "I encourage citizens to report illegal or suspicious gambling to our agency or local authorities to help us and our partner agencies protect Michigan citizens from this crime."

Each man was released on a \$20,000 personal bond. They may not gamble or use firearms until

the case is completed. A probable cause conference is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in the 42nd District Court.

PURE MICHIGAN GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM TO BE HELD AT GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT MARCH 5-7

The annual Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism has been scheduled for March 5-7 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. Confirmed speakers for the conference include:

- **Erin Francis-Cummings**, President and CEO, Destination Analysts Research
- **Dwayne Gill**, Comedian and Motivational Speaker
- **Chris Johnson**, Founder and CEO, On Target Living
- **Tony Rubleski**, President, Mind Capture Group
- **Chris Thompson**, President and CEO, Brand USA
- **Dave Lorenz**, Vice President, Travel Michigan

According to the event website, the event will have unique events and exhibitors, with two full days of conference educational sessions. There also will be a "Stars of the Industry" Dinner at which awards will be presented to tourism industry leaders.

More information on the conference is available at <https://conference.checkinmichigan.org/about/>.