

November 29, 2007

Volume 13, Issue 33

The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter

For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit www.michigangaming.com

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

Subscription information:

info@michigangaming.com

A publication of

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



MOTORCITY CASINO HOTEL OPENS

After an approximate one month delay in order to further train employees and take delivery of hotel furnishings, the MotorCity Casino Hotel opened to guests at 4:00 p.m. yesterday, November 28, 2007. The opening of the hotel is the capstone of MotorCity Casino's ongoing \$300-million expansion of its temporary casino facilities. The 17-story hotel hold 400 guest rooms which have such amenities as: 300 thread count sheets, 37-inch flat-screen plasma TVs that rotate 180 degrees, fresh-cut bouquets daily, an iPod docking station, access to a pillow library, programmable room temperatures and automated room service and maid calls. Gregg Solomon, chief executive officer of MotorCity, has stated that MotorCity intends to carve out a reputation as "technology leader" in the Detroit market.

Nightly rates range from approximately \$300 per room up to \$5,500 for the 2,500 square-foot presidential suite, the largest of MotorCity Casino Hotel's 41 suites.

In addition to the Hotel, MotorCity Casino's expansion will also include a number of new restaurants and lounges, which are slated to be completed by New Year's Eve. Additionally, a spa, a 1,200 seat theater and a 65,000 square-foot convention center will be completed in 2008.

Another highly anticipated and visible aspect of the MotorCity Casino Hotel is the 304-foot sleek, stainless-steel roofline influenced by a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air. The roof contains high-intensity LED light tubes that wrap around the building and can be programmed to display more than 16.7 million color variations. The custom rooftop, which will be lit from dusk to dawn, was designed by famed auto designer Chip Foose.

We encourage interested people to visit www.motorcitycasino.com to see images of the new hotel.

(Continued on page 2)

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 486 SETS ELECTION AT SOARING EAGLE CASINO AND RESORT

According to a report in the Mount Pleasant *Morning Sun*, Teamsters Local 486 has announced that an election of the housekeeping staff at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort which is run by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, will be held on December 20th to determine whether the employees want to be represented by the Teamsters.

In mid-October the Teamsters held a petition drive of the housekeeping staff at the Soaring Eagle as to whether they wanted to hold an election to be represented by the Teamsters Local 486. Following the outcome of that vote, the Teamsters announced the current election.

The election will be conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, which is an independent federal agency created by the U.S. Congress in 1935 to administer the National Labor Relations Act, the primary law governing relations between unions and employers in the private sector. The National Labor Relations Board has maintained since 1984 that the Act, which gives employees the right to organize and bargain collectively, applies to Native American casino employees.

The *Morning Sun* reported that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal Council has adopted an ordinance that claims Tribal sovereignty in matters of labor relations.

AL "SPEED" COFFMAN PASSES AWAY AT AGE 85

Former *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* handicapper, Al Coffman, passed away on Wednesday, November 25th on his 85th birthday. Mr. Coffman originally worked for the *Detroit Free Press* for 38 years from 1940 until 1978. He then moved on to the *Detroit News* where he worked for an additional 11 years. He originally used the name "Al Speed", but as his handicapping prowess gained national recognition, the *Detroit Free Press* started promoting him by his real name. On one occasion, he correctly forecast all eight races run at Hazel Park. He also regularly contributed stories and anecdotes about racing to help educate racing fans. In 1996, he was named the inaugural winner of the Racing Commissioner's Award of Excellence.

Former Deputy Racing Commissioner Tom Dorsey (from 1983 through 1990, and from 1995 through 1999) noted how important a figure Mr. Coffman was to the horse racing industry in Michigan. "He definitely had a huge impact on the popularity of horse racing. A lot of people would not consider handicapping a race without first looking at his selections." Mr. Dorsey noted that as a journalist, Mr. Coffman was always very fair and honest. "He was a good guy. We didn't always agree on everything, but even if we disagreed, he was fair," noted Mr. Dorsey. In recent years Mr. Coffman suffered from memory loss, but before that he was a true wealth of knowledge about the horse racing industry in Michigan. Mr. Dorsey noted: "He was a living encyclopedia of Michigan racing. He had a great memory before his medical problems set in. There was hardly a question you could ask him about racing that he did not have an answer to."

Mr. Coffman was survived by his wife and three children, and by the many race fans that benefited from his wisdom over his many years of service.