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

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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE DEBATES MICHIGAN TRIBAL CASINO PROPOSALS

Proposals to approve two Tribal land claim settlements were debated in the House Natural Resources Committee in the United States Congress, yesterday, February 6, 2008. If approved by Congress the land claim settlements, which were entered into by former Governor John Engler, would remove the cloud on title on some property that is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The proposed deals have fueled opposition from those who are opposed to the possibility of casino developments in both Romulus and Port Huron.

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was among those representing the city of Detroit in Washington D.C.. Commenting on the proposals, the mayor stated that "this legislation would severely harm our city's ability to rebuild and revitalize. We have made great strides and will continue to do so. The investments and the revenues from our three hard-fought-after casinos are paramount to these efforts." In addition, Kilpatrick also claimed "we don't have the market for another casino. ... (They) will take substantially away from the city of Detroit. Two more casinos will take jobs away."

The congressional delegation supporting the proposals included U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee (D), U.S. Rep. Candice Miller (R), Bart Stupak (D) and Rep. John Dingell (D) the longest-serving active member of the House. Rep. Dingell testified that the proposed districts would benefit from the casinos as they would create many jobs for the areas. Current Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm also submitted a letter supporting the land claim settlements.

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MICHIGAN LOTTERY LAUNCHES THE STATE OF MICHIGAN "GREEN TICKET" INSTANT GAME

On February 4, 2008, and in celebration of its 35th birthday, the Michigan Lottery introduced a new instant scratch ticket game designed with students in mind. The \$5.00 scratch-off State of Michigan "green ticket" has two top prizes of \$200,000 and over \$6.9 million worth of prizes overall. However, this new instant game is unique in that it provides non-winning tickets the opportunity to be entered in second chance drawings which will award eight (8) Michigan Educational Trust ("MET") contracts, which provide for the payment of four years tuition at a state university. In addition, winners will also have the option of transferring the tuition to another person or family member if desired. The Michigan Lottery will hold four of these second chance drawings between March and May, 2008. Players can enter as often as they wish, with each entry requiring one non-winning \$5.00 State of Michigan "green ticket."

"The State of Michigan ticket is an excellent way for us to take our support of public education to the next level by providing Lottery players the opportunity to send eight lucky children to college," said Lottery Commissioner M. Scott Bowen in a Michigan Lottery press release. "All of the Lottery's profits have always gone to public schools in Michigan but this particular Lottery prize will give players the chance to have a direct impact on one specific child's education."

Over the past 35 years, The Michigan State Lottery has successfully generated more than \$14 billion for K-12 education and the new instant scratch ticket helps to remind buyers of the Lottery's contributions to education. Recently the Michigan State Lottery recorded record sales for the fourth consecutive year. Over \$2.34 billion in tickets were sold in 2007 and of that \$1.35 billion was awarded in prize money and \$749 million went into the state's School Aid Fund.

Additional information about this new instant game can be found at the Michigan Lottery's website, located at <http://michigan.gov/lottery/>.

TRIBAL CASINO UPDATE

On December 31, 2007, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe opened its Saganing Eagles Landing Casino in Standish, Michigan. On January 24 the Casino's held it's official grand opening ceremony. The past month has proven to be a success for the new casino. According to *The Bay City Times*, it is

rumored that the Casino is planning to expand the existing 500 car parking area with the possibility of an offsite parking garage which would provide a shuttle service to customers. According to casino manager Stephanie Cooper, "(casino) traffic has absolutely exceeded our hopes, we've already hit capacity several times." In addition, Tribal Chief Fred Cantu believes the newly acquired marina and nearby properties will further, "improve in conjunction with the casino, to create a synergy."

The Casino sits on over 350 acres of land in Arenac County, approximately 30 miles north of Bay City, Michigan and offers patrons a 32,000 square foot gaming floor with over 700 slot machines and 40 electronic table games. The Saganing Eagles Landing Casino brings the number of tribal casinos within the State of Michigan to 19, in addition to three commercial casinos in the City of Detroit. More information about Saganing Eagles Landing Casino may be found at:

<http://www.saganing-eagleslanding.com/casino.htm>

The Grand Opening of the new Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2008. When complete, the \$120 million property will contain a seven-story, 137-room hotel, a casino with approximately 70,000 square feet of gaming space, a new restaurant and a 3,300 square foot ballroom. The existing Turtle Creek Casino is open during construction and provides complementary transportation to nearby hotels, including the nearby Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, which has undergone over \$14 million in renovations since the Grand Traverse Band Economic Development Corporation acquired it. More information about the Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel may be found at:

http://www.casino2win.com/turtle_creek/default.aspx.

The Four Winds Casino, which opened in August, 2007 on the outskirts of New Buffalo, Michigan has received acclaim from many for its 'upscale' affects. The 165-room Four Winds Hotel offers amenities which include granite floors, high entryways, oversized stone fireplaces, and an arched wooden colonnade that goes through the building. The Casino offers a variety of slots and table games to patrons and claims that it has the Midwest's only World Poker Tour Poker Room. More information about Four Winds Casino may be found at:

<http://www.fourwindscasino.com>.