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# The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



## SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBE TO BUILD NEW HOTEL, WATER PARK FOR 2011 OPENING

On Monday, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Migizi Economic Development Company announced that the Soaring Eagle Inn & Conference Center, in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, will be demolished next year and replaced by a new hotel and indoor water park. The new hotel and water park facility will stand just miles from Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, which has 200,000 square feet of floor space and 514 hotel rooms.

According to a press release by the Migizi Economic Development Co., the demolition is scheduled to take place in March of 2010, with construction scheduled to begin immediately thereafter. The project will take approximately one year to complete. Architectural design will be performed by Thalden Boyd Emery, a architecture and design firm specializing in Native American casino, resort and hotel architecture.

The existing 44 room Green Suites facility will continue to be operational during the construction phase of the new hotel.

Specifically, the new AAA three diamond, 120 room hotel will feature a 45,000 square foot indoor water park which will accompany guests from toddlers to adults. The park will feature a retractable roof or wall as well as an adult swimming pool. Phase II expansion could add an additional 120 rooms if business conditions justify.

"This property is truly a blessing. During the planning stages there is much excitement about creating a family mini-destination. We look forward to job creation and new economic opportunities for the members of the Tribe and the surrounding communities. We can only imagine what the next 10 years will hold for us," stated Bonnie Sprague, General Manager of Soaring Eagle Inn & Conference Center.

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## MOTORCITY CASINO HOTEL GREEN INITIATIVES

As part of MotorCity Casino Hotel's 2009 campaign for green practices, which ensure environmental responsibility and ecological sustainability, the Casino has implemented recycling initiatives and energy conservation practices throughout the property whenever regulatory requirements and Standard Operating Procedures allow.

"We strive to be a good corporate citizen. Embracing green practices simply makes good business sense," stated Rhonda Cohen, COO of MotorCity Casino Hotel. "Not only do we create a cleaner and healthier environment but we reduce our operating costs in the process. As a result of this type of responsible decision making, we have also increased loyalty among our associates, our guests and our business clients."

Specifically, the recycling program includes a commitment to purchasing recycled products and makes use of an eWaste disposal process for the discarding of CCTV monitors, with video tapes incinerated by an environmentally-friendly licensed vendor. Hard disk drives and surveillance cameras are recycled through the manufacturers, and copper wire is sold to recycling centers. In the food services areas, cooking oils and discharge grease is utilized for Bio-fuels, and all trash on the property is hauled to an incinerator where 70 to 80% of it is converted to steam or electricity. Additionally, all paper products in MotorCity Casino Hotel restrooms are certified by Green Seal Inc., which means the products meet the Green Seal environmental standards for paper towels and tissues.

In addition, MotorCity uses technology to increase energy conservation on the property, including the systematic prompting of back house systems into a hibernation mode when not in use, and an initiative to switch to LED lights in the casino, hotel lobby, and the restaurants Iridescence and Flame. LED lights have a life expectancy of 50,000 hours versus the 3,000 to 5,000 hours of a standard bulb. Also underway is an effort to reduce the need to print documents, and the use of "draft" mode when documents are printed. This will use less toner, and the printer will require less energy for the fuser bulb.

MotorCity has also committed to environmental responsibility through the use of non-toxic cleaning and chemical products. All of the cleaning chemicals used on the property are manufactured by Spartan Chemicals and certified by Green Seal Inc. Use of these certified chemicals leads to improved air quality, a reduction in water and air pollution, and a reduction in waste.

Finally, two of MotorCity's restaurants, High Octane and Iridescence, are part of the green initiatives. Octane grows beans without the use of toxic pesticides and fertilizers, irradiation, sewage sludge, and genetic engineering. Iridescence obtains 75% of its products from within a 300 mile radius of the casino.

## CAESARS WINDSOR LAYS OFF 120 EMPLOYEES

On Monday, October 19, 2009, Caesars Windsor, located in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, announced that it will be laying off 120 full-time and part-time employees. The job losses will affect both union and non-union employees. Several part-time jobs and one full-time position will be created as a result of the layoffs.

Caesars Windsor spokeswoman Holly Ward told *The Michigan Gaming Newsletter*, "[w]e are always hopeful that business will pick back up and we can recall all of those who were negatively affected. We are really concentrating on providing wonderful headline entertainment and promotions to make sure that we continue to derive business from both Windsor and America."

Specifically, the layoffs will affect employees in departments including casino finance, engineering, food and beverage, hotel operations, marketing, security, slot operations, table games and the warehouse.

Monday's announcement comes as the second round of layoffs to occur this year, as 82 people in the food and beverage department were laid off in July.

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## **G2E EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS EXPIRE OCTOBER 29**

**E**arly Bird Discounts for the 2009 Global Gaming Expo (G2E), to be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, from November 17 through 19, expire on October 29.

Early Bird Discounts include group discounts, Native American Casino Registration packages and special hotel and travel deals which registrants may take advantage of at the G2E website.

Patrons will have the opportunity to apply for Express Badges for G2E 2009. Expo organizers say the new badges will expedite registration and check-in time, thus creating more ease and convenience.

Over 30,000 gaming professionals from around the world are scheduled to attend this year's G2E from all gaming industry trades and sectors.

To register, or if you have any questions about G2E, please visit [www.globalgamingexpo.com](http://www.globalgamingexpo.com).

## **DAILY AGA SMARTBRIEFS**

**T**he American Gaming Association (AGA), which produces the Global Gaming Expo, has recently introduced *AGA SmartBriefs*, a free daily e-newsletter which keeps the gaming industry up to date on the latest gaming news.

Sign up and stay ahead of the curve with updates on products, technologies, amenities, industry happenings and more. You can register to receive the free *AGA SmartBriefs* by visiting [www.smartbrief.com/aga/](http://www.smartbrief.com/aga/).