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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



CAESARS WINDSOR CLOSED: LABOR AGREEMENT REJECTED

According to the Windsor Star, Caesars Windsor employees voted 59 percent against a three year labor agreement. The casino is currently closed along with hotel operations. President of Unifor Local 444, James Stewart, was quoted in the Windsor Star as saying, "there were no plans late Thursday to get back to the table." The Caesars Windsor [website](#) includes the following notice to patrons.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

Caesars Windsor is TEMPORARILY CLOSED as a result of a labor disruption.

At this time, hotel reservations booked between Friday, April 6 until Thursday, April 12 have been cancelled. For more information, please call 1-800-991-8888 or email vipservices@caesarswindsor.com.

If you have additional reservations in the upcoming month that are also affected, you will receive an email prior to your arrival date to advise you of the status. If cancellation is necessary due to the labour disruption, the reservation will automatically be cancelled.

The Johnny Reid concert scheduled for Friday, April 6 has been postponed. Ticketholders can hold onto their tickets to be honored on the new show date, to be determined. Refunds for postponed shows will be handled through the method of purchase, however Box Office refunds will be processed once the labor disruption is resolved and Caesars Windsor reopens. All future Colosseum shows will remain scheduled on their original date until further notice.

Once an agreement has been reached, we will be communicating our re-opening date on caesarswindsor.com, facebook.com/caesarswindsor and Twitter (@caesarswindsor).

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBE OPENS THE FIRST PHASE OF RENOVATION AT SOARING EAGLE CASINO & RESORT

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe is getting ready to debut the first phase of a \$26.5 million casino renovation project. The [Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort](#) in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, is welcoming patrons to a high limit gaming room and VIP lounge on Friday, April 6. The first phase was completed two weeks ahead of schedule.

“This transformation is one of many more transformations yet to come,” Soaring Eagle’s CEO Ray Brenny said in the April 2018 issue of *The Observer*, the tribe’s newspaper.

Additional components of the renovation include a new sports bar and night club, along with updates to the entertainment hall and family arcade. Work will be done in phases this summer and is expected to be complete by September.

The tribe is also investing millions of dollars to upgrade The Green Suites, which will be rebranded as the The Retreat at Soaring Eagle in order to accommodate guests of the casino, as well as the neighboring Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel and Waabooz Run Golf Course.

The tribe is also expanding the [Saganing Eagles Landing Casino](#) in Standish with a 148-room hotel, a full-service restaurant, additional space for retail and a larger gaming floor. An opening is slated for early 2019.

Soaring Eagle, the tribe’s flagship facility, is celebrating 37 years of gaming this year. Saganing Eagles is observing its 10th year of operation.

LANSING CASINO PROPOSAL UPDATE

A project to construct a casino near the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing was first proposed in 2012 by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, which also had plans to build a second casino in Detroit. In July 2017, the tribe’s

application to put land into trust for the projects was denied, but the tribe, which owns five casinos in the state’s Upper Peninsula, according to a report from WLNS, the tribe indicated that it will continue to pursue a Lansing casino.

“The Sault Tribe remains fully committed to pursuing the Lansing casino project and we are confident that our legal right to do so will be held up in the end,” the tribe said in a statement. “We are continuing to work with our legal and development teams to determine the best path forward and to assure that we have the resources to carry the project to a successful conclusion – for the tribe, the city of Lansing, and the Lansing Promise Program.”

While Lansing’s previous mayor made it clear that the city would join the tribe in continuing to push for the casino, the city’s current mayor, Andy Schor issued the following statement to WLNS “The city hasn’t heard anything further since the federal government rejected the application.” He went on to note that he will reevaluate the project once the contract for the property expires on January 1, 2019.

HAZEL PARK RACEWAY CLOSURE WILL BRING THE END OF THOROUGHBRED RACING IN MICHIGAN

After nearly 70 years of operation, the Hazel Park Raceway has announced that it will be closing permanently. The current owners are negotiating a sale that could be closed in the coming weeks.

The raceway opened in 1949 and was the first 5/8th mile horseracing track in the United States. The track hosted live thoroughbred racing on weekends, and live simulcast wagering every day, year-round. The closure could prove devastating to the industry, as Hazel Park was one of two remaining horse racing tracks in the state of Michigan, and the only raceway to offer live thoroughbred racing.

In 2002, there were seven fully-licensed

racetracks in Michigan, which generated nearly half a billion dollars of economic activity in the state. The closure of Hazel Park signals the end of the steadily declining industry and displaces the many involved in the track's operations. Approximately 90 employees will be left without work and will be provided with resources to assist in their transition to new employment. In addition to the track's employees, breeders, jockeys, and trainers will face struggles associated with the closure and possible relocation.

The 40 thoroughbred horses already housed in the track's stables must now be vacated by April 15th, and those with plans to house their horses at the raceway during the 2018 season will have to make different arrangements. Those using, and planning on using, the Hazel Park stables have been encouraged to contact available stables in surrounding states.

According to a report in the Blood Horse publication, Hazel Park's director of racetrack operations has not commented on the closure, but a firm has been hired to field questions and release details at a later date.