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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE ANNOUNCES FALL DISTRIBUTIONS

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe recently announced its semi-annual distribution of 2% of its gaming revenue to local municipalities. The \$3.2 million distribution represents 2% of the Tribe's revenue from Class III gaming at its two casino properties, Soaring Eagle and Saganing Eagles Landing casinos. Of the revenue sharing, \$2,279,121 was distributed to Isabella County, with \$1,232,383 for governmental uses and \$1,046,738 for educational uses. \$930,881 was distributed to Arenac and Bay Counties, with \$651,617 for governmental uses and \$279,264 for educational uses. The Tribe received over 350 individual requests for funding between the local governments and schools.

Chief Ronald Ekdahl noted, "The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is committed to selecting projects that aid in improving the quality of life in our communities. We have taken the opportunity to sit down with our local partners and discuss the needs to better understand how to maximize these resources and meet some of the requests that the local schools and governments simply do not have the funding for. By continuing to collaborate and share in open dialogue we can assist in ensuring that many of the unmet needs in our community are addressed."

MICHIGAN REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCES BILL TO SHIELD IDENTITY OF MULTI-STATE LOTTERY WINNERS

Michigan Rep. Padma Kuppa (D-District 41) has introduced legislation designed to permit winners of multi-state lottery games such as Mega Millions and Powerball to remain anonymous. Current Michigan law permits the Lottery department to disclose the name, address and other personal information regarding the winner of the multi-state lottery games. Several other states have enacted similar legislation, including Delaware, Georgia,

Kansas, Maryland, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas. HB 5261 was referred to the House Committee on Regulatory Reform.

“When someone wins the lottery, the last thing on their mind should be the consequences of having their personal information released to the public,” said Kuppa. “By offering the option to remain anonymous, we can ensure we’re protecting the privacy of Michiganders and, as much as possible, prevent them from being preyed upon for their winnings.”

Notably, current Michigan law provides generally that, except as otherwise provided by state or federal law, winners of lottery prizes in excess of \$10,000 have the right to keep their names confidential. MCL 432.25(9). The statute, however, also provides that the winners of lottery prizes awarded as part of a joint enterprise can be disclosed where disclosure is “required under the joint enterprise participation agreement.” MCL 432.25(10). HB 5261 would amend this section to mandate that the Lottery “shall” not disclose the names “unless the winner of the prize agrees in writing”.

KEWADIN CASINOS GET UPGRADE WITH SCIENTIFIC GAMES INSTALLATION

Kewadin Casinos recently received new installations from Scientific Games, including systems upgrades and games packages. The upgrade includes Scientific Games’ new iView4 technology, a player interface display that shows marketing animations and videos with instant response through a multi-touch display. The Kewadin Casinos are the first Scientific Games users in the state of Michigan to install iView4. Bob Parente, SVP and CRO at Scientific Games, said, “We are committed to this opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of Kewadin Casinos’ player interactions and to provide compelling gaming experiences via our cutting-edge products and solutions that will set a new standards in player engagement.”

Kewadin Casinos have also installed the SG Web

Content Manager, which supports HTML5 content and tools for analytics, rules, and scheduling. In addition, the upgrade includes Scientific Games’ Elite Bonusing Suite at its properties as well. The Elite Bonusing Suite includes marketing applications that automate promotions and player loyalty programs, launch floor-level interactive promotions, and reward players at the machine as they play.

Allen Kerridge, CEO of Kewadin Casinos, said, “We pride ourselves in the gaming experiences and innovative technologies we use to keep our players engaged and satisfied. Scientific Games’ breadth of systems, technologies and exciting content library were key factors in our decision to partner with them.” Over 36 months, Kewadin Casinos will install a number of Scientific Games’ slot games, including James Bond, Monopoly, Quick Hi, Lock It Link, Ultimate Fire Link, Jin Jin Bao Xi, Jinse Dao, The Wizard of Oz, and the Dancing Drums Explosion. The upgrades permitting the expansion of the slot game franchises were completed at Kewadin’s Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Christmas, Hessel, and Manistique locations.

CAESARS WINDSOR INTRODUCES RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN

Caesars Windsor recently announced a partnership with Bullfrog Power to introduce sustainable electricity throughout the casino. While players will still enjoy the same games and features, now they will be fueled by eco-friendly sources. The hotel tower will also benefit, with its 107 digital screens now being powered by renewable energy sources, such as wind, hydro, green fuel, and green natural gas. Casinos are large consumers of electricity to power slot machines, lights, and music, all 24 hours a day, seven days a week. James Hollohazy, Director of Resort Operations, noted that Caesars Windsor has been working to make its operations more sustainable.

Caesars Windsor is also known for its CodeGreen program, initially launched in 2013. Through

CodeGreen, over 4,000 pounds of batteries have been diverted from landfills. The program aims at increasing energy efficiency and water conservation, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting recycling and waste reduction. Through its Clean the World program, which recycles and redistributes soap bars, the casino resort has provided over 4,000 hygiene kits to local non-profit organizations. Additionally, its efforts show that waste reduction surpasses 17 tons.

FIREKEEPERS CASINO PROVIDES COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR HOMETOWN NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Fire Hub Restaurant in Battle Creek, owned by FireKeepers Casino Hotel, is partnering with the Food Bank of South Central Michigan and the Haven of Rest Ministries to provide a traditional Thanksgiving meal to families and citizens in need on Thanksgiving Day. The Fire Hub is both a non-profit restaurant and food pantry, and plans to be able to accommodate at least 500 guests at the dinner. Those interested in volunteering or in need of a hot meal can call The Fire Hub at (269) 753-0065. The restaurant will be closed to the public on Thanksgiving Day.