

June 26, 2020

Volume 26, Issue 26

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A publication of
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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



OJIBWA CASINOS TO REOPEN NEXT WEEK

The Ojibwa Casinos announced their reopening on their website. The Ojibwa Baraga Casino plans to reopen on June 29th, and the Ojibwa Marquette Casino is reopening on July 1. The Casinos state the following in connection with the announced reopenings:

“Everyone’s health and well-being are our number-one priority. . . Ojibwa Casinos Baraga and Marquette underwent deep cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting of every area before reopening. Among other things, this included the lobbies, restaurants and kitchens, slot machines, table games (which remain closed for now), Rewards Club and Cage, entrances and exits, restrooms, door handles, handrails, ATMs, kiosks, all counter surfaces, and more. We will continue this cleaning and sanitizing protocol every day moving forward, and to accomplish this, our new hours of operation will be 7AM to 2:30AM daily. By following CDC, NIGC, and state and local public health organization recommendations, we have established comprehensive reopening protocols and new health and safety precautions. Our returning team members are trained on these procedures, and our guests will see reminder signage throughout the property.”

The Ojibwa Casinos provide detailed information on their safety protocols on their website. <http://ojibwacasino.com/>

LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT PARTNERS WITH RUSH STREET INTERACTIVE

On Monday of this week in a press release, Rush Street Interactive (“RSI”) announced a partnership with the Little River Casino Resort in Manistee, Michigan to be the service provider for its in-casino retail sportsbook and to

work with the casino on a co-branded online sports betting and online casino as soon as the Michigan regulations allow. RSI is based in Chicago and launched its first online betting site in New Jersey in 2016. Additionally, the company has launched online sportsbooks in Pennsylvania, Colorado, Indiana, and Illinois and has opened retail sportsbooks in New York and Illinois.

Little River Casino plans to open its retail sportsbook early in the third quarter, with online sports wagering and online casino games to follow once they are allowed by Michigan regulators.

"The successful track record of Rush Street Interactive as a provider of in-casino sportsbooks in Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois, was very significant to us when we chose them as our partner," said Andrew Gentile, General Manager of Little River Casino Resort. "Rush Street's ability to provide a road map of how they've enabled other land-based casinos to operate market-leading sportsbooks kept us from having to reinvent the wheel."

"The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has built an outstanding reputation and we are thrilled they have chosen RSI to be a part of that tradition," said Richard Schwartz, President of Rush Street Interactive. "Being only a lakeshore away in Chicago, the Rush Street Interactive team views this partnership as an opportunity to help bring a property-wide lift to Little Rivers Casino Resort—from slots to tables to restaurants—thanks to the tremendous and growing popularity of sports wagering."

MICHIGAN HOUSE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO PERMIT ONLINE CHARITABLE RAFFLES

Rep. Eric Leutheuser, Dist-58 (R), recently introduced HB 5862 which would permit charitable organizations to offer online raffles. The bill limits the online raffles to eligible charitable organizations who held licenses to conduct raffles in either 2018 or 2019 and contains a sunset date of June 30, 2023. The bill was referred to the House Regulatory Reform

Committee which held a hearing and took testimony on the bill June 23, 2020.

Rep Leutheuser testified at that hearing that the bill came about due to the coronavirus affecting raffle tickets sold by charitable organizations. He noted that the bill is narrowly tailored to the current environment, only allowing charities that already held licenses in either 2018 or 2019, as well as a sunset that would allow evaluation of the program. He acknowledged that Lottery has some concerns and looks forward to working with Lottery to address its concerns.

Representatives of Domestic Harmony of Hillsdale County, a domestic violence shelter, and Ducks Unlimited testified in support of the bill. Both witnesses described how their fundraising efforts had significantly declined due to the inability to hold in-person banquets and other events to raise funds due to the restrictions resulting from the coronavirus. While not wishing to speak, the Bureau of State Lottery submitted a card indicating that it was opposed to the bill as drafted but looked forward to working with Rep. Leutheuser to modify the bill.

The committee referred the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee with a recommendation that it pass, with only Rep. Liberati voting no. The House Ways and Means Committee had the bill on the agenda for its June 24th meeting but ending up adjourning without discussion of the bill.

FIREKEEPERS CASINO HOTEL COMMEMORATES HOTEL EXPANSION TOPPING AND CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF SPORTSBOOK

On Monday of this week, FireKeepers Casino Hotel, and its owners, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, celebrated the topping off of construction on a second hotel tower with a traditional tribal ceremony. Moments later, officials moved inside the casino and cut a ribbon to mark the Grand Opening of Dacey's

Sportsbook, the first tribally-owned casino sportsbook to open in Michigan.

“Today marked another significant step forward in FireKeepers history,” stated FireKeepers CEO, Kathy George in a press release issued by the casino. “Two memorable events in the same day reflects the great leadership of the tribe and their focus and support, maintaining FireKeepers position as a top regional U.S. gaming destination.”

“FireKeepers guests now have the ability to bet on the biggest sporting events worldwide at Dacey’s Sportsbook, located in a restaurant and bar featuring the great food and craft beers Dacey’s Taphouse is known for,” stated Jim Wise, Vice President of Marketing & Sports/Online Gaming. Several major big screens now fill Dacey’s Sportsbook & Taphouse, creating an environment to watch various sporting events. Live wagering windows and self-service betting kiosks are also be available at Dacey’s. FireKeepers has partnered with SG Digital to provide on property sports betting and, eventually iGaming.

According to the press release issued by Firekeepers, “The new eight-story, 203 room second hotel tower, designed by JCJ Architecture and built by Clark Construction Company of Lansing, MI, is in alignment with FireKeepers’ existing standards of excellence, as the current hotel has been recognized as a AAA Four Diamond award winner for the past five consecutive years. The new hotel rooms will feature upscale built-in décor matched with the latest in guest service technology.”

The press release issued further notes the following:

“JCJ Architecture is honored to be a part of this important expansion project at FireKeepers Casino Hotel. It’s exciting to see the progress since we assembled here to celebrate the initial groundbreaking almost exactly one year ago,” says Danae Tinsley, an Associate and Project Manager of JCJ Architecture. “Despite recent challenges related to the global pandemic, the

team has persevered, and is determined to push through to the end. Today, we are looking at a beautiful, eight story building, and JCJ is proud to be a member of this resilient team of professionals, driving this project to fruition.”

“The expansion will result in an additional 203 hotel rooms, including fourteen suites, plus a transformed hotel lobby area, a new Nibi signature restaurant, new high limit slot and table game areas and a new VIP slot and table gaming space and VIP lounge. The welcoming 39,000 square foot first level will deliver a vibrant new lobby bar and front desk while increasing the focus on the main pillars which represent the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi: Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility, and Wisdom.”

“FireKeepers signature restaurant, Nibi, one of Michigan’s finest dining experiences, will enjoy a new location with seating for approximately 125, and an interior that retains a focus on the tribal namesake, water, plus a new fire feature. Nibi will also feature expanded wine storage and presentation, and a private dining area for up to 20, perfect for special parties or small business meetings.”

“The construction project also redesigns a section of FireKeepers existing gaming space. When complete, there will be new High Limit Gaming sections for slots and table games, plus a new bar and VIP lounge for select Red Hot Rewards Club members.”

ST. CLAIR COUNTY MAN FACES NEW FELONY GAMBLING CHARGES IN GENESEE COUNTY FOLLOWING CONVICTION IN MACOMB COUNTY CASE

David Hoppe of East China Township was arraigned on six new felony charges in Genesee County’s 67th District Court on Tuesday. The charges stem from Hoppe allegedly supplying illegal gambling games in Flint Township between May 2017 and February 2019. These games are similar to the type that were found at a former

establishment in Roseville that Hoppe was also connected to.

Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) executive director Rick Kalm made a statement saying: “Illegal gambling often is used to fund organized crime...diverting money from schools and local communities that benefit from taxes paid by regulated commercial gaming and revenue sharing from tribal casinos.”

Hoppe was charged with four 10-year felony counts of aiding and abetting an unlicensed gambling operation, one 10-to-20-year felony count of using a computer to commit a crime, and one 20-year felony count of racketeering by conducting a criminal enterprise in Flint Township and Roseville. Hoppe is scheduled for a probable cause conference July 2 and was given a \$70,000 personal bond.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel also made a statement about the case: “Illegal gambling operations are not a victimless crime... when illegal gambling operations siphon money away from establishments that follow the rules, residents across the state suffer.”

Earlier this year, a Macomb County jury found Hoppe guilty of one count of running an illegal gambling operation in Roseville and was also convicted on two counts of using computers to commit a crime and a misdemeanor charge of running a gambling house for gain. He was later sentenced to a year of probation and 40 hours of community service.

Michigan residents are urged to call the MGCB’s anonymous tip line, 888-314-2682, to report illegal or suspicious gambling activity. To read the full press release, click [here](#).

MGM RESORTS ISSUES SOCIAL IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT: PROVIDES STATISTICS ON MICHIGAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Earlier this week, MGM Resorts International (“MGM”) released the 2019 Social Impact and Sustainability Report which it entitled “**Focused**

on What Matters: Embracing Humanity. Protecting the Planet.” MGM stated that the report reflects its commitment “to create a more sustainable future, while striving to make a more positive impact in the lives of its employees, guests and in the communities where the Company operates.”

MGM further noted: “Significantly, this report serves as a new annual environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting baseline, from which the company will expand its impact and address new challenges as they arise. Accomplishments outlined in the report include:

- Establishing a mentorship program for women, providing more opportunities for advancement
- Providing free higher education to employees through the College Opportunity Program;
- Donating 1.5 million meals through the Company’s marquee program, Feeding Forward;
- Reducing water usage by more than 29% per square foot
- Earning LEED Platinum certification for MGM Springfield, the highest rating ever achieved by a gaming resort”

"As our stakeholders and investors demand more action, it is vital that we evolve a strategy that directly addresses the most material and pressing issues, creates value and ensures the longevity of our Company, our communities and our planet" said Bill Hornbuckle, Acting CEO and President of MGM.

As part of the report, MGM provides data on some of the contributions it has made in various communities, including the following data relating to the contributions MGM Grand Detroit has made in the City of Detroit:

- 339 employees volunteered 2,598 hours
- \$52,881,733 paid to Detroit-based business
- \$7,424,829 paid to Minority Business Enterprises
- \$2,545,097 paid to Women Business Enterprises

- 52% of employees are Detroit residents
- 72.3% of employees are racially or ethnically diverse
- 54% of leaders are racially or ethnically diverse
- 53.8% of employees are women.

MGM also noted that it has made major efforts throughout the current pandemic crisis. "So far, the company has distributed \$7 million dollars in emergency grant payments supporting employees and their immediate families impacted by the crisis; donated food and products valued at over \$1 million, including 500,000 equivalent meals for food banks and 100,000 masks for community health needs; and leveraged its procurement and logistics expertise to source 500,000 N95 masks, 260,000 gowns, 250,000 rapid PCR COVID-19 test kits and 200,000 gloves on behalf of the State of Nevada COVID-19 Task Force."

"Across the United States, we know that our local communities are still in need of assistance on many levels," said Jyoti Chopra, Chief People, Inclusion and Sustainability Officer. "We are committed embracing humanity through our support and advocacy whether it be for racial justice, equal employment laws, providing food and meals for those suffering hardships due to the pandemic or protecting our planet through leading sustainable practices. Across a broad spectrum of environment, social and governance areas, we will continue to engage with our community partners to understand societal needs and identify how MGM can be part of the solution."

The full report can be downloaded from the MGM Resorts website [here](#).