

October 30, 2020

Volume 26, Issue 42

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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## **DISASSOCIATED PERSONS MAY NOW APPLY TO REMOVE NAME FROM SELF-EXCLUSION LIST**

The Michigan Legislature passed HB 4686, codified as [Public Act 225 of 2020](#), in September, modifying the existing law to allow disassociated persons to remove themselves from the Disassociated Persons List. Disassociated persons are those who have voluntarily placed their name on the Disassociated Persons list. Prior to the passage of Public Act 225, doing so banned them for life from entering the property of any of the Detroit casinos. Public Act 225 now gives those persons the opportunity to apply for removal after being on the list for five years.

“Previously, the state used criminal law to combat a gambling problem for a lifetime, which is an expensive, harsh way to deal with an addiction,” said Rick Kalm, Executive Director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB). “A lifetime ban actually may deter some people from signing up. For others, their life circumstances may have changed. Of course, people with gambling problems may request removal and resume behaviors they sought to prevent by going on the list. I’ve received many requests over the years from people on the Disassociated Persons List who wanted to remove their names, but state law did not offer that option until the new act was signed Oct. 16.”

The Michigan Association on Problem Gambling has maintained a neutral stance on gambling activities, but the Association’s President, Michael Burke, agrees that the new law may help people seek self-exclusion to address a gambling addiction.

“The majority of our board felt the Disassociated Persons List lifetime ban in Michigan may have acted as a deterrent to gamblers who may be more likely to sign up if they have other self-exclusion options such as a two- or five- year ban available, said Mr. Burke.

After a period of five years passes from placement on the list, a disassociated person may apply to remove themselves using a [form](#) on the MGCB website. The removal request form includes instructions for completion and submission. The MGCB has 30 days to process the request after receiving the fully completed form. Applicants will receive notification of whether their request was approved or denied via email or mail.

## **NORTHVILLE DOWNS TO RUN 54 LIVE HORSE RACING DAYS IN 2021**

An order issued by the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) permits 54 days of live pari-mutuel horse racing at Northville Downs on Fridays and Saturdays during 2021. Northville Downs also received a permit to simulcast races to and from the track, and conduct simulcast pari-mutuel wagering throughout 2021, with the exception of April 4, November 25, and December 24-25.

"It has been a challenging year for live horse racing, and we hope the 2021 season will go well," said Rick Kalm, MGCB Executive Director. "The added option of mobile betting approved this year provides extra support for Michigan's horse racing industry and may draw new fans to the sport."

Northville Downs will split its 2021 live standardbred horse racing season with pari-mutuel wagering into two segments: March 19 through June 26, and October 1 through December 18.

The 2020 live racing season will end December 12 after a delayed season opening on August 14 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The current season includes 36 live racing dates, although 52 dates were scheduled prior to the pandemic. The 2020 season was extended under an October 6 order granting 18 additional race dates.

AmRace & Sports LLC was denied 2021 race meeting and simulcast permits for Sports Creek Raceway near Flint, as it did not comply with Michigan statutory licensing requirements

according to the MGCB.

To view the 2021 live racing calendar, please click [here](#).

## **GUN LAKE TRIBE DONATES \$500K OF CARES ACT FUNDS TO LOCAL SCHOOLS AND ALLEGAN COUNTY**

Per a press release issued October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Gun Lake Tribe announced it will be making \$500,000 in donations to local schools and the Allegan County government to assist in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic, including school safety efforts and establishing a county mobile vaccination unit. The donations comprise a portion of the funding the Tribe received from the federal CARES Act and come out of its Coronavirus Relief Fund.

"We are happy to provide our friends and neighbors with additional funding during these very difficult times," said Tribal Council Chairman Bob Peters. "The mobile vaccination unit will play an important role in getting our community back to normal, but in the meantime helping to keep our local schoolteachers and students safe is the next best thing."

The Tribal Council allocated the \$500,000 of CARES Act funds by providing Allegan County with \$225,000 to purchase a mobile vaccination unit that will provide area residents with a COVID-19 vaccine once one is available. The remainder of the funds will be distributed in \$25,000 grants to each of eleven local school districts. The school districts can use the funds to expand broadband capacity, hire new teachers, develop online curriculum, acquire computers and digital devices, and install ventilation and air filtration equipment.

"The donation of the Mobile Clinic serves as another example of the support the Gun Lake Tribe provides for the overall Allegan County community. The Mobile Clinic will be an instrumental tool to help bring various public

health services closer to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic and long after," said Robert J. Sarro, Allegan County Administrator.

"Allegan County school districts, like all districts nationwide, are being faced with unprecedented situations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The generosity of the Gun Lake Tribe will help ease the financial burden associated with remote learning, PPE, and sanitation procedures. We sincerely thank the Gun Lake Tribe for their unwavering support," said William Brown, Superintendent of Allegan Area Educational Service Agency.

Gun Lake Tribe CARES Act money will be distributed as follows:

- Allegan County Mobile Vaccination Unit - \$225,000
- Allegan AESA - \$25,000
- Allegan Public Schools - \$25,000
- Fennville Public Schools - \$25,000
- Glenn Public School - \$25,000
- Hamilton Public Schools - \$25,000
- Hopkins Public Schools - \$25,000
- Martin Public Schools - \$25,000
- Otsego Public Schools - \$25,000
- Plainwell Community Schools - \$25,000
- Saugatuck Public Schools - \$25,000
- Wayland Union Schools - \$25,000

## **FIREKEEPERS CASINO HOTEL AND NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI AWARDED NIGA CHAIRMAN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD**

FireKeepers Casino Hotel and its operator, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, were awarded the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Chairman's Leadership Award on October 21. NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens visited FireKeepers Casino Hotel, the Tribe's Pine Creek Indian Reservation in Fulton, Michigan, as well as The Fire Hub restaurant and the Kendall Street Pantry in Battle Creek.

During his visit, Chairman Stevens noted the Tribe's work feeding local residents in need as he

toured The Fire Hub restaurant, which gives 80% of its profits to local charities. The Kendall Street Pantry is attached to The Fire Hub and partners with the Food Bank of South Central Michigan to help end food insecurity.

"I will always remember what you've done with this old fire station," said Chairman Stevens. "On the right, we go to one of the neatest restaurants I've ever been in, and on the left we go to a place where people can get the help they need. These are the things that make the world turn for us, and mean a great deal to me personally."

"To be recognized as a tribe speaks volumes about us for being a nation that does things for good reasons, focusing on community outreach, not just what we can do economically," said Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck. "I appreciate that it focuses on the wellness and success of the tribe as a whole, instead of an individual, and it shows how keeping true to our community's mission and vision has put us in a good position in these unprecedented times."

Chairman Stevens also gave the Award to showcase the FireKeepers Casino Hotel being recently named by Forbes as being among the top ten best employers in Michigan. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, casinos comprised the 11<sup>th</sup> largest employer in the United States.

"We are proud of this recognition of our work as an employer of choice," said FireKeepers Casino Hotel CEO Kathy George. "To have both NIGA and Forbes identify us as a premier employer is a clear indication of how we treat our team members and a validation of their dedication to providing every patron with a rewarding experience at FireKeepers."

The Chairman's Leadership Award was also awarded to highlight the Tribe's work with the Native American Heritage Fund, which supports positive Native relationships and imagery with local communities throughout Michigan.

“This is foundational work you are doing to help educate America,” said Chairman Stevens. “I appreciate what you have done to educate the world around you to better understand and appreciate our culture and traditions.”

## **GUN LAKE TRIBE AWARDED NATIONAL PARK SERVICE GRANT**

Gun Lake Tribe’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office has been awarded a Tribal Heritage grant funded by the Historic Preservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service of the Department of Interior.

The grant will allow the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to develop an inventory of cultural and historical resources related to Gun Lake Tribe, and successfully implement forms, policies, and procedures related to the GIS inventory.

“This project will build up the infrastructure on the Tribe’s Historic Preservation office in order to support the Tribe in protecting cultural and historical resources and asserting our rights as a Sovereign Nation,” said Tribal Chairman Bob Peters.

The Tribe plans to develop a process to formally identify and inventory sites within the GIS database of cultural and historically significant sites in order to protect and preserve them. This will be the first, most important step to identifying, recording, and storing information pertaining to all sites of cultural and historical significance to Gun Lake Tribe.

“We are looking forward to utilizing this grant funding to lay the foundation for our Tribal Historic Preservation Office to build additional historic preservation programs and infrastructure,” said Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Lakota Pochedley. “This project will ultimately lead to us further focus on community outreach and educational programming.”

For more information about the NPS’s Tribal Historic Preservation Grants, click [here](#). To learn

more about Gun Lake Tribe’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office, click [here](#).

## **GGB GAMING & TECHNOLOGY AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

Winners of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual GGB Gaming & Technology Awards were announced this week and a special video presentation of the award winners took place during G2E. The GGB Gaming & Technology Awards are the industry standard in the field, recognizing excellence in innovation and practical application in all gaming disciplines.

“Once again, the nominations for the GGB Gaming & Technology Awards represented the best new products and services in the gaming industry,” said Roger Gros, publisher of *Global Gaming Business Magazine*.

“As technology advances at a rapid pace, it’s often difficult for casino executives to stay current,” Mr. Gros continued. “The judges for the GGB Gaming & Technology Awards are some of the most dedicated and respected executives in the business, so their opinion carries a great deal of weight. The winners of this year’s edition beat out some amazing competition and demonstrated true innovation.”

The winners of the 19th Annual GGB Gaming and Technology Awards are:

### **Best Productivity-Enhancement Technology**

Gold Medal: Agilysys – rGuest Service

Silver Medal: Konami Gaming, Inc. – SYNK31

### **Best Table Game Product or Innovation**

Gold Medal: Scientific Games – TableView with Chip Recognition

Silver Medal: JCM Global – TITA System

### **Best Slot Product**

Gold Medal: Everi – The Vault

Silver Medal: Aristocrat – Cash Express Luxury Line

**Best Interactive Product**

Gold Medal: Ruby Seven Studios: SMSC Gaming Enterprise – Mystic Slots  
Silver Medal: IGT – IGT PlaySports Platform

**Best Consumer-Service Technology**

Gold Medal: Kambi – Bring Your Own Device  
Silver Medal: Everi – CashClub Wallet Core Edition

**Best Guest Health & Safety Product**

Gold Medal: Aristocrat – Reel Clear  
Silver Medal: Scientific Games – Social Distancing & Automated Game Sanitization

Judges for this year's awards were: Claudia Winkler, President, GHI Solutions; Robert Russell, Gaming Analyst, Regulatory Management Counselors, P.C.; Frank Neborsky, General Manager, The Downs at Albuquerque; Gerhard Burda, President and CEO, ESCAPES Advisory Services; Cliff Paige, Slot Director, South Point Casino Resort, Las Vegas; and Skyelar Perkins, Corporate Slot Director, Choctaw Casinos.

Nominations for the 2021 GGB Gaming & Technology Awards will open in Spring 2021.