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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



MICHIGAN TO ALLOW DETROIT CASINOS TO REOPEN DECEMBER 21ST

At a news conference held this afternoon, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that the Detroit casinos will be permitted to reopen on December 21st as a result of the progress the state has made in reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. She also indicated that movie theatres and bowling alleys would also be permitted to reopen. The Governor indicated that the state will be reevaluating the situation in early January, and encouraged citizens in Michigan to remain vigilant in taking the appropriate steps, including masks, to help combat the spread. The Governor also gave an emotional tribute to Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon who passed away from COVID-related complications.

MICHIGAN HOUSE APPROVES MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL POKER BILL

Senate Bill 991 amending the Lawful Internet Gaming Act to allow the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) to enter into agreements to facilitate multijurisdictional internet poker was passed by the Michigan House of Representatives on Thursday of this week. Under the bill, MGCB is allowed to enter into agreements with other jurisdictions, including Indian tribes, to facilitate, administer, and regulate multijurisdictional internet gaming for poker by internet gaming operators, as long as both of the following conditions were met:

- Entering into the agreement is consistent with state and federal laws.
- The internet gaming under the agreement is conducted only in the United States.

Internet Gaming Operators will have to do both of the following as a condition of licensure:

- Comply with the act, MGCB rules, and minimum internet controls regarding procedures and requirements for accepting internet poker wagers made by individuals located in other jurisdictions.
- Maintain one or more mechanisms on the internet gaming platform that are designed to reasonably verify that an authorized participant is at least 21 years old and that internet wagering is limited to transactions made by an authorized participant located in another United States jurisdiction authorized by the multijurisdictional agreement. (Licensees must currently maintain age and location verification mechanisms for authorized participants located in Michigan.)

The Michigan House returned the bill to the Senate which is expected to file it for approval with Governor Whitmer.

POLLARD BANKNOTE AND MICHIGAN BASED NEOGAMES SIGN FOUR-YEAR ILOTTERY CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH THE MICHIGAN LOTTERY

On Thursday, December 17th, Pollard Banknote (“Pollard”) issued a press release announcing that together with NeoGames S.A. (“NeoGames”) it had entered into a four-year iLottery contract extension with the Michigan Lottery. Under the extended agreement, which commences July 2022 through to July 2026, Pollard, along with NeoGames, will continue to serve as the Michigan Lottery's iLottery partner, providing platform technology, a full suite of interactive eInstant and draw-based games, and a broad range of managed services — from player support and customer engagement marketing, to banking, payments, claims, and compliance operations. According to the press release, the two companies also currently supply similar solutions for four other highly successful iLottery programs in North America through their jointly owned and operated company, NeoPollard Interactive LLC.

"The success that the Michigan Lottery has achieved in just a few short years in the iLottery space is truly remarkable," stated Doug Pollard, Co-Chief Executive Officer, Pollard. "Through our collaborative partnership with the Michigan Lottery, we have learned a great deal about iLottery players in Michigan and have made great strides in bringing new technology-enabled products and services to the Lottery to engage its players and optimize sales. We will continue to be a partner that is fully invested in the success of the Michigan Lottery's iLottery program to increase revenues for good causes through online and mobile channels."

"We are privileged to have the opportunity to once again extend the market-leading work we do with the Michigan Lottery, and the overall growth since 2014 has been a testament to the innovative approach the Lottery has demonstrated," added Moti Malul, NeoGames' Chief Executive Officer. "Our company has worked diligently alongside the Lottery to continuously improve the program, whether it be new and exciting games or innovative solutions to enhance the online experience. We anticipate that even greater success is yet to come."

GUN LAKE TRIBE DONATES \$14,000 TO COMMUNITY ACTION OF ALLEGAN COUNTY

The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Tribe of the Pottawatomini Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) announced a donation of \$14,339.42 to Community Action of Allegan County.

"The Tribe and its citizens are very pleased to help charitable organizations like Community Action achieve their mission of helping those less fortunate," said John Shagonaby, Governmental Affairs Officer. "Charitable work is even more important during economic crisis brought on by the global pandemic."

The donation was made pursuant to an agreement to direct unclaimed or forfeited funds

left at Gun Lake Casino to non-profit organizations or charities. The Tribe is able to choose which organization will receive the funds.

"Many area residents are facing new and significant hardships this holiday season due to high rates of unemployment, utility bills, possible eviction, as well as food insecurity," said Lisa M. Evans, Executive Director of Community Action of Allegan County. "The burdens of the pandemic, and unemployment benefits potentially expiring later this month are major challenges facing families in Allegan County. We thank the Tribe for its support and kindness in helping us help others."