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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit www.michigangaming.com

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# MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



# **ODAWA CASINO RESORT OFFICIALLY OPENS**

n Wednesday, the Little Traverse Band of Ottawa Indians celebrated the opening of its Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey, Mich. The tribe's original casino, Victories Casino & Hotel, officially closed on June 18.

Hundreds of tribal members, of every age group, gathered together for the opening ceremonies, including the official ribbon cutting. The afternoon celebration finished with large feast at the casino resort's new Waas-no-de (northern lights) buffet.

The \$140 million facility features a 46,700-square foot gaming floor that houses 1,500 ticket-in, ticket-out slots and video gaming machines and 36 table games. In addition to gaming, the facility also features an 8-story hotel complex and several restaurant and lounge offerings.

The casino's 1,000-seat entertainment venue will debut on July 25, with comedian Bill Cosby performing.

For more information on the Odawa Casino Resort, visit www.odawacasino.com

# PASSPORT REQUIREMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED

A ccording to a plan announced by the Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday, it will be at least another year before a passport will be required to enter the U.S. from Canada by land or sea. The requirement, initially scheduled to begin Jan. 1, was pushed back until the summer of 2008 in an effort to relieve the current passport backup. The exact date has not yet been announced, but at least a 60-day notice will be given before the rule goes into effect.

As of Jan. 31, 2008, Canadian and U.S. citizens entering the states will be required to provide two forms of identification at land and sea borders - a government-issued photo I.D. (driver's license) and a proof of citizenship (birth certificate).

According to an article published by *The Detroit News*, "nearly 15 million vehicles crossed the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit-Windsor Tunnel last year". The paper stated that critics believe the 2008 deadline should be pushed back even more because continued backups crossing the border could have "a devastating effect on the Detroit and Windsor economies."

# AGA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF RGEW POSTER AND ESSAY CONTEST

n Tuesday, the American Gaming Association (AGA) announced the winners of its Responsible Gaming Poster and Essay contest. The contest was held in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of Responsible Gaming Education Week (RGEW) scheduled for Aug. 6-10.

Approximately 170 gaming industry employees from across the country submitted short essays about the importance of responsible gaming and designs for the national RGEW poster. The total submissions amounted to 100 essays and 114 poster entries. One of the four winning poster submissions was selected as the RGEW 10th anniversary commemorative poster and will be the centerpiece of the week. The other three chosen posters will be distributed quarterly leading up to the event. The 15 winning essays will be featured in "In Their Own Words: Voice of Responsible Gaming", published by the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG).

An RGEW kick-off event will be held in Atlantic City on Aug. 6, where the book and poster series will be unveiled.

The winners are listed below along with the casinos for which they work.

### **POSTER WINNERS**

VICKI MADSEN – selected as main RGEW poster Director of Regulatory Compliance Cactus Petes Resort Casino

DIANA HALL Communications Coordinator Harrah's Rincon Casino & Resort

RONNIE KARL Gift Shop Ameristar Casino Kansas City

KATIE MARTIN Graphic Designer Horseshoe Casino & Hotel – Tunica

## **ESSAY WINNERS**

HOLLY BROWN Slot Technician Ameristar Casino Kansas City

STACY CLARK Slot Attendant Ameristar Casino Hotel - Council Bluffs

COLBY KENYON Valet Supervisor Harrah's North Kansas City Casino & Hotel

ROSA LUGO Training Specialist Harrah's Rincon Casino & Resort WES MILLIGAN

Employee Services & Communications Manager Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc.

RICHARD "TODD" OWEN Employee/Labor Relations Counselor Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel & Casino

JENNIFER SHARP Employee Relations Manager Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino

TERESA TIARKS Risk Manager Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino

PHILIP CICERO Cage Shift Manager Empress Casino Joliet

MONIQUE FINLEY
Table Games Dealer
Horseshoe Casino & Hotel - Bossier City

PAMELA LOWERY H.R. File Clerk Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel & Casino

TRACEY MILLER
Security Officer/EMT
Ameristar Casino Kansas City

MICHAEL NELSON Income Control Auditor Harrah's Joliet Casino & Hotel

ESTHER SANCHEZ
Payroll Specialist
Harrah's New Orleans Casino and Hotel

SHARON SMITH Surveillance Officer Harrah's North Kansas City Casino & Hotel