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Editor in Chief:

David D. Waddell, Esq.

Phone: 517.507.3859

Waddell@rmclegal.com

*Senior Gaming Analyst
& Editor:*

Robert R. Russell, II

Phone: 517.507.3858

Russell@rmclegal.com

Reporter

Douglas L. Minke

Phone: 313.221.9380

minke@rmclegal.com

Subscription information:

info@michigangaming.com

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RMC Ventures, LLC

University Place Center
333 Albert Ave, Suite 450
East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517.507.3860
Fax: 517.908.0235
www.rmclegal.com

The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING KICK OFF "RESPONSIBLE GAMING EDUCATION WEEK"

On August 6, 2007, the American Gaming Association (AGA) and the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Responsible Gaming Education Week (RGEW), a program aimed at enhancing the gaming industry's culture by encouraging employees and AGA members to think about responsible gaming education throughout the entire year.

RGEW is a part of the AGA's overall Responsible Gaming National Educational Campaign. This week's theme has been titled, "Responsible Gaming: In Your Own Words" in an effort to engage all gaming employees in the discussion of responsible gaming. The kick-off festivities will take place at Caesars Atlantic City at 1 p.m. on August 6. Industry leaders expected to attend include: Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., president and CEO of the AGA; Gary Loveman, chairman, CEO and president Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. and chairman of the AGA; Linda Kassekert, chairwoman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission; and Kevin Mullally, general counsel and director of governmental affairs for Gaming Laboratories International.

During the event at Caesars Atlantic City, industry leaders will discuss responsible gaming efforts being undertaken by the industry. The AGA will also announce the winners of the AGA's national employee responsible gaming poster and essay contest.

Next: Four Winds Casino Resort to Open in New Buffalo, Michigan

FOUR WINDS CASINO RESORT OPENS IN NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN

At noon today (August 2, 2007), the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians opened the Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Michigan, located just off Exit 1 of I-94, near the Michigan/Indiana border, just 75 miles east of Chicago. In addition to its casino, the Four Winds Casino Resort also includes the 165-room Four Winds Hotel, a retail store, six restaurants and five bars.

The Four Winds Casino Resort, which is being managed by Lakes Entertainment, Inc., boasts 130,000 square feet of gaming space, 3,000 slot machines and 110 tables games, including poker.

In preparation for its grand opening, the Four Winds Casino Resort has hired approximately 2,500 new employees. The Harbor County Chamber of Commerce is estimating that the southwest Michigan casino will have 4.5 million visitors per year.

The Four Winds Casino Resort will open after withstanding six years of legal challenges filed by the anti-gaming group, Taxpayers of Michigan Against Casinos (TOMAC). The federal government was able to take this current parcel of land into trust in January 2006 after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rejected environmental and other opposition arguments set forth by TOMAC. The Pokagon Band thereafter broke ground on the casino in June 2006.

Under the terms of the 1998 Compact between the Pokagon Band and the state of Michigan, the state will receive eight percent of slot machine revenue, while an additional two percent of slot machine revenue will be split among Berrien County and other local communities. In addition, the Tribe has set up The Pokagon Fund, a philanthropic fund with the stated goal of “enhanc[ing] economic and civic activities in the New Buffalo area”, to pay out an additional two percent of slot machine revenue to surrounding communities during the Four Winds Casino’s first two years of operation. The Fund will distribute one percent of slot revenues during years three through five, and .75 percent of slot revenue thereafter.