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The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



MOUNT PLEASANT MEADOWS SUSPENDS SIMULCAST WAGERING

On February 12, 2014, the Executive Director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board (“MGCB”) issued an order accepting Mount Pleasant Meadows’ (“MPM”) voluntary surrender of its 2014 Mixed Breed Race Meeting License and its 2014 Simulcast Permit. According to an MGCB press release issued on February 13, 2014, the license and permit were surrendered “after MPM’s Lender Group discontinued funding for simulcast operations.”

MPM was awarded its 2014 Mixed Breed Race Meeting License and Simulcast Permit by the Executive Director on October 31, 2013. Under the approval, the track was allocated 43 Mixed Breed racing dates between May 3, 2014 and September 28, 2014, with racing occurring on Saturdays and Sundays. The approval also included the award of a Simulcast Permit from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. The October 31, 2013 approval, however, was amended on request of MPM by the Executive Director on January 21, 2014 to cancel 27 of the live racing dates.

MPM will maintain its Track License as it seeks new funding for operations. As stated in the MGCB press release, this will allow the track to resume live and simulcast racing once additional funding is received. MPM has indicated that any outstanding betting tickets purchased at MPM may be cashed at the track’s simulcast area from February 17, 2014 through February 21, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Under the Executive Director’s Order, all simulcast purse pool monies allocated for the race meeting license will be placed into escrow until further notice.

FIREKEEPERS CASINO HOTEL ISSUES CASINO REVENUE SHARING PAYMENT

Today, Friday, February 14, 2014, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians (“Tribe”) issued a \$5.3M revenue sharing payment to the Firekeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (“LSRB”), which is an increase from the \$4.9M issued last year.

Notably, in December of 2012, the FireKeepers Casino Hotel opened its new hotel expansion. The eight-story, 242-room, hotel includes an indoor pool, exercise facility, business center, and a 17,500 square-foot event center.

According to the Tribe’s Gaming Compact with the State of Michigan, the Tribe provides two-percent (2%) of its net win from electronic gaming devices to the LSRB. The payments are designed to compensate local units of government for increased public service costs associated with the operation of the Firekeepers Casino Hotel.

The LSRB consists of representatives appointed from Calhoun County, Emmett Township, and other local units of government. Revenue payments are distributed to local public safety organizations, and other local units of government. Historically, payments have also been used to support local road and public utility offices, schools, community colleges, libraries, and medical facilities.

Firekeepers Casino Hotel opened in August of 2009 and features 2,900 slot machines, 70 table games, a 242 room hotel, and a variety of dining, retail, and entertainment outlets. Between 2010 (the first full year of the casino’s operations) and 2013, the Tribe has contributed an average of approximately \$4.9 Million per year to local units of government.

SOUTHERN GAMING SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6-8, 2014 IN BILOXI

The Southern Gaming Summit will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi on May 6-8, 2014. The event will be held jointly with BingoWorld, the

world’s largest bingo conference and trade show, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center.

The occasion will consist of conferences, networking, and exhibit space featuring information and products related to all facets of the gaming industry. The event will begin with the Southern Gaming Summit/BingoWorld Golf Tournament on May 6, 2014 for exhibitors. Conference events begin on Wednesday and include discussions, presentations, and workshops on current issues facing the gaming industry. Featured speakers include Tilman Fertitta, CEO and Owner of Landry’s, Inc. and Geoff Freeman, President and CEO of the American Gaming Association. Other events include the Global Gaming Women Luncheon, an Executive Roundtable, and numerous networking opportunities for attendees.

Gaming and hospitality industry executives, regulators, legislators, and consultants are likely to express interest in the event. For more information on the event, as well as registration information, please visit: <http://www.sgsummit.com/>.

IGAMING NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD MARCH 19-21, 2014 IN LAS VEGAS

On March 19-21, 2014, iGaming North America will be hosting its fourth industry event at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference will focus specifically on issues in the iGaming industry and is supported by Reed Exhibitions, the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers, the Canadian Gaming Association, the Gaming Standards Association, the International Masters of Gaming Law, the Remote Gambling Association, and the Interactive Gaming Council.

The conference will include educational seminars presented by industry experts on a variety of iGaming-related topics, including US federal and state policy, the relationship between iGaming and brick-and-mortar operations, presentations by established European operators, game design, tribal and commercial operations, and other issues.

In addition to these educational events, there will be numerous networking and social programs throughout the 3-day event.

For more information on the 2014 iGaming North America conference, or to register for the event, please visit the conference's website at: <http://www.igamingnorthamerica.com/>

SIGN UP FOR RMC'S DAILY GAMING NEWS FEED

Regulatory Management Counselors, P.C. (RMC Legal), authors of *The Michigan Gaming Newsletter*, would like to extend an invitation to sign up for the complimentary *RMC Daily Gaming News Feed*. The Daily News Feed delivers Michigan and gaming-industry specific news links directly to you each morning.

To sign up to receive the RMC Daily Gaming News Feed, simply visit: <http://rmclegal.com/media-publications> and complete the form.

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