

Mohegan Sun casinos post lackluster 3Q profit

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The parent company of the Mohegan Sun casinos in Connecticut and Pennsylvania reported last week that third-quarter profit plunged more than two-thirds as new casinos in the Northeast lured away gamblers and remaining customers reduced spending. The Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority said that net income for the April-June period was \$9.4 million, down nearly 68 percent from the

same period last year. Revenue of \$344.4 million was down 4.7 percent. Mitchell Grossinger Etes, the Indian casinos' chief executive officer, called the results "lackluster." He said the financial performance suffered in comparison with last year's third quarter, which posted a 150 percent increase in profit. He also blamed the weak economy and rising competition—particularly New

York's Aqueduct racino—for declines in profit and revenue. Etes said Pennsylvania's Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs performed well. Ground was recently broken for a hotel and convention center that he says will boost profit. "There's no doubt our third quarter results were lackluster," he told investor analysts and reporters on a conference call. "Frankly, our table games are being im-

pacted more by Aqueduct than we anticipated," he said. The Genting Group, one of the world's largest gambling companies, has opened a gambling parlor at the popular horse track in Queens, one of New York's outer boroughs. It's limited to 4,500 video slot machines and 500 other electronic table games, but is pulling in millions. Aqueduct is a short distance from John F. Kennedy International Airport and mil-

lions of local workers and residents. Etes said the Mohegan Sun did not anticipate what he called the "acceptance of non-live table games" as a replacement for the Mohegan Sun's table games in eastern Connecticut. "There may be a time when people are less accepting of the video games and want live table games and come back here," he said.

Hundreds celebrate rare white bison

GOSHEN, Conn. (AP) — Dozens of Native Americans wore the traditional garb of their ancestors, sang songs and beat drums on a western Connecticut farm Saturday in celebration of the birth of one of the world's rarest animals—a white bison. The miracle calf was officially named Yellow Medicine Dancing Boy at the elaborate ceremony at the Mohawk Bison farm in Goshen in the state's northwestern hills. It was born June 16 at the farm of fourth-generation farmer Peter Fay.

Many Native Americans consider white bison a symbol of hope and unity; some consider their births sacred events. Experts say white bison are as rare as one in 10 million.

Yellow Medicine Dancing Boy is not an albino, and Fay said DNA testing confirmed the animal's bloodlines are pure and there was no intermingling with cattle.

Lakota tribe members from South Dakota were among the hundreds of people who gathered at the celebration. Other tribal elders from the Mohawk, Seneca and Cayuga tribes participated.

Kickapoo enacts water restrictions

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The ongoing drought has led an Indian tribe in northeastern Kansas to impose water conservation measures. Kickapoo Tribal Chairman Steve Cadue said the order bans the use of water for lawns, gardens, swimming pools or car washes. Cadue says the Kickapoo were forced to haul water to the reservation several years ago

Tribe has plan if casino closes

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) — United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee officials say they have a contingency plan in place for employees if the tribe's casino is forced to close. The tribe and Attorney General Scott Pruitt signed an agreement last month that requires the tribe to pay \$2 million to the state and secure federal trust status for land on which the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino is located. Casino general manager Rod Fourkiller said that if the trust determination is delayed, the facility's 195 employees will be placed on paid leave.

Canoe Journey 2012



The Warm Springs Canoe Family pose for a photo during the journey to Squaxim.

IRS widens probe of profits

MIAMI (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service is broadening its investigation into whether millions in back taxes are owed by members of the Miccosukee tribe. The Miami-Dade County-based tribe is asking a federal judge to block an IRS demand for records of gambling profit distributions between 2006 and 2010. The agency also wants minutes of tax-related tribal council meetings dating to 1985.

The tribe contends as a sovereign Native American nation it doesn't have to pay taxes and accuses the IRS of harassment. But government officials say once gambling money was paid to individual tribal members it does become subject to federal income tax. Past court rulings sided with the IRS. At stake are potentially tens of millions of dollars. The Miccosukee tribe has about 600 members.

Non-gaming business possible at site

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — A federal court won't stop a Native American tribe from building a non-gaming business on tribal land that was to be the site of a casino. U.S. District Judge Gregory Frizzell issued an order stating the court has jurisdiction over the state of Oklahoma's request to stop the Kialegee Tribal Town from building a gaming facility on the land in Broken Ar-

row, but not over any dispute relating to the construction of a restaurant or sports bar at the site. Frizzell issued an injunction that halted construction of the casino on land allotted to the Muscogee Nation, of which the Kialegees are a branch.

Mont. tribe to pay half of settlement to members

PABLO, Mont. (AP) — Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes leaders have decided to distribute about half of a \$150 million settlement with the U.S. government over mismanaged land royalties to enrolled tribal members, while keeping the other half for future programs. Tribal spokesman Robert McDonald said recent public meetings dealing with the issue have identified four program priorities—providing for elders, preserving language, cultural programs and economic development. "There's no timeline, but

it is clearly a topic they are investing time into," McDonald said. The council decided last week to give each of the estimated 7,800 enrolled tribal members \$10,000. If the decision isn't reversed, the distribution would take place on Sept. 12. Some Salish and Kootenai members wanted the entire \$150 million distributed, saying it would help alleviate homelessness and extreme poverty on the western Montana reservation. "The tribal council has been holding community meetings for weeks in which

a majority of the people had voiced their favor of the 100 percent payout," said tribal member Ramona Cajune. Cajune said opponents of the council's decision plan to picket in Pablo. The \$150 million allocated to the western Montana tribes is the second-largest amount allocated to a Native American reservation in the \$1 billion government settlement with 44 tribes announced this spring. The largest settlement is \$193 million to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in Washington. The agreement is meant to

settle claims of money lost in mismanaged accounts and royalties from natural resource development. The tribes' lawsuits dealt with tribal trust funds, not individual trust funds, which are addressed in a \$3.4 billion class-action settlement led by Elouise Cobell, a Blackfeet woman who died last year.

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