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AN EDITION OF THE DETROIT FREE PRESS

MAY 7, 2006 METRO FINAL

FROM PAUL ANGER,
EDITOR & VICE PRESIDENT

Welcome aboard!

On behalf of Publisher Dave Hunke, Executive Editor Caesar Andrews, 300 journalists and our Detroit Newspaper Partnership colleagues who helped bring this newspaper to you ...

Welcome to the Sunday Free Press!

You'll find much familiar, some movement in our lineup (Mitch Albom in Sports and Local, book reviews in Life, expanded puzzles in Classified), plus a lot that's new. Tell us what you think at Sundayfreepress@freepress.com. Some highlights:

The Michigan page

A page of Michigan news and You Haven't Lived Here Until, highlighting the quirky and wonderful in our state. **4A**

Local

A page of news from Macomb, Oakland or Wayne, depending on where you live, plus a lively news quiz by Brian Dickerson. **Section B**

On Point

A new section with diverse voices and editorials from the Free Press and Detroit News. **Section C**

Sports

A new interactive fan page, plus The Mitt — two pages of Tigers news and tidbits. **Section D**

Business

Motor City Sunday, a new page all about autos. And Your Money advice from the Free Press' Susan Tompor and CNBC's Suze Orman. **Section E**

Life

An inspiring and useful Family Life page about challenges and triumphs on the home front. **Section K**

WEATHER

67 HIGH 44 LOW

WHERE'S THE HEAT?

Sunny, but kill that chill!
Chuck Gaidica's forecast, 8B

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SPECIAL REPORT | TRIBAL GAMING

State is losing a casino jackpot

PART 1: Michigan taxpayers are out millions because of deal with tribes



DAVID P. GILKEY/Detroit Free Press

MONEY MACHINES: Tribal casinos rake in quarters by the millions, yet they largely police themselves.

By JENNIFER DIXON
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

While battling a tough economy, Michigan has lost out on more than \$300 million in revenue from Native American casinos since the state's deal with a group of tribes allowed them to halt payments seven years ago, a Free Press analysis has found. The lost revenue could easily double by the time the tribal pact with the state expires in seven years. The seven tribes were obliged to pay the state a share of profits only as long as they held a slot machine monopoly in Michigan. That monopoly ended when other tribal casinos opened in 1999.

The Free Press also found that the state's tribal casinos — now a billion-dollar industry — attract almost no scrutiny from state or federal authorities.

State officials rarely set foot in the 17 casinos. They almost never check to make sure tribes aren't hiring key casino employees with criminal backgrounds. And they only occasionally exam-

At freep.com: Whistle-blower documents, other memos on tribal gambling.

Other states are tougher on casinos. **19A**

A timeline on Indian gaming. **19A**

ine the books to ensure that tribes pay what was promised to neighboring Michigan communities when tribal gaming was approved in 1993.

Federal officials have never once audited a tribal casino in Michigan.

When gaming officials do take a close look, they sometimes uncover problems that mean thousands, even millions, of dollars to Michigan taxpayers.

Dan Gustafson, executive director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board, acknowledged the agency's history of weak oversight. He blamed it on inadequate staff and funding and the need to be sensitive to the tribes. Federal officials also cited a lack of staff and money.

See **CASINOS, 18A**

WHAT THE FREE PRESS FOUND

\$300 million slips away
A loophole in the deal Michigan struck with seven tribes has cost taxpayers more than \$300 million since 1999.

Oversight is too little, if at all
Michigan's 17 tribal casinos operate with little state or federal scrutiny. State inspectors finished, on average, fewer than one tribal audit a year since Indian gambling was approved in 1993.

Not one audit by national panel
The National Indian Gaming Commission has never audited a tribal casino in Michigan.

Other states do a better job
Other states regulate tribal casinos more stringently, and receive more money in return.

Coming Monday
Tribes are supposed to share millions with communities, but some spend the money on themselves or pet causes.

Foreign? American? Auto parts go global

U.S. cars add content from other countries

By JUSTIN HYDE
FREE PRESS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — After years of ignoring GM vehicles, Geraldine Bowers found herself drawn to one in February when she bought a Daytona blue Chevy HHR, lured by its looks and flexibility.

The fact it came from a Detroit automaker didn't hurt — nor did it matter to her that the HHR was built in Mexico with a sizable share of foreign parts.

"We like to buy American," said Bowers of Auburn Hills. "I'm not unhappy that it's assembled in Mexico.... It's very hard to go into a store and find [products] totally American made."

More than ever, automakers are drawing on suppliers around the globe, shutting parts across borders in search of lower prices and higher quality.

A Free Press analysis of federal data found that vehicles built by Detroit automakers have steadily increased their proportion of parts from outside the United States and Canada. By the same measure, vehicles built in North America by Japan's largest automakers increasingly use U.S. and Canadian parts.

Detroit automakers still build a far higher share of their vehicles in the Unit-

See **PARTS, 12A**

What's in your car? At freep.com, see a breakdown on 2005, 2006 vehicles.

Tom Walsh: Trust sells cars. **1E**

Domestic content

One brand is Japanese and one U.S., but both have a lot of U.S. and Canadian content.

CHRYSLER 300C
72%
of parts value from U.S. or Canada

HONDA ACCORD
70%
of parts value from U.S. or Canada

For a breakdown of where parts are made for five well-known vehicles, go to Page 12A.

Sources: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Detroit Free Press



RICK NEASE/Detroit Free Press

Michigan, tell Susan where to go this summer

Columnist will travel anywhere in the state you send her

SUSAN AGER

I was born in Michigan, and I love its open roads. But, probably like you, I haven't taken much time lately to explore them. I've always got stuff to do that's, you know, more urgent.

This summer, though, the

Free Press has promised to let me go where you tell me in our great state, following your directions as much as I can. You'll recognize me on the road: I'm the one in the 2001 Ford Ranger pickup that's egg-yolk yellow.

This is your chance, then, to Tell Susan Ager Where to Go.

At freep.com: Follow Susan's trip and share ideas!

Tell me who to meet: maybe a cousin or a friend who's doing something unusual, or who's living an achingly normal life in an admirable way. Tell me what to visit: an isolated beach, somebody's quirky

house, or some spot you've always loved.

I'm fond of the bearded monks on the Keweenaw Peninsula in the UP who sell their own jams and liquored cakes. I wish I could find again the antique shop on U.S.-12 that carried 100 old cookie jars. I've heard that someplace in Mich-

See **AGER, 6A**



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