

Casino from page E1

found on the third floor.

Plan to wait if you want to eat at the casino. Waits of an hour to an hour-and-a-half are expected at the MGM Grand Buffet during the opening. Check in to make a reservation. They'll let you know when your table is ready. Noyla and the Hollywood Brown Derby were filled the first week of operation. See dining stories on page E6 for more information about the restaurants.

It's hard to believe, but this 425,000 square foot facility, which cost approximately \$210 million, is just an "introductory" casino. The permanent one on the riverfront is scheduled to open in about four years. That facility will also include a hotel, MGM Grand, Inc. has also announced plans to develop a hotel and casino resort in Atlantic City, N.J.

The seven MGM Grand Detroit Casino investment partners include Myzell Sowell of Southfield, an attorney and senior partner in the law firm

Sowell & Evelyn. Partners will receive, on average, 11 to 16 percent of annual profits. The partners are owners of Partners Detroit, LLC, a separate corporation in partnership with MGM Grand Detroit Casino.

Casinos to open soon

Two more casinos are scheduled to open in downtown Detroit this fall. The Greektown and MotorCity casinos.

The Greektown Casino is on Monroe Street in Trappers Alley. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe owns 50 percent of the casino and Monroe Partners LLC owns 50 percent. It will offer 75,000 square feet of casino space on two levels with a Greek theme and decor. Gaming facilities will include 2,300 slot machines and 90 tables. For more information visit the Web site www.greektowncasino.com.

MotorCity Casino, a Circus Circus Enterprises, Inc. and Atwater Casino Group joint venture, will open in the former Wonder Bread Building and the

adjacent area bordered by Grand River, Elm, Trumbull, Spruce and the Lodge Freeway service drive. It will offer 75,000 square feet of casino space over two levels with a buffet on the third floor and upscale restaurant on the fourth floor. The permanent facility will be on the Detroit riverfront. For more information visit the Web site www.detroitentertainment.com.

We'd like to hear about your experiences at the MGM Grand Detroit Casino. What did you think of the casino? Is it what you expected? Were you lucky or unlucky? Did it meet your expectations? Please include your name, what city you live in and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

Send your comments to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 35251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Fax comments to Wygonik at (313) 591-7279. e-mail kwygonik@ee.homecomm.net

Have a "Grand" time at the casino

Here's an overview of how some of the games work at the MGM Grand Detroit Casino

■ **Blackjack** — Everyone plays against the dealer, who gets two cards and gives two cards to each player. The object is to draw cards that total 21 or as close to 21 as possible without going over (or busting). If the player does not go over 21 and the dealer does, the player wins.

■ **Baccarat** — There are three betting options: Betting that the player's hand will win, that the banker's hand will win, or that both hands will tie.

■ **Let it Ride/Stud Poker** — Players try to get a good five card poker hand by using three cards and the dealer's two cards. Players cannot show their hands to other players.

■ **Pai Gow** — Game from the Orient played with three-dimensional cards or dominoes. In Pai Gow "Card of Nine" the house/player odds are nearly even. Because the game is so even, the house charges a five percent commission on all winning bets.

■ **Roulette** — Action is quick and intense as

you wait for the ball to drop in red or black, even or odd. Bets are placed with casino chips or special colored roulette chips. The player determines the value of the roulette chips at the time of the buy-in. Payoff is determined by how many numbers the player's winning chips have covered.

■ **Pai Gow Poker** — Hybrid game derived from American poker and the Chinese domino game Pai Gow. A traditional deck of 52 playing cards is used, plus one joker. After a randomly-generated number or roll of the dice determines which player receives the first set of cards, the dealer delivers the cards by counting counterclockwise. Each player receives seven cards. Payoffs are even money and the house collects a five percent commission on all winning wagers.

■ **Craps** — A crew of three dealers works on the crap table, which uses the roll of dice to determine the winners. There are a wide variety of bets that can be made and guests are welcome to participate in as many as five different bets as they choose.

Dealers are available to help with the rules of the games and assist guests in how to play.

*Information from the MGM Grand Detroit Casino

Rhythms from page E1

easy task. Hours of research went into preparing for the festival.

"We listen to a lot of CDs. Decisions are based on the popularity of the musicians and their repertoire of traditional and contemporary African sounds," said John MacElwee, vice president of marketing and communications for the DSO.

Mangwana and his eight-piece band will perform music from his native Congo. Mangwana began his musical career performing with several African jazz and rumba groups. As one of the innovators of Congolese rumba music, known as soukous, Mangwana's sound is a combination of swinging rhythms, guitars, and vocals to create music that is popular throughout Africa and the West.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo is known world-wide mainly due to the collaboration of Paul Simon's

album "Graceland." Joseph Shabalala formed the group in 1984 after recruiting musical friends and family members.

To date they have recorded close to 40 albums and sold over three million records worldwide making them the number one recording group in Africa.

Shabalala's first musical experience was with a choral group The Blacka. Shabalala eventually took over leadership of the group and became its main composer.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo is known for traditional Zulu singing. Their first album, "Shaka Zulu," released in the U.S., earned them a Grammy Award in 1987.

"In Zulu singing there are three major sounds," said Shabalala. "A high keening ululation; a grunting, puffing sound that we make when we stomp our feet; and a certain way of

singing melody. Before Ladysmith Black Mambazo you didn't hear these three sounds in the same songs. So it is new to combine them, although it is still done in a traditional style. We are just asking God to allow us to polish it, to help keep our voices in order so we can praise him and uplift the people."

Abdullah Ibrahim started playing piano at the age of 7, and became a member of the Jazz Apostles, which recorded South Africa's first jazz album in 1960. Ibrahim went into self-imposed exile from South Africa because of apartheid in 1962, and moved to U.S. Duke Ellington heard him perform and arranged recording sessions. Ibrahim was also sponsored by Ellington at the 1965 Newport Jazz Festival.

A diversified musician, Ibrahim has recorded for many labels ranging from being a piano soloist and head of a large

band to his septet Ekaya. Ibrahim, who visited South Africa in 1976, has returned home several times since its liberation from apartheid. He is recognized as the dean of South African jazz. "African Symphony," which Ibrahim recorded with the Munich Radio Orchestra, is scheduled for release this year.

The African Rhythms Summer Festival concludes Aug. 12 with the inaugural performance of Africa Fête, a national tour featuring Baaba Maal of Senegal, Oliver Mtshudzi of Zimbabwe, the group Kulajan with Taj Mahal, and Tsunami Diabete of Mali.

In recent years Orchestra Hall has filled the slow days of summer with jazz and world music performances.

"We want to bring more people to Orchestra Hall and the summer is the perfect opportunity to try new events," said MacElwee.

Yankovic from page E1

song," said Yankovic. "Besides, both the song and the movie begin with 'a long, long time ago.' It just seemed custom-made."

Before he bought a laptop computer, Yankovic said he used to carry a notebook everywhere. When an idea came to him he wrote it down. He tries to record his original material first, then the parodies. Yankovic obtains permission from the original writers of the songs he parodies.

The law is on his side, and he is not required to ask for permission, but Yankovic said he feels it is important to maintain a good relationship between himself and the artists and writers. He also does not believe that, in order to be funny, one must be vulgar or insulting.

Yankovic has come a long way since 1979 when he recorded "My Bologna," a spoof of "My

Sharon" by the Knack, in a radio station bathroom. The song became an instant hit after it was featured on the "Dr. Demento" show where Yankovic recorded a live version of "Another One Bites The Dust" to Queen's "Another One Bites The Dust."

Classic Yankovic hits include "Eat It," "Yoda," and "Like A Surgeon."

"There's always the pressure and challenge of trying to top myself each time out," said Yankovic. "I feel like I'm making a comeback with every album I do."

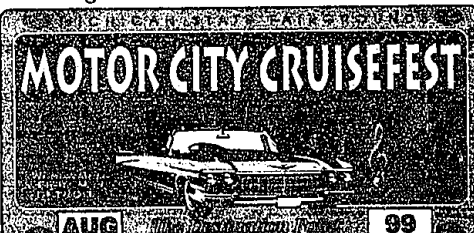
Any chance that he'll produce serious music? "No. I love what I do," said Yankovic. "There are enough serious musicians out there. It never ceases to amaze me that I got to be 'Weird Al' full-time."



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