

Oops, You're Bankrupt!

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- Those casino lobbyists are at it again.

On Tuesday, Aug. 9, the Kalamazoo Gazette published an opinion piece by Michigan Gambling Association (MichGo) Vice President **Jim Stringham** claiming that they'd finally gotten around to talking to the businesses the casino will ruin. He said that the gas stations in Mount Pleasant all require patrons to pay before pumping, likely because they lose all their money at the casino. (The Dairy Mart a block away from Spectrum Health-Butterworth does too. See the pattern?)

The bank there is hiring more people for its installment loan program because more people are falling behind on payments. (Blame Central Michigan University's double-digit tuition spike for that one.)

And he talked to **Jeff Tuma**, owner of The Embers, the famous and "barely surviving" Mount Pleasant restaurant, who, on Thursday, Aug. 18, sent a letter of his own to the Gazette, denying he'd ever met this Stringham guy, that there were no bars on the gas station windows, and the casino has been nothing but positive for business.

So what can we expect next? In next week's Gazette, look for Stringham to chronicle his conversation with **George Manypenny** — the long dead U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs memorialized in Mount Pleasant for his facilitation of the 1855 Treaty of Detroit, the document used to gain the Gun Lake Tribe federal recognition. The gist of the letter probably will be that the Shop-quo-ung Band of Pottawatomi, from which the Gun Lake Tribe is descended, was totally against casinos.