

Gural

Continued from Page 1A

from Tioga Downs and Traditions Resort, in Broome County — led to an outcry from local politicians and a request from Gov. Andrew Cuomo to consider a new award in the “true Southern Tier.”

“The project we’re putting in is bigger and better (than in 2014), and that’s important to me, because I know a lot of people’s livelihoods depend on Tioga Downs remaining strong,” Gural said Thursday, flanked by Tioga



ANDREW THAYER / STAFF PHOTO
Tioga Downs owner Jeff Gural spoke during a press conference on Thursday.

Downs employees.

Gural said between 400 and 500 new hires would follow an award “within a few months,” bringing the casino’s payroll to more than 1,000 full-time em-

ployees. Those hires would staff a casino expanded to include table games, as well as a hotel and other new amenities. Wages for the largely union work force would begin at \$10.10 an hour, and full-time employees would have health insurance and a 401(k), he said.

Gural is emphasizing that a casino would build on the existing infrastructure at Tioga Downs, which is licensed for racing and a casino with electronic gaming but no table games. This week, financier Jeffrey Hyman stepped forward with plans to seek a license for a casino in the City of

Binghamton. That plan is based around the former Stow Manufacturing site at Montgomery and Frederick streets on the North Side, a brownfield site that has been home to several industrial uses over the years.

“We would be the first casino in New York state open,” Gural said. “Even though (other projects) have been selected, they’ve all got to spend two or three years building the things.”

Gural said casino expansion would be completed within six months of a license being awarded, with a hotel following in a year.

“This is not about Binghamton, not about Elmira, not about Nichols; this is really a Southern Tier project,” he said. “We will draw people from the entire region. We will hire from the entire region. I’m not concerned about the argument that this will have any downside impact for Binghamton.”

Tioga County Legislature Chairwoman Martha Sauerbrey voiced support for the racino’s bid.

“We want to get these applications approved so we can have a full-blown casino here,” she said. “This is the place to have it. We’re here as a county fully supporting Tioga

Downs.”

The gaming commission is expected to release the bids it has received Monday afternoon, followed by a public release of application documents within a week. Gural questioned whether a second bid from the Binghamton group would make the deadline, but said he was confident that the commission would award the license to Tioga Downs.

“I’d really be surprised if we don’t win this time,” he said.

Follow John R. Roby on Twitter @PSBJRoby.

Grateful

Continued from Page 1A

John “Taz” Cannon, of Ithaca, drummer for Pete Parnik and the Bluecats, heard the opening notes of “Minglewood Blues” bumping through the walls, the set starting before the crowd had even gotten inside Barton Hall.

“It was close to a riot breaking out,” said Cannon, a self-proclaimed Deadhead. “The crowd, when they heard the band playing, got pretty restless. (The organizers) did their best to get everybody in.”

A veteran of more than 40 Grateful Dead shows, Cannon remembers that night standing out above the rest, high praise for a group he said greatly influenced his style of playing.

“I remember getting very close during the show and being transfixed,” Cannon said. “I was blown away to be this close during their career. They were seasoned at that time, more than world famous, and Ithaca was a place that harbored

a lot of Deadheads during the ’70s. It was huge for me.”

The band improvised their sets each night — yielding terrible performances as often as great ones — but that night, Cannon said, the band was on point, putting on a show that, even today, stands as one of the finest bootlegged gigs by the band on record.

“I knew they could be OK, great or awful,” Cooper said. “While it was going on, you didn’t have time to think it was great, but it was. But that night, they were playing together as one, and we were all together as one. This one always stood out as such a great set and a great show.”

Created well before the days when shows could be circulated with a click, that Barton Hall tape went on to be one of the most widely distributed bootlegs out of the 2,200 or so the New York Times said existed in 2009. Though the acoustics of the concert hall were notorious, the tape was significant for several factors — the quality of the recording, the improbable scale of its dis-

tribution and, most significantly, the testament it provided to a band at the top of its game.

“Barton Hall doesn’t sound so fantastic,” Pat Burke, of Ithaca, 17 at the time, said about the show. “The tape may have sounded better than the actual show did. Most shows there don’t sound too great, but they had that room tuned in.”

The recording was spot-on, considered by many to be the finest example of the Grateful Dead’s “on” nights of the era. Cannon said that night, other than the night a pregnant fan was flown out of an Englishtown, New Jersey, show or a riot that occurred after a show in Jersey City was canceled, as the most memorable show he had ever seen.

“The finale was ‘Morning Dew,’ and everybody kind of left on a cloud,” Burke said. “It was a relationship between the audience and musicians where you were all on the same page. It did feel like an ‘event.’ It’s like an auditory journal — if I listen to that old tape, it all comes back to me. Where I was, who I was with, I remem-

ber it all.”

After the show, Cannon stood within feet of Grateful Dead guitarist Bob Weir, unable to say even a word, and carried the memories of the evening into a night where the weather went mad, snow falling just hours after he was waiting in line in sunny weather.

“I remember driving off the road afterward, there was so much snow,” Cooper said. “But having a VW bug, we just lifted it up and drove off.”

Cannon is unable to attend the band’s final shows, with the time needed for travel and the sheer cost of a ticket putting the experience well out of reach. And though the days of bootlegged tapes are long over, Cannon was

still able to hear Trey Anastasio — the frontman of Phish — giving the band new life in Garcia’s stead over YouTube.

It may be difficult for many to accept that 50 years out of Palo Alto, the long, strange trip is finally coming to a close. And though some will pay thousands of dollars to see the end in person, the

Dead will live on, especially in the hearts of those at Barton Hall that night in 1977, leaving an open-ended date beneath a fitting epitaph on the band’s headstone. As Cannon said most fittingly, “The music never stops.”

Follow Nick Reynolds on Twitter @IJCWatch.

★★★★★

“A MASTERPIECE!”

— Mara Reinstein, **US**

WINNER

sundance
AUDIENCE AWARD
2015

PG-13

WINNER

sundance
GRAND JURY PRIZE
2015

MeAndEarlMovie.com

ME AND EARL

AND THE DYING

GIRL

SEARCHLIGHT

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT NOW PLAYING

ITHACA
Cinemapolis Theatre
(607) 277-6115

12

ANTLERS NOTE

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

\$12.00 Off!

With the purchase of 2 full priced entrees; no sandwiches or salads. 1 coupon per 2 guests.

12

The ANTLERS

1159 DRYDEN ROAD
(RT 366)
273-9725

EXPIRES JULY 14TH

12

AMERICA

CAN'T BE GREAT

ON AN

EMPTY

STOMACH