



## Burton man pleads guilty to operating illegal Genesee Township gaming room

People enjoy poker at Lucky's Poker Room

People play poker on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at Lucky's Poker Room in Genesee Township. Lucky's is the largest poker room left operating in the area that holds millionaire parties for charities. *(MLive.com File Photo)*

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BURTON, MI – A 32-year-old Burton man pleaded guilty Monday, Nov. 3, to operating an illegal gaming room in Genesee Township.

Thomas Joubran, 32, will pay a \$1,000 fine, forfeit gaming machines at Shamrock's Internet Cafe and testify if needed, as part of a plea agreement.

Court records show Joubran had originally been charged with seven counts of gambling operations and one count of keeping or maintaining a gaming room for higher gain or reward.

Joubran was listed the booking contact for a millionaire party at Lucky's Poker Room, 6340 N. Genesee Road, which is adjacent to the Shamrock, according to a Michigan Gaming Control Board release.

The state suspended charitable gaming at Lucky's last November after state gaming officers claimed 20 illegal gambling machines were found at Shamrock.

A **Nov. 18** police search of Lucky's Poker Room, which includes Shamrock's Tavern, Lucky's Bingo Hall and Shamrock Café, resulted in the confiscation of computer-based, slot-machine-style games.

Joubran was charged with multiple felony charges in April and operations at the location have remained suspended since that time.

"Because Michigan law prohibits unregulated gambling, the MGCB works hard to ensure charitable organizations can operate their games with integrity and without exposure to illegal activities and their criminal consequences," said Richard Kalm, MGCB executive director, in the release.

Three other people were also **charged in connection with the illegal gaming operation**. Mary Kay Bean, communications specialist for the MGCB, said Rebecca Lotter and Ariel Stears pleaded guilty to misdemeanor counts of illegal gaming, punishable by up to 1 year in jail or \$1,000 fine.

Sentencing for Joubran has been scheduled for 2 p.m. Dec. 1.

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