

Casino Ruling DE 1

MEH/TB&P

10/21 (Thurs PM/ Fri AM)

A ruling by the Arkansas Supreme Court could clear the way for the Cherokee Nation to open a casino in Pope County. As Roby Brock with Talk Business & Politics explains, the decision today (Thurs) is the latest in a long-running battle about local support.

News15 0:45 "...getting the license."

...Reporter Roby Brock. In a statement, an attorney for Gulfside Casino Partnership expressed disappointment and suggested this wasn't isn't the end of the case. An attorney for Cherokee Nation called the ruling "greatly appreciated" and suggested litigation is nearing an end and construction of a casino would soon begin.

Casino Ruling DE 2

MEH/TB&P

10/21 (Thurs PM/ Fri AM)

The Arkansas Supreme Court has essentially ruled in favor of Cherokee Nation in a long-running legal battle over who can operate a casino in Pope County. The decision today (Thurs) reversed a lower court ruling that said regulations implemented by the Arkansas Racing Commission were unconstitutional. It's a defeat for Gulfside Casino Partnership which was vying for the license. At issue was a requirement for local support. Pope County Judge Ed Gibson wrote a letter of support for Gulfside before leaving office in December 2018, while his predecessor Ben Cross supported Cherokee Nation. The racing commission didn't open the application process until May 2019, as Roby Brock with Talk Business & Politics explains:

News16 0:24 "...at this time."

A constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2018 allowed four casinos in the state. Two were at existing racetracks, with the others to be built in Pope and Jefferson counties.