

Yavapai-Apache Land Taken Into Trust

In a triumph of perseverance on the part of Yavapai-Apache Nation tribal members and leadership, 1,169 acres have now officially been added to the Yavapai-Apache Nation's reservation lands. The Office of Hearings and Appeals/Interior Board of Indian Appeals of the United States Department of the Interior issued a ruling in June, dismissing four appeals that were standing in the way of allowing the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to put the land into trust on behalf of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

"This is a momentous event for our people," says Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairman Jamie Fullmer. "With this new land added into trust, we have now tripled the size of our sovereign homeland. This allows us the room we need to develop much-needed housing and to expand to meet the present and future needs of our Nation."

The achievement of this goal took nearly six years from the time Y-A leaders filed the original trust application with the BIA in February 2001, including two years of an appeals process, which began in June 2004. "We never gave up. And that's how we are as a people," Fullmer adds. "We will never give up."

The approval for additional land includes 18 parcels in Camp Verde and six parcels in Clarkdale. The Nation's original application was for 25 parcels comprising 1,211 acres, but 42 acres in Clarkdale were considered non-contiguous or not touching existing reservation boundaries. That 42-acre parcel of land is considered "off-reservation" and will need to go through a separate approval process.

Bally Technologies Announces Deal With Seminole Tribe for Bonusing and Server-Based Gaming Solutions

Bally Technologies, Inc. has announced the signing of a contract with the Seminole Tribe of Florida to provide a suite of Bally Power Bonusing™ products, iView™ interactive touch-screen displays and a variety of server-based gaming technologies for an implementation that will eventually cover six gaming locations in Florida and more than 6,200 machines.

The Seminole Tribe already employs the Bally One System™ server-based gaming network at its existing Class II properties and was seeking an overall technology solution that allows it to potentially mix Class II and Class III machines in the future.

The first phase of implementation will cover a total of more than 3,000 machines at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood and the Coconut Creek Casino in Coconut Creek. Already boasting the largest ethernet gaming infrastructure in the world, the Seminole Tribe plans to leverage its existing network strength and new Bally technologies to provide personalized and downloadable experiences for its players at every machine. Upon completion of the first phase, it will be the

first-ever complete implementation of the Game-to-System (G2S) protocol developed in conjunction with the Gaming Standards Association.

Guinness World Record™ Proclaims San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino New Record Holder

In celebration of their 20th Anniversary, San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino undertook a magnificent feat when they set a new Guinness World Record for "Largest Bingo House." The attempt, held at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles involved 53,991 players, breaking the previous record by over 30,000 people, which was set in Canada in 1983.

Steve Lengel, Executive Director of Operations for San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino explained, "It took guts to do what we did. Not only did we celebrate our 20th Anniversary with a grand slam event, but we set ourselves apart as a new world leader in exciting entertainment."

San Manuel turned the Dodger Stadium into a temporary open-air bingo hall, where everyone in attendance received a bingo card to play. The bingo game was called between innings and cash prizes were awarded to three winning participants for \$10,000, \$6,000 and \$4,000. The prizes totaled \$20,000 in all in recognition of San Manuel's 20th Anniversary. A Guinness World Records representative was present at the game to officially recognize San Manuel's Guinness World Record achievement.

"Absolutely nothing was left to chance with San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino's Guinness World Record attempt," said Guinness World Records Editor-in-Chief Craig Glenday, who was present to witness the event. "Even though the figure to beat was a daunting 15,756, the 53,000-strong house at the Dodgers' Stadium made sure that the record was well and truly smashed. The final attendance count of 53,991 places this record in our top 20 mass participation records of all time, and will undoubtedly remain unchallenged for quite a while to come."

Governor Schwarzenegger Meets with CNIGA Member Tribes

Member tribal governments of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association (CNIGA) met with Gov. Schwarzenegger last month. The meeting was the first time that Gov. Schwarzenegger met with the entire general membership.

During the meeting the governor listened to the various tribal governments express their thoughts, concerns and recommendations about the future of economic development in Indian country. This meeting was a follow-up to a meeting last month with the CNIGA executive board. CNIGA hopes that the governor will continue his dialogue with tribes and work to build stronger relationships in the future.

Red Rock Casino Selects FutureLogic's GEN2 Printer for TITO Slot and Video Poker Machines

FutureLogic, Inc., a leading manufacturer of thermal ticket printers for cashless gaming, recently announced that Red Rock Casino, Resort and Spa in Las Vegas has selected FutureLogic's GEN2 printer as the standard gaming printer for all of the casino's TITO (ticket-in/ticket-out) slot machines and gaming platforms.

Red Rock Casino, Resort and Spa, located in the master-planned community of Summerlin, Las Vegas opened in April 2006. The casino features more than 3000 gaming machines equipped with IGT's EZ-Pay system and FutureLogic GEN2 printers. Approximately 1700 GEN2 Universal printers are being used with IGT's new Trimline AVP® games at Red Rock Casino.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley Win Readers Choice Awards

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley received a combined seven awards in the *2006 Midwest Gaming & Travel Readers' Choice Awards* survey of Native American casinos. Both casinos were honored for having the best players club in Minnesota. The Grand Rewards Players Club is one of the few players' clubs in the country to offer cash and complimentary rewards for playing slots and table games at either Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Grand Casino Hinckley - or both.

Grand Casino Hinckley was recognized for throwing the state's best players club parties, and for having the friendliest dealers, the best casino hosts, and the favorite themed/casual restaurant - Grand Grill Americana. Grand Casino Mille Lacs was singled out as having the state's best concert venue, and for favorite fine dining at the Woodlands Steakhouse.

"This recognition reflects the hard work put in by casino Associates every day to ensure that our guests consistently have a fun and positive experience at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley," said Heidi Hamers, Corporate Vice President of Marketing for the Band's Corporate Commission, which operates the casinos.

Los Coyotes/Big Lagoon Project Moves Forward with Unique Municipal Services Agreements

The Barstow City Council has unanimously approved the City's Municipal Services Agreements (MSA) with the Big Lagoon Rancheria and Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians, the next step in the process of bringing their proposed casinos and resort to Barstow.

"Big Lagoon is happy to have reached mutually beneficial agreements with the City of Barstow," said Virgil Moorehead,

Big Lagoon's tribal chairman. "We look forward to continuing to work closely with the City to ensure the casino resort brings the needed economic development and other benefits to the Barstow community."

The MSAs are comprehensive intergovernmental agreements that were negotiated between the City's staff and the Tribes to ensure mitigation of impacts from potential development on the Tribes' lands and provide compensation to the City for public services and otherwise establish rules and standards for the development and operation of the Tribes' proposed casino resort. The Big Lagoon/Los Coyotes Tribes will be the only gaming tribes in southern California to have such binding agreements with the community in which they operate.

The Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians initially signed its MSA with the City of Barstow in 2004, before the Tribes had successfully negotiated gaming compacts with Governor Schwarzenegger. The agreement was slightly amended to precisely mirror the Big Lagoon's MSA.

"Los Coyotes appreciates the people of Barstow's enthusiasm in creating the kinship that will benefit both communities," said Dr. Catherine Siva Saubel, Los Coyotes' spokesperson. "I wish to thank the Mayor and the City Council for working with us to nurture and cultivate this project."

New Interior Secretary Visits with Navajo President for Signing of the Navajo Business Site Leasing Regulations

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., met privately with the newly-appointed Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, during his visit to sign new regulations to streamline the Navajo business site leasing process. Following the document signing at the Interior Department office building, Associate Secretary for Indian Affairs Jim Cason escorted President Shirley to Secretary Kempthorne's office.

Secretary Kempthorne was confirmed as the 49th Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior in May in a voice vote by the U.S. Senate. Prior to his confirmation as Secretary, he served nearly two terms as Governor of Idaho, elected first in 1998 and reelected in 2002. It was President Shirley's first opportunity to meet Secretary Kempthorne, the former Idaho governor who resigned that position to accept the appointment from President Bush.

"It was an excellent first meeting," President Shirley said. "He's an exceptionally gracious and cordial man, a Westerner who is very interested in issues affecting Native people. I look forward to meeting him again."

Secretary Kempthorne said he was pleased the President had come to sign regulations to improve the business site leasing process on the Navajo Nation, and was enthusiastic to get to know Navajo issues. ♣