

Raymond Nordwall Cover Artwork: *Portrait of Strength*

Raymond Nordwall was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1965. He is Pawnee, Cherokee and Ojibwe Indian. He studied art with Johnny Tiger, Jr., Dick West, Adam Fortunate Eagle, and Frank Howell. He attended Oklahoma State University, Bacone College and the Institute of American Indian Arts.

Nordwall began showing his work in galleries at the age of twelve. While he was young he emulated the Oklahoma "traditional" style of painting. After moving to Santa Fe and studying the masters' works in Europe, his style changed. Nordwall has worked in many different mediums, including oil, acrylic, mixed media, monotype, etching and watercolor.

"When you discover something in one medium, then it carries over to other mediums and all of your different



approaches to painting grow, change and evolve." Most recently, Nordwall's work has been influenced by the Impressionists, Cubists, Asian art, and even pop art in his mixed media works. Nordwall has exhibited in galleries across the U.S. and Europe including over 30 one-man shows.

In 1999 Raymond and his wife Gina opened Nordwall Gallery on Santa Fe's historical Canyon Road. "Through my art, I want to inspire people to learn more about the Native cultures and their appreciation of nature," said Nordwall.

"When I'm in a beautiful place, I can't help to think about the Creator, and what He has given to us." ♣

Raymond Nordwall can be reached by calling Nordwall Gallery & Studio at (505) 988-5057. To view more of his artwork, visit www.nordwallart.com

GARY HAYWARD – JANUARY'S EXTRAORDINARY EMPLOYEE



Gary Hayward

Indian Gaming magazine has named Gary Hayward Extraordinary Employee for the month of January 2012. As General Manager of Win-River Casino in Redding, CA, he leads the Win-River team in the daily operations of the casino. "My job is to provide leadership, support and resources," Gary said. "I must also provide a vision, work with the team to fulfill the mission and get it done using our core values."

Gary was nominated by Kelli Hayward, Executive Secretary at Win-River Casino. "I've worked for many employers over the years and no one comes close to the leadership Gary displays," said Kelli. "He is fair, firm and compassionate with everyone who works for him. He always challenges himself and never settles for less than success."

Gary got his start at Redding Rancheria's gaming facility almost 17 years ago. He had been living and working in Wisconsin when his grandfather, Art Hayward, asked him to come home and help with the tribe's new venture. Gary explained, "My grandfather called me up and told me that the bingo hall the tribal council had talked about for years was going to happen." Gary gave notice to his employer and moved back to Redding Rancheria. He has been involved with the tribe's gaming business ever since.

"I give credit to my grandfather. He was one of those elders that had a lot of vision and saw there was a need for tribal members themselves to understand the business and run it to make sure it was done right," said Gary.

Over the years, Redding Rancheria's bingo hall has grown into the successful Win-River Casino property. During the recent economic downturn of 2008, when things looked bleak for much of the gaming industry, Gary and his team were able to set their property apart from the competition. "Everybody got together and said 'we're going to make it through this' and not only did we make it through, we had one of our best years ever in 2011," said Gary. "It was actually a blessing in disguise because it forced everyone to examine how they were doing things and do them even better." The tribe is now moving ahead with expansion plans that will include a new hotel and more food and entertainment amenities.

Gary leads the Win-River team using a clear set of values, which each team member incorporates into their daily jobs. "Our core values include honesty, integrity, trust, respect, teamwork and loyalty. It's something I preach over and over because it's really the foundation for everything that we do at Win-River," said Gary.

The best part of his job, Gary said, is watching the people around him grow and become outstanding leaders. "This has been the most fulfilling experience of my life. I've had the chance to serve my tribe and at the same time serve the community we work in. I've also gotten to do it with the most awesome people I've ever known." ♣