

Department of Interior States Oneida Nation Gaming Compact is Valid

The Oneida Nation and its people are pleased to announce that the Department of Interior has decided not to withdraw its approval of the 14 year old Oneida Nation gaming compact. This should put to rest for all time any question about the validity of the gaming compact. The state challenges should be no more.

The uncertainty and anxiety experienced by the 5,000 employees and their families are over. Since those early days in 1993 when the state entered the compact, tens of millions of people have visited and had much fun at Turning Stone. Since those early days, the resort has expanded every year and is today a major destination resort with not only world class gaming, but also premier golf, entertainment, dining, spa facilities and accommodations.

The Nation can now move forward and continue helping its people overcome generations of poverty, continue being the engine for the Central New York economy and continue growing the business and creating even more job opportunities. The hope is that the region and its elected leaders will now start building on the economic potential Indian gaming has for everyone.

San Manuel Casino Celebrates 21st Anniversary with Huge Cash Prizes and Celebrity Appearances

For 21 years, San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino has been providing unbelievable entertainment, gaming excitement, and more than two billion dollars in cash payouts, prizes, and giveaways. In celebration of its 21st Anniversary, San Manuel has put together a sizzling line-up of A-list headliner entertainment and thrilling events this July.

The month-long celebration will kick off on July 5, when 1,000 Poker players will descend upon the casino for its largest-ever Poker Tournament. Players will compete for a total of \$100,000 in cash prizes. Local celebrities will be on-hand to add to the festivities.

"Twenty-one years ago, San Manuel was at the beginning of the journey that has led us to where we are today," says Steve Lengel, Executive Director of Operations for San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino. "Giving away \$100,000 at this high-stakes Hold'em Poker Tournament is an exciting way to mark this anniversary."

As part of the festivities, San Manuel has also lined up some very special appearances and events every week in July to help celebrate the Casino's anniversary. On July 12, multi-Grammy Award winner Mary J. Blige will perform in San Manuel's Yuhaviatam Room. On July 19, It's Thursday Night Live! Starring Dana Carvey, Dennis Miller, David Spade, and host Jon Lovitz. The 21st Anniversary stars continue to shine on Thursday, July 26, when Fergie takes the stage.

YWS Architects Unveils Bold New Brand



Inside the YWS Architects offices for a sneak peak of the recent expansion.

YWS Architects recently unveiled its new brand image and design studio expansion. Industry leaders and VIPs joined YWS Architects in celebrating the new look and six years of success.

YWS Architects offers a selection of design services for hospitality, casino/gaming and mixed-use developments including Avi Resort & Casino (Laughlin) and Cocopah Resort & Conference Center. YWS Architects is also responsible for designing numerous other projects in the Las Vegas area including the new Congregation Ner Tamid, Findlay Chevrolet, Coronado Medial Campus, Rampart Commons and several Golden Gaming properties, among other venues.

Arizona Indian Community Achieves Major Cost Reductions

Last year, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) initiated a search for an outside insurance consultant with a proven track record in the Native American and Indian gaming communities. SRPMIC wanted someone who could act with complete independence from the insurance brokerage community to help reduce insurance costs and overhaul the community's risk management strategy. After a careful search, SRPMIC chose James R. Dunathan and his company, Tribal Consulting Solutions.

Dunathan's first step was to perform a diligent analysis of the community's many enterprises to determine how each was spending its insurance dollars. Upon completion of this process, he prepared two customized Requests for Proposal (RFP) and sent them out for bid. "Mr. Dunathan was very thorough," says Dawn J. Yazzie, Assistant Treasurer. "At every step, he acted with professionalism, integrity, and confidentiality."

The results were significant. "The first RFP resulted in an annual fixed cost savings of more than \$1 million for our Property/Casualty/Worker's Compensation program," says John Parrish, Acting Treasurer and Chairperson of the Benefits and Risk Control Committees at SRPMIC. "The

second had equally impressive results - an annual fixed cost savings of \$900,000 on our self-insured employee benefits program. We expect that number to grow as the project progresses.”

Dunathan also helped usher in significant enhancements to the community's risk management program, adding important new safety and security components while helping to spread awareness about the program among employees. “All of these projects are critical to our overall risk management strategy,” says Parrish. “Mr. Dunathan helped us improve every one of them. I would strongly recommend his services and his company, Tribal Consulting Solutions, to any other tribal enterprise.”

PBDC and Minneapolis Ad Executive Launch New Advertising Agency

The Potawatomi Business Development Corporation (PBDC) recently announced a partnership with Minneapolis advertising executive Chad Germann, owner of Red Circle Agency, to start a new full-service, minority-owned advertising firm. The new agency Howl Fire, with offices in Milwaukee and Minneapolis, will support the PBDC family of companies and target Fortune 1000 business to business assignments.

Germann is principal manager of the new agency and will remain in the same position with Red Circle Agency, one of the world's only Native American-owned advertising agencies. Germann, a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, founded Red Circle in 2001. Red Circle specializes exclusively in American Indian gaming marketing and has worked with both the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin and the Potawatomi Bingo Casino.

Management Changeover at Prairie Band Casino Commences This Month

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has announced a July 1 management changeover of the Nation's casino enterprise, which will begin a week of celebratory events at the Casino. After July 1, the property – located 15 miles north of Topeka in Mayetta (Jackson County) that includes a casino, hotel, convention center and RV Park – will become the “Prairie Band Casino & Resort.”

A grand opening celebration at the casino will formally usher in the new tribal management. As part of the program, Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., Kansas Casino Corporation, which has managed the property for the past nine years, will officially transfer management to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

In public statements that have been made by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in recent months, Tribal Chair Tracy Stanhoff said that the management changeover is an important step along the Nation's continued path toward economic self-sufficiency. “The tribe has had a wonderful partnership with Harrah's and has always planned to take over

management of the enterprise from Harrah's once the time was right; and we are thankful to be in the position to accomplish this goal of tribal self-management,” said Stanhoff.

The Nation will host a private community celebration to thank Harrah's for its years of service. “We thank Harrah's for the past nine years,” said Stanhoff. “They helped us achieve the success that we will continue to build upon in the future.”

Black Oak Casino Introduces New Human Resources Website and Recruitment & Team Building Campaign

Black Oak Casino's Human Resources Department, as part of an overall team building and recruitment effort, has launched its new “I Am Black Oak Casino” campaign. “Teamwork” is one of the core values at Black Oak Casino. This new program is an extension of that value. It demonstrates the solid commitment the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk has to focus on their team members' growth at Black Oak Casino.

Recruitment of new team members to fill the myriad of positions necessary to support Black Oak's ongoing growth required aggressive study of the best way to present the property, the core values of the tribe and existing team members, and the degree of potential for advancement and level of benefits at Black Oak Casino.

To address all of these challenges, the “I Am” campaign was born. A concept from the human resource department was developed in a partnership with the casino's marketing department as a vehicle to not only inform prospective applicants about available opportunities, but also tell the story of what it means to be part of the Black Oak team. Recruitment and retention are key programs when very large staffing levels are required and Black Oak Casino is taking a proactive approach to building its team. Many of the success stories of people who have grown with Black Oak can be viewed on the recruitment website at www.iambblackoakcasino.com.

Navajo President Signs State-Tribal Procedure that Ensures Consultation on Health issues with New Mexico

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., recently joined New Mexico Secretary of Indian Affairs Benny Shendo, Jr., four cabinet secretaries, and the leaders of several New Mexico pueblos and tribes last week to sign a procedure to ensure tribal consultation in health care and human services matters. The protocol grew out of an executive order by New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson that directed state agencies and departments to develop plans to consult with tribes. Work began a year-and-a-half ago at the first New Mexico Health Human Services' Tribal Consultation meeting in Albuquerque.

Five New Mexico state departments worked together to develop a system to work with 22 of the tribes and pueblos in New Mexico. ♣