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## FROM THE PUBLISHER

The recent Southwest Indian Gaming Conference and Expo was a big success. It was terrific to see so many industry leaders and also a great opportunity to attend some very informative seminars and breakout sessions, including some on Class II gaming and the relationship between the Obama administration and Indian Country. The show was also held at the incredible Inn of the Mountain Gods, operated by the Mescalero Apache Tribe – the great Wendell Chino's tribe. While there, we took the opportunity to do an in-depth Road Trip at the property.

The NIGC recently released some positive news for the industry – data illustrating that the revenues generated by the Indian gaming industry in 2008 continued to show growth. In fact, according to the NIGC, the 2008 gross gaming revenue exceeded the industry's 2007 revenues by more than \$500 million. Gross gaming revenue for 2008 totaled \$26.7 billion, an increase of 2.3% over gross revenues for the prior year. For more information, visit [www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov).

Revenue generated by Indian gaming facilities not only funds essential tribal programs, such as infrastructure and education, but can also fund non-gaming business ventures, a means for tribes to expand their revenue stream through economic diversification. One such business venture is Koda Energy, a partnership between Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Rahr Malting in Minnesota. This facility not only generates additional revenue for the tribe, but also has a positive environmental impact. Koda Energy is one of those businesses that exemplifies the goals of tribal government gaming.

This month we head to Tulalip Resort Casino to attend the 9th Annual Northwest Indian Gaming Conference & Expo, held July 13 – 15. The show will kick off Monday the 13th with the popular Northwest Golf Tournament at the Kayak Point Golf Club. This show will be a terrific opportunity to network with industry professionals and to get a first-hand look at one of Indian Country's most upscale resorts. If you're able to attend, be sure to stop by the booth and say hello!



Steve Burke, Publisher

**NIGA Associate Member • GPIGA Associate Member  
OIGA Association Member • G2E Show Publication**

**July 2009 • Volume 19 • No. 7** ©2009 All rights reserved. Indian Gaming magazine is published monthly by ArrowPoint Media, Inc., 14205 SE 36th St., Suite 100, Bellevue, WA 98006. Phone (425) 519-3710, fax (509) 891-0590. Guest editorials or columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Indian Gaming magazine's advisory board or staff. No part of this issue may be reproduced by any mechanical, photographic or electronic process without written permission by the publisher. Subscription rates: U.S. \$85.00 per year, Canada \$99.00 per year, Overseas \$135 per year. Back issues \$12 per issue. All rates are payable in U.S. funds only. **Postmaster** send address changes to: Indian Gaming Magazine 14205 SE 36th St., Suite 100, Bellevue, Washington 98006.