

WaSioux™ Puts a Friendly Face on the Game of Poker

Inventors and developers, Darrell Campbell, member of the Prairie Island Community, and Lynn Dee Rapp, member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, have brought a new poker table to the Class III and Class II gaming marketplace. This electronic, video display, six-player game is based on 5 Card Stud and brings fun and sociability to the game of poker.



WaSioux founders Lynn Dee Rapp and Darrell Campbell.

WaSioux™ was created to welcome players of any skill level to sit down and experience a comfortable cards-up game of poker. It also attracts solitary video poker players to a more socially interactive setting. WaSioux has performed well in game play testing. Casino beta testing is scheduled for the second quarter of 2007 and interest is high from premier casino properties.

Colorful video displays at each player station show all hands on the table, including the dealer's. Players can bet against each other and against the dealer. A "Player Pot" increases winning possibilities.

WaSioux is a fast-paced poker game that randomly deals competitive hands. Players can strategize or let the game build their hand. The advantages to the casino are distinct. Zero card handling decreases the possibility of cheating and requires minimal dealer training for the house.

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino Selects Materials Management System From Agilysys

Agilysys, Inc., a leading provider of enterprise computer solutions, including specifically designed hospitality industry solutions, announced Fantasy Springs Resort Casino selected its Materials Management System (MMS), an inventory and procurement solution, to streamline operations, reduce costs and enhance the hotel casino's financial controls.

Fantasy Springs is owned and operated by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. The 250-room Palm Springs hotel casino offers guests exciting Las Vegas-style gaming, world-class dining and entertainment, comprehensive conference facilities and access to a number of renown golf courses.

"We needed a more sophisticated solution for managing vendor purchases and material inventories," said Joe Callahan, Chief Financial Officer, Fantasy Springs Resort Casino. "The Agilysys solution will provide our management team access to more reliable and accurate information,

which will help us negotiate better pricing and move the hotel casino closer to a 'just-in-time' inventory."

Robinson Rancheria Recipient of the 2006 CH&LA Stars of Industry Award For Community Service

The California Hotel & Lodging Association (CH&LA) is the largest state lodging industry trade association in the country. Its 1,600 members comprise approximately 175,000 guest rooms, consisting of hotels, motels, bed and breakfast inns, guest ranches, resorts, spas, condominium rentals, timeshares and vacation



L to R: Ruben Rubalcava, Slot Director and Rodney Kellar, Hotel Manager.

home rentals located throughout California.

Robinson Rancheria Resort & Casino takes great pride in employment opportunities, is able to offer to over 300 full and part-time employees with competitive wages and benefits, and is equally proud of the various charitable causes that benefit from its continued success. Last year alone these worthy causes received over \$100,000 in charitable contributions including a wide range of national organizations such as the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross Disaster Relief, Hurricane Katrina and the Salvation Army. Over 45 local entities including the Lake County Fair, local schools, youth soccer, little league, Big Brothers, Toys for Kids and various health and arts organizations also receive donations.

In addition to these direct donations, Lake County has also been the recipient of ongoing disbursement from the Gaming Special Distribution Fund. Robinson Rancheria Resort and Casino has contributed over \$300,000 a year to the state mandated fund which allocated dollars to local county service departments such as the Fire Departments, Sheriffs Department, and roads in annual ongoing disbursements.

Military Technology Used to Record and Teach Ancient Tribal Language

Tribal elders from the Prairie Island Indian Community this week began to learn how to use an advanced piece of military technology to help teach their traditional Dakota language to future generations. The technology, the Phraselator® P2, developed by defense contractor Voxtec International, is a handheld tool that allows the user to instantly translate spoken English words and phrases into any Native language.

The Phraselator® currently is used in Iraq combat zones to enable communication between American soldiers and Iraqis. Through the end of the week, Prairie Island tribal elders will use the device to record the Dakota language. Once recorded, the Phraselator technology will be used at Prairie Island Language Center to teach the traditional Dakota language.

Thornton Media, Inc. (TMI), a California-based language tool company devoted to Native languages, worked for more than a year to get the contractor's approval to use the Phraselator® to revitalize Native languages. TMI is currently working with more than 35 tribes across the country to learn how to use the tool. The Prairie Island Indian Community has purchased five of them.

"The Phraselator technology is allowing us to preserve an integral piece of our Native culture that we are in danger of losing," said Tribal Council President Audrey Bennett. "Traditionally, the Dakota Language was passed down from generation to generation but fewer tribal members know how to speak the language well enough to teach it to our young people. Now we have a way to preserve the language and teach it to our children, and future generations."

Smothers Brothers to Star in Commercials for River Rock Casino

River Rock Casino has introduced a new television advertising campaign on Northern California cable and network affiliate stations to continue to communicate its brand image as Sonoma County's 24-hour entertainment destination.



Starring the bantering humor of the Smothers Brothers, Tom and Dick, a series of 30-second commercials and promotional spots will draw viewers attention to the high-energy entertainment, gaming and culinary delights, along with the spectacular view of the Alexander Valley that River Rock offers its guests.

"When the commercials come on air, it is Tom and Dick Smothers just as they are on stage and as they played in the highly-rated Smothers Brothers TV show on CBS. Their humor will make the spots very memorable in the viewer's mind," said Chris Wright, advertising manager at River Rock. "The Smothers Brothers are as timely as ever, particularly with the demographic that makes up a sizable portion of our audience. Many of our customers grew up with them and are still big fans."

Lund & Manasse Advertising & Public Relations of Las Vegas, River Rock's advertising agency, produced the campaign in early January at River Rock.

The Readers of *Arizona Business* Rank Cliff Castle Casino Number One for Eighth Consecutive Year

Once again, Cliff Castle Casino has achieved the status of being ranked the best casino that Arizona has to offer. And once again, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, casino management, and all of the casino team members are delighted to receive this coveted award.

With an increasing number of Arizona casinos to compete with, attaining the rank of "number one" is more difficult each year. The Ranking Arizona: The Best of Arizona Business 2007 edition lists Cliff Castle Casino as the best of 22 casinos found in the entire state of Arizona.

"To be a part of a team that has achieved the rank of number one eight years in a row is truly an honor," Debra Busch, Senior Marketing Director, stated. "Everyone at Cliff Castle Casino works together to meet our guests' expectations and we are grateful for the recognition provided for that kind of dedication."

Mohegan Sun Goes "Coin Free" on Casino Floors

Mohegan Sun has announced that beginning May 1st all slot machines in its Casino of the Earth and Casino of the Sky will be "coin free." This will allow guests to experience the ease of playing slot machines with paper tickets instead of coins or tokens. Utilizing a state-of-the-art ticket-in/ticket-out technology, guests will move more freely and independently between slot machines, while quickly and conveniently receiving their winning jackpots. To redeem tickets for cash, guests simply visit one of Mohegan Sun's more than 50 ticket redemption kiosks or nine cashiering booths conveniently located throughout the casinos.

"We're thrilled to be able to incorporate this new technology throughout the two casinos and elevate our guest experience on the gaming floor," said Frank Neborsky, Vice President of Slot Operations at Mohegan Sun. "Our guests will enjoy the cleanliness of no longer handling coins or tokens, while benefiting from the enhanced customer service and convenience that a ticket-in/ticket-out environment offers."

The new "coin free" environment at Mohegan Sun is also making way for three new slot bars in the Casino of the Earth. The Lodge, with 32 slot machines, will open across from The Cove restaurant; Harvest Moon, also with 32 slot machines, will rise across from Sunset Square - a newly expanded Asian gaming experience; and the Bow & Arrow sports bar will relocate near Seasons Buffet with 12 units. In addition, Mohegan Sun is planning to add 225 slot machines near the Spring Gateway in the Casino of the Earth.

SMSC Wastewater Reclamation Facility Honored for Excellence

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Wastewater Reclamation Facility, which opened in August 2006, has been honored by three organizations for its excellence.

The Minnesota American Council on Engineering Companies (ACEC) presented the SMSC with a Grand Award at a banquet held in January. The SMSC project won one of seven Grand Awards for the best overall engineering achievement. The SMSC WWRF is now under consideration for a national ACEC award.

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) 2007 Seven Wonders of Engineering Award was presented to the SMSC February 23, 2007, at the Hotel Sofitel in Bloomington, Minnesota, as part of MSPE's Engineers Week celebration.

The SMSC facility was also awarded the Minnesota Governor's Award for Excellence in Waste and Pollution Prevention. The 16th annual award was presented during a banquet on February 28, 2007. The award honors superior environmental achievement by Minnesota non-profit organizations, businesses, and private institutions for programs or projects that benefit the environment by reducing or eliminating wastes and pollutants at the source.

The SMSC Wastewater Reclamation Facility is the most advanced wastewater treatment facility in the State of Minnesota. It is one of less than a dozen wastewater treatment facilities in the United States which utilizes Biologically Aerated Filtration technology and membrane filtration. The WWRF contains a 31,000 sq. ft. green roof, the largest in the Upper Midwest, and the facility has a biosolids drying process that is the first of its kind in the United States.

Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., Speaks to Boys & Girls Clubs During Native American Summit

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., recently honored two national leaders of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America at the Native American Summit in Hollywood, Florida. Before more than 200 participants, the President congratulated Mark Piccirilli, president of First PIC., Inc., and a Boys & Girls Clubs Native American National Advisory Council member, and Rick Goings, the former chairman of BGCA's Native American National Advisory Council and current Chairman of BGCA's Board of Governors.

Shirley remarked that because of their efforts, Navajo children have been afforded more opportunities, and early members are now in college. Both men have been significantly involved in club development in Indian Country and continue to show their unwavering support for club development on the Navajo Nation.

The summit was held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino as part of its strategy to further develop and

strengthen more than 200 clubs that serve more than 141,000 Club members in Indian Country. Hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the theme of the conference was "Celebrate Our Youth and Culture: A Journey from the Past into the Future."

The Lodge at Turning Stone Named 2007 Most Excellent Resort by Condé Nast Johanssen

The Lodge at Turning Stone, the flagship all-suite luxury hotel at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona, N.Y., has won the coveted "Most Excellent Resort" at Condé Nast Johanssen's 2007 Award for Excellence ceremony. The award ceremony, co-hosted by supermodel Cindy Crawford, honors the finest in luxury accommodations worldwide as selected by Condé Nast Johanssen's team of inspectors, readers and hotel guests. Accepting the award on behalf of Turning Stone Resort were CEO Ray Halbritter and Michael Tompkins, Vice President of Hotel Operations.

"It is an honor to receive such a significant and high-profile award from Condé Nast Johanssen, one of the top luxury hotel guides in the world," said Halbritter. "We pride ourselves on showering our guests with the unsurpassed elegance and intuitive service that has become a hallmark of Turning Stone hospitality."

"The Lodge at Turning Stone is redefining the luxury hotel experience for a growing number of discerning guests from all over the world," added Halbritter. "Turning Stone has set new standards for both luxury accommodations and service, including fine dining, championship golf, renowned entertainment and Skaná, a spectacular new spa adjacent to The Lodge at Turning Stone."

Independent Feature Film "Expiration Date" Debuts at NIGA '07

Expiration Date, an independent film produced in Seattle, has been described by director Rick Stevenson as "an Indian version of *Harold and Maude*." The movie breaks the mold of traditional film conventions with its romantic fable about a young Native man, Charlie Silvercloud III (Robert A. Guthrie).

The film recently won Best Film and Best Actor (Guthrie) at the American Indian Film Festival. *Expiration Date* has also garnered numerous awards including the Audience Award at the Sedona International Film Festival and the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award for Best Feature at the Omaha Film Festival. "*Expiration Date* has been celebrated for its hilarious alternative to the movie industry's scarce and even stereotyped portrayals of Indians," Stevenson said.

Yvonne Russo will be representing the film at the NIGA '07 tradeshow in Phoenix, Arizona. ♣