

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians Sues State of California for Lost Revenue

The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, located in north-east San Diego County and the owners of Valley View Casino, filed a \$115 million lawsuit in February against the State of California for lost profits. Stephen Warren Solomon and Stephen Allen Jamieson, with the law firm of Solomon, Saltsman & Jamieson, represent the tribe in this lawsuit, and filed it in Los Angeles Superior Court. The damages are alleged to arise from Governor Schwarzenegger's refusal to allow the California Gambling Control Commission to issue all of the slot machine licenses to which the tribe is entitled under its 1999 contract with the State. The tribe contends, therefore, that the State breached its contract and is illegally interfering with its ability to provide slot machine play for its patrons.

The State, led by Governor Schwarzenegger, has for years refused to issue the licenses to which the tribes were entitled, and instead held the licenses as leverage against the tribes in an attempt to force them into new compacts that would strip tribal governments of their sovereignty. By refusing to issue these slot machine licenses, in breach of its contracts with the tribes, Governor Schwarzenegger also eliminated a badly needed source of income for counties and cities that would have generated up to \$30 million per year; and, which perhaps could have helped to avoid or mitigate the current fiscal crisis of local government in the state.

Allen Lawson, Chairman of the San Pasqual Tribe explained, "Fulfilling the language of the compact will not only benefit the entire Native American community but in turn will aide the counties of California during this time when everyone could use assistance. We are just asking for what was established to be ours according to the language of the 1999 compact, but it benefits everyone. The governor instead chose to intentionally breach our contract, to the detriment of San Pasqual as well as the people of the state of California."

GSA Creates Internet Gaming Study Committee to Evaluate Business Value of Common Messaging Protocol

As gaming migrates to new forms of distribution, like the Internet, the Gaming Standards Association is committed to understanding how this affects its members as well as the protocols that connect products in any gaming market. GSA has created the Internet Gaming Study Committee. Comprised of GSA members from around the world, the committee will determine if a business need exists for a standardized Internet gaming protocol, much as standardized GSA protocols have benefited land-based casino operations.

GSA President Peter DeRaedt said, "GSA members who are both operators and manufacturers are very interested in understanding how an Internet gaming standard would benefit the gaming industry at large. It is clear that there is

significant overlap between what happens in the online and offline gaming segments."

The committee will not be writing protocol standards, but examining the operator and supplier environment, technology and regulatory landscape to understand how common protocols might benefit all concerned. The committee expects to report on its findings as early as this summer.

DeRaedt said, "This is a vital investigation, because Internet gaming holds a tremendous potential. We look forward to sharing our findings with the global gaming industry, further proving the crucial role GSA plays."

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Distributes Nearly \$2 Million to Local Revenue Sharing Board

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) announced that its first payment to the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (LRSB) would be almost \$2 million. A check was presented to the LRSB for \$1,933,683.41.

These funds represent two percent of the "net win" or gross revenues from electronic gaming devices (slot machines) at the tribe's FireKeepers Casino, located in Battle Creek, for the five-month period ending December 31, 2009. FireKeepers Casino opened in August 2009.

Under the tribe's Class III gaming compact with the State of Michigan, the NHBP has agreed to provide an annual two percent payment to the local revenue sharing board. The LRSB is expected to distribute the funds in the next coming months.

"I'm confident that the local board will work together to establish the process for a fair distribution of revenues that will maximize the benefits that these funds can provide," said Jamie Stuck, Treasurer of the NHBP and tribal representative on the revenue sharing board. "The tribe's goal is to ensure that the criteria or formulas for allocating the revenues will be consistent with the mandates and priorities set out in the compact and best serve the community needs."

In addition to the payment to the local revenue sharing board, the tribe will also make a payment to the state of Michigan for \$3,867,366.79, which will represent a fixed four percent of the electronic gaming profit in 2009. These funds will go to the Jobs for Michigan Investment Fund, which is a component of the 21st Century Jobs Initiative. Investments have been made in the program to encourage venture capital investment in Michigan and to fund the Small Business Capital Access Program and loan enhancement.

Agua Caliente Casino • Resort • Spa Nominated for Academy Of Country Music Award

Agua Caliente Casino, Resort, Spa has been nominated for another national music industry award, this time by the Academy of Country Music. The nominees recently

announced nominations include the ACM Casino of the Year Nominee: Agua Caliente Casino - Rancho Mirage, CA; Green Valley Ranch Resort, Spa and Casino - Las Vegas, NV; Mystic Lake Casino Hotel - Prior Lake, MN; Peppermill Casino - Wendover, NV; WinStar World Casino - Thackerville, OK.

The nomination is the second for Agua Caliente Casino, Resort, Spa since opening the doors to The Show, its 2,000 seat concert theatre, in February of 2009. The Show was also recently nominated for "Best New Major Concert Venue" by industry leaders and readers of *Pollstar Magazine*.

Due to time constraints at the ACM awards, the Casino of the Year award is an off-camera Industry Award presented at the annual "ACM Honors" event held in Nashville in September – where Musician of the Year Awards and recipients of the Special Awards will also be presented.

Cherokee Nation Named One of the 'Top Ten True Western Towns Of 2010' by True West Magazine

Dispelling the notion of western towns as nothing more than Hollywood movie-lore, Cherokee Nation and its capital city of Tahlequah is a thriving cultural community that has earned the seventh spot on the list of 'Top Ten True Western Towns of 2010' as recognized by *True West* magazine.

True West editors determine winners for this annual award based on criteria demonstrating how each town has preserved its history through old buildings, museums and other institutions, events and promotions of historic resources.

"The Cherokee have made it their mission to preserve their culture and hand it down to future generations," says True West Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell. "Their heritage is a proud one – and their efforts to keep it alive deserve honors."

In January 2009, Cherokee Nation created a cultural tourism program with genuine Cherokee perspective and cultural experiences that is distinctively branded: "Osiyo, Cherokees Say Hello Like No One Else." The foundation of the tourism program rests in its cultural, historical, natural and recreational resources of the Cherokee Nation, which includes the 14-county area located in northeastern Oklahoma that spans 7,000 square miles.

Cherokee Nation realized the significance of the many historical sites and landmarks for the cultural tours and made a commitment to the preservation of four key locations including the Cherokee National Supreme Court Building, Ross Cemetery, the Cherokee National Capitol Building and Cherokee National Jail. Each site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"This recognition speaks volumes to the commitment by the Cherokee Nation to honor its heritage," said David Stewart, CEO of Cherokee Nation Entertainment, which oversees the Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism Department.

"By working with our community partners in building a successful cultural tourism program, we are able to share our story with future generations and the public at large."

True West magazine recognized that the Cherokee believe in a philosophy of 'gadugi' – working together for the benefit of all. The magazine added that there's no better example of that than in Tahlequah, the capital city of the Cherokee Nation, and the focus of remarkable tribal efforts to preserve and teach its history.

Contributing to the success of the Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism program and *True West* magazine selection are key stakeholders including Cherokee Nation, City of Tahlequah, Tahlequah Main Street Associates, Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce, Northeastern State University and a variety of downtown vendors. In addition, Cherokee Nation Entertainment has an alliance with historic sites, museums and points of interest across the Cherokee Nation including the Cherokee Heritage Center, Murrell Home and Will Rogers Museum.

The Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism program features four historically authentic tours that include lunch and feature an interpretative guide on the Cherokee History Tour, Cherokee Old Settler Tour, Civil War History Tour, and Will Rogers History Tour.

Gaming Laboratories International Announces 9th Annual Regulators Roundtable

Gaming Laboratories International has revealed plans for its 9th annual Regulators Roundtable. The conference, titled "Linking Worlds Together," is staged March 16-17 at the South Point Hotel Casino Spa in Las Vegas and features an incredible range of the industry's leading experts.

Topics at this year's roundtable include "Crossover Technology: Going Outside the Lines," "Cutting Edge Technology: 2010 and Beyond," "Global Impact: A Worldwide View," "Implementing Gaming Legislation," and "Regulating Hybrid Technology: Finding a Clear Direction." Political regulatory issues will be discussed in "Legislative & Regulator Update: Doing More with Less," and "An Update from Capitol Hill." As hacking attempts continue to grow in sophistication, regulators will also be asked how safe their data is in the session, "Risk Assessment & Security."

In addition to panel speakers, the event will feature a close-up tour of GLI's Las Vegas lab and in-depth training modules at the lab.

GLI's annual roundtable is a one-of-a-kind event in the gaming industry, where regulators gather to learn about the latest technological developments and their potential regulatory impact, and to openly discuss regulations with one another in a private setting. GLI offers the conference to regulators free of charge. Last year's event drew more than 200 regulators from across North America.

The event is part of the company's GLI University, a program that offers continuing education and training to regulators around the world. GLI Vice President Paul Magno said, "Technology in the gaming industry is evolving rapidly, and it is crucial that regulators stay ahead of the technology learning curve. We created the roundtable series specifically for that reason – to help regulators fully understand new technologies and their potential impact on each regulator's individual jurisdiction."

GLI produces the event each year around the globe. Next month the company will stage its 6th European Regulators Roundtable, and expects to announce plans for its 3rd Latin American Roundtable later this year.

Moody's Revises Downstream Development Authority's Outlook to Stable from Negative

Moody's Investors Service recently revised Downstream Development Authority's rating outlook to stable from negative. The company's Corporate Family Rating, Probability of Default Rating, and senior secured first lien note rating were affirmed at Caa1.

The revision of the authority's rating outlook to stable and affirmation of Caa1 rating reflect Moody's expectation that company's operating performance and credit metrics would not likely deteriorate materially in the intermediate term. Additionally, it is Moody's opinion that the company would likely maintain an adequate liquidity profile to service its current debt service obligations, capital expenditures and tribal distributions in the next twelve months.

John Berrey, Chairman, Downstream Development Authority, responded by saying, "We are honored and humbled by Moody's Investors Service's recent upgrade of our financial outlook and credit ratings, especially during this time of economic instability when very few publicly funded companies in general and gaming properties in particular have been upgraded. We have weathered the storm thanks to a smart and conservative development approach, a savvy and highly capable management team, hard-working staff, and the steady and much appreciated community support of our region. This bodes well not only for the Quapaw Tribe and the 1,100 Downstream team members, but for the economic well being of the whole Four-State Region that we call home."

Dream Dance Steakhouse Receives Top Honors from *Wine Enthusiast* Magazine

For the second straight year, Dream Dance Steak at Potawatomi Bingo Casino has been given the Award of Ultimate Distinction by *Wine Enthusiast* magazine.

Dream Dance Steak is the only restaurant in Wisconsin, and one of only 25 from across the United States, honored with *Wine Enthusiast's* award recognizing

the country's best wine lists.

"Being presented with an Award of Ultimate Distinction for two straight years is certainly an honor," Dream Dance Steak General Manager Jeff Cook said. "Our retail-based wine list is something we pay special attention to. Our guests appreciate that they can enjoy a great, affordable bottle of wine. It makes for a memorable dining experience."

Dream Dance Steak features about 750 selections of wine – 16 by the glass. The wine list emphasizes domestic selections of Cabernet, but with good representation from around the world.

Dream Dance Steak has won a number of awards for its wine and culinary service. Recently, it was named one of the top 30 restaurants in the Milwaukee area by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

Derrick Suwaima Davis Captures Fifth World Championship Title at 20th Annual Heard Museum Hoop Dance Championship



Derrick Suwaima Davis

Derrick Suwaima Davis, Hopi/Choctaw, is headed home to Old Oraibi, Ariz., with the coveted title of World Champion Hoop Dancer. Davis won his fifth championship with a total of 240 points at the 20th Annual Heard Museum World Championship Hoop Dance Contest in February. An estimated audience of 10,000 came to cheer on one or more of their favorites from a roster of 65 hoop dancers from the U.S. and Canada. The Jay Kahn

Memorial Fund sponsors the youth competition prizes and the Arizona Commission on the Arts is a supporter of the contest.

Davis, who previously won the world championship title in 1994, 1996, 1997 and 1998, had not participated in the hoop dance for the past few years due to cultural obligations. However, his obligations ended in time for him to make his way to Phoenix for the championship.

Charles Denny, Cree/Ute, the 2008 World Champion, came in second with 236 points. Just one point separated Denny, who calls Fort Duchesne, Utah home, and third-place finisher Tony Duncan, San Carlos Apache, of Mesa, Ariz. The 2009 champ, Brian Hammill, Ho Chunk, of New River, Ariz., placed fourth with 228 points. Three-time champ Quentin Pipestem, Tsuu-Tina, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada scored 223 points to take home a fifth-place trophy and Lane Jensen, Navajo/Maricopa, of Dilcon, Ariz., won sixth place with 222 points.

The Rainmaker Group Attains Microsoft Gold Certified Partner Status

The Rainmaker Group, a leader in automated revenue management software and services to the multifamily housing and hotel gaming industries, announced it attained Gold Certified Partner status in the Microsoft Partner Program with a competency as an Independent Software Vendor.

As a Gold Certified Partner, The Rainmaker Group demonstrated its expertise and proven capabilities with Microsoft technologies that meet customers' needs in the hospitality, gaming, multifamily housing and related industries. Microsoft Gold Certified Partners receive a comprehensive set of benefits, including access, training and support, giving them a competitive advantage in the markets they serve.

Bruce Barfield, President of The Rainmaker Group, said, "For more than 10 years Rainmaker has delivered state-of-the-art profit optimization solutions that utilize Microsoft's technology to increase revenue for its multifamily, gaming, and hospitality clients."

Seven Feathers RV Resort Rated Among the Best in North America

Seven Feathers RV Resort, located in Canyonville, Oregon, received a 10-10-10 rating from Trailer Life Enterprises for 2010. The prestigious 10-10-10 rating is awarded to only the top rated RV Parks in North America.

In a letter of recognition to Seven Feathers RV Resort, Cindy Halley, Publisher of *Trailer Life* magazine wrote, "Achievement of this honor is a significant accomplishment and deserves recognition. It takes a special commitment by the management of a park to consistently maintain high standards in all areas of their operation. Attainment of a high rating in each of the three categories of the Trailer Life Rating System takes ongoing hard work and dedication and it is an honor for *Trailer Life* to recognize your park as one among the Best of the Best!"

Travis Hill, Director of Hospitality for the Umpqua Indian Development Corporation, under which Seven Feathers RV Resort is operated, said, "When Ownership began planning Seven Feathers RV Resort in 2004 they strived to build something very special for our guests and community. Now that we have been awarded the 10-10-10 rating we believe we have accomplished that goal."

National Museum of the American Indian in New York to Inaugurate a Permanent, Hemispheric Survey of Native American Art

A spectacular, permanent exhibition of 700 works of Native art from throughout North, Central and South America will open Oct. 23, at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York, the George Gustav Heye Center. Organized by geographic regions, "Infinity of Nations:

Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian," will demonstrate the breadth of the museum's renowned collection and highlight the historic importance of many of these iconic objects.

Five years in the making, "Infinity of Nations" will establish the museum as an educational cornerstone for the city, providing an expansive overview of Native America. The exhibition will also provide the foundation for eight seasons of public programs, each celebrating a different region and revealing the richness and diversity of indigenous nations.

Chosen to illustrate the geographic and chronological scope of the museum's collections, the objects have been meticulously conserved and will be displayed in custom casework by the acclaimed Laboratorio Museotecnico Goppion of Milan, Italy.

"Infinity of Nations" will open with a display of headdresses, signifying the sovereignty of Native nations, including a magnificent Kayapó *krok-krok-ti*, a macaw-and-heron-feather ceremonial headdress. Focal-point objects, representing each region, will include an Apsáalooke (Crow) robe illustrated with warriors' exploits; a detailed Mayan limestone bas relief depicting a ball player; an elaborately beaded Inuit *tuilli*, or woman's inner parka, made for the mother of a newborn baby; a Mapuche *kultrung*, or hand drum, that depicts the cosmos; a carved and painted chief's headdress depicting a killer whale with a raven emerging from its back, created and worn by Willie Seaweed (Kwakwaka'wakw); an anthropomorphic Shipibo *joni chomo*, or water vessel from Peru; a Chumash basket decorated with a Spanish-coin motif; an ancient mortar from Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon, N.M.; a gourd carved with a detailed picture of the Battle of Arica by Mariano Flores Kananga (Quechua); and an early Anishinaabe man's outfit complete with headdress, leggings, shirt, sash and jewelry. The exhibition will conclude with works by Native artists such as Allan Houser (Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache) and Rick Bartow (Mad River Wiyot).

"Long before European contact, Native America was interconnected and culturally active," said Kevin Gover (Pawnee), director of the National Museum of the American Indian. "This exhibition will demonstrate how, throughout time, the visual arts were an important communication tool of this ongoing vitality."

"Visitors will experience the diversity of Native America through some of the most historically significant and greatest artistic masterpieces of the collection," said John Haworth (Cherokee), director of the Heye Center. "This will be a new moment for us to inspire and serve New York City residents, tourists and school groups."

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York, the George Gustav Heye Center, is located at One Bowling Green in New York City, across from Battery Park. The museum is open daily and admission is free. For more information, visit www.americanindian.si.edu. ♣