

Catching the Dream Wins Prestigious Yawa Award From San Manuel Band of Mission Indians



L-R: San Manuel Business Committee Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena, Treasurer Sabrina Nahkjavanpour and Secretary Ken Ramirez; Dr. Dean Chavers, Director of Catching the Dream and Governor James Lujan of Taos Pueblo.

Throughout the United States, Native communities suffer from a lack of qualified professionals – teachers, engineers, doctors, communication specialists, business managers, social workers, and technicians. Well-paying jobs exist in Indian communities, but too often, not enough Indians are prepared to fill them. Hospitals, dental clinics, schools, engineering and agricultural projects, often remain understaffed and unable to meet community needs. Catching the Dream, a national Native American education and scholarship center that seeks to address this deficiency, was recently awarded the prestigious Yawa Award in the category of education.

The Yawa Awards are presented annually by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to outstanding non-profits or tribal governments that have demonstrated great capacity in improving the quality of life for their service population. Yawa' is the Serrano Indian word and concept of putting belief into action.

“The Yawa' Award not only offers us an opportunity to celebrate effective programs, but also to build awareness of non-profits that often begin with modest aims, then grow with communities they serve to become invaluable and relied upon institutions,” said San Manuel Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena.

2016 Yawa Award recipients included Catching the Dream (Education); Mercy House Living Centers (Economic Development); Indigenous Language Institute (Special project); and the Alliance for Children's Rights (Health).

Casino Del Sol Resort Adds New Slot Machines to Paradiso Lounge and Casino Floor

Located inside Casino Del Sol Resort, one of Tucson's premier casinos and resorts, the Paradiso Lounge is well known for hosting the best local entertainment in the Old Pueblo. However, guests will now be able to enjoy more than a cold beverage and live music. On both sides of the bar

area, 16 bar top video poker machines have been installed.

These machines boast 27 different games to choose from, including popular IGT games such as Draw Poker and Deuces Wild. A variety of keno and video poker, and a few slot reels can be played with bets ranging from 5 cents to \$1. These machines accept Club Sol player's cards and accumulate points, just like the machines on the casino floor.

Additionally, Casino Del Sol Resort continues to elevate the gaming experience for their guests by frequently replacing older slot machines on the casino floor with the latest touch screen games. Incredible Technology's Crazy Money Deluxe is the most recent game to be installed. This game features the Skybox Progressive cabinet with 1¢ denomination and a maximum bet of \$3.

Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa Awarded Best Overall Entertainment by Casino Player Readers

Casino Player has crowned its Best of Dining and Nightlife winners, with first place awards going to Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in the categories of Best Overall Entertainment, Best Happy Hour, Best Nightclub, and Best Steakhouse.

Readers of *Casino Player* cast votes for their favorites among a vast array of casinos across the country and when the tallying was finished, Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa emerged with four first place awards. Home to Southern California's premiere concert theatre, The Show, Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa took the crown for Best Overall Entertainment, The Lounge for Best Nightclub, The Steakhouse for Best Steakhouse, and Waters Café for Best Happy Hour.

“It is a thrill to be named in the Best of Dining and Nightlife by *Casino Player* readers,” Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa Assistant General Manager Bob Maloney said. “An honor such as this is truly a reflection of the commitment to excellence demonstrated each and every day by our dedicated team members.”

Table Mountain Casino Voted “Best Local Casino” in 2016 People's Choice Award

Table Mountain Casino has once again been voted the, “Best Local Casino” in the Fresno Bee's 2016 People's Choice Awards. This is the second consecutive year that Table Mountain Casino has won this prestigious award.

Rob Goslin, Casino President and General Manager said, “We are honored and pleased to have once again been recognized with the ‘Best Local Casino’ award. On behalf of all of the team members at Table Mountain Casino, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote in the People's Choice Awards. Our guests are our number one priority and we're glad the voters agree.”

Table Mountain Casino is renowned for their commitment to exceptional guest service and for being the locals' favorite place for fun and winning. As many guests say, "Table Mountain is like a second home to us."

Konami Wins 2016 NAIOP Spotlight Award for Sustainable/Green Building

Konami Gaming, Inc. was recently awarded the 2016 NAIOP Southern Nevada Spotlight Award for Sustainable/Green Building for the recently-completed expansion of its Las Vegas headquarters. This honor annually recognizes the regional commercial building project that exemplifies sustainable principles as a driving force behind development. Konami's expanded facility more than doubled its original 160,000 sq. ft. facility with full Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) certification and became one of the state's largest facilities to achieve complete geothermal heating and cooling.

"Our new headquarters has been designed and delivered with environmentally-friendly and energy saving considerations in every aspect," said Tom Jingoli, Chief Administration Officer and Senior Vice President at Konami Gaming, Inc. "Konami has always been very conscious of the environment and so it was a natural fit for us to expand our facility with a goal of obtaining LEED certification. We felt this was an important investment to demonstrate our commitment to being good corporate citizens."

A myriad of environmental initiatives were introduced in addition to the geothermal system – subterranean parking, LED lighting, and completely new roofing, flooring, paint, and furniture – all contributing to LEED silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and this year's recognition from NAIOP's Southern Nevada Chapter.

IGT Signs Systems Agreement with Yakama Nation Legends Casino

International Game Technology (IGT) recently announced that it has reached an agreement with Yakama Nation Legends Casino to enhance the Washington property's IGT Advantage® casino management systems with Media Manager and Service Window systems solutions, and a host of bonusing applications.

The announcement follows a competitive evaluation of systems solutions, resulting in the selection of a comprehensive suite of IGT systems solutions. IGT Media Manager and floor-wide Service Window will be enhanced by Xtra Credit® and Point Play® applications.

"Our dedication to innovation adds significant value to our partnership with Yakama Nation Legends Casino, and to the property's ability to engage with players. By providing bonusing and Service Window capabilities, we bring out the best in our leading floor share of games while helping the casino streamline its operations," said Nick Khin,

IGT Senior Vice President of Sales, North America Gaming & Interactive.

"A big part of what makes Legends Casino 'Your Place to Play' is the personalized service we provide players," said Tiffany Goudy, Interim General Manager, Yakama Nation Legends Casino. "With the addition of IGT Service Window, we can offer customized promotions, communications, and incentives to players. With the introduction of IGT bonusing applications, we're adding entirely new levels of excitement to our games. These advancements in our slot offerings and operations are exactly what can help to propel the success of our newly expanded casino."

Scientific Games Secures Extensive Agreement to Provide Industry-Leading Systems and New Games to Angel of the Winds Casino Hotel

Scientific Games Corporation recently announced that Angel of the Winds Casino & Hotel, owned and operated by the Stillaguamish Tribe, has selected Scientific Games to provide a broad spectrum of casino-management systems solutions for its casino resort in Arlington, Washington – replacing a competitor's systems technology currently installed at Angel of the Winds.

"We did our due diligence, and after 10 months of research it was apparent why Scientific Games is an industry leader; no other company can provide integrated solutions of this breadth and depth," said Travis O'Neil, General Manager of the Angel of Winds Casino & Hotel. "We are especially excited about using iVIEW® DM and Elite Bonusing Suite™ applications to increase carded play, new player's club registrations, and most of all, add excitement across our casino floor. It was clear to us that these products separated Scientific Games' systems solutions well above the other options in the marketplace."

In addition to the broad array of systems applications, Angel of the Winds Casino & Hotel has added an additional 88 Scientific Games slot machines to its casino floor. The casino resort selected a mix of the company's Alpha™ 2 Pro Series™ Wave™ and Alpha™ 2 Pro Series™ V27/27 slot platforms, as well as a portfolio of high-performing game content including Dragon Rising®, Precious Jade®, and Lucky Tree®.

Scientific Games Group Chief Executive of Gaming Derik Mooberry said, "Our extensive, integrated systems solutions will deliver a single view of the player, centralized management, and offer exciting new ways to attract, reward, and engage players while streamlining operations at Angel of the Winds Casino. At the same time, the casino resort has added some of our newest high-performing games and innovative game platforms that are designed to drive revenue and add excitement to their casino floor. We are truly honored by Angel of the Winds' confidence in Scientific Games."

Odawa Casino Resort Boosts Efficiency and Guest Service With Comprehensive Agilysys Suite

Agilysys, Inc. recently announced that Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey, MI, has selected an industry-leading solution suite – including Visual One® PMS, InfoGenesis® POS and rGuest® Pay – to streamline efficiency and optimize guest service at the 137-room property.

The resort, which recently underwent extensive renovations, caters to both business and leisure travelers, with a Las Vegas style casino, several dining options, live entertainment venue and large meeting facility. The property's executive team wanted state-of-the-art technology that not only would increase operational efficiency but also would enhance the guest experience.

"The Agilysys suite is a great fit for us, with software that addresses the entire guest lifecycle, including property management, point-of-sale and payment gateway solutions," said Eric McLester, General Manager at Odawa Casino Resort. "Visual One PMS will streamline our hotel operations from arrival through departure, while InfoGenesis POS and rGuest Pay will boost food, beverage and retail efficiency and reduce the risks associated with card acceptance. Agilysys has been a trusted adviser to tribal gaming properties for many years, and we look forward to a long and successful partnership."

"Casino hotels that want to beat the competition must leverage technology to improve overall property performance," said Jim Walker, Senior Vice President of Global Revenue at Agilysys. "With the implementation of our property management, point-of-sale and payment gateway solutions, Odawa Casino Resort is making a commitment to both efficiency and guest service. Each of these solutions is powerful on its own; together, they provide an unbeatable combination that not only will streamline day-to-day operations but also will help the property establish lasting connections with guests."

Choctaw Casino Resort Deploys VizExplorer Solution to Drive VIP Revenue Growth

VizExplorer recently announced that it has signed an agreement with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to install hostViz™, the company's player development solution at Choctaw Casino Resort properties in Oklahoma.

Along with the VizExplorer® Data Integration Hub and vizDashboard™, Choctaw Casino Resort's Player Development department has also selected hostViz™ – a comprehensive CRM tool that provides real-time player management and development, host task facilitation and reporting capabilities.

"At Choctaw Casino Resort, enhancing our VIP guest experience is key to our future success. We feel that our partnership with VizExplorer and the hostViz™ solution will allow us to achieve this goal and remain competitive in today's gaming environment," said Walter Allen, Director of Player Development at Choctaw Casino Resort.

"We're thrilled that hostViz™ is being deployed by Choctaw's hardworking Player Development team to improve their operational intelligence," said Angela Ahmet, VP of Customer Success at VizExplorer. "We developed hostViz™ to help hosts increase their efficiency and interactions with players, and to help casinos offer a personalized guest experience that drives revenue."

hostViz™ is an essential component of VizExplorer's Operational Intelligence solution that enables the smart casino, and has been deployed in more than 60 casinos in the last 18 months.

Joseph Eve CPAs Wins Audit Contract at Casino Pauma

Joseph Eve CPAs has won another competitive RFP for its auditing services. This time, the firm has won a contract to conduct external auditing services for Casino Pauma in Southern California. Joseph Eve CPAs works for tribal operations in 28 states, and this win is the latest in a string of competitive external audit RFPs the firm has won recently.

"Joseph Eve and team have demonstrated the utmost professionalism and knowledge during their auditing proposal process. The lines of communication are always open and they are eager to assist when needed," said Alex Sanchez, Executive Director, Pauma Gaming Commission.

"We are grateful to the Pauma Gaming Commission for trusting Joseph Eve CPAs with their auditing requirements," said firm partner Grant Eve, CPA, CFE. "Auditing is a crucial function of the larger compliance process, and we have been supporting tribal and commercial casino operations in this important area for more than 30 years. We work hard to earn and keep our clients' trust, and we are very excited to add Casino Pauma to our growing list of clients."

TribalNet Announces Keynote Speakers for the 17th Annual TribalNet Conference and Tradeshow

The TribalNet team recently announced the 17th Annual TribalNet Conference and Tradeshow keynote speakers – Michael Tchong and Kevin Jones. "We are beyond thrilled to have these two dynamic keynote presenters confirmed for this year's conference. Their positive energy and enthusiasm for pushing the boundary towards achieving excellence sets a great tone for us as we work on developing the conference

agenda for this year's event," said TribalNet's Executive Director Shannon Bouschor.

Michael Tchong has been called "the most influential trendspotter in America" by The Daily Telegraph, UK. He is a five-time entrepreneur with innovative startups in media, CRM, and digital marketing, with a proven ability to act as a transformational catalyst and a practical futurist.

Kevin Jones is an advisor, international speaker, and videographer, whose expertise lies in organizational strategy, Enterprise Social Networks (ESNs), initiative adoption, and bringing the best out of employees. With his focus on the human side of business and technology, he is sure to leave attendees motivated and equipped to transform their workplace culture. His clients include NASA, Lowes, JCPenny, Dell, and many other well-known companies. He has authored two e-books, writes a weekly blog, and produces videos for e-learning.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego, CA November 7-10, 2016.

Pokagon Band Makes Over \$81 Million in Additional Economic Investments to the Region in 2015

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians recently announced that it made over \$81 million in additional economic investments to the region in 2015. These investments do not include annual payments made directly to the State of Michigan as mandated by the Band's compact, job creation, and other ancillary benefits resulting from its Four Winds Casinos and other ventures. The Pokagon Band has made approximately \$248 million in additional investments to the economies of Michigan and Indiana over the last four years.

"As the original inhabitants of the Michiana region, we support local communities by making millions of dollars in elective investments every year," said John P. Warren, Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

"These investments not only support area businesses through vendor payments, but also assist non-profit organizations, local governments, libraries, school districts, colleges, arts organizations, and students through direct donations from the Pokagon Fund and our three local revenue sharing boards."

In 2015, the Pokagon Band spent more than \$67.1 million with 3,287 vendors in Michigan and Indiana, of which \$49.6 million was spent with 2,610 vendors in Michigan and \$17.4 million was spent with 677 vendors in Indiana. Additionally, the Pokagon Band provided \$1.9 million to the Pokagon Fund, which is supported by electronic gaming revenue from the Pokagon Band's Four Winds New Buffalo. Through revenue generated from its casino locations, the Pokagon Band also made contributions of \$4.4 million to the New

Buffalo Local Revenue Sharing Board, \$823,408 to the Hartford Local Revenue Sharing Board, and \$612,872 to the Dowagiac Area Local Revenue Sharing Board.

The Pokagon Band has made donations of \$267,000 to Memorial Children's Hospital over the past four years through its sponsorship of the Four Winds Invitational. This includes a donation of \$80,000 to Memorial Children's Hospital in 2015 to help fund a new multi-story home for Memorial Children's Hospital. Through its Four Winds Casinos, the Pokagon Band also donated \$146,190 in gift cards to various charitable causes and events, and continued its support of the South Bend Cubs with the naming rights agreement for Four Winds Field. Just prior to Christmas, Four Winds Casinos donated 1,000 baskets of food to local organizations in Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan for those in-need.

Mno-Bmadsen, the non-gaming economic development enterprise of the Pokagon Band, also invested \$4.57 million in 2015. Since forming in 2007, it has invested \$16.3 million in acquisitions and the development of its subsidiaries. Last year, Mno-Bmadsen, acquired D.A. Dodd, Inc., a mechanical trade contractor with operations in Indiana and Michigan.

BlueBird CPAs, Formerly Known as Egghart LLC | CPAs, Launches Major Rebrand



BlueBird, CPAs (formerly known as Egghart, LLC | CPAs) has undergone a total rebrand and recently unveiled its new name, logo, tagline, and website to better showcase itself as a leading full service accounting and

auditing firm serving Indian Country.

The new brand reflects BlueBird's commitment to provide the very best services in order to meet their clients' needs. In the search for a new name, they looked to find one that embodied the core values and character of the firm. It was important to choose a name that reflected the heritage they are so proud of as a Nevada born and based business, and believe the Mountain Bluebird illustrates this through a simple and classic symbol. The new logo, the bluebird, represents the state bird of Nevada and is widely regarded as a symbol of new beginnings and happiness. The bluebird also reflects the morale of the firm: one of happiness, new growth supported by strong roots, and boundless optimism as they take flight into the future.

The new tagline "Experience Elevated" illustrates that BlueBird has 20-years of work and growth in Indian Country as well as being a well-respected niche accounting and auditing firm. ♣