

Agua Caliente Invests in Cathedral City, CA

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians recently announced it is acquiring 12.5 acres for a development project in the heart of downtown Cathedral City, and it will contribute funds to relocate a fire station currently at the site.

“This is about making a large-scale investment in Cathedral City,” Chairman Jeff L. Grubbe said. “The future development will create jobs, revitalize an undeveloped downtown property and support Cathedral City’s economic development efforts. In addition, we have the honor of working with Cathedral City to relocate and build a new fire station that will allow fire fighters to serve city residents from a brand new state-of-the-art facility and a more desirable location.”

The tribe will contribute \$5.5 million to the City Urban Revitalization Corporation for the purpose of relocating and constructing the new fire station. In consideration of the contribution and the benefits associated with the development – which will create jobs and help revitalize downtown – the City Urban Revitalization Corporation will transfer the property to the tribe.

In total, the tribe’s development area includes about 13 acres at the northwest corner of Date Palm Drive and East Palm Canyon Drive in Cathedral City. The tribe plans to create a master plan for a new mixed-use entertainment and gaming district, which is allowable and contemplated by the tribe’s recent gaming compact signed by Governor Jerry Brown that took effect on Oct. 31, 2016.

“Cathedral City and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians have been partners over the years on major infrastructure improvement projects for Ramon Road and Vista Chino Drive as well as partners in purchasing lifesaving equipment for our fire and police departments,” Cathedral City Mayor Stan Henry said. “Now, we come together once more to enhance our public safety capabilities with the construction of a new south city fire station as well as building a major mixed-use commercial and gaming development that will serve as a vital anchor in moving our downtown into an entertainment district destined for residents and visitors alike.”

Casino Del Sol Receives AAA’s Four Diamond Rating for Sixth Consecutive Year

Casino Del Sol, The Sol of Tucson, has received the esteemed AAA Four Diamond Rating for the sixth consecutive year.

“This rating acknowledges the hard work and dedication of our staff,” said Kim Van Amburg, CEO of Casino Del Sol. “We are committed to exceeding guest expectations and providing a premier entertainment experience to everyone who walks through the doors.”

Hotels at this level employ highly qualified staff to provide the custom service luxury hotel guests expect,

according to AAA. These establishments deliver unmatched guest comfort with luxurious accommodations, extraordinary facilities and personalized amenities. A Four Diamond hotel is refined and stylish, providing upscale physical attributes and a high degree of hospitality, service and attention to detail.

“AAA is pleased to recognize Casino Del Sol for earning the Four Diamond Rating,” said Michael Petrone, Director, AAA Inspections and Diamond Ratings. “To maintain the exceptional standards required for this rating is an outstanding achievement. AAA Four Diamond establishments consistently deliver memorable travel and dining experiences.”

Mystic Lake and Little Six Casinos Receive Award for Responsible Alcohol Training Program

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Gaming Enterprise, which includes Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and Little Six Casino, has been awarded the 2017 TIPS Award of Excellence from Health Communications, Inc. (HCI), the providers of the TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) Program. Since 2012, Mystic Lake and Little Six have provided the TIPS responsible alcohol training program to team members, helping them build positive prevention and intervention skills.

“The SMSC Gaming Enterprise is dedicated to providing a pleasant and safe environment for our guests to enjoy all that Mystic Lake and Little Six have to offer,” said Angela Heikes, President/CEO of the SMSC Gaming Enterprise. “This recognition is a testament to the hard work of our training staff and team members every day to assure responsible alcohol service.”

The SMSC Gaming Enterprise is one of four award recipients nationally in the casino and gaming category for its successful TIPS responsible alcohol training program. Since the SMSC Gaming Enterprise began using the TIPS program, it has provided 473 classes and certified 3,380 team members. Eight Gaming Enterprise staff are currently certified TIPS program trainers.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa Wins AAA Four Diamond Rating

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa has joined the exclusive ranks of the best hospitality establishments in the country. The American Automobile Association recently honored Hard Rock with one of the travel industry’s most well-known and coveted distinctions, the Four Diamond Rating.

Cherokee Nation Entertainment’s largest entertainment property is now recognized as one of North America’s select accommodations. Fewer than six percent of the 28,000 AAA-approved and diamond-rated establishments in the nation receive the prestigious distinction.

“This honor affirms our commitment to remain a premier entertainment destination,” said Martin Madewell, senior Director of Hospitality Services at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa. “We are proud to see the dedicated efforts of our staff be nationally recognized and ranked alongside the most elite establishments in the U.S.”

AGS Files Confidential Draft Registration Statement for Proposed Initial Public Offering

AGS recently announced that it confidentially submitted a draft registration statement on Form S-1 to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) relating to a potential initial public offering of its common stock. The number of shares to be offered and the price range for the offering have not been determined. The initial public offering is expected to commence sometime after the SEC completes its review process, subject to market and other conditions. AGS intends to list its common stock under the ticker symbol “AGS.”

A registration statement on Form S-1 relating to the proposed offering has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission but has not yet become effective. This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any state or jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such state or jurisdiction.

VGT Completes Soft Launch of New Class II Video Platform – Ovation™

Video Gaming Technologies, Inc. (VGT) recently announced its innovative Class II video platform Ovation™ has completed the soft launch phase and will be moving into new launch phases throughout the year. The next phase of the launch introduces the new Class II video platform into Oklahoma this month and California in August, with a full library of titles – some of which are completely new to the Class II market.

VGT introduced the Ovation platform at the end of 2016, which included a library of proven Class III titles with the benefits of Class II gaming. The Ovation platform showcases the joint development efforts between Aristocrat and VGT. The Ovation platform brings a new line of video content, giving Class II and Class III customers more options by combining Aristocrat’s studio resources with VGT’s player-favorite bingo-based game play.

The cutting-edge library will be full of captivating titles, including Silverwolf®, Wild Lepre’Coins®, Birds of Pay®, Macaw Money®, Downtown Diamonds®, and Wild

Ameri’Coins®, among many more. VGT will continue to release brand new titles and add to Ovation’s library throughout the year.

“We’re thrilled with the initial response to the Ovation platform from both casino operators and players,” said Jay Sevigny, President of VGT. “We’re extremely eager to launch in Oklahoma and California, grow the install base and delight players with a new VGT gaming experience.”

Black Oak Casino Resort Launches New Website

Black Oak Casino Resort, an enterprise owned and operated by the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, recently announced the launch of its newly redesigned website, *blackoakcasino.com*. The enhanced site offers increased navigation and functionality as well as fresh content outlining the property’s accommodations, amenities and entertainment options. Additionally, popular online games continue to be available with this latest iteration of the website.

“It is with great pride and excitement that we unveil the new Black Oak Casino Resort website,” said Ron Patel, CEO of Black Oak Casino Resort. “It not only reflects the evolution of our property and its brand, but is also an effective, user friendly tool for both our loyal guests and those wishing to explore our offerings.”

Created to optimize the user experience, the new website is mobile friendly and easy to pilot. Each amenity is stylishly broken into sections using modern, oversized imagery, but can also be accessed using top navigation. The website also incorporates the property’s signature black oak tree and leaves.

The new website includes sections on gaming, dining and entertainment and accommodations. Casino players can stay up-to-date on the games available on the gaming floor; they can meet the fabulous Black Oak Casino Resort casino hosts and even see the latest jackpot winners. A new promotions page allows players to review details of the exciting monthly promotions.

Also easy to find on the website, are the property’s vast dining options. Each of its nine restaurants and bars are described with complete menus, as well as exclusive dining opportunities in honor of holidays and special events. Beyond the casino and restaurants, every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the all-new Willow Creek Lounge hosts live music, with a comprehensive entertainment calendar now available on the new website.

In addition to the refreshed look and navigation, the property’s new website has increased functionality. Guests planning a visit to Black Oak Casino Resort can now view accommodations, room rates and book directly from their desktop. They also have the opportunity to join the Players Club to begin earning points and rewards.

Soboba Casino Makes Guinness World Record History for Largest Rubber Chicken Toss



Soboba Casino recently broke a Guinness World Record for the Largest Rubber Chicken Toss. Under the watchful eye of Guinness Book of World Records Official Adjudicator, Michael Empric, and the City of San Jacinto Mayor, Scott Miller, and his wife Linda Miller, hundreds of lucky patrons gathered in the casino's events arena in an attempt to officially break the Guinness World Record for the Largest Rubber Chicken Toss.

After guests checked into the World Record Attempt area, they received a numbered wristband and a rubber chicken. Once in the arena the guests were instructed to hold onto their rubber chicken until it was time to toss.

Over 60 volunteers from the local Hemet FFA showed up to the event to act as official stewards for the Guinness World Record attempt. Their job was to monitor the chickens being tossed within specified sections and ensure each chicken was tossed at the sound of an air-horn. If the chicken was not tossed, the guest would be deducted from the total record count.

Once every man, woman, and rubber chicken was in place, Michael Empric, official Guinness World Records Adjudicator, took the stage. Addressing the crowd of well over one thousand people, Empric briefly explained all of the rules including what to do and what not to do when tossing the rubber chickens. Once the horn sounded, the chicken tossing was underway. It took mere seconds for the featherless flock of rubber birds to come crashing down on the target area.

According to Empric, "Mass participation records are often the hardest to break." He continued, "We had enough people out there to break the record, but we had a large number of disqualifications. That is people who left, and people who didn't throw their chickens. There was a total of 27 deductions. The number to beat was 999 chickens. I can now say that I have gone through the forms, reviewed the evidence, and today, at Soboba, we had 1,013 people toss – a new world record!"

Treasure Island Resort & Casino Launches Next-Gen Social Casino Platform

Greentube and the Prairie Island Indian Community, a federally-recognized Indian Tribe, recently announced that they have launched playTicasino – their next-generation social casino platform for the tribe's Minnesota-based Agua Caliente invests in Cathedral City property, Treasure Island Resort & Casino.

"We looked to Greentube to create a branded social gaming platform that allows our players a chance to experience Treasure Island in a new and exciting way," said Shelley Buck, Prairie Island Tribal Council President. "With playTicasino they can now play their favorite Treasure Island games anytime and anywhere, which increases brand loyalty and allows our guests to play individually, connect with friends via Facebook and even compete in tournaments."

Treasure Island, the Midwest's premier casino and entertainment destination, will be one of the first casinos in Minnesota to launch a digital gaming platform with a range of slot and gaming offerings comparable to its brick-and-mortar establishment. The playTicasino experience is designed to engage players while enticing them to visit the Treasure Island property in-person.

"We partnered with Treasure Island because they value innovation, as opposed to merely following others," said Gabriel Cianchetto, President of Market Development for Greentube North America. "Our collaboration produced a social casino that engages players via a complex experiential criterion that includes external entertainment, prizes, player incentives and more. The days of engaging players on just their game preferences have passed."

SkillSmart Announces Partnership with The Pierite Group

SkillSmart recently announced a partnership with The Pierite Group, a strategic economic development tribal advisor, to deliver workforce solutions to Indian Country with the overall goal of overcoming significant barriers to meaningful employment. The SkillSmart platform for skills-based training and hiring, combined with the economic development expertise of The Pierite Group, helps reverse declining employment statistics.

"This partnership is important to implement our mission of mobilizing community resources for major economic impact across the country," said Jason Green, SkillSmart SVP Business Development. "Marshall Pierite, CEO of The Pierite Group, along with his team, have demonstrated their commitment to diverse economic strategies to rejuvenate tribes. With SkillSmart's success at increasing employment outcomes and retention, this unique partnership will create a workforce solution in Indian Country. ♣