

The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and Black Oak Casino Resort Donate \$100,000 to Sonora Regional Medical Center's New Cancer Center



L-R: Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council Chairman Kevin Day; Sonora Regional Medical Center President Andrew Jahn; Black Oak Casino General Manager Ron Patel; and Sonora Regional Medical Center Foundation Executive Director Gail Witzlsteiner.

The capital campaign for the new Sonora Regional Medical Center's Cancer Center, in Sonora, CA, received a very large donation from the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and Black Oak Casino Resort. The Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council donated \$50,000 and Black Oak Casino Resort donated another \$50,000 for a total gift of \$100,000.

"The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and Black Oak Casino Resort are delighted to be able to contribute to Sonora Regional Medical Center's capital campaign for their new Cancer Center," said Ron Patel, CEO of Black Oak Casino Resort. "This investment clearly demonstrates our support for a much-needed state of the art cancer facility, serving the needs of all members of our community."

The campaign for the Sonora Regional Medical Center's expansion kicked off a year ago and has raised \$1.9 million to date with a goal to hit \$3 million by the end of 2015. The 64,000 sq. ft. cancer center is expected to open in late 2016 or early 2017.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls Donates \$3,200 to Jackson County Little League

Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls recently held a coed softball tournament at the Sandpellow Ball Field. There were teams from all over Wisconsin as far south as Milwaukee and north as Wausau. 1st place went to the team In It To Win It from Waukegan, IL receiving \$2,000. Entry fees of \$200 were collected from each team and then it was decided that the entry fees would be donated to the Jackson County Little League (JCLL).

The JCLL has plans to start a new program and hire a coach to teach the basics for different age groups during daytime hours over a 6 week period. The coach will focus on a different aspect of the game on specific days and by the time the students reach high school, they will be equipped with the right mechanics of the game.



L-R: Rhonda Anderson, Director of Marketing for HCG-BRF, Steve Peterson, Parks & Rec Director, Katie Christianson JCLL Board Member & Kelly Hurst JCLL Board Member.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls plans to continue this coed softball tournament annually in order to raise money for organizations that keep children and adults exercising and healthy.

Tachi Holds Golf Tournament and Community Breakfast to Benefit Native American H.O.O.P.S. Club

Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino recently sponsored two events to benefit the Native American H.O.O.P.S. (Helping Our Own Peers Succeed) Club. The 13th Annual Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino Charity Golf Tournament took place in September at the Kings Country Club in Hanford. This event raised \$33,832. Then Tachi hosted a monthly community breakfast at their hotel and casino in Lemoore where over 400 members of the local community turned out to support this great cause. The breakfast event raised an additional \$2,173 which Tachi Palace gladly matched to double the proceeds of the event to \$4,346. The combined fundraising from the golf tournament and community breakfast totaled an impressive \$38,178, but Tachi decided to make that total even greater by rounding it up to \$40,000. These funds will go a long way to support the Tachi Yokut Youth.

H.O.O.P.S. is an organization that aims to promote cultural awareness, education, and an understanding that Native American youth can be a mechanism within their own communities to impart cultural pride, a desire for higher education, unity, and respect for one another and Mother Earth. Each year these students attend the United National



Native American H.O.O.P.S. (Helping Our Own Peers Succeed) Club.

Indian Tribal Youth Conference which provides enrichment programs to develop future tribal leaders. In the past, they have visited Washington, D.C. and New York City. They will next travel to Oklahoma City in July 2016, and Tachi is proud to be part of helping them get there through these fundraising efforts.

Plans for the 14th Annual Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino Charity Golf Tournament are already underway. The event will take place May 2, 2016 at the Kings Country Club and will benefit the Special Olympics of Kings County.

St. Croix Tribe Joins National AmeriCorps Program



Members of the AmeriCorps planning team (L-R) Karen Washington, Reuben Buck, Francis Songetay, Tribal Council member Carmen Bugg, Tribal Council Vice Chairperson Crystal Peterson, Tribal Council Chairman Lewis Taylor, AmeriCorps Program Consultant Judy Cutler, AmeriCorps Director Hazel Hindsley, Janine Taft and Kate Lechnir. Chairman Taylor holds the certificate presented by AmeriCorps to the St. Croix Tribe.

Thanks to a grant from AmeriCorps, ten young people will now have an opportunity to learn skilled trades starting in 2016. The new partnership between the St. Croix tribe and AmeriCorps was recently unveiled at a special event in October.

Program Coordinator Hazel Hindsley announced that the tribe will recruit ten new Native AmeriCorps members between 16 and 24 years of age for the St. Croix AmeriCorps Skill Seekers Program. "Each member will commit to one year of volunteer service to gain beginner level skills in carpentry, plumbing, heating, masonry or other construction area skills as they volunteer to renovate homes for St. Croix seniors, veterans or others with physical challenges," she said. "They will also construct a 'tiny home' as a model for future economic development for the tribe." Hindsley added that each member can join AmeriCorps for up to three years and earn a volunteer stipend and up to a \$5,000 education award for providing 1,700 hours of service to the tribe per year. "This is a great opportunity for the tribe to promote interest in education in the skilled trades. It's also a wonderful opportunity for our tribal members," she said.

At the event, AmeriCorps Program Consultant Judy Cutler introduced other team members, Reuben Buck and Francis Songetay. "Reuben will help teach our AmeriCorps recruits skills through rehabbing houses, and Francis has extensive training and experience as a machinist and will consult in that field," she said. Cutler also introduced a number of tribal support people including Mark Soulier of the Youth Program,

Education Director Karen Washington and LCOOCC St. Croix Site Coordinator Kate Lechnir and her assistant Janine McNulty. "Mark is instrumental in developing the process to engage young people," Cutler said.

Tribal Chairman Lewis Taylor accepted the AmeriCorps grant certificate from Program Coordinator Hazel Hindsley. Hindsley explained that the St. Croix tribe is one of only 19 tribes nationwide to receive a grant from AmeriCorps. "That's significant when you consider that there are 500 tribes in the country," she added.

Tribal Chairman Lewis Taylor remarked that Native Americans have come a long way in their quest for equality. "We are grateful for this grant," Chairman Taylor said. "It will help us prepare our young people for jobs in skilled trades, jobs that will lift some of them from the ranks of the unemployed or under-employed."

Joseph Eve's Cancer Event Nets Over \$35,000

The fifth annual "Buzz Your Fuzz" to Raise Funds for Cancer benefiting Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center of Seattle and Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute of Great Falls was recently held in Great Falls, MT. The event raised almost \$6,000 more than the previous year, with a total raised of over \$35,000.



Event organizers Joseph and Grant Eve.

This was the event's fifth year and is organized by Joseph Eve, CPAs. Some of the tribal casino sponsors included Tulalip Resort Casino and Win-River Resort & Casino. The fundraiser involved over 25 brave souls raising money before the event and shaving their heads at the event with noted Auctioneer Zane Drishinski urging the crowd for more money. It also involved several silent and live auction items that raised over \$8,000 alone.

One of the event organizer's, Grant Eve, said "There must have been over 200 people who came throughout the evening – the support from the community was overwhelming."

The event is in memory of Michael Eve, former Great Falls and Whitefish resident. Eve received treatment at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle during his fight with renal cell carcinoma. Mike lost his battle in 2009 at the age of 49. Eve was the former Finance Director for the City of Whitefish Eve was named Government Worker of the Year by the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

The event committee splits the proceeds between the local Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute and the Seattle-based Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

"The Buzz your Fuzz event has been a great success and we appreciate receiving donations to the Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute which have helped provide wigs, prosthetics, cosmetology, transportation, and other important services for our patients," said Joe Lo Duca, Director of Cancer and Heart & Vascular at Benefis Health System.

Even Dan Hallow, President of the Benefis Foundation came out and participated. "It was a privilege to get buzzed for the benefit of the amazing caregivers at the Sletten Cancer Institute," he said.

Black Oak Casino Resort Donates \$13,000 Action Track Chair to Vietnam Veteran



L-R: Ron Patel, CEO Black Oak Casino Resort; Kevin Day, Tribal Chairman Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuks; Vietnam veteran Gary Boyd; Aaron Moss, Interim General Manager; and Terry Mehl, Executive Director of Gaming.

Black Oak Casino Resort has partnered with Allegiant Giving in an effort to help injured veterans. Black Oak Casino Resort purchased an Action Track Chair that was donated to Vietnam veteran Gary Boyd, enabling him to participate in outdoor activities that would otherwise not be possible. The Action Track Chair is an off-road wheelchair designed to give access to trails, fishing, hunting, and other outdoor activities not accessible by a normal wheelchair. The cost of the Action Track Chair was \$13,459.

"We always try to give back to the community and what better way to do it than making a donation to someone who has sacrificed so much for our country," said Ron Patel, General Manager of Black Oak Casino Resort. "Gary's injury was a result of his service to our country, and we are very happy to help him and his wife regain some freedom in their lives that had been lost as a result of Gary's injuries. We heard that Allegiant Giving had a goal to give out as many Action Track Chairs to as many well-deserving heroes as possible, and we are proud to help them with their goal."

"Allegiant Giving is dedicated to investing in today's heroes and tomorrow's leaders, and we want to increase awareness about our veterans and their sacrifices," said Michael Mathews, President/CEO of Allegiant Giving Corporation. "We're very grateful for Black Oak Casino Resort's generous donation,

and this chair will increase the quality of life for a military veteran and make it possible for him to do things he wasn't able to before."

Pokagon Band's Four Winds Casinos Donates \$10,000 to the USO of Illinois

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' Four Winds Casinos recently announced a donation of \$10,000 to the USO of Illinois. The donation is in conjunction with a recent concert by country singer Craig Morgan held September 11 at Four Winds New Buffalo's Silver Creek Event Center.

The USO of Illinois aims to enhance the quality of life and lift the spirits of America's troops and their families through local programs and centers in appreciation of their service and sacrifice. "We are proud to support the USO of Illinois," said John P. Warren, Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, which owns Four Winds Casinos. "Hundreds of Pokagon Citizens and Four Winds Casinos' employees have served in the military and we recognize the important work the USO does in enhancing the quality of life for veterans both locally and nationwide."

Chitimacha Louisiana Open Donates \$180,000 to Charities

The Chitimacha Louisiana Open recently held a luncheon to thank its sponsors and awarded \$180,000 from this year's tournament to various charities. "Over 55 non-profits, charities, or youth organizations are recognized by this tournament all across south Louisiana," said Danny Jones, Chitimacha Louisiana Open Tournament Director. "We try to get involved with as many of these organizations around the area as we can. We hope that the list just continues to grow." Charities who benefit from this tournament are: 4-H Youth Development Organization, Animal Rescue Foundation of Louisiana, Chitimacha Youth, Hearts of Hope, Hospice of Acadiana, North Vermilion High School Band, and more.

This was the 24th year of the Louisiana Open and in the past 24 years, the tournament has raised and donated over \$4.6 million. "I have been involved with the tribe the past 25 years and have seen the tournament grow, as well as our participation. It has been a great opportunity for the tribe and the casino to be involved. It is great to give back," said O'Neil Darden, Chairman of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, who was representing the title sponsor. "I can see how dedicated the staff, board of directors, and all involved are with this. We are just really honored to be a part of this."

Harry Patin Jr., Tournament Chairman, along with Dan Glod, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Web.com Tour, also made the announcement that "they agreed to a three-year extension on their contract until 2019" with the Web.com Tour.

The 25th Chitimacha Louisiana Open will kick off on March 14, 2016, with the championship March 17 - 20 at Le Triomphe. ♣