September 2024

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IGA Mid-Year / G2E Pre-Show Issue



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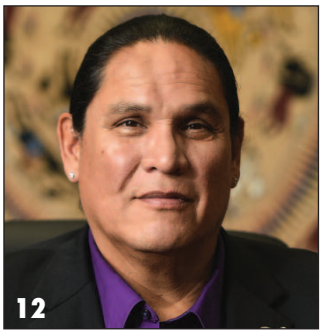
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Allen KnowsHisGun

Allen KnowsHisGun

Cover Artwork: lipche

Allen KnowsHisGun grew up on the Crow Reservation and is currently a resident of Billings, MT. Allen is a Crow Indian fine artisan who works in the medium of oil/acrylic paints to express his vision of American Indian culture.

After high school, Allen attended Haskell Indian Nations University, where he chose American Indian Studies as his major. While at Haskell, Allen began exhibiting his art in shows in between school and sports. Allen competed in NAIA intercollegiate basketball, where he was able to complete four years of collegiate athletics.

In 2003, Allen graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University. In 2005, he earned a Master of Arts degree in Indigenous Nation Studies from the University of Kansas. After graduate school, Allen returned to Montana to teach American Indian Studies at Rocky Mountain College for a year. He taught American Indian history and literature.

After his brief stint with teaching, Allen is now a full-time artist. His subject matter of choice is American Indians from the past two centuries, mostly of the Plains culture. His work reflects his Crow heritage and his careful research is evident with the authentic portrayal of period clothing, equipment and scenery. The style of his work is reflected in the genres of realism and impressionism. Strong uses of light and shadow with vivid colors have become signatures in his style of work.

Allen has been featured in magazines such as *Western Art Collector* and *Southwest Art* and many of his works have previously been selected for the cover of *Indian Gaming*. He is active in shows nationwide. ♣

For more information about Allen KnowsHisGun or to inquire about his work, call (406) 281-2943 or email allenknowshisgun@hotmail.com. You can view more of Allen's work at www.allenknowshisgunart.com.

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~ Shelly Eddy, General Manager Blue Water Resort & Casino

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

The landscape of Indian gaming and finance is continuously evolving, and three upcoming conferences offer invaluable opportunities for industry professionals to connect, learn, and innovate. The Indian Gaming Association's Mid-Year Conference & Expo, taking place from September 16-18 at the Tulalip Resort Casino in Tulalip, WA, serves as a key meeting place for leaders in the tribal gaming community. The event combines three days of diverse conference sessions with networking opportunities, including an annual golf tournament, awards luncheon, and welcome reception, all aimed at fostering relationship-building and idea-sharing on the latest gaming topics.

Following this, the NAFOA Fall Finance & Tribal Economies Conference will be held on September 23-24 in San Diego, CA. This semiannual event is for tribal financial professionals and leaders, focusing on current trends in tribal economic development and providing a platform to share resources and strategies that support the growth of tribal economies.

And next month, the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) will convene October 7-10 at The Venetian Expo in Las Vegas, NV. G2E is a catalyst for the global gaming industry, bringing together professionals from around the world to foster innovation, drive growth, and facilitate business connections. This comprehensive event offers a robust agenda of educational sessions, an expansive exhibit hall, and networking opportunities.

Our team looks forward to catching up with those able to attend these important industry events!



Steve Burke, Publisher

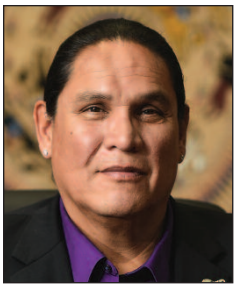
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The Importance of the Native American Vote in the 2024 General Election

by Ernest L. Stevens, Jr.

As we stand on the brink of one of the most critical election cycles in U.S. history, the Indian Gaming Association (IGA) is helping to mobilize an unprecedented voter registration campaign for Native Americans.

With the 2024 National Elections approaching, our mission (in partnership with various sister organizations), is to ensure that every Native American is registered and prepared to embrace their civic duty and exercise the sacred right to vote – a right fought for valiantly by our ancestors.

IGA is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocating for the voices of Indian Country. Just like in previous election years, it is my responsibility to attend both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. Recent developments in both conventions have shown that it is imperative that Native American perspectives are represented in political conversations. Tribal leaders play a crucial role in articulating the unique interests of Indian Country, ensuring our issues resonate in the chambers of power.

Through consistent dialogue with government leaders, IGA aims to advocate for tribal sovereignty and educate decision-makers about the pressing concerns facing our communities. This ongoing engagement is not just important; it is vital for the preservation of our rights and the welfare of our people.

Indian gaming revenues have reshaped the economic landscape for tribal nations over the past four decades, enhancing the lives of tribal citizens and their communities.

By law, tribal governments are mandated to reinvest gaming revenues back into their local economies, providing crucial funding for education, healthcare, public safety, and infrastructure. This reinvestment not only supports economic growth but also affirms the power of tribes to exercise their sovereignty and uphold treaty rights. The recent report from the National Indian Gaming Commission showing a record gross gaming revenue of $41.9 billion for fiscal year 2023 highlights our collective strength and economic significance, underscoring the importance of having our voices heard in political arenas. The impacts are tremendous as Indian gaming stands as one of the largest private employers in the country, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs for American families, further reinforcing the mandate for the federal government to address the pressing needs of Indian Country.

As citizens of federally recognized tribes, it is our responsibility to engage with and educate members of Congress and all candidates about their legal and moral obligations to tribal nations. The future of our communities depends on our active participation. We must ensure that the decision-makers who are ultimately placed in power – understand and respect our unique status as sovereign nations. In this election year, we must focus on electing policymakers who genuinely commit to upholding the federal government's treaty and trust obligations to Indian tribes.

The upcoming general election on November 5th presents a unique opportunity for Native citizens to impact who will serve our nation as the next President and key members of the Senate and House of Representatives. The implications of this election will reach far into the future of our communities.

Voting is more than a privilege; it is a fundamental duty that epitomizes our rights as American citizens. It is a solemn responsibility, rooted in the struggles and sacrifices of our ancestors, who fought for our rights, including the right to choose our leaders. In Indian Country, exercising our right to vote not only advances our policy goals, but pays homage to those who laid down their lives to protect our sovereignty for future generations.

Historically, Native Americans were denied the right to vote until the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. Before this, policies such as assimilation, government-run boarding schools, and termination were enacted without input from Native peoples. This historical context reinforces the need for us to make informed decisions and engage in the democratic process today.

Youth engagement is particularly essential as we approach the 2024 elections. By educating and inspiring younger generations of Native voters to participate actively in elections, we contribute to a stronger, more empowered electorate. The growing awareness and participation we witnessed in the 2020 elections, where approximately 80 percent of eligible Native American voters cast their ballots, showcased our potential to influence outcomes significantly.

As Election Day approaches, it is crucial to recognize that Native American voters have the power to demand accountability and affect critical policy decisions. The election of more Native American representatives within Congress and state

"Regardless of one's political affiliations – be it Republican, Democrat, or Independent – we urge you to take an active role in engaging with candidates, developing policy proposals, and electing those who prioritize the interests of Indian Country and tribal sovereignty."

legislatures can foster a sense of hope and motivation among younger voters, encouraging increased engagement and participation in the political process.

In this election season, IGA remains steadfast in its commitment to highlighting the importance of voting. Regardless of one's political affiliations – be it Republican, Democrat, or Independent – we urge you to take an active role in engaging with candidates, developing policy proposals, and electing those who prioritize the interests of Indian Country and tribal sovereignty.

Ultimately, the power we wield at the polls dictates whose voices will echo in Congress, the White House, and local and state governments. Let us join together to ensure that every vote counts and every tribal citizen registers to make their voice heard. Now is the time for Indian Country to unite and make a difference.

As the U.S. approaches the 2024 elections, our Native American presence, insights, and participation are pivotal in shaping outcomes in critical battleground states. Our voices deserve to be heard, and our votes hold the power to catalyze change, secure our rights, and bring overdue recognition to our contributions to the nation. The future lies in our hands – let's embrace this moment and ensure our collective voice resonates loud and clear. ♣



Ernest L. Stevens, Jr. is Chairman of the Indian Gaming Association. He can be reached by calling (202) 546-7711 or visit www.indiangaming.org.

Spotlight on Gaming, Initiatives, and Legislative Matters

This month, four tribal leaders share how gaming revenues benefit their tribes and communities, goals and initiatives for their gaming operations and legislative/political matters of interest. Here is what they had to say…

Nicole Boyd, Chairwoman
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Legendary Waters Resort & Casino – Red Cliff, WI
legendarywaters.com / redcliff-nsn.gov



Nicole Boyd

BENEFITS OF GAMING: Gaming revenue undoubtedly has a positive impact within our tribe and for our greater community. As the largest employer in Bayfield County, the Red Cliff Tribe and its gaming operation provide vital year-round job opportunities for both tribal members and area residents.

Beyond the economic impacts, Legendary Water Resort & Casino serves as a central hub for many community gatherings, events, and programming. We've created a space where both government and community groups can meet and promote initiatives. Through our safe house and shelter services, our operation also serves as an important safe haven for those in need.

I'm particularly proud of our efforts to provide cultural, recreational, wellness, and financial support to our local schools and programs. We're able to host fundraising functions, and we use gaming revenue to help sponsor various youth trips and programming. Beyond our immediate tribal community, our operation supports non-profit organizations and foundations across the entire State of Wisconsin.

GOALS & INITIATIVES: The tribe is actively working to establish and expand tourism in a sustainable way. We're very mindful about the balance of preserving and revitalizing our cultural heritage with providing more tourism and work opportunities for our membership.

Cultural and agricultural tourism continue to move toward the forefront of our tourism sector. Geotourism is also an important growing aspect of our offerings, including the annual Aurora Summit. Hosted in Red Cliff, the summit celebrates the art, culture, science, and photography of the Aurora Borealis. The tribe is developing comprehensive destination tour packages that will attract visitors and boost our local economy.

LEGISLATIVE: The protection of our treaty rights, cultural lifeways, and natural resources are always a concern when dealing with U.S. legislation and politics. Despite our treaty rights being court-affirmed, they are consistently threatened by proposed legislation.

As it relates to tourism, we must be mindful of the current lack of infrastructure in our area. This means growing our tourism industry in a realistic and sustainable way. We are advocating for legislation that would increase our ability to provide affordable housing to retain a consistent workforce, emergency services, adequate road and transportation systems, water and sewer systems, and sufficient amenities for both residents and visitors.

Michael Connors, Chief
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort – Hogansburg, NY
mohawkcasino.com / srmt-nsn.gov



Michael Connors

BENEFITS OF GAMING: Gaming dollars have benefited Akwesasne in countless ways, from the basic services of health, welfare and educational benefits that all tribes generate, to employment opportunities both in Akwesasne and the surrounding area. We are in an economically depressed rural area. Between the tribal government, Mohawk Networks (broadband), and the casino operation, we generate a combined 1,400+ jobs to our area, with a Native employment percentage of 61 percent overall.

We also use our gaming dollars to fill in the gaps with state or federal funding shortfalls, such as road maintenance/repairs.

Gaming dollars also provide additional funding to local non-profits such as the Akwesasne Boy's & Girl's Club, the local volunteer fire department, and the Akwesasne Freedom School (local language immersion school), among others.

Gaming as a whole also supports tourism in the area by driving non-local traffic to our local, community member-owned businesses, such as convenience stores (gas/cigarettes), tribal licensed/member-owned cannabis retail stores, race-track, and restaurants, among many other businesses. Our gaming dollars and traffic support thousands of jobs in these other local economic areas.

GOALS & INITIATIVES: Recent initiatives for the tribal government have included updating our aging buildings/infrastructure. Gaming dollars, ARPA dollars, and CARES ACT dollars have all greatly contributed to this effort. We also invest our gaming dollars into efforts for language/culture revitalization. Efforts are continuing to meet the needs of our


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community with housing developments and land acquisitions, which increase the land base of our community.

The main initiative for our casino is to continue to recover from the COVID pandemic. As our community is bisected by the U.S./Canada border, our Akwesasne Mohawk Casino relies greatly on Canadian day traffic. We lost that traffic completely while the international border was closed and are slowly recovering. Other tribal casinos maintained their radius of players, while half of our radius was closed for a significant amount of time.

To assist with that recovery, our casino recently opened a "smoking" room with 120 slot machines, with an air purification system. We also purchased a hotel across the parking lot to complement our casino hotel. That brought our room count from 150 to 261, in addition to our 19 RV spots. When the smoking room at the casino opened in August, the top floor of the Players Inn Hotel also converted 41 rooms into smoking rooms, meeting player demands.

LEGISLATIVE: Legislatively, we continue to pursue a land claims settlement, which will need to be ratified by Congress to regain land that was sold in violation of the Non-Intercourse Act. We continue to regain acreage in pursuit of that effort. Over the past several years, we have also filed and received approval for over 200 acres to be returned under the land into trust process. We also support the proposed SLOT Act, which would raise the limits for taxable gaming wins to adjust for inflation since 1977, when it was last adjusted.

Whitney Gravelle, President
Bay Mills Indian Community

Bay Mills Resort & Casino – Brimley, MI

baymillscasinos.com / baymills.org

BENEFITS OF GAMING: The Bay Mills Indian Community has greatly benefited from gaming revenues, using them as a crucial tool for community and economic development. As the first Native American tribal nation in the United States to operate a gaming facility featuring slots and blackjack instead of just bingo, Bay Mills has been a pioneer in tribal gaming. When the Kings Club Casino opened in July 1984, it marked a significant step forward in securing economic independence for the community. The 7,500 sq. ft. casino, which included a café and billiard tables, became a foundational revenue source for the tribe.

Revenue from gaming has allowed the Bay Mills Indian Community to fund a variety of essential services, including healthcare, education, infrastructure development, and cultural preservation programs. The community also utilizes these funds to support economic diversification efforts, aiming to create sustainable development opportunities that go beyond gaming. This includes creating jobs for both tribal members and non-tribal residents, thereby strengthening the local economy and fostering greater community cohesion.

GOALS & INITIATIVES: One of the Bay Mills Indian Community's current and most ambitious initiatives is the



Whitney Gravelle

$100 million expansion of the Bay Mills Resort & Casino, which began after receiving overwhelming support from our General Tribal Council in September 2022. This project represents a strategic investment in transforming Bay Mills Resort & Casino into a premier destination in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. The expansion, expected to be completed by the fall of 2025, will nearly double the existing number of rooms with the addition of 134 new units, each featuring balconies that offer stunning waterfront views.

New amenities will include a pool with a splash pad, hot tubs, a spa with massage therapy rooms, a fitness center, a nail salon, conference space, an arcade, storefronts, and a deli. Outdoor improvements will include new patios, gazebos, gardens, fishing piers, a boardwalk along the waterfront, and an updated marina. These upgrades are designed to attract more visitors and enhance the guest experience, further solidifying the community's vision of "Destination Bay Mills."

The project was born from the desire to "do more and be more." The aim is to elevate not only our tribal nation's economic prospects, but also the quality of life for our tribal citizens and the surrounding region. The expansion will create new job opportunities and provide long-term benefits by enhancing the tribe's financial stability and ability to invest in future endeavors.

LEGISLATIVE: The Bay Mills Indian Community, like many other tribes, faces several legislative, judicial, and political challenges that impact its sovereignty, economic development, and overall well-being. Key concerns often center around preserving and asserting tribal sovereignty, especially in matters related to gaming compacts, land rights, and the ability to self-govern without undue interference from state or federal entities.

The tribe is also vigilant about issues related to treaty rights, environmental protection, and resource management, as these directly affect our land, water, and cultural heritage. For example, legislative changes in gaming laws or environmental regulations can have profound effects on tribal enterprises and their ability to generate revenue for critical community services. The Bay Mills Indian Community must continuously advocate for its rights and interests in these areas, seeking fair and equitable treatment under the law.

Furthermore, our tribal nation is concerned with broader political issues that affect funding and support for essential services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This includes advocating for more significant federal funding, better healthcare services for Native Americans, and addressing social issues such as substance abuse and mental health disparities.

Bay Mills Indian Community believes that we must "lift as you

climb," a philosophy that reflects our goal of uplifting our community and its members while advancing economic growth. This forward-looking approach is essential for navigating and overcoming legislative and political challenges while ensuring the long-term prosperity and self-determination of the Bay Mills Indian Community.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Casinos – Fort Gibson, Grove, Ramona, Roland, Sallislaw, South Coffeyville, Tahlequah, West Siloam Springs, and Will Rogers Downs in Oklahoma; Gold Strike Casino Resort – Tunica, MS; Legends Resort & Casino – Russellville, AR (coming)
cherokeecasino.com / goldstrike.com
legendsarkansas.com / cherokee.org


Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

BENEFITS OF GAMING: As the largest tribe in the United States, Cherokee Nation continually pursues opportunities to grow prosperity for our citizens. Cherokee Nation and its businesses create more than a $3.04 billion annual economic impact across the 14-county Cherokee Nation reservation, making Northeast Oklahoma a great place to live and raise a family.

Cherokee Nation Businesses is well known for driving economic and community development while operating industry-leading brands in hospitality and federal contracting, as well as cultural preservation and tourism. Growing our economy provides the resources to create quality jobs, establish better infrastructure, improve public schools and increase access to quality healthcare, benefiting all Oklahomans. As we continue to diversify our business efforts and grow across the country, we will continue to strive for the shared success of Cherokee Nation and our neighbors alike.

Cherokee Nation Entertainment (CNE) currently employs more than 4,000 people and provides world-class entertainment with 11 thriving locations and brands like Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa, Gold Strike Casino Resort, Cherokee Casinos and the upcoming Legends Resort and Casino in Russellville, AR. Leveraging CNE's ongoing success as a hospitality and gaming powerhouse has allowed the Cherokee Nation to flourish more than ever. Three decades of casino operations have allowed us to produce essential funding to advance housing, healthcare, education and services for the Cherokee people. We also reinvest revenue from our entertainment business to grow jobs within the reservation, increase wages for our employees and expand our business portfolio for the future.

GOALS & INITIATIVES: The work never stops when it comes to maintaining and evolving the level of excellence and industry-leading expertise our business endeavors have long been known and respected for. As Cherokee Nation continues to experience significant growth, expanding our business operations is one important way we can continue building and strengthening Cherokee communities and families.

In 2023, Cherokee Nation Entertainment purchased the operating rights to Gold Strike Casino Resort, marking the tribe's first gaming destination outside of our reservation. This growth is the result of our business arm's success and dedication to continue positioning CNE as a dominant and growing leader in the gaming industry. But while moving outside of our tribal borders was a natural evolution for our business, it was also a big move that signified our commitment to providing for our citizens for generations to come.

LEGISLATIVE: We're looking forward to working with the State of Oklahoma to welcome sports betting to all of our casino destinations within our reservation. Sports betting has become a standard offering across the United States and bringing it to guests within our entertainment properties would allow for even more revenue to stay in Oklahoma and benefit Cherokee Nation citizens. ♣





Casino Safety Boards: Coordinated Protection of Tribal Assets

by David Vialpando

The recent prevalence of organized criminal action, fraud, scams, and illicit intrusions targeting tribal casinos across the country has given rise to the need to stay one or two steps ahead of those who would wantonly victimize gaming establishments, casino patrons, and employees. Thankfully, rapid access to information and the collaborative nature of the tribal gaming industry facilitates the design and implementation of protective measures designed to ensure the safety of people and the protection of tribal assets. The formation of a Casino Safety Board is one strategy employed to accomplish this goal.

Since the first gaming establishment, Casino di Venezia, opened in Italy in 1638, criminals have conspired to steal, cheat, embezzle, and otherwise pillage casino assets. The modern version of thievery frequently involves leveraging technology to perpetrate their crimes.

The most recent iteration of technology-facilitated crime are the millions of dollars stolen from commercial and tribal casinos across the U.S. through criminals impersonating high-ranking casino executives or tribal leadership via telephone, text messages, and fraudulent emails targeting cash cage personnel or those with access to casino funds. The duped casino employee is tricked into removing thousands of dollars from the casino and delivering the money to people in waiting vehicles frequently at gas stations. Before you ask yourself, "Who would ever fall for such a blatant scam?" please know that these criminals have developed a well-honed script, perpetrate thousands of attempts every day, and only need to connect with one vulnerable unwitting casino co-conspirator to be successful. The numerous successful crimes and millions lost speak to the effectiveness of this scam.

Other technology-perpetrated crime, such as phishing scams, scareware, tech support scams, and ransomware, have been successful in stealing millions of dollars from casinos. Organized crime groups, such as drug and human trafficking cartels, while arguably infrequent, continue to exploit tribal casinos for their illicit commercial benefit.

The rapid access to news media information regarding these crimes, coupled with the collegial information gathering and sharing available through tribal gaming and public safety organizations like the National Indian Gaming Commission, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, *Pechanga.net,* Tribal Gaming Protection Network, and the many casino gaming industry associations across the country, provide the means to prepare for the inevitable attacks and misdeeds.

One such strategy is the formation of a Casino Safety Board. While such an entity may serve many purposes, the main focus should be on the following:

- Analyzing crime trends, publicized incidents, and government advisories impacting gaming establishments
- Assessing casino vulnerabilities to current crime trends and evaluating detection and intervention systems, including IT infrastructure
- Recommending protection strategies, policy and procedures changes, enhanced security protocols, training and information dissemination
- Implementing proactive initiatives designed to enhance safety (i.e., see something, say something)

The true value and effectiveness of a Casino Safety Board is bringing together a core group of subject matter experts at the highest levels of their respective agencies and departments to discuss threats to public safety and assets and recommend an appropriate response. Members of the Casino Safety Board should include:

- Casino Vice President of Operations
- Casino Security Director or Manager
- Casino Risk Manager
- Casino IT Director or Manager
- Casino/Gaming Commission Surveillance Director
- Gaming Commission Executive Director
- Tribal Police Chief or Local Law Enforcement Command Staff Representative
- Tribal Administrator or Designee

Casino Safety Board meetings should be scheduled monthly, but no less frequently than quarterly, with the caveat that any board member can call for an immediate meeting should the need arise.

In addition to discussing safety threats impacting the casino and other gaming establishments across the country, Safety Board meetings are an excellent opportunity for law enforcement to discuss community public safety initiatives potentially impacting the casino, such as drug trafficking investigations, criminal street gang activity, or regional human

"The true value and effectiveness of a Casino Safety Board is bringing together a core group of subject matter experts at the highest levels of their respective agencies and departments to discuss threats to public safety and assets and recommend an appropriate response."

trafficking operations. Casino Safety Board meetings provide an opportunity for post-meeting spinoff discussions regarding issues or initiatives involving a limited number of members, such as a table games risk pertinent to operations, surveillance, and the gaming commission.

The working relationships and partnerships formed through the Casino Safety Board can reap benefits in other areas of the tribal gaming industry and tribal communities in general. Board members can leverage these relationships when called upon to conduct presentations on casino safety and asset protection at industry conferences or community safety and crime prevention at tribal gatherings. Coordination of public safety, casino security, surveillance, and tribal gaming regulatory agency resources in board initiatives lay the foundation for effective coordination of day-to-day casino safety tasks and risk mitigation, such as gaming cheats, embezzlers, apprehension of persons wanted by law enforcement, and even critical incident response.

With casinos generating billions of dollars in revenue and catering to millions of patrons each year, the industry is attractive to a wide variety of criminals and those intent on perpetrating evil acts with tragic consequences. A Casino Safety Board can serve as a coordinated body of experts dedicated to ensuring the protection of tribal assets and the safety of casino patrons and employees. ♣

David Vialpando is Executive Director of the Pala Gaming Commission and Vice-Chairman of Tribal Gaming Protection Network. He can be reached by calling (760) 510-4559 or email dvialpando@palagc.org.





NIGC 2023 Revenue Figures: Behind the Numbers

by James M. Klas

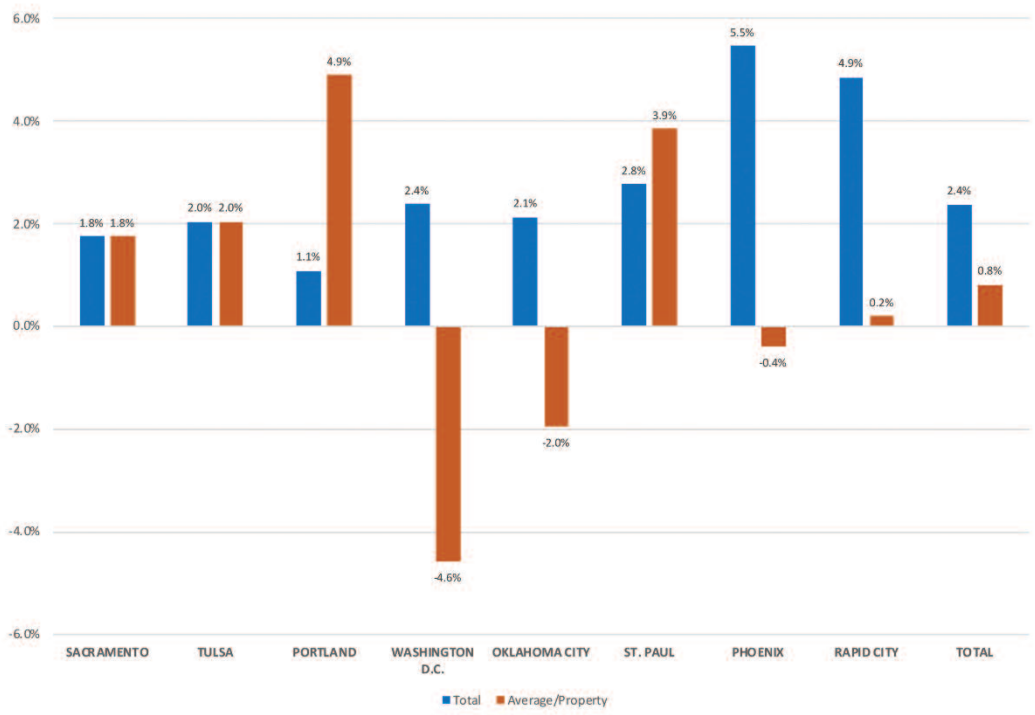
Once again, the NIGC announced its annual revenue figures for Indian gaming for the prior year. While the industry continues to grow, the pace has slowed somewhat. Indian gaming captured $41.9 billion dollars in gaming win in 2023, up 2.4 percent from 2022. After the rollercoaster ride of 2020 and 2021, the industry has resumed its longer-term pace of steady, moderate growth and annual records.

For the second year in a row, the Phoenix region showed the greatest percentage growth at 5.5 percent, followed by the Rapid City region at 4.9 percent. In terms of actual dollars, the D.C. region had the highest growth, increasing by nearly $214.7 million from last year, followed by the Sacramento region at approximately $206.3 million and then Phoenix. Every region saw an increase from 2022. The lowest growth on a percentage basis occurred in the Portland region at only 1.1 percent, with the Sacramento region, despite the total dollar figures, showing a 1.8 percent year-over-year increase. The Rapid City region had the least actual dollar growth despite its percentage increase due to its smaller industry size relative to the other regions. Portland had the next lowest dollar increase year-over-year. Growth in the two Oklahoma regions was also relatively modest on a total dollars basis.

The NIGC received audited financial statements for 527 properties for 2023, an increase of eight properties from 2022. Regions with increased properties reporting included D.C. (+3), Oklahoma City (+3), Phoenix (+3), and Rapid City (+2). Two regions had fewer properties reporting, Portland (-2) and St. Paul (-1). The other regions had the same number of properties reporting as last year.

Taking into account the changes in the numbers of properties reporting, year-to-year average gaming win per property by region presents a more mixed picture than the overall increases region-wide described above. The D.C. region, despite a stronger increase in total dollars and an average increase in overall percentage terms, showed a fairly significant decline in average revenue per property of 4.6 percent from last year, indicating the regional growth came from new additions and partly at the expense of existing operations. The Oklahoma City region and the Phoenix region also showed declines in average gaming win per property, with supply growth outpacing revenue growth. On a revenue per property basis, the Portland and St. Paul regions showed the greatest increases. Nationwide, the growth in average gaming win per property was only 0.8 percent. Figure 1 shows the percentage changes in total gaming revenue and average per property by region from 2022 to 2023.

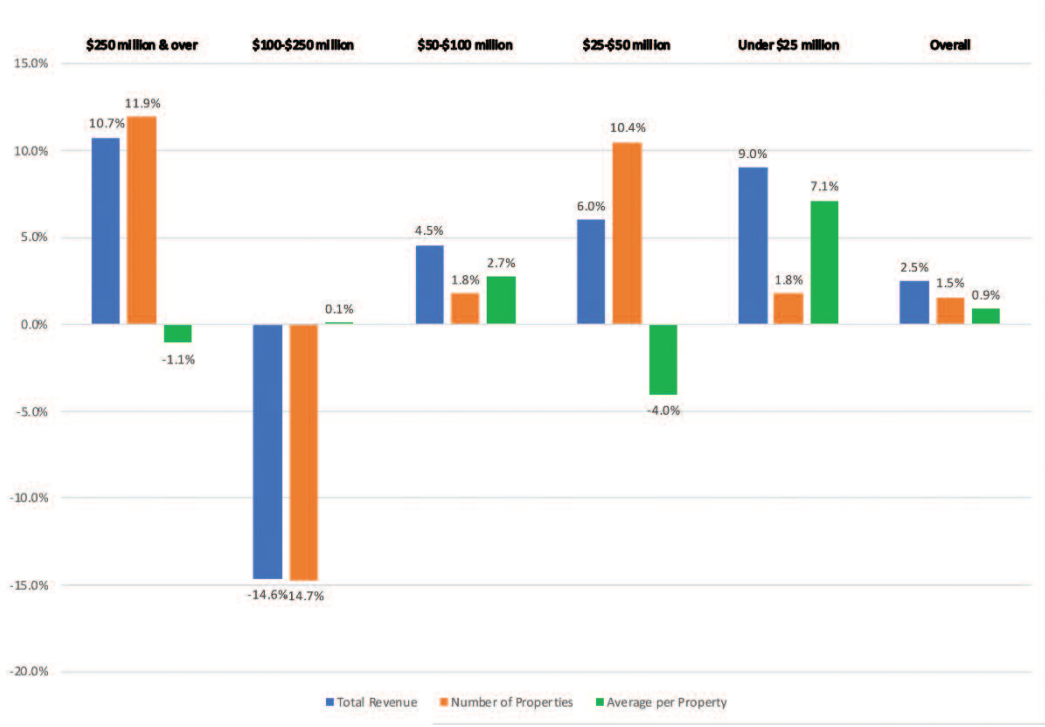
FIGURE 1: REVENUE CHANGE BY REGION



The NIGC also provides information on industrywide performance by gaming revenue bracket. The top revenue bracket, $250 million or more, showed an increase of 10.7 percent in total gaming revenue over 2022. However, the average per property for the bracket was down 1.1 percent. The next

bracket down, $100-$250 million, had a significant decline in total gaming revenue of 14.6 percent, but an average per property that remained virtually unchanged. The reason for the inconsistencies in the top two categories is a movement of some of the best performing properties in 2022 in the $100 to $250 million bracket over the $250 million threshold in 2023 and into the higher bracket. This resulted in the loss of some of the strongest properties in the lower bracket and an increase in the number of properties at the lower end of the higher bracket. Indeed, the $100 to $250 million bracket was the only one to lose properties, going from 68 in 2022 to 58 in 2023. Every other bracket above and below showed increases. Effectively, the newest entrants into the industry tended to be lower tier, most likely satellite facilities, while the properties already open tended to do somewhat better than the prior year in general, causing some to move into the next bracket up. The only two brackets that experienced declines in average revenue per property for their bracket had the highest growth in terms of number of properties reporting for that bracket. The growth occurred from the bottom up. Figure 2 shows year-over-year changes by gaming revenue tier.

FIGURE 2: CHANGE IN TOTAL REVENUE, NUMBER OF PROPERTIES AND AVERAGE/PROPERTY BY REVENUE



For the third year in a row, the U.S. economy is facing the possibility of some form of recession, probably mild and short, and it may never come. The previous two years, the economy continued to show more resilience and prices remained stubbornly on an upward track, preventing rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, but postponing any recession. For the third year in a row, there is a very real possibility that we will once again dodge the bullet and perhaps even get the soft landing that everyone craves. It appears more certain now that the Fed will cut rates multiple times over the next 18 months. The only thing open to debate is how much and how fast rates will be cut and how effective that will be. As this will likely be less and slower, rather than more and faster, the risk of sliding into recession is somewhat higher, therefore a slower and cautious approach is warranted.

For planning purposes for the remainder of this year and looking ahead into 2025, the industry as a whole should maintain a slow to modest growth pattern, comparable to last year, plus or minus half a percentage point. For individual properties, local competitive and economic factors will continue to outweigh national and global impacts. The only caveat is the potential for civil unrest after the upcoming election, whichever side is declared the winner. Major problems are by no means guaranteed and would need to be widespread and sustained to affect the industry. If, however, enough civil angst attaches to the election outcome, a side effect could be a softening of demand around New Year's Eve, which would be detrimental to year-end figures and start 2025 off poorly. Even if that happens, the effects on the industry would not be expected to last beyond December of this year and the first quarter of next. Overall, 2024 and 2025 are expected to show similar growth patterns to last year. ♣

James M. Klas is Co-Founder and Principal of KlasRobinson Q.E.D., a national consulting firm specializing in the economic impact and feasibility of casinos, hotels and other related ancillary developments in Indian Country. He can be reached by calling (800) 475-8140 or email jklas@klasrobinsonqed.com.



Reaching Onsite and Online Audiences

by Andrew Cardno

The tribal casino resort industry is undergoing a significant transformation as it embraces the integration of sports betting and online gaming. This evolution introduces new marketing challenges and opportunities, requiring tribal resorts to adopt strategies that engage customers across both onsite and online platforms. Applying data activation to maintain a consistent brand message, leverage data activation, and personalize marketing efforts, can effectively cater to diverse audiences and maximize engagement.

New Dimensions: Sports Betting and Online Gaming

As tribal resorts enter the online sports betting and online gaming space, properties must now market to customers who engage with services both onsite and online. A multi-product approach demands consistent branding across platforms and innovative strategies to engage customers regardless of where they interact with the property's offerings.

Personalized Marketing Strategies

To address the varied demographics a casino resort property attracts, developing personalized marketing strategies is essential. For older patrons, emphasize the unique experiences and land-based resort offers, such as live entertainment, dining specials, and loyalty programs. Special events and promotions can encourage these guests to visit more frequently.

For younger audiences, highlight the convenience and excitement of the property's digital offerings. Utilize social media, email campaigns, and mobile apps to promote sports betting events, online tournaments, and exclusive bonuses. Gamification elements, such as leaderboards and rewards, can also foster engagement and loyalty among younger players. Use the data gathered on online customers' interests and preferences to integrate digital and brick-and-mortar offerings, enticing them to visit the physical resort.

Crafting Effective Marketing Offers

Creating compelling marketing offers in a diversified revenue environment requires a strategic approach. Here are key steps to consider:

Integrated Data Management: Ensure that customer data from both online and traditional casino resort activities is integrated to allow for timely and relevant marketing interventions.

Customized Offers: Tailor offers to different customer segments. For instance, offer a hotel room to a high-value online player or provide free play incentives to encourage cross-activity engagement.

Event-Centric Marketing: Major sporting events provide prime opportunities to attract both online sports bettors and traditional players – extending these invitations to guests of these customers can encourage attendance and provide additional revenue opportunities. Host viewing parties and offer exclusive promotions during these events.

Cross-Generational Marketing: Design campaigns that appeal to both older and younger patrons, such as family-friendly events or intergenerational tournaments. This creates an inclusive atmosphere and encourages multi-generational visits to the casino.

Developing Sports Betting Promotions: Engage sports bettors with promotions tailored to their interests. This might include bonuses for wagers on popular sporting events, special promotions for major sports leagues, or tournaments that leverage the excitement of live sports.

Timely Marketing Opportunities: Sports betting thrives on timely engagement, especially during major sporting events. Implement timely marketing strategies such as sending targeted notifications to capitalize on the excitement of live events with special promotions or incentives to place additional wagers.

Leveraging Digital Channels: Utilize digital platforms such as sports betting apps, online gaming apps, and integrated loyalty platforms to communicate directly with customers. Personalized offers, event updates, and exclusive promotions ensure a consistent and engaging customer experience across all channels.

Measuring Customer Frequency Across Platforms

Tracking customer interactions across multiple channels is crucial for understanding engagement levels and identifying growth opportunities. Implement unified tracking systems that capture data from all touchpoints of the tribal enterprise, including visits to the physical casino resort, online gaming sessions, sports betting activity, non-gaming spend, and loyalty program participation. Consolidating this data into a single system allows you to gain a comprehensive view of each customer's engagement.

Analyzing Customer Journeys

Understanding the customer journey is essential for optimizing the customer experience. Analyze the paths customers take – from their initial visit or online registration to their most recent activity – and identify key touchpoints where engagement occurs. For example, if data shows that online sports bettors are more likely to visit the casino resort for major events, create targeted promotions that encourage this behavior. Mapping out a 360-degree customer journey helps enhance engagement and drive cross-platform interactions.

Encouraging Repeat Engagement

To maintain customer loyalty and maximize frequency, develop strategies that encourage repeat engagement. Personalized offers, exclusive promotions, and rewards for frequent participation are effective tools for keeping customers engaged, whether they interact with the physical resort or online platforms.

Incorporating gamification elements, such as challenges or competitions, can further incentivize repeat visits. Reward customers for participating in both online and offline activities. By making engagement fun and rewarding, you increase customer loyalty and interaction frequency.

Addressing Challenges and Opportunities

The integration of sports betting and diversified revenue streams presents numerous opportunities, but it comes with challenges that must be addressed.

Data Integration and Timely Analytics: Invest in technology that can aggregate and analyze data from multiple sources to provide a comprehensive view of customer behavior. Responsive analytics are particularly important for sports betting, allowing you to react quickly to betting trends and customer activity.

Maintaining Brand Consistency: Consistency across platforms and touchpoints is key to building trust and loyalty. Whether customers engage with the physical casino, online gaming site, or digital sports betting platform, they should experience a cohesive and familiar brand identity.

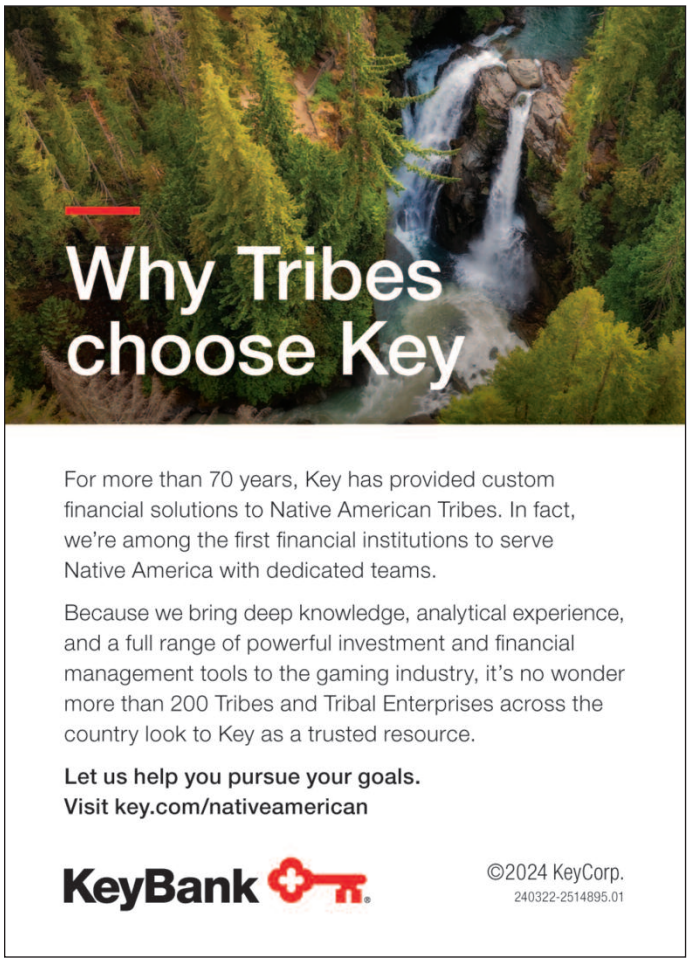
Personalized Customer Engagement: Use data-driven insights to create tailored marketing messages that resonate with individual customers. For example, send targeted promotions to customers who frequently bet on a particular sport and customers who bet on various sport teams based in a specific region.

Diversifying Marketing Channels: With the integration of sports betting and online gaming, diversify marketing channels to reach a broader audience. In addition to traditional marketing methods, leverage digital channels such as social media, email campaigns, and mobile apps, which are particularly effective for engaging younger, tech-savvy customers.

Seizing Opportunities and Thriving in a Diversified Marketplace

As tribal resorts continue to diversify offerings with sports betting and online gaming, cohesive and dynamic marketing strategies are critical. By leveraging technology, implementing unified tracking systems, maintaining brand consistency, and personalizing engagement across platforms, resorts can effectively bridge the gap between online and onsite experiences. Addressing challenges like data integration and encouraging repeat engagement will position the tribal casino resort for long-term success in this rapidly changing industry. In this evolving landscape, success lies in adaptability – leveraging data activation to evolve marketing strategies and meet customers' ever-changing needs. ♣

Andrew Cardno is Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Quick Custom Intelligence (QCI). He can be reached by calling (858) 299-5715 or email acardno@quickcustomintelligence.com.



G2E 2024: Spotlight on New Game Technology

Many exciting new products and innovations will be released at the upcoming Global Gaming Expo (G2E) held October 8-10 at the Venetian Expo in Las Vegas. This month, we spotlight the leading game technology companies and what they will be showcasing at G2E.

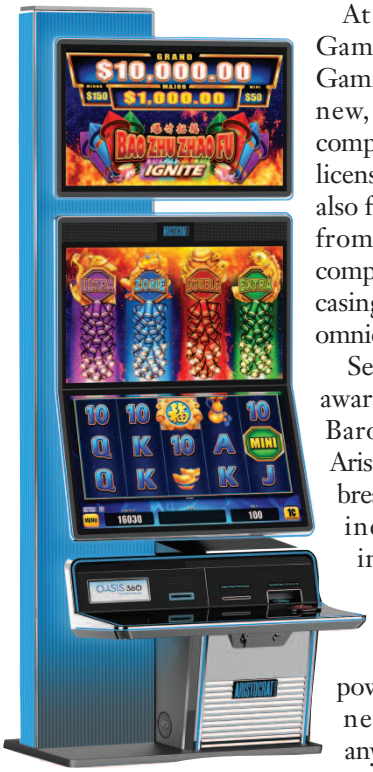
Aristocrat Gaming

(800) 482-3723
aristocratgaming.com
G2E Booth #1133



"At Aristocrat Gaming, our people are the heartbeat of everything we do in providing premium products for all of our incredible global customers. We are thrilled to showcase our latest land-based innovations and to share our vision to deliver the best seat in the house wherever and whenever the world plays."

Hector Fernandez, CEO
Aristocrat Gaming



At the upcoming 2024 Global Gaming Expo (G2E), Aristocrat Gaming is slated to display an all-new, industry-leading portfolio complete with hardware, games and licensed product. This exhibit will also feature an engaging experience from Aristocrat Interactive, the company's iGaming business, showcasing a new frontier of connected omnichannel experiences for players.

Set to follow in the footsteps of its award-winning predecessors, The Baron™ dual-screen cabinet by Aristocrat Gaming features groundbreaking technological innovations including never-before-seen integrated dynamic lighting, advanced display monitors, and sleek design elements to enhance casino floors. The powerful combination creates a new gaming experience unlike any other. Leveraging fan-favorite game families, The Baron will launch with three new game sales titles: Buffalo Gold Cash Collection™, Ju Cai Jin Gui™ Dragon and Ingot, and Bao Zhu Zhao Fu Ignite™ Blue Prosperity and Red Prosperity.

In true Aristocrat Gaming fashion, the company will expand two major game licenses including a new suite of National Football League (NFL) themed games, as well as the all-new House of the Dragon™ slot game following the success of the company's Game of Thrones™ slot portfolio. Show attendees can expect four additional NFL titles that cover Class II and Class III gaming presenting customers with unique ways to bring football action to players. Furthermore, on the heels of the second season of the critically acclaimed HBO Original drama series, House of the Dragon will come complete with recognizable characters, fiery features and more.

The strength of the company's offerings in gaming operations, game sales, Class II, Class III, adjacent markets and international game offerings will be second to none. Attendees can anticipate never-before-seen titles that will launch on new hardware, which are sure to offer a player experience unlike ever before. The company will showcase games available domestically, as well as specific titles for the EMEA, LATAM and APAC markets demonstrating the market customization availability within the vast portfolio.

With nearly 90 percent of the show exhibit featuring new product, the density of the game offerings will be further complemented by swift arrival to casino floors, with the anticipated delivery of new releases by the first half of 2025.

Everi

(702) 855-3000
everi.com
G2E Booth #1150

At G2E 2024, Everi will highlight its commitment to provide everything tribal operators need to engage patrons and enhance their entertainment experiences.

Everi's booth at G2E will spotlight an incredibly deep catalog of game content and new hardware products this year, aimed at enabling operators to generate higher returns on their investment and to create memorable experiences for players. Everi will introduce new hardware products including Player Classic Spin™, a for-sale extension of the Player Classic Signature™ family of cabinets with an eye-catching mechanical wheel.

As a top supplier of Class II gaming content throughout



"Everi has a long, successful history of supporting tribal gaming operators and remains committed to understanding their needs in this rapidly evolving industry. Our investments at G2E 2024 represent an opportunity to reinforce that we provide everything an operator or venue needs to enhance the patron experience. We will showcase several new, differentiated cabinets along with the expansion of our games and iGaming portfolio, plus the ability to offer industry-leading, integrated financial technology solutions across the casino floor and beyond."

Randy Taylor, President & CEO
Everi



North America, Everi's new games on display at G2E will feature cross-cabinet flexibility and eye-catching themes to engage tribal players. Paired with more than 60 unique themes, Everi's booth is a must-see destination thanks to a robust lineup of innovative titles and new additions to multiple form-factors within the high-performing Dynasty line of video cabinets. That includes the new Dynasty Luna™, a banked product that takes premium video to new heights.

Working closely with tribal operators has enabled Everi to become a leading innovator and provider of trusted financial technology solutions, player loyalty solutions, as well as digital casino gaming content and products. From a FinTech perspective at G2E 2024, Everi's core focus remains on patron engagement and assisting customers to operate more efficiently. With an emphasis on convergence and connection, tribal operators can count on Everi's self-service solutions to deliver optimal performance and reliability.

Everi consistently reinforces a commitment to enhancing the patron journey by providing friction-free and memorable experiences. Powered by the BeOn™ mobile services platform, which utilizes all of the company's mobile services, Everi helps drive increased patron engagement with the leading mobile platform for operators and venues in the casino, sports, entertainment, and hospitality industries.

With industry-leading cashless payments solutions driving additional volume while improving operational efficiencies, Everi empowers tribal operators to successfully deliver on various aspects of the mobile ecosystem. At G2E, Everi will showcase how its payment solutions are designed to maximize funds to the floor, optimized to how patrons access their funds, and enabled for tribal operators to monitor and control player activity with an eye towards responsible gaming.

IGT

(702) 669-7777
igt.com
G2E Booth #3659



"IGT looks forward to connecting with our many, valued tribal casino customers at G2E 2024. Our G2E portfolio features expansions of player-favorite games such as Wheel of Fortune, Whitney Houston, and Tiger and Dragon Slots in addition to innovative new content across segments and casino management systems modernization via IGT Advantage X."

Nick Khin, President, Global Gaming
IGT

Gaming leader IGT will welcome tribal casino operators to its G2E booth to experience the next era of casino entertainment and systems innovation. IGT will have G2E attendees chanting "Wheel of Fortune" with a spectacular portfolio of Wheel of Fortune-branded games extending into new categories such as video poker and electronic table games (ETG). Wheel of Fortune video poker and IGT GameAce™ ETG games will complement 11 new Wheel of Fortune slots games, including the highly anticipated Wheel of Fortune Cash Link™ Big Money on the new Wheel of Fortune Trio cabinet.



Building on its momentum in the premium video slots space, IGT will present a robust library of engaging multi-level progressive (MLP) and wide-area progressive (WAP) themes with proven mechanics to help tribal casino operators take their gaming floors to a new level. Headliners at G2E will include IGT's chart-topping sensation Tiger and Dragon™, which debuted on casino floors earlier this year, plus the new Tiger and Dragon Super Bonus game on the PeakCurve™49 cabinet. IGT will further build upon award-winning MLP titles with new WAP games for the SkyRise™ cabinet, including Tiger and Dragon Super Arrow and Prosperity Link Blessings. In the WAP space, IGT will also unveil Whitney Houston I Wanna Dance with Somebody Slots, a thrilling game inspired by the "Voice of a Generation" and rich with bonus content and iconic Whitney Houston photos, videos and chart-topping songs.

G2E will also be the global trade show debut for IGT Advantage™ X, the newest evolution of the company's award-winning casino management system (CMS). Available for on-premise or cloud-based deployments, IGT Advantage X features an all-new, cutting-edge system design that is built on message bus architecture that enables casino floor data to instantly become actionable and more contextual for casino operators.

IGT will further demonstrate its commitment to tribal gaming via a robust portfolio of exciting Class II and Washington CDS (Central Determination System) games. Among the many standouts will be Class II versions of the highly celebrated Tiger and Dragon Cash on Reels, and Tiger and Dragon Multipliers games, complete with attractive and dynamic merchandising options. Additionally, IGT will showcase its compelling Lotus Flower Link game for the Washington CDS market on the PeakCurve™49 cabinet.

The company will also exhibit the latest additions to its diverse core video portfolio. Highlights include new evolutions of popular themes like Little Green Men Return™ and Wolf Run™ Wild Moon™, plus all-new titles like Emperor's Throne and Miner's Dream, with player-preferred features like free games and the hold-and-respin mechanic. In addition, for the core stepper category, the DiamondRS™ cabinet will bring entertaining games like Double Red White & Blue™, Cash Up Jackpots, 5x3x2x Red Hot Tamales™, Pinball™, and Cleopatra™ Legacy to life.

Konami Gaming

(866) 544-4636

konamigaming.com

G2E Booth #1256



"Across our latest offering, Konami is demonstrating commitment to tribal gaming growth success through increasing investment in original slot content and award-winning systems innovations. Creative entertainment and advancing technology are central to long-term industry achievement and driving forces behind Konami's G2E 2024 line up."

Jay Bertsch, SVP & CCO
Konami Gaming



Leading games and systems developer Konami Gaming is advancing toward G2E Las Vegas with a rush of creative content and casino innovations. Inside Konami's booth, the company is presenting more original developments across increasing market sectors, for tribal gaming executives to experience first-hand. Bingo Frenzy Stampede, What the Duck, Firedrake, and K-Pow! Pig are among the marquee slot series of this year's event – ushering Konami Gaming's most creative content to-date on the award-winning Dimension slot hardware line and driving continued revenue success for casino

operators. From facial recognition to digital drink ordering, Konami's Synkros casino management system is delivering top technology to today's casinos, as well as the G2E show floor. And to support further industry success in omnichannel gaming, the iGaming section of Konami's booth is featuring the latest slot titles available for launch via online social and real-money gaming.

A slot game with a five-in-a-row bingo bonus feature, Bingo Frenzy Stampede is a top showcase at G2E 2024 with its bingo dauber hype man hero character and 5x5 credit collection "game card." Additional debut slots series on Konami's Dimension line, such as What the Duck and Firedrake, feature original game math, fresh mechanics, and eye-catching new art styles. These game characteristics are also found across increasing Konami content options for expanding sectors reaching Historical Horse Racing (HHR), New York Lottery, and Class II markets with series such as Unwooly Riches, Stuffed Coins, Chili Chili Fire Hot Rush, and more.

Another playful hero character at this year's event is featured in Konami's K-Pow! Pig slot series, awarding piggy prizes with a k-pow punch from the pig in a red cape. In addition to land-based delivery, K-Pow! Pig is planned for availability through Konami's remote gaming server (RGS), for launch via online real-money and social gaming. Online gaming sites can take advantage of the game's uniquely rewarding credit prize features, for increased user engagement. And operators that maintain both online and land-based operations can deploy omnichannel launch for enjoyment by players in the casino and on-the-go through their mobile device.

Dynamic product options also extend to Konami's Synkros area at G2E 2024, where top technology highlights include bespoke floorwide progressives, all-in-one mobile admin apps, robust anti-money laundering tools, facial recognition, and more. Additionally, Konami is showcasing a comprehensive new drink ordering system called Synkros Drink System, with service-centric, digital features from order discovery to drink delivery.

Light & Wonder

(702) 897-7150

lnw.com

G2E Booth #1116

At G2E 2024, Light & Wonder is set to present a standout portfolio of new games, hardware and systems solutions within its booth.

G2E will mark the debut of Dracula, the highly anticipated follow-up to the popular Monsters - Frankenstein game. Showcased on the Cosmic gaming machine, this thrilling addition to the Monsters Universe brings a fresh, immersive experience that fans of the original movie are sure to enjoy.



"Light & Wonder is looking forward to welcoming our tribal gaming customers to our booth at G2E, where we will showcase fresh iterations of fan-favorite titles like Huff N' Puff to captivating new licensed content. Our G2E portfolio reflects our commitment to creating industry leading cross-platform games."

Nathan Drane, Chief Product Officer
Light & Wonder



Among these diverse offerings is the mid- and high denomination configurations of Dragon Train DTX. Building on the success of the low-denomination version, these new configurations are tailored specifically for main and high-limit floors, offering a versatile gaming experience that attracts a wide-range of players.

The company will also unveil Voodoo Jackpots within its booth. The game introduces a brand-new experience within a cash-on-reels segment, captivating art style, compelling wheel mechanic and rich character engagement and is showcased on both the Cosmic and Kascada Dual Screen cabinets.

Representing the next evolution of Light & Wonder's stepper family, Landmark 7000 Transparent merges traditional stepper gameplay with the engaging visuals of video slots and lower denomination accessibility. Its industry-leading transmissive screen covers the entire reel panel, creating an immersive gaming experience. The cabinet will be on display with new titles such as Bang! Bam! Boom! and brand extensions like Huff N' X-Tra Puffs, Super 88 Fortunes and Quick Hit Blitz Fever.

Zitro USA

(702) 835-6404
zitrogames.com
G2E Booth #2859

At G2E 2024, Zitro is set to unveil its diverse game portfolio that perfectly aligns with the new Concept and Glare form factors, a move designed to demonstrate the company's commitment to flexibility and innovation. Each game in this line is brought to life through a distinctive, synchronized light show that escalates with each significant bonus feature, ending in a spectacular display for mega and super wins.

This strategic approach underscores Zitro's dedication to offering operators maximum flexibility, ensuring their games seamlessly integrate across various configurations to protect and enhance their investment.

Zitro's G2E exhibit will spotlight the world debut of Wonder Dream, an immersive multi-game experience introducing innovative game mechanics to the market. This engaging title is crafted to captivate players with its dynamic gameplay, offering operators a genuinely unique product. Additionally, Zitro will unveil Triple Charm Journey, a multi-game featuring four titles that blend popular features with continuous rewards. The company will also showcase Legendary Sword, providing a perfect combination of three extra-level bonus links with three combinable features.

Zitro Digital, the company's online division, will present its growing lineup of digital video bingo and slot games enhanced by interactive player engagement tools. The launch of the new Fu Frog series, featuring four distinct titles – Animals, Food, Garden, and Spirits – each with three combinable features and up to seven bonus links, will also be highlighted, offering unmatched player engagement. ♣



"We are thrilled to introduce our new Concept cabinet line, marking a significant milestone for Zitro. With its state-of-the-art technology and outstanding game content, we are set to enhance the gaming experience and broaden options for operators. G2E is the perfect platform to showcase our latest innovations and celebrate this exciting new chapter for Zitro with our valued customers and industry colleagues. Our team's focus over the past year has been to create a product lineup that appeals to a diverse player base."

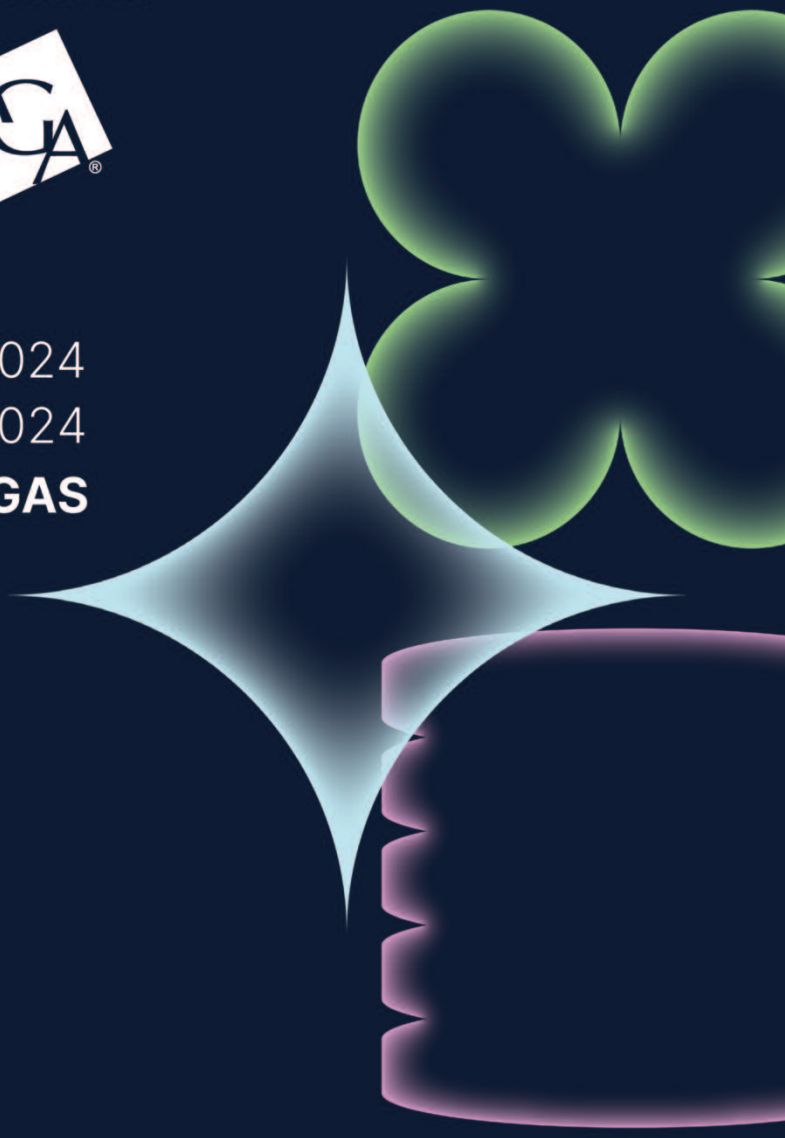
Derik Mooberry, CEO
Zitro USA



G2E™

PRESENTED BY: AGA

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2024 OIGA Conference & Trade Show: *Fun, Friendship and Furthering the Success of the Tribal Gaming Industry*

by Sheila Morago

It's hard to believe that it was just a few weeks ago that almost 3,000 people representing every facet of the tribal gaming industry were gathered in sunny downtown Oklahoma City. It's equally hard to believe that we are only about ten months away from the 2025 Conference and Trade Show, which will be held July 14-16, back in Oklahoma City, where we will have a few surprises up our sleeves.

Folks who attended the 2024 Conference and Trade Show can attest: Our networking events were lively, conference sessions were packed and the trade show floor was among the largest we've seen in our 29-year history.



Photos by Benji Sukmanee

L- R: Ernie Stevens, Jr., Chairman, IGA; Wes Pappan, OIGA Executive Delegate at Large; Matthew L. Morgan, OIGA Chairman; Christian Fenner, OIGA Secretary/Treasurer; OIGA Trade Show Coordinator Sheila Morago; and Valerie Spicer, Trilogy Group.

The annual John Marley Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament took place on Monday morning and drew a sold-out crowd to Oklahoma City's Lincoln Park Golf Course where we enjoyed a hearty breakfast, complete with Mimosas and Bloody Marys, before hitting the links. A great time was definitely had by all and we appreciate our generous sponsors and teams for helping us generate scholarship funds.



L-R: Matthew L. Morgan, Chairman, OIGA; Modern Day Warrior Award Recipient Matthew Robinson, Co-Founder and Principal of KlasRobinson Q.E.D.; OIGA Secretary/Treasurer Christian Fenner; OIGA Vice Chariman Billy Friend.

During the walk-around lunch and awards ceremony on the first day, we bestowed Chairman's Awards and Modern Day Warrior Awards to an exceptional group of people. Chairman's Awards went to Edward Gray, General Manager of Osage Casinos; Carlie Moreland, Surveillance Trainer, Office of Public Gaming for Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and Jeannie Hovland, Vice Chair, National Indian Gaming Commission. Modern Day Warrior Awards recipients were Stacy Sullivan, Account Executive, Secretary/Treasurer, Sullivan Insurance Agency; Bubba Fernandez, Senior Vice President, Financial Equipment Company; and Matthew Robinson, Owner, KlasRobinson Q.E.D.



2024 John Marley Golf Tournament participants

John Marley Scholarships were also awarded during the ceremony. High school recipients were Haley Brenna Teter, Kinsley BrayAnn Scrivner and Shanell Cochrane. Scholarship recipients already in college were Trinity Margan Webb, Brant Garrette Walker, Kourtnie Jo Siler, Maren Estelle Johnson and Rylie Dawn Hurley. Adult student recipients were Shelly Nealy and Niki Lee Osburn.

As we begin to plan for next year, we do so with gratitude. The tribal gaming industry in Oklahoma is strong. In fact, it's been a record year. More than $202 million in tribal gaming exclusivity fees were paid to the State of Oklahoma in fiscal year 2023, according to the Oklahoma Gaming Compliance Unit Annual Report. That's an increase of 5.6 percent over 2022.



L-R: Matthew L. Morgan, Chairman, OIGA; John Marley Scholarship Recipient Haley Brenna Teter; OIGA Secretary/Treasurer Christian Fenner; and OIGA Vice Chariman Billy Friend.

Many people have had a direct hand in the success of our industry. When tribal gaming is doing well, tribal governments are doing well. And when tribal governments are doing well, they contribute to the well-being of their communities – through job creation, infrastructure improvements, contributions to education and non-profits, and so much more. ♣

Sheila Morago is Trade Show Coordinator for the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association and CEO of Trilogy Group. She can be reached by calling (405) 818-7462 or email sheila.morago@oiga.org.

Three Rivers Casino Resort Celebrates 20th Anniversary



Three Rivers Casino Resort is proud to celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. Established and operated by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the casino thrives as a premier entertainment destination, significantly contributing to the local economy and charitable initiatives.

Since its opening, Three Rivers Casino Resort has remained dedicated to fostering community growth and well-being. As one of the largest employers in the region, the casino provides invaluable resources and employment opportunities.

"Three Rivers Casino is very welcoming and rewarding. Everyone is given the opportunity to grow," said Jesse Gardner, Director of Facilities, 20-year employee and tribal member. "My responsibilities have empowered me to become a better person and director daily."

As part of its 20-year celebration, team members gathered for a roaring 20s celebration. Teresa Spangler has worked with the casino since its inception and is also a member of the Confederated Tribes. She started as a Club Rep and is now the Director of Guest Services. "I feel like I have lifelong friends that are like family – this includes team members and guests," said Spangler. "Our goal is to create an environment you want to work in, and we have a lot of different areas for our team members to find their passion."

Three Rivers Casino is also undergoing exciting changes to enhance guest experiences. Adding a new gift shop and fitness center promises to elevate convenience and wellness options for visitors. The BeachSide Bistro introduces an exciting dining concept with an all-new menu, merging popular venues 101 Burger Bar and Mamma Mia into one comprehensive culinary destination. These updates reflect Three Rivers' commitment to providing a vibrant, all-encompassing entertainment and hospitality experience on the Central Oregon Coast.

Over the last two decades, the Three Rivers Foundation has also awarded millions of dollars to hundreds of non-profits in Western Oregon, including those in healthcare, education, food security and law enforcement. As Three Rivers Casino looks ahead, it remains committed to its mission of community enrichment, economic growth and cultural preservation.

Congratulations to Andy Tidball, Rich Colton, Judy Jones, Jesse Gardner, Teresa Spangler, Debbie Miller, Sherry Meyer, Cliff Lupton, Jim Wilson, James Rensing, Mike Bones, Rob Bebee, Nelson Devera, Michael MacDuffee and Linda Fithian on 20 years at Three Rivers Casino.

Three Rivers Casino Resort has strong ties to the surrounding community along the Central Oregon Coast. As one of the largest employers in the area, Three Rivers provides resources and opportunities for tribal and non-tribal members of the region. In addition to providing local jobs, Three Rivers sponsors local arts programs for professional and children's theater and donates to dozens of local and regional non-profit organizations. It has become a pillar of community support; the philanthropic spirit of Three Rivers Casino is felt deeply on the Central Oregon Coast and statewide. ♣

For more information about Three Rivers Casino Resort, visit www.threeriverscasino.com.

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Oneida Indian Nation Breaks Ground on $50 Million Point Place Expansion



The Oneida Indian Nation held a groundbreaking event at Point Place Casino to mark a major expansion at the property. Local elected officials, community leaders, partners in the building trades and team members gathered at the casino to celebrate the Nation's more than $50 million investment in the expansion, its team and the economic development of Madison County.

The expansion of Point Place Casino will include: doubling the size of the existing gaming floor; a new multi-story hotel with 100 rooms; a new restaurant; a new Perfect Pour Cafe satellite location in the hotel's lobby; an event space; and an update for the Fireside Lounge that will double its current size and add a 360-degree view of the wood-burning fireplace with cozy new seating.

Along with the many new amenities the expansion will create at Point Place Casino, the Oneida Indian Nation's investment in the property will also generate more than 200 construction jobs, grow regional tourism, and create new opportunities for Turning Stone Enterprises team members.

"When we built Point Place Casino six years ago, we had a vision for what it could become as an entertainment destination and an economic engine for this community," said Ray Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Turning Stone Enterprises CEO. "As with everything we do, that vision was guided by the understanding that if you are not growing, you are going backward. That has been our motto across all of our enterprises and the reason we are so committed to constant diversification and growth."

"The Oneidas have been friends and partners since the Revolutionary War and when we work together, we can see success," said New York State Senator Joseph Griffo. "The $50 million investment here at Point Place Casino will continue to build upon Turning Stone Enterprises and all of the good things the Nation has done to make this a point of destination and an attraction worthy of entertainment and excitement. It's the total experience."

"Today's groundbreaking is not just about a new hotel, enlarging current spaces or renovations, but about expanding opportunities and investing in the future of Madison County and the surrounding region," said New York State Assemblymember Brian Miller.

"The Oneida Indian Nation has created many good things that have impacted this region that we all benefit from, from helping win American independence two-and-a-half centuries ago to the significant economic role it plays today in our county," said Madison County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Cunningham. "It has created so many good jobs in Central New York and we are so fortunate to have the Nation here."

"The expansion of Point Place Casino and adding our first hotel to the town of Sullivan will have a tremendous influence on our town and county," said Town of Sullivan Supervisor Thomas Daviau. "It will add a new flow of visitors and hundreds of new jobs."



"On behalf of the over 7,000 hard hats that work in our building trades council, I would like to thank Representative Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation leadership and every team member at Turning Stone Enterprises," said Central-Northern New York Building & Construction Trades Council President Greg Lancette. "The critical roles that happen with everybody working together bring us back to these facilities, like we are here today. It is success built on success."

The Oneida Indian Nation has made continuous investments in Point Place Casino since its grand opening in 2018, including two expansions of its gaming floor, the introduction of a sportsbook and the creation of the Perfect Pour Cafe. The growth aligns with the Nation's many investments throughout the region, including the creation of its new Play On slot parlor at the Verona Crossroads retail plaza and the largest evolution of Turning Stone Resort Casino in two decades.

Buena Vista Rancheria Tribe Opens New Gas Station



The Buena Vista Rancheria Tribal Council has opened the Buena Vista Gas Station, offering the lowest price on gas and diesel fuel in the area. While gas prices top $5 per gallon at many competitor's pumps, Buena Vista Gas Station is selling regular unleaded at the special promotional price of $3.99 per gallon, mid-grade unleaded for $4.19 per gallon, premium for $4.49 per gallon, and diesel fuel for $4.49 per gallon – a significant savings for the consumer and the best value in the area. The tribe's goal is to always offer fuel at a substantial savings lower than the local average.

"We know that local families and businesses are struggling as high fuel costs factor into every aspect of our lives," said Tribal Chair, Jessalynn Pastran. "The Buena Vista Rancheria Tribe is committed to helping our neighbors who are weathering the increased cost of living by making fuel more affordable so that hard-working neighbors and visitors can afford to fill their tanks and get to the places they need to go whether it be school, work, or the grocery store. We are committed to always offering the best value in the area and investing in our shared community. Together we can build better lives for our families and future generations."

The Buena Vista Gas Station is located 1.25 miles south of Harrah's Northern California at 3501 Coal Mine Road, at the corner of Coal Mine Road and Camanche Parkway North, in Ione, CA. The gas station's pumps are operational 24/7 with credit card payments, and cash is accepted at the kiosk from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. where Native American brand tobacco products are also available for sale during staffed hours.

The Buena Vista Gas Station also offers high volume diesel for campers, high-capacity diesel vehicles and equipment. Plans for the future include an RV park, discounted fleet pricing, Harrah's Northern California team member discounts, and eventual integration with Caesar's Rewards programs.

Chumash Casino Resort Opens The Sports Bar at Chumash



The Chumash Casino Resort has unveiled its new third-floor food and beverage experience, The Sports Bar at Chumash. The venue features an expansive wraparound bar with built-in countertop gaming units, marketplace-style food stalls offering a wide variety of food options, 20 TV screens and two state-of-the-art LED walls showing the day's top games.

"Our tribe is proud to offer this brand-new sports bar experience, which is unlike any other in the Santa Ynez Valley," said Kenneth Kahn, Tribal Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. "Our food and beverage team set out to create a comfortable, sports-driven atmosphere where guests can watch a game while enjoying great food and drinks with friends. We think this will be the place to watch all popular sporting events."

The full-service, seated dining and bar experience features six eateries, including Bok Bok's (chicken), Cali Rolls (sushi), Lucky Buns (burgers and sandwiches), Let's Noodle (ramen and pho), Lovin' Tacos and The Sweet Spot (desserts). Behind the bar, there are over 20 beers on draft, including local craft options, domestic and imported, as well as Valley Fog, the tribe's own hazy blonde ale. Also behind the bar is the tribe's Chumash Casino Resort house bourbon, part of a partnership with the Woodford Reserve distillery in Kentucky.

The Sports Bar experience is also connected to U Play Sports, Chumash Casino Resort's free-to-play sports picking challenge that's available online, which allows guests to pick their favorite teams with chances to win slot free play, while watching the games live on any of the space's televisions.

SIGA, Northern Lights Casino Announce Multi-Million-Dollar Expansion Project



The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) has unveiled plans for a multi-million-dollar expansion project of Northern Lights Casino, increasing the current gaming floor square footage and making major changes to the interior and exterior of the casino.

Construction for the expansion will begin in late September, and will take up to two years, with the completion date set in 2026. The expansion will add 31,000 sq. ft. to Northern Lights Casino.

Expansion plans focus on adding square footage in high traffic areas of the casino including: an enhanced front entrance to the casino; increasing the square footage of the main gaming floor areas including a high limits slots space; an expanded smoking room; and enhancements to the food and beverage areas including the kitchen, sports bar and restaurant areas, and a new combined deli and floor bar area.

"Northern Lights Casino, in terms of number of visitors to the casino, is one of our busiest, out of seven casinos in the province," said Zane Hansen, Northern Lights President and CEO. "We realize that the casino has outgrown its current operational footprint, and the time has come for an expansion. This expansion will increase the casino's capacity to better serve our customers and the city of Prince Albert, the region, and entire province will enjoy this enhanced tourism destination and benefit from the increased economic activity the expanded casino will bring."

Northern Lights Casino is located on Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in Prince Albert. Representatives from SIGA, Northern Lights Casino, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and Prince Albert Grand Council took part in the official renderings unveiling for the expansion project and ceremonial sod-turning at Northern Lights Casino.

As part of the expansion project, there will be a major refresh to the interior and exterior design of the building, modernizing the casino, while remaining true to SIGA's roots in First Nations hospitality, noted Hansen, of the new casino design.

"For more than 28 years, Northern Lights Casino has played an important role in its local community," said Angela Isbister, Northern Lights Casino General Manager. "Expansion to the casino not only benefits local businesses, but many sporting events, cultural events and community organizations. A few recent examples of community support by Northern Lights Casino and SIGA's Community Investments Program, includes the Tony Cote First Nations Summer Games in La Ronge, WBSC Men's Softball World Cup in Prince Albert, PAGC Fine Arts Festival and a $25,000 donation to the Prince Albert Food Bank."



SIGA, as a non-profit corporation, has a unique revenue distribution model, which reinvests all net revenue back into Saskatchewan. Casino net revenue is redistributed – 50 percent to the First Nations Trust (which is distributed to the 74 First Nations in the province), 25 percent to Community Development Corporations (CDCs), which reinvests the money back into local community initiatives and 25 percent to the provincial General Revenue Fund.

During construction, Northern Lights Casino will remain open to continue to serve its customers.

Choctaw Travel Plaza – Atoka Receives Updates



The Choctaw Travel Plaza in Atoka is the first of 13 Choctaw Travel Plaza locations to receive an updated look and new retail items.

The Atoka location, which opened in 2002, has undergone a facelift, transitioning to a neutral color palette and adding a variety of new products for an elevated shopping experience. Twelve other Choctaw Travel Plazas will receive the same treatment in the coming months, with the updates expected to be finalized by the spring of 2025.

With the refresh, Choctaw Travel Plazas will begin to offer Choctaw artisan gifts, Oklahoma souvenirs and nostalgic candy, among other items. A full list of the store locations that will be updated includes: Antlers, Atoka, Durant East, Grant, Heavener, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Pocola, Poteau, Stigler, Stringtown, and Talihina.

Chickasaw Nation Opens New Veterans Housing Community

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby was joined by Chickasaw veterans, tribal leaders and dignitaries in dedication ceremonies for a neighborhood community constructed exclusively for Chickasaw veterans. The new Tashka Inchokka' neighborhood is comprised of six two-bedroom homes located on West 10th Street, across from Glenwood Park. *Tashka* means "warrior" and *inchokka'* is "a home that belongs to them" in the Chickasaw language.



Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby, center, is joined by Chickasaw Nation Lt. Governor Chris Anoatubby, Chickasaw veterans and tribal, federal and local dignitaries in ribbon cutting ceremonies to dedicate the Tashka Inchokka' neighborhood.

"We have always had a deep respect for our warriors," said Governor Anoatubby. "They set an example of strength, resilience and service and its worthy of the highest admiration and their selfless actions demonstrate the fundamental values of the Chickasaw people, values that serve as the cornerstones of strong communities. We remain steadfast in our commitment to serving those who have fought to defend the freedoms we enjoy. These homes represent our dedication to honor our warriors, and their service and their sacrifices."

The 1,024 sq. ft. homes are furnished with modern appliances, central heat and air, fenced backyards, and walk-in storm shelters. Mature shade trees line the street, as well as the newly constructed sidewalks and driveways. The housing development was designed as a place where Chickasaw veterans could be comfortable, connected and secure in a peaceful environment while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow veterans and building relationships with neighbors, Governor Anoatubby said. The neighborhood is within driving distance of vital services, programs and resources.

The complex is the result of collaboration among the Chickasaw Nation Department of Community Services, including their veterans services and the housing division; the city of Ada; and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"Together, we have positively transformed and enhanced this area and built something truly special," said Governor Anoatubby. "Thank you to our veterans for your commitment to service and the example you set. You are important to our country, you are important to our tribe, and we look forward to the positive influence you will have on this community."

The Chickasaw Nation offers support and programs for Chickasaw veterans through the Chickasaw Warrior Society. Chickasaw veterans can access services and benefits, as well as fellowship with one another, at the veterans lodge in Ada.

Quil Ceda Creek Casino Opens High-Limit Slots Room



Quil Ceda Creek Casino has opened a new high-limit slots room, open seven days a week. Formerly occupied by The Landing restaurant and spanning 2,835 sq. ft., the space features 60 machines with a $500 maximum bet per spin. The high-limit slots room also features cocktails, wine and beer available from The Craft Bar, along with a variety of food options.

The casino is also introducing four high-limit table games on the casino floor with a maximum limit of $1,000.

"We are excited to provide yet another exciting gaming opportunity in our great line-up of gaming options," said Belinda Hegnes, EVP of Quil Ceda Creek Casino. "As always, guests can anticipate the welcoming and friendly gaming environment we take pride in."

Quil Ceda Creek Casino currently features 1,500 slot machines and 16 table games; a DraftKings Sportsbook; "The Kitchen" food hall; and an innovative entertainment venue known as "The Stage."

Chicken Ranch Casino Opens Two New Culinary Additions

Chicken Ranch Casino Resort has welcomed two new additions to its culinary collection. Proper & Plume Cocktail Lounge and TWLV Kitchen & Bar are now open to the public.

"In addition to our existing signature concepts, we wanted to provide our guests with more options that will elevate their visit," said Lloyd Mathiesen, Chairman of the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians. "Both Proper & Plume Cocktail Lounge and TWLV Kitchen & Bar have immense attention to detail, promising diners an unforgettable experience."

Proper & Plume Cocktail Lounge features its signature cocktails such as Summer Dreamin' – a tangy mixture of Crown Royal Peach, honey syrup, lemon juice, ginger bitters and iced tea; and Spiced Strawberry Buck, which is a sweet and sour blend of Captain Morgan spiced rum, lime juice, Liquid Alchemist strawberry syrup, aromatic bitters and ginger beer. It also features classic and modern offerings such as the Very Pink Cosmopolitan and Smokey Tequila Sunrise.



TWLV Kitchen & Bar is a modern twist on a classic hen's dozen. Highlighted by fresh, local ingredients and farm-to-table delicacies, the cuisine captures the diverse flavors of the region. Artful cocktails, local taps, and carefully selected Northern California wines offer unique pairings.

Cherokee Nation Breaks Ground on Immersion Middle School



The Cherokee Nation held a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off construction of its first-ever Cherokee Immersion Middle School. The two-story middle school to be built in Tahlequah, will be 66,000 sq. ft. with classrooms, basketball gymnasium, stickball field, art patio, wellness space, weight room and specialty areas for dance and eSports.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Deputy Chief Bryan Warner first announced in January 2024 that they were dedicating $30 million to build a Cherokee language middle school to extend enrollment and space for second-language Cherokee learners.

Chief Hoskin and Deputy Chief Warner have taken action to expand language revitalization under the Durbin Feeling Language and Preservation Act. The Cherokee Nation estimates it loses about 75 fluent Cherokee speakers per year and is graduating about 25 second language Cherokee speakers each year. By 2032, the goal is to replace as many speakers as are lost.

"Our language allows us to pass on our Cherokee identity and culture to our youth," said Chief Hoskin. "As we raise a new generation of Cherokee speakers, this new immersion middle school will allow us to expand these efforts and ensure our youth are able to read, write and speak Cherokee for generations to come."

The school for grades 4-8 will follow the Cherokee Nation's successful language immersion curriculum, where students are taught all classes from math and science, reading to physical education completely in the Cherokee language. The middle school will also feature a sacred courtyard with ceremonial fire pit and playground. It will include a storm shelter, cafeteria with stage, and media center. The building theme represents the four cardinal directions. The seven clans are also represented through medallions in the building's courtyard.

"Incorporating the Cherokee culture into this building is vital to the growth of these young Cherokees and this new school will be an epicenter for shaping that citizenship and character while also learning our precious language," said Deputy Chief Warner.

Thompson Construction and Blue River Architects are the contractors for the project. The middle school is expected to be completed in spring 2026.

Redding Rancheria Tribal Health Opens Center for Advanced Care



Redding Rancheria has announced the grand opening of its highly anticipated Center for Advanced Care, providing access to specialty care services for Native Americans and underserved communities in the region. The state-of-the-art facility will offer a wide range of specialized medical services, including dermatology, neurology, cardiology, podiatry, psychiatry and endocrinology. Additional specialty care services are set to come online in the upcoming months, further expanding access to comprehensive healthcare for all.

This new Center for Advanced Care marks a significant milestone in Redding Rancheria's commitment to promoting the health and well-being of the community. By enhancing access to specialized medical services, they aim to improve health outcomes and longevity for Native Americans and underserved populations. They are dedicated to providing culturally sensitive care that meets the unique needs of the community, and they look forward to serving and supporting individuals in their healthcare journey.

The facility is equipped with the latest medical technology and staffed by highly trained healthcare professionals, ensuring that patients receive the highest quality of care.

"We are excited to open the Center for Advanced Care as a beacon of hope and healing for our community," said Glen Hayward, Executive Director of Redding Rancheria Tribal Health Systems. "Our goal is to provide exceptional healthcare that is accessible to all, while honoring the cultural values and traditions of our people."

Aristocrat Gaming Opens Newest Manufacturing Facility

Aristocrat Gaming celebrated the opening of its largest global manufacturing facility, the Las Vegas Integration Center, located in the West Henderson area of Southern Nevada. The 265,000 sq. ft. campus now serves as the manufacturing and distribution hub for much of North America and Latin America. The new facility is more than double the size of the previous location, increased from 8 to 12 production lines, and brings advanced technology to better meet current demand.



The investment in infrastructure and technology prepares the company for future growth over the next several years. It also compliments the company's North American headquarters in Summerlin and furthers Aristocrat's commitment to Southern Nevada and the communities in which its more than 1,200 local employees live and work.

Henderson Mayor Michelle Romero, members of the Council and the Henderson Chamber joined Hector Fernandez, Aristocrat Gaming CEO; Deanne McKissick, Chief Supply Chain Officer; and Mihir Wagh, SVP of Manufacturing & Logistics, for the ribbon cutting. ♣

CLASS III

Aristocrat Gaming

Phone: (702) 270-1000
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COIN TRIO ROYAL™



Aristocrat Gaming™ is giving Coin Trio™ fans the royal treatment in the all-new Coin Trio Royal™. Coin Trio Royal builds on the original player experience, blending proven mechanics and game math with innovation with the introduction of a new Golden Metamorphic, allowing players to enjoy two Hold & Spins when triggered. Coin Trio Royal also features jackpots fit for a king. The game comes with a $25,000 Royal Jackpot on top of the standard Grand Jackpot of $10,000. Coin Trio Royal has two exciting game themes for players to choose from: Fortune Trails Royal™ is a Reel Power™ game and Piggy Burst Royal™ is a 50 Lines™ game. Coin Trio Royal has three exciting features: in the Triple Metamorphic feature, Red, Green, and Blue Metamorphic bonuses from original themes reappear to grant hold & spins with Win All, Boosted Value, or Repeat Win coins landing during the feature. A newly gilded center reel spot offers players the chance at two new features. The new Golden Metamorphic gives players two hold & spins instead of one and functions as a fourth metamorphic bonus. Players may trigger one, two, or all three of the standard metamorphics before doubling up on their bonus with the Golden Metamorphic. In Royal Grand Chance, when players land a Royal Grand Chance symbol in the center reel spot, they get a repeat win feature that may award the Royal Jackpot. Coin Trio Royal is a medium volatility game with frequent feature frequency on the sleek Neptune Single™ cabinet.

Bluberi

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G2E Booth #3359

TIMBER JACK GOING WILDER



Bluberi's legendary Timber Jack and his beaver friends are back with a new adventure, Timber Jack Going Wilder. Timber Jack Going Wilder offers playful game mechanics that will excite players with full-reel wild pot fillers, jackpot wheels and Bluberi's newly enhanced free spins with Overtime Free Game features. Any spin with a wild coin can trigger the base-game pot filler feature where players can win up to 15 credit or jackpot prizes and a full stack of wilds. The jackpot wheel feature is activated by triggering three pot fillers, earning the player three spins of the wheel with guaranteed jackpots, boosted by 1.5x, and a chance for more spins. Players who land two free game symbols on reels one and five will unlock six free games featuring retriggers and wilds that guarantee pot fillers action. A super event Overtime Free Games pay players time-and-a-half on all wins. Timber Jack Going Wilder is coming soon and will be released on Bluberi's new Beacon+ hardware. It will also be available in Class II.

Everi

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TREASURE STACKS® SERIES



Treasure Stacks® Series consists of two base themes, Great Emperor and Pearl Princess, that focuses on big wins through symbol reveal multiplier stacks paired with a hold & spin bonus. Land Treasure Stacks to reveal matching symbols for that spin with stacks that can have multipliers up to 5x. Six or more orbs trigger the Treasure Spins bonus for plenty of hold & spin action while multipliers stay active during the bonus for bigger pays. Treasure Stacks Series is available exclusively on the Dynasty Sol™ portrait cabinet.

LIBERTY JEWELS™

Liberty Jewels™ brings traditional stepper play to video with the exciting addition of a non-traditional hold & spin



feature. Each of the three hold & spin bonuses has a unique and thrilling twist all leading to bigger wins for players. Wild multipliers can apply to the final prize and filling all nine positions awards a jackpot! Liberty Jewels is available on the Dynasty Sol™ and Empire Flex™ portrait cabinets.

IGT

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igt.com
G2E Booth #3659

JIN DAN™ EVERLASTING TURTLE™ / MAGNIFICENT PHOENIX™

Crack open the eggs and reveal your wins! IGT's Jin Dan™ video slots are available in two Asian-inspired partner themes, Everlasting Turtle and Magnificent Phoenix, and offers three different bonuses that can be triggered individually or simultaneously. During the base game, a blue, red, or green jeweled coin will appear on the reels, with each color correlating with the eggs on the top of the game screen. One or more blue or green jeweled coins landing can trigger the stacked wilds or triple reels free games bonus, respectively. Additionally, one or more red jeweled coins landing in any position on the reels may trigger the jackpot bonus, and when three corresponding-colored coins are collected, players can win one of four jackpots. Multiple bonuses can be triggered simultaneously for a combined bonus experience featuring stacked wilds, triple reels, and free games. Jin Dan Everlasting Turtle and Magnificent Phoenix is a 30-payline, 88-credit cost-to-cover game available on the IGT's PeakSlant49™ and PeakCurve™49 cabinet.



JUMANJI NEXT LEVEL™

Unleash a world of adventure with IGT's Jumanji Next Level wide-area progressive video slots featuring wild symbol-focused gameplay. The newest addition to the popular Jumanji movie-themed slots library, during the base game, when a Jumanji orb symbol lands, the lock and respin bonus is activated. During the bonus, credit and jackpot coins can be collected for instant wins, and when 20 coins are landed, the grand jackpot is awarded. The wheel bonus is triggered when three wheel symbols are landed on the reels. Elevating the excitement, players can spin multiple times for the opportunity to win additional spins, credit values, or one of the progressive jackpot prizes. The free games bonus is triggered when three bonus symbols land, and players can choose their volatility with either more free games and fewer wild positions, or more wild positions and fewer free games. In addition to proven math and mechanics, Jumanji Next Level incorporates vibrant graphics and eye-catching animations and is available on IGT's Peak65™ cabinet.



Light & Wonder

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ISLAND RISING

Island Rising – Twilight Shore and Island Rising – Sunset Shore are Triple Pot hold & spin games on Kascada Dual Screen that feature a colorful and calming aesthetic of a gentle, salty-air breeze. The three pots here are Tikis that ignite through landing appropriately-colored Coin symbols. The three Tikis are pink, green, and blue, and their respective features are Super Spins, Dual Spins, and More Spins, with all three being hold & spin features. Super Spins can randomly increase the values of the coin symbols. Dual Spins give the player two arrays, both starting off with identical coin symbols on each array. In addition, if a coin lands on one array and the other array doesn't have a coin in the same spot, the coin symbol can randomly be duplicated and placed in the other array. Lastly, during More Spins free games, some coins in the hold & spin will have a blue glow around them. When the three-spin counter runs out, the coin will lose its blue glow and the counter resets, allowing the player to continue. Any combination of two or all three of these features can trigger simultaneously.



HUFF N' PUFF MONEY MANSION



The pigs are back and they're ready to build some truly fantastic houses. In Huff N' More Puff Money Mansion, players are still trying to land Hard Hat symbols to trigger the great features, but with a new twist. The big new addition is the Money Mansion and the Deed symbols that get you inside it. Landing three Deeds gets you into the Money Mansion, which awards players with either credits directly based on which of the many boxes lights up or a feature trigger. The classic Mansion feature makes a grand return, making sure your Hats pay out especially nice by always building mansions. The Touch-Up Feature starts you off with some straw houses when the free games begin, as well as the Home Improvement Feature, which plays its free games on a larger array. And of course, landing six or more Hard Hats gets us the free games we all know and love, where we're building houses with Hard Hats. Special pigs can also appear behind the reels wearing Hard Hats that can count towards the six needed to trigger free games. This new addition to the family is the biggest one yet.

Yfageo Technologies

Phone: (702) 588-8430
yfageo.com

SUPERSTAR BAR

Get your groove on. Superstar Bar boasts an electric fusion of classic rock'n'roll and entertainment. This 50-line 5-reel video slot game is packed with rockin' soundtracks and colorful animations that will have players bouncing to the beat. Land five Superstar Bar symbols for the chance to play our popular 7-level progressive bonus that can be won on any bet level, and spice up your credit wins with 2x, 3x, or 4x locking multipliers. The real party starts in the free games bonus where you can choose from three types of selectable free games, all featuring expanding reels, locking wilds, and 121 ways to win. Let the rocking commence. Features include selectable free games awarding 5, 10, or 20 games, shifting wild symbols, progressive bonus feature, a 7-level progressive jackpot, wheel bonus, and Yfageo's exclusive Johnny wheel bonus.



Zitro USA

Phone: (702) 835-6404
zitrogames.com
G2E Booth #2859

PEARL'S PARADISE

Dive into the great coral reef where wild sea creatures await. Pearl's Paradise is an immersive slot experience featured on the premium Altius Glare cabinet. This underwater realm boasts 15 independent reels and introduces a new dynamic with three special Wild symbols on the central reel. Each Wild unlocks a distinct bonus feature: Multiplier, Row Up, or Multiplier + Row Up, which, when activated, will result in three different bonus links. In the Multiplier bonus link, players will watch magic pearls reveal 1-4 multiplier frames, multiplying prizes 2x, 3x, 4x, or even 5x to boost winnings. The Row Up bonus link



introduces an extra layer of excitement with up to six additional reels, with three initially blocked at the top. Each magical pearl unlocks a top reel, awarding all accumulated winnings. Combining the best of both worlds, the Multiplier + Row Up bonus links offer players the ultimate thrill of multiplying wins and expanding reels for endless winning. Dive in further for deeperrewards. Pearl's Paradise features two progressive jackpots, Mega and Super, as well as two fixed jackpots, Mini and Minor. All of them can be won with any bonus link. Discover the ocean's hidden pearls in Pearl's Paradise

CLASS II

Bluberi

Phone: (800) 720-5155
bluberi.com
G2E Booth #3359

HONEY BOMB

Bluberi's new Honey Bomb slot game is buzzing with excitement and big wins. Honey Bomb is an explosively fun game featuring five rising honey pot fillers, Honey Link bonus and free games that offer sweet rewards. The rising honey pot fillers offer players five opportunities to



activate the Honey Link bonus feature, which is a unique jumbo-size hold & spin bonus feature. Players will chase cash balls leading to the jackpot Bombs in the Honey Link bonus and on every last spin will activate Bomb Time, where every cash ball is a jackpot. Blacking out the hold & spin bonus will result in a 2x multiplier applied to all rewards. The free games bonus features stacked majors, retriggers and acts as a gateway to additional hold & spin opportunities. Honey Bomb is coming soon and will be exclusive to Bluberi's Beacon Elite hardware. It will also be available in Class III.

Everi

Phone: (512) 334-7500
everi.com
G2E Booth #1150

SECRET TREASURES® SERIES

Secret Treasures® Series features two classically themed base games, Dragon and Pharaoh, paired with 243 ways to win. Both themes give players the chance to trigger one of the two-pot accumulators on any spin or trigger them both for a super bonus! Land the special symbol during the hold & spin bonus to absorb all adjacent cash-on-reels symbols while filling all reels absorbs all cash-on-reels values continuing the bonus. Secret



Treasures Series is available on the Dynasty Sol™ and Empire Flex™ portrait cabinets.

SUPER JACKPOT DOUBLE LION™ / SUPER JACKPOT WILD GEMS™



Super Jackpot Double Lion and Super Jackpot Wild Gems are classic three-reel, nine-line stepper games available on the Player Classic Signature™ cabinet that feature symbol-triggered progressives and fixed multiplier symbols. Land one or two lion symbols in a winning combination with 7s and bars to multiply prizes by 2x or 4x and keep an eye out for a 40x multiplier in Super Jackpot Wild Gems. Win the top prize when landing three lion symbols on payline 9 at max bet.

IGT

Phone: (702) 669-7777
igt.com
G2E Booth #3659

CASH CLIMB™ GARDEN OF HESPERIDES™

Discover golden treasures with IGT's Cash Climb™ Garden of Hesperides™. Infused with vibrant Grecian-inspired graphics, Cash Climb Garden of Hesperides features popular mechanics, including a collection pot, free games, and a lock-and-respin feature. During the base game, if six or more gold apple symbols land on the reels, the lock-and-respin is triggered and awards three spins. Players can collect additional gold apple symbols and multipliers, leading to one of four jackpot prizes. In addition, the free games feature is activated during the base game when three free games symbols land on the reels, and awards up to 30 free games. The Cash Climb pot feature is triggered when one to five gold apple symbols appear in any position on the reels during the base game or free spins, and additional gold apple symbols are awarded on the reels, which can lead to the lock-and-respin bonus. Cash Climb Garden of Hesperides is a 243-payline game available on IGT's PeakCurve™49 cabinet.



TIGER AND DRAGON™



Bring action-packed excitement to the floor with IGT's Tiger and Dragon™ game, now available for the Class II market. Available in two base games, Multiplier and Cash On Reels™, the chart-topping theme features three unique bonuses: Tiger, Dragon, and the combined Tiger and Dragon bonus. The game introduces a new lock, respin and reveal bonus featuring money ball symbols with credit values that can combine. Furthering the fun, when gong symbols on the reels land in the same row, monetary winnings are revealed. Adding to Tiger and Dragon's gameplay are "up arrows" that appear on reels and increase credit values. Elevating the experience, the game's Tiger bonus presents win opportunities on a 3x5 reel matrix, and both the Dragon bonus and the combined Tiger and Dragon bonus advance the reels to an 8x5 reel matrix for big win potential. Tiger and Dragon is a 243-payline game available on IGT's PeakCurve™49 cabinet.

For more new games, visit indiangaming.com

Light & Wonder

Phone: (702) 897-7150
lnw.com
G2E Booth #1116

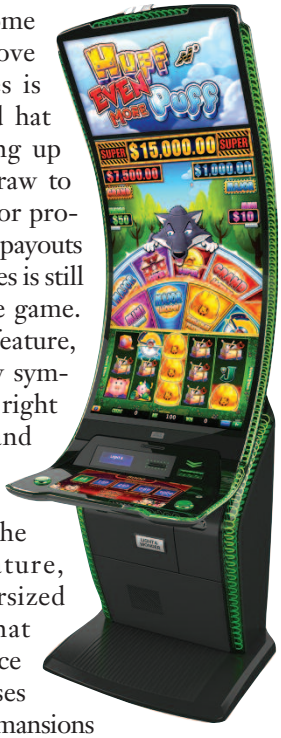
DRAGON TRAIN™

Roaring down the tracks is Dragon Train™. With gaming floors across Australia and the Class III market already aboard and fired up, the Dragon Train series has arrived in Class II, ready to take players on the ride of their lives. The four titles, Chi Lin Wins, Sun Shots, Forever Emperor, and Khutulun Battle Princess, all feature the super exciting Hold & Spin-in-a-Hold & Spin Dragon Train feature. This feature transports players to bigger prizes and a shot at the super-charged Fortune 8 jackpot. All four Dragon Train titles offer new and exciting free games that can send players into the hold & spin at super speeds. Chi Lin Wins and Sun Shots feature Sticky Reels Free Games, where players are looking to build up as many Sticky Reels as they can, for a better chance to win big. In Khutulun Battle Princess and Forever Emperor, the free games feature Nudging Wilds combined with never-seen-before Orb Clusters giving players a fun and unique way to trigger the hold & spin.



HUFF N' EVEN MORE PUFF

The Huff is back. Huff N' Even More Puff is here to follow up on the smash hit Huff N' More Puff. And "even more" is right on the money, as this new installment features an additional wheel that gives out great, enhanced prizes during the new Super Wheel feature. What players have come to know and love from this series is still here. Hard hat symbols building up houses from straw to wood to brick for progressively larger payouts during free games is still the name of the game. The Buzz Saw feature, where buzz saw symbols run to the right of the screen and build houses on all the spots they covered; the Mega Hat feature, which has oversized hat symbols that give you a chance for several houses to start; and the mansions feature, where hard hats award brick mansions right away instead of building up to them, are all making a return. As exciting as these are, the new Super Wheel comes in and kicks them all up a notch with a taller, 6x5 array for the Super Buzz Saw feature, the Super Mega Hat feature, and the Super Mansions feature.



Yfageo Technologies

Phone: (702) 588-8430
yfageo.com

DOLLA DOLLA BILL Y'ALL

Introducing Dolla Dolla Bill Y'all, Yfageo's single progressive 25-line 5-reel video slot game where an exciting fusion of hip hop meets disco. This high-energy slot game features lively animations and a unique skill element that amps up the excitement. Feel the adrenaline rush as you tap the dollar bill to accrue credits before time runs out, creating a dynamic experience players will love. In free games, it's all about those Benjamins, offering up to 20 free games with retriggers. Get ready for a gaming

session that combines style and skill, ensuring players keep coming back for more. Features include free games awarding 5, 10, or 20 games, re-triggering free games, a single level progressive jackpot, and Yfageo's exclusive Johnny wheel bonus.



MUCHO MANIA

Join the fiesta with Mucho Mania, where jumping beans and tequila-soaked worms unite in this spirited, Latin-themed 20-line, 5-reel video slot game. Additionally, it also features Yfageo's exclusive Collect'n Match free games bonus, elevating the gaming experience to new heights. The Collect'n Match bonus awards players an unknown number of free games, and combined with eye-catching graphics and high-energy action, Mucho Mania is assured to be a hit that will have players shouting Olé. Features include free games and Yfageo's exclusive Johnny wheel bonus.

BIG WIN RESPIN

Combining vibrant aesthetics and engaging gameplay, Big Win Respin is a classic 20-line, 5-reel video slot game tailored to the theme and features our coveted respin feature that keeps reels 1, 2, 4, and 5 spinning until you win. Land three or more Spin symbols to unlock the exciting Big Win Respin Wheel Bonus, where you have a chance to win one of the four progressive jackpots. Elevate your winnings further by collecting five Star symbols, triggering a spin of the wheel where you can win up to 40 free games. Features include a free games wheel with up to 40 free games, wheel bonus, respin feature, scatter symbols, bet multipliers, a 4-level progressive jackpot, and Yfageo's exclusive Johnny wheel bonus. ♣

The smart money is on Indian Country's leaders of tomorrow

It's no secret: Finding great employees today is harder than it's ever been. What will it be like five years from now? The answer lies in education and opportunity for Native American students. It's about opening doors, breaking down barriers, lessening the burdens. When Native students have access to quality education and real-world job training in a culturally relevant environment, they can go far in life. Very far.

The Spirit of Sovereignty – an Indian Gaming Association-advised fund at the Indian Land Tenure Foundation – makes the opportunity for higher education a reality. Well-qualified students at 37 tribal colleges and universities can earn scholarships tailored to their specific needs, and funds can be used for any educational expenses, including tuition, books, housing and travel. The impact for Native students is immeasurable. The impact for your business and your community can be immense.

By investing in their future today you're making a good bet on your future, too. Support the Spirit of Sovereignty scholarship fund and everybody wins.

Spirit of Sovereignty

www.spiritofsov.org

Joseph Busby Named VP of Finance for Sycuan Casino Resort


Joseph Busby

Joseph Busby has been promoted to Vice President of Finance at Sycuan Casino Resort. "Joe has been an integral part of our team for many years and has worked hard to earn this promotion," said Rob Cinelli, General Manager. "I look forward to working with Joe and his team to continue moving Sycuan forward for many years to come."

Busby has over 20 years of experience in the gaming industry having worked in both commercial and tribal gaming operations in multiple jurisdictions. His experience includes casino finance and operations, public accounting, internal and external audit, anti-money laundering, and regulatory compliance. He holds numerous certifications, which include Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist, and Certified Fraud Examiner.

Busby's role as VP of Finance will include oversight of various departments within the organization to include accounting, revenue audit, payroll, accounts payable, compliance, cage, drop, and count. He will act as liaison between the casino and various internal and external regulatory agencies including the Sycuan Gaming Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and other state and federal agencies.

Joseph J. Hasson Named Chief Operating Officer of Mohegan


Joseph J. Hasson

Joseph J. Hasson has been named Chief Operating Officer (COO) for Mohegan, overseeing the development and execution of short- and long-term strategic business plans across all Mohegan properties. Hasson has served as Mohegan's interim COO since April of this year.

"Joe Hasson's expertise, garnered by over more than 40 years in the gaming and hospitality industries, coupled with his exemplary leadership at our Las Vegas property, positions him uniquely to ensure strategic alignment and continuity across Mohegan's diverse portfolio," said Ray Pineault, President and CEO of Mohegan. "We are confident that his leadership as our Chief Operating Officer will be instrumental in our sustained success."

As Mohegan's COO, Hasson will oversee the day-to-day operations of Mohegan's resorts across the U.S., Canada and Northern Asia. He will also maintain his responsibilities as General Manager of Mohegan Casino at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas while the casino transitions ownership.

As COO, Hasson will continue to enhance operational efficiency and guest satisfaction while maintaining the standards that define Mohegan. He will also work with Mohegan's leadership team to align all strategic processes with company-wide goals, emphasizing the sustainable growth of Mohegan's portfolio of entertainment resorts.

Prior to joining Mohegan, Hasson served as COO of Station Casinos and Red Rock Resorts.

Pearl River Resort Announces Leadership Changes

The Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, has announced significant leadership changes at Pearl River Resort.


Timothy Hill

Timothy Hill has been appointed as the Interim President and CEO of Pearl River Resort. Hill, a vital member of the executive team, brings over 40 years of extensive experience in the gaming industry. His career includes key roles at Pearl River Resort and other major casinos, where he has overseen operations, gaming, and resort management.


Connie Deon

Connie Deon has been appointed as the Acting Chief Financial Officer. Deon is a veteran gaming and hospitality executive with over 28 years of experience in finance. Her notable positions include Executive Director of Finance and Financial Controller at Pearl River Resort, as well as Financial Controller at Isle of Capri Casino.

These appointments follow the decision of the CRDE Board to transition to new leadership.

"The CRDE Board of Directors has taken action and made a decision to move forward with these changes in leadership," said Chief Cyrus Ben. "We will continue with prioritizing to make improvements and progress for our resort properties. Both Tim and Connie have many years of experience in their respective fields. I have complete faith they will do a great job in these interim positions."

Jamul Casino Appoints Rocio Zorrilla As Hotel Director

Jamul Casino has appointed Rocio Zorrilla as Hotel Director of the 16-story hotel tower set to open spring of 2025. Bringing over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, she will lead team members through the opening process and beyond.

"We are delighted to welcome Rocio to the team of


Rocio Zorrilla

hospitality professionals working to bring this hotel tower to life – a dream many years in the making," said Mary Cheeks, President & General Manager of Jamul Casino. "We look forward to incorporating her insights and expertise to make this new 200-room hotel tower an overwhelming success, including further elevating the overall guest experience at Jamul Casino."

For over two decades, Zorrilla has earned customer experience and professional relationships in a wide variety of hospitality roles including managerial positions at resorts around the world such as Casa de Campo Resort & Villas in the Dominican Republic and Ritz-Carlton Naples, Tiburón in Florida. Most recently, she served as the Senior Manager of Hotel Operations at Yaamava' Resort & Casino in Highland, CA.

"I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to join this team of dedicated and hard-working individuals," said Zorrilla. "I eagerly look forward to opening San Diego's newest luxury hotel tower and curating a one-of-a-kind guest experience."

Chef Brian Ikenoyama Joins Hard Rock Sacramento


Brian Ikenoyama

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain has welcomed Brian "Big B" Ikenoyama as its new Room Chef at YouYu, the property's Asian-inspired street food and noodle bar restaurant.

Ikenoyama was born and raised on California's Central Coast where he developed an appreciation for farm fresh produce. He attended California Culinary Academy and upon graduating, moved to Maui to work for chef and restauranteur Roy Yamaguchi for nine years refining his knowledge of Pacific Rim fusion. He helped Yamaguchi open Roy's restaurants throughout the U.S.

Ikenoyama went on to open several Japanese restaurants in Northern California before joining the Google team in Mountain View where his restaurants featured Japanese, Chinese, Indian, and Latin cuisines. Most recently, he spent several years as Executive Chef at Fat's Asia Bistro Roseville.

"Chef Brian brings his own multicultural approach to Pan-Asian cuisine through monthly and seasonal menus, highlighting traditional dishes and putting his own unique twist on familiar favorites while maintaining and elevating the core offerings of YouYu that have made it a destination for guests since it opened in 2019," said Jarrett Hipp, Director of Food and Beverage at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain.

Gun Lake Casino Names Steve Peterson Director of F&B Operations


Steve Peterson

Gun Lake Casino (GLC) announced the addition of Steve Peterson as Director of Food & Beverage Operations. Peterson's work spans 25 years in Forbes, AAA, and Michelin-rated hotels, casinos, and restaurants. His career includes over 50 hotel and 130 restaurant openings across the U.S. and worldwide.

Peterson brings a dynamic industry background and experience with a range of companies. He has helped create F&B concepts and consumer experiences in collaboration with top industry names, including Joel Robuchon, Tom Colicchio, Masaharu Morimoto and Gordon Ramsay.

Peterson's background and experience also lends to the casino's Phase 5 expansion as they look to create new, unique F&B experiences for guests.

"I am confident that Steve's wealth of experience and expertise will greatly contribute to our organization's continued success and growth," said Lam Vongsakoun, VP of Hospitality for Gun Lake Casino.

Though Peterson is new to the area, he is familiar with Michigan. Early in his career, he was the Executive Chef at the Historic Dearborn Inn, built by Henry Ford. In 2006, Peterson helped transition the original MGM Casino located in the old IRS building in Detroit to the newly built MGM Grand Casino & Hotel, helping revitalize the downtown Detroit landscape and ultimately paving the way for the future of gaming in the city.

New Pokagon Band Tribal Council Members Announced

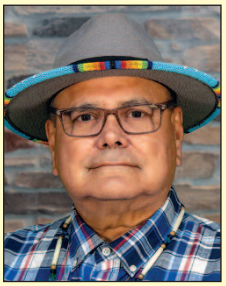

Matthew Wesaw

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians has elected new Tribal Council members who were sworn in during a recent ceremony. Matthew Wesaw has been elected Tribal Chairman, Sam Morseau has been re-elected Secretary, Mark Topash has been re-elected Member At Large, and John P. Warren has been elected Elders Representative. Wesaw succeeds Rebecca Richards, who completed a three-year term as Chairwoman and John P. Warren succeeds Barbara Ann Warren who completed a three-year term as Elders Representative.

The Pokagon Tribal Council governs the sovereign government of the Pokagon Band and contains 11 members


Sam Morseau


Mark Topash


John P. Warren

who are elected to staggered, three-year terms by Pokagon citizens. Pokagon Tribal Council members also serve on the Pokagon Gaming Authority, which oversees the Pokagon Band's Four Winds Casinos.

"I would like to thank Rebecca Richards and Barabara Ann Warren for their service," said Chairman Wesaw. "I would also like to congratulate Sam Morseau and Mark Topash for their new terms, and John Warren, for his return to the Tribal Council. I look forward to working closely with our Tribal Council to focus on the priorities for our tribal nation."

This marks Chairman Wesaw's fourth successful election as Chairman – the first in 2008, again in 2012, 2018 and now 2024.

Other members of the 11-member Tribal Council continuing in their terms include: Gary Morseau, Vice Chair; Alex Wesaw, Treasurer; Andrew Bennett, Member At Large; John Morseau, Member At Large; Rhonda Keene, Member At Large; Mark Parrish, Member At Large; and Victor Warren, Member At Large.

Chickasaw Citizen Jamie Jones Appointed Assistant Deputy Secretary of California Veterans Affairs

Jamie Jones has been promoted to Assistant Deputy Secretary with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). In her new role, Jones, of Sacramento, CA, will oversee veteran outreach, memorials and cemeteries for CalVet, an organization that serves California's 1.6 million veterans and their families.

Jones, a Chickasaw citizen, was honored for her new role during a blanket ceremony, which was hosted by CalVet and included representatives from the Chickasaw Nation, as well as Chickasaw veterans. A blanket ceremony is a First American tradition symbolizing a milestone in one's life and is a means to honor and show respect to the recipient.

"We commend her dedication and passion for ensuring veterans receive the benefits and care they need and deserve," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Anoatubby. "We wish her continued success and look forward to the meaningful impact she is sure to make in her new role."

Jones has served the State of California in various capacities for 26 years, with more than a decade of service at CalVet. She said she is humbled to be appointed to the new position.


Jamie Jones was honored for her new role with the California Department of Veterans Affairs during a blanket ceremony, which included representatives from the Chickasaw Nation, as well as Chickasaw veterans. Pictured with Jones from left are her father, Olin Jones; mother, Debbie; and daughter, Makenzie.

"I have the unique opportunity to engage with our veteran community through a variety of programs and honor the legacies of our veterans and ensure a dignified resting place for our heroes at state veterans' cemeteries," said Jones. "CalVet is here to ensure that California veterans are the most connected, protected and respected veterans in America, and it's the greatest way we can truly honor and begin to repay those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

Through outreach programs and a variety of other programs, CalVet's mission is to serve and honor California veterans by connecting them and their families with their earned benefits through education, advocacy and direct services.

"We are there for veterans through every stage of their life cycle and for every moment that matters throughout their lives," said Jones. "We help them prepare for civilian life as they separate from the military, and we help them connect to their federal benefits, healthcare and other benefits, as well as their GI benefits, and we do that throughout their life cycle."

CalVet serves veterans with the mantra "connected, protected and respected."

"The first point in all of those things is ensuring they're connected with their benefits, and that's what we do every day," said Jones. "I'm just absolutely honored that I'm charged with outreaching to these veterans through every moment that matters throughout their life and then ensuring that they are in a final honorable resting place. It makes me emotional that I have this opportunity, and I am just so thankful that they entrust this very important role to me."

Nick Khin Appointed IGT President, Global Gaming


Nick Khin

International Game Technology (IGT) has named Nick Khin as IGT President, Global Gaming. Khin previously served as IGT Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President, Gaming, since 2015.

In his role as IGT President, Global Gaming, Khin is responsible for managing the IGT Global Gaming business unit, including studios, technology, sales, games and hardware, manufacturing and services, and systems. Khin reports to Vince Sadusky, IGT CEO, and is based in Las Vegas.

"Nick is the obvious choice to lead IGT Global Gaming," said Vince Sadusky, IGT CEO. "Under his leadership, IGT is consistently releasing top games and strengthening its performance in every game category. Nick's knowledge, leadership and passion have earned him the respect of colleagues throughout our industry."

Khin joined IGT in 2013 and led the corporate strategy and mergers and acquisitions functions. He came to IGT with more than 23 years of industry experience including senior executive roles based in Las Vegas, London and Sydney.

Konami Gaming's Lori Olk, Scott Mineo Promoted to Executive Leadership

Konami Gaming has announced key internal promotions to its executive leadership team. Lori Olk has been appointed Senior Vice President, Regulatory Compliance & Chief Compliance Officer; and Scott Mineo has been appointed Senior Vice President, Finance & Accounting.


Lori Olk

Olk joined Konami Gaming as Regulatory Compliance Manager in 2011 and advanced to a senior leadership position within five years. In 2019, she was appointed Vice President of Regulatory Compliance, and later advanced to Senior Vice President, Regulatory Compliance & Chief Compliance Officer in 2024. Olk oversees all licensing and regulatory compliance matters for Konami and carries a key role in ensuring that business practices, policies, and transactions fully comply with governmental regulatory requirements for all jurisdictions where the company operates and leads efforts toward effective resolution as necessary. She has more than 25 years of experience in regulatory compliance.

With over 20 years of financial experience at some of the world's largest companies in gaming and entertainment,


Scott Mineo

Mineo joined Konami Gaming in 2018 as Controller and quickly advanced to leadership of the organization's finance and accounting team. In 2024, he was appointed Senior Vice President of Finance & Accounting to oversee fiscal functions spanning auditing, taxation, financial reporting, payroll, credit/collections and accounts payable/receivable. His process-driven approach and proven best practices deliver consistent improvements to both the internal organization and its global customer base.

"Through their many years of service at Konami Gaming, Lori Olk and Scott Mineo have consistently demonstrated commitment to advancing the company's effectiveness as top-tier global supplier," said Steve Sutherland, President and CEO at Konami Gaming. "This leadership expansion within our executive team helps solidify the foundation for achieving the company's strategic objectives and enduring industry contributions."

Konami Gaming Announces Game Sales Leadership Appointments


Chris Rowe

Konami Gaming has announced the appointment of Chris Rowe as Vice President of North American Game Sales and Shane Thompson to Director of Sales, Corporate Accounts.

Rowe's 20-year gaming career includes executive management and sales leadership experience across Asia, Latin America, Europe, and Africa. In his new role, he is responsible for leading the growth of game sales in the U.S. and Canada.


Shane Thompson

Since 2020, Thompson has been an integral part of Konami's game sales team. His responsibilities as Director of Sales focus on managing and developing business relationships with key corporate casino organizations, along with continued focus on Canada.

"For years, Chris Rowe has cultivated an outstanding leadership ability to strengthen customer relationships and achieve growth objectives throughout vastly diverse global markets," said Jay Bertsch, Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer at Konami Gaming. "This senior management appointment, along with Shane Thompson's promotion to Director of Sales, Corporate Accounts, is an effort to further deepen our ongoing commitment to casinos we serve." ♣

Nisqually Red Wind Casino, QCI Partner

Nisqually Red Wind Casino and Quick Custom Intelligence (QCI) have entered a three-year partnership. The collaboration will work to combine technology with hospitality, elevating operational efficiency and refining service quality. QCI's installation process is now underway, with an official launch expected in October.

"We are excited to embark on this groundbreaking journey alongside QCI," said Lorena Flores, Player Development Manager of Nisqually Red Wind Casino. "The QCI platform represents a significant advancement for our host team, and we firmly believe it will not only streamline our operations, but also elevate the standard of service and entertainment we provide to our valued guests. With QCI's innovative solutions, we are confident in delivering an unmatched gaming experience in the southern Washington market. This partnership perfectly aligns with our commitment to excellence and guest satisfaction."

"At QCI, we place great importance on partnerships built on mutual respect, shared vision, and unwavering dedication," said Andrew Cardno, Chief Technology Officer of QCI. "Our collaboration with Nisqually Red Wind Casino exemplifies such a relationship. We have been deeply impressed by the dedication, commitment to excellence, and passion for enhancing guest experiences demonstrated by the Red Wind team. I am proud and excited about the journey ahead, and I am confident that together, we will set new standards within the southern Washington market."

Agua Caliente Casinos Sponsors Coachella Valley Scorpions

The National Pickleball League® has announced Agua Caliente Casinos as official presenting sponsor of the Coachella Valley Scorpions. With the new partnership, Agua Caliente Casinos will be activating special events to celebrate the Coachella Valley Scorpions including watch parties at 360 Sports locations, player and coach meet-and-greet opportunities, off-season mobile pickleball clinics, and various other events revolving around pickleball. The Coachella Valley Scorpions' official uniforms will include the Agua Caliente Casinos logo prominently printed on the back of each player's jersey as well.

"Agua Caliente Casinos are proud to have the opportunity to become the presenting sponsor of the Coachella Valley Scorpions," said Saverio R. Scheri III, Chief Operating Officer at Agua Caliente Casinos. "It's great to support the very first California pro-team in this growing sport."

"I am delighted to announce that our company has forged a partnership with Agua Caliente Casinos as presenting sponsor and community partner," said Rob Zwemmer, Coachella Valley Scorpions, co-owner and CEO. "Everyone in our Valley knows that Agua Caliente Casino is the place to go for fun and relaxation. Together now, we are crafting some incredible plans to deliver fun and excitement into future pickleball events right here in the Coachella Valley that the entire community can enjoy."

The Scorpions currently sit in the top half of the league standings with a 12-6 record with one more regular season event remaining September 13-15 in Houston, TX, before championship weekend October 17-20.

FireKeepers Earns Four AAA Diamonds for 10th Year

FireKeepers Casino Hotel has earned the AAA Four Diamond Designation for the 10th consecutive year. The award reflects the hotel's commitment to service, amenities, and a Vegas-style experience in Michigan.

"Receiving the AAA Four Diamond Designation for the 10th year in a row is a significant achievement for our team," said Mike Criswell, VP of Hotel Operations at FireKeepers Casino Hotel. "This recognition reflects our relentless dedication to delivering a world-class experience for every guest who walks through our doors."

FireKeepers Casino Hotel first earned its Four Diamond status in 2014 and has consistently maintained the designation. The original hotel tower, which opened in 2012, and the subsequent addition of a second tower in 2021, offer a total of 446 rooms.

Cache Creek Casino Resort, San Francisco 49ers Extend Partnership

The San Francisco 49ers and Cache Creek Casino Resort, owned and operated by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, have announced a multi-year partnership extension. Building upon the original partnership launched in 2019, this deal elevates Cache Creek Casino Resort to a founding-level partner.

Highlighting the deal is the new Cache Creek Casino Resort Field Club, a premium club space located at the 50-yard line. Ticketed guests can enjoy a unique, premier, all-inclusive food and beverage experience inside the club. Fans also have the opportunity to step outside and access field-level viewing just behind the 49ers sideline.

Every November, the San Francisco 49ers and Cache Creek Casino Resort will collaboratively celebrate Native American Heritage Month with a month-long tribute, highlighting and honoring Native Americans' rich cultural heritage and contributions.

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the San Francisco 49ers," said Kari Stout-Smith, COO and General Manager of Cache Creek Casino Resort. "This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to providing unparalleled experiences for our guests and fans of the San Francisco 49ers. We look forward to the exciting developments and celebrations that this renewed partnership will bring."

"Since 2019, we have provided several unique fan experiences alongside Cache Creek Casino Resort, from opening a brand-new premium club space to hosting onsite fan events," said Kevin Hilton, Vice President, Corporate Partnerships. "As a fellow provider of premier entertainment in Northern California, we are thrilled to welcome Cache Creek Casino Resort as a new 49ers founding partner. We look forward to continuing our work with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation."

"We are ecstatic to renew our partnership with the San Francisco 49ers, a legendary sports icon in Northern California with a storied history both on and off the field," said Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Tribal Chairman. "This collaboration is a fantastic opportunity to share the rich heritage of the Yocha Dehe with 49ers fans and to introduce them to the exceptional offerings of our Cache Creek and Séka Hills brands. We are excited about the journey ahead and the incredible experiences we will create together."

New Cache Creek Casino Resort stadium signage will be in place for the 2024 NFL season, including prominent placements on a play clock and the prestigious 49ers corporate partner "Ring of Honor" atop Levi's® Stadium.

WinnaVegas Casino Resort Announces Technology Upgrades

WinnaVegas Casino Resort has partnered with Table Trac to launch a project coordinating system upgrades, new promotional kiosks, and mobile technology to consolidate disparate systems and launch cashless wagering, enabled by Koin.

"This is an exciting time for our guests and associates as we make another significant investment in the guest experience at WinnaVegas Casino Resort," said Tom Teesdale, WinnaVegas VP and General Manager. "We look forward to introducing these innovations to our guests and our continued development of the property. We continue to focus on exceeding our guests' expectations, and we will continue to integrate the casino resort concept into the future growth plans of WinnaVegas."

Comanche Nation Casino Recognized as No. 1 Casino in Oklahoma

Comanche Nation Casino has been recognized as the No. 1 Casino in the state at Oklahoma's annual Community Choice Awards. The awards program recognizes destinations throughout Oklahoma that provide exceptional service and experiences to the community and guests.

Award finalists were invited to an awards gala at the Embassy Suites in Oklahoma City. In attendance to accept the award on behalf of Comanche Nation Casino was Shandi Tahhahwah, General Manager, and Megan Norberto, Marketing Manager.

"We are incredibly honored to have received this recognition from our community," said Tahhahwah. "We are grateful for our team members' hard work to give all our guests a fun and exciting experience, including our newest addition of blackjack tables. This recognition reflects our dedicated family, friends and fans and their continued support."

Comanche Nation Casino, one of six Comanche Nation Entertainment properties, is located in Lawton and features over 800 games, including the latest addition of blackjack tables.

The casino and its team members also spearhead a community giving initiative known as the Comanche Cares Foundation. Through the initiative, team members organize charitable events year around, with drives for school supplies, food and toys. Regularly donating to local organizations throughout the community, Comanche Cares serves youth, students, hospitals and local community members.

AGS Stockholders Approve Brightstar Acquisition

AGS stockholders have voted to approve the company's acquisition by affiliates of Brightstar Capital Partners. The vote took place at a special meeting of its stockholders held on August 6, 2024.

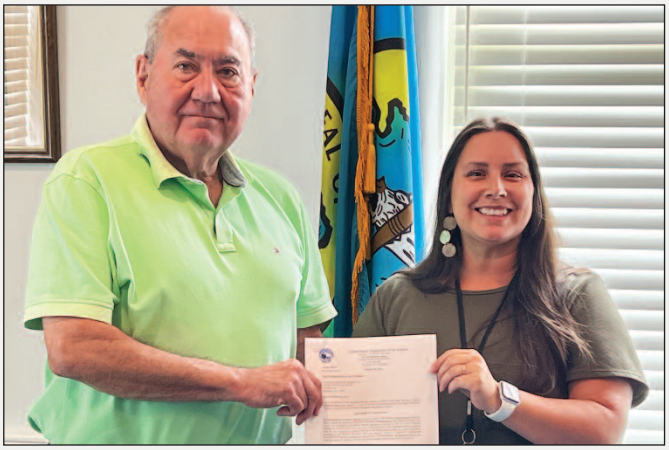
The final voting results of the special meeting will be reported on a Form 8-K filed by AGS with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2025 and is subject to customary closing conditions, including the receipt of regulatory approvals. Upon completion of the transaction, AGS will become a privately held company and shares of AGS common stock will no longer be listed on any public market.

Hell's Kitchen at Harrah's SoCal Earns 2024 *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence

Gordon Ramsay Hell's Kitchen at Harrah's Resort Southern California has been honored with an Award of Excellence for its wine program in *Wine Spectator's* 2024 Restaurant Awards, which celebrate the world's best restaurants for wine. The award recognizes restaurants whose wine lists feature a well-chosen assortment of quality producers along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style.

"We are incredibly honored to be recognized by *Wine Spectator* with this prestigious award," said Ryan Adams, Director of Restaurant Operations. "Since opening nearly two years ago, our team has worked tirelessly to curate a wine list that complements our culinary offerings and provides our guests with a truly exceptional dining experience." ♣

Osage Nation Ranch 41,521-Acre Fee-To-Trust Application Approved



Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Realty Specialist Katie Yates-Free (right) hand delivered the Notice of Decision, signed by BIA Regional Director Eddie Streater, directly to Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffery Standing Bear (left).

The Osage Nation's fee-to-trust application for the 41,521-acre ranch was approved on August 30, 2024. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Realty Specialist Katie Yates-Free hand delivered the Notice of Decision, signed by BIA Regional Director Eddie Streater, directly to Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffery Standing Bear. A fee-to-trust land acquisition, also known as "land into trust," is the transfer of land title from a federally-recognized tribe to the United States, in trust, for the benefit of the tribal nation. It strengthens tribal sovereignty by providing the tribal nation full authority over the trust land.

"This is a momentous day for the Osage Nation," said Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear. "I am humbled and grateful for all those who stayed the course to make this happen. Every day, Osages are working to uphold our sovereignty in various ways, both big and small, and this is the result of those efforts. Our Nation is stronger because of our people and our perseverance in upholding what is ours. We're getting our land back."

According to Yates-Free, an Osage tribal member, this is the second largest fee-to-trust acquisition in the United States' history, following Santa Ana Pueblo's 60,000-acre application.

"I am very proud of this acquisition and all the hard work accomplished by everyone involved," said Yates-Free. "It took the right people, mindset, and heart to get here. It's a great day for the Osage Nation."

In anticipation of this approval, Osage Nation's Secretary of Public Safety Nick Williams said the Osage Nation Police Department has been patrolling the ranch area as part of their jurisdictional area.

"We have been looking forward to it," said Secretary Williams. "Additional law enforcement is necessary and something we've been proactively addressing by patrolling the area as part of our jurisdiction. We already know what it will take, and we are ready."

1,600 Acres Along Missouri River Transferred to Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Roughly 1,600 acres of land along the Missouri River in Woodbury County is being transferred from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska after President Biden signed the Winnebago Land Transfer Act. The Act was passed by unanimous consent by the U.S. Congress.

The land, known as Winnebago Bend Wildlife Area, including the majority of the waterfowl refuge at Snyder Bend Wildlife Area, will become part of the Winnebago reservation. It will be posted with signs stating that Winnebago Bend and the portion of Snyder Bend is no longer open for public use.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources had agreed to manage the land for public hunting and other recreation in 1981.

Governor Newsom Signs Tribal-State Gaming Compacts

Governor Gavin Newsom has signed tribal-state gaming compacts between the State of California and the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and with the Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians of the Sulphur Bank Rancheria, California.

The Governor has also signed an extension of the tribal-state gaming compact between the State of California and the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians.

ADG Issues Event Wagering License to San Carlos Apache Gaming

The Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) has issued a conditional event wagering operator license to the San Carlos Apache Gaming Enterprise (SCAGE) and Plannatech that will allow mobile and online betting for 70 sports and events.

The SCAGE will hold the operator license and Plannatech US will be the SCAGE's license designee. The five-year license was issued Aug. 2. Plannatech is replacing WynnBET as the SCAGE's mobile wagering partner, as WynnBET shut down its Arizona gaming operations in August 2023.

The strategic alliance marks a significant milestone for both organizations as they join forces to enhance the digital wagering experience. Online and mobile betting will be offered throughout Arizona except on tribal lands.

"We are excited to collaborate with Plannatech to bring our wagering platform to a broader audience," said Matt Olin, Chief Executive Officer of SCAGE. "This partnership aligns perfectly with our vision to set new standards in online wagering technology."

"Our new partnership with Plannatech will allow the tribe to continue to benefit from online and mobile wagering," said San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Terry Rambler. "Revenue generated will be used to help increase tribal investments in scholarships, public safety and social welfare on our reservation." ♣

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

September 16-18, 2024
Indian Gaming Association
Indian Gaming Mid-Year Conference & Expo
Tulalip Resort Casino
Tulalip, WA
Email: indiangaming@clarionevents.com
Call 202-546-7711
indiangamingtradeshow.com

September 16-19, 2024
TribalHub
25th Annual TribalNet Conference & Tradeshow
Westgate Las Vegas
Las Vegas, NV
Email: contactus@tribalhub.com
Call 269-459-9890
tribalnetconference.com

September 23-24, 2024
NAFOA
NAFOA 2024 Fall Finance & Tribal Economies Conference
Hilton San Diego Bayfront
San Diego, CA
Email: info@nafoa.org
nafoa.org/conference

September 23-25, 2024
National Native American Human Resources Association (NNAHRA)
2024 NNAHRA 28th Annual Conference
Choctaw Casino & Resort - Durant
Durant, OK
Email: info@nnahra.org
Call 202-264-9758
nnahra.or

OCTOBER

October 2-4, 2024
Arizona State University
Del E. Webb School of Construction
Construction in Indian Country 2024 Conference
Gila River Resorts & Casinos,
Wild Horse Pass - Chandler, AZ
Email: ciic@asu.edu
Call 855-278-5080
ciic.construction.asu.edu

October 7-10, 2024
American Gaming Association
2024 Global Gaming Expo (G2E)
The Venetian Expo
Las Vegas, NV
Email: inquiry@globalgamingexpo.com
Call 888-314-1378
globalgamingexpo.com

October 15-17, 2024
Arizona Indian Gaming Association
AIGA Expo 2024
Harrah's Ak-Chin Hotel and Casino
Maricopa, AZ
Email: info@azindiangaming.org
Call 480-284-4034
azindiangaing.org

October 15-17, 2024
Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Regulators Association (OTGRA)
OTGRA Fall Conference
Grand Casino Hotel & Resort
Shawnee, OK
otgra.org

SAVE THE DATE - 2025

MARCH

March 31 - April 3, 2025
Indian Gaming Association
2025 Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention
San Diego Convention Center
San Diego, CA
Email: indiangaming@clarionevents.com
Call 202-546-7711
indiangamingtradeshow.com

MAY

May 13-15, 2025
SBC Events
SBC Summit Americas
Broward County Convention Center
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Email: info@sbcgaming.com
Call 551-261-3995
sbcevents.com

JUNE

June 2-4, 2025
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Class 2 Gathering (C2G) 2025
Prairie Band Casino & Resort
Mayetta, KS
class2gathering.com

JULY

July 14-16, 2025
Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association
OIGA 2025
Oklahoma City, OK
Call 405-818-7462
oiga.org

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Indian Affairs Announces $1.4 Million Tribal Tourism Grant Opportunity

The Indian Affairs Office of Indian Economic Development has announced the availability of $1.4 million for the Tribal Tourism Grant Program.

"Revitalizing tribal economies and promoting tribal self-determination are key to our aiding tribes in their efforts to improve the quality of life in their communities," said Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland. "Our Tribal Tourism Grant Program supports tribal economic self-determination by helping tribes build their capacity to develop and grow their tourism industry as part of an overall economic development strategy."

Indian Affairs expects to select 10 to 15 projects, which will receive between $75,000 to $150,000 each over two years. The grants are intended to support building tribal capacity to plan, develop and manage tourism and related infrastructure in support of economic development to elevate the living standards of the community.

The grants are authorized under the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act, or NATIVE Act.

Interior Announces $7 Million for Indian Youth Service Corps Projects

The Department of the Interior announced nearly $7 million through the Indian Youth Services Corps (IYSC) for Indigenous-led conservation projects across the nation. The IYSC, launched by Secretary Deb Haaland in 2022, is a partnership-based program helping provide meaningful education, good-paying jobs, and training opportunities to Indigenous youth through conservation projects on public and tribal lands, and Hawaiian homelands. This latest round of projects will further advance the American Climate Corps, the Biden-Harris administration's effort to empower a new, diverse generation of Americans to tackle the climate crisis and become part of a growing clean energy and climate-resilience workforce.

"Since time immemorial, Indigenous people have stewarded our nation's lands and waters," said Secretary Haaland. "Through the Indian Youth Service Corps, the Interior Department is preparing and supporting the next generation of stewards who will make lasting impacts for people, the environment, wildlife and tribal communities across the nation. When we invest in Indian Country, we invest in America. I am thrilled that President Biden's Investing in America agenda invests so significantly in Indigenous communities."

These projects are part of an overall $15 million committed from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to strengthen the IYSC and other corps programs for underserved communities. This investment is expected to grow IYSC partnerships by 30 percent to reach over 5,000 young people, as part of the American Climate Corps. Last year, the Department joined other federal agencies – including the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, Labor and Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and AmeriCorps – in formally entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that established the American Climate Corps Executive Committee to provide leadership and consultation for these efforts.

"In communities across the country, President Biden's American Climate Corps is ensuring that the next generation of Americans is empowered to take on our most urgent climate challenges," said White House National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi. "From sea level rise to prolonged drought conditions, Indigenous communities are facing some of the most intense impacts of the climate crisis – and the investments we are making today will ensure Indigenous youth play a role in developing innovative climate solutions for their communities, while also putting them on a path to good-paying careers."

The projects announced are funded through grants and financial assistance awards made to tribal nations, tribally-affiliated non-profit organizations and other qualified non-profit youth serving organizations working in collaboration with tribal nations. The awards support top Departmental natural and cultural resources mission priorities by developing tribal capacity in conservation, natural resource management, and climate resilience. They also provide tribes and qualified non-profit youth serving organizations with financial resources that enable them to invest in, train and recruit a new generation of skilled Indigenous workers.

The IYSC is implemented by the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce and follows guidelines that were established in consultation with Indian tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and other stakeholders.

The IYSC projects announced will be facilitated through the Department's BIA, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and annual appropriations.

Last year, the Department announced $3.5 million in IYSC grants for eight projects involving more than 20 tribes and tribal organizations. In June, Secretary Haaland met with members of the Barrio Youth Conservation Corps and the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps at La Plazita Institute in Albuquerque, where $250,000 from last year's awards are supporting restorative justice programming and technical training in environmental conservation and natural resource management.

President Biden's American Climate Corps (ACC) is an initiative modeled after Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation. The ACC Hub estimates more than 9,000 American Climate Corps members – nearly halfway to the goal of 20,000 members in year one – are already serving across the country, going to work conserving and restoring our lands and waters, bolstering community resilience, deploying clean energy, implementing energy efficient technologies, advancing environmental justice and more.

Interior Announces $12 Million for Pollution Cleanup on Tribal Lands

The Department of the Interior announced a more than $12 million investment through President Biden's Investing in America agenda to help four tribal nations clean up orphaned oil and gas wells on their homelands. The investment is a critical step in supporting tribal land rights and economic opportunities to address legacy pollution, reduce harmful methane leaks, and tackle environmental hazards that threaten tribal communities. Funding may be utilized to plug, remediate or reclaim orphaned wells on tribal lands, restore soil and habitat in degraded areas, decommission or remove associated infrastructure, identify and characterize additional undocumented wells on tribal land, and set up well-plugging capacity where not already established.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a total of $4.7 billion to address orphaned wells across the country, including $150 million specifically for tribal communities. The Department previously awarded $40 million in grants to 10 tribes in the first phase of tribal orphaned well funding. The announcement brings the total nationwide investment in cleaning up orphaned wells on tribal lands to nearly $52 million. Additional Phase 2 tribal grants will be announced on a rolling basis.

"The Biden-Harris administration is committed to honoring tribal sovereignty by ensuring that tribes are able to make their own decisions about how to address the health and safety needs of their people, improve economic growth, and realize their vision for the future," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "Through the President's Investing in America agenda, we are making millions of dollars available for tribally-led projects that are addressing legacy pollution and creating good-paying jobs."

Orphaned oil and gas wells have the potential to jeopardize public health and safety by contaminating groundwater, seeping toxic chemicals, polluting drinking water sources, emitting dangerous pollutants, and harming wildlife. Methane leaking from many of these unplugged wells is a severe safety hazard and is a significant cause of climate change, being more than 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere.

The Interior Department made $55 million available in the second phase of tribal awards and continues to work with tribes to complete proposals and initiate projects under this opportunity. Tribes also may request direct assistance from the Department, through "In Lieu of Grant" funding, to administer and carry out plugging, remediation and reclamation activities on the tribe's behalf.

In addition to providing historic funding to tribes, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocated over $4.2 billion to identify and address orphaned well sites on state and private lands, and $250 million to identify and address well sites in national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands. Over the past three years, more than $1 billion has been awarded to states and nearly $150 million has been awarded to federal agencies.

Grants through this announcement will be provided in two categories: Implementation and Program Development. Implementation grants support plugging, remediation and reclamation activities for orphaned wells on tribal lands. Other funded activities under this type of grant include pre-plugging assessments and remediation of soil and restoration of habitat degraded by orphaned wells or associated pipelines, facilities, and infrastructure. Program Development grants support capacity-building activities that help tribal recipients prepare for future plugging, remediation and reclamation activities. Program Development funding will assist tribes in locating, inventorying and assessing orphaned wells and in amplifying tribal capacity and expertise through job creation, training and administrative support.

This effort also advances the President's Justice40 Initiative that sets a goal to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities that have been marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Tribal Phase 2 Projects

Caddo Nation of Oklahoma – $3,707,129 – Program Development and Implementation Grants

These projects will verify and assess up to 20 orphaned wells identified in a preliminary inventory during the Program Development phase, identify undocumented wells, and then will use Implementation grant funds to plug orphaned wells and remediate and restore well sites.

Navajo Nation – $4,970,911 – Implementation Grant

Building on assessment activities completed under a Phase 1 award, this project will identify and assess undocumented orphaned wells on tribal land, plug an additional 19 prioritized wells, and remediate well sites. The project will also conduct post-plugging inspections and measurements to verify the lack of gaseous emissions or water contamination from plugged wells and the achievement of vegetation performance standards appropriate to the site's future land uses.

Osage Nation – $1,000,000 – Program Development Grant

This project will build on inventory, assessment, and plugging activities conducted with a Phase 1 award by developing remediation plans that document environmental degradation, map boundaries of contaminated areas, and prioritize well sites that pose the greatest environmental risks on tribal land for future remediation.

Seneca Nation of Indians – $2,500,000 – Implementation Grant

This project will fund plugging of up to 25 orphaned wells in the tribe's Allegany Territory. ♣

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Redding Rancheria Donates $100,000 to Cancer Center



Redding Rancheria recently made a donation of $100,000 to Mercy Foundation North's Regional Cancer Center. The Regional Cancer Center will be built near the intersection of Cypress and Hartnell. The state-of-the-art facility is expected to open its doors in spring 2026. The new center will consolidate various cancer treatment services under one roof, including chemotherapy, radiation treatments, physician appointments, lab draws, imaging scans, and family support services. The comprehensive approach will eliminate the need for patients to travel to multiple locations, providing a healing environment by the river and streamlining their care.

"Supporting the health of our community is at the heart of Redding Rancheria's mission," said Tracy Edwards, CEO of Redding Rancheria. "We believe that the Regional Cancer Center will provide essential, centralized care for cancer patients and their families, greatly improving their treatment experience and outcomes. We are honored to contribute to such a vital project, and we are grateful for the much-needed services that Mercy will be able to provide for our community."

Pechanga Contributes to Charitable Back-to-School Programs

Thanks to the efforts of Murrieta Salvation Army branch and local businesses including Pechanga Resort Casino, 171 kids headed through their schools' doors with new clothes, shoes, backpacks, and supplies as part of the 26th Annual Child Spree program.

"More than 100 community volunteers came to help the 171 children who were assisted in this year's Child Spree event at JCPenney at the Temecula Promenade," said Major James Sullivan of the Murrieta Corps of the Salvation Army. "More than half of our volunteers were from Pechanga Resort. Each child received a gift card for $125 of new school clothing and shoes, plus a new backpack filled with school supplies, to be prepared for the new school year. Pechanga is one of the key sponsors to this important event."

When the store's doors opened to the special group of shoppers, kids took their $125 gift cards, walking alongside their moms or dads and one of 38 Pechanga volunteers, to pick new clothes and shoes. Pechanga's $7,000 gift to the Salvation Army made the event even more possible.

After leaving the department store with their new clothes, the children then made their way over to pick a backpack of their choice filled with back-to-school supplies, as well as books to bring home. Learning and behavior experts say wearing newer and well-fitted clothes can make an enormous difference for kids. Not only do they feel better about themselves, they feel more confident and comfortable, and often perform better in school.

Pechanga Resort Casino team members also collectively donated 110 backpacks and hundreds of school supplies such as pencils, highlighters, erasers and binders to Michelle's Place, a major cancer resource center for the Inland Empire. Pechanga volunteers distributed the supplies to kids and families in August. Kids receiving the backpacks live in households in which an adult currently receives cancer treatment. Parents say with all they have going on, knowing that organizations such as Pechanga are out there who can alleviate even one thing from their plate while they're fighting for their lives is a huge blessing.

Pechanga team members contributed so many backpacks in fact, that Michelle's Place could not take all of them. The extras – 60 backpacks and a pallet of school supplies – were picked up by representatives of the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians, located in rural northern San Diego County, for their youth as they start the school year. ♣





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