

## Novomatic in Gumpoldskirchen, Austria Receives Visit From NIGA



L-R: Novomatic Chief Technology Officer Thomas Graf; NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens, Jr.; Novomatic Chairman of the Board Harald Neumann.

North America is one of the most important markets for the global gaming industry. Novomatic Chairman of the Board Harald Neumann and Novomatic Chief Technology Officer Thomas Graf recently received a visit from Ernest L. Stevens, Jr., Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA). The U.S. is the strongest market for the gaming industry and Indian tribes are among the most important customers of the Lower Austrian technology group.

“It was an honor to welcome Ernest L. Stevens to Gumpoldskirchen and give him insight into our production,” said Neumann. “The National Indian Gaming Association is one of the most important organizations in the U.S. and is an important partner for Novomatic.” Gumpoldskirchen is not only home to the headquarters of Novomatic, but it is also where the latest gaming terminals are produced and exported around the world.

NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens, said, “Novomatic products are known in the U.S. for their state-of-the-art technology, reliability and high quality, and thus it is very exciting for me to visit the company’s headquarters in Lower Austria.” After the visit to Novomatic, Chairman Stevens and NIGA representatives traveled on to London for ICE Totally Gaming, where Novomatic presented their latest innovations and technologies.

## North Star Mohican Casino Resort Earns Travel Green Wisconsin™ Certification

North Star Mohican Casino Resort recently received certification to become a member of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism’s Travel Green Wisconsin™ program, a Green program that supports Wisconsin’s conservation tradition. North Star Mohican Casino Resort shows continued dedication to reducing its environmental footprint in several ways.

The installation of ozone infusers throughout the property has allowed North Star to eliminate the need for countless chemical cleaners. Ozone, a highly soluble gas, is dissolved into water and that water works as a powerful disinfectant. Since removing the need for harsh chemicals, the process allows for a safer method of cleaning for employees and is much better for the environment.

The implementation of new and improved waste and recycling receptacles provide a visual for customers to aid in recycling efforts. They have also been modified by the North Star team for improved employee safety and also result in fewer plastic liners going to the landfill.

The food waste at North Star is taken to a compost site which has been created into a unique community benefit. This environmentally friendly compost program allows local citizens to visit and collect rich organic compost for their own gardening needs.

“On behalf of the team at North Star Mohican Casino Resort, we want to thank Travel Green Wisconsin for this honor of distinction,” said Michael Bonakdar, General Manager of North Star Mohican Casino Resort. “Wisconsin is our home, and we will continue to improve our overall environmental efficiencies with sustainability at the forefront of our minds.”

## San Diego Sports Arena/AEG Management and Pechanga Resort Casino Announce Naming Rights Agreement

The San Diego Sports Arena has a brand new name. The San Diego City Council approved Pechanga as the new naming rights holder of the historic arena. San Diegans and the hundreds of thousands of event goers who visit the arena every year will see the name Pechanga Arena San Diego across the marquee of the iconic building that has hosted some of music’s brightest stars including Taylor Swift, Janet Jackson, Garth Brooks, Queen, and so many more. The city council’s approval solidifies the partnership between the sports arena’s management and parent company, AEG Management SD, LLC and Pechanga Resort Casino of Temecula, CA.

The Pechanga and AEG Management contract is set for five years. The naming rights agreement ensures the venue will continue to be a top destination in Southern California for headline artists, regional sports teams and other entertainment performances.

“We have several partnerships with organizations that are synonymous with Southern California entertainment including the Lakers, the Angels, and Staples Center,” said Pechanga Tribal Chairman Mark Macarro. “Believe it or not, the San Diego Sports Arena is the closest major arena to Pechanga, so when they reached out to us, we were excited

by the opportunity to partner with this historic venue.”

“We are thrilled about this partnership with Pechanga Resort Casino,” said Ernest Hahn, Senior Vice President and General Manager of AEG Management SD, LLC. “The Pechanga name and reputation carries a lot of weight in the entertainment industry. This partnership will afford us new opportunities and ensures that San Diego will continue to receive the best in premium entertainment and sporting events.”

### **Pechanga Spa and Hotel Earns Internationally Recognized *Forbes Travel Guide* Ratings**

Spa Pechanga received a Four-Star rating in the distinguished *Forbes Travel Guide*, while Pechanga’s hotel received a *Forbes Travel Guide* (FTG) Recommended rating. The ratings put Pechanga Resort Casino on the international luxury travel map. Spa Pechanga has only been open for one year. Raters evaluate all properties based on 900 separate, objective criteria. *Forbes* serves as the hospitality industry’s premier standard, creating the original Five-Star rating system in international luxury travel in 1958.

“Last year’s resort expansion allows Pechanga to deliver an even higher standard of luxury travel. Our *Forbes* ratings are a testament not only to our new expanded offerings, but most importantly to the commitment to excellence by our team members,” said Jared Munoa, Pechanga Development Corporation President. “We pride ourselves on consistently delivering excellent customer service, and now we are proud of this recognition for our team.”

“Receiving this prestigious recognition in just the first year of our new spa operation speaks volumes of our team and their level of professionalism, care and detail,” said Thomas Mueller, Vice President of Hotel Operations. “This spa was designed to take the experience to a whole new level. We’re proud to be one of only 25 California Four-Star rated spas.”

### **Northern Quest Resort & Casino Once Again Named Four-Star Award Winner by *Forbes Travel Guide***

*Forbes Travel Guide* has unveiled its annual Star Rating list, naming Northern Quest Resort & Casino as a *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star recommended hotel for the sixth consecutive year. Northern Quest’s La Rive Spa has also earned the Four-Star Rating for the seventh year in a row. Northern Quest will be showcased with all of the Star Rating recipients on *ForbesTravelGuide.com*.

Northern Quest Resort & Casino is owned and operated by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. “Since the beginning, our commitment has always been to make our guests feel special by providing them outstanding service, superior quality and an experience that’s second to none,” says

Nick Pierre, General Manager of Northern Quest Resort & Casino. “We are deeply honored to be continually recognized by *Forbes Travel Guide* with these prestigious Four-Star ratings.”

### **Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa Named Recommended Hotel and Sunstone Spa Named Four Star Spa by *Forbes Travel Guide***

When *Forbes Travel Guide* recently unveiled its annual Star Rating list, Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa was named as a *Forbes Travel Guide* Recommended Hotel and Sunstone Spa as a Four-Star Spa.

This is the second consecutive year that the Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa, a AAA Four Diamond property, has attained the *Forbes Travel Guide* Recommended rating, and also the second consecutive year that Sunstone Spa has attained the *Forbes* Four-Star rating.

“Our hotel and spa continue to receive accolades for the guest service our entire staff offers across all amenities at both of our resort properties located in Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage,” says Saverio R. Scheri III, Chief Operating Officer of Agua Caliente Casino Resorts.

In addition to the luxurious hotel accommodations and spa, the property features the award-winning fine dining restaurant, The Steakhouse, winner of the *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence consecutively since 2007 and a new recipient this year of the AAA Four Diamond Restaurant award; and The Show, the premier concert theater in Southern California that this year celebrates its 10th anniversary of playing host to a legendary lineup of performers.

### **Inland Empire Magazine Readers Name San Manuel Casino Best in Class in Multiple Categories**

*Inland Empire* magazine named San Manuel Casino “Best Casino” in the Inland Empire, and bestowed an additional seven awards in the dining categories during their annual Reader’s Poll for the Best of the Inland Empire 2019.

Every year, readers of the magazine nominate and cast ballots for their favorite Inland Empire establishments, and this year not only did they honor San Manuel Casino as “Best Casino,” but they also recognized its culinary offerings in the following categories:

The Pines Modern Steakhouse was named Best Restaurant, Best Steakhouse and Best Splurge Restaurant; George Lopez’s Chingon Kitchen was chosen as Best Mexican; Rock & Brews at San Manuel Casino took home the Best Burger award; San Manuel’s newest eatery, Just Barbeque was awarded Best Barbeque; and San Manuel Casino’s Executive Chef Jerrold Brooks has been recognized as Best Chef.

“San Manuel Casino is honored to be recognized as the

Best Casino in the Inland Empire, with so many delicious dining options. We strive to provide every guest with a best in class, full-service entertainment and gaming experience,” said Loren Gill, General Manager, San Manuel Casino.

### **Ilani Named Best Overall Casino by *Strictly Slots* for Second Straight Year**

Ilani remained on top in the Pacific Northwest in 2018, receiving numerous awards, and most notably being named “Best Overall Casino” for the second year in a row by *Strictly Slots* magazine. The area’s premiere gaming, dining, entertainment and meeting destination earned several repeat first place awards and also added a few new honors to an ever growing list of accolades.

Ilani was awarded top honors for Best Overall Casino, Best Reel Slots, Best Dollar Slots, Casino Where You Feel The Luckiest, Best Slot Club, Best Player’s Club Lounge and Friendliest all for the second year in a row. In addition to these repeat achievements, Ilani was recognized with a first place award for Best Non-Smoking Area. The remainder of Ilani’s 2018 Best of Slots awards are as follows: Second Place – Best Video Slots, Best Penny Slots, Best \$5+ Slots, Best High-End Slot Area and Best Comps; and Third Place – Best Video Poker and Best Hosts.

### **Legendary Waters Resort and Casino Unveils a First for the Gaming Floor**



Legendary Waters Resort and Casino in Red Cliff, WI recently unveiled what is believed to be the only clock on any gaming floor. “Our brand has always been to escape ordinary and experience legendary,” said Kurt Schmidt, General Manager, Legendary Waters

Resort and Casino. “The fact you can feel the natural sunlight and view panoramic vistas of Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands from certain spots on the gaming floor is already unordinary for most casinos – so sharing a clock for our guest’s convenience is just one more unordinary way to provide that legendary experience. The reasoning behind no clocks in a casino really stopped applying with the advent of smart phones years ago, and we simply decided it was about time for the old no-clocks rule to be put to bed.”

Once the decision was made to display a clock, the casino decided to go big. The clock was installed in a central position, high up on the wall above Guest Services, and is easily seen from most positions on the gaming floor.

“It’s time to have fun again at Legendary Waters,” says Paulette Livingston, Marketing Manager. “Being the very first at something as whimsical as a clock on the gaming floor has been fun to work with.”

### **Golf Advisor Names White Horse Golf Club #1 Golf Course in Washington State**

Golf Advisor recently ranked White Horse Golf Club as the #1 best golf course in Washington State. To determine the courses with the best ratings in 2018, *Golf Advisor* took a combination of courses overall and six subcategory (value, conditions, layout, pace of play, friendliness and off-course amenities) star-rating averages. *Golf Advisor* also created a list of the Top 50 golf courses in the United States and determined White Horse Golf Club to be ranked the 35th best Golf Course. Of the 2,800 golf courses to be considered, White Horse was the only golf course in Washington State to make the list.

“It’s a tremendous honor to have earned this prestigious distinction,” said White Horse Golf Club General Manager and PGA Head Golf Professional, Bruce Christy. “This golf course celebrated it’s eleventh year and all those years of hard work could not have happened without the efforts of the White Horse Golf Club Staff, Port Madison Enterprises Staff and the Suquamish Tribe. This provides a great motivation to proceed in our efforts and reassurance that we’re heading in the right direction, we will continue to hold ourselves to these high standards and provide unparalleled customer service. We are proud of this award and look forward to many years to come.”

### **AGS Celebrates Major Milestone in Table Games Business**

AGS recently announced a major milestone in the history of its table games business as its installed base of table-game progressive products has now surpassed 1,000.

AGS Senior Vice President of Table Products John Hemberger said, “The growth of our progressive installed base has been phenomenal, especially considering that we only launched our table-game division in 2014 and had to build a development team, product portfolio, and sales team from the ground up. The fact that we have been able to reach this level of success so quickly is a true testament to the strength of our customer relationships and their outstanding confidence in AGS. We truly appreciate their support and will continue to innovate in partnership with our customers.”

Foxwoods Resort Casino Vice President of Table Games Wayne Theiss said, “The AGS team delivers innovation, partnership, and outstanding customer service, and has helped us add new levels of excitement to our casino pit. We have over 100 AGS progressive products on the floor,

## Tribal Statement Responding to Briefs Filed in Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Opposing the Indian Child Welfare Act

*A joint statement follows from Principal Chief Bill John Baker, Cherokee Nation; Chairman Robert Martin, Morongo Band of Mission Indians; Chairman Tehassi Hill, Oneida Nation; and President Fawn Sharp, Quinault Indian Nation:*

We are dismayed that opponents of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and tribal sovereignty continued to perpetuate damaging falsehoods in briefs filed [in February] with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit regarding tribal citizenship and the care that Native children receive under the ICWA's landmark protections.

Passed more than 40 years ago by Congress, ICWA was designed to reverse decades of cultural insensitivity and political bias that had resulted in up to a third of all Indian children being forcibly removed from their families, their tribes and their cultural heritage.

ICWA ensures the best interests and wellbeing of Native American children are protected. ICWA preserves the stability and cohesion of tribal families, tribal communities and tribal cultures. As federally-recognized sovereign nations, we have the duty, the responsibility, and the wisdom to protect our children.

The flawed arguments by the plaintiffs and their allies have been rejected time and again by state and federal courts over

the past 40 years. ICWA is not based on race but on the political relationships of individual Native Americans with federally-recognized tribes. The district court's flawed decision potentially upsets a foundational precept of federal Indian law – that the relationship between tribes and tribal citizens is a political one.

Most importantly, opponents disregard decades of evidence and case law that show ICWA's provisions are demonstrably in the best interests of the child. Accepted best practices among child welfare experts – including those in Texas – call for keeping a child with his or her family or relatives whenever possible. ICWA does just that. That is why ICWA is regarded as the gold standard for child welfare and is so strongly supported by preeminent organizations such as the National CASA Association, the National Association of Social Workers, Casey Family Programs and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

We stand with the bipartisan coalition of federal lawmakers, attorneys general from 21 states, and 30 child welfare organizations who have joined 325 tribal governments and 57 tribal organizations in filing numerous amicus briefs urging the Fifth Circuit to overturn the district court's disastrous ruling.

We remain committed to protecting the Constitutionality of ICWA for Native children, families, and tribes. We firmly believe that our rights, and our children's rights, will be affirmed and reinforced. ♣

including Bonus Spin and STAX, and our players love the must-hit-by and community features of these products. We look forward to working with AGS' creative, dynamic team to further enhance our table-game revenues through new progressive features that focus on delivering even more value to our table-games players."

## Legends in Concert to Open Year-Round Show and Theater at OWA

Legends in Concert, the longest-running show in Las Vegas, has announced an all-new residency at OWA, in Foley Alabama's Gulf Coast region. OWA is a world-class, award-winning entertainment destination owned and operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. OWA's design celebrates its rural roots and the area's natural beauty. The intimate 430-seat theater will be located in Downtown OWA, immediately adjacent to TownePlace Suites by Marriott and steps away from Tanger Outlets

in Foley. Set to debut summer 2019, the acclaimed production boasting an incomparable cast of music legends, will bring its 35-year continuously operating musical tribute spectacular to its newly constructed venue in the heart of Baldwin County.

"Legends in Concert was our first choice to be the primary year-round theatrical attraction to headline our new multi-million dollar theater in the heart of Downtown OWA," said Cody Williamson, President and CEO of Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, the division of Poarch Band of Creek Indians that owns and operates OWA. "With their unparalleled collection of seasonally rotating featured artists and other renowned theatrical production ingredients, we are confident Legends in Concert will not only delight visitors, but also be a crucial component to OWA, and the continued growth of Baldwin County and the Gulf Coast's tourism industry." ♣

## Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Receives \$25 Million Gift from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians



The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians gifted Loma Linda University Children's Hospital \$25 million at the 26th Annual Children's Hospital Foundation Gala.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians gifted Loma Linda University Children's Hospital \$25 million at the recent 26th Annual Children's Hospital Foundation Gala, held at the Riverside Convention Center.

Tribal Secretary Ken Ramirez, who presented the gift on behalf of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, said this donation – the largest donation San Manuel has ever made – will forge an even stronger partnership with Loma Linda University Health to move the community forward in health and wellness.

“San Manuel is grateful for the compassion shown to our elders by Loma Linda University Health many decades ago,” Ramirez said. “We are excited about the new opportunities and lifesaving care that the new Children's Hospital will offer to our shared community and loved ones.”

Scott Perryman, MBA, Senior Vice President and Administrator of Children's Hospital, expressed his gratitude for the tribe's monumental gift. “We enthusiastically join San Manuel in a commitment to improve healthcare in our community for generations to come,” Perryman said. “Their generosity will help us transform maternal care to the benefit of each mother and baby that Loma Linda University Children's Hospital cares for.”

The fifth floor of Loma Linda University Health's new adult acute care hospital and Children's Hospital facility will be named the San Manuel Maternity Pavilion in honor of this landmark gift – the second largest gift ever given to Loma Linda University Health. This pavilion will allow Children's Hospital to continue as the leader in high risk birth care in the region, with approximately 50 percent of births at the hospital being high risk.

“It was my honor and pleasure to announce the new San Manuel Maternity Pavilion,” said Kerry Heinrich, JD, CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center. “We are



Tribal Secretary Ken Ramirez accepts the Discovery Lifetime Award from Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, President of Loma Linda University Health.

overwhelmed by this incredible gift they've given us.”

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians were also presented with the Discovery Lifetime Achievement Award, highlighting a partnership and evolving relationship between San Manuel and Loma Linda University Health for more than 100 years.



The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians were honored to receive the Discovery Lifetime Achievement Award.

“The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Loma Linda University Health have shared a mission to enhance the health of children in our region informed by more than a century of friendship,” said Rachelle Bussell, MA, CFRE, Senior Vice President for advancement at Loma Linda University Health. “This most recent amazing gift reaffirms the confidence the San Manuel Tribe has in the vital work we do together to change lives.”

Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, President of Loma Linda University Health, said this monumental gift will empower Loma Linda University Health to go forward into the future. “The coming years will bring monumental changes to Loma Linda University Health, both in the physical landscape and in the practice of health care,” Hart said. “San Manuel's support will have a profound impact on the tiniest, most vulnerable patients from our communities. Loma Linda University Health is inspired by this trust.”