

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Receives Chairman's Leadership Award from the National Indian Gaming Association

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) and FireKeepers Casino Hotel (FKCH) was recently honored by the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) with its prestigious Chairman's Leadership Award.

Tribal leaders welcomed NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens and staff for a visit that included a tour of the award-winning casino and hotel, as well as visits to the tribe's Pine Creek Indian Reservation in Fulton, and The Fire Hub restaurant and Kendall Street Pantry in Battle Creek.

During his visit, Chairman Stevens noted the tribe's work feeding local residents in need as he toured The Fire Hub restaurant, a venture that gives 80% of its profits to local charities, and the adjacent Kendall Street Food Pantry, which shares a building with the restaurant and partners with the South Michigan Food Bank. Both are supervised by FKCH Vice President of Food and Beverage Mike McFarlen.

"I will always remember what you've done with this old fire station," Stevens said. "On the right, we go to one of the neatest restaurants I've ever been in, and on the left we go to a place where people can get the help they need. These are the things that make the world turn for us, and mean a great deal to me personally," adding that he and his family often faced hunger when he was growing up.

At a small dinner for the NIGA visitors, NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck shared his pride at the rare acknowledgement of an entire tribe with the Chairman's Leadership Award.

"To be recognized as a tribe speaks volumes about us for being a nation that does things for good reasons, focusing on community outreach, not just what we can do economically," Stuck said. "I appreciate that it focuses on the wellness and success of the tribe as a whole, instead of an individual, and it shows how keeping true to our community's mission and vision has put us in a good position in these unprecedented times."

Stevens' also gave the award to showcase the FireKeepers Casino Hotel being recently named by Forbes as among the top ten best employers in Michigan. He noted that before the COVID-19 pandemic, casinos comprised the 11th-largest employer in the U.S.

"We are proud of this recognition of our work as an employer of choice," FKCH CEO Kathy George said. "To have both NIGA and Forbes identify us as a premier employer is a clear indication of how we treat our team members and a validation of their dedication to providing every patron with a rewarding experience at FireKeepers."

The NIGA award was also given to highlight the tribe's



L-R: NHBP Tribal Council Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios, NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck, FireKeepers Casino Hotel CEO Kathy George, NHBP Gaming Commission Chair Shirley English, NHBP Tribal Council Secretary Nancy Smit, and National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens.

work with the Native American Heritage Fund, which supports positive Native relationships and imagery – including mascot updates – with local communities throughout Michigan.

"This is foundational work you are doing to help educate America," Stevens said. "I appreciate what you have done to educate the world around you to better understand and appreciate our culture and traditions."

Three Rivers Casino First in Pacific Northwest to Install UV-C Air Protection Against Coronavirus

Three Rivers Casino announced it is bolstering its already-enhanced guest and employee safety protocols with new UV-C air purification disinfection systems at its Florence and Coos Bay casinos. The advanced ultraviolet air disinfection and purification systems, V-PAC™ Pro, are designed and manufactured by Ultraviolet Devices, Inc. (UVDI) and meet both Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) guidelines to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Three Rivers Casino Resort which have reported zero positive Covid-19 cases to-date, have implemented enhanced safety measures at both its Three Rivers Casino properties, including regular surface cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene protocols, face covering protocols for guests and employees and now air purification for smoke and odors and continuous air disinfection.

Dan Condy, CEO for the Three Rivers Casino Resorts, said, "Even before the pandemic we were committed to the highest level of safety and cleanliness for our guests and Team Members and now once installed, these air disinfection systems at both the Coos Bay and Florence casinos will provide an additional layer of protection."

"I am very proud that we are the first on the west coast to be installing this technology," said Richard Colton,

Director of Marketing, Three Rivers Casino Resorts. “It’s even more critical than ever to provide a safe place to play and work. Since our reopening of both properties we have been committed to being the safest place to play and work, and this just shows our continued commitment to our guests and team members.”

Richard Hayes, President, UVDI, added “We are proud that our next generation Air purification disinfection products are a core part of Three Rivers’ ongoing protection for its guests and employees. The Confederated Tribes are not stopping at zero, but continuing to enhance their already-strong Covid-19 protocols. We’re proud to team up with them to protect guests and employees who visit these vital economic and hospitality centers of Oregon’s Central Coast.”

USA Today Honors Agua Caliente Casinos as Top 5 in the 10 Best Readers’ Choice Awards for Best Players’ Club

Agua Caliente Casinos received top 10 honors in *USA Today’s* 10 Best Readers’ Choice awards, coming in at No. 5 in the category of “Best Players’ Club.”

Agua Caliente Casinos’ ACE Club bested some of the biggest names in the casino industry nationwide including Mohegan Sun, Boyd Gaming, and MGM Resorts. The ACE Club makes earning and redeeming points fun and easy with two different casinos to earn and redeem points. Players are also awarded resort credits in addition to their monthly offers making the ACE Club one of the most robust and substantial loyalty programs in the industry. Guests can even earn points for non-gaming activities. Points can be redeemed for free play in the *Forbes* four-star The Steakhouse, the *Forbes* Four-Star resort hotel, or even the *Forbes* five-star Sunstone Spa located at Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa Rancho Mirage. Points can also be redeemed at the *Wine Spectator* honored, The Steakhouse at Agua Caliente Casino Palm Springs as well as all other dining establishments at either of the two casino properties. The ACE Club consists of three tiers, and is free to join for guests 21 years of age and older. The more guests play, the more they can earn exciting rewards such as promotional invites, access to VIP events, concert tickets, and more.

“We would like to thank the readers of *USA Today* who voted for Agua Caliente Casinos’ ACE Club as a top five *USA Today* award winner,” said Darrel Kammeyer, Vice President of Marketing for Agua Caliente Casinos. “Our players have come to love their rewards club that was designed and perfected through their important feedback and loyalty. Our players really appreciate being able to earn and redeem their points and resort credits at all of our gaming and even non-gaming outlets, in both Rancho Mirage or Palm Springs, and soon, they will be able to do so at our third property coming later this year to Cathedral City, CA,” Kammeyer concluded.

Northern Arapaho Tribe to Pursue Sports Betting for Tribal Gaming Facilities

The Northern Arapaho Business Council is pleased to announce the tribe has begun taking formal steps to enable sports betting at the Wind River Hotel & Casino and other tribal gaming establishments.

“With the addition of well-regulated sports betting, our Northern Arapaho Tribe has an important opportunity to enhance the gaming experience at our facilities while generating increased revenue to help fund vital programs and services for the Arapaho people,” the NABC said in a statement. “Tribal gaming officials and the Northern Arapaho Gaming Agency are currently taking the appropriate steps to allow wagers on sporting events, an amenity we are excited to make available to patrons of the Wind River Hotel & Casino and our other tribal gaming establishments.”

In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law that prohibited sports betting outside of Nevada. Already, 22 states and Washington, D.C., have legalized wagers on sporting events in order to tap into the multibillion-dollar sports betting industry. The Northern Arapaho Tribe conducts gaming under authorization of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and does not require state approval for sports betting.

Northern Arapaho gaming officials are in the process of drafting regulations to accompany sports betting. Brian Van Enkenvoort, CEO of the Wind River Hotel & Casino and its related enterprises, said sports betting will help tribal gaming establishments fulfill their mission to create much-needed jobs and fund vital services for tribal members.

“Well-regulated sports betting is an excellent way to make the gaming experience even better for our customers at the Wind River Hotel & Casino and each of our gaming establishments,” said Van Enkenvoort. “This is truly an amenity that sports fans can’t find anywhere else in Wyoming.”

JCM Global Upgrades Intelligent Cash Box (ICB) System at Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort

JCM Global has again expanded its decade-long relationship with Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, upgrading the Intelligent Cash Box (ICB) system to the new ICB 3.0 on the property’s 1,200 electronic gaming machines.

Clearwater Casino Resort was the first casino in Washington to utilize the ICB system and has been an exclusive JCM customer since 2009. With a passion for pursuing gaming’s latest technology, Director of Cage/Slot Operations, Angie Huang, also brought JCM’s iVizion® bill validator and Gen5™ Thermal Printer to the property. The ICB system upgrade, spearheaded by Huang, is the latest example of the incredible long-term partnership between JCM and

Clearwater Casino Resort over the last ten years.

“JCM has been a great partner with Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort for a long time,” said Clearwater Casino Resort General Manager, Rich Purser. “We have been fortunate to have a very forward-thinking slot director, Angie Huang, Port Madison Enterprises Board of Directors, and Suquamish Tribal Gaming Agency. None of this would be possible without their dedication and commitment to work as a team to move us forward in technological advancements.”

“Throughout our long relationship with Clearwater Casino Resort, Angie has provided valuable feedback to our teams as a subject matter expert in casino operations,” JCM SVP Sales, Marketing, & Operations Dave Kubajak said. “As JCM has enhanced our products and systems, Angie has made parallel strides to update the Clearwater Casino Resort floor with our innovative technology. It’s a perfect illustration of what we mean when we say JCM connects, listens, and partners for the long term.”

National Park Service Grant Awarded to Gun Lake Tribe

Gun Lake Tribe’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office has been awarded a Tribal Heritage grant funded by the Historic Preservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior.

The funds awarded through this grant will allow the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to develop an inventory of cultural and historical resources related to Gun Lake Tribe and successfully implement forms, policies and procedures related to the GIS inventory.

“This project will build up the infrastructure on the tribe’s Historic Preservation office in order to support the tribe in protecting cultural and historical resources and asserting our rights as a Sovereign Nation,” says Bob Peters, Tribal Chairman.

Through this project, the tribe plans to develop a process to formally identify and inventory sites within the GIS database of cultural and historically significant sites in order to protect and preserve the sites and resources. This will be the first, most important step to identifying, recording and storing information pertaining to all sites of cultural and historical significance to Gun Lake Tribe.

“We are looking forward to utilizing this grant funding to lay the foundation for our Tribal Historic Preservation Office to build additional historic preservation programs and infrastructure,” states Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Lakota Pochedley, “This project will ultimately lead to us further focus on community outreach and educational programming.”

This project is supported through the Tribal Heritage grant program, which is funded by the Historic Preservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior.

Cache Creek Casino Resort Reopens

Cache Creek Casino Resort reopened to the public on October 12, 2020. Information technology professionals at the resort have been working around the clock to recover from the attack on computer systems that led to a temporary closure on September 20, and are now confident that guests can enjoy the four-diamond experience they have come to expect from Cache Creek Casino Resort.

“In a year that’s been so full of ongoing challenges, I am grateful to put this temporary closure behind us,” said Kari Stout-Smith, COO and General Manager of Cache Creek Casino Resort.

Stout-Smith acknowledged there is still more work to be done. The investigation into the incident that damaged the resort’s systems is ongoing, and staff will be continually assessing to be certain they are well fortified against any future attack. Stout-Smith also reiterated Cache Creek Casino Resort’s commitment to notify affected individuals in writing if the investigation determines their protected data was impacted.

Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium Hosts World War II Bomber Sponsored by Osage Casino & Hotel

The Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium recently hosted a rare World War Two bomber. The B-17G Yankee Lady is a four-engine heavy bombardment aircraft, commonly called a Flying Fortress. The plane, which is based at Willow Run Airport in Michigan, is making the stop as part of its World War II Salute to Victory southern tour. This event is proudly sponsored by the Osage Casino & Hotel.

“As a community rich with World War II history, we are honored to have this rare aircraft plan a day-long visit here,” said Tonya Blansett, Executive Director of The Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium. “There may be only ten airworthy Boeing B-17s left in existence, so it’s quite a thrill for us to have an award-winning example visit Tulsa.”

Blansett said the B-17 is the type of four-engine heavy bomber that initiated daylight strategic bombing in World War II. Its purpose was to fly high and deep into enemy territory striking high-value targets such as munitions factories, oil refineries and military installations.

According to Blansett, 12,731 of these stout aircraft were built between 1936 and 1945. With a crew of ten and defensive armaments of up to 13 fifty caliber machine guns, the B-17 became known as the Flying Fortress. More than 5,000 were shot down over Europe during the historic air war.

“This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and I encourage everyone to come out and see this award-winning, historic aircraft,” said Dave Callanan, B-17 Public Affairs Executive. “Touring the plane or even better, flying on it, will give you a deep appreciation of what our World War II airmen did for us. It is an unforgettable experience.” ♣