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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



FOUR WINDS CASINOS IMPLEMENT EXTENSIVE GREEN INITIATIVES

Per a [press release](#) dated April 19, 2019, The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds Casinos announced that several important green initiatives have been implemented at all four casinos, their restaurants, hotel, and Pokagon Band government offices.

Matt Wesaw, Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, recently outlined the Tribe's commitment to conservation and recycling efforts. "The Skebgyak Zhetthken—'Do it Green' in the Potawatomi language—campaign signifies a commitment to our Mother Earth," Wesaw said. "As of March 1, we eliminated Styrofoam and single-use plastics like straws, cups and cutlery in our Pokagon offices. April 1, we eliminated plastic water bottles, individual coffee creamers and disposable k-cups. Plastic straws and coffee stirrers have been replaced with a biodegradable 100% vegetable fiber product, and all employees are encouraged to carry a reusable cup and mug."

Other green initiatives include:

- Citizens and staff have access to two community gardens and can take part in a government-wide composting program that in 2018 diverted nearly 700 pounds of food waste from landfills and turned it into rich compost soil;
- Partially depleted toilet paper rolls and lightly damaged linens are donated to the Center for the Homeless in South Bend;
- All mattresses once they leave the hotel are recycled. To date, 179 king and 142 queen mattresses have been recycled;

- The Go-Green Program (guests staying more than one night are encouraged to reuse towels and bed linen);
- Kitchen waste is recycled; including cardboard, aluminum, clear glass bottles, raw bone, and residual fats from grease traps; and
- Excess food is donated to Meals for Michiana, a program that partners with local food suppliers to gather edible food that would otherwise go to waste and distribute it to local food banks, pantries and emergency food programs.

Beginning May 1, all straws at all four of Four Winds properties will be replaced with biodegradable straws and by early summer, all cups in the four locations will be converted to biodegradable product. In the employee dining room, all cups will be replaced with reusable cups.

“All of these initiatives underscore just how important it is to us that we protect and honor this planet,” Wesaw said. “We are well aware of how precious this land is and our responsibility to it. We also know the ways in which our businesses can affect it and in all that we do, we are committed to being good stewards of this gift.”

For more information on Four Winds Casinos please click [here](#).

INDIANA PASSES GAMING EXPANSION LEGISLATION

Indiana has passed gambling expansion legislation on April 24, 2019. Prior to passage, the legislation had previously been filed as Senate Bill 552, and was recently moved to House Bill 1015. The gaming expansion is expected to bring around \$75 million into the state, and the bill switch from the Senate to the House was necessary as all revenue-generating bills must come through the House.

The legislation would allow two Gary casinos to combine and move inland and give Terre Haute a

license to build a new casino—increasing Indiana’s current count of 11 casinos and two racinos. Any casino in Terre Haute is subject to the results of a local referendum. The bill also significantly decreased the relocation fee for the Gary casinos from \$50 million to \$20 million. It additionally would legalize sports betting, which passed through both chambers with little to no debate from lawmakers or the public.

One significant change made to the bill includes removing the provision to prevent casino owners from meeting in private with the governor. A recent Indianapolis Star story detailed that Governor Eric Holcomb accepted a paid-for private plane ride last year with the owner of Spectacle Entertainment, the company operating the two Gary casinos. As a result, language that previously allowed casino owners to meet in private with the governor was stricken from the bill on the House floor by Rep. Pat Bauer, D-South Bend.

In addition, amendments to the bill included adding mobile sports betting on computers or phones back into the bill. Sports wagering would not be authorized on e-sports or youth sports and the previous tax rate of 9.5% remained unchanged. It also accelerated the timetable for the two racinos to utilize live dealers from 2021 to 2020.

Sen. Mark Messmer, R-Jasper, who introduced the new language of the bill in conference committee, predicted that the current version will be the final version. “I think we’re 99 percent there,” Messmer said. Messmer was proven correct as both the House and the Senate voted April 24, 2019 to pass the legislation with no additional changes.

The Conference Committee Report with the full details can be found [here](#).

FOUR WINDS ANNOUNCES CHARITABLE SUPPORT FROM GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and Four Winds Casino recently announced that the proceeds from its 2019 Four Winds Invitational Golf Tournament will be utilized to purchase pediatric eye imaging equipment for Beacon Children's Hospital. The imaging equipment allows doctors to examine premature and newborn infants to establish baselines for future eye health.

"To have this sophisticated technology in our facility will save parents and physicians untold amounts of stress by providing them with concrete information regarding the diagnosis and progression of their child's ocular disease," said Larry Tracy, President of Beacon Children's Hospital. "Year after year, the Pokagon Band and Four Winds Casinos have put the health of children and adults of our region first. They support our mission to provide the best possible healing environment for our young patients and their families. We are grateful to the Pokagon Band, Four Winds Casinos, Blackthorn and all of the sponsors of the Four Winds Invitational whose efforts make all of this possible."

Matthew Wesaw, Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians added: "As a nation the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians are committed to the health and well-being of not just our own citizens, but to the health of the communities in which we live. We share the core value with Beacon. It's why we're humbled to be in a position to support Beacon Health System through the Four Winds Invitational." Frank Freedman, Chief Operating Office of Four Winds Casino stated: "We are proud of the continued partnership we have with Beacon Health System. It's an honor to help develop projects and services that give back to the community in such an important way."

The 2019 Four Winds Invitational will be held Friday June 7 through Sunday June 9 at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend and is part of the Symetra Tour –Road to the LPGA. More

information can be found at fourwindsinvitational.com. Previous proceeds from the Four Winds Invitational have supported projects at Beacon Health Center, including the construction of a new Trauma Center for the General Pediatrics Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Newborn Intensive Care unit, and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic. Proceeds have also been used to fund two patient power-load systems for emergency pediatric transport as well as portable radios for use during MedFlight transfer.