

## The Wall Street Journal Selects Tohono O'odham Nursing Care Authority 1 of 15 Top Small Employers in U.S.

The Wall Street Journal named the Tohono O'odham Nursing Care Authority as one of the nation's Top Small Workplaces this fall. The award-winning nursing home and hospice-care program was created in the late 1990s to care for tribal elders so they would not have to leave the reservation to receive long-term care.

Previously, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services gave the nursing home their highest rating. And last year, Harvard University's Project on American Indian Economic Development presented the facility with its Honoring Nations award.

Carolene Garcia, a member of the Tohono O'odham Tribe and Human Resource Director, said, "Our philosophy in part is that if we expect the staff to provide a caring and supportive environment for our elders, we need to ensure that the employees feel that the nursing home is equally concerned about each of them."

This is the third year The Journal has partnered with Winning Workplaces to honor small employers who provide exceptional workplaces for their employees. Many of these employers continued to bolster their hiring, recruitment and professional development efforts so they would emerge from the recession an even stronger organization. The average annual growth rate from 2007 to 2008 for the winners was 18%, according to The Journal news release announcing the 15 awards.

Nearly 630 nominations and 330 completed applications were pared down to 35 finalists. A national panel of management and small business experts chosen by The Journal and Winning Workplaces judged the finalists.

The Tohono O'odham Nursing Care Authority's Archie Hendricks Sr Skilled Nursing Facility and Tohono O'odham Hospice are under the direction of Lee H. Olitzky. He is CEO of WiT<sup>2</sup>, LLC, a management and consulting company with a special focus on tribal elder care.

## Potawatomi Bingo Northern Lights Casino Changes Name

Potawatomi Bingo Northern Lights Casino has changed its name to Potawatomi Carter Casino Hotel. In conjunction with the new name, the property has also unveiled a new logo. Guests will see a gradual transition in the months to come. The new name and logo will be seen paired with a new advertising campaign on billboards and newspapers. On-site signage will gradually change, as well.

"The new logo reflects the recent merge in management between our casino and hotel. For guests, this means a more superior and more fluid customer service experience than in the past," said Potawatomi Carter Casino Hotel

General Manager Cheryl Waube. "It also symbolizes a cohesive merge for the team members."

The name change echoes the voice of casino guests - 98 percent indicated they refer to the property as "Carter" or "Carter Casino." The name change also eliminates confusion with other Midwest gaming properties with the same or similar names.

## Yakama Nation Resolves Economic Stimulus Disbursement Dispute with the NIGC

On November 4, 2009, a federal administrative law judge in Washington, DC signed an order approving a settlement agreement between the Yakama Nation and National Indian Gaming Commission, and thereby resolved a Notice of Violation that the NIGC had issued to the Nation relative to Yakama's economic stimulus disbursement to tribal members in December 2008. The settlement involves a \$5,000 payment by the Nation to the United States in order to fully and finally resolve the matter.

"We are pleased to have resolved the misunderstanding with the federal government regarding the Nation's infusion of necessary monies into our local economy last Christmas, when money was especially tight in our community," said Yakama Tribal Council Chairman Ralph Sampson, Jr. "We are happy that Legends Casino's operations were never disrupted by the NIGC. Our gaming enterprise continues to generate monies to fund governmental operations and services for our people, including Yakama's first gaming per capita distributions this fall."

In 2008, the Yakama Nation General Council passed the Yakama Nation Revenue Allocation Plan, which outlines how gaming revenue must be allocated for governmental operations, social services, and individual payments. The plan was submitted to the Department of Interior for approval on December 11, 2008, yet not approved until February 23, 2009, or within 60 days as required by 25 CFR § 290.19.16. On or about December 19, 2008, the Nation distributed an economic stimulus payment of \$2,000 to each Yakama Tribal member. In October 2009, the Yakama Tribal government began making per capita (per member) distributions equivalent to 40% of Yakama's net gaming revenue for fiscal year 2009-2010.

"Direct payments of net gaming revenue are now being paid into the homes of our tribal families, where help is needed the most," said Chairman Sampson. The Yakama Nation, signatory to an 1855 treaty with the United States, operates Legends Casino to provide jobs to the Yakama Nation and greater Toppenish community.

"The Yakama Nation will do whatever it can to help its citizens and the local economy weather these tough economic times," concluded Sampson. "The Nation's first gaming per capita distributions this fall are one aspect of the Nation's economic recovery plan."