

## Northern Arapaho Tribe Celebrates Grand Opening of Wind River Hotel & Casino

The Wind River Casino recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of their newly built hotel. Northern Arapaho Business Council Chairman Jim Shakespeare called the day a memorable one for all tribal members.

Over 200 people gathered in the casino's entertainment room to hear past and present business council members discuss the economic and social impact the new hotel will have, not only for the tribe, but also for Wyoming as a whole.

Construction on the four-story hotel began in 2009. The 90-room hotel features three suites, a fitness center, a gift shop and the Northern Arapaho Experience Culture Room that will show the past, present, and future of the Northern Arapaho Tribe. The hotel is attached to the Wind River Casino, which is the largest Vegas-style gaming facility in Wyoming. With the addition of the hotel, the Wind River Hotel and Casino is now the largest employer in Fremont County, with nearly 700 employees.

CEO Jim Conrad hopes the hotel will help ease the room shortage that plagues the Riverton and Lander area. "There will be more of a guarantee to come any time and get a room, so that will be nice," he said. Conrad also hopes the hotel will give travelers a reason to make the Wind River Hotel and Casino their day-cation destination. "People throughout the state are going to start using us as their getaway for their wedding anniversary, for birthdays, or just to escape and have an enjoyable evening," he said. Since the opening of the hotel, rooms

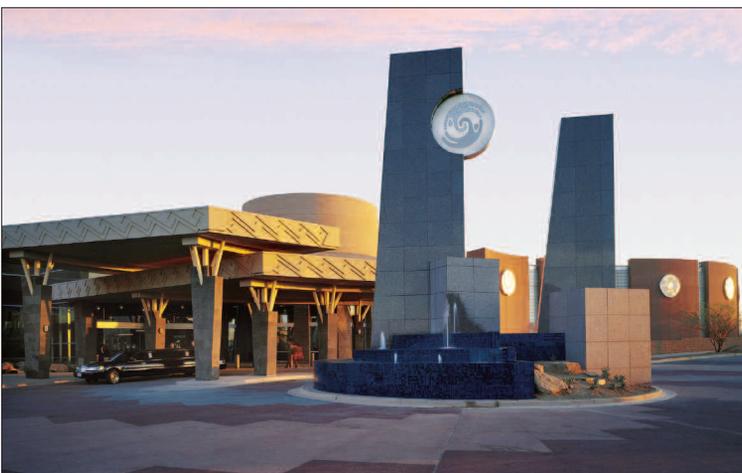


have been filling up fast with visitors traveling from Oregon, Montana and Colorado.

"We provide the ultimate overall experience," Hotel Manager Amber Duran said. "They can stay with us, go take a site seeing trip or play on the floor. They're able to get the best of both worlds." With the addition of the hotel, the casino will provide visitors with a unique gaming experience getaway that only Wyoming can provide. In the future, the casino will begin construction on an additional 90 rooms, a convention center and buffet.

The Wind River Hotel and Casino is owned and operated by the Northern Arapaho Tribe and is located one mile south of Riverton, Wyoming.

## Casino Arizona Begins Construction on New Bingo Hall



Casino Arizona, an enterprise of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, recently announced the property has begun construction on a bingo hall. The expansion project, which began in December, marks a return to bingo for the casino located on Loop 101 and McKellips.

"Casino Arizona is pleased to bring back bingo to our property," said Ramon Martinez, Director of Public Relations for Casino Arizona. "It has long been on the wish list of many of our loyal guests, and we are fortunate to be in a position to accommodate them. Our bingo players will be thrilled to hear the news."

Accomplished architecture firm Seaver Franks Architects AIA designs the new addition. Based in Tucson, the firm is known for deference to the Southwest's rich history and environment. The plan for the 26,000 sq. ft. expansion is for a multi-use room that is primarily used for bingo, but also can be used for large events. The room will seat 1,000 and is being built by contracting industry leader Kitchell Corporation.

"As an independently owned and operated enterprise, it is essential that Casino Arizona chose the right partners to execute this type of project," said Martinez. "Seaver Franks Architects and Kitchell Corporation see our vision and I am confident that they can carry it out." Casino Arizona's new bingo hall is slated for completion in October.

## Viejas Casino Opens New High-Stakes Bingo Room

Viejas Casino recently reached a major milestone with the opening of a new high-stakes, high tech Bingo Room. Tribal elders, tribal leaders, local dignitaries, Chamber of Commerce representatives and the public all joined in the Grand Opening of the new Bingo Room. The ceremonies included a Tribal Blessing, traditional Native American Bird Songs and a ribbon cutting.

The first Viejas Bingo facility opened in 1977 at the Ma Tar Awa RV Park on the Viejas Reservation. In 1994, Viejas Bingo was moved to a location inside the Viejas Casino building, and in 2000, a new structure was built on the east side of Viejas Casino to house the growing bingo operation. That structure will be demolished to make way for the new hotel at Viejas Casino, which will include over 120 rooms, a pool and Jacuzzi area, and other amenities.

The new high-stakes Viejas Bingo Room seats 340 guests, including separate smoking and non-smoking rooms. In addition to the traditional paper sheets and daubers, guests can also choose from portable hand-held electronic bingo tablets and flat screen monitors that allow them to play up to 500 bingo games at a time.



Viejas Casino celebrated the opening of its new High Stakes Bingo Room with a ribbon cutting on March 26, 2012. Tribal members and leaders were joined by Viejas Casino managers and local civic leaders at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Viejas Tribal Chairman Anthony R. Pico said, “We’ve come a long way from the early days of bingo at Ma Tar Awa RV Park. The one thing that has remained constant is the strong support and loyalty of our bingo guests. We are very grateful for that support and we view this investment in a new Bingo Room as a way to say thank you. We think they’ll really enjoy it, and we invite the entire community to come out, visit us and have some fun.”

## Running Creek Casino on Track to Open Memorial Day Weekend 2012



Construction is on track for Northern California’s newest casino gaming facility. Running Creek Casino, an enterprise of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, is being constructed in Upper Lake at a site along Highway 20. The 33,000 sq. ft. casino will feature 349 slot machines, six table games, two dining outlets, a player’s club, and gift shop. The project should add about 145 new jobs for area residents once it is built.

“We’re very pleased to be moving forward with our construction plans,” said Tribal Chairperson Sherry Treppa. “Our goal is to make Running Creek Casino the most exciting gaming facility in the county, and the number one choice for visitors to

the region. We’re right on track to open around Memorial Day. We’re also excited about starting the hiring process and bringing some new jobs to Lake County and the surrounding area.”

“The tribe is excited about creating new jobs here in our community and bringing more money to area businesses, both during the construction phase and after, through partnerships with local hotels and vendors. It is also our hope that this project will allow us to work towards economic self-sufficiency for our tribe, and that we can contribute to the economic success of Lake County and area tourism.”

“As I see the casino structure go up, I’m reminded of the significance of this site,” continued Treppa. “The surrounding foothills were the tribe’s former reservation (564 acres in total) which was lost when our tribe was congressionally terminated in the 50s with the passage of the California Rancheria Act. The tribe’s federal recognition was restored in 1983, but we were landless. Our efforts to restore our land base were fraught with obstacles. The tribe persevered nonetheless, and in 2008 we managed to have 11.24 acres received into Trust.”

Michael Schrader has been chosen as the general manager of the new facility. Schrader has experience opening new casino properties in Michigan and Oklahoma, and has worked in casinos for more than 12 years in a variety of managerial roles. ♣