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Gun Lake Casino and Special Olympics Michigan announce a “winning” partnership for inclusion!

Today, leadership from Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI), Gun Lake Casino, and Gun Lake Tribe gathered to announce a new state-wide partnership, including the presenting sponsorship of the world's largest Special Olympics training facility located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Made possible through a generous \$2.5 million sponsorship agreement from Gun Lake Casino and Gun Lake Tribe, this partnership will support the Unified Sports & Inclusion Center as the premiere facility for all Special Olympics Michigan athletes to train and compete. Gun Lake Casino's investment will allow Special Olympics Michigan to better serve populations with intellectual disabilities across the state by enhancing overall sports competition, expanding critical health and wellness initiatives, as well as growing athlete leadership programs that teach athletes how to translate success in sport, to success in life.

"Gun Lake Casino has been a huge advocate for inclusion in our community, supporting numerous organizations that have put Michigan on the map in exciting ways during the past decade," said Tim Hileman, President & CEO of Special Olympics Michigan. "We are proud to be among their flagship investments that is making this training, competition, and general inclusion center a reality right here in Michigan." Hileman continued, "This partnership between Gun Lake Casino and Special Olympics Michigan shows what happens when we are all truly invested in making Michigan a leader both in inclusion and community."

“Gun Lake Casino has taken a bold step forward becoming a leader in placemaking for the region,” said Sal Semola, CEO of Gun Lake Casino (GLC). “Our investments aim to strengthen the community’s ability to attract visitors, provide unique entertainment, and create jobs. The Special Olympics Michigan Unified Sports & Inclusion Center will do all of that with its ability to host sporting competitions, as well as conferences. Most important to us, however, is that it will do that through the eyes and experience of a truly diverse and inclusive population of people, who will play, learn, and work there. It’s a very unique and important addition to the Western Michigan community.”

Gun Lake Casino and Gun Lake Tribe are no stranger to supporting community efforts, as they have donated nearly \$5 million to West Michigan civic organizations since 2011.

“This partnership with Special Olympics Michigan is a natural extension of Gun Lake Tribe’s commitment to building an inclusive community,” said Gun Lake Tribe Chairman, Bob Peters. “We are proud to join forces with such a powerful movement and help manifest its mission within the Unified Sports and Inclusion Center -- a world first!”

In 2019, Special Olympics Michigan purchased the facility formerly known as the South Christian High School campus, transforming it into the Unified Sports & Inclusion Center. Phase one of construction was completed in December 2022 with 10 tenant organizations currently operating from the facility. Phase two of the project is set to begin in early Summer 2023, which includes the completion of the outdoor sports complex at the facility.

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About Special Olympics Michigan

Special Olympics Michigan Inc. (SOMI) provides year-round sports training and athletic competition to more than 23,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities and Unified partners (athletes without intellectual disabilities). Athletes develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy while participating in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship among their families, Special Olympics athletes, and the community. SOMI is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by corporate and individual gifts and events. The generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals, and statewide businesses enable the program to continue.

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About Gun Lake Casino

Gun Lake Casino, a premier gaming and entertainment destination, is located off Exit 61 on U.S. 131, halfway between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Gun Lake Casino has begun a \$300-million expansion which features a 252 room 4-diamond hotel, a full-service spa, multiple swimming pools inside a 32,000 square foot Aquadome, meeting space, and additional dining options scheduled to open in March 2025. Currently the casino offers a variety of thrilling gaming options, including 2,500 state-of-the-art slot machines, 47 table games, a modern sportsbook, and keno. Gun Lake Casino is also comprised of high-

quality dining amenities, including Shkodé Chophouse with a contemporary take on American cuisine, CBK inspired by the brewery culture in Michigan, 131 Sportsbar & Lounge with over 1,000 square feet of viewing surface for panoramic views of live events, and Harvest Buffet featuring fresh ingredients, cooked to order.

Gun Lake Casino is owned by the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi. Gun Lake Casino is committed to giving back by seeking opportunities to improve the quality of life in the community in which it serves. We believe it is a privilege and responsibility to help build and maintain a positive and healthy community.

About Gun Lake Tribe

The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) has a rich history in West Michigan and close connection to the land. The Bradley Indian Mission, located near Wayland, is the historic residential and cultural center point of the tribal community. The Tribe's ancestors, and political predecessors, signed treaties with the United States government dating back to 1795. The Tribe was re-affirmed to federal recognition in 1999. For more information about the Tribe visit <https://gunlaketribe-nsn.gov/>.