



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 FOUR WINDS INVITATIONAL TO BE HELD JUNE 7-9

Eighth annual tournament will take place at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – February 26, 2019 – The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds® Casinos are pleased to announce that the 2019 Four Winds Invitational will be held from Friday, June 7 through Sunday, June 9 at Blackthorn Golf Club, located at 6100 Nimitz Parkway, South Bend. The eighth annual tournament will feature a field of professional women golfers from around the world competing on the Symetra® Tour – Road to the LPGA®. The 2019 tournament will include 144 golfers who will play for a \$150,000 purse.

“We are proud to bring back the Four Winds Invitational to South Bend for the eighth straight year,” said Matt Wesaw, Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. “The Symetra Tour is an outstanding pathway that grooms some of the best golfers in the world. On a local level, we’ve watched it grow and become an important regional summer event that raises a lot of money for life changing equipment for Beacon Health System—over \$545,000 in seven years.”

In addition to the money donated to Beacon, over \$1 million in prize money has been awarded to athletes playing in the tournament. Entering the eighth year of tournament competition, a handful of current LPGA Tour stars have passed through South Bend on their way to the biggest stage in women's professional golf. That list includes 2015 Four Winds Invitational champion and seven-time LPGA Tour winner Brooke Henderson. In addition, more than 50 golfers who have finished in the Volvik Race for the Card top 10 and graduated from the Symetra Tour teed it up at Blackthorn Golf Club, including 2016 champion Jackie Stoelting.

“The Invitational is a highlight of the summer for many of the Symetra Tour golfers,” said Tim Firestone, Owner and General Manager of Blackthorn Golf Club. “They can see how the community supports the tournament and the various fundraising events that lead up to it. We can’t thank the Pokagon Band and Four Winds Casinos enough for their commitment to them.”

The Four Winds Invitational is one of four Symetra Tour events that are part of the Potawatomi Cup. The Cup highlights the contributions of four member tribes from the Potawatomi Nation who host tournaments throughout the Midwest. As well as the normal purse payout for each event, a total of

\$40,000 in bonus money is available to players based on performance, including \$6,000 to the winner of the Potawatomi Cup.

About the Four Winds Invitational

The Four Winds® Invitational was established in 2012 as part of the Symetra® Tour - Road to the LPGA®, and is sponsored by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and Four Winds® Casinos. It is held at Blackthorn Golf Club, located at 6100 Nimitz Parkway, South Bend, Ind. The tournament features a field of professional women golfers from around the world. More information is available at fourwindsinvitational.com.

About the Symetra Tour

The Symetra Tour is the official qualifying tour of the LPGA Tour and enters its 39th competitive season in 2019. With the support of its entitlement partner Symetra, the Tour's mission is to prepare the world's best young women professional golfers for a successful career on the LPGA Tour. Since Symetra's inaugural sponsorship year in 2012, the Symetra Tour has grown from 16 tournaments and \$1.7 million in prize money to \$4.0 million in prize money awarded over the course of 24 tournaments. With more than 600 alumnae moving on to the LPGA, former Symetra Tour players have won a total of 437 LPGA titles.

About The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' sovereignty was reaffirmed under legislation signed into law by President Clinton in September of 1994. The Pokagon Band is dedicated to providing community development initiatives such as housing, education, family services, medical care and cultural preservation for its approximately 5,000 citizens. The Pokagon Band's ten-county service area includes four counties in Southwestern Michigan and six in Northern Indiana. Its main administrative offices are located in Dowagiac, Mich., with a satellite office in South Bend, Ind. In 2007, it opened Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Mich., followed by Four Winds Hartford in 2011 and Four Winds Dowagiac in 2013. Four Winds South Bend opened January 2018. It owns and operates a variety of business via Mno-Bmadsen, the tribe's non-gaming investment enterprise. More information is available at www.pokagonband-nsn.gov, www.fourwindscasino.com and www.mno-bmadsen.com.

About Four Winds Casinos

Four Winds New Buffalo, located at 11111 Wilson Road in New Buffalo, Mich., Four Winds Hartford®, located at 68600 Red Arrow Highway in Hartford, Mich., Four Winds Dowagiac®, located at 58700 M-51 South in Dowagiac, Mich., and Four Winds South Bend, located at 3000 Prairie Road in South Bend, Ind., are owned by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. Four Winds New Buffalo offers nearly 125,000 square feet of gaming with more than 2,500 slot machines, 48 table games, five restaurants, entertainment bars, retail venues, a pool, and a 415-room hotel, making it the premier gaming resort in the Midwest. Four Winds Hartford features more than 500 slot machines, eight table games, a 74-seat restaurant, and a 15-seat bar. Four Winds Dowagiac features 400 slot machines, seven table games and one restaurant. Four Winds South Bend has over 55,000 square feet of gaming space, 1,600 games, four restaurants, three bars, a players lounge, a coffee shop, a retail outlet and a 10-table, live dealer poker room. For more information on Four Winds Casinos, please call 1-(866)-4WINDS1 (866-494-6371) or visit www.fourwindscasino.com.

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