



For Immediate Release

Special events announced for Four Winds Invitational

Media Day held today at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend

[To view images from today's Media Briefing, click here.](#)

SOUTH BEND, Indiana – May 15, 2019 – The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and Four Winds® Casinos are pleased to outline the schedule of events for the 2019 Four Winds Invitational. The announcement was made today at the tournament's Sponsor and Media Day, held at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend, Ind.

The Four Winds Invitational is part of the Symetra® Tour – Road to the LPGA® and takes place Friday, June 7 through Sunday, June 9 at Blackthorn.

Included in the scheduled events are three separate 18-hole Pro-Ams, which pair professional golfers with amateurs. Other highlights include a 9-hole Daddy/Daughter tournament; Grapes on the Green, a food and wine tasting event; and Women's Golf Clinic 101. The main event, the Four Winds Invitational Tournament, begins on Friday, June 7 at 7:30 a.m. Registration is required for all special events. The main tournament admission is free courtesy of Martin's Super Markets.

The LPGA Symetra Tour brings female golfers from over 30 countries to compete throughout the year to become the next generation of professional golfers. At the end of the Symetra tour, the top 10 money winners "graduate" to become members of the national LPGA tour.

"It's important to point out how fortunate we are as a community to host such a prestigious LPGA event. Ask any of the professional players and they will tell you that the Four Winds Invitational is among the best tournaments on the LPGA's Symetra Tour each year," said Tim Firestone, Owner and General Manager of Blackthorn Golf Club. "An event of this significance simply could not happen without the commitment and support of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians."

"On behalf of all Four Winds Casinos employees, we are proud to once again be the title sponsor for the 2019 Four Winds Invitational," said Frank Freedman, Chief Operating Officer of Four Winds Casinos. "We

look forward to working with the LPGA, Blackthorn Golf Club and all the other sponsors on a successful tournament.”

“Since having our sovereignty reaffirmed in 1994, The Pokagon Band has worked hard to help our citizens and culture flourish through education, good jobs and housing,” said Jason Wesaw, Government Manager for The Pokagon Band. “And as a nation, we’re aware of the needs in the communities we live. This has always been our home, and it’s why we feel so strongly about giving back. In the past 7 years, over \$545,000 raised at this golf tournament has been used to help support children of our community who need, or will need, specialized medical services at Beacon Children’s Hospital. We are proud to continue this support again this year.”

Admission for the three-day tournament is free.

For more information on the Four Winds Invitational, contact Ben Mesaros of Blackthorn Golf Club at (574) 232-4653 or via email, ben@blackthornoperatinggroup.com. Additional information on the Four Winds Invitational is available at fourwindsinvitational.com.

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Event Schedule of the 2019 Four Winds Invitational

Monday, June 3

5 p.m. Daddy-Daughter Pro-Am Tournament

The fifth annual nine-hole Daddy-Daughter Pro-Am is scheduled for Monday, June 3. This is a unique opportunity for fathers to play a round of golf with their daughters along with a future star of the LPGA in a 9-hole scramble. Hot dogs and ice cream follow. All proceeds will benefit Beacon Children’s Hospital in South Bend. Registration is \$50 per player and \$100 for a father-daughter team. Teams can register at <https://www.blackthornoperatinggroup.com/daddydaughter>.

Wednesday, June 5

5 – 7 p.m. Ladies Golf 101 Clinic

This event will feature instruction from LPGA Symetra professionals and practice, a champagne bar, appetizers and a Q&A with the LPGA Symetra players. Sponsored by The Inn at Saint Mary’s, Hampton Inn & Suites, Hilton Garden Inn and The Gillespie Conference Center. The cost is \$40 per person; registration is available at <https://www.blackthornoperatinggroup.com/ladies101>.

Thursday, June 6

5 p.m. Grapes on the Green Wine/Food Tasting

At this unique event at Blackthorn, guests drive golf carts along the course, stopping for special wine or food tastings at each hole. Sponsored by Panzica Building Corporation, the evening ends with a party on the green with live music provided by Shake N’ Chill. The cost is \$100 per pair. *Two people per cart*. All

proceeds will benefit Beacon Children's Hospital in South Bend. Registration is available at <https://www.blackthornoperatinggroup.com/grapesonthegreen>.

Friday, June 7 – 7:15 a.m. Four Winds Invitational begins with Drum Ceremony and National Anthem, followed by Four Winds Invitational Round 1

Saturday, June 8: – 7:30 a.m. Four Winds Invitational Round 2

Sunday, June 9 –

9 a.m. Four Winds Invitational Final Round

11 a.m. KidZone

Family Day will take place at Blackthorn Golf Club during the final round of the Four Winds Invitational on Sunday, June 9. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., activities include the Wings, Etc. KidZone at the Pavilion with crafts, activities, hot dogs and ice cream; golf games and other free family activities at the Blackthorn Golf Club. Open to the public. More information is available at http://blackthorngolf.com/symetra_familyday/.

2 p.m. Closing Ceremonies and presentation of winners' trophies

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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 Nimtz 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 5,600 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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