



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 16, 2018 – The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and Four Winds® Casinos are pleased to announce the schedule of events for the 2018 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 8 through Sunday, June 10 at Blackthorn.

Included in the scheduled events are three separate 18-hole Pro-Ams, which pair professional golfers with amateurs; a 9-hole Daddy/Daughter tournament; Grapes on the Green, a new food and wine tasting event; and Women's Golf Clinic 101. Other highlights include the Four Winds Invitational 5K Run and Fitness Walk and the main event, the Four Winds Invitational Tournament.

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 2018 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.”

“Hundreds of Pokagon citizens live, work and play right here in the city of South Bend,” said Matt Wesaw, Pokagon Band Tribal Council Member at Large. “And as a nation, we’re keenly aware of the special needs in the communities we live. It’s why we feel so strongly about giving back. In the past 6 years, over \$430,000 raised at this very golf tournament have been used to help support children and adults of our community who need, or will need, specialized medical services at Beacon 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 or the special events leading up to the tournament, contact Ben Mesaros of Blackthorn Golf Club at (574) 232-4653 or via email, ben@blackthorngolf.com. Additional information on the Four Winds Invitational is available at fourwindsinvitational.com.

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

Event Schedule of the 2018 Four Winds Invitational:

Monday, June 4

4 p.m. Daddy-Daughter Pro-Am Tournament—NEW DAY AND TIME!

The fourth annual nine-hole Daddy-Daughter Pro-Am is scheduled for Monday, June 4. 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 Hospital in South Bend. Registration is \$50 per player and \$100 for a father-daughter team. Teams can register at http://blackthorngolf.com/symetra_daddydaughter/.

Wednesday, June 6

5 – 7 p.m. Ladies Golf 101 Clinic

This event will feature instruction from LPGA professionals and practice, a champagne bar, appetizers and a Q&A with the LPGA Symetra players. The cost is \$40 per person; registration is available at http://blackthorngolf.com/symetra_fore/.

Thursday, June 7

5 p.m. Grapes on the Green Wine/Food Tasting—NEW EVENT!

At this unique, new event at Blackthorn, guests drive golf carts along the course, stopping for special wine and food tastings. The cost is \$80 per pair with early registration; \$100 per pair on event

day. *Two people per cart, last cart leaves clubhouse at 7:30 p.m.* All proceeds will benefit Beacon Hospital in South Bend. Registration is available at http://blackthorgolf.com/symetra_grapes_green/.

Friday, June 8

7:15am – Four Winds Invitational begins with Drum Ceremony and National Anthem

7:30 a.m. -- Four Winds Invitational Round 1

Saturday, June 9

7:30 a.m. -- Four Winds Invitational Round 2

Sunday, June 10

7:30 a.m. — Four Winds Invitational 5K Run & Fitness Walk

The fifth annual Four Winds Invitational 5K Run and Fitness Walk is held on the cart paths of Blackthorn Golf Club. The starting point is at 3575 Moreau Ct., which is the back entrance to Blackthorn Golf Club. The 5K Run will start at 7:30 a.m. and the Fitness Walk will start at 7:35 a.m. The Fitness Walk is non-competitive and will not be timed. All proceeds from the 5K Run and Fitness Walk will be donated to Beacon Hospital. Participants will receive a goody bag including an official t-shirt.

To register, visit blackthorgolf.com/symetra. The cost for adults is \$25 for the 5K Run, or \$20 for the Fitness Walk. The cost for kids 18 and under is \$10 for either event. After May 25, registration fees are \$30 for the 5K Run and \$25 for the Fitness Walk, and \$15 for kids 18 and under. Late registrants are not guaranteed a t-shirt. Pre-event packet pick-up and late registration will occur at Blackthorn Golf Club's clubhouse from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10 from 6:30 – 7 a.m. More information is available at blackthorgolf.com/symetra.

9:00 a.m. — Four Winds Invitational Final Round

11 a.m. — Family Fun Day

Free Family Fun Day will take place at Blackthorn Golf Club during the final round of the Four Winds Invitational on Sunday, June 10. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., activities include the Applebee's Kid Zone with crafts, activities, hot dogs and ice cream; golf games and other free family activities at the Blackthorn Pavilion. Anyone can attend the Family Fun Day. More information is available at http://blackthorgolf.com/symetra_familyday/.

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

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 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 10-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 16, 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 2,600 slot machines, 50 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 550 slot machines, nine 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 56,000 square feet of gaming space, 1,800 games, four restaurants, three bars, a players lounge, a coffee shop, and a retail outlet. Please play responsibly. You must be 21 years of age to gamble. For more information on Four Winds Casinos, please call 1-(866)-4WINDS1 (866-494-6371) or visit www.fourwindscasino.com. Additionally, be sure to like Four Winds Casinos on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fourwindscasino and follow on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/fourwindscasino.

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