



News Release

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DOWNSTREAM BREAKS GROUND, ANNOUNCES DEAL FOR INCLUDING A 36-HOLE GOLF COURSE AND OTHER NEW DETAILS

(July 31, 2007) – Construction is under way on the Quapaw Tribe’s Downstream Casino Resort located at the Three-States Corner where Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas converge near Interstate 44. Projected opening is Summer 2008.

The tribe hosted a groundbreaking celebration Tuesday and announced new details about the resort, including that it will feature a 36-hole golf course through a partnership with Joplin’s Loma Linda Country Club located less than a mile from the resort. Other details focused on the up-scale amenities of the casino/hotel/spa development, and a vendor agreement with the Joplin Workshop to provide laundry services.

“We can tell you about it. We can show you pictures and plans, and we can take you up for a view from the top. But you’re not really going to understand what a unique and exciting place this will be until you see it for yourself, about a year from now,” John Berrey, chairman of the Quapaw Tribe, said.

Tuesday's celebration included trips by way of a hot air balloon up to the VIP lounge level on the top floor of the 12-story hotel. It offered guests the view from what will be the tallest building in the tri-state region at just under 200 feet above grade.

Downstream negotiated a partner stake in the Loma Linda Country Club so that it could offer guests a greater recreational experience with 36 holes of golf at the pristine courses only a short shuttle ride from the casino and hotel. Bobby Landis, owner and CEO of Loma Linda, described it as a win-win arrangement for all involved.

"This is terrific for all of us," Landis said. "We're looking forward to making some updates and improvements to the courses, and we anticipate picking up a good bit of new business from out-of-state visitors as a result of this partnership with Downstream."

Chairman Berrey said, as pleased as the Downstream partners were with the Loma Linda deal and, along with the spa facilities that will be added in Phase II of the development to provide a full array of resort amenities, he was just as pleased to announce the vendor agreement with the Joplin Workshop, a non-profit laundry and packaging service that employs area citizens with disabilities.

"Working with the Joplin Workshop is a prime example of the way we want to join with the business and civic communities of the entire region," Berrey said. "The Quapaws are from here, and we're here to stay, and the money will remain in this area. It will benefit everyone."

Ron Sampson, executive director of the Joplin Workshop, said it remained to be seen how the Downstream business would affect the Workshop's capacity and resources.

“This is big for us,” Sampson said. “We’ll find out whether we need to expand or whether we can only do a part of that work, but I’d have to say that that is in the category of good problems.”

Construction of Phase I – the casino, hotel, restaurants, shopping space, conference center and swimming pool with space designated later for the spa – will begin immediately, said John Snyder, president of Manhattan Construction Co. of Tulsa.

“The brisk pace of the construction will be unlike anything before. But with no loss of safety or quality because of the project team we have assembled, including a top notch steel erection crew and the accelerated scheduling techniques we are using,” Snyder said. “This is the same steel crew, based out of Kansas City, that worked on the new 18,000-seat BOK Center in Tulsa and erected a very complicated project on schedule.”

Some adjustments were made to the Phase I plan since it was first announced in May. The hotel will have 226 guest rooms and luxury suites, plus the VIP lounge. Its outdoor swimming pool will include a 10,000-square-foot deck. The casino floor will accommodate “at least” 2,000 popular slot machines, 30 table games, 15 poker tables, and a special high-limit area. Convention and meeting space will be 8,800 square feet.

The visual spectacle of the casino floor, with a centerpiece water feature and an overhead suspended feature, will rival some of the country’s best-known up-scale casino resorts. An RV park complete with all hookups will be added to a back section of the parking area. Restaurants, a bar and entertainment venue are getting special emphasis in their design and features to provide a high level of customer service and aesthetic appeal, said G. Michael “Mickey” Brown, the resort’s project manager, who has developed and managed some of the most impressive and successful casinos in the country. Please see the Downstream “Fact Sheet” for more details.