



## THUNDER VALLEY CASINO



by Allan Anderson

### Thunder Valley Casino Brings Gaming Excitement to Northern California

The Sacramento area's newest casino, Thunder Valley, is set to offer Californians the most exciting games in the gaming industry. With 1906 slot and video poker machines and a host of traditional table games, Thunder Valley Casino is a place where Californians will find all their favorite games.

"Loose slots are the name of the game at Thunder Valley Casino," said Jessica Tavares, chairperson of the UAIC Tribe and the Casino's Business Board. The slot floor includes games like Jackpot Party Cash for Life, Hot Properties, Pink Panther, and popular progressive games such as Megabucks and Wheel of Fortune.

"Multiple progressive games are very popular and we've got them at Thunder Valley," said Tavares. "Of course, all players can earn and redeem Boarding Pass points at machines throughout the casino and redeem those points for free meals at any of the casino's dining locales," added Tavares.

In addition to an incredible selection of slot and video poker machines, the casino includes 100 table games, with an Asian Gaming Room set to open this fall that will feature traditional favorites such as Single-Deck Blackjack, Pai Gow Poker, Mini-baccarat, Let It Ride and Three-Card Poker.

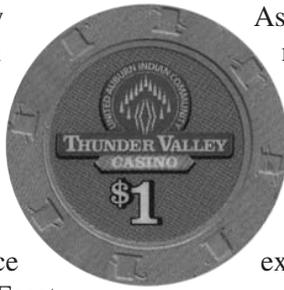
For those who prefer higher-stakes action, the 16,000-square-foot high-limit gaming area is adjacent to the

casino pit. With 10 tables and 50 slot and video poker machines, the high-limit area will cater to those looking for an exclusive gaming experience. Slot and video poker denominations begin at \$5 and include \$10, \$25 and \$100 machines.

The heart and soul of the 75,000 square foot casino area is the ultra-cool Falls Bar that features cascading waterfalls and a sparkling handcrafted crystal chandelier. The 100-seat Falls Bar is located in the center of the gaming pit amid the action of the surrounding table games. The modernistic surroundings of the bar provide a sharp contrast to the stack-stone archways, wrought iron gates and dark woods that are prevalent throughout the property.



Guests at Thunder Valley Casino with an appetite will have a host of different dining options ranging from a first-class steakhouse and a gourmet Asian restaurant to an upscale cafe/bistro, five quick service food outlets and a 500 seat Feast Around the World buffet featuring five “action” cooking stations.



Asian favorites. Fat’s was named “The Best Chinese Restaurant” by the Roseville Press-Tribune, and the Sacramento News & Review called Fat’s “the ultimate local dining experience”.

For those seeking a quick bite or simply to satisfy a fast-food craving, Thunder Valley Casino also includes a food court open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Outlets include the famous Fat Burger, Gordito Burrito, Villa Pizza, Panda Express and the premier coffee company Starbucks.

Thunder Valley Casino also features seven bars including The Thunder Bar, Falls Bar and 3 VIP bars.

Thunder Valley Casino is owned by the United Auburn Indian Community – a federally recognized tribe composed of Maidu and Miwok nations whose aboriginal territory includes Placer County.

With just a brief review of the challenges that have faced the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) over the last half-century, one can easily understand why tribal members eagerly awaited the opening of the much-anticipated Thunder Valley Casino on June 9.

“After many years of struggles, we are set to enter a new and exciting chapter in our history: one that we believe will be marked with renewed hope and economic self-sufficiency,” said Jessica Tavares.

The reestablishment of the United Auburn Indian Tribe began when the Department of Interior documented the existence of a separate, cohesive band of Maidu and Miwok Indians, occupying a village on the outskirts

of the City of Auburn in Placer County.

In 1917, the United States acquired land in trust for the Auburn Band near the City of Auburn and formally established a reservation, known as the Auburn Rancheria. Tribal members continued to live on the reservation as a community despite great adversity.

In 1953, the United States Congress enacted the Rancheria Act, authorizing the termination of federal trust responsibilities to a number of California Indian tribes including the Auburn Band. With the exception of a 2.8-parcel containing a church and park, the government sold the land comprising the Auburn Rancheria. The United States terminated federal recognition of the Auburn Band in 1967.

Finally, in 1970, President Nixon declared the policy of termination a failure. Eight years later, both the United States Senate and House of Representatives expressly repudiated this policy in favor of a new federal policy entitled Indian Self Determination.

In 1991, surviving members of the Auburn Band reorganized their tribal government as the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) and requested the United States to formally restore their federal recognition. An Act of Congress passed the Auburn Indian Restoration Act, which restored the Tribe’s federal recognition in 1994. The

Act provides that the Tribe may acquire land in Placer County to establish a new reservation.



Following consultation with Placer County officials and community organizations, in 1997 the United Auburn Indian Community selected land in the unincorporated area of Placer County. With plans to build a gaming and entertainment facility, the Tribe carefully chose the land in order to meet the economic needs of tribal members as well as the compatibility concerns of the surrounding communities.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors approved a land use contract, known as the Memorandum of Understanding, in order to mitigate impacts from the Tribe's developments. As part of the agreement, Placer County submitted a letter to the United State Department of the Interior supporting the Tribe's application to place the land in trust.

In September 2002, the U.S. Department of the Interior took into trust a 49-acre parcel of property at the corner of Athens Avenue and Industrial Boulevard in the unincorporated area of Placer County for the United Auburn Indian Community.

Thunder Valley was built around one of the most aggressive construction schedules ever seen for a project of this scope and size. Ground was broken on the Tribe's state-of-the-art gaming and entertainment facility on October 26, 2002 and on June 9, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. the facility opened to the public.

Thunder Valley Casino is operated by Las Vegas - based Station Casinos, Inc. through a seven-year management agreement. Station Casinos owns and operates Palace Station

Hotel & Casino, Boulder Station Hotel & Casino, Santa Fe Station Hotel & Casino and the Wild Wild West Gambling Hall & Hotel in Las Vegas, Texas Station Gambling Hall & Hotel, the Fiesta Rancho Casino Hotel and the Wildfire Casino in North Las Vegas, Nevada. The company also owns and operates the Sunset Station Hotel & Casino, the Fiesta Henderson Casino Hotel and owns a 50 percent interest in the Green Valley Ranch Station Casino and Barley's Casino & Brewing Company in Henderson, Nevada.

Chip scans courtesy Paul Sax and Charles Davis