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**FORT MCDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION HOLDS “TOPPING-OUT” CEREMONY ON JUNE 6
FOR NEW CASINO**

Tribal Council members will sign a special commemorative beam and share remarks before the beam is hoisted to celebrate this significant construction milestone

FORT MCDOWELL , Ariz. – May 29, 2019 – The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation invites members of the media to join them on Thursday, June 6, for a special “topping-out” ceremony for their multi-million-dollar, state-of-the-art casino. The historic event will mark a symbolic completion of the structural phase of the building slated to open in spring 2020.

Marking a key milestone in the construction of the soon-to-be We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort that will marry a 166,341-square-foot gaming and entertainment venue with a AAA Four Diamond Award-winning property, the topping-out ceremony will include the signing of a white custom-fabricated beam by Tribal Council members, who will also share their remarks.

Their signatures will join those of Tribal elders, casino project team members, and casino and resort employees who had the opportunity to customize the beam the week before. The fully personalized beam will be topped with a Christmas tree, and will feature both American and Fort McDowell Tribal flags.

“Every beam we lay, and every milestone we achieve, brings us one step closer to realizing our dream of creating an unrivaled entertainment, gaming and dining destination for Valley residents and visitors to the area,” said Bernadine Burnette, president of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. “The casino’s topping-out ceremony is a celebration for all of us – the tribal council, our tribal members, our loyal and valued guests, and all the employees who so proudly represent our culture. It’s truly a monumental day for the Yavapai Nation.”

Directly connected to the award-winning resort, the new casino will have up to 1,100 slot machines, 760 bingo seats, an upscale high-limit slot room, table games, and live poker – along with a patio lounge, coffee shop, fine dining restaurants, and 300-seat buffet.

The topping-out ceremony will begin at 8 a.m. on June 6 at the casino construction site located at 10424 N. Fort McDowell Road in Fort McDowell, AZ. Members of the media are welcome.

About the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation is an 889-member Native American tribe that calls Central Arizona’s upper Sonoran Desert home. Located to the northeast of Phoenix within Maricopa County, Arizona, the 40-square mile reservation is a small part of the ancestral territory of the once nomadic Yavapai people,

who hunted and gathered food in a vast area of Arizona's desert lowlands and mountainous Mogollon Rim country.

Fort McDowell Casino and the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center will become the all-new We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort in 2020, a state-of-the-art gaming and entertainment venue with luxurious accommodations and amenities.

The tribe also operates a variety of successful enterprises including We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, Poco Diablo Resort in Sedona, Fort McDowell Adventures, Eagle View RV Resort, Baja Gas and the Tribal Farm.

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