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TUNICA-BILOXI
TRIBE OF LOUISIANA



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
MANAGEMENT CHANGES FOR PARAGON CASINO RESORT**

Marksville, La. (Aug.14, 2014) – The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana announced today that it will not renew its contract with Exceptional Gaming to manage Paragon Casino Resort. The contract was set to expire this month. On an interim basis, Chris Barbry, Paragon's long-time assistant general manager will lead the day-to-day operations of the resort and George Burkhardt, principal of Exceptional Gaming, will serve as interim chief executive officer.

Tribal Council Chairman Joey P. Barbry conveyed his appreciation to the former operators for their 14 years of service. "For more than a decade, Exceptional Gaming has made tremendous contributions to our growth. As everyone knows, Paragon Casino Resort is the economic engine for Marksville and Avoyelles Parish."

Chairman Barbry said that competition from other casinos in the region has had a negative economic impact on operations. No quarterly public distribution of funds were required according to the Tunica-Biloxi's agreement with the State of Louisiana.

"Although no quarterly public distribution will be made, we want to assure our guests, vendors and employees that we are generating sufficient funds to operate our business and provide the excellent customer service that our patrons expect," he said.

For the past twenty years, under its Class III gaming compact, the tribe contributed a total of more than \$30 million paid to Avoyelles parish over the course of the relationship. In addition, Paragon Casino Resort is the largest employer in the parish with approximately 1,300 – 1,600 employees (depending on the season) adding tens of millions of dollars each year into the local economy.

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe has also donated nearly \$4 million since 1994 to various non-profit organizations on the local, regional and national levels. In addition to monetary contributions, Paragon Casino Resort employees have also volunteered their time and talents to local community organizations.

About the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe

The Tunica-Biloxi people first appeared in the Mississippi Valley. In the late 1700s, they settled near Marksville, where they were skilled traders and entrepreneurs. Today, the Tribe has more than 1,200 members throughout the United States, primarily in Louisiana, Texas and Illinois.

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe received federal recognition in 1981 for its reservation within the boundaries of Louisiana. The tribe owns and operates the Paragon Casino Resort, the largest employer in Central Louisiana. Through its compact, negotiated by the late Tribal Chairman Earl J. Barbry, Sr. and the State of Louisiana, the Tribe has been able to assist local governments in the area with its quarterly distribution of funds, totaling more than \$40 million over two decades.

