

## Spirit Mountain launches virtual casino games

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The games that went online Nov. 6 at Spirit Mountain Casino can be played anywhere through the Internet and there is a link on the casino's Web site — [www.spirit-mountain.com](http://www.spirit-mountain.com) — that will bring you there.

These games play like the real thing, except for no bets and no payouts.

"The online experience is a marketing tool," said Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Randy Dugger. "Whether it brings people into the building will take some time to see. We have not marketed it as fully as we will be able to do when we have more information and can see the patterns and preferences of players that we can leverage into brick-and-mortar visits."

iGaming, as the casino calls the gaming experience, keep players interested with the sights and sounds of the casino games, even when they are not in the building.

"Players throughout the Pacific Northwest know Spirit Mountain Casino as Oregon's largest casino and entertainment destination," said casino Advertising Manager Angela LaBarbera in a press release on the new platform. "Now the brand and experience they love has a new destination, one that is as close as their computer, laptop or mobile device."

Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno said at the Dec. 10 Legislative Action Committee meeting that the site has received 10,000 individual hits and 33 percent of those people

came back to register.

"We're getting a real good response," Leno said.

The software program is called nLine, from Australia-based Aristocrat Technologies, and has an international casino following, according to the company. Programs are tailored to individual gaming operations, like Spirit Mountain, to allow marketing on a local or larger scale. Aristocrat also supplies many of Spirit Mountain's onsite machines.

In the last month, some 4,000 have registered to play the iGaming offerings at Spirit Mountain. On average, some 6,500 customers visit the casino daily.

It is too early for the casino to evaluate how many playing online also will visit the casino, LaBarbera said.

"We are giving the site 60 to 90 days to gather information before we sit down and dissect what it all means," she said.

What they know already, however, is "the iGaming site has increased overall traffic to our Web site allowing us to promote our Players Club, dining, lodging and gaming."

About half of the games available online are also on the casino floor. Some of these are 5 Dragons, 50 Lions, Big Red Buffalo, Imperial House, Miss Kitty, More Chilli, Queen of the Nile and Sun and Moon; also table games Hi Lo Solitaire, Jacks of Better, Pro Blackjack and Roulette.

A third-party verification process keeps anyone younger than 21 off the Internet site, LaBarbera said. ■

## Tree lighting



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

With temperatures in the 20s, Tayah Holmes, 4, keeps herself bundled in a blanket to stay warm during the first annual Tree Lighting Ceremony held at the old powwow grounds on the Tribal campus on Wednesday, Dec. 4. About 30 people attended the event. After the tree was lit, Christmas carols were sung. Tribal Elders had the idea to start a tree lighting ceremony to help bring the community together.

Visit the Tribal facebook page to see more photos

## Elder Bingo moved

Elder Bingo will be held at 12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Saturday of the month at the Elders' Activity Center. For more information, contact Elder Activity Assistant Daniel Ham at 503-879-2233. ■

## Help wanted

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's 477 Employment and Training Program and Land and Culture Department have resources that can be utilized along with community members who have a passion for gardening or want to learn the art of agriculture.

If you are a Grand Ronde Tribal community member and want to be a part of the planning, preparation and cultivation of the Tribal garden and orchard site for next year's planting season, contact Barbara Gibbons at 800-242-8196, ext. 2135, or e-mail [barbara.gibbons@grandronde.org](mailto:barbara.gibbons@grandronde.org). ■

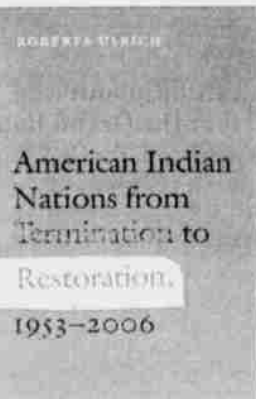
### American Indian Nations from Termination to Restoration, 1953-2006

Roberta Ulrich

When the U.S. government ended its relationship with dozens of Native American tribes and bands between 1953 and 1966, it was engaging in a massive social experiment. Congress enacted the program, known as termination, in the name of "freeing" the Indians from government restrictions and improving their quality of life. However, removing the federal status of more than nine dozen tribes across the country plunged many of their nearly 13,000 members into deeper levels of poverty and eroded the tribal people's sense of Native identity. Beginning in 1973 and extending over a twenty-year period, the terminated tribes, one by one, persuaded Congress to restore their ties to the federal government. Nonetheless, so much damage had been done that even today the restored tribes struggle to overcome the problems created by those terminations a half century ago.

Roberta Ulrich provides a concise overview of all the terminations and restorations of Native American tribes from 1953 to 2006 and explores the enduring policy implications for Native peoples. This is the first book to consider all the terminations and restorations in the twentieth century as part of continuing policy while detailing some of the individual tribal differences. Drawing from Congressional records, interviews with tribal members, and other primary sources, Ulrich delves into the causes and effects of termination and restoration from both sides.

Roberta Ulrich is a retired newspaper reporter. She is the author of *Empty Nets: Indians, Dams, and the Columbia River*.



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