

Spirit Mountain Casino remodel begins

By Angela Sears

Advertising supervisor

Spirit Mountain Casino has started an elaborate remodeling project that will bring a new level of comfort and sophistication to the 20-year-old property.

The yearlong remodeling project will give the casino an entirely new look and feel, adding more excitement to the casino floor with new finishes and carpet, visually pleasing lighting displays and ceiling fixtures, a convenient new entrance and a new casino bar.

Guests have already started to see things change throughout the casino. The Poker Room was temporarily relocated to make room for a new, convenient entrance located at the north end of the casino. Because the entrance will take guests directly on to the main gaming floor, it is limited to guests who are 21 years of age or older.

Another new addition is the North Bar, located just inside the new North Entrance area. This lavish addition to the gaming floor will offer guests slot machine gaming and a full bar.

Perhaps the biggest part of the project is the conversion of The

Peak gaming area into Oregon's first non-smoking full casino. The Peak will feature 600 slot machines, table games, poker, keno and a bar, but will not allow smoking.

"We're looking forward to the upcoming renovations at Spirit Mountain Casino," says Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno. "Revenues from Spirit Mountain Casino help us provide health care and other vital services to our Tribal members, and with an ever-changing market we want to keep our property fresh and exciting for our guests.

"With a new look and new state-of-the-art machines, we're looking to provide guests with an enjoyable atmosphere and world-class gaming experience for years to come. There's no doubt in my mind that Spirit Mountain Casino will be among the top gaming destinations for travelers here in the state of Oregon and along the West Coast."

Spirit Mountain Casino opened in October 1995. During its Nov. 4, 2015, meeting, Tribal Council approved a loan not to exceed \$13 million to fund the extensive remodeling of the casino. I-5 Design and Manufacture Inc. of Lacey, Wash., is performing the work. ■



Contributed illustrations

Spirit Mountain Casino has started an elaborate yearlong remodeling project that will give the casino an entirely new look and feel. Above is an artist's illustration of how the new gaming floor will look with the addition of a North Bar (below).



What is an internship?

An internship (full-time/part-time) is a real-world experience related to your career goals and interests. Internships can be what helps you stand out in your job interviews after college. Most employers look for a combination of formal education and experience. It may, but does not have to be related/connected to your academic major or minor. Not only are you gaining valuable hands-on experience, you are also networking and making connections to professionals in your future career field. CTGR Higher Education encourages students to explore internship opportunities to supplement their college education. ■

Tribe closes on 425-acre property in Marion County

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Grand Ronde Tribe closed on Monday, May 23, on the 425.71-acre Chankawan property that fronts more than a mile of the North Santiam River in Marion County.

According to Tribal Lands Department Manager Jan Reibach, the property is worth more than \$1.27 million and the purchase is being entirely funded by Bonneville Power Administration's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program

The transaction includes more than \$600,000 in operation and maintenance funding from the BPA.

"This is a proud achievement for Grand Ronde, as the Tribe makes further strides in its land ownership and right to manage Tribal natural and cultural resources throughout our treaty homelands," Reibach said. "Both play an important role in the Tribe's sovereignty."

The acquisition brings the Tribe's total conservation acreage to more than 1,124 acres.

"Led by our Tribal Council and funded by BPA, this program protects unique and imperiled habitat for Tribally important species in the Willamette Basin, and restores ceded lands and homeland resources to Tribal ownership and management," Reibach said.

"Through conservation easements over these properties, the Tribe actively manages them to restore, protect and enhance wildlife habitat. The Chankawan Wildlife Area will focus particularly on spring Chinook salmon, winter steelhead and Pacific lamprey, but will include many other Tribally important plant and animal species as well."

Chankawan means "place of salmon" in the Santiam Kalapuya language. The North Santiam River was historically the single largest-producing tributary for spring Chinook salmon in the whole Willamette Basin system.

Reibach said the area is an important homeland of the Santiam Kalapuya people, located directly across the river from the reservation delineated in the unratified 1851 treaty with the Santiam Kalapuya.

"This project is truly a team effort," Reibach said. "There are many folks to thank for their help and support during the acquisition process."

Reibach thanked Tribal Council, the General Manager's Office, Tribal Attorney's Office, Natural Resources, Public Works & Facilities, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Finance, as well as BPA, the Western Rivers Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Forestry.

"Much work remains before our treaty lands and resources are restored and recovered," he said. "To that end we remain committed to working hard. In the spirit of that effort, today we celebrate the Tribal ownership of the Chankawan property." ■

Canoe Meetings

Hello Community! We would like to invite you all to the Canoe meetings set for this year.

When: June 12

Who: Those people interested in participating in Canoe Journey

Time: 12-3pm (Lunch is provided)

Where: Grand Ronde Tribal Gym

**Please contact Cristina Lara for more information
503.879.2040**