

## Banquet held for Casino's summer youth employees

On Sunday, October 20 an awards banquet luncheon was held for the tribal youth who were employed at the Casino last summer. The Youth Employment Program began last summer as part of a trial program designed by Human Resources to help young people looking to earn extra money during the summer months and gain experience in whatever business aspect they were interested in.

Although they couldn't work directly in the casino, tribal youth were employed in Human Resources, groundskeeping, guest services, and food preparation. There were nine youth in all.

The employees and their families were invited to the banquet facilities in the Casino to receive an award of appreciation. They were given a meal prepared by the restaurant staff at *Legends*.

Hosted by the Casino's Human Resources staff, special presentations were made by Sarah Harvey, Mary Brooks, and Camille Mercier.

Those tribal members who received awards were: Courtney Galligher, Marissa Leno, Misty Carl, J.R. Jones, Brian Krehbiel, Nick Bailey, Manny Mercier, Bobby Mercier, and Ben Bishop.

The success of the Summer Youth Employment Program prompted planning for a youth program during the school year as well. Look for more information on this new program in future *Smoke Signals*.



### Employee Spotlight

## Rich Haller supervises table game staff

By Tracy Dugan

Born in Lewiston, Idaho and raised in Oregon, tribal member Rich Haller is the newest pit supervisor at the Casino.

A graduate of Santiam High School in Mill City, Rich joined the Army after high school, where he was stationed at Ft. Schofield in Hawaii.

When he got out of the military, Rich went to Chemeketa Community College in Salem, taking classes for building inspection.

He worked at KG Mens' Store in Salem for several years, where he worked his way up to assistant manager, and eventually manager.

"Living in Salem, I knew the Casino was under construction, and that I wanted to work there," said Rich. "So I quit my job before the Casino's grand opening."

Rich attended the first job fair last year and went through security guard training, thinking that was the employment field he wanted to pursue. Then he heard about a position opening where he would be shift supervisor of the blackjack dealers. He worked for six months as a Pit Boss, and decided he wanted to get some experience in dealing cards himself. Rich enrolled in the blackjack training.

"I wanted to get some dealing experience to better understand what employees do," he said. "Then I requested change in positions and became a dealer."

Rich was a dealer for six months before his most recent job opportunity emerged — Pit Supervisor. He now supervises more than 100 people, from dealers to shift supervisors and is really enjoying himself.

He is responsible for setting up all the schedules, documenting floor activities, monitoring floor supervisors and determining how many tables need to be in operation according to how busy the Casino is. Since blackjack has been very popular among patrons of the Casino, Rich and his team of supervisors and dealers have been very busy.

During the past year, many of Rich's family members have moved back to Grand Ronde. Although he's only in his 20's, Rich says he thinks he'll be very happy working for Spirit Mountain Casino for many years to come. He's found a niche — something he does well and enjoys — which is one way the Casino has benefitted many tribal members.



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