

Tribal Member is New Gaming Inspector

■ Daniel Ham thinks his new job is a thrill.

By Peta Tinda

Despite years at Spirit Mountain Casino, Daniel Ham gets a thrill out of his work.

"There's still an excitement to being around gaming activities," Ham said. "Especially seeing people winning."

Ham is the new Gaming Inspector at Spirit Mountain Casino, a position for which he said he is well suited.

"I like it," said Ham, who has three years of experience in security and two years in surveillance. "I (also) went to Spirit Mountain Security Academy and Clackamas County Public Safety Academy. A lot of the job is similar, but instead of sitting in front of a closed-circuit TV camera, you actually go down and watch it."

In his new position as Gaming Inspector, Ham monitors and enforces compliance with all internal gaming controls, rules and regulations. His other functions include — maintaining a presence at the casino to monitor for compliance with the Tribe's gaming compact with the state, maintaining minimum internal control standards, rules and regulations as well as applicable law.

Ham investigates and reports to the director about any potential violations, investigates any cash variances greater than \$100 and reports findings, responds to and verifies primary jackpots of the wide area progressive system and he must be present when any Gaming Commission seal is broken on any gaming device or progressive controller and is responsible for resealing the gaming device or the progressive controller.

While on the job, he also observes the video lottery terminals or table games drop, fingerprints gaming license applicants and assists in the quarterly audits of the gaming system.

"But the main thing is that it (my job duties) have to be independent of the management of the casino and not be influenced by the management," said Ham. "I also handle patron disputes; disputes over winnings, that sort of thing. Also part of my job is learning all of the table games; I'm certified in craps, blackjack and roulette. To know what's going on, you must know how to do it yourself."

The effect of having a full-time Gaming Inspector will be that the Gam-

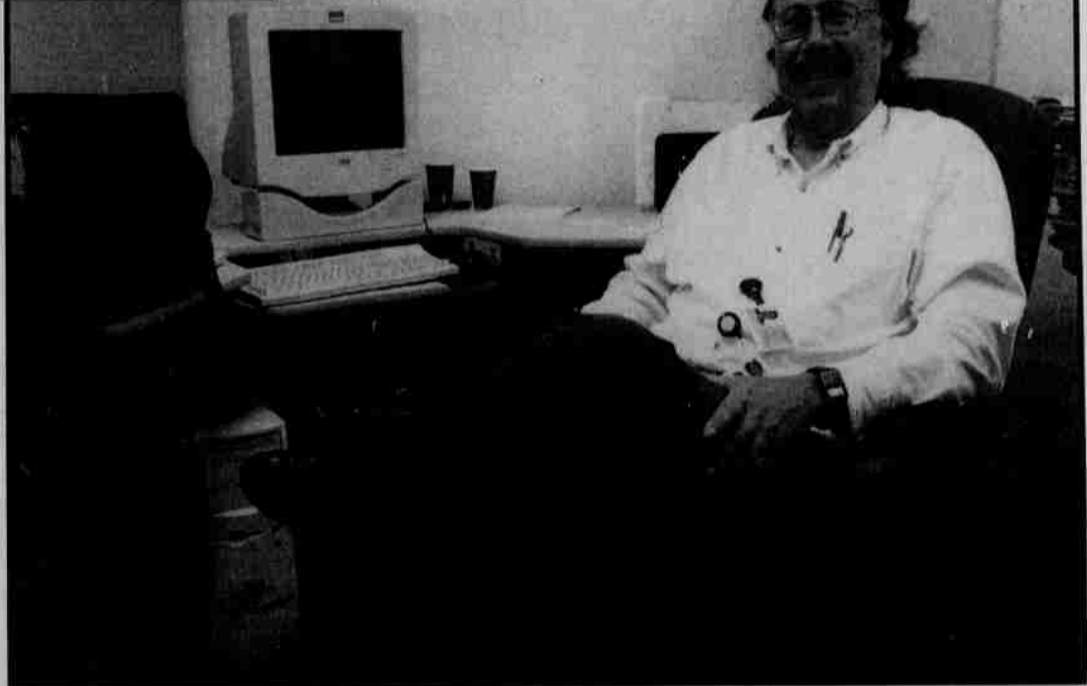


Photo by Peta Tinda

"Success Story" — Tribal member Daniel Ham is the Gaming Commission's new full-time, on-site Gaming Inspector at the Tribe's Spirit Mountain Casino. He is certified in table games, responsible for overseeing security measures on slot machines and charged with monitoring the casino's fair gaming compliance autonomous from the management of the casino and even the Tribal Council.

ing Commission will have more presence at the casino.

"It'll be good to have someone there when the commission is closed, especially on nights and weekends, when there usually isn't anyone there on-site to deal with issues," said Ham.

A typical day for Ham might include doing spot checks at the casino, counting card inventories and overseeing security on controlled items, like cards and dice.

"For instance, we have three craps tables and after each shift, we 'cancel out' the dice, that is, we drill a hole in them," said Ham. "This is so no one can steal the dice and try to 'load' them, which would make them roll the same number repeatedly."

"We have a lot of security on controlled items," Ham said.

When asked to describe himself, Ham said that he would be a good example of how the Tribe and the people of Grand Ronde are making changes from the time before Restoration.

"I'm a success story," said Ham. ■

AFTERMATH — The people of the nation react, pull together

Continued from front page —

Leno, Acting Executive Officer in a memo to staff. "Please take this much needed time to reflect on what has taken place and to regroup and re-charge."

Sheridan resident August "Gus" Smoorenburg, a Dutch Nazi resistance fighter during World War II said he was saddened by the tragic events that took place in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania.

"It breaks my heart seeing the tragedies unfolding in New York and the Pentagon," said Smoorenburg. "Looking at television it amazes me of the similarities of my experiences during WW II, the tone of our President 'We are in a War' and 'We are confronted with the duration and intensity of retaliations against the enemy.'"

"I like to know how the Taliban (the Afghanistan ruling party) can even think to fight the United States knowing that Hirohito and Adolph Hitler could not succeed fighting the United States."

Tribal member Veronica Gaston who lives near the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. described the surroundings as "tense" a week after the attacks.

"Everything is still pretty much closed in Washington, D.C.," said Gaston. "You either have to prove



File Photo

She Had An Idea — In the aftermath of the tragic events on the east coast, Tribal youth Halona Butler got the idea of raising money to help the victims. Butler raised over \$300 through donations from classmates' families for the Red Cross. She took it upon herself to write a letter to fellow classmates and ask for the donations. Halona attends 4th grade at Grand Ronde Elementary. Halona is the daughter of Tribal member Cindy Watkins.

Sad Memories — September 11 rang too true for local Veteran and Sheridan resident August "Gus" Smoorenburg. Smoorenburg, who was a Nazi resistance fighter in WWII, said he was "heartbroken" while watching the morning unfold before his eyes on television news reports.



File Photo

you work there or show identification that you live there to get in."

"All the monuments in Washington, D.C. are still closed," said Gaston. "It's spooky."

Gene Hill, Chief Executive Officer of the Spirit Mountain Development Corporation (SMDC), said they are still in the process of putting together and shipping Sabre-Tool units to New York to help in the removal of the wreckage.

The Tribe and other investors are

still in the progress of getting a complete partnership in place with Sabre-Tool.

On September 17, 2001, Health & Wellness employees Egypt Powley and Tracy Biery went around Tribal offices and collected \$690.06 that will be going to the Red Cross.

Blood and Platelet donors will be needed over the next several weeks to help replenish the nation's blood supply. Call the Willamette Chap-

ter of the American Red Cross at 503-585-5416 if you wish to help. They will direct you to a local blood drive and set up an appointment for you to donate.

To send donations to the Red Cross for assisting victims of the attacks, call 1-800-HELP-NOW.

The Office of Victims of Crime has established a hotline at 1-800-331-0075 to leave contact information to get more details about victims and survivors. ■