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Spilyay Tymoo

(Coyote News)

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Coyote News In Brief

High water hits Sherars

The Flood of '96 left its ugly mark on the lower Deschutes, including the Sherars Bridge area.

2

Home poisonings can be prevented

Homeowners are encouraged to securely store and label potentially dangerous and lethal chemicals.

2

Umatillas assume management

The Umatilla Tribes have assumed management of the Yellowhawk Clinic.

2

Medalists noted

Local youth participated, and medaled, in the annual Special Olympics, held recently in Bend.

3

Martinez is new fire chief

With years of experience, tribal member Danny Martinez became fire chief February 1.

3

More lessons offered

Sahaptin remains the "lesson of choice" this issue.

5

Run down canyon nets good times

Thirty-four brave individuals dared to run the 14.3 mile run between Kah-Nee-Ta and Simnasho March 10.

6

Gardening helps develop children

As a garden grows, children learn the process of development in plants.

7

Heath selected

Martinez Heath was recently selected Employee of the Year for 1995 by Indian Head Gaming.

8

General Council Meeting

March 26

Agency Longhouse Dinner at 6 p.m.

Meeting at 7 p.m.

Agenda: WSFPI

Annual Report

Deadline for the next
Spilyay Tymoo is
Friday,
March 22, 1996

Gala event officially opens Indian Head Gaming Center

From the outside looking in, the "hard" opening, affectionately referred to as the "gala grand opening" event celebrating the official opening of Indian Head Gaming Center, was anything but hard. Events went off without a hitch; everything went smoothly. Hundreds gathered at the Center to take part in the festivities.

The grand opening was for tribal members and invited guests. Most attendees toted water bottles, provided by the gaming center as commemorative gifts, while trying their luck at the 300+ machines or at the newly dedicated poker and blackjack tables.

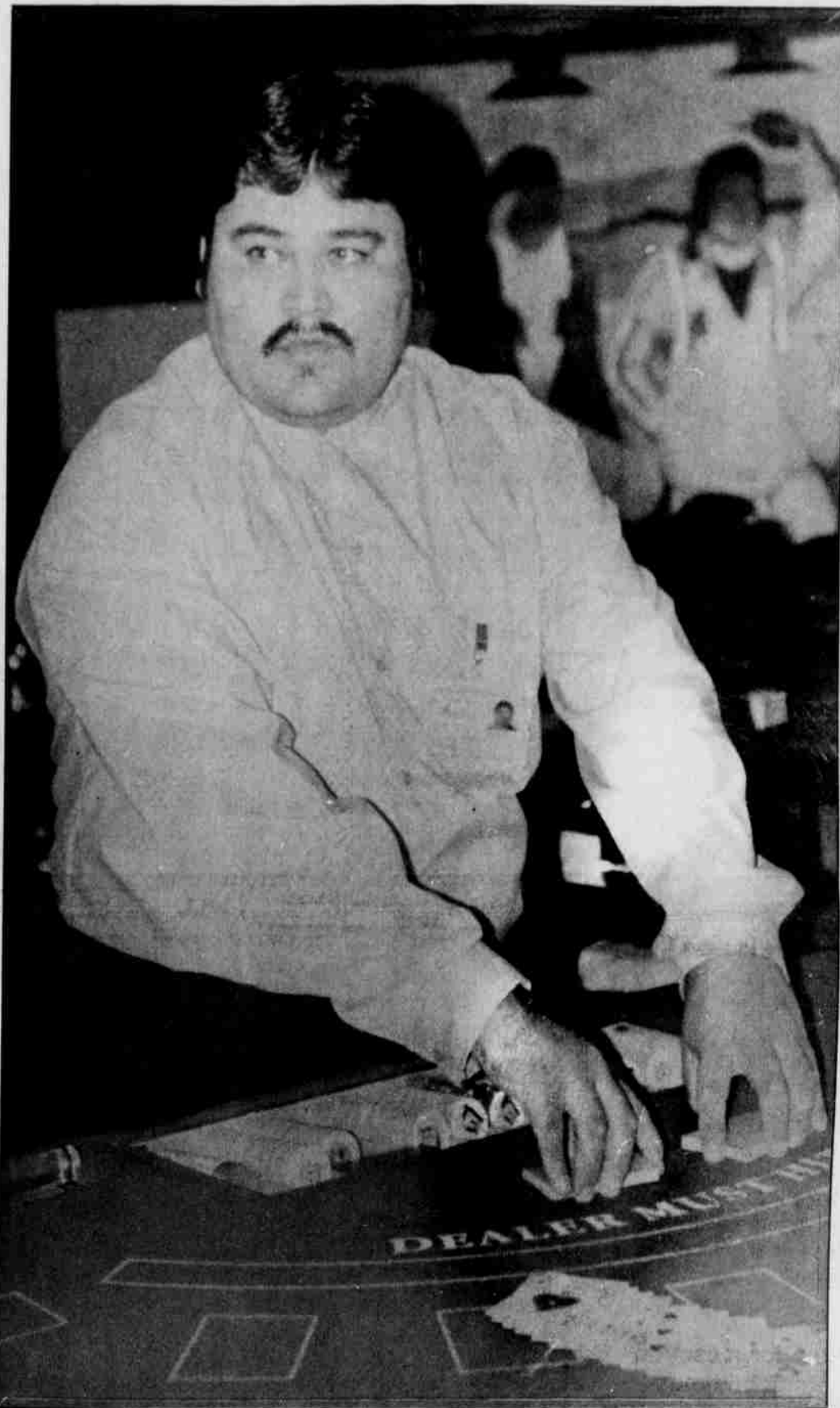
A buffet was served following presentations made by members of the gaming work group, gaming staff and others involved in the initial start-up of the facility.

Dan Brisbois, with 40,640 points, won the slot tournament, earning him \$100 for his efforts. Zilah Flores, with 7,940 points, took home a water bottle as the booby prize.

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Aurolyn Wattlamet, Indian Head Gaming general manager, and Tim Wapato, National Indian Gaming Association executive director, cut the ribbon of the gaming card room.



Tribal member Jamie Smith shuffles cards in preparation for game of blackjack.

Joint effort among tribes will save salmon; work must begin now

Editor's Note: The following summary was prepared by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

In the treaties of 1855, tribal ancestors had the wisdom to reserve their sovereign, aboriginal right to take fish at all usual and accustomed places along the Columbia River and its tributaries. By doing so, the tribal ancestors insured that the life cycles of their people and the salmon would continue to be linked together as they had been for countless generations. The four Columbia River treaty tribes share this history. Together, the areas ceded by the four tribes make up a large portion of the Columbia basin and an even larger portion of the salmon freshwater habitat.

Salmon runs and tribal harvests began to decline almost as soon as non-Indian settled in tribal ceded lands. And when Celilo Falls was flooded in 1957 with the completion of The Dalles Dam, the catch by Indian fishermen fell to almost nothing.

In 1968, 14 members of the Yakama Indian Nation—frustrated by state efforts to restrict their fisheries—sued the Oregon Fisheries Commission. The case was *Sohappy v. Smith*. Because a case brought by individual tribal members can not protect treaty rights or tribal sovereignty, the tribes themselves, along with the United States, were forced to file suit. That case was *U.S. v. Oregon*. The federal judge in the case, Robert Belloni, consolidated the two cases under *U.S. v. Oregon*.

Deciding in favor of the tribes, Judge Belloni ruled that states could only regulate Indian fishing when reasonable and necessary for conservation of the salmon resource; that state regulation must not discriminate against Indians; and those regulations must be the least restrictive means available to achieve conservation goals. Rulings by Judge Belloni and by Judge Boldt in *U.S. v. Washington* also led to recognition of the tribes' legitimate role as salmon co-managers.

In his 1968 decision, Judge Belloni found that each of these four tribes—Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce—had reserved fishing rights at usual and accustomed places. To effectively defend their treaty rights, the tribes created another link among themselves: the formed the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in 1977 to provide technical support and a place and process to coordinate their joint management. Since 1969, the four tribes, their attorneys and biologists have been involved in 35 major legal actions just in *U.S. v. Oregon* proceedings. The tribes have prevailed in 25 of those actions, lost five and had five resolved by agreement with the states.

As a result of litigation including *U.S. v. Oregon*, *U.S. v. Washington* and *Yakima v. Badrige*, the tribal share of the salmon has increased since 1969. But in spite of that greater share, salmon runs and tribal harvests are in dangerous decline. Without dramatic changes in water, land

and fish management, the prospects for salmon are bleak.

To overcome these losses the tribes' four fish and wildlife committees directed CRITFC to coordinate preparation of a salmon restoration plan. The final draft of that plan, *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* (Spirit of the Salmon), was issued. This draft salmon plan recognizes that each tribe is a sovereign government with co-management authority and responsibility for its reservation and ceded lands.

As tribes embark on restoration

efforts, there is a small piece of good news. Thirty thousand more upriver spring chinook are predicted to return this year than last. While the estimated 1,700 spring chinook allowed for ceremonial and subsistence harvest is more than last year's 600, these minuscule catches are nonetheless a matter of frustration and sadness for tribal people. For three years in a row, there have not been enough salmon for spring ceremonies.

In addition to spiritual and cultural hardships, declining runs pose

an economic hardship on tribal fishers. And that hardship should not be overlooked. In 1988, the tribal harvest peaked at 272,000 salmon with a value to tribal fishermen of \$7.9 million. By 1995, the catch of salmon and steelhead had fallen to 42,000, only 16 percent of 1988's catch. Gross revenue to tribal fishermen was only \$239,000, but three percent of 1988's value.

Salmon run sizes have always fluctuated. But the overall downward

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Quality, costs focus of Managed Care program

The Managed Care Program is managed by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Prior to October 1993, it was operated by the Indian Health Service and was referred to as Contract Health Services.

The goal of the Managed Care Program is to make sure that when you see a provider of medical services outside the Health and Wellness Center, such as a doctor or a hospital, that your care is of good quality and at a reasonable cost.

This program has a limited amount of funding, so it is important that it is used efficiently. In fact, there is no guarantee that these funds will always be available. The funds are used mainly for medical services not available at the Health and Wellness Center or to supplement alternate resources, such as private or third party insurance, after they have been used. The use of alternate resources

enables the Managed Care Program to provide additional and improved care for Native Americans eligible for Managed Care services.

Payment to providers of health care outside the Wellness Center can only be authorized by the Managed Care Program. Payments are authorized based on medical priority guidelines and eligibility criteria. These guidelines and criteria are based on those found in the Indian Health Manual, Part 2, Chapter 3. At times, depending on funding available, payment for referrals may be restricted to only the highest priority. Since December 18, 1995, due to the US Government shutdown in late 1995 and early 1996, medical referrals have been restricted to Priority I Level, defined as "Emergent/Acutely Urgent Care Services". During this time, patients and/or their alternate resources were responsible for pay-

ing the provider for Priority Level services not authorized by the Managed Care Program.

The Managed Care Program has received its appropriation for 1996 from IHS and managing medical referrals has resumed. Our staff has been scheduling appointments for the patients whose medical referrals were deferred during the shutdown. If you are one of the patients whose medical referrals was deferred and no longer require the deferred service, contact the Managed Care Program Case Manager at 553-4948.

If you have any questions or concerns about a particular referral, please contact Marcia Boggs, RN, Case Manager in the Managed Care Program office at 553-4948. And, if you need clarification about the above policy, please contact Michael Marcotte, Administrator, at 553-2490.