

Settlement signing



Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah signs the settlement agreement on behalf of the tribes.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs earlier this summer settled a breach of trust lawsuit against the U.S. The settlement amount was \$68 million.

The judge in the case, Judge Edward Leavy, last month hosted a settlement signing event at his farm near

Aurora. The settlement agreement concluded a lawsuit filed seven years ago.

Representatives of the Oregon tribes, the BIA, and the court system were on hand for the signing.

The \$68 million represents the damage amount the Warm Springs tribes claimed as a re-

sult of breach of trust by the U.S.

This was the second-phase of a two-phase lawsuit. The case was originally filed in 2002. Twenty-nine million dollars of the settlement amount is dedicated to natural resource restoration.



Photos courtesy of the Leo Company.

Tribal officials on hand included Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, councilmen Wendell Jim and Rafael Queahpama, Council vice-chairwoman Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham, councilman Austin Greene Jr. and chairman Suppah.

Seminoles agree on new casinos deal

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Gov. Charlie Crist signed a new deal last week to allow blackjack and other banked card games at all seven Seminole Indian casinos — not just the four that the Legislature authorized when setting parameters on the deal last spring.

Still, Crist predicted the Legislature will accept the deal that would provide the state with a

minimum of \$150 million a year for 20 years. Nearly all the money would be used for public schools, state and community colleges, and state universities.

"I believe that it's close enough to what the Legislature wants that it ought to be able to obtain their approval," Crist said. "I hope they will because I know it's good for the kids."

Crist said he expects law-

makers to vote on the proposal during a special session in October.

The Florida Supreme Court last year nullified an earlier compact Crist signed with the tribe because it did not have the Legislature's approval. That deal also allowed blackjack at the seven Seminole casinos, but only guaranteed the state \$100 million a year.

OU to host lectures on native languages

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Linguistics experts at the University of Oklahoma will hold a series of public presentations on the disappearance of indigenous languages.

Some estimate that more than 50 percent of American Indian languages will be lost over the next 20 years.

Linguistic anthropology professor Mary Linn designed a course that will include a series of guest lecturers that are free and open to the public. The course will begin at 7 p.m. on Sept. 8 with a screening of the film "The Linguists" at the Sam Noble Museum's Kerr Auditorium.

Scientists David Harrison and Gregory Anderson, the subjects of the film, will be available for a question-and-answer session afterward.

Anderson is co-founder and director of the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages.

Groundbreaking set for west Mich. casino

WAYLAND TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — An American Indian tribe will break ground later this month on a west Michigan casino.

The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, also known as the Gun Lake Tribe, says ground will be broken Sept. 17 on a \$157 mil-

lion, 83,000-square-foot facility.

The tribe says the planned construction will take 10 to 12 months and is about half the size of the project initially proposed.

Tribal Chairman D.K. Sprague said Thursday the casino may expand as the economy recovers.

The tribe says the facility will boast 1,200 slot machines and 36 table games and will create 600 direct jobs, as well as 750 construction jobs.

A judge last month cleared the way for the tribe to use the land in Allegan County's Wayland Township.

7 Montana tribal colleges given federal grants

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — Seven tribal colleges in Montana have been awarded education and outreach grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The money is part of \$4.7 million in grants distributed among 22 tribal colleges in nine states under the USDA's

Rural Development Tribal College Grant program. Each of the tribal schools in Montana are being awarded \$220,000.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said in a prepared statement that the money would help the schools make much-needed infrastructure improvements.

The Montana schools awarded the grants are: Salish Kootenai College, Little Big Horn College, Fort Peck Community College, Fort Belknap College, Chief Dull Knife College, Blackfeet Community College and Stone Child College.

Yakama casino gave money without fed approval

TOPPENISH, Wash. (AP) — The Yakama Nation Legends Casino could be fined for handing out about \$20.4 million in casino profits to tribal members without federal approval.

The National Indian Gaming Commission told the tribe ear-

lier this week it was in violation of the Indian Regulatory Act for giving \$2,000 to each of its 10,000 members from casino profits in December.

The Yakama tribe submitted a plan last fall to distribute casino profits, but the U.S. Depart-

ment of Interior didn't approve the payment plan until February.

The Yakima Herald-Republic reports the tribe could face up to \$25,000 per offense per day though it was unclear what the fine would be.

Survey to document Indian artifacts

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The Montana Historical Society, along with archaeologist Ruthann Knudson of Great Falls, are inviting residents to help reveal part of the state's past.

Knudson says those with projectile points, other Indian artifacts or knowledge of sites are urged to take part in the survey. A form is available on the Montana Historical Society Web site.

Knudson says the most critical information to provide are digital color photographs of the artifacts.

The Montana survey will become part of the national Paleoindian Database of the Americas. Similar surveys are under way across the U.S., Canada and in Mexico.

A Special Invitation to Our Warm Springs Friends

A Celebration Potluck from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009

at the Oregon City Evangelical Church

1024 Linn Avenue, Oregon City

Celebrating the work accomplishments of O.C. Evangelical Church together with the Warm Springs Tribes over the past five years.

Come prepared to participate and share your memories.

Questions? Call (503) 656-8582.

Anniversary Sale

Sale starts September 1st.

ALL FURNITURE

10% off 15% off 20% off 25% off

SALE

Ralph's Furniture and TV

Selected Electronics and Major Home Appliances also on Sale!

Sale ends September 30 - (Sale applies to all furniture in stock)