

Academy Opening



Glenna DeSouza, academy principal, and students cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony.

Roots education program starting

The Warm Springs Roots program is the new alternative education program serving reservation youth of high school age.

The program is located in room 27 at the old elementary school. If you are high school aged, but not registered at a school, the Roots program is seeking students for the September classes.

If you have dropped out or are behind on credits, stop by the Roots program to see if they can help you make a

plan to get your diploma. Roots is taught by Dawn Smith and Earl Simmons.

Roots will introduce students to different careers in the broad Natural Resources field. The Branch of Natural Resources and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries are partnering in the Roots program.

A practical education that could lead to employment is a key theme of the Roots program.

Farmers market Fridays, Saturdays

The Warm Springs Farmers Market is now Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days on campus.

The market is set up at the corner of Paiute Avenue and Wasco Street. Vendors are invited to set up for free.

Around Indian Country

Court unlikely to give tribe pass on settlement

Insisting that the Yakama Nation must contribute to a master settlement with tobacco manufacturers, an attorney for Washington said the tribe's treaty does not give it carte blanche on tobacco sales.

Otherwise tribal members could go to the state fair and hand out free cigarette samples to minors "because they have this treaty," David

Hankins with the Washington Attorney General's office told a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit.

"Where does it end," he asked.

The hearing last week stems from a Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that Washington and 45 other states entered the with big tobacco companies in 1998 to settle smoking-related ill-

ness claims.

Any tobacco manufacturer that sells products in an MSA state and was not a party to the settlement is required under the deal to pay into an escrow account. It is possible for manufacturers to recover the money if no product-liability claims occurred after 25 years.

The Yakama Nation's King Mountain Tobacco Co. started operating in 2006 and in 2010 requested a ruling from the tribal council as to whether the company was subject to paying the escrow

funds.

The council deemed King Mountain exempt under the Yakama Treaty of 1855, which prohibits the state from collecting tobacco-related fees.

When Washington's attorney general declined to give the company a release, the Yakama and King Mountain filed suit in 2011.

U.S. District Judge Lonny Suko sided with the state, however, finding that "a number of cases" support having tribes pay into the MSA or escrow.

Tribes closely watching land dispute case

Tribes across the nation, as well as the Obama administration, are paying close attention to Big Lagoon Rancheria v. California, an Indian gaming case that will be reheard by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals next month.

An en banc panel of the court will determine whether the Big Lagoon Rancheria can pursue a casino on land that was placed in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1994. Tribes, tribal organizations and the Department of

Justice have submitted briefs in hopes of preventing land acquisitions from being challenged long after they have been finalized.

"The majority's ruling in this case would open the door to time-barred lawsuits, allowing parties to litigate the validity of decades-old trust acquisitions and challenge the United States' property interest in these lands," DOJ attorneys wrote in a brief.

The rehearing will take place on September 17.

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Vocational Rehabilitation in Warm Springs has orientations every Monday at 3 p.m. at their office in the industrial park. Orientations are also held on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at the Community Counseling Center.

Tribal members who graduated in the high school class of 2014 should bring your diploma and transcripts to the Vital Stats office at the tribal administration office. This is a requirement for Trust Fund disbursements. If you have questions, contact Vital Stats, 541-553-3252.

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