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BPA, TRIBES SIGN UNPRECEDENTED AGREEMENT



Hailed as a unique and unprecedented agreement, formal signing ceremonies were held in Warm Springs June 23 which finalized the right-of-way agreement between BPA and the Confederated Tribes. Left to right are BPA Administrator Sterling Munro, Council Chairman Gene Greene, General Manager Ken Smith, and BIA area office director Vincent Little. Sandy Rangila Photo

Formal signing ceremonies in Tribal Council chambers June 23 finalized an agreement between the Confederated Tribes and Bonneville Power Administration which is being hailed as unique because it sets a new standard for dealing with Indian tribes.

The agreement with BPA called for an immediate cash payment of \$4.5 million to the Tribes in exchange for expanded right-of-way through the northern corner of the reservation for the construction of a major high-voltage transmission line.

"This agreement is an important landmark in the development of the region's transmission grid and is also important in that it signals a new era of cooperation between BPA and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs," said BPA administrator Sterling Munro.

Friday's signing of the agreement followed more than a year of negotiations between the BPA and the Tribes after BPA's original offer was rejected by

the Council in May 1976. The significance of the agreement is that it points a new direction for the relationship between the federal government and tribal governments.

According to BIA's Wyman Babbey, the right-of-way issue represented an opportunity in which both sides had an interest. It involved on BPA's part extending to tribal government recognition as a unit of local government and not simply as a landowner.

It required on the Tribes' side recognition that they have an important role to play as part of the northwest community.

"So for different reasons, each party felt a need for finding a way to resolve their differences and lay a foundation for a new type of relationship," noted Babbey.

There was deep concern on the part of the Tribal Council that they not make a mistake with a fixed resource. But as Nelson Wallulatum noted at the

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REFERENDUM SET FOR JULY 11 CREDIT OFFICE SEEKS MORE FUNDS

A referendum set by the Tribal Council for July will decide the fate of the Tribal Credit Department, which has had to cut back on its lending activities recently due to a shortage of funds.

The credit program in asking for an additional \$2 million from the Tribal treasury to be used for short and long term loans to tribal members.

Their last request came in July 1975 when voters elected to

transfer \$1.5 million to the lending fund. Since that time the credit office has increased its activity from 1116 loans for over \$3,107,000, to 1476 loans and over \$5,838,000.

At a general council meeting June 20, Credit Manager Bob Finch explained that inflation and growing demands for credit have caused the department to run short of uncommitted funds for new loans. Finch noted that delinquency in loan repayment

— which is about 3.9 percent — does not account for the problem.

Rather than increase the interest rates on loans, which range from 5 to 9 percent, the credit department is asking the membership for additional funds to keep pace with rising costs and increased credit applications.

If approved, the funds would be used in three areas where the demand has been greatest:

1. To finance the construction of new homes, the resale of existing homes and the purchase of mobile homes.
2. Business and enterprise lending.
3. Auto and personal loans.

Lending has been curtailed since May 23, 1978, and other than loans that were previously committed, new loans are being made only in emergency or personal situations but not exceed-

ing \$500. The number of loans has dropped from 146 in May to just over 90 this month.

A general council meeting has been scheduled for the evening of July 6 at the Simnasho Longhouse to further explain the Credit Department's request.

Voters are urged to turn out at the polls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 11 to decide this important issue.

WEEKEND WRECK FATAL TO BOY

A 15 year-old Gateway youth, Robert R. Ellis, died at the scene of an automobile wreck on Kah-Nee-Ta Road near milepost 4.8 Sunday, June 25, at about 6:05 p.m. The passenger in a car driven by 17 year-old Patsy McClelland, Ellis appeared to have died instantly of massive head and neck injuries.

McClelland, who is home recuperating now, was admitted to St. Charles Medical Center in

Bend for broken ribs and other injuries.

According to police, the car apparently lost control and skidded sideways into an oncoming car driven by Michael Frank, 24, of Warm Springs. Although Frank and a passenger Elaine Allen received only minor injuries, another passenger, Jennie Celestine of Wapato, Washington was taken to Bend with a broken jaw and facial cuts.

Police had been searching for, and have now identified, a dark-colored car which witnesses described as having nearly been involved in the accident. The car was traveling toward Warm Springs and, although police would not disclose further information, they did say it was not involved, nor did it cause the accident.

An individual who is still being sought by police flagged down a Longview, Washington pickup, loaded the fatally injured boy and other victims into the vehicle; then left the scene.

The driver of the pickup brought the accident victims to the Warm Springs Police Station where they were taken by ambulance to Mt. View Hospital in Madras.

Police also now have a description of the man who flagged down the pickup and moved the victims. He is a white male, about 6' 2" tall with dark

brown hair. He was driving a small dark-green car, and his wife was with him, say police.

According to special investigator Richard Montee, an accident fatality should never be moved because it makes the investigation that much more difficult. Also, it is a felony in the State of Oregon to move such a victim unless he has been

pronounced dead by a medical examiner.

Additionally, Montee remarked that no accident victim should ever be moved without supervision since further injuries or complications could result.

As of press time, the investigation of the accident is still underway.

USE FIREWORKS WITH CARE

While fireworks that make the big noise may be banned in our state, the Warm Springs Fire Control office reminds everyone that even quiet fireworks can start fires. Over last Fourth of July holiday, four such fires were caused by fireworks used carelessly.

Fire Control warns that smoke bombs and sparklers create enough heat to catch grass and trees on fire and urges

people to keep these fireworks away from dry grass and forests.

Cecil Seyler, Assistant Fire Chief of the Warm Springs Volunteer Fire Department, notes that tall, dry grass next to houses poses a real hazard. If a firecracker or sparkler lands there it could cause the house to go up in flames.

Seyler also advises those who intend to play with fire-

crackers to use caution as each year a great many people are injured when trying to light or throw them. Watch out for possible injuries to the fingers and eyes, and never throw a firecracker at someone or into the wind.

Everybody hopes for a safe and happy Fourth of July. So take care if you plan to use fireworks. Make this Fourth of July a holiday to remember... not one to regret.

WEATHER			
JUNE	HI	LO	PRECIP.
16	79	40	
17	92	43	
18	85	43	
19	86	46	
20	93	52	
21	82	52	
22	85	44	
23	76	48	
24	70	54	.14
25	72	52	
26	82	46	
27	90	48	