

# Dams: unique ownership agreement

(Continued from page 1)

"The settlement demonstrates how water management and hydroelectric operations can be carried out in innovative ways that protect tribal resources, enhance the environment and aid in the recovery of threatened species," said Norton.

Ron Suppah, chairman of the Tribal Council, said, "Many generations will benefit from this agreement. The next 50 years under this new license will create a blueprint for wise natural resources management that is so important to our Indian people, and financial resources that are vital to the tribal organization."

Suppah said that the addition of electric power generation has diversified the tribal economic base, and has supported programs ranging from public safety to health and education.

During her comments, Rebecca Wodder, president of American Rivers, said, "This agreement sets the bar for other dam operators in the Northwest and across the country. The tribes, PGE and the other settlement parties have proven that by working together, we can achieve great outcomes for this river's health, its salmon and steelhead and its people."

### Unique ownership arrangement

Pelton-Round Butte is the only hydroelectric project in the nation owned jointly by a utility and an Indian tribe. The 465-million watt project is one-third owned by the tribes, and two-



Council chairman Ron Suppah addresses the people who gathered for the signing ceremony.

thirds by PGE.

Over time the tribes may acquire more interest, up to just more than half of the entire project.

The Pelton-Round Butte project provides jobs for 40 full-time employees, including Warm Springs Power Enterprises staff, with an annual payroll of about \$1.9 million. The license holders paid \$2.1 million in property taxes to Jefferson County in 2003.

The tribes and PGE anticipate that FERC will issue a new

50-year license late this year or early next year. The previous license expired at the end of 2001.

The conditions stated in the settlement agreement - work toward restoring fish passage, for instance - will become conditions of the new license. The relicensing process creates the opportunity to implement a wide variety of programs that benefit fish, wildlife and recreation, and preserve history and culture.

The relicensing settlement agreement signed last week in

Warm Springs came after 19 months of discussion among 22 government agencies and private organizations.

The tribes and PGE plan to invest more than \$135 million during the project license period. More than \$121 million will go toward fish-related improvements.

Jim Manion said the tribes' decision to become part owners of the project - an idea that began with the relicensing process - involved a balancing of two aspects of the project: economic and natural resources.

The tribes looked at how ownership might benefit the tribes economically, and how the tribes might benefit from improved fisheries.

"These were the two critical components when the Tribal Council was reviewing our options," said Manion. The Council decided that benefits were significant, and the tribes and PGE negotiated a partial transfer in ownership.

A benefit to the tribes is a reasonably predictable and steady flow of income, as a result of the sale of power. For purposes of balancing the general fund, the tribes can reliably forecast income from the dams, said Manion.

Another benefit is more control over how the fisheries of the river will be managed and improved.

# Back-to-school event in Sept.

The first day of school for elementary, middle school and high school students is almost just around the corner.

In preparation for the big day there will be a barbecue and school supplies distribution on September 2, from 4 to 6 p.m.

This will be a great opportunity for parents and students to meet the teachers and principals.

The barbecue and supplies distribution will be held in front of the Community Counseling Center, between Warm Springs Elementary and the cafeteria.

There will be drop boxes throughout the tribal organization, to collect school supplies from tribal employees and departments that wish to donate.

# Police: complaints over low pay and aging patrol cars

(Continued from page 1)

They are suspended pending an investigation over their knowledge of a possible strike.

Tsumpti, a former police chief and a member of the Tribal Council, said the contents of their memos took a backseat to his belief that the officers may not have shown up for work during Pi-Ume-Sha.

"People in this line of duty have to uphold their public oath," Tsumpti said. "They swear to protect life and property."

But Avex "Stoney" Miller, a police lieutenant and one of the suspended officers, said there was never any intention or threat of an employee strike. Officers had been compelled to voice their concerns about low pay and aging, neglected patrol cars, both of which had been recurrent themes in the cash-strapped department. Miller makes about

\$40,000 a year. Some, like him, were also addressing what he perceived as unfair management practices that had come about since Tsumpti had taken over the department in January. He mentioned micromanagement as one of the top complaints.

"There was no threat to walk out," Miller said. "I was very mad, disgusted and I was hurt. After the years of service I've put in with the tribe, I couldn't believe I was being accused of a breach of public trust."

Tsumpti said he understood some of the officers' complaints about lack of money for competitive salaries and decent patrol cars. He pointed out that while the tribal police salaries were low - especially compared to other law enforcement agencies - the entire reservation suffered from the same pay freeze implemented a few years ago.

# Warm Springs has new postmaster

Al Guin is the new postmaster of the Warm Springs Post Office. Guin started his postal service career as a rural carrier in Evergreen, Colo.

He also served as a distribution clerk/sales and services associate in Wyoming, and then worked in Redmond. His wife Renee is a clerk at the Prineville Post Office.



Doug Long, manager of Post Office Operations for the Central Oregon region, swears in Warm Springs Postmaster Al Guin.

# Gardening technique conserves water

By Master Gardeners

Tina Burnside and Edith McBean

What is Xeriscaping? Well, it's the latest buzz word in gardening. Xeriscape (pronounced "ziri scape") is the term that defines the principles of water-conserving gardening. Derived from the Greek word xeros, meaning dry, and "scape" from landscape, xeriscape offers solutions for using less water in the garden.

You may be practicing xeriscaping right now, and not even realize it. One of the techniques for this type of landscaping is using native plants. Many of you are experimenting in your gardens, developing a compatible alliance with the your natural surroundings. If you apply the seven basic principles of xeriscaping you will find success and gratification of your natural world. You can have a creative, naturally enhanced landscape, conserve water, and requires less maintenance from you by using these principles.

The principles are pretty basic. They deal with common sense and planning. Here is the list to success.

Develop a landscape design plan - one that integrates irrigation and maintenance into the design plan.

Proper soil analysis. Appropriate plant selection for the site.

Reduce turf and high-water-use areas. Plan for efficient irrigation.

Mulch the soil reducing evaporation and protecting

against erosion. Practice appropriate maintenance which contributes to water conservation.

The gardening section in your local book stores are beginning stock books on Xeriscaping. I

have found the *Xeriscape Color Guide*, *Xeriscape Plant Guide*, and the *Xeriscape Handbook* published by Fulcrom Publishing, to be very informative.

See GARDENING on 14

Complete Exhaust Shop & Tire Sales & Service



# Cliff's Repair & Auto Sales



Auto Sales - Pre-owned - Towing  
High Performance Parts & Work  
Diesel Repair & Performance - RV Repair  
Domestic & Foreign Cars - Engine Overhauls

475-6618

330 S.W. Culver Hwy.  
Madras, OR 97741



Discount Carpet  
(541) 475-4434

In Stock Carpet  
as low as  
**\$ .71 sq. ft.**

Does not include installation.  
With coupon only

3 Rooms  
(min. 44 sq yds)  
**\$596**

Includes pad and installation on select carpets. With coupon only

In stock vinyl  
as low as  
**\$.85 sq. ft.**

Does not include installation.  
With coupon only

Some restrictions may apply. Coupons not valid with any other offers.

1825 SW Hwy 97, (across from Madras Marine)

Sofa and Love Seat  
**\$99.95**

With coupon only

4 Areas & Hallway  
**\$99.95**

With coupon only

3 Areas  
**\$64.95**

With coupon only

Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification

Carpet Cleaning  
(541) 475-3784



Some restrictions may apply. Coupons not valid with any other offers.