

# Kool concerts



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Kool and the Gang perform at Spirit Mountain Casino's Events Center on Saturday, May 23.**



**British singer Joe Cocker performs at Spirit Mountain Casino's Events Center on Thursday, May 28.**

# Delegation visit



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy greets a member of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization delegation during the group's visit to the Tribal campus on Tuesday, May 12. Tribal Council members greeted and shook hands with each visitor and spoke briefly to the group before they visited the Education Division and had lunch with the Elders at the Elders' Activity Center. Below, Fadime Kar shares the contents of a gift bag that was given to each UNESCO visitor with, from left, Tribal members Dyshani Eastman, Daysia Duran, Madalyn Volz and Tanlai Butler.**



# Pilot project opens Yamhill River to fishing

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

A pilot project started this year by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife opened a section of the south fork of the Yamhill River on May 23 to retention of hatchery trout for the first time in more than a decade.

A five-mile stretch of the river just upstream of Willamina was stocked with approximately 2,000 rainbow trout before the May 23 opening day of trout season, and will be again two weeks later.

The upper limits of this section are the Gold Creek Road bridge where it crosses the Yamhill River, about two miles downstream of Fort Hill. The fish were reared over the past winter at Fish and Wildlife's Roaring River Hatchery near Scio and range from 8 to 12 inches long.

The South Fork Yamhill trout fishing season is new and required special consideration and approval by the state Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Trout stocking in Oregon's rivers was common 20 years ago. However, the practice has almost ceased



Photo courtesy of Natural Resources

**A five-mile stretch of the Yamhill River just upstream of Willamina was stocked with approximately 2,000 rainbow trout before the May 23 opening day of trout season.**

out of concern over possible effects to threatened salmon and steelhead populations. Since the late 1990s, trout stocking has taken place almost exclusively in lakes and ponds, where trout do not compete with salmon and steelhead for food and cover.

Tom Murtagh, district fish biologist for the department's North Willamette Watershed, grew up fishing for trout in Oregon's streams and

wanted to give youth the same opportunity.

By carefully planning the timing of releases so they do not overlap with the outmigration of steelhead smolts and by using triploid trout, which are unable to reproduce, Murtagh garnered the support of the federal government and key stakeholder groups.

Support for the new trout season was possible because Yamhill

winter steelhead are not critical to the overall recovery of upper Willamette River winter steelhead.

The South Fork Yamhill trout fishery will be open through Oct. 31 from its confluence with the North Yamhill near McMinnville, upstream about 20 miles to Rock Creek near Grand Ronde.

Only five adipose fin-clipped trout may be retained daily. All of the hatchery fish that may be kept have had their adipose fins removed so they can be easily identified. All wild fish with intact adipose fins must be released unharmed.

There is no size limit on marked hatchery fish. In addition, fishing is limited to artificial flies and lures to protect native fish that would be prone to injury if they swallowed baited hooks.

Murtagh said the trout will be released in multiple locations between Gold Creek Road bridge and Willamina because that is the stretch of the South Fork Yamhill that has the most public access.

Yamhill River Road runs parallel to much of this section and provides adequate turnouts and parking at several locations near the river. ■