

Tribal members address Willamette Falls

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

From the third floor ballroom overlooking Willamette Falls, Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy described to a full house the way her family used to harvest lamprey down below.

They used to row to the falls, she said, and then "just grab them and throw them in a sack."

Her sister, Tribal member CeCe Kneeland, remembered her brothers wielding sticks with hooks at the end, leaning way over rocks to get to the lamprey down below, hooking them and tossing them up for the sisters to catch and stuff into the sacks.

"You had to be careful," said Kennedy, "or they would sink their teeth into you."

The March 24 program was the first in a series of lectures sponsored by the Clackamas County Historical Society highlighting six themes of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition's effort to bring national status to the area.

In this "Tribal Culture" lecture, Kennedy was joined by Kneeland and their cousin, Greg Archuleta, also a Tribal member, to tell Native stories from the area, to describe Native efforts to right environmen-



Photo by Ron Karten

Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, second from left, along with Tribal members CeCe Kneeland and Greg Archuleta look at an old photograph of Willamette Falls by local photographer Ralph Eddy. Clackamas County Historical Society President Wade Byers, left, presented the photograph as a gift to the Tribe after Tribal members spoke to the society on Thursday, March 24.

tal destruction in the area and to note the loss of access to traditional foods, medicines and practices that helped Native peoples thrive here for thousands of years.

"Each of us has a path," Kennedy said, "and it's not all predestined. Listening to your inner voices, sometimes called intuition, leads you down paths that you never expected."

She said it was important "to always be mindful, and not just of the tangible things," and to "call on the Creator."

And she talked about the many lessons her grandmother, former Tribal Elder Pauline Johnson, taught her.

"Today, we don't listen enough," she said.

Archuleta told some of the old stories using Kalapuya words as they were traditionally used.

"Stories connect us to the river," he said. "Today, it's quite a chal-

lenge to access traditional resources." And even finding them, he added, "We don't know if they are safe to eat."

Kneeland described the importance of ancestors in her life. "If you don't know where you came from," she said, "how can you know where you're going?"

"I loved hearing the true stories of the people," said Susan Hansen, who lives on a farm south of Molalla. "My grandparents were to me what theirs mean to them. They also had a connection to the land."

"Fascinating," said Irene Coppa of nearby Estacada. "It was interesting to hear how they caught eels and processed them."

"I was glad to hear of their environmental concerns," said Nan Hage of Oregon City, a former assistant director of the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center.

"I'm just so appreciative that folks like our speakers tonight are willing to share like this," said Sue Heublein of Molalla. "I've always heard stories of when the Europeans pushed westward. They took what they needed from the Indians, but didn't want to give anything back. Here we are all these years later, and maybe we're going to get it right this time."

Archuleta described Tribal protocols when other Tribes came to the area for the lamprey.

"They would bring gifts when they arrived," he said. "When they would leave, we would give them gifts."

To end the program, Society President Wade Byers presented the speakers with a historic photograph of Willamette Falls by local photographer Ralph Eddy.

Referring to Archuleta's comments on Native protocol, he said, "We're quick learners." ■

Student Union slates basketball tourney

The University of Oregon's Native American Student Union will hold its seventh annual Basketball Tournament from Friday, April 15, through Sunday, April 17.

Entry fee is \$275 and cash, money orders or checks are accepted, paid to the order of Aryel Harrington.

The tournament will be held at Northwest Christian College's Morse Event Center, 828 E. 11th Ave., Eugene. Prizes will be awarded to the top four teams and there will be awards for all-stars, good sportsmanship and hustle.

For more information, call 541-346-3723 or send an e-mail to asuonasu@uoregon.edu.

This is an alcohol- and drug-free event. ■



Who: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Royalty Parents/Chaperones

What: Spaghetti, Green Salad, Bread (Vegetarian Sauce available)

When: April 7, Thursday from 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Where: Community Center

Cost: \$5.00 per person
50/50 Raffle

The proceeds will be used for Royalty Queens and Princesses travel expense, etc.

Ad created by George Valdez

BOOK FOR SALE

"The Kalapuyans: A sourcebook on the Indians of the Willamette Valley" by Harold Mackey, Ph.D.



This book, through collaboration between the Cultural Resources Department, Mission Mill Museum, and the Mackey Family, has been re-released in a second edition with a new cover, an updated bibliography with more current and accurate sources, new photographs, and a new afterward explaining the Grand Ronde Tribal perspective.

\$12.95 per book
Books may be purchased from the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department located on the second floor of Tribal Building 14 (Adult Education Building) for \$12.95 each. To have an order mailed to you, please fill out this form and include an additional \$3.00 for shipping cost per book.

Name: _____
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