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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe holds first Salmon Celebration

Idea spawned to honor staple of Northwest Tribal peoples

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The first ever Grand Ronde Salmon Celebration on Friday, Dec. 16, provided an opportunity to say thanks to many state and federal partners for their support, to show off the results of Tribal rehabilitation efforts and to use the teachable moment to show how important salmon are in Tribal life.

The celebration started at the Tribal fish weir mid-morning on a chilly, overcast day. It was better weather for fish than for celebrating them.

Still, almost all of Tribal Council attended and shared fishing stories and some nonfishing tales with staff and guests.

Staff members from Natural Resources and Cultural Resources described their roles in Agency

Creek's rebirth. Tribal members Greg Archuleta and David Lewis grilled ceremonial salmon at the side of an alder fire. They spoiled everybody's appetite for a lunch that was to follow at the Tribal gym with fresh salmon grilled right on the spot. More than 50 met at the weir for the occasion.

"Part of our culture," said Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., "is to share the abundance."

Salmon aren't what you would call abundant yet in Agency Creek, but the day's events trumpeted Tribal improvements to habitat because the fish are definitely making a comeback.

"We are three one-thousandths of the Willamette Basin," said Fish and Wildlife Program Manager Kelly



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Kathleen George takes a piece of traditionally cooked salmon during the Salmon Celebration at the Tribal fish weir on Friday, Dec. 16.

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Sign project moves ahead

More and more will be erected
in Tribal ceded lands in 2012

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The sign project from the Natural Resources Department's Ceded Lands program is ready with a new sign — describing the history of the Grand Ronde people — that will soon be erected at the Tribal convenience store in front of Spirit Mountain Casino.

Tribal members Brian Krehbiel and Don Day created the frame for the sign, and Julie Brown, also a Tribal member and Cultural Interpretive specialist, made the sign.

This is just one sign among many that are in stages of completion, said Tribal member David Lewis, manager of the Cultural Resources Department.

"The Tribal signs project was initiated by Tribal Council three years ago," said Lewis. "In that time we have worked with dozens of potential partners throughout western Oregon. The original concept of the project was to populate the Tribe's ceded lands with information to help educate the public about the Tribal history of western Oregon, and tell how many of the Tribes were removed to the Grand Ronde Reservation.

"The signs are meant to convey this information at a time when many people assume that Tribal people disappeared and went ex-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

This is a mock-up of the interpretive sign about the Grand Ronde Tribe and the Kalapuyan people that was recently completed and installed at the Scio Depot Museum in Scio.

tinct, and there is almost no education about our Tribal history taught in any way to the Oregon public."

The project, directed by Mike Karnosh, Ceded Lands coordinator, in collaboration

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Cultural Resources seeks traditional donations for exhibit

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

In April, the Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill in Salem opens a new exhibit, "shawash ill/I LuchNfn — nstayka ikanuN," or in English, "Grand Ronde Women — Our Story."

The Cultural Resources Department project, led by Tribal member and Cultural Interpretive Specialist Julie Brown, has set its sights on items like photographs of Tribal women who served in the armed forces, wearing traditional regalia and carrying cradle boards.

Specifically, said Brown, "We're looking for old photos of Tribal women who filled positions that men typically held during WWII. Examples include shipyard, welders, machinists, etc.

"We're also looking for old cradle boards, or photos of cradle boards; old regalia, beads and accessories or pictures of them; old clothing made from hides or fur; old canning jars, crates or other items used in the cannery in the mid-1900s; and stories of courage, perseverance of our Tribal women.

"The exhibit is an opportunity for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to educate the public that Native American women have always been leaders and visionaries to their people and to the success of their Tribes," said Brown.

"We have been stereotyped as followers and domestic workers in society, inaccuracies that still prevail in our history books and media. Through

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