A salmon nation

2nd annual event fetes traditional Tribal mainstay

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe’s traditional meal honoring the return of the first salmon to the Reservation was served to more than 50 Tribal members, dignitaries and staff at the Community Center on Friday, Dec. 12.

It was the second year in a row that the Tribe had held a Salmon Celebration to honor the food mainstay that helped keep Native Americans fed in the Pacific Northwest since time immemorial.

Grand Ronde drummers – Jan Looking Wolf Reibach, Leslie Riggs, Bobby Mercier, Jordan Mercier, Brian Krehbiel and David Harrelson – opened the celebration.

The Lulu preschool class sang with small voices and big hearts in Chinuk Wawa, the Tribe’s traditional language.

Tribal Council member Cheryl A. Kennedy gave the invocation and Chair Reyon Leno welcomed the crowd.

“Seeing the kids singing today, I know that one day it will be a traditional thing that they do,” Leno said.

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Tribal interests aired at Tribal-state summit

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

SALEM—At this year’s Tribal-State Government-to-Government Summit held Monday, Dec. 2, held at the Salem Convention Center, the Grand Ronde Tribe commanded a significant number of leadership posts.

Among six clusters – areas of mutual interest between Tribes and state government – Grand Ronde Tribal Council members led two and the Tribe’s former Education Department manager led one of those on the state side.

Breakout sessions in the morning enabled Tribes and government leaders to discuss mutually important issues in a public setting.

Lunch was a networking oppor-

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Clockwise from left, Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, April Campbell, Indian Education specialist for Oregon’s Department of Education and a Grand Ronde Tribal member, Tribal Council Secretary Toby McClary and Tribal Attorney Rob Green talk during a networking lunch at the Tribal-State Government-to-Government Summit held at the Salem Convention Center in Salem on Monday, Dec. 2. The lunch was followed by an education roundtable discussion.