

'Fishing was central to our life and culture'

HARVEST continued from page 14

members increased access to game for ceremonial purposes.

In April 2008, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission granted ceremonial hunting rights to the Grand Ronde Tribe across the Trask Hunting Unit. In October 2009, the commission re-adopted the rule granting ceremonial hunting rights to the Tribe.

In May 2013, the Tribe held a First Salmon Ceremony at the McLean House in West Linn, marking the first time in more than 130 years that Tribal members held

such a ceremony on the banks of the Willamette River. The salmon used during the ceremony was harvested by Tribal members through a modification to the Tribe's Scientific Taking Permit. The ceremonial harvest was repeated in 2014 and '15.

In September 2014, the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission unanimously approved the Grand Ronde Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, which gave the Tribe control over the take of fish and wildlife on its Reservation and trust lands.

In July 2015, the Grand Ronde Tribal Council approved issuing 46 Tribal Reservation hunting tags

and set Tribal hunting seasons for the first time since Restoration.

And on Friday, April 22, the state Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a ceremonial fishery at Willamette Falls for members of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

"I'm honored to work for the Tribe and to have a small part in carrying out this vision," said Greene. "One of the things that I would emphasize is there are three elements here: One is the vision of Tribal Council in moving us along this road to recovering the Tribe's historic rights in its ceded lands.

"The second thing is the great team effort by so many employees here at the Tribe, including Natural Resources, the Tribal Attorney's Office and the Culture Department all working together to carry out that vision.

"And the third thing that I think is critical for this is at Tribal Council level and the staff level is developing those strong partnerships with the Governor's Office and with ODFW that allow us to bring about these successes like we have here with the platform."

George also complimented past and present Tribal leaders, as well as staff, on creating partnerships and expertly preparing Tribal representatives for meetings, such as the one held in Bandon.

"The old stories (Ikanum) tell how the Falls were created for the benefit of our people to fish there," Archule-

ta said. "Willamette Falls has been one of our fishing sites since time immemorial. Even after relocation, our families continued to fish at the Falls and bring the salmon back to the Reservation for subsistence."

"We kept coming to the Falls after treaty signing and removal to maintain our ways and provide for our people," Leno said. "The Indian agent's passbook for Grand Ronde, held at the Oregon Historical Society, documents our ancestors leaving the Reservation to return to their fishing sites at Willamette Falls.

"While other people traveled to the Falls or came to visit and trade, our ancestors were the people of the Falls. Fishing at the Falls was central to our life and culture. Today, we maintain an ongoing connection to the Falls. We harvest lamprey as our ancestors did. We also work closely with government agencies, businesses and organizations that are connected to Willamette Falls.

"This rule and our fishing at the Falls will have a profound impact on the Grand Ronde people. It will connect our children and grandchildren with the spirits of their ancestors."

On May 6, the Tribe will hold its annual First Salmon Ceremony near the Falls.

"We will honor our traditional subsistence like our ancestors did before us and we will be able to pass this on to our future generations," said Archuleta. ■

LIHEAP program gets more funding

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps pay heating bills, has received additional federal funding. The program is open to Tribal members who have not received LIHEAP assistance as of Oct. 1, 2015, through April 1, 2016.

LIHEAP is a first-come, first-served program and income criteria applies. For more information, contact Social Services Administrative Assistant Tammy Garrison at 503-879-2077 or tammy.garrison@grandronde.org. ■

Need something notarized?

Tribal Court staff is available at no charge for notaries 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with the exception of noon to 1 p.m.

Please be sure to bring a photo ID with you.

If you have any questions, contact the court at 503-879-2303. ■



Memorial Day Observance

MONDAY, MAY 30
Meal served at noon
Program begins at 1 P.M.

9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

For more information about the Memorial Day event,
 call: Steve Bobb Sr. 503-876-3118 or e-mail: chelsea.clark@grandronde.org