



Tribes hires new GIS analyst — pg. 8

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Cultural Outreach Coordinator Bobby Mercier carries the first salmon after he harvested it at Willamette Falls for the Tribe's fourth annual First Salmon Ceremony that was held after the harvest at the McLean House in West Linn on Friday, May 6. Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr., back, Tribal Elder Greg Archuleta, right, and Andrew Freeman and Travis Stewart took part in the harvesting of two salmon for the ceremony.

Tribes honors this year's first salmon

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

WEST LINN — Salmon are sacred to Native people. Their arrival each year to the home waters is a chance to celebrate and reflect on the many blessings Creator has shared, including the first salmon.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde held its fourth annual First Salmon Ceremony in the backyard of the McLean House in West Linn on Friday, May 6.

A group of Tribal members carried the ceremonial first salmon up the embankment from the Willamette River access and the fish was laid out in the yard on a plank.

Cultural Outreach Coordinator Bobby Mercier invited the women and young girls to come up and symbolically tap the fish on the head with a fish club. When the women

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Constitutional amendment educational sessions slated

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Three educational sessions regarding two proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution have been set for May 17 through 19 in Portland, Grand Ronde and Eugene, respectively.

Tribal Council decided in identical 5-2 votes to send the proposed Tribal Constitution amendments to voters during its April 6 meeting.

The first amendment would, if approved by voters, remove the parent on the roll at time of birth and time of application requirements and add language defining "Grand Ronde blood."

The new definition, with new wording in italics, would read: "Grand Ronde blood is defined as all Indian blood derived from a direct ancestor whose name val-

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Casino hosting ATNI Mid-Year Convention

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal representatives from Native governments in Oregon, Idaho, Washington state, southeastern Alaska, northern California and western Montana will converge on Spirit Mountain Casino Monday, May 23, through Thursday, May 26, for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' Mid-Year Convention.

The conventions are where Indian Country of the Northwest comes together to advance the work for their communities in developing and implementing policy and programs for the region. The convention serves as a platform for sharing information on matters of interest, as well as

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