



Float wins Queen's Award — pg. 12

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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe prepares for massive earthquake

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal member Lacy Leno and Tribal Police Department Records and Evidence Clerk Egypt Leno carried body bags one by one to a casualty collection point while an Oregon Lifeguard air ambulance helicopter landed in a field across from the Tribal Governance Center to ferry out the seriously injured.

Lacy and Egypt were part of a major Tribal effort to support Cascadia Rising, an emergency preparedness exercise held Tuesday, June 7, through Friday, June 10, throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Grand Ronde.

Event organizers acted as if a devastating 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami had wreaked havoc throughout the Pacific Northwest.

In Grand Ronde, the simulated devastation included 33 deaths and many seriously injured, the total destruction of the Governance Center, the bridge on Grand Ronde Road collapsing and an influx of refugees from the Coast who used Spirit Mountain Casino as an emergency shelter.

The four-day event focused on inter-agency and multi-state coordination and emergency management centers were established on the local, state, federal and Tribal

See CASCADIA
continued on page 5



Courtesy photo by Kelly Dirksen

Tribal Lead Maintenance Technician and Tribal ceremonial fisherman Andrew Freeman holds up the first salmon that was netted during a ceremonial fishing harvest at Willamette Falls in Oregon City on Wednesday, June 8. This was the first ceremonial fishing to take place at Willamette Falls by Grand Ronde Tribal members in approximately 120 years.

On the rocks

Tribal fishermen return to Falls, net 15 salmon

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

OREGON CITY – The approximately 120-year break in Grand Ronde Tribal members fishing for salmon at Willamette Falls is over. Surrounded by the rushing waters of the Willamette River and standing on a slippery outcrop-

ping of rock, Tribal Lead Maintenance Technician Andrew Freeman stuck the long handle of a dip net into a whitewater torrent and caught a salmon on Wednesday, June 8.

Freeman was accompanied by fellow Tribal ceremonial fishermen Bobby Mercier, the Tribe's

See SALMON
continued on page 17

Veterans Affairs secretary visits Tribe



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

McDonald seeking 'strategic partnerships' with Indian Country

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald visited the Grand Ronde Tribe on Wednesday, June 1, in his pursuit of strategic partnerships with the Indian Health Service and sovereign Tribal governments to improve health care for veterans, particularly Native veterans.

Grand Ronde was chosen, in part,

because the Tribe was one of the first in the Northwest to sign a direct care services reimbursement agreement with Veterans Affairs in June 2013 that allows the Tribe to request reimbursement for direct care provided to eligible Native American veterans.

After visiting Chemawa Indian

See SECRETARY
continued on page 10

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald addresses a Town Hall meeting of Grand Ronde and community veterans in the Tribal Community Center during his visit to the Tribe on Wednesday, June 1. Seated, from left, are Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno, Tribal Council member Jon A. George and Heidi Marston, McDonald's staff assistant.