

Summers Collection items  
arrive in Grand Ronde  
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# Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## 13 names added to Veterans Memorial

By Danielle Frost  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The 16th annual Memorial Day event held at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus was highlighted by 13 names being added to the four black granite pillars that represent the major branches of the U.S. armed forces.

Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr., chairman of the Tribe's Veterans Special Event Board and a Marine Corps veteran from the Vietnam War era, gave the invocation and served as master of ceremonies.

The event began at noon Monday, May 28, with a meal of turkey gravy, potatoes, green beans, rolls, salad and cupcakes served by Veterans Royalty, Grand Ronde Royalty and Royalty parents to approximately 175 attendees in the nearby Tribal Community Center.

The outdoors ceremony began at 1 p.m. under a clear, breezy sky with Grand Ronde drummers led by Cultural Education Specialist Brian Krehbiel and Cultural Advisor Bobby Mercier playing a memorial song. Tribal youth JC Rogers sang the national anthem as she did in 2016 and '17 and Grand Ronde Royalty and Veterans Royalty performed "The Lord's Prayer."

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi, who is an

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr. shakes hands with Willamina School District Superintendent Carrie Zimbrick after receiving his high school diploma during Willamina High School's Class of 2018 graduation ceremony held at the school on Saturday, May 26. Bobb was on track to graduate 51 years ago with the Class of 1967. However, he dropped out three months shy of earning his diploma. On the right is Principal Tim France.**

## The graduate

**Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr. receives high school diploma at age 69**

*Smoke Signals staff report*

**W**ILLAMINA — Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr., 69, finally received a Willamina High School diploma on Saturday, May 26, during its Class of 2018 graduation ceremony.

Bobb was on track to graduate 51 years ago with the Class of 1967. However, he dropped out three months shy of earning his diploma after he and two friends were suspended for tampering with a fire alarm.

One of his friends returned to high school and graduated. Bobb and the other friend did not.

Bobb went on through life without a high school diploma, serving in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and starting his own custom auto painting business. He also is a longtime chairman of the Tribe's Veterans Special Event Board, a two-

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Ceremonial  
fisher Joe  
Loomis dip  
net fishes  
during  
ceremonial  
fishing at  
Willamette  
Falls in  
West Linn  
on Monday,  
May 14.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

## Honoring the samən

**Tribal members dip net at Falls, fete catching first fish**

By Danielle Frost  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**W**EST LINN — Standing above the falls at Willamette Dam is the culmination of a dream decades in the making for Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy.

Despite enduring a recent death in

the family, she felt called to the falls on Monday, May 14, where Tribal members fished using traditional dip nets under a clear, warm sky for the first time in more than a century at a location on the West Linn side of the Willamette River.

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