

# The arrival of Summers

Tribal Cultural Advisor Bobby Mercier places a seed fan on a table for display during the Summers Collection welcome event held at Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center on Wednesday, May 23. Sixteen items from the Summers Collection are on loan from the British Museum in London, England, and will be part of the "Rise of the Collectors"

exhibit that opens Tuesday, June 5, at the Tribe's museum.

Visit Smoke Signals' facebook page to see more photos



This seed basket is one of the items on loan from the British Museum. In the background, also on loan, is a bowl carved out of horn and a pair of dance epaulettes made of leather.

Cynthia McGowan, assistant collections manager at the British Museum, holds up a cooking basket for Tribal Council member Kathleen George, second from right, and Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy so that they can see the bottom.



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

# 'It was an amazing experience'

FISHING continued from page 8

served but didn't do any fishing," he said. "On Tuesday, a few of the staff weren't able to make it so I was asked if I wanted to jump in and help out. I watched Mike Wilson cast with the net for a few minutes, then just tried to do it the way he did. Within 10 minutes, I caught a fish."

Drake said the experience was filled with adrenaline and excitement.

"It was definitely one of those moments you don't forget," he said. "It was an amazing experience and I feel very blessed, fortunate and happy."

The group returned to Willamette Falls to fish on Wednesday, May 30, but updates were not available before press time.

## First salmon celebration

After the ceremonial first fish was caught on Tuesday, May 15, tradition called for it to be cooked and eaten that evening. It was also an opportunity for Tribal members who could not attend the First Salmon Celebration held Friday, May 18, in West Linn to participate in a cultural event in Grand Ronde.

As a result, the sixth First Salmon Celebration at the McLean House in West Linn was more a celebration



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier, left, talks with Clackamas County Commissioner Ken Humberston, middle, as Clackamas County Commission Chair Jim Bernard puts on a beaded necklace that was a gift from the Tribe during the First Salmon Celebration held at the McLean House in West Linn on Friday, May 18.

with Tribal Elder Greg Archuleta and Tribal member Chris Rempel preparing the fish, cooked over an open fire and served on a cedar plank for approximately 50 attendees.

"I am very thankful to be here today and honor this fish," Bobby Mercier said. "We caught the first fish the other day, took it home and put the bones in our river there. Today, we're here honoring the spirit of that fish."

Then, he, Krehbiel, Archuleta,

Rempel and Public Affairs Administrative Assistant Chelsea Clark joined several other drummers and singers for a song to honor the salmon.

Tribal Council members in attendance were Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Denise Harvey, Kathleen George, Brenda Tuomi and Michael Langley, and Tribal attorney Rob Greene.

Clackamas County Commission Chair Jim Bernard and Commis-

sioner Ken Humberston also attended.

Bobby Mercier led the invocation and expressed thanks for the fish, food and hands that prepared it.

After the blessing, the fish was carried over to folding tables laden with food and, as per tradition, Elders were invited to eat first, followed by everyone else.

Harvey, who attended with her 5-year-old granddaughter Hallie Brewley, said she likes the event location near the banks of the Willamette River on the grounds of the historic house amid the gardens.

"I think it is just nice having people gather to celebrate our salmon and cultural traditions," she said.

Brewley's answer was more succinct. "I like to eat the salmon," she said.

It was Langley's first time at the event. He was elected to Tribal Council in September 2017.

"I have always had to work before," he said. "I'm excited to have the opportunity to do this, to see everyone and participate. The journey of the salmon itself, the leaving and the returning, that is part of our Tribe's story."

Afterward, Tribal Council members Mercier and Harvey presented gifts of sage and beaded necklaces made by Clark to the commissioners. ■