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A cultural milestone



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Cultural Advisor Bobby Mercier lowers a dipnet into the waters at Willamette Falls from the newly installed Tribal fishing platform on Thursday, Oct. 25.

Tribe returns to ceremonial fish at Willamette Falls platform

By Danielle Frost
Smoke Signals staff writer

WEST LINN — Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said she could feel the presence of ancestors on Friday, Oct. 26, as she spoke about the Tribe's recently completed fishing platform at Willamette Falls, a historic and cultural milestone.

"I stand here with pride in my heart and know the battles my ancestors went through so we could have this celebration today," she said. "All of that flows through our veins so we could be strong today. ... We welcome all Tribes here to fish. This platform is the will

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Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, front right, says a prayer before Tribal members leave dock to dipnet fish off the newly installed Tribal fishing platform at Willamette Falls on Thursday, Oct. 25. Joining Chairwoman Kennedy are, from left, Biologist Brandon Weems, Matt Zimbrick, Tribal Council members Denise Harvey and Jack Giffen Jr., and Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George. No fish were caught on the first day. Fishing continued on Friday, and the fishermen only had until the end of October to catch the Tribe's state-approved take of 15 ceremonial fish.

