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Several hundred people attended the Grand Ronde History & Culture Summit held in the Tribal gym on Wednesday, Oct. 24. The summit continued through Thursday at the gym and Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center.

languages of indigenous peoples and published several books on the subject. He was known for his expertise in Native American customs and languages, and participated in numerous treaty negotiations between the U.S. government and Tribes, including serving on the Willamette Valley Treaty Commission of 1851.

Most well-known in the Grand Ronde area was the Rev. Robert W. Summers of McMinnville, who traveled annually to the Reservation between 1873-82 and collected thousands of objects of Tribal culture. Until recently, those remained hidden away from public view at the British Museum.

After almost 20 years of pursuing the collection's return, Tribal collections staff received the green light for a loan. The "Rise of the Collectors" exhibit at Chachalu features 16 items from the Summers Collection. A return of the entire collection would take an act of the British Parliament to accomplish.

"Summers had great interest in Native American peoples, but he was also very nosy and would push himself into peoples' homes," Beckham said.

Summers also took advantage of the Grand Ronde peoples' poverty by convincing them to sell or trade the artifacts and heirlooms in order to feed their families.

The Chachalu exhibition is the first time any of the collection has been displayed publicly.

"These artifacts have never been exhibited anywhere else," Beckham said. "The Summers Collection is very extensive

and we hope in future years more loan objects will be coming."

Other Wednesday morning presentations included speakers on Tribal landscape burning practices, culturally important plants, and the enduring legacy of Native Americans in the post-industrial landscape of Willamette Falls.

Although industrial development in the 19th and 20th centuries destroyed almost all archeological evidence of the Native American fishery and regional trade center at the falls, an excavation of the historic Oregon City Woolen Mill in 2015 uncovered stone tools and other belongings of the first residents of the falls. Carbon dating showed these artifacts to be 1,300 to 1,400 years old.

The excavation was led by Heritage Research Associates archeologist Rick Minor.

"I had a lot of confidence that there would be archeology on this property and we found it," Minor

said. "People don't know this history because it has been blocked out by industrial use."

Wednesday afternoon sessions surveyed Tribal lifeways in early education, media in cultural identity, first foods, an archeology field school overview, as well as weaving, beading and a Chachalu tour.

A dinner at achaf-hammi was held Wednesday evening.

Henry Zenk, a linguistic consultant for the Tribe and author of "Chinuk Wawa as Our Elders Teach Us to Speak It," spoke about indigenous place names of the Grand Ronde region on Thursday.

Zenk said that the Tribes that signed treaties leading up to the founding of the Grand Ronde Reservation spoke eight distinct indigenous languages, which all came with geographic naming. Most of this knowledge was lost after the forced relocation to Grand Ronde, with the exception of the Yamhills and Tualatins, speakers of the

Northern Kalapuya language.

The language is represented by the earliest extensive linguistic record by Albert Gatschet, a government linguist who visited the reservation for two months in 1877. He wrote down hundreds of Northern Kalapuya names, which included 26 names from Grand Ronde and the surrounding area.

"We are fortunate to have as much as we do on the Northern Kalapuya," Zenk said. "With naming in an oral culture, you don't have a map with fixed points that is good for all times."

Among the names that endure today is Chachalu, which means "place of burnt timber." Zenk said this was likely due to monumental forest fires in the Coast Range.

Other Thursday sessions discussed oral literature, digitizing the Summers collection, Marys Peak ethnography and a presentation from Leah Golubchick, internship coordinator with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

She spoke about the summer Grand Ronde Youth Internship and the Willamette Meteorite, known as Tomanowos.

The Tribe and museum have had an agreement since 2000, which keeps Tomanowos in the museum as long as it provides annual ceremonial access to Tribal members, as well as acknowledgement of the meteorite's religious importance.

Every year, the museum closes early one day to allow for the Tribal ceremony. Additionally, the museum established an internship program that allows young Tribal members to work at the museum for three weeks every summer, learning about Tomanowos and living in New York City.

"The internship with Grand Ronde is one of the most important things we do because it is extremely unique," Golubchick said. "It does everything we try to teach in a three-week block. ... The interns do an amazing job."

Some of the final presentations were delivered by Tribal Deputy Press Secretary Sara Thompson, who discussed the use of multimedia and the Internet to get the Tribe's stories out to a diverse audience, and Tribal Geographic Information System Coordinator Alex Drake.

The summit wrapped up after 4 p.m. Thursday with closing remarks from Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson. ■

**University of Oregon Professor Rick Minor talks about Willamette Falls before Native contact with settlers and explorers during the Grand Ronde History & Culture Summit held in the Tribal gym on Wednesday, Oct. 24.**

