

General Council
meeting held
— pg. 7



Smoke Signals

An Independent Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

smok signalz

MAY 15, 2019

www.smokesignals.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Summers artifacts returning to British Museum

More than 10,000 people visited Chachalu to view the historical items

By Danielle Frost
Smoke Signals staff writer

They are leaving. After a year of being home for the first time in more than a century, 16 Tribal artifacts will return to a British Museum warehouse outside of London.

The coveted historic cultural items were temporarily returned to the Confederated Tribes of

Grand Ronde and showcased for the past year at the Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center's "Rise of the Collectors" exhibit, which runs through Wednesday, May 22.

Historic Preservation Manager Briece Edwards estimates that more than 10,000 people from across the United States visited the exhibit this past year, including members from all nine federally recognized Oregon Tribes and from 12 Tribes outside the state.

"There is a personal connection for a lot of people," Edwards said. "Having these cultural

items here has meant a lot to the families connected to them."

More than 200 of the Summers Collection items specific to the Grand Ronde Tribe remained in London. They were gathered by McMinnville-based Episcopal Rev. Robert Summers in the late 1870s from the first Native Americans to inhabit the Grand Ronde Reservation. Eventually, these were purchased from Summers by the

See ARTIFACTS
continued on page 12

Fish ceremony set for May 18

By Danielle Frost
Smoke Signals staff writer

WEST LINN — The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's fish ceremony will have different scenery then in years past.

Willamette Park along the banks of the Willamette River in West Linn will be the new venue, upstream from Willamette Falls, instead of being held at the historic McLean House.

The event will include Tribal and local organizations' information tables, a demonstration salmon pit, speakers and a community ceremony.

All are welcome to join as the ceremony provides an opportunity to connect the local community with the Tribe and its cultural practices, as well as offers a chance for Tribal members to interact and share traditionally cooked salmon over an open fire and served on a cedar plank.

The ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. with information tables featuring local nonprofit organizations, a First Foods table, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and Tribal museum Chachalu.

There will be a "Salmon Song" to open the event, followed by an invocation and various speakers. Participants will then head to the

See CEREMONY
continued on page 5

If you go

Fish ceremony

When: 1 p.m. Saturday, May 18

Where: Willamette Park, 1100 12th St., West Linn

Samən success



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal youth Nakoa Mercier, 17, takes the remains of the Chinook salmon caught at Willamette Falls on Wednesday, May 1, from Tribal member Greg Archuleta before releasing them in Agency Creek after a First Fish Ceremony was held at achaf-hammi on Thursday, May 2.

Tribal fishermen net first fish at Willamette Falls

By Danielle Frost
Smoke Signals staff writer

OREGON CITY — Anyone who fishes will tell you it's an activity that requires time, patience and a little luck.

This was especially true for the Tribal fishermen at Willamette Falls, who extend a long-poled dipnet while standing on a 30-foot-high platform above the dark, swirling waters instead of sitting leisurely on a boat with a fishing pole.

This year, it only took two days to catch the first fish, which was cooked the following day on Thurs-

day, May 2, during a ceremony held at the covered cooking area behind achaf-hammi, the Tribal plankhouse. There were about 50 Tribal members and staff in attendance.

The Tribe is allotted 15 hatchery spring chinook per year for ceremonial purposes. The 12-pound Chinook salmon was cooked by Tribal Elder Greg Archuleta, Cultural Advisor Bobby Mercier, and Tribal members Chris Rempel and Brian Krehbiel.

See FISH
continued on pages 14-15