

FISHING FOR A PIECE OF HISTORY



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A member of the Burns Paiute Tribe spears a salmon that was transplanted in the Malheur River at Malheur Ford.

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Old traditions for a new generation



Photos by Sean Hart

Gabe Portillo, Burns, spears a salmon in the Malheur River June 15 in southern Grant County. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife transplanted the salmon from the Willamette River in partnership with the Burns Paiute Tribe to provide fishing opportunities for tribal members and the general public.

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

As 6-year-old Ukiah Snapp from Seneca stood in the middle of the Malheur River with a spear about twice as tall as he was, his grandmother, Charlotte Roderique, said she never thought he would have the opportunity to fish for salmon on the river after dams built years ago blocked their passage.

Roderique, the chairperson for the Burns Paiute Tribe, said the construction of the Warm Springs Dam in 1919 prevented salmon from traveling from the ocean all the way to the headwaters of the Malheur River in southern Grant County.

"It's been 97 years since we've had salmon in the Malheur River," she said. "We haven't had an opportunity to gather salmon, one of our first foods. It's really hard to explain the feeling of gratitude of having those fish in the river."

A partnership between the Tribe and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife provided the opportunity. About 200 20- to 30-inch spring Chinook salmon were taken from the Willamette River and transplanted in two trips at Malheur Ford, where a forest road crosses the river, ODFW southeast district fish biologist Dave Banks said.

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Deborah DeLaRosa of the Burns Paiute Tribe sits on the shore with a salmon she speared in the Malheur River June 15 at the Malheur Ford. In May and June, about 200 salmon were transplanted in the river that historically supported salmon runs before dams blocked passage.

“The intent is to encourage harvest by tribal anglers or other anglers, so there is not a Columbia Basin Endorsement required for this. There’s not a salmon/steelhead harvest card record that is required for this. They have to have a fishing license, but other than that the intent is to promote harvest of this resource.”

ODFW southeast district fish biologist Dave Banks

Deputy declined assistance, failed to record interview when investigating complaint against his family

Sheriff upset by settlement, maintains probable cause existed for arrest

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County paid a \$12,000 settlement to a man who was arrested by a Grant County Sheriff's Office deputy in 2015 for initiating a

false report of hearing gunshots, despite a neighbor's account that corroborated the report.

County Judge Scott Myers said the county's insurance provider recommended settling the case out of court after a complaint from the arrestee, though the county denied any liability in the settlement agreement that was accepted Aug. 21, 2015.

The incident began when Jim Koitzsch, who lives on Terrance Lane in John Day, called 911 to report his neighbor was firing a gun and that he was almost hit by one of the bullets at 6:29 p.m. Jan. 26, 2015.

Records obtained by the Eagle from the John Day dispatch center show a dispatcher called Zach Mobley, who was a deputy at the time and has since been promoted to undersheriff. Mobley informed the dispatcher the family of his wife's sister, Leann Coalwell, lived on Terrance Road.

The dispatcher asked if Mobley would like an officer from John Day Police Department to respond to



Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer

the scene as well, but Mobley declined.

"I know everybody up there," Mobley told the dispatcher. "I'll advise if I need somebody."

On his way to the scene, Mobley called his niece at the Coalwell residence, who said she was at home alone with her siblings and they had not heard any gunshots but had been listening to iPods, according to the incident report filed by Mobley.

Mobley said in the report he then interviewed Koitzsch at his residence, who said he was certain he heard gunshots coming from the Coalwell residence. Koitzsch also told Mobley to speak with his neighbor, Dorothy Thexton.

While traveling to the Thexton residence, Mobley

said in the report he called Sheriff Glenn Palmer.

"I told him what Mr. Koitzsch was reporting and explained how the only ones home at the Coalwell's was the kids and that Mr. Koitzsch was sure that the shooting was coming from the Coalwell's," Mobley said in the report. "I also told Sheriff Palmer that (Leann Coalwell's husband) Terry Coalwell keeps his guns in a gun safe and the kids don't have access to them."

Mobley informed Palmer of the potential conflict of interest, but Palmer told him to arrest Koitzsch, according to the report.

The deputy said he then interviewed Thexton, who

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Major political fight coming over proposed \$6 billion tax

By Jade McDowell
EO Media Group

Opponents and supporters of a proposed \$6 billion tax on Oregon sales are preparing for a knockdown, drag-out fight before the measure comes to voters in November.

"This is probably the biggest political fight we'll see in decades," Oregon Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alison Hart said.

The proposal, known as IP28, will place a 2.5 percent tax on sales over \$25 million at Class C corporations. An analysis by the nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office estimates the tax will raise approximately \$6 billion for state services each biennium but also increase the cost of living for Oregonians.

"It will hurt our entire economy," she said. "Oregon is too small of a state to absorb a \$6 billion tax increase."

Supporters of the measure — backed by public employee unions — disagree. They point out that only an estimated 1,051 companies in Oregon will see their taxes raised.

A Better Oregon, which collected enough signatures to place the measure on the November ballot, says it will force large national corporations that do business in Oregon to pay their "fair share" to help struggling local schools and seniors.

According to their website less than 1 percent of Oregon businesses will see their taxes raised, and more than 85 percent of the tax will be paid by corporations with more than \$100 million in Oregon sales.

"Companies like Bank of America, Comcast, Walmart and Monsanto make hundreds of millions of dollars from the business they do here but pay taxes

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