



Cylvia Hayes, Oregon's First Lady, samples canned tuna at the Tillamook Bay Boathouse processing facility on her Dec. 6 tour of the north Oregon coast. Photo by Dave Fisher

## Oregon's First Lady visits north Tillamook County

By Dave Fisher  
The Citizen

Cylvia Hayes, companion of Gov. John Kitzhaber and Oregon's First Lady, stopped at Garibaldi and

Neah-Kah-Nie High School on a tour of the north Oregon coast on Thursday. Hayes, who expressed her concern about Oregon's high hunger rates, was on a mission to learn more about the Coho Salmon Project that

just wrapped up its fourth year. Hunger, said Hayes, is "so out of keeping" with what she thinks a progressive state like Oregon should be.

See **OREGON'S FIRST LADY**, page 5

## ■ Oregon's First Lady

From page 1

The program, launched locally in 2009, involves the transporting of hatchery-produced Coho salmon at the end of their life cycle to Garibaldi where the meat is processed and canned for distribution to local food banks. In the first three years of the program, Manzanita residents Bill Campbell and Mike Ehlen, who helped get the Coho harvest off the ground, estimate that the program has accounted for 59,000 high-protein meals. This year, the annual project received expanded notoriety with expanded media coverage provided by the Oregonian newspaper and Pacific Northwest journalist Grant McOmie, whose outdoor television program, Grant's Getaways, appears on Portland's KGW Channel 8. The added exposure attracted the attention of the Governor's office in Salem leading to Hayes' Dec. 6 visit.

Hayes sees untreated hunger as a symptom of poverty and the need to address the root cause. "It's a total economic development issue," she said at her stop

at the Tillamook Bay Boathouse in Garibaldi where the salmon and tuna provided by the Oregon Tuna Classic is processed.

While at the Boathouse, Hayes met up with the "Smiley Brothers," the adopted name of the original foursome – Campbell, Ehlen, Tillamook Bay Boathouse owner Darus Peake and ODFW salmon monitoring team leader Derek Wiley – who took an idea and made it a reality. Enamored with what she referred to as the "Smiley Bother movement," Hayes inquired, "Can I be a sister?"

Next stop for the First Lady was Neah-Kah-Nie High School where the task of designing labels for the tuna and salmon and adhering them to cans has become an annual student project as well. Visual arts students, under the direction of art instructor Steve Albrechtsen, designed the labels once again this year along with a poster commemorating the annual effort. This year, Honor Society students applied the labels to the canned product. It's no small task; this year the total number of cans of salmon and tuna was over 4,500, according to Campbell. In addition, 218 jack salmon filets were provided to Nehalem Bay House and Kilchis House assisted living centers.

"It would be great to see this program replicated and create



The Smiley Brothers and "sister," from left: Darus Peake, Mike Ehlen, Derek Wiley, Cylvia Hayes and Bill Campbell, smile for the camera. Photo by Dave Fisher

more jobs to go with it," said Hayes following her fact-finding mission. "It's a great example of creative entrepreneurialism."

"It's a good feeling," said Peake of the program he's been involved with since the get-go and processes the fish at his

cost.

"It just takes good heart," added fellow Smiley Brother Campbell.