

Tribes gather at Wildhorse Pow Wow

By JONATHAN BACH
East Oregonian

It's the drum beat that struck first at the Wildhorse 21st Annual Pow Wow on Saturday. A steady but urgent pulse picked up over time as men sang a high-pitched chorus and hit the drum, which is meant to represent a heart beat, according to Ernestine Morning Owl, one of the pow wow's coordinators.

"If there were no drum, there would be no dancing," said Morning Owl of the mutual dependence the two have in American Indian culture.

Eagle feathers and vibrant garments flowed in the hot breeze as anyone from young children to old men danced around the resort's south lawn. After each dance, the drummers alternated.

Musicians came from across the United States and Canada to participate in the pow wow, according to Morning Owl.

Leslie Nicholas, 25, from Maine, was one such drummer. He's been part of a drum circle for 15 years and attributed a mentally healing quality to the music. He said he wished more people would try it out.

It doesn't matter if you're black, white, Indian or otherwise, according to Nicholas.

"Lots of power comes from that drum," he said. "If people are feeling down, it uplifts them."

For one vendor, the drum group was a high point in the festival.

"The drum makes you proud," said Irene Yazzie, 58, who came all the way



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

World Champion Jingle Dancer Acoxia Red Elk participates in an intertribal exhibition on Friday during the start of the 21st annual Wildhorse Pow Wow.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Tribal dancers participate in the Grand Entry on Friday at the start of the 21st annual Wildhorse Pow Wow.

He once stopped at Wildhorse for its casino and found himself attending the pow wow, he said.

Elaine Richards, 74, looks out at the children on the lawn.

"It's really neat that even little children are carrying on the tradition," she said.

The ceremonial event runs from Friday to Sunday.

FIRE: Destroyed two storage trailers, saved home

Continued from 1A

Lightning strikes were responsible for both fires, coupled with intense heat and drought that has left the region essentially a tinderbox now into summer.

Lands Inn was first in line to face the Sugarloaf Fire as it raced toward private property up Dick Creek Road just outside the rural community of Kimberly. Buce recalls how quickly the flames ate up grass and juniper trees while bearing down on their own house and rental cabins.

Without much time to act, Buce evacuated all guests at the inn while he stayed behind to assist firefighters responding from the Bureau of Land Management. They set up sprinklers in strategic locations and did back burning of dried grasses to protect structures.

The fire did destroy two storage trailers and charred every last acre Buce's land to a blackened crisp, but with the help of the BLM they were able to save his home and business.

"It was so close," he said. "It happened so fast, and it was so big. You look back and just wonder how did it not burn the house."

Aundrea Larson, her husband Chris, and two children were among those staying at Lands Inn when the fire started. The family, along with Aundrea's parents, are building a cabin farther up Dick Creek Road as an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Larson said they had just

finished cooling off in the John Day River and went to Dayville for ice cream when they saw smoke coming off Sugarloaf Mountain.

"We got that sinking feeling," she said. "We knew it was close. Unfortunately, our worst fears were confirmed."

Larson said they came back as quickly as they could up the winding dirt road with just enough time to gather their things and warn a few more neighbors. They spent the night in John Day, and didn't sleep a wink.

"At first, you're just worried about everybody's place burning down," she said. "We, really truly, had a lot less to lose. People up there have houses and cabins. You just feel for them."

The response from the neighbors was remarkable, Larson said. With extensive knowledge of the area, Buce was able to draw a map for firefighters. Craig Merkord, who also lives nearby, stayed up all night doing burn backs and directing firefighters.

A portion of the Sugarloaf Fire also burned about 55 acres onto the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Then, just a few days later, a second fire began in the park around the Blue Basin Overlook Trail which burned up fencing, part of a retaining wall and threatened an historic home.

Several power poles were also damaged, knocking out power to the entire Sheep Rock Unit.

The Blue Basin Fire is under investigation as possibly human-caused. Mike Rubin, chief of facility management for the park, fighting fire in the park can be tricky because they try not to use bulldozers or fire retardant that could damage fossils.

Fire is fairly common at the park, he said, especially given the current drought conditions.

"The big thing to keep in mind is just to pay attention to the fire danger levels and plan accordingly," Rubin said.

With the Sugarloaf Fire now contained, the big emphasis is on Corner Creek Fire — by far the largest right now in Oregon. That blaze has already destroyed one hunting cabin and crept

up on local ranches.

Brian Ballou, fire information officer with the Oregon Department of Forestry, said the fire is just 15 percent contained though conditions have improved which should help firefighters.

"It's sure looking a lot better now than it did last Friday," Ballou said.

Larson said the community is thankful for the hard work of the firefighters to keep everyone safe.

"I can guarantee you there was a lot of praying going on," she said. "There were no lives lost and nobody's home lost. We have a lot to be thankful for."

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4547.

CINEMA: Nearest theater now is at Wildhorse Resort & Casino

Continued from 1A

Humphrey said he'll miss the happy faces streaming out of the theater after a film ends, but the long drive times it took to oversee his theaters were taking a toll.

After Destiny Theatres bought Pendleton Cinema in 1994, Humphrey said he looked repeatedly into upgrading the theater. Each time, the plans didn't pan out as economically feasible.

"It would never be able to pay for itself," he said.

Unlike Hermiston, which benefits from a "vibrant economy" and a larger customer base, Humphrey said Pendleton simply doesn't have enough people to support a movie theater.

Humphrey said Hermiston

Cinema will be unaffected by the Pendleton Cinema sale.

Following the closure of Pendleton Cinema, the Round-Up City will be without a movie theater for the first time in decades, the nearest theater now being the five-screen cineplex at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

In 1981, Lowell Spiess converted a former grocery store into a three-screen cinema, prompting the shuttering of the Rivoli and United Artist theaters.

The first three movies on the Pendleton Cinema marquee were "Arthur," "Paternity," and "The Watcher in the Woods."

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

LEGISLATURE: Passed statewide requirement for paid sick leave

Continued from 1A

to repeal of the just-enacted standard. Critics also raised questions about the assumed greenhouse-gas reductions in some of the alternatives proposed to the standard.

With no deal in the offing, the political ball will bounce back to the Portland City Council, which suspended its consideration of a street repair fee pending legislative discussion.

Party lines

Democrats were able to flex their majorities to pass a statewide requirement for paid sick leave and a voluntary retirement savings plan for workers without access to one. However, neither chamber advanced an increase in Oregon's minimum wage, which at \$9.25 per hour is the nation's second highest statewide rate only to Washington's \$9.47. Advocates have taken steps toward qualifying a 2016 ballot measure setting a \$15 rate by 2019.

Democrats also expanded a criminal background check for most private gun sales and transfers without Republican votes.

Bipartisan majorities did

approve implementation legislation for the 2014 ballot measure that legalizes marijuana for recreational use, and to tighten regulation of medical marijuana that voters approved back in 1998.

Temporary retail sales by medical-marijuana dispensaries can start only on Oct. 1 — three months after the ballot measure took effect this week — if Brown signs the bill. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission estimates that it will be well into 2016 before it licenses retail sales.

A related measure substitutes a sales tax on marijuana purchasers for the taxation specified in Measure 91.

Democrats also prevailed on a bill, which also failed on a tie vote in the Senate in 2013, that automatically registers people to vote based on driver records. They can opt out within 21 days.

It is the nation's first such bill, advanced by Brown as secretary of state — and signed by Brown as one of her first acts as governor.

Brown will be up in 2016 for election to the remaining two years in Kitzhaber's term.

Lawmakers will meet again in February for a session that is limited to 35 days.

SHORT STOP
2012 NW Carden Ave. 541-276-1522
Like Us On facebook

We're Moving!
St. Anthony Family Clinic
Closed July 9th & 10th
Opening
Monday, July 13th • 8 a.m.
will be located at
3001 St. Anthony Way
St. Anthony Hospital
Medical Office Building
 CHI St. Anthony Hospital
2801 St. Anthony Way
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-966-0535
www.sahpendleton.org
Imagine better health.™

70th ANNUAL
FEEL THE THUNDER!
Chief Joseph Days
RODEO
July 21-26, 2015

Four nights of PRCA rodeo plus six days of western entertainment in scenic Joseph, Oregon!

TUESDAY	1:30pm	Bucking Horse Stampede — Main Street
WEDNESDAY	9:00am	Little Buckaroo Rodeo for special needs children — Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room
THURSDAY	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk
	10:00am	Vendors off Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
		Tough Enough to Wear Pink — Wear Pink, Support Cancer Screening
		Barrel Racing Slack — After the Rodeo
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
FRIDAY	7:00am	Golf Tournament — Alpine Meadows Golf Course
	10:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
SATURDAY	6:00am	Shrine Breakfast begins
	10:00am	Grand Parade — Main Street
	12:00pm	Nez Perce Friendship Feast — Encampment Pavilion
	2:30pm	Slack — Arena
	3:00pm	Traditional Indian Dance Contest — Encampment Pavilion
		PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
	11:00pm	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — Until 3am
SUNDAY	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast Continues
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service with Soul Renovation — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena

To purchase tickets and for more info, visit www.chiefjosephdays.com