

POW WOW: ‘It’s just pretty chill, pretty fun’

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night and continued into Saturday and Sunday. Each day began with a grand entry featuring all of the dancers. Dance categories varied by type of dance and by age, featuring everyone from bouncing toddler girls to white-haired men competing in the “Golden Age” category, all accompanied by drummers also competing for a piece of the \$90,000 in prizes.

One of the golden-aged men was Alvin Umphries of Echo. He said he goes to about five pow wows per summer, usually with his wife. She was missing from the Wildhorse Pow Wow on Saturday, however, because she was at another one with her grandchildren.

Umphries, who was carefully hanging pieces of his regalia on a tree after finishing his dance category, said it was tricky to take care of, especially the bustle, which had some plastic tubing in it that can warp if it gets too hot. When he got home at 11 the night before he had to take everything out of its protective plastic bags and check it over before bed. “I start cleaning and making sure all the feathers are good,” he said. “It’s tedious sometimes but worth the effort.”

Beyond the camaraderie and fun of dancing, Umphries said he enjoys seeing everyone else’s regalia, and even checking out their hairstyles. Umphries said he recently retired from UPS and so is looking forward to starting to grow out his hair again.

“In five more years I could get it back down to what it was,” he said.

As contestants and their families travel from pow wow to pow wow, they often form friendships with the people they see during week-ends throughout the summer. Sikoya Scabbyrobe, 16, and Aurelia Johnson, 17, were hanging out together by the food vendors on Saturday afternoon. Scabbyrobe is

Wildhorse Pow Wow Results

PENDLETON—The 23rd annual Wildhorse Resort and Casino Pow Wow was a success by all measures. Hosted over the first weekend in July, hundreds of dancers and drummers were on hand to compete for their chance at over \$90,000 in cash and prizes.

Drum competitions winners were:
Drumming Contest: (1) Black Lodge, White Swan, Wash. (Yakama/Blackfeet); (2) Buffalo Hill, Usk, Wash. (Yakama); (3) Indian Hill, Jemez Pueblo, N.M. (Inter-Tribal); (4) Southern Express, Milton, Wash. (Navajo/Shawnee/Kiowa); (5) Little Island Cree, Saskatchewan, Canada (Cree)

Hand Drum: (1) Young Spirit, Shiprock, N.M. (Plains Cree); (2) Hill Side, Jemez Pueblo, N.M. (Jemez Pueblo); (3) Charles Woods III, Pendleton, Ore. (CTUIR); (4) Sonny Eagle Speaker, Yelm, Wash. (Cree/Blood).

Dance competition winners were:
Junior Boys Fancy: (1) Dylan Sampson, Walla Walla, Pendleton; (2) Caden Steward, Umatilla, Pendleton; (3) Garian McDonald, Umatilla, Pilot Rock; (4) tie Liam Beebe, Blood, Toppenish, Wash., and Conan Foltz, Yakama, Wapato, Wash.

Junior Boys Grass: (1) Rusty McCloud, Puyallup/Dakota/Walla Walla, Harrah, Wash.; (2) Elighah Denny, Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Ore.; (3) Sevastran Scabby Robe, Blackfeet, Tama, Iowa; (4) Moon Billy, Yakama, Wapato, Wash.

Junior Boys Traditional: (1) tie Herschel Williamson, Nimiipuu, Kamiah, Idaho, and Christopher Beebe, Blood, Toppenish, Wash.; (2) Bryson Wallahee, Payallup/Yakama, White Swan, Wash.; (3) A’Tish Williams, Cayuse, Thornhollow, Ore.; (4) Sheldon Joseph, Hopi/Umatilla, Pendleton.

Junior Girls Fancy: (1) Valerie Scabby Robe, Yakama, White Swan, Wash.; (2) Keaira Wak Wak, Yakama, White Swan, Wash.; (3) Katelyn Tanewasha, Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Ore.; (4) Jada Meninick, Yakama, Toppenish, Wash.

Junior Girls Jingle: (1) Tosha McCloud, Puyallup/Dakota Sioux, Harrah, Wash.; (2) Alayna Bevis, Umatilla, Pendleton; (3) Kailee Lefthand, Stoney Nakoda, Morley, Alberta, Canada; (4) Victoria Butler, Siletz, Grand Ronde, Ore.

Junior Girls Traditional: (1) Willena Whit-erass, Meskwaki/Hochunk/Blackfeet, Starr School, Mont.; (2) Tyla Freeman, Pawnee, Bellevue, Wash.; (3) Jareen Hines, Umatilla, Adams, Ore.; (4) Frieda Delores Buck, Yakama, White Swan, Wash.

Teen Boys Fancy: (1) Brian Mason George, Yakama, Toppenish, Wash.; (2) Iitnakapi Scab-by Robe, Yakama, White Swan, Wash.; (3) Preston Olney, Diné/Yakama, Winslow, Ariz.; (4) Kyal Dakota, Yakama, Toppenish, Wash.

Teen Boys Grass: (1) Manny Hawley, Chip-pewa Cree, Seattle; (2) Hampton Olney, Diné/

Yakama, Winslow, Ariz.; (3) Ezra Jim, Yakama, Wapato, Wash.; (4) Tyus Beebe, Blood, Toppe-nish, Wash.

Teen Boys Traditional: (1) TJ Olney, Diné/ Yakama, Winslow, Ariz.; (2) Nataos Beebe, Blood, Toppenish, Wash.; (3) Donovan Cree-Chief, Din’e, Shiprock, Wash.; (4) Ethan Wal-lahee, Yakama, White Swan, Wash. Teen Girls Fancy: (1) Heaven Walsey, Yakama, Satus, Wash.; (2) Violet Whitegrass, Blackfeet/Mesk-waki, Browning, Mont.; (3) Kaleen Joseph, Hopi/Umatilla, Polacca, Ariz.; (4) Aurelia Johnson, Paiute/Haida, Salem.

Teen Girls Jingle: (1) Natasha Smith, Ya-kama/Nimiipuu, Lapwai, Idaho; (2) Ashley Big Knife, Chippewa Cree, Toppenish, Wash.; (3) Julianah Matamoros, CTUIR, Pendleton; (4) Denae Smith, Yakama/Navajo, Pendleton.

Teen Girls Traditional: (1) Heaven Walsey, Yakama, Satus, Wash.; (2) Rena Penney, Nez Perce, Adams, Ore.; (3) Tia Butler, Siletz, Sa-lem; (4) Dancingstar Leighton, Umatilla, Pend-leton.

Women’s Golden Age: (1) Wilma Buck, Ya-kama, White Swan, Wash.; (2) Audrey Olney, Yakama, White Swan, Wash.; (3) Charlene Til-lequots, Yakama/Nez Perce, Harrah, Wash.; (4) Pat Heemsah, Yakama, Toppenish, Wash.

Men’s Golden Age: (1) Peter Jo Olney, Ya-kama, White Swan, Wash.; (2) Clayton Chief, Ministickwan Cree, Island Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada; (3) Rainbow Azure, Chippewa/Yaka-ma, Toppenish, Wash.; (4) Terry Heemsah Sr., Yakama, Harrah, Wash.

Women’s Fancy: (1) Summer Dawn Olney, Diné/Yakama, Winslow, Ariz.; (2) Denelle Stan-ley, Ute/Navajo/Shawnee/Creek, Seattle; (3) Mary Harris, Cayuse, Pendleton; (4) Teata El-lenwood, CTUIR, Pendleton.

Women’s Jingle: (1) Acozia Red Elk, Umatil-la, Pendleton; (2) Kia McCloud, Puyallup/Dakota Sioux, Harrah, Wash.; (3) Keeli Littleleaf, Warm Springs/Wasco, Longview, Wash.; (4) Denette Chee Chief, Diné, Shiprock, N.M.

Women’s Traditional: (1) Leah Villa, Grand Ronde, Warm Springs, Ore.; (2) Edwinna Morn-ing Owl, Yakama/Crow, Pilot Rock; (3) Destiny Buck, Wanapum/Yakama, Mattawa, Wash.; (4) Thea McCloud, Dakota Sioux Harrah, Wash.

Men’s Fancy: (1) Gary Olney, Yakama, White Swan, Wash.; (2) Manny Totus, Yakama, Puyal-up, Wash.; (3) Jay Meninick, Yakama, Lapwai, Idaho; (4) Jamie Ward, Wintu, Carmichael, Calif.

Men’s Grass: (1) Gary Villa, Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Ore.; (2) Denny Stanley Jr., Ute/ Dine/Shawnee, Milton, Wash.; (3) Alec Bluff, Kalispel, Usk, Wash.; (4) Morris Crookedneck, Cree, Billings, Mont.

Men’s Prairie Chicken: (1) Alex Meninick, Yakama, Harrah, Wash.; (2) Logan Quaepts, CTUIR, Pendleton; (3) Jesse Bevis Sr., Umatil-la, Pendleton; (4) Kellen Joseph, Walla Walla, Pendleton.

Men’s Traditional: (1) Colby White Sr., Yaka-ma, Usk, Wash.; (2) Russell McCloud, Puyallup/ Yakama/Walla Walla, Harrah, Wash.; (3) Nakia Williamson, Nez Perce, Lapwai, Idaho; (4) Quin-don Calica, Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Ore.

from White Swan, Wash-ington, and Johnson is from Salem, but they get to see each other during the summer. Both of them said they had been dancing at pow wows since they were

young children. “It’s just pretty chill, pretty fun,” Scabbyrobe said. He admitted it can get pretty hot at some of the events, though, especially while dancing in the black

and red regalia that covered most of his body. Johnson, in a long-sleeved green dress, agreed. “You’re covered basically head to toe,” she said. “No tank top and shorts.”

RAINBOW: One afternoon not nearly enough to explore gathering

Continued from 1A

trash cleanup, sanitation and avoiding sensitive habitat.

Perhaps the biggest challenge we faced was finding a place to park. There is no parking allowed on Forest Road 24, which leads into Flagtail Meadow, and making good on numerous warnings, we saw tow trucks hauling several vehicles away.

Finally, we pulled into a designated lot in a grassy field off the road where a group of women waved us into a spot that was just wide enough to fit my Toyota Camry. “Welcome home,” they greeted us, and extended an offer of handpicked raspberries. We chatted briefly before starting back down the gravel road toward the main gathering.

The Rainbow Gathering is not authorized by the Forest Service, though the sheer number of participants makes it all but impossible for the agency to stop. Gatherings have been happening since 1972, and they usually culminate on the Fourth of July with a prayer for world peace.

Our first stop was at A-Camp, which was chock-full of vehicles with license plates from California to Vermont. The original Woodstock Festival crossed my mind just as someone began to play Jimi Hendrix on their speakers.

We followed the trail that led deeper into the gathering where I was introduced to Adam, a man in his 50s who needed help carrying his backpack. Adam said he has lung problems, and was struggling with the altitude. He placed the pack in a baby stroller, which I pulled up the hill while he carried a guitar slung around his shoulder.

Along the way, I asked Adam where he is from. “The same place as you,” he answered. “From my mother’s womb.” He claimed he has been on the road since he was a teenager, when he first hitchhiked cross-country

from Buffalo, New York to San Francisco.

We stopped at a place in the shade where Adam decided to rest. He thanked me for the help and gave me a hug. I wished him luck on his travels, to which he replied, “It ain’t about luck. It’s about love.” That line stuck with me for the rest of the day.

It quickly became apparent to both Tim and me that a single afternoon would not be long enough to absorb everything that goes on at the Rainbow Gathering. We caught snippets of different conversations, including a man who said someone had stolen his puppy and another who was looking for someone to give him \$7 so he could go back into town a buy a hamburger. Somewhere in the distance we heard drums and violins, and caught the occasional whiff of marijuana.

Nothing is for sale at the gathering, though there is an row where members can trade and barter with each other. Items that were out on display included everything from orange juice to jewelry to a bottle of unlabeled pills. We never saw a uniformed law enforcement officer inside the gathering, except for along the main Forest Service road.

On our way back down, a steady stream of people continued to file into the gathering, some with wagons full of supplies. After Tuesday, the Forest Service expects attendance will begin to wind down until the gathering officially wraps up Friday.

At that time, we will look ahead to reporting on the damage caused by having 10,000-plus campers in one place at the same time. As for the gathering itself, it is clear there is much for a white-bread journalist like myself to learn about this massive counter-culture experience.

One afternoon was not enough for me to gain that depth of knowledge. But it at least opens the door to a better understanding.

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