

Elders' Honor Day Draws 300 and Plenty of Wows

■ Largest ever event leaves guests with plenty of memories.

By Ron Karten

Almost 300 Elders — many from across Oregon, from Idaho and Washington traveled to Grand Ronde at the end of July to join the festivities for the Tribe's annual Elders' Honor Day.

"We kept everything really simple," said Louise Medeiros, Chair of the Elders' Committee.

Members of the VFW presented the colors with cultural drums. The Royalty princesses did the Lord's Prayer in sign language. All had a great spaghetti lunch before an afternoon of bingo with donated prizes and crafts work. A "happy hour" was non-alcoholic but attired in the Hawaiian theme on a background of dinner music.

"It was wonderful," said Medeiros, who was chair of the committee for the first time this year.

Eldest Elder awards went to Nora Kimsey, 94, and Leonard Vivette, 89. Kimsey received a hand-made pine needle basket, and Vivette a bone ceremonial necklace, both gifts of the Cultural department.

Breakfast the next morning was a big surprise for Penny DeLoe in the kitchen, who was expecting 50 and had to quickly whip up food for 120. Fortunately, she had the help of her daughter and her two friends who came down from a chef's school in Washington to help prepare the meals. "Everybody is still raving about it," said Medeiros. "It was fancy but stayed within the limits of what Elders like to eat. We thoroughly enjoyed every bite." And the best part, Medeiros said, is that "they're going to do our Christmas party, too."

The event planning starts in September each year. Medeiros attributes the giant turnout to the popular Hawaiian theme. "Next year we're going to have to do it at the gym. We've outgrown the community center," she said.

Tribes represented included



Dorothy Greene



Tribal Elders, Guests and Friends get Hawaiian



It's Their Day — The Theme of this year's Elders' Honor Day was Hawaiian. On Friday, July 26 Tribal Elders came from all over the northwest to participate in this year's celebration. Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison shows off her new Macy's of New York bag (above) while Elder Joe Vicenzi gives Danielle Sundahl a ride on his motorized cart.

Grand Ronde, Siletz, Umatilla, Burns Paiute, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, Snohomish, Coquille, Cow Creek and Warm Springs.

Medeiros had nothing but praise for the four volunteers, Jill Brandon, Brianna Leno, Bonnie Tom,

and Pearl Mekemson, who worked all the way through. And she gave special thanks to Tribal Council member Val Grout "who worked in the kitchen and doing whatever needed to be done."

Even more than the gifts, said

Elder Honor Day 2002

Photos by Peta Tinda



Medeiros, "we gave of ourselves this year. We wanted to give them memories, and that's what they went away with. It was festive and everybody was happy, and that's what we gave them this year." ■

Singer Tony Orlando Brings His Show To Grand Ronde

■ '70s superstar still has what it takes to entertain.

By Peta Tinda

International singing superstar Tony Orlando recently charmed the crowd at Spirit Mountain Casino, often going into the audience and singing as well as bring audience members up on stage. Orlando, who has five Billboard number one

hits and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, was in Grande Ronde in late June and performed for an enthusiastic crowd.

Best known for his hits, "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree," "Candida," and his 1971 hit

"Knock Three Times," Orlando is one of America's best known and most loved performers.

And perform he did, to the delight of the crowd, who responded with applause and standing ovations.

Orlando has been the recipient of

three American Music Awards and a people's choice award. He moved to Branson, Missouri in 1993 and has performed more than 2,000 shows at the Osmond Family Theater. ■

Photos by Peta Tinda



He Still Got It — '70s superstar Tony Orlando now performs regularly in Branson, Missouri at the Osmond Family Theater.



Sweet Kiss — Tony Orlando gets a kiss from Dora Wilson of Port Angeles, Washington while posing for a photo with Karen Ksionk, Sharon Grout and Tribal Council member Val Grout after his show at Spirit Mountain Casino.



Just Hanging Out — Orlando spent some time after his performance in Grand Ronde just hanging out with the locals like Tribal members Jeff Mercier (left), Travis Stewart (center) and Manny Mercier (right).