

# Tribe Celebrates 21 Years Of Restoration



**Young Dancer** — Rain Teeman, age 13, from Eugene, gets help with his Wapasha, or roach as it's called. The young Inupiat Traditional Dancer was just one of many who came to the 21st Annual Tribal Restoration Day Pow-wow held on Sunday, November 21 at the Tribal gymnasium in Grand Ronde.

By Peta Tinda

"Everything has changed," said Tribal Elder Russ Leno as he sipped his coffee at the 21st annual Tribal Restoration Day Celebration, held at the community center in Grand Ronde.

ing the Tribe, downplayed his role. "I just went and sat in... it was great experience to be in D.C. I went twice," he said. "The only thing is I wish my folks were alive to see the

*"The only thing is I wish my folks were alive to see the changes... I don't think they'd believe me."*

**~ Tribal Elder Russ Leno**

"We never dreamed it would be this good," said Leno. "Things were much different then; we didn't have money, no nothing. But we always had good

changes... I don't think they'd believe me," he said. Tribal Chairwoman Cheryl Kennedy welcomed the 200 or so



**Appearance** — Mescalero Apache "Gahe" or spirit dancers performed at the Restoration Pow-wow. According to tradition, the dancers live in sacred mountain and come forth to drive away sickness and evil and bring good fortune. The towering headdresses and sacred symbols — a cross or a star — symbolize protection from the spirits.

feeling that we would be restored." Leno, who was one of the original team of Tribal members who made the first trips to Washington, D.C. in the early eighties and began the work of restor-

Tribal and community members who attended the celebration. "We are very pleased to be able to provide this gathering in honor of those who worked so hard to restore



**Leaders** — Tribal Veterans Marce Norwest (right) and Eugene LaBonte led the Grand Ronde Tribal Color Guard into the arena, followed by Tribal Veterans, the Tribal Council and Tribal Royalty. **Photos by Peta Tinda**

the Tribe," she said. Kennedy then acknowledged the Tribal Elders, saying "it's wonderful to see so many Elders here; they worked very hard to bring us here today." She also thanked the former Tribal Council members who were there. Kennedy gave special thanks to the main players in the restoration saying "Margaret Provost — we owe a lot of gratitude to her and she's still work-

Valley Native artifacts including regalia, baskets, trade beads and ancient tools, such as mortars and pestles. A genealogy scroll that listed the Grand Ronde families dating back to the original signers of the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 was also on display, giving Tribal members a visible link to their ancestors. Both Grand Ronde and visiting Tribal Elders were given gift bags in thanks for their coming.



**Family Ties** — Tribal member Wanda McCoy looks at the Tribal genealogy scroll, which lists the various Grand Ronde families all the way back to the original signers of the 1855 Willamette Valley Treaty.

ing," said Kennedy of Provost, who was in the kitchen volunteering her time to make sure everyone got fed. "The others, Marvin Kimsey, who worked so hard and Merle Holmes, who we all know passed on this year. We know restoration was part of his vision," said Kennedy. "And also Jackie Whisler and Jackie Provost," continued Kennedy. "There are so many people that helped in the great effort. All of the women who held bake sales and raffles to raise the money to go on the trips to Washington needed to gain restoration — we're here to thank them and tell them that we are very grateful," said Kennedy. Volunteers Jackie Provost and Dakota Whitecloud coordinated the day's events. Tribal member Bobby Mercier gave the invocation, giving thanks for the chance to come together. The restoration day attendees were served a dinner of roast beef, salmon and frybread. The Tribal Cultural Resources Department set up a display of Willamette

When the meal was served, Tribal Cultural Resources Manager June Olson told stories from the Tribe's early pre-reservation days. Afterwards, a pow-wow was held in the Tribal gymnasium. Tribal member Bob Tom was Emcee for the celebration. The turnout for the pow-wow who included 50 dancers in regalia. There were five drum groups: Shona-Ay, Four Directions, The Three Drum Singers, All Nations, Antelope Spirit and Grand Ronde's own Eagle Beak Singers, who sang the Veterans' and Honor songs. Tribal Elder Dale Langley, who is old enough to remember when the Tribe was terminated, said that they each got \$900 for the millions of acres of ancestral lands that were lost. "After that we never got nothing and the government never gave us nothing," said Langley. "Most of us worked either logging or farming and we ate a lot of deer meat. The things we have today, I don't think it's owed to me... but boy, it's a gift." ■