

Chemawa Pow-wow Celebrates The School's 125th Birthday



Moccasin Square Garden — About 300 people attended the Chemawa Pow-wow on Saturday, February 19 in celebration of the boarding school's 125th Birthday. Eight drums and about 50 dancers enjoyed the day's events. The Chemawa Indian Boarding School dates back to the 1870s and moved to its current site in Keizer in 1885. Chemawa is the oldest continuously operating boarding school in the United States. School officials announced that their new dormitory will open next year and that razor wire placed on a new fence surrounding school property will be removed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the student's request.

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"You always want to see if it looks the same," said Lee of her alma mater. She had not been to a pow-wow at Chemawa in three years.

"I enjoy seeing the changes in regalia," said Butler, who drove the group in a new car that her daughter, Jennifer, bought her recently with bingo winnings. "They keep getting better every year," she said. "The styles. And how young they start."

Alaska Native Rain Teeman

(Innupiak) and Bonnie Teeman (Ojibwe) from Eugene started this year at a New Year's pow-wow sponsored by the Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA).

"This is a really good pow-wow," said Bonnie.

The pair said they will travel to Montana, Minnesota and points beyond before the year is out.

Eight drums, including two played by students at the school, provided the beat for the day's activities, according to Don Pigsley (Yankton Dakota Sioux), a member of the school's Pow-wow Com-

mittee. The drums came from Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Some 50 dancers participated.

A dozen or more vendors provided an outlet for loose change in the crowd.

Margaret Place, who sells the work of many Tribal inmates, said she couldn't keep enough chess sets for the demand. She also had beautiful pieces molded with "Alaskan clay found after an earthquake."

Another vendor's concessions — including jewelry and trinkets — all were made with horse shoe nails. ■

"Let's Get It Started" — Nick Hall carried the Eagle Staff and lead the Honor Guard at the 7 p.m. Grand Entry at Chemawa's 125th Birthday Pow-wow.



Showcase — Many vendors from all over the state attended the Chemawa Pow-wow to sell and show off their homemade jewelry and trinkets. Hairpins and dream catchers were among the many various items for sell.