



**"Outstanding"** — Tribal Royalty Melissa Biery, Kayla Kneeland and Leah Brisbois share a laugh on their 4.3 mile journey through downtown Portland.



## Tribe Stars At Grand Floral Parade

■ Spirit Mountain Casino float wins award.

By Toby McClary

"Taxayam! Hayash-tseqw tilixam nsayka!" "Hello! We are the Columbia River People!" won the Sweepstakes Award for Most Outstanding Float in the 2005 Floral Parade which took place on Saturday, June 11 in Portland.

The Spirit Mountain Casino and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's float won the Sweepstakes Award for the second year in a row.

This year's float was a life-size replica of a Chinookan village that included two plankhouses, traditional Chinookan statues and artwork designed by Chinook Tribal member and Acting Culture Manager Tony Johnson and Carver Adam McIsaac.

The float commemorated the meeting between Northwest Native Americans and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Tribal members Ed Hanson and J.R. Robertson portrayed Lewis and Clark wearing buckskin outfits and Tribal member Maria Ramirez dressed as Sacajawea.

Hanson is the Corporate Communications Manager for Spirit Mountain Casino and he spearheaded the design and development of the float. He ex-

plained that he relies on the Cultural Resources Department and Tribal member Elaine LaBonte for as much authenticity as possible.

"I'd like to credit them for their hard work," said Hanson.

There were a total of 14 people on the float. Grand Ronde Royalty accompanied Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison and Tribal members Elaine LaBonte and Pearl Mekemson weaved tradi-

tional baskets on the second stage of the float.

The float was 70 feet long, 12 feet wide and 13 feet high.

The Grand Floral Parade is the second largest all-floral parade in North America and the largest, single-day spectator event in Oregon. The parade travels 4.3 miles beginning inside the Memorial Coliseum, continuing throughout

downtown Portland and finishing at Lincoln High School.

The parade was broadcasted live on Northwest NewsChannel 8 and the Northwest Cable News channel.

"I think the process went ex-

tremely well," said Hanson. "The fact that it was a collaborated event between the casino and the Tribe was the key to success. This float gave the Tribe another point of pride," he said.



Tribal Youth Orin John Allen



**Hat Trick** — Grand Ronde community member J.R. Robertson (right), who dressed as William Clark of the infamous Lewis & Clark Duo, traded hats with KGW NewsChannel 8 Weatherman Dave Salesky.



**"Taxayam"** —

Over 500,000 people lined the streets of Portland for this year's Southwest Airlines Grand Floral Parade. Spirit Mountain Casino's float won the Sweepstakes Award for the second year in a row.