

Veterans Honored At Annual Pow-wow

"Super-good" event despite ominous clouds and no frybread.

Photos and Story By
Toby McClary

On the weekend of July 8-10, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde hosted its Annual Veterans' Pow-wow. The honorary event was held at the pow-wow arena in Grand Ronde.

On Friday evening, the crowning ceremony was held at

the Community Center for the 2005-2006 Veterans' Royalty. Orin John Allen was elected as Senior Warrior, Leland "Brother" Butler as Junior Warrior, Halona Butler as Junior Queen and Miranda Provost as Senior Queen. Tribal Elders Kathryn Harrison and Diane Lane and Tribal member Bobby Mercier served as judges for the pageant.

"People are really impressed with the addition of the Young Warriors," said Billie LaBonte who organized and directed the pageant. "The parents are very cooperative and helpful and the pageant went beautifully."

Friday evening, after the crowning ceremony, the royalty held a "thank you" give-away in the Tribal gymnasium to honor the people that volunteered their time.

On Saturday, after a long wait under a potentially hazardous sky, grand entry began at about one in the afternoon.

The arena filled up quickly during the first grand entry of the weekend. About 300 people including Grand Ronde's Honor Guard, Veterans' Royalty, Siletz Tribal Royalty and the many Veterans participated. A special area beside the emcee's stand was furnished with chairs and designated for the World War II Veterans that were unable to walk during grand entry.

After the colors were posted, 272 Veterans lined up for their opportunity to introduce themselves and the military branch in which they served. Following each introduction was the sound of beating drums and a large applause from the crowd that could be heard throughout Grand Ronde. Nearly 500 Medals of Valor were handed out and 13 Medals of Honor were given to the proud mothers of Veterans.

The thunderous roar of the motorcycle clubs started shortly after the introductions as 118 motorcycles entered the pow-wow grounds. The motorcycles made a lap around the arena before parking and allowing people to take pictures and visit with the owners.

"I loved it," said Tribal Elder and President of the Veteran Special Event Board Gene LaBonte. "All

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Place of Honor, Respect — Grand Ronde Princess Nakoosa Moreland, above, smiles for the camera during the evening grand entry on Saturday, July 9. Moreland is running for Junior Miss Grand Ronde. She is the daughter of Tribal member C.C. Kneeland and Bill Moreland. The crowning ceremony for the 2005/2006 Royalty will be held in the Grand Ronde Pow-wow Arena during the Annual Contest Pow-wow on the weekend of August 19-21.



Hardo Frutos - Warm Springs



Rosa Frutos - Warm Springs



Get Your Motor Running — 118 motorcycles entered the arena, did a quick lap, and then posed for photos.



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of the bikes were blessed and the bikers were really good people. They didn't harm one blade of grass on that arena," he said.

Despite a lack of frybread, which some substituted with elephant ears, those in attendance seemed to relax and enjoy the events that took place. After four short hours, the elephant ear stand had to close the doors due to exhaustion and a shortage of supplies.

There were a total of 24 vendors at this year's pow-wow. Among the vendors was Carolyn Wagner

(Oto), who pulled in Friday morning and was camping for the weekend. Wagner was selling items that she had accumulated from an online business.

"This is my third Veterans' Pow-wow," said Wagner. "I love it. I see more and more Veterans every year and it seems this year, people have been more respectful."

After a few hours of "pow-wowing," it was time for dinner break. There was a complimentary spaghetti dinner held at the Community Center for all that were hungry.

The evening grand entry kicked off at about 7:00 p.m. At dusk,

the Eagle Beak Singers formed a circle in the middle of the arena and used their hand drums to sing Owl Dance songs. The pow-wow went on late into the night, though *Smoke Signals* wrapped things up at about 11:00 p.m.

Sunday's grand entry began about noon and was held in the Tribal gymnasium due to bad weather.

"Overall, the pow-wow was super-good," said Gene LaBonte. "It was a real success."

Nick Sixkiller (Cherokee) and Tribal Elder Bob Tom emceed this year's pow-wow and Signal Butte was the host drum.