

# "Lewis & Clark" Return

**LEWIS & CLARK continued from front page**

More than 300 a day traveled back in time with the Park Service program that described events through hand held recorders as visitors looked at related drawings on tent walls.

Tribal Elders and Tribal Council members could be seen around every corner, enjoying the opportunity to see what the Tribe had created in concert with the Park Service offerings, and to partake in the social atmosphere of community from the perspective of 200 years.

"We welcomed them into our houses and lodges," said Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy in her introduction in the Tent of Many Voices. "They were tired and weak but they still had the spirit of enthusiasm in their hearts. We taught them our ways. Our Tribes give believing that it will be returned. That spirit of giving is the same one we have today."

The Grand Ronde Honor Guard, Royalty and Coyote Creek Singers also helped open the program

"Lewis and Clark is very secondary to me," said Tribal Tourism Coordinator and Tribal member Elaine LaBonte. "My focus was providing jobs for unemployed Trib-

al members. Almost every demonstrator is unemployed and making money (during this event)."

LaBonte found grants to pay demonstrators and those meeting



Tribal member and Tribal Tourism Manager Elaine LaBonte introduced Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison in the Tent of Many Voices.

and greeting the public, something she had never before had the money to do. In all, some 30 unemployed Tribal members were paid to help out at the event.

"All have demonstrated for free in the past," said LaBonte, "and they do it for free anytime I ask, so I am very very very pleased to have money to pay them this time."

And Tribal vendors paid nothing for their spaces to increase profits they might make with their crafts,

though halfway through the event, a number of vendors said that there was not much selling going on. By the end of the week, Tribal member Josephine Ingraham of Scappose

cemetery boundaries are not up," she said, "but we have permission to put them up from the Army Corps of Engineers."

The project began for Sheker when she was on Tribal Council, she said, and she worried what was going to happen with it after her term was up.

"It's important to preserve these historic sites," she said.

Nine days of one-hour presentations from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day opened the door to a giant wealth of information and a place of historical education that has for years been lost to many.

Elaine LaBonte's 10-year-old daughter, PimNaniHiish Nelson, was dressed in regalia when she described her experiences as a young Native girl at the same event in St. Helens and at the VIP dinner there.

PimNaniHiish talked about Chief Coboway, her great great great great grandfather, and the most friendly Native Chief to Lewis and Clark. She described how Lewis and Clark left the deed to Fort Clatsop and all its belongings to Chief Coboway, and how when later Europeans came on the scene, they took the deed, ripped it up and threw it in the fire before taking the Fort for themselves.

PimNaniHiish also described how angry this action made her, but also how proud she was to still weave like her ancestors.

An American girl, around 15, visiting the tent, listened to Pim's talk and asked LaBonte if Pim always dressed like that.

"For her to ask that question is huge," said LaBonte.

At the VIP dinner, PimNaniHiish said, "In that same spirit (of Chief Coboway), I would like to welcome Lewis and Clark to the homelands of Chief Coboway and to the homelands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde."

Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison talked about "Our Trail of Tears." Tribal member Misty Blakely talked about traditional beadwork. Tribal member Patti Tom-Martin talked about Health and Wellness. Tribal



Pictured here is a bulletin board of historic photos and the plant life that Lewis & Clark may have encountered while visiting the northwest.

said that sales were "pretty good."

The current expedition began at Thomas Jefferson's home in Monticello near Charlottesville, Virginia on January 14, 2003. Before the project is done, it will have visited more than 100 communities along the route that the original expedition traveled. Although Grand Ronde was not on that route, a number of the Tribes that now make up the Grand Ronde confederation were, according to LaBonte.

"Corps II," according to a National Park Service summary, "consists of an exhibit tent with a self-guided audio headset tour and a performance tent called the Tent of Many Voices. In addition, the Park Service had brought along a half-sized replica of a Lewis & Clark keelboat and a hand-carved canoe along with Park Service representatives who showed a number of crafts and told stories about the old days."

The Tent of Many Voices provided seating for 150 people with live demonstrations, lectures, cultural presentations and audio-visual programs.

Tribal member Valorie Sheker-Robertson described Native efforts to preserve the historic St. James Cemetery at Fort Vancouver. "The

## Lewis & Clark Book Gives "Personality" To The Members of the Corps of Discovery

By Ron Karten

The recent publication of *Our Destiny Entwined, A Tale of the Corps of Discovery's Winter at the Pacific Coast*, combines photos of many Lewis and Clark re-creations by Craig C. Harmel and all of the attributes of a great story, said Tribal member and Tribal Tourism Coordinator Elaine LaBonte.

"What I think is different about this book is that it actually reads like a story, and I enjoyed it." It was written by Timothy X. Merritt, who has spent more than 17 years as both an enlisted soldier in an infantry company and as an infantry officer in the Oregon Army National Guard. He also writes fiction.

"This is the only one I have read that is not from a scholarly point of view," said LaBonte. "It does not focus on Lewis and Clark. It focuses on everybody within the expedition."

The book does not make either Lewis and Clark or the Indians heroes, said LaBonte. "I think it's just a novel about the people and their encounter." ■

