

Contest Pow-wow, Dancers Stay On the Move

■ Next year's event heading to new grounds near Fort Yamhill State Park

By Ron Karten
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Twenty-eight years ago, Tribal Elder Wink Soderberg welcomed everybody to Grand Ronde's pow-wow. He was Tribal Council co-chair then, and welcoming the crowds this year, he is again a member of the Tribal Council.

"It took place on our cemetery grounds," Soderberg said Sunday, Aug. 19, the last day of the three-day 2007 Grand Ronde Contest Pow-wow. "People ask why would you hold a pow-wow on cemetery grounds? And the answer is, that was the only ground we had."

Today, things are different. In fact, the Tribe now has land enough that the pow-wow grounds are moving from property across from the Governance Center to bigger quarters in 2008.

The huge white tent, dozens of food and merchandise vendors and parking will move in below Fort Yamhill State Park where the Elders covered stands are already waiting, grass is planted, electricity is in and the road is paved.

This year, some called the 2007 Contest Pow-wow "the best ever," not only for the attendance, but despite the crazy weather filled with despair and hope. One moment, the weather turned Grand Entry into a stampede for shelter and, another, it had crowds basking in sunshine.

It was a weekend that brought Tribal Elder Lorene Smith up from Oakland, Calif. Smith is one of Tribal member Bobby Mercier's aunts. Tribal Council Secretary Jack Giffen Jr. held a pow-wow party and many Lenos, as always, met at Russ Leno's place.

The annual Northwest and Riggs reunion took off on Sunday afternoon. Tribal member Reina Nelson's brother from Tulalip, Tribal member Renaldo, came in for the weekend.

One-year-old Tribal member Leo Norwest, son of Tribal member Shannon Stanton, grandson of Tribal Elder Marcella Norwest and named after her father, was decked out in grass dance regalia and could have been this year's youngest dancer, though children of all ages turned out in droves.

Among Elders, Tribal Elder Grace Englehardt cel-



Tribal Elder Lorene Smith came up from Oakland, Calif., for this year's pow-wow.

brated her 95th birthday with a surprise barbecue with family in McMinnville on Saturday, and then enjoyed a cake in the Cougar Lodge back in Grand Ronde with her son, George Thanos, of Hartsville, S.C. He later helped her over to the pow-wow tent, where they watched the Saturday afternoon dances.

Tribal members Eric Sabin and his wife, Hope Lafferty, welcomed Eric's cousins Jasmine and Bre from Portland, along with his Aunt Nikki and her sons, Ben and Alex, all Tribal members. The boys wore ribbon shirts for the pow-wow.

Tribal Elder Steve Bobb's brother, Tribal Elder Isaac Bobb, came in from Washington for the weekend, said Tony Selwyn, who was glad to finally meet Isaac.

On Saturday night, the Grand Ronde canoe family welcomed friends from the Chilliwack, Queets, Suquamish and Puyallup tribes,

said Tribal members and Education specialists Leslie Riggs and Bobby Mercier.

The group sang songs that other tribes "gifted" to the Grand Ronde Tribe, said Tribal and canoe family member Daniel Haug. Among them were a frog song, squirrel song and co-ed song.

After the pow-wow on Saturday, said Bobby Mercier, the group stayed and sang some 10 songs "from all of us," filling the air with music until 1:30 a.m.

Native Paul Carey "put on a special for his grandmother," said Mercier. He brought gifts, hosted men's and women's traditional dances, charged a committee to name winners and gave the winners gifts.

"This is the first time anybody has put on a special like this," said Mercier, "and (Carey) talked about doing it again next year." ■



Photo by Toby McClary

Left: Employees of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City were in Grand Ronde for pow-wow weekend. Tribal member Jon George, left, presented Merrily Sterns, Sterns' husband Maury and Donna Sethi with handmade crafts during Friday evening's grand entry. Bottom: Tribal member Hope Lafferty, center, paints designs on to the hand of Tiana Woods (Navajo) of Seattle. Lafferty's fiance, Tribal member Eric Sabin, watches.



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And the winners are ...

Winners of the 2007 Grand Ronde Contest Pow-wow are:

Girls Jingle (6-12)
First: Hokia McCloud (Dakota)
Second: Tasoom Rice (Northern Cheyenne/Tlingit)
Third: Nakoosa Moreland (Grand Ronde)
Fourth: Kateri Whitehead (Siletz)

Girls Fancy (6-12)
First: Joelle ScabbyRobe (Blackfoot/Stoney)
Second: Autumn Sky Johnson (Wasco/Paiute)
Third: Jaydean Randall (Sioux/Dine)
Fourth: Nikki Dashner (Ojibwe)

Girls Traditional (6-12)
First: Destiny Summers (Klamath/Wasco)
Second: Klarece Seelatee (Yakama)
Third: Enecia Timman (Nez Perce)
Fourth: Marnie Littlelight (Crow)

Boys Grass (6-12)
First: Cody Merrill (Happy Camp)
Second: Manny Hawley (Chippewa/Cree)
Third: Junior James (Cree)
Fourth: Tyrell David (Warm Springs/Yakama)

Boys Fancy (6-12)
First: Ila Pinkham (Nez Perce)
Second: Tyler Dashner (Ojibwe)
Third: Nathan Ream (Grand Ronde)

Boys Traditional (6-12)
First: Red Bear McCloud (Dakota)
Second: Garyson Johnson (Wasco/Paiute)
Third: San Poi Whitehead (Siletz)
Fourth: Kiowa Daugherty (Kiowa)

Teen Girls Jingle
First: Kayla Johnson (Warm Springs/Lummi)
Second: Talia Reasoner (Seminole/Cherokee)
Third: Lakoda ScabbyRobe (Stoney/Blackfoot)
Fourth: Tereasia Woods (Sechelt)

Teen Girls Fancy
First: Niquie Ali (Spokane)
Second: Mona Hawley (Chippewa/Cree/Warm Springs)
Third: Latisha Scabbyrobe (Blackfoot/Cree/Yakama)
Fourth: Latesha Jackson (Klamath)

Teen Girls Traditional
First: Terri Menninick (Yakama/Nez Perce)
Second: Leah Brisbois (Grand Ronde)
Third: Angelina Antone (Yakama/Tohono O'odham)
Fourth: Arlene K. David (Yakama)

Teen Boys Grass
First: Mario Hawley (Chippewa/Cree)
Second: Creighton ScabbyRobe (Blackfoot)
Third: Danny Leonard (Puyallup/Yakama)
Fourth: Marcel Allen (Grand Ronde)

Teen Boys Fancy
First: Jared Jackson (Klamath)
Second: Angelo Paul (Alexander)
Third: Daniel Tumsuden (Chippewa)

Teen Boys Traditional
First: Sage ScabbyRobe (Blackfoot/Yakama)
Second: Zack Johnson (Dine)
Third: Ernest Morning Owl (Crow/Yakama)
Fourth: Terry Heemsah (Yakama)

Women All Categories Golden Age (50 or older)
First: Wilma Wahsise (Yakama)
Second: Nancy Tailfeathers (Wasco/Paiute)
Third: Louise ScabbyRobe (Yakama/Blood)
Fourth: Ruth Jim (Yakama)

Men All Categories Golden Age (50 or older)
First: Charles Tailfeathers (Cree/Blackfoot)
Second: Richard Rock (Chippewa/Cree)
Third: Peter Jo Olney (Yakama)
Fourth: Mike Dashner (Ojibwe)

Women's Jingle
First: Thea McCloud (Dakota)
Second: JoVelle Pacheco (Sioux/Dine/Pueblo)
Third: Carol Cailing (Nooksack)
Fourth: Julie Birdstone (Kutenai)

Women's Fancy
First: Rose Greene (Nez Perce/Salish)
Second: Crystalina Pacheco (Dine/Sioux/Pueblo)
Third: Katrina Reis (Siletz)
Fourth: Birdie ScabbyRobe (Kallispell)

Women's Traditional
First: Wilma Buck (Yakama)
Second: Sisiley Scott (Warm Springs/Sioux)
Third: Tisa Matheson (Nez Perce/Cree)
Fourth: Leah Brown (Dine/Apache)

Men's Grass
First: Kelsey Haywahe (Wasco/Assiniboine)
Second: Stuart Morin (Cree)
Third: Kendrick Slim (Dine)
Fourth: Darrell Paskimin (Cree)

Men's Fancy
First: Skye McMichael (Luiseno)
Second: John Meninick (Yakama)

Men's Traditional
First: Wayne Holliday (Dine)
Second: David Spotted Eagle (Blackfoot)
Third: Russell McCloud (Puyallup/Yakama)
Fourth: Jason Stacona (Warm Springs)