

Royal procession



Photo by Ron Karten

Grand Ronde Royalty and others performed in the Tribal Community Center at the welcoming meeting on Saturday, March 1, for new Senior Miss Grand Ronde Josea Faris, second from left. Others, from left, are Lindsey McCue, Junior Miss; Mary Lopez; Promise Rimer, Little Miss Grand Ronde; and Goldie Bly.

Mercy & Wisdom representatives slate visit

Members of Portland-based Mercy & Wisdom, which offers primary health care by licensed naturopathic physicians and acupuncturists, will visit the Tribal Community Center at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 30, to discuss possibly offering services to Tribal members.

Mercy & Wisdom specializes in naturopathic medicine, Chinese medicine and acupuncture, Oriental bodywork, nutritional counseling and other forms of alternative medicines, as well as Western medicine.

Mercy & Wisdom Healing Center offers a sliding scale fee schedule for patients with low income or no health care access.

For more information, call Mercy & Wisdom at 503-227-1222 or Tribal Elder Louise Medeiros at 503-879-4312. ■

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

The following committees and SEB's have vacancies: Culture Committee — 2; Fish & Wildlife — 1; Powwow SEB — 1; Rodeo SEB — 3.

Contact Dakota Whitecloud for an application and/or more information at 503-879-1309 or dakota.whitecloud@grandronde.org. Tribal members can apply any time to serve on committees and special events boards.

'He's got a lot of respect'

NORWESTS continued
from front page

he and his wife, Sharon, ran for years, and for his part in helping the Veterans' Memorial get funded and built — but also for who Marce was as a person.

"He's got a lot of respect," Leno said.

"Marce believes, 'We take care of our family,'" Bobb said.

"Marce has always been a legend around here," said Tribal Council member Kathy Tom.

Marce was born in Klamath and attended Chemawa Indian School in Salem, but he lived in Grand Ronde most of his life.

He served in Europe and is a combat veteran of Korea, 1952-53. He served in the Army operating 50-caliber machine guns and protecting Army engineers.

On his return home, he began 17 years at Fort Hill Lumber Co. as a certified grader, and also operated the lift truck, fed the planer and loaded trucks.

"Then John Hampton bought it and let the older guys go," he said.

He's been the Natural Resources officer, keeping things honest in Reservation forests, making sure that visitors to the reservation treat it with respect, ever since.

Campers would encounter Marce, said Tom, and ask themselves, "Who was that guy? He just appeared out of the dark like a ghost in the forest."

Married for 42 years, Marce has always been appreciative of Sharon's help. She was his right-hand gal when they organized the Veterans' Powwow in the mid-1990s and ran it until the 2004 Veterans' Powwow when they passed the reins on to Tribal Elder Gene LaBonte and his wife, Billie.

Sharon served as secretary for local veterans groups all her life, Marce said. And she has been a great influence on Tribal Royalty for 15 years.

The highpoint, she said, was taking the Royalty to meet Miss America and Miss Indian USA at the Portland Convention Center.

Marce thanked Sharon for some of her other beautiful traits: "I used



Photo by Ron Karten

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and Vice Chair Reyn Leno present Marce and Sharon Norwest with a blanket, a token of thanks for their lifelong dedication to the Tribe.

to drink a bit," Marce said, "and Sharon would drive me home."

"I like to eat," he added, telling stories on himself. "Two or three in the morning, I'll be there in the kitchen cooking. One time, Sharon came down and said, 'What are you doing? You just ate.' And I said, 'I did? What did I have?' She said, 'Look at your shirt.'"

If he loved Sharon's great sense of humor, it was mutual admiration.

"Marce is a big joker," she said. "One time, he painted eyeglasses on our cat. Another time, he gave one of our dogs a Mohawk."

"He's generous to a fault," she continued. "He'd loan a complete stranger \$100."

Although Sharon used to do beadwork, she said, "We've been so busy for so long that I kind of let my hobbies go."

Marce, by his own reckoning, is the type who observes but does not say much.

In talking about his accomplishments at his retirement, however, he said that one of the things "I always felt good about" was his help with the Restoration effort, though he said he didn't accomplish much.

Always humble, Norwest apologized afterwards for not mentioning Duke (David) Olson, founder of the first veterans group in Grand Ronde, at his retirement party.

"(Marce) wasn't the type to stand

around and say, 'What should we do?'" said Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy. "He'd strike out on his own and do something."

In retirement, Marce said that he would help out with veterans' events again.

"I'd like to do it all again," Marce said. "I didn't realize the time was getting so short."

He quoted the great 1940s popular singer Kate Smith for his life's summary: "The glory of it all."

The first thing on the minds of all his friends and co-workers also turned out to be the thing that Marce most wanted.

"Thanks," he said at the end, "for the great respect you've shown me." ■