

2008 Elder Honor day



At left, Tribal Elders Anna Hyde and Jack Lash were crowned queen and king at Elder Honor Day held in the Tribal gymnasium on Friday, July 18.

Below, Tribal Elder Violet Folden holds a container as Tribal Elder Russ Leno picks a ticket for a prize drawing during Elder Honor Day.



Photos by Michelle Aliamo

UNITY 2008 held in Chicago

Smoke Signals wins first place in feature writing

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Every four years, the Native American Journalists Association joins with Hispanic, Asian and African-American journalists as an association called Unity, and this year in Chicago some 6,000 minority journalists talked about the changing face of journalism.

With digital media — from smart phones to the Internet — all taking advertising revenue from the traditional news sources — newspapers, radio and television — media owners and journalists are scrambling to find the right formula to stay competitive in one case and to keep a job in the business in another.

Themed as "A New Journalism for a Changing World," the event drew Indian and environmental activist Winona LaDuke (Anishinaabekwe [Ojibwe], the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg), *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* Editorial Page Editor Mark Trahan (Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of Fort Hall, Idaho), Public Broadcasting System Senior Correspondent Ray Suarez and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama.

Discussion included LaDuke's comment: "Look into social movements of communities. Those are the stories that need to be told."

In a session about the diabetes epidemic overtaking minority communities, Dr. Ann Sumner emphasized "the importance of minority participation in clinical testing. Many learn important things about their health by participating."

"We no longer have shared understandings," said Trahan in a session called "How Race Has Changed America." "We're using isolated facts to draw conclusions that are not true."

He described a story he had seen in the mainstream press about Indian casinos and "it did not quote one Native American source."

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley welcomed the group and then castigated it for reporting negative news "24 hours a day, seven days a week."

"Our perceptions," Daley said, "come through the media."

Obama capped off the convention on Sunday morning speaking about his recent trip to Afghanistan, Iraq and Europe, and generally supporting minority issues, such as affirmative action and sovereignty.

In a paper called, "Principles for Stronger Tribal Communities," Obama said that he supports self-determination for Tribes and consultation with and inclusion for Native Americans with a promise to appoint "an American Indian policy adviser on his senior White House staff."

Presumptive Republican nominee Sen. John McCain declined an invitation to speak at the convention, but on ABC's "This Week" news magazine an hour before Obama spoke in Chicago, McCain opposed affirmative action efforts to level the playing field for minorities.

Fewer awards were given out to NAJA journalists this year, with only one winner in each category. *Smoke Signals* took first in its class for the best Feature story for staff writer Ron Karten's "An Ick-Quired Taste?" published Aug. 15, 2007. ■

CTGR employee picnic a success



Photo by Michelle Aliamo

Tribal member Dakotah Norwest, 9, reacts as he hits a bump while sliding down the water slip n' slide during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde employee picnic held on the Tribal campus on Saturday, July 26. Norwest is the grandson of Tribal member and Tribal employee Pearl Mekemson.